

# TIME AND US

DAILY Srinagar, Kashmir

**WEDNESDAY**

- OCTOBER, 04, 2017
- 13 MUHARRAM 1439 AH
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- PAGES: 08

WEATHER TEMPERATURE		
STATION	MAX TEMPERATURE	MIN TEMPERATURE
	ACT	ACT
SRINAGAR	28.8	9.3
JAMMU	33.7	22.7
LEH	21.9	9.4
KARGIL	24.1	7.0

**SUNSET WEDNESDAY: 06:13 PM**  
**SUNRISE THURSDAY: 06:30 AM**

**LOCAL FORECAST OF SRINAGAR**  
 Mainly Clear Sky. Maximum & Minimum temperatures will be around 30°C & 09°C respectively.

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

STATE | 3

GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUMMIT 2017 TO BE HELD IN HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 28-30

NATIONAL | 5

JAITLEY'S DHAKA VISIT TO STRENGTHEN INDIA, BANGLADESH ECONOMIC TIES

BUSINESS | 7

GOLDMAN SACHS STUDYING WHETHER TO TRADE IN BITCOINS: REPORT

SPORTS | 8

MOEEN BRACED FOR BOUNCER WAR DOWN UNDER

## Fidayeen storm BSF Base, 3 militants, one BSF officer killed

Slain JeM militants from same group which carried Pulwama attack: IG Kashmir

Srinagar, Oct 03: Three militants, one BSF ASI were killed while four other security personnel were injured after a group of fidayeen attacked a BSF base near Srinagar International airport.

The slain BSF trooper has been identified as B K Yadav, while the identity of militants is being ascertained, officials said.

The 10-hour long gun battle started around 4:30 in the morning after militants stormed the 182 battalion of BSF which is entrusted with security of runway of the Srinagar airport.

According to the KNS correspondent, later addressing media, soon after the operation ended, IG of J&K Police for Kashmir zone, Muneer Ahmad Khan said the slain militants were from the same group which carried DPL Pulwama attack.



"They breached into the BSF camp by cutting a fence between Friends Colony and Gogoland," he said. Many top former bureaucrats, police officials and politicians live in Friends colony area. The IGP, flanked by IG BSF Sonali Mishra, said such attacks will keep

happening till militants are in Kashmir.

The IG said no doubt that the militants were from Jaish-e-Mohammed. "The attack was carried out by a group that had infiltrated during the month of the August, I believe. The militants were 16-17 in number. We will verify this," he said, adding that the ten among those militants have been neutralized so far while some among them are still there.

Pertinently, three Jaish militants were killed in District Police Line Pulwama while the four were killed in Uri. With the killing of three more Jaish militants today, the number of recently infiltrated Jaish militants killed so far mounted to ten.

Khan further said that they are ready to deal with the rest number. ▶ See **Fidayeen**...Pg 02

## Cabinet approves creation of posts in various departments

Approves promotion of officers

Srinagar, Oct 03: The Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today accorded sanction to the creation of 167 posts in various categories in the Police Department by corresponding reduction of 156 posts in Ministerial and Steno cadres.

Cabinet accorded sanction to the creation of 32 posts in various categories for establishment of Fire & Emergency Station, Kakrayal and 14 posts for Fire & Emergency Station, Katra.

Cabinet accorded sanction to the creation of 10 posts of faculty members for GMC Srinagar and GMC Jammu. The posts include two posts each of Professor Cardiology, Associate Professor Cardiology, Associate Professor Dermatology, Assistant Professor Cardiology, and one post each of Professor Ophthalmology and Professor Pathology.

Cabinet accorded sanction to the creation of two posts of Financial Advisor/CAO in the pay band of Rs.15600-39100 + GP 6600 by corresponding reduction of two posts of Accounts Officers in the pay band of Rs 9300-34800 + GP 4800, one each at Cluster University Srinagar and Cluster University Jammu, subject to the condition that the posts are drawn on deputation from Finance Department. The proposed creations will enable smooth functioning of Cluster Universities and fill critical administrative positions.

Cabinet accorded sanction to the creation of one post of Joint Director in the Horticulture Department in the pay band of (15600-39100 + GP 7600).

Cabinet accorded sanction to the creation of two posts of Assistant Conservator of Forests in the pay band of Rs.9300-34800 + 4800 in Forest (Territorial) by corresponding reduction of one post each of Research Officer and Assistant Soil Scientist in the pay band (Rs.9300-34800 + Rs.4400) and three posts of Range Officer Gr-I in the Pay Band of Rs. 9300-34800 + 4280) in Forest (Territorial) by corresponding reduction of two posts of Assistant Seed Technician/Seed Scientist and one post of Senior Scientific Assistant in the pay band (Rs 9300-34800 + Rs.4300).

Cabinet approves promotion of officers. The Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today accorded sanction to the promotion of Rs. Reva Gupta, KAS, to the Super Time Scale of Rs.37,400-67,000 with Grade Pay of Rs 10,000 of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service, notionally w.e.f. 15.09.2016 and regularly from 04.08.2017.

Cabinet accorded sanction to the regularization of Incharge Chief Engineers (retired/inservice) viz Narayan Mengi w.e.f. 03.10.2012 to 28.02.2013, Romesh Chander Gupta ▶ See **Cabinet**...Pg 02

## 7 YEARS ON, GOVT FAILS TO FRAME REGULARIZATION POLICY FOR PARAMEDIC EMPLOYEES

"We feel job insecurity; have no leave, other benefits"

Srinagar, Oct 03: The paramedic employees working in Health and Medical Education Departments on Tuesday said that the government has utterly failed to frame any regularization policy for their wellbeing, causing immense sufferings to them.

The paramedic employees told KNS that almost 400 employees are serving the Health and Medical Education Departments as Laboratory/X-ray/Theatre/Anaesthesia technicians /Nurses/Pharmacists etc) of Associated Hospitals of Government Medical College, Srinagar including Bone & Joint Hospital, C.D. Hospital, SMHS Hospital, G.B. Pant, L.D Hospital, Psychiatry Hospital on ▶ See **Years**...Pg 02

CM chairs BoD meeting of JKSPDC

## Harness solar energy potential: Mehbooba asks SPDC

Srinagar, Oct 3: Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today asked the State Power Development Corporation to exploit the huge potential of solar energy in the State in view of the straining future power market in the country. She also asked the Corporation to come up with a quantifiable data of the losses suffered by the State due to Indus Water Treaty.

The Chief Minister said



this while chairing the Board of Directors meeting of J&K State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC) here today. Mehbooba Mufti advised the Corporation to explore the possibility of setting up

of small solar power plants at District levels to meet the power requirement locally. This, she said, would be in view of the low cost of production in terms of solar power and also keeping in mind the straining power market of the country in future.

The Chief Minister also asked the Corporation to undertake an in-depth study for quantifying the losses suffered ▶ See **Mehbooba**...Pg 02

## GOVT TO CARRY OUT ASSESSMENT OF EMPLOYEES, HABITUAL OF CORRUPTION

"High level committee to meet soon"

Srinagar, Oct 03: With the government receiving complaints about officials, involved in regular corrupt practices, it has been learnt that administrative heads have been asked to carry out fresh assessment of such employees and recommend action against them.

KNS has learnt from the sources that the high-level panel which was constituted by the government to examine the cases against the tainted officers will meet soon and examine the corruption complaints of officials. "The high-level panel will meet and examine the complaints individually," sources said.

Sources said that the Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti ▶ See **Govt**...Pg 02

## PDP-BJP Govt's insensitivity towards border areas tragic: Omar

Addresses public meetings at Kanzalwan and Dawar in Gurez

Srinagar, Oct 03: National Conference Working President Mr. Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said the PDP-BJP Government's glaring insensitivity towards far-flung border areas of the State was tragic and a source of deprivation and misery for thousands of families across the State.

Addressing rousing public meetings at Kanzalwan and Dawar in Gurez, the National Conference Working President expressed disappointment at the State Government's failure to dispense even its most basic duties in Gurez and said the people had been left



without any mechanisms and systems to address basic public grievances. ▶ See **Omar**...Pg 02

## BOY MISTAKEN FOR BRAID-CHOPPER IN DELINA, THRASHED MERCILESSLY: POLICE

Baramulla, Oct 3: On Tuesday afternoon local people in Delina Baramulla caught hold of a boy who they alleged was a Braid chopper.

On this a police party from Police Post Delina rushed to the spot. The boy was being beaten mercilessly when police intervened to rescue him. Large numbers of miscreants attacked police party as well but some how the boy was rescued from their clutches by firing tear smoke shells to disperse them. He was immediately given medical treatment.

During preliminary investigation the identity of the boy was established as Nayeem Ahmad Malla son of ▶ See **Police**...Pg 02

## Anganwadi workers protest again against Govt

Demand increase in monthly honorarium at par with other states

Srinagar, Oct 03: Scores of Anganwadi workers on Tuesday staged protest here against the government for failing to increase their monthly honorarium at par with the rest of the states.

The workers earlier after Divisional Commissioner, Basser Ahmad Khan's assurance called off their strike and had said that they will protest again in case the government fails to fulfil their demands till Sep 30.

The Anganwadi workers today again assembled at Srinagar's Press Enclave here and chanted slogans in favour of their demands. The workers who held a day-long sit-in



today were demanding government to increase their monthly honorarium upto Rs 14000 ▶ See **Anganwadi**...Pg 02

## PEOPLE CARRY OUT RALLY AGAINST BRAID CHOPPING INCIDENTS IN MAGAM

Budgam, Oct 3: The unabated braid chopping incidents across Kashmir Valley sparked spontaneous shutdown while hundreds of people took to roads and organized a massive rally in Magam area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district.

The rally started from Malbachan village where a braid chopping incident was reported on Monday. Unidentified persons masquerading as beggars had entered into the house of one Munir Hussain when only her wife was present there.

The miscreants had not only chopped the braid of woman but also stolen her golden chain. ▶ See **Magam**...Pg 02

MHRD declares JK 2nd best state in new educational initiatives

## Govt working on several fronts to expand reach of quality education: Altaf Bukhari

Srinagar, Oct 3: The Minister for Education, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari today said that the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has declared Jammu and Kashmir as the 2nd most proactive state after Himachal Pradesh in adopting new initiatives in education.

He said the announcement was made at the Northern Zonal Conference of Education Department being held in



Srinagar. The Minister said that J&K's performance has been highly appreciated for actively implementing the new initiatives in education sector. The Minister said the Government is committed to

expand the reach of quality education in every nook and corner of the state under the leadership of Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti. He equally hailed the contribution of the private sector in furthering the government's agenda of making quality education available and affordable for the students.

"Government schools as well as private institutions are working together for ▶ See **Bukhari**...Pg 02

## BAD CONDITION OF MANWAN-KUPWARA ROAD IRKS RESIDENTS, COMMUTERS

Dust on roads causing health problems

Srinagar, Oct 03: Though the authorities claim to have macadamized the roads in Valley, the dilapidated road leading from Manwan Aawora in Kupwara District is puncturing the government claims.

"The road is in so much damaged that rainfall leaves no way for us to walk on as long strips of numerous road turns into heaps of mud," residents of Manwan said, as per KNS correspondent Raja Akbar.

They said, "We face lot of problems while going to college because of bad condition of roads. We usually reach college late for taking lectures as a half hour distance takes ▶ See **Bad**...Pg 02

# Continue from Front Page.....

## FIDAYEEN

of Jaish militants. "There has to be different strategy to neutralize the militants as they usually come up with the Fidayeen attacks," he said.

Khan termed the operation was a quality example of coordination between the security forces. "The operation was delayed to ensure zero collateral damage. The operation which started at 04 am ended at 01 pm," he informed.

"There was no attack on the airport, contrary to some media reports. This was not a setback. Attack was repulsed very effectively. All these things will keep happening, as long as Pakistan is our neighbour. These attacks will continue till there is militancy in Kashmir. Only one flight coming from Delhi to Srinagar was delayed," he said.

## CABINET

w.e.f.03.10.2012 to 31.03.2013 and Hem Chander Jerath w.e.f.03.10.2012 as Chief Engineers in the Pay Band of Rs.37400-67000 with Grade Pay of Rs.8700.

Cabinet accorded sanction to the regularization of retired officers viz V.K.Malhotra w.e.f.03.10.2006 as Executive Director (Electric), R.K.Seli w.e.f.01.05.2008 as Development Commissioner (Power) and Abdul Rashid Tak w.e.f. 01.08.2008 as Executive Director (Electric).

Cabinet accorded sanction to the absorption of five employees of the erstwhile CONFED viz Farooq Ahmad Bhat, Ali Mohammad Dar, Abdul Gani Lone, Ms. Fancy Hafiz and Kharati Lal, against Class-IV posts available in the Cooperative Department.

Cabinet approves implementation of Shetty Commission recommendations

The Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today accorded sanction to the implementation of recommendation of the Shetty Commission for the Ministerial Staff of the Subordinate Courts and accordingly to the creation of 18 posts of Chief Administrative Officers (in District Courts), 22 posts of Senior Scale Stenographer Executive Assistants Principal Judge), 7 posts of Protocol Officers, 7 posts of Assistant Protocol Officers and 8 posts of Steno-Typists (as pool in districts where number of Courts are none).

Cabinet approves incorporation of JKTPPO as a Joint Venture Company

To promote handicrafts and handloom products within the country and globally, the Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today accorded sanction to the incorporation of Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPPO) under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013, as per the Law Department vetted Article of Association (AoA) and Memorandum of Association (MoA), having initial Share Capital of Rs. 5 Crore, as a Joint Venture Company between the Government of Jammu and Kashmir with 51% equity share, India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) with 44% equity share and Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) with 5% equity share.

The Joint Venture Company will promote, organise, manage and participate in handicrafts/handlooms/industrial trade, other fairs and exhibitions in India and abroad and take all measures for promoting Industry especially in the state of Jammu and Kashmir and enhance its global competitiveness.

Cabinet gives nod to LED street light project for Srinagar, Jammu Municipal Corporations

The Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today accorded sanction to the implementation of Energy Efficient LED Street Lights project in Srinagar Municipal Corporation and Jammu Municipal Corporation through M/s Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint Venture Company setup by the Ministry of Power, Government of India, subject to obtaining all necessary clearance and approval from Competent Authority.

The Cabinet accorded sanction to the signing of tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD), Power Development Department (PDD) and M/s Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) for implementation of LED Street Light project in Srinagar Municipal Corporation and Jammu Municipal Corporation.

The MoU shall be signed after satisfying the financial viability, ensuring the reasonability of rates and fulfilment of all codal formalities.

Cabinet gives nod to 2 Engineering Colleges under RUSA, creation of 136 posts

The Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today accorded sanction to the establishment of two Government Colleges of Engineering and Technology under Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) by the State Higher Education Department, one each at Safapora in Ganderbal district and Janglot in Kathua district.

The Cabinet also accorded sanction to the creation of 136 posts i.e 68 posts for each college.

The Union Ministry of HRD has approved two Government Colleges of Engineering and Technology under the centrally sponsored scheme RUSA for addressing critical gaps and spatial distribution higher educational institution across the state. The Union Ministry sanctioned Rs 52 Crore for establishment of infrastructure for both institutions, out of which 90% will be central share and 10% state share.

The two institutions are expected to meet the growing demand of technical / skilled manpower in the key sectors in the state i.e. Industry and Power.

Cabinet approves abolition of affidavits in 51 services

The Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today accorded sanction to the abolition of affidavits in respect of 51 services, forming annexure to this memorandum, which are not required to be submitted, while seeking/accessing these services from the concerned Government Departments/Organizations;

Further, the Administrative Departments shall process amendments in the relevant Acts/Rules, as may be required for abolition of affidavits for providing these services."

The affidavits are sought from the public for various services of the Government like employment, admission in educational institutions or for availing the services/benefits under various State/Central Schemes, etc. and this avoidable practice consumes time and energy. The process of getting an affidavit prepared is known to have aggravated people's miseries and more than being a solution, it is a problem in itself. An urgent need was therefore, being felt, to do away with affidavits unless there is a statutory requirement.

Cabinet approves transfer of land for establishing EOC at

Gogo, Budgam

The Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today accorded sanction to the resumption of Shamilat (Kahcharai) land measuring 50 Kanals, situated in village Gogo, Tehsil and District Budgam from the Health & Medical Education Department and its further transfer to the Department of Disaster Management, Relief Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, for establishment of an Emergency Operation Centre (EOC).

Cabinet approves creation of 3375 posts for five Medical Colleges

The Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today accorded sanction to the creation of 3375 posts of various categories for five Medical Colleges including creation of 2025 posts Medical College at Rajouri, Baramulla and Anantnag and creation of 1350 posts to be operative in the financial year 2018-19 for Medical College, Kathua and Doda once they are established/sanctioned by the competent Authority.

These posts shall also be strictly as per the MCI guidelines of 675 posts per Medical College each as proposed by the department.

The Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, convened a meeting of Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) at New Delhi on 15th of January, 2016 and 5th June 2017 has approved Medical College Anantnag, Baramulla, Rajouri, Kathua and Doda and also during 2016-17 & 2017-18, Rs.19203 Crore (Central Share) has been released for execution of these 05 new Medical Colleges. Besides, an amount of Rs 5.70 Crore (State Share) has also been released under Capex Budget during 2016-17 and 2017-18 for the purpose.

PW(R&B) Department and JKPC has been engaged as executing agencies or for these Medical Colleges. The construction work of Medical College at Anantnag, Baramulla and Rajouri is under progress, however, in respect of Medical College at Doda & Kathua, PW (R&B) Department is in the process of floating tenders for starting of construction work.

In the 1st phase, out of 05 new Medical Colleges, 03 are likely to be complete during 2018-19, subject to the availability of funds from Government of India.

The department is planning to start first batch of 100 MBBS seats per medical college by 2019. Besides, the remaining 02 medical colleges shall be made functional during the corresponding year.

With the establishment/functioning of these new Medical Colleges in the State, the health care facilities will drastically come at par with the norms and guideline Medical Council of India (MCI) as well as intake capacity for Medical (MBBS)/Paramedical courses will also increase.

Cabinet approves conversion of loan and financial assistance JKHPMC into fully paid up share capital

The Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today accorded sanction to the conversion of Government loans and financial assistance released from time to time by the Government to the Jammu & Kashmir Horticulture Produce Marketing Corporation (JKHPMC), amounting to Rs.77.39 Crore as on 31.03.2017, into fully paid-up Share Capital of the Corporation and conversion of interest part as well to the extent of Rs. 28.75 Crore, into equity Share Capital of the Corporation.

The decision has been taken to re-structure of the Corporation, improve its balance sheet, reduce dependence on the government loans and financial assistance, enabling the Corporation to secure loan from financial institutions for funding its business plans and to turn round the Corporation.

## YEARS

Academic Arrangement Basis (SRO-384) since the year 2011.

"The government so far failed to frame any regularization policy for the paramedical employees," they said, adding that the posts have not been filled up on permanent basis since 2011 by Health and Medical Education Department as these posts were not referred to SSRB and are being run on adhocism.

"The incumbents working on these posts feel job insecurity as the Health and Medical Education Department is not paying any heed in framing policy for regularization of the incumbents," the paramedic employees said, adding that most of these employees who have crossed six years of service, have to be terminated after six years as per SRO but it is by virtue of court directions that their salary is being disbursed despite being in the 7th year without any break.

They said that despite working with zeal and zest and at par with regular employees of associated hospitals of GMC, Srinagar, have no leave and other benefits given.

The employees later appealed government to come clear on the policy to save their future.

## MEHBOOBA

to the State due to Indus Water Treaty. She asked for using all professional expertise for the purpose. She also asked the Corporation to execute a policy of corporate social responsibility for the welfare and development of its catchment areas.

Earlier, Managing Director JKSPDC, Dr. Shah Faisal briefed the meeting about various initiatives of the Corporation. He said the process of allotment on the Rs.900 crore PMDP projects has already been started and a CSR policy to preserve and promote the art, culture and heritage of the State has been put in the place by the Corporation.

Deputy Chief Minister, Dr. Nirmal Singh; Minister of State for Power, Syed Farooq Andrabi; Chief Secretary, B. B. Vyas; Principal Secretary Finance, Navin Choudhary; Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Rohit Kansal; Commissioner Secretary, Power Development Department, Dheeraj Gupta besides several Directors of Power Development Corporations were present in the meeting.

## GOVT

has categorically asked the top officials of the government to take strong action against tainted officials who do not mend their ways.

Sources maintained that the Chief Minister's secretariat has also received complaints of corruption practices in some government departments. "Because of these complaints, the CM has herself asked administrative heads to recommend action against erring officials," sources said.

Sources believe that scores of officials from Revenue, engineering, health including government corporations are under the government's scanner.

According to the sources the number of complaints registered with State Vigilance Organization (SVO) against various Government functionaries is in hundreds and similarly the Jammu and Kashmir State Vigilance Commission (SVC) has also received huge number of corruption complaints.

Senior cabinet minister Abdul Rehman Veeri told KNS that the government has already made it clear that it would not tolerate the officers and officials, whose integrity is doubtful.

Meanwhile sources within the government said that the Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti has directed all the heads of the departments to submit regular report to the government on implementation of government schemes.

"The Chief Minister's office has observed that many central and state schemes are progressing slowly and that coordination between the government and the officials is essential for the success of the schemes," sources said.

Sources maintained that Chief Minister has also directed the heads of the departments to go for field visits in regular intervals and report to her directly on implementation of development projects.

Sources said that government has told the officials that their performance will be judged on the proper utilization of funds in various schemes and other developmental works.

Sources further added that the chief minister also has made it clear to the higher officers that laxity in the implementation of schemes meant for the welfare of common people will not be tolerated.

## OMAR

Upon his arrival in Gurez, Omar Abdullah was given a rousing public reception by the people at Tragbal. Addressing the first public meeting at Kanzalwan, Omar Abdullah said National Conference had always cherished and nurtured a special bond with the people of Gurez ever since the time of Sher-e-Kashmir, Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah - a bond which was nurtured in all successive National Conference Governments. "It was Sheikh Sahab who created the Tehsil in Gurez and started a slew of initiatives to bring governance to this area and to encourage the hard-working people here to play a role in the overall development of not only Gurez but the entire State. During Dr. Farooq Abdullah's tenure, Gurez benefited from a number of public initiatives and it was this National Conference Government that gave Gurez the status of a separate constituency - to aid in the development of the area", Omar Abdullah said.

"During the previous National Conference-led Government, we ensured Gurez received its due share of funds and infrastructural initiatives such as the ITI, New Administrative Units and a number of comprehensive initiatives in the public health and education sectors. We left no stone unturned to alleviate the challenges people of Gurez face due to lack of year-round connectivity and the hostile climate in the winters. However, ever since the PDP-BJP Government took over Gurez has been summarily neglected and the State Government has turned a blind-eye towards pressing issues here. The people have been left without the most basic governance as the PDP-BJP Government continues to punish the people here for political reasons", the NC Working President added.

Addressing his second public meeting at Dawar in Gurez, Omar Abdullah said the divisive agenda of the PDP-BJP Government was the biggest challenge confronting the State and its people and National Conference would fight every necessary battle to protect the rights and interests of the people. "Be it on the issue of Article 370 or Article 35-A, the PDP-BJP Alliance in the State has tried its best to facilitate one political intrigue after another against the people of the State. It is this alliance that is hell-bent to divide the people on the basis of region and religion to further a long-held ideological goal of the BJP and the RSS. We have to be united across the length and breadth of the State to defeat these sinister designs at all costs. The people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh are all united by a common resolve to protect our political and cultural identity and to uphold the integrity of the State", Omar Abdullah further said.

The National Conference Working President said the party's bond with the people of Gurez and all border, far-flung areas was validated by the work done by successive National Conference Governments in these areas. "Our bond with you is special and timeless and we will continue to nurture this association and strengthen our unity to overcome all challenges together as one people. I have always been touched by your warmth, affection and hospitality and I remain committed to ensuring Gurez grows at par with all other areas of the State", the NC Working President further added.

The public meetings were also addressed by National Conference Provincial President Nasir Aslam Wani and Senior Leader and MLA Gurez, Nazir Ahmed Khan (Gurez) besides Party Block Presidents and Office Bearers.

## POLICE

Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Malla resident of Dandusa, Rafiabab Baramulla. Investigation into the matter also revealed that Nayeem was in a relationship with a local girl from Delina village and had gone to meet her when he was spotted and beaten up by locals there accusing him being Braid chopper.

Police has registered a case FIR number 177/2017 and further investigation into the matter is going on. Miscreants involved in the violence will be dealt as per law.

People are requested not to fall prey to rumours and it is reiterated that strict legal action will be taken against attention seekers in the garb of Braid chopping.

Besides, rumor mongers and mischief mongers will also be brought to book who take advantage of the situation to disturb the peaceful atmosphere.

## WORKERS

per month.

The protesters said that the government has miserably failed to look into the issues pertaining to the Anganwadi workers, who are working are serving the department on meagre amount.

They according to KNS correspondent said that the government a few days ago assured them that their demands will be looked into but unfortunately nothing has been done in this regard. "The government made hoax promises with the hundreds of Anagwandi workers so far, causing immense hardships to their families," they said.

They also said that the most of the workers are the sole

bread earners of their families but the government is ignoring their plights. "The government must put an immediate to our sufferings by enhancing our monthly honorarium at par with the rest of the states," they demanded.

"We are serving the department with dedication and honesty but the government is turning their eye blind towards our plights," they said, adding that the government should have increased the monthly honorarium of the workers upto Rs 14000 per month.

Protesters said that the government has assured them several times that their genuine demands will be fulfilled soon but unfortunately all the promises and assurances done with them proved hoax on the ground.

"Every successive regime has failed to fulfil its promises done with the Anganwadi workers," they said, adding that the government should take immediate steps in this regard to put an immediate end to the sufferings of people.

They said that they will continue to protest against the government till the demands won't meet.

## MAGAM

Eyewitnesses told news agency CNS that the rally that started from Malbachan village culminated at Magam town where shopkeepers downed their shutters while vehicular movement came to a grinding halt for quite some time.

The protesters were demanding stern action against people involved in these mysterious braid chopping incidents.

Meanwhile, authorities snapped the mobile Internet services in south Kashmir in the wake of increasing braid-chopping incidents.

The Internet service was shut around midnight, locals said.

Police have so far been clueless about the dozens of hair cutting incidents that are being reported on daily basis from different parts of the Valley.

Earlier, police doubled the cash reward on information leading to arrest of braid choppers. "Any person with credible information on braid choppers will be awarded Rs 6 lakh," said an official.

A helpline has also been established so that "people could inform and seek assistance with regard to any braid cutting incident."

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

## BUKHARI

the betterment of education system in J&K," Bukhari said adding "J&K is now competing at national and international levels in academics."

Despite the better infrastructure in private schools, the Minister said, the teachers in the government schools are better qualified and experienced. He said the government has also started the process of upgrading the infrastructure in schools.

On the occasion, the Minister said the schools are not established to make money but this is the most valuable investment for the better future of children of J&K.

Bukhari was speaking at the Sports Day function at Hat Trick Public School where he was the Chief Guest. Director School Education, Dr G.N Itoo, Chief Education Officer, Srinagar, Farooq Ahmad Dar, Justice (Retd) Muzaffar Jan, Chairman Private Schools Association, G N Var, Chairman Hat Trick Public School, Showkat Hussain Chowdhary, Principal Presentation Convent Higher Secondary School, Sister Phyllis, besides students and their parents were also present during the function.

On the occasion the Minister raised the question about the need for students to attend coaching centers when they are paying high amount of fees in private schools.

"I am time and again asking the private schools to look in the matter as why their students need to attend coaching schools. Doesn't private schools have good faculty? Where does the problem lie?" Bukhari asked.

Bukhari asked Chairman Private Schools Association to look into this issue and rectify it within six months. "If no steps are taken in set time period, the government will take step to arrest this menace," he said.

Commenting on the delay in the declaration of results, Bukhari said the education department will ensure that the results are declared within one month of conduct of examinations so that the students get more time to study for the next class.

On the occasion, Bukhari inaugurated Unified Martial Art Academy and Mini Golf Course inside school premises. The Minister also kick-started Archery Coaching Camp.

He also distributed certificates among the students for their achievements. The Minister also presented the best teacher of the year award to Ms Subina Nisa and Ms Deeba Bashir.

## BAD

us more than one and half an hour."

Residents said that the dust on the roads has caused health problems to the inhabitants here.

The residents later appealed to the higher ups to look into the matter and redress their genuine grievances at earliest so that the people especially commuters here could feel a sigh of relief.

## JKRSA TO ORGANIZE ROLLER SKATING COACHING CAMP AT BAKSHI STADIUM

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 3, 2017: Jammu and Kashmir Roller Skating Association (JKRSA) in collaboration with Young Muneer Roller Hockey Club, Srinagar is organizing 'Roller Skating' coaching camp at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar.

In an official communiqué issued here, the Association spokesperson said that all the age-groups, sports persons from Jammu and Kashmir are invited to participate in the coaching camp for Roller Hockey, Roll-ball and Basic Roller Skating. "Participants are requested to attend the camp at Bakshi Stadium from 4 PM onward," the official communiqué said. The coaching shall be conducted under the supervision of expertise from Jammu and Kashmir Roller Hockey Skaters. "No fee will be charged from the participants," it said.

# Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2017 to be Held in Hyderabad, November 28-30

New Delhi, October 03 A high-level delegation from the Government of India and the United States met today, at NITI Aayog to plan the 2017 Global Entrepreneurship Summit, which will be held November 28-30 at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre in Hyderabad, India.

The Summit will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Advisor to the President, Ivanka Trump, who leads the U.S. delegation.

The GES is the preeminent annual gathering of emerging entrepreneurs, investors, and business leaders from around the world. Through networking, mentoring, and workshops, the GES empowers entrepreneurs to pitch their ideas, build partnerships, secure funding, and create innovative goods and services that will transform societies. This year, the focus will be on women entrepreneurs and the tremendous potential women bring to entrepreneurship.

GES 2017 will create an environment that empowers innovators, particularly women, to take their ideas to the next level. Women represent tremendous promise for economic growth and prosperity -- but in both developed and developing countries, also face tremendous barriers to building businesses. This year's theme is "Women First, Prosperity for All" to celebrate the entrepreneurial spirit

in all its strengths and diversity.

GES 2017 will be attended by over 1600 delegates, including entrepreneurs and investors, CEOs of major knowledge-based industries, representing the full measure of entrepreneurial talent from diverse backgrounds across the world. The participants will be truly global, representing 160 countries, with representation from every region of the world. Entrepreneurs will represent a diverse range of geographies, industries, business size and scalability. Investors and representatives from organizations that support entrepreneurs will be hand-picked to catalyze investment, networking and mentoring. There will be special emphasis on empowering young and women entrepreneurs and the role they play in making communities more prosperous and secure through enterprise.

NITI Aayog is taking the lead in organising this Summit for the Government of India. Amitabh Kant, CEO NITI Aayog stated that this is a unique opportunity for Indian Startups and Innovators to interact and network with the finest entrepreneurs of the world. He acknowledged the support of Government of Telangana in hosting the Summit at Hyderabad, and said "India, the oldest civilization, welcomes civilizations from across the world to GES 2017. We need to harness technology to solve some of

the most pressing problems in health-care delivery, education, energy, safe drinking water and agriculture, among others for the benefit of communities at large. Innovation and entrepreneurship will play a decisive role towards this end. I am sure this will be a unique opportunity for entrepreneurs to interact with the best."

Jennifer Arangio, Senior Director at the National Security Council, The White House, said "The United States is proud to partner with India for this year's GES. Uniting under the theme Women First, Prosperity for All, the Summit will highlight the Trump Administration's commitment to the principle that when women are economically empowered, communities and countries thrive. Hosting GES in India is a signature of the broad and enduring partnership between our two countries. We thank our co-host, the Government of India, for their support, energy and hospitality, and look forward to a high-impact Summit that brings together ground-breaking U.S. entrepreneurs and investors with their counterparts from around the world." Innovations developed by entrepreneurs have transformed the world's economies by creating jobs, increasing productivity, and improving the quality of life for people everywhere. The summit will primarily focus on four thematic sectors: Energy & Infrastructure, Healthcare

& Life Sciences, Financial Technology & Digital Economy, and Media & Entertainment sectors.

The GES 2017 agenda consists of breakout sessions, master classes, and workshops. Three networking sessions are planned in the schedule to enhance opportunities to interact with other GES 2017 participants. The summit will have Breakout Sessions where panelists will discuss key themes, innovative industries, and other aspects of entrepreneurship that are being highlighted in GES 2017. Master Classes are immersive, and typically focus in depth on a certain topic. Workshops invite more hands-on, interactive conversations on a chosen topic between the panelists and the audience.

NITI Aayog and the U.S. Embassy are planning a series of "Road to GES" events in collaboration with different agencies to generate enthusiasm and attract the attention of different stakeholders.

As part of the summit, there will be a virtual exhibition of India's innovative prowess in collaboration with the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion. It is also proposed to showcase India's heritage, social entrepreneurship and craftsmanship in collaboration with the Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Culture. For more information, visit www.ges2017.gov.in and www.ges2017.org

# Shri Rajnath Singh distributes scholarship cheques

The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh distributed eleven scholarship cheques at a function here today to the school going children of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and Assam Rifles (AR) personnel who sacrificed their lives in the service of the nation. Remaining 172 scholarship funds were digitally transferred to the beneficiaries by the sponsors, Sarojini Damodaran Foundation (SDF).

The SDF initiated the provision of scholarship to children of CAPFs personnel in the year 2016. MHA carried out an exercise and identified 295 children from different CAPFs and AR families and decided about scholarship in consultation with SDF of Rs.6000/- per child. This year 183 children have been identified from different CAPFs and MHA and SDF decided to provide scholarship to these children for subsequent years.

In his brief address, the Union Home Minister complimented Shri S.D. Shibulal, Managing Trustee, Sarojini Damodaran Foundation (SDF) for undertaking a noble task and his contribution to nation-building. Shri Rajnath Singh said the SDF has been engaged in several philanthropic activities including care for the elderly and the weaker sections of society.

Senior Officers of MHA & CAPFs, Smt. Kumari Shibulal, Patron, SDF and family members of CAPF personnel attended the function.

# PM visits Himachal Pradesh, lays foundation stone for AIIMS at Bilaspur

New Delhi 03 October: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, visited Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh today.

The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), at Bilaspur. This 750 bed hospital will be built at a cost of approximately Rs. 1350 crore. In addition to healthcare, it will also provide medical education at the under-graduate and post-graduate level, besides nursing. The Prime Minister also unveiled a plaque to mark the launch of Digital Nerve Centres for primary healthcare. The Prime Minister laid the foundation



stone for the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), at Una. Shri Narendra Modi also inaugurated a Steel Processing Unit of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), at Kandrori, Kangra.

# One million children saved, says a new study published in the Lancet

Significant reductions in mortality from pneumonia, diarrhea, neonatal infections and birth asphyxia.

New Delhi, October 03: India has avoided about 1 million (10 lakh) deaths of children under age five since 2005, owing to the significant reductions in mortality from pneumonia, diarrhoea, neonatal infections and birth asphyxia/trauma, measles and tetanus, according to study published in the latest issue of The Lancet. The 'India's Million Death Study', implemented by the Registrar General of India, is the first study to directly quantify changes in cause-specific child deaths in India, nationally and sub-nationally, from 2000-15 among randomly selected homes.

The study further illustrates that the conditions prioritized under the National Health Mission had the

greatest declines. Pneumonia and diarrhea mortality fell by over 60% (most of the decline due to effective treatment), mortality from birth-related breathing and trauma during delivery fell by 66% (most of the decline due to more births occurring in hospital), and measles and tetanus mortality fell by 90% (mostly due to special immunization campaigns against each). The study states that mortality rate (per 1000 live births) fell in neonates from 45 in 2000 to 27 in 2015 (3.3% annual decline) and 1-59 month mortality rate fell from 45.2 in 2000 to 19.6 in 2015 (5.4% annual decline). Further, amongst 1-59 months, pneumonia fell by 63%, diarrhoea fell by 66% and measles fell

by more than 90%. These declines were greater in girls, indicating that India has, remarkably, equal numbers of girls and boys dying, a significant improvement from just a few years ago. Pneumonia and diarrhoea mortality rates for 1-59 months declined substantially between 2010 and 2015 at an average of 8-10% annual decline nationally and more so in the rural areas and poorer states.

The Million Death Study builds on the SRS by directly monitoring the causes of death in over 1.3 million (13 lakh) homes. Since 2001, about 900 staff interviewed about 100,000 (1 lakh) living members in all homes who had a child die (about 53,000 deaths in the first month of life and 42,000 at 1-59

months) every six months and completed a simple two-page form with a local language half-page narrative describing the deceased's symptoms and treatments. The records have been digitized and each one uniformly coded for cause of death independently by two of about 400 trained physicians, using World Health Organization approved procedures. This is a direct study based on face-to-face interviews with families, and is not based on modeling or projections from small samples.

The results signify that the strategic approach of the Health Ministry has started yielding dividends and the efforts of focusing on low performing States is paying off.

# Ministry of Health adjudged best for 'Swachhta Pakhwada', receives award

New Delhi, October 03: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been adjudged as the best department for its contribution during Swachhta Pakhwada, an inter-Ministry initiative of Swachh Bharat Mission of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. The Health Ministry observed the Swachhta Pakhwada from 1st February, 2017 to 15th February, 2017. The award was presented to the Ministry on 2nd October, 2017, the third anniversary of Swachh Bharat Mission. Shri CK Mishra, Secretary (HFW) received the award on behalf of the Ministry.

Swachhta Pakhwada activities were organized and observed within the Ministry offices, in Central Government

Hospitals and in public health facilities of the states across 36 States/UTs. More pertinently, in addition to the envisaged activities, some of the key contributions include mass awareness generation initiatives through rallies, street plays, painting competitions etc., leveraging the participation and support of public representatives, NGOs, school children and the community. These activities are considered critical for sustaining the swachhta movement.

During the Swachhta fortnight, all hospital/clinics were also directed to install waste bins for segregating waste and massive cleaning drives were undertaken in all the hospital wards

and hospital premises. Doctors, nurses and medical staff along with patients and visitors carried out sensitization drives on the importance of safe sanitation and hygiene.

The Swachhta Pakhwada culminated with inspection and special sanitation drive undertaken by the Minister for Health and Family Welfare Shri JPN Nadda on 15th February 2017. The Minister along with the staff of the Ministry participated in cleaning of corridors of Nirman Bhawan and inspected various rooms and areas of the Ministry. Unwanted and old files and records were also weeded out during Swachhta Pakhwada from various Divisions of the Ministry.

Swachhta Pakhwada

started in April 2016 with the objective of bringing a fortnight of intense focus on the issues and practices of Swachhta by engaging GOI Ministries/Departments in their jurisdictions. An annual calendar is pre-circulated among the Ministries to help them plan for the Pakhwada activities. The Ministries observing Swachhta Pakhwada are monitored closely using online monitoring system of Swachhta Samiksha where action plans, images, videos related to Swachhta activities are uploaded and shared. For the Pakhwada fortnight, observing ministries are considered as Swachhta Ministries and are expected to bring qualitative Swachhta improvements in their jurisdictions.

# Better working places essential for prompt service delivery: Zulfkar

Pos machines to be installed in fair price shops soon

JAMMU, OCTOBER 03 - Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs and Information Department Choudhary Zulfkar Ali today said proper office spaces are essential for improving efficiency of the employees and ensuring prompt service delivery to consumers.

The Minister was speaking after inaugurating the Directorate of FCS&CA Complex at Ware House here. He directed the Assistant Directors, City-I, City-II and Trade and Stores to immediately shift their offices in the Complex.

Commissioner/Secretary FCS&CA department Shafiq Ahmed Raina, Director, FCS&CA R.A Inquilabi, Managing Director, J&K Housing Board Manmohan Singh, Joint Director, FCS&CA Mansoor Aslam, Joint Controller, Legal Metrology V.S Sambyal, Deputy Controller, Legal Metrology Manoj Prabhakar and other officers were present on the occasion.

While addressing the gathering, the Minister said state of the art building being raised at a cost of Rs. 10.33 crore will further improve the functioning of the department. He said that due consideration is being given to improve the



working of the department along with better infrastructural facilities and other logistics.

Listing the initiatives of the government to improve the functioning of the department, the Minister said that the department has already started online allocation of food grains for speedy distribution of food grains among its consumers and keep a check on any pilferage besides effective implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA).

He said the department's prime responsibility is to provide basic amenities including ration, kerosene and liquefied

Petroleum Gas (LPG) to the people at their doorsteps and department shall leave no stone unturned in meeting the requirements and the aspirations of the people.

Zulfkar said that Point of Sales (PoS) machines with technologies like finger prints and smart card would be installed on fare price shops soon to make them more accountable and transparent.

The Minister directed MD, Housing Board to complete construction work of Office Complexes at Narwal, Udampur, Kathua and Bemina within a month's time.

# Sat Sharma chairs PUC meeting

Examines CAGs Audit Paras of JKPHC



SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 03- A meeting of the Committee on Public Undertakings was held here today under the Chairmanship of MLA, Sat Paul Sharma to examine the CAG's Audit Paras pertaining to the Jammu and Kashmir Police Housing Corporation Ltd. (JKPHC), Home Department.

Threadbare discussions were held on the reply submitted by the Corporation about CAGs Audit Para 5.2 regarding avoidable payment of interest, 5.3 short deduction of Labour Cess and 5.4 non enforcement of terms of contract.

Legislators, G.M. Saroori, Abdul Majid Larmi, Rajeev Sharma and Vikram Randhawa attended the meeting and gave their suggestions to make the JKP Housing Corporation more functional and vibrant.

While discussing the audit paras 5.3 and 5.4 in details, the Committee directed the concerned authorities to submit a comprehensive detailed report regarding the paras after proper verification and scrutinize the matter.

The Committee also discussed the other issues regarding the technical fault of the vehicle of the Legislators, issuance of SPOs list of Jammu province, establishment of labs for testing of materials used in the constructions, mode of payment to the contractors and set up of Board of Directors for proper functioning of Corporation (Company).

Principal Secretary, Home R K Goel and Managing Director J&K Police Housing Corporation briefed the committee about the CAG's observations and action taken by the Corporation on the audit paras.

Among others, seniors officers of JK Police Housing Corporation, CAGs and Assembly Secretariat were also present in the meeting.

# Unprecedented Public Participation in Gram Sabhas

New Delhi, October 03: Unprecedented public participation was seen in Gram Sabhas organised on Mahatma Gandhi's Birth Anniversary on 2nd October in Gram Panchayats across the country, in partnership with States and Local Governments as part of the Gram Samridhi Evam Swachhta Pakhwada (Village Well-being and Cleanliness fortnight) from 1-15 October, 2017. Children conducted Prabhat Pheris in the morning to encourage all the adults of the village to attend Gram Sabhas. Women Self Help Groups, of whom there are more than five crore members across the country, participated in full strength in the Gram Sabhas. Elected representatives of Panchayats provided full details and disclosure of all the programmes being implemented in the Gram Panchayats and the money being spent on these interventions.

As part of the public information campaign during Gram Samridhi Evam Swachhta Pakhwada, flex boards and wall paintings regarding all programmes, entitlements, beneficiary lists, etc., has been put up in Panchayat buildings across the country for perusal of citizens. Work on cleaning public facilities like Schools, Anganwadi Centres, Panchayat Ghars, public spaces, etc., is being undertaken during this fortnight with a thrust on overall cleanliness through better solid and liquid waste management. Concerted public campaign for behaviour change for use of Individual Household Latrines (IHLL), thrust on water conservation to ensure better water availability specially in 5,000 clusters (spread over 50,000 Gram Panchayats) in all States selected for coverage under Mission Antyodaya. Through convergent use of resources from Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM), MGNREGS, Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and other national and state level programmes sincere efforts are being made for a community led sustained interventions for cleanliness and well-being. To promote well-being of households, efforts are being made during this fortnight to enlist youth and women for skill programmes for diversification and development of livelihoods to improve incomes. Griha Pravesh of the 4.55 lakh houses, under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Gramin) (PMAY(G)), already completed is being undertaken as also site visit of all the ongoing remaining nearly 51 lakh houses.

DAILY Editorial  
**Time and Us**  
SRINAGAR J&K

## The numbers game

With the India Meteorological Department getting its monsoon forecast wrong this year, its modelling has necessarily come under the spotlight. In April, the IMD had predicted "near normal", or 96%, rains and then upgraded the figure to 98% a couple of months later. These percentages refer to the proportion of rains to 89 cm, a 50-year average of monsoon rains. However, the country finally ended up with "below normal" rains (that is, less than 96% of the 50-year long period average). In itself, this is not a problem. Crop sowing is expected to be only a little less than last year, which saw a record harvest, with more districts posting deficient rain. Better drought management has over the years weakened the link between rain shortfall and food production, but the IMD continues to persevere with the meaningless practice of assigning a catch-all number to the quantum of rain expected during the monsoon. While initially conceived as a measure to bring rigour to the task of warning the government about a drought or weak rains, it has now become a numbers exercise, couched in statistical error margins and pedantic definitions, to ward off blame for getting its forecast wrong. While a single number, 96 or 95, has the power to brand rainfall as "near" or "below" normal, the IMD never admits to being in error. It relies on the security of generous error margins. Thus, a 98% forecast, say, implies a range from 94% to 102% and so could span "below normal" to "above normal".

The fallout of focussing on numbers to gauge a phenomenon as geographically and quantitatively varied as the Indian monsoon is that it has ripple effects of tricking everyone from policymakers to the stock markets that a 'normal' monsoon implies all will be well with rainfall distribution. So this year's floods in Mumbai, Assam and Bihar, and the months-long drought in Karnataka and Vidarbha were all merged under an umbrella number. The Indian monsoon has over the centuries stayed remarkably consistent at around 89 cm during the monsoon months, give or take 10%. The challenge lies in capturing intra-seasonal variation or forecasting a sudden change in global weather (such as typhoons) that can affect rainfall over specific districts. Therefore, simply getting these blanket four-month forecasts right doesn't really help. While more and more farmers are opting for crop insurance and have far greater access — via mobile phones — to news on weather patterns, what they seek are localised, actionable inputs to guide them on sowing or harvesting decisions. The IMD is increasingly relying on supercomputers and sophisticated models to warn of weather changes at the district level. These localised estimates aim to warn of threatening weather — and are operationally useful — rather than reduce rain to numerical jugglery. The IMD must give momentum to this shift.

# TACKLING THE ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN

► Pulapre Balakrishnan

"All hat and no cattle" goes the Texan description of posturing without economic heft. The government of Narendra Modi should be prepared to receive such a verdict on its economic policy if things continue to go the way they are right now. Economic growth has slowed for five consecutive quarters, that is from late 2015-16 onwards. By now growth is slower than it was in the quarter in which it assumed office. For a government that had promised to turn around the economy through decisive governance, this must serve as a wake-up call.

### WHY GROWTH MATTERS

Why should it matter to us if the economy is growing more slowly? Growth matters in India as a large number of persons have to make do with far too few goods and services as it is, which is how poverty is defined. Note that these goods also include public goods or goods that are accessed by the entire populace of a country, such as parks, roads and bridges. Since these public goods are provided by government, the government needs tax revenues to supply them, and these depend upon national income. Then there is employment. A demand for labour exists only when there is a demand for goods. So growth is necessary if employment is to be assured.

In India we not only have a pool of unemployed persons to absorb but we also need to provide employment to youth continuously entering the labour force. From this point of view, the slowing of the economy is a source of concern. An economy that has been slowing for five quarters is unlikely to turn around quickly. Also, it may not be able to do so on its own.

Replying to the suggestion made that the economy needs a shot in the arm in the form of a fiscal stimulus, the government's spokespersons have responded by saying that it is working on 'transforming' the economy, and that its policies will have long-term favourable consequences. Its transformative approach may be expected to fructify only with a lag, we are told. While the government itself has not ruled out expansionary macroeconomic policy, writers in the media, including an editorial in this newspaper, have poured cold water on the very proposal, championing instead structural reforms. This challenge must be met.

The first thing that comes to mind when 'more structural reforms' is proposed is that reforming is what all governments have been claiming to do for more or less a quarter of a century now. Since 2014, in particular, "the ease of doing business" has received great attention from this government. The economy today is far less regulated than it was in 1991. It would be correct to say that labour market reforms have not been taken up yet in Parliament and that exit is necessary for a dynamic economy. Labour laws in India make exit difficult, and complying with requirements with respect to the hiring of labour is time consuming and therefore costly. It is possible that the share of manufacturing will rise if



the labour market is liberalised. And, though only a one-time gain, this could even benefit labour. However, it is not clear how this relates to the situation today which is one of slowing growth.

### LANDING AN EXCUSE

It is when it comes to the land market that the argument for more reforms is least obvious. Apart from restrictions on conversion of agricultural land, no policy stands in the way of private parties transacting with one another. Surely, we can't treat the issue of the alienation of agricultural land so casually as to remove all discretion vesting with government. If the argument is that the government must ensure as much land to private industry as they seek, though at a price, this is an intervention out of sync with a market economy. In this context, it may be said that an intervention that government in India should avoid is facilitating land acquired for industry to be alienated from manufacturing activity. Cases in question range from land owned by public sector units in Bengaluru, private mills in Mumbai and private industry in rural Kerala.

For credibility, the argument made for land and labour market reforms as a prerequisite for accelerating growth today must be able to account for how the economy came close to achieving 10% growth in the late 1980s and during 2003-08 when the policy regime was no more liberal than it is now. Equally, it would be difficult to relate slowing domestic growth to sluggish world trade as data show 2016-17 to be a year of a major turnaround in exports. On the other hand, capital formation as a share of

output has declined almost steadily for six years now. In 2014-15 it rose slightly, as if in cue to Mr. Modi's arrival, but soon resumed its sliding at a faster rate. The government appears to make light of this development. Actually, it contributed to the downward trend by reversing the rate of growth of expansion of public capital formation from 2015-16.

It is generally the case that it is capital formation, or investment, that drives growth in the economy. Investment is an immediate source of demand as firms that invest buy goods and services to do so, but it also expands the economy's capacity to produce. Of the two sources of investment, namely private and public, the first has been depressed for some years. In a slowing economy, private investment is unlikely to revive in the absence of some external force. This is so as investment involves committing funds for a long period under uncertainty. It is for this reason that economic theory prescribes the stepping-up of public investment when private firms are unwilling to invest more. Not only does increased public investment increase demand and quicken growth but it may be expected to encourage private investors, as the market for their goods expands.

Other things being the same, increased public investment leads to a higher deficit, which is the gap between the government's expenditure and its receipts. Among economists themselves there is resistance to governments running a deficit for fear that it may be inflationary. But in any such assessment, the increase in inflation must be offset with the increase in growth that would have been achieved due to greater public investment. In India, the increase in infla-

tion that could come with higher growth would be due to the shortage of agricultural goods. So any plan for increasing the rate of growth, not just at the present moment but in general, must reckon with agricultural shortages. We have not yet fully solved this problem in India, whichever the party at the Centre.

### DON'T BE AFRAID OF DEFICITS

The government is urged by some to refrain from increasing the deficit. While it is right to be concerned with the consequences, the correct approach would be to aim to balance the budget over the growth cycle. That is, the deficit may be increased as the economy slows and contracted as the economy quickens. To object to an increase in the deficit irrespective of the state of the economy is to be dogmatic. Since 2014 the government has focussed aggressively on the supply side by making it easier for private firms to produce. But we are now facing a demand shortage in the economy. The immediate thing to do is to expand public investment in infrastructure. The argument found in the media that there are "no shovel ready projects" is to encourage lazy governance. Repair and reconstruction of India's creaking infrastructure is the direction in which greater public investment must now flow. It is the most direct and potent measure that can be undertaken to address the slowdown the economy is experiencing.

**Pulapre Balakrishnan is Professor of Economics, Ashoka University, Sonapat, Haryana and Senior Fellow, IIM, Kozhikode, Kerala**

# Chauvinist winds over India

Recent debates, whether over refugees, the right to dissent, or gender violence, suggest that India is becoming a nation devoid of compassion for those who are persecuted even to the point of murder. Are we such a graceless polity? Have we always been this way?

Our forefathers tell us we were not so. In the great ethical exploration of the Bhagavad Gita, Arjuna asked Krishna what, if anything, could justify taking a human life. He dismissed every answer Krishna gave and entered battle reluctantly, against his own dharma. Mahatma Gandhi qualified Arjuna's words, saying we could take up arms if our own lives, or if the lives of others, were under attack. Guru Gobind Singh said it was our duty to come to the defence of all those who were threatened through no fault of their own.

Stance on Rohingya  
By contrast, we are told today that we should not offer sanctuary. Our own government is in the Supreme Court defending its decision to deport Rohingya refugees. Intelligence agencies say all Rohingya are a threat because some amongst them are terrorists and/or criminals. The Home Ministry says they are illegal immigrants, and many opinion writers say we must put security above concern for refugees. Government spokespersons say defensively that

India has neither signed the 1951 Convention of the UNHCR (the UN's Refugee Agency) nor its 1967 protocol, and so it is not bound to take refugees.

That there are Rohingya terrorist groups is already proven. Some Rohingya have also been guilty of killing Hindus and Buddhists in Myanmar's Rakhine state. But that does not mean we can tarnish all Rohingya with generic suspicion. If Indian intelligence agencies have identified terrorists and/or criminals amongst the refugees, they should arrest and hand them over for trial in Myanmar, or try them in India's own courts. But India cannot, or should not, deport all Rohingya because some are criminal. Nor can India call Rohingya refugees illegal immigrants when 16,000 of them are registered with the UNHCR and are clearly fleeing from the pogrom conducted in the Rakhine state. That India is not a signatory to the UNHCR convention is a matter of shame, not a just defence. The UNHCR is one of the few stellar non-governmental institutions whose work is a credit to all of the UN. The UNHCR's efforts with Syrian and Rohingya refugees deserve support, especially since the organisation was critical to India's support for refugees during the 1971 Bangladesh war, and helped ensure their safe return. The Congress party bears the blame for



not signing the UNHCR convention, but why is the present anti-Congress government falling back on the Congress's failure?

Despite India not signing the convention, the UNHCR has generally praised India as a host country. Indeed, as the present government at the Centre says, the country's track record in the past has been good. The people of Tripura opened their homes for refugees from East Pakistan in 1971, as did the people of Tamil Nadu for Sri Lankan refugees. Tragically, the issue of Rohingya refugees gained salience in Jammu, which has a

glorious tradition of hosting refugees that dates back to the 18th century. And just by way of perspective, the number of Rohingya refugees in India is estimated to be 40,000 while the UN warns of an exodus of close to a million.

India's position on Rohingya refugees is only one sign of the country's worsening polity. Trolls defend journalist and activist Gauri Lankesh's murder as justified. We should not mourn the death of "a witch", they say. A year earlier they told us we should not mourn the lynching of Muslims suspected of eating or selling beef because anyone who kills a

cow deserves to be punished. And these opinions are not just voiced by trolls — Bharatiya Janata Party MPs and MLAs voice them too, in footage captured by journalists. Communalism, misogyny, and hate appear to go hand in hand. Last week, a local BJP leader in Aligarh slapped a Hindu girl for having the temerity to go out with a Muslim. She has not been suspended from the party. Nor have the innumerable MPs or MLAs who voice similar opinions.

Sadly, there is considerable social sanction for these opinions. Seventy years ago, when introducing the draft Constitution of India, B.R. Ambedkar warned that democracy "is only a top-dressing on Indian soil which is essentially undemocratic." Our elected representatives, he said, would have to work hard to give people the education, income, and opportunity that would enable them to display tolerance towards each other. Successive generations of political leadership have clearly failed this duty. However, condemnable as their dereliction is, what we see today is new. Never before has India been subjected to such a barrage of illiberal opinion by elected representatives, even to the extent of justifying violation of the law.

True, the shift towards chauvinism is not unique to India's polity. Waves of similar and more extreme chauvinism

swept the U.S. and Europe from the 1990s on — first in response to refugees from the Balkans war and then to 9/11, and post-9/11 to the rise of Islamist terrorism and refugees from the wars in West Asia. India's own neighbourhood has long been communal towards religious minorities, whether they are Hindus in Fiji, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh; Muslims in Myanmar and Sri Lanka; or Christians and Ahmads in Pakistan.

But there is a strong fight back in many of these countries. In the U.S., state governments, the courts and civil society have mounted a fierce challenge to the Trump administration's attempts to deport refugees and immigrants. In Germany, Angela Merkel has been re-elected Chancellor though many feared that her generous and unpopular stand on admitting refugees would cost her votes. In Bangladesh, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is battling chauvinists who have murdered dissenters. The Sri Lankan government has embarked on a slow and painful process of reconciliation with their Tamils, supported by provincial governments.

Are either our Central or State governments fighting back? Why are they not asking we sign the UNHCR convention right away, and implement our constitutional safeguards against communalism and misogyny?

## No truck with Cong.: CPI(M) Polit Bureau

NEW DELHI: The CPI(M) Polit Bureau on Monday overruled a proposal by a section of the party backed by general secretary Sitaram Yechury to amend the political line to ally with the Congress and other opposition parties.

Mr. Yechury, according to sources, presented a nuanced view that the BJP needs to be dislodged from the seat of power. And to achieve this end, if need be an alliance with the Congress or other secular parties should be allowed.

This view was vociferously opposed by majority of Polit Bureau members, especially the Kerala unit, who have consistently stalled any alliance with the Congress, who are their immediate adversaries in the State. "The majority view of the PB is that such an alliance does not help our cause. Merely standing with the Congress or other political parties will not effectively counter BJP," a PB member told The Hindu.

'Political-tactical' line  
This is the second PB meeting to discuss the draft outline of the party's "political-tactical" line. The resolution will be finalised in party congress scheduled for April next year. The party congress meets once in three years and this one would be the last before 2019 Lok Sabha polls. "We tried to arrive at a consensus, but since we could not, both the views will now be presented to the Central Committee," the PB member added. The meeting is scheduled for October 14-16.

In July, the Central Committee had voted out a proposal for third term for Mr. Yechury in the Rajya Sabha since his election would have required the Congress's support in West Bengal. Party insiders claim that the line



supported by Mr. Yechury and the West Bengal unit is likely to face similar resistance as it did in July.

The draft resolution, according to sources, maintains a view that the BJP over last three years has strengthened its position. "Since 2015, the BJP has strengthened its position, while the Congress is considerably weakened. Accordingly, we have worked out an approach," another PB member said.

In 2002 too the party had taken a similar position. It was decided that there will be no electoral understanding with the Congress. Out of the 43 seats that the CPI(M) won, the majority were in contest with the Congress. Their political line, however, did not stop them from extending outside support to the Congress-led UPA when it was evident that without their support the BJP would form government.

'Will oppose Cong.'  
Party congress says that while main direction of the struggle is against the BJP, the party will oppose the Congress, whom CPI(M) blames for helping the BJP come to power.

## Jaitley's Dhaka visit to strengthen India, Bangladesh economic ties

NEW DELHI: Union finance minister Arun Jaitley will this week sign an agreement with Bangladesh for a \$4.5bn line of credit offered by India to help Dhaka build several crucial infrastructure projects.

Jaitley will be in Dhaka October 3-5 where he will also inaugurate several projects on which the two countries are cooperating.

The \$4.5bn line of credit was announced in April when Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited India. A line of credit is a flexible form of a loan that allows a borrows — in this case Dhaka — to access funds anytime as long as it is within the limit.

The latest will be the third line of credit, taking the cumulative value to \$8 billion in six years.

The signing of the Dollar Credit Line Agreement is likely to be held on Wednesday.

In addition, the Joint Interpretative Notes on the Agreement between India and Bangladesh for the Promotion and Protection of Investments will also be signed in a meeting between the finance ministers of the two countries.



Jaitley will also speak at an event on 'Macroeconomic Initiatives of the Govt of India', organised by the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh and the High Commission of India.

He will also jointly inaugurate with his Bangladesh counterpart a

newscheme for cashless transactions in visa services run by the State Bank of India on behalf of the High Commission of India.

The two ministers will inaugurate the Dhaka representative office of the EXIM Bank of India.

Jaitley is visiting Dhaka at the invitation of his Bangladesh counterpart Abul Maal Abdul Muhith. Subhash Chandra Garg, secretary, department of economic affairs will accompany Jaitley along with a 30-member business delegation.

## Fix accountability for Mumbai bridge stampede, says Congress

NEW DELHI: The Congress said on Monday political and administrative accountability for the stampede on a foot-overbridge at the Elphinstone Road station in Mumbai needed to be fixed. "The people need answers from Railway Minister Piyush Goyal and former Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu," spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi said.

Describing the stampede that left 23 persons dead and 35 injured as a case of tragic callousness, callous indifference and criminal negligence, he said: "We want accountability... These accidents are now occurring with a monotonous regularity." He said that after the accident, the city police and the railway

police sought to lay the blame on each other.

"Instead of coordinating their investigation, the two groups argued over jurisdiction... It is symptomatic of all that is wrong with Mumbai's infrastructure."

Mr. Singhvi pointed out that from November 2016, commuters had been tweeting their concern about the fragility of the bridge, tagging the Railway Minister and the Railway Ministry, without any response.

Even Mumbai South MP Arvind Sawant had written to Sadanand Gowda when he was Railway Minister in 2014, seeking foot-over bridges at the Parel, Curry Road and Chinchpokli stations, he said.

Mr. Prabhu acknowledged receipt of this letter, spoke of the "adverse effects of the global slowdown" and said new foot-over bridges were under consideration.

Staff Reporter from Mumbai adds: Kith and kin grieve victims Two days after the horrific stampede at the Elphinstone Road Railway station, the Bunt community from Vikhroli in Mumbai organised a prayer meeting in their memory on Monday evening. '22 got relief in 24 hours' The Western Railways claimed that the kin of 23 people killed in the stampede received ex-gratia payment within 24 hours and that its officers travelled to different parts of the country to disburse the money.

## BJP workers attacked by suspected CPI(M) workers in Kerala



KASARGOD: Three BJP workers were attacked by suspected CPI(M) workers in Neeleswaram town in Kasargod district, the police said.

The attack on Monday night came ahead of the launch of 'Jan Raksha Yatra' on Tuesday by the saffron party.

The attack took place around 9:30 pm when BJP workers were decorating a part of the National Highway-66 for the 15-day march, which will be launched by BJP chief Amit Shah. The three injured BJP workers were being treated at a private hospital in Neeleswaram, the police said.

No case has been registered in connection with the incident so far.

BJP Kasargod district secretary Sreekanth alleged that nearly 20 CPI(M) workers attacked BJP activists without provocation, while they were decorating a road side at Neeleswaram market.

Flexboards, tube-lights and a two-wheeler were also damaged, he said.

CPI(M) cadres, who cannot tolerate the "growing political influence" of the BJP in the state were indulging in such attacks, he alleged. Around 15,000 BJP cadre were likely to participate in the march, Sreekanth said.

## Sudden storm wreaks havoc in Hyderabad, at least 7 killed

HYDERABAD: A sudden downpour wreaked havoc in Hyderabad on Monday, causing suffocating traffic for over five hours and the deaths of seven people in the city and its surroundings.

In the city and in nearby districts of Telangana, thunderstorms and heavy rains caused buildings to collapse, cars to be crushed, shopping areas to be inundated, and crops to be destroyed.

Four persons died due to lightning at Narayankhed, a town in Sangareddy, a district on the outskirts of Hyderabad. They were two pairs of mothers and sons: Shakunthala, 46, and Chandrakanth, 23, as well as Basamma, 45, and Ravi, 25.

Starting at 5pm, the capital city received more than 13 centimetres of rain in five hours. In Singadikunta, a slum in the upscale neighbourhood of Banjara Hills, a 30-year-old man named Yadulla and his four-month-old son died when a wall collapsed on their hut. In the Hussaini Alam area of the old city, a 35-year-old rickshaw puller, Afsar, died of electrocution when a live wire fell on him.

The state government announced Rs 4 lakh to the next of kin of all the deceased. Several colonies plunged into darkness for more than four hours as wires snapped, disrupting the electricity supply. Commuters were stuck in gridlock and buses outside the city found that they could not enter.

The storm caused busy thoroughfares to overflow with sewage. Cyberabad, a hub of prominent IT companies, was completely inundated in knee-deep waters. Hundreds of cars were submerged. Techies waited in their offices till late at night.

The emergency response teams of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) evacuated 100 people from Singadikunta; 45 people from Krantinagar, where low-lying houses were submerged; and 28 people from flooded slums in Shivajinagar.

"We are providing food packets and water sachets to the people who were evacuated to safer areas till the water recedes in their localities," said S Srinivas Reddy, the GHMC zonal commissioner.

GHMC Commissioner G Janardhan Reddy issued an advisory last night requesting people not to leave their homes unless there was an emergency. On Tuesday morning, Reddy withdrew the warning, though the GHMC released a statement advising continued caution. According to the Hyderabad Meteorological Department (HMD), the heavy downpour qualified as a "cloudburst", an extreme, momentary surge of precipitation.

"It is quite common to have such a cloud formation in a short period of time due to increase in relative humidity," said YK Reddy, the director of the HMD. "In Hyderabad, the humidity increased from 87 per cent to 97 per cent in a span of 24 hours, and that resulted in a sudden cloudburst."

The HMD forecasted more rains of similar intensity in Hyderabad and other parts of Telangana over the next 48 hours.



## Taj Mahal missing in U.P. govt. brochure

LUCKNOW: The Taj Mahal may be one of the 'seven wonders of the world,' attracting lakhs of tourists each year, but it has failed to feature in Uttar Pradesh's latest tourism booklet.

Titled 'Aparajit Sambhavanay' or 'Boundless Possibilities', the brochure released by the Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department displays most of the other cultural and heritage sites in the State, particularly those associated with the Hindu religious tourism.

The brochure has raised eyebrows, especially as it comes a few months after Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had said the Taj Mahal did not represent Indian culture, but the Ramayana and the Bhagavad Gita did, triggering criticism.

However, Tourism Minister Rita Bahuguna Joshi said the State was "committed" to developing the "world-famous" Taj Mahal and tourist spots related to it. "The development of Taj Mahal and Agra is among the priorities of the Central and State governments," she said.

Smart City plan

Agra was being developed as a Smart City, she said, adding that efforts were on to start a Metro Rail there. The brochure has a picture of the Ganga Aarti in Varanasi on its cover featuring Mr. Adityanath and Ms. Joshi, while its inside pages cover most of the cultural and religious sites of tourism and circuits like the Ramayana, Buddha, Krishna, Bundelkhand, Vindhya and Awadh.

The brochure highlights the religious and cultural significance of Varanasi and its ghats, the coming Ardh Kumbh Mela in Allahabad, while promoting Ayodhya as the birthplace of Lord Ram and Mathura-Vrindavan for its connection with Lord Krishna.

It also presents the Gorakhpeth in Gorakhpur, of which the Chief Minister himself is the head priest, as a tourist destination, along with the Devipatan Shakti Peeth.



## Lalu, Tejashwi to appear before CBI on Oct 5, 6 in IRCTC hotels scam

BIHAR: The CBI on Tuesday asked RJD leader Lalu Prasad Yadav and his son Tejashwi Yadav to appear before it for questioning on October 5 and 6 in an alleged corruption case after both leaders expressed their inability to appear on given dates, the agency sources said.

The sources said Yadav and Tejashwi were earlier called on October 4 and 5. The CBI wants to question the former railways minister Lalu Prasad Yadav for a contract given for the maintenance of two IRCTC hotels in 2006.

Tejashwi is also made an accused in the CBI FIR pertaining to alleged cor-

ruption in the deal.

It is alleged that Yadav as Railway Minister handed over maintenance of two Railway hotels BNR Ranchi and Puri to Sujata Hotel (a company owned by Vinay and Vijay Kochhar) after receiving a bribe in the form of prime land of three acres through a benami company.

## Maoists raising new armed group: official

NEW DELHI: A senior Home Ministry official said on Monday that there were reports that Maoists were attempting to raise a new armed group along the Madhya Pradesh-Maharashtra-Chhattisgarh trijunction as they continue to face the heat at their stronghold in Bastar.

The official said the new unit, 'Vistara platoon,' was trying to gain a foothold at the tri-junction, which has lesser deployment of security forces than the seven districts in the Bastar division of Chhattisgarh, said to be one of the last Maoist

bastions. "There are multiple reports about Maoists trying to expand at the tri-junction. In the past, there has not been much Maoist activity in this area. This is possibly a strategy, so that security forces lower their guard in Bastar and concentrate on this area instead," the official added.

New camps opened

An official of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) said the forces had opened new camps in the once-inaccessible Bastar region to "squeeze out" the militants. "Our focus is on the South Bastar-Sukma region and Dantewad and Bastar districts. In the past few months, we have opened three new camps, which would help us in planning operations better and return the same night. With an ability to strike much faster and with an element of surprise," the official said.

# New pill may halt bone loss and damage

Scientists have identified a new drug which has the potential to halt bone loss caused by osteoarthritis and tackle underlying bone structure changes in diseased joints.

The findings showed that the new drug, known as MIV-711, can reduce bone damage around knee joints as well as maintain cartilage thickness after just six months of treatment. MIV-711, which is based on a molecule involved in the turnover of bone and cartilage in the joints, works by interfering with the process that leads to joint breakdown.

"This drug heralds a new dawn in the treatment of this disease as it is the first evidence we have of a drug which can have a significant benefit on the structure of the bone," Philip Conaghan, professor at the University of Leeds, was quoted as saying to express.co.uk

For the study, the team involved 244 patients aged between 40 and 80 with osteoarthritis in the knee.

MIV-711 was tested against the patients given a placebo and those receiving the treat-



ment showed a 65 per cent reduction in bone loss after six months with fewer side effects.

Those on the placebo showed slight increases in bone loss.

MIV-711 also halted cartilage loss, with those on low doses experiencing a 70 per cent reduction in cartilage thickness and those on higher doses showing a slight increase in cartilage thickness. "We now need larger studies to replicate these findings, the results of which we hope will open up a new class of drug," Conaghan said.

# Concussions affect women differently than men, says study

A recent study has found that concussions affect men and women differently. Researchers at Rutgers School of Health Professions – with the assistance of Rutgers Athletics – are working on two studies investigating these answers to better prevent concussions and improve recovery time.

The first study, 'Neurocognitive Function in Varsity Athletes', which assesses male and female Rutgers University-Newark varsity athletes pre and post-season as well as post-concussion – is among the first to examine how concussions affect women. "Much of the studies done to date assessed people only after they sustained a concussion.

The only way we can understand the sex differences is by using the same assessments for men and women starting in pre-season to give a baseline," said lead investigator Carrie Esopenko. Concussions, also known as minor head trauma or mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI) is the most common type of traumatic brain injury.

It is typically defined as a head injury with a temporary loss of brain function. It has physical, cognitive and emotional symptoms – the most significant being a headache.

Other symptoms may include dizziness, vomiting, nausea, lack of motor coordination, difficulty balancing, blurred vision and sensitivity to light.

Cognitive symptoms include confusion, disorientation, and difficulty focusing attention. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, concussions can lead to headaches, nausea and irritability, while between 10 and 20 percent may experience symptoms like depression, headaches or difficulty concentrating.

Esopenko, whose team includes faculty and students from the physical therapy program, assesses athletes pre- and post-season with behavioral testing and MRIs, which will be repeated two days, two weeks and two months following a concussion.

The team is looking at a range of athletics – basketball, soccer, tennis, cross country, track and field, volleyball, baseball and softball – to examine sex differences in head injuries as well as sub-concussive impacts that occur in contact versus non-contact sports. Increasing awareness of contact in women's sports – such as in soccer where goals are scored with the head – is

fueling an interest in female-focused studies. "We would like to determine the best ways to pre-empt injuries," Esopenko noted. "For example, we are looking at how neck strength affects an injury's severity. Concussions are a transfer of force. When males, who generally have stronger necks, hit their heads, we think the force is more likely to be transferred into the rest of the body compared to women, whose heads may take the brunt of the impact due to decreased neck strength." Esopenko's second study, 'Psychological Symptoms and Coping Strategies in Varsity Athletes,' examines how experiencing an injury – in particular, a concussion – as a student-athlete affects psychological health.

Working with athletic trainers at each of Rutgers' locations and with faculty from the physical therapy program and Department of Kinesiology and Health in the School of Arts and Sciences, she is recruiting athletes to complete an online survey that assesses psychological symptoms, substance use, stress and pre-injury physical and psychological health. Members of the public who have experienced a concussion also can participate (see link below). The survey's goal is to

determine if there are differences in psychological symptoms and coping between athletes and non-athletes after injury. "After an injury, most people recover in a few weeks, but up to 30 percent take months or years.

We want to see if athletes who, say, tear their ACL have the same psychological outcomes as those with a head injury," she continued. "Are psychological issues caused by the fact that an athlete has a brain injury or does the brain injury unmask a psychological condition that causes prolonged impairment?" By surveying the public, Esopenko is researching if non-athletes show more psychological issues after injury since they do not have athletes' access to trainers and medical teams.

"Our goal is to use this data to develop education programs to teach athletes the symptoms of mental health conditions resulting from injury and know how to get services," she added.

"Also, by understanding how many athletes are exposed to injury versus how many actually get injured, we can work with the trainers to isolate specific activities or drills that result in more injuries."

# Exercising for just an hour every week may prevent depression

Not need to consult a doctor if you or anyone around you is feeling depressed. Depression can now be fought at home.

A study says that exercising for just an hour every week can help prevent the risk of depression, only if it is followed religiously. Researchers have found that even small amounts of exercise can protect against depression, with mental health benefits.

A healthy cohort of participants was asked at baseline to report the

frequency of exercise they participated in and at what intensity: without becoming breathless or sweating, becoming breathless and sweating, or exhausting themselves.

At follow-up stage, they completed a self-report questionnaire to indicate any emerging anxiety or depression. Researchers also accounted for variables which might impact the association between exercise and common mental illness.

These include socio-economic and demographic factors, substance

use, body mass index, new onset physical illness and perceived social support. The team noted that people who reported doing no exercise at all at baseline had a 44 per cent increased chance of developing depression compared to those who were exercising one to two hours a week.

The international research team found that 12 per cent of cases of depression could have been prevented if participants undertook just one hour of physical activity each week.



# Hominin species that gave us genital herpes identified

A team of scientists have identified a species group that infected early humans with genital herpes (HSV2), a sexually transmitted infection, nearly two million years ago.

Parathropus boisei was a heavyset bipedal hominin with a smallish brain that walked on two legs and had dish-like face. It most likely contracted HSV2 through scavenging meat of chimpanzee, and then passed the pathogen to humans when they hunted for food.

Close contact between P. boisei and our ancestor Homo erectus would have been fairly common around sources of water, such as Kenya's Lake Turkana.

This provided the opportunity for HSV2 to enter into our bloodline, the researchers said.

"For these viruses to jump species barriers they need a lucky genetic mutation combined with significant fluid exchange. In the case of early hominins,

this means through consumption or intercourse -- or possibly both," said Charlotte Houldcroft, a virologist from Britain's Cambridge University.

"Once HSV2 gains entry to a species it stays, easily transferred from mother to baby, as well as through blood, saliva and sex."

"HSV2 is ideally suited to low density populations.

The genital herpes virus would have crept across Africa the way it creeps down nerve endings in our sex organs - slowly but surely," she said.

According to the research, published in the journal Virus Evolution, the researchers found that somewhere between three and 1.4 million years ago, genital herpes jumped the species barrier from African apes to human ancestors. "By modelling the available data, from fossil records to viral genetics, we believe that Parathropus boisei was the species in the right place at the right time to both contract HSV2 from ancestral chimpanzees, and transmit it to our earliest ancestors, probably Homo erectus," Houldcroft noted.

# This is how online shopping is contributing to muscle damage

The onset of the digital age has certainly provided a convenient atmosphere for people across the world. A lot of things – from payments to shopping – can be done online. There are smartphone apps to do all this and more as well. Taking advantage of this convenience, one of the things that people vigorously indulge in is online shopping. Anything and everything you need is available on various e-commerce platforms, allowing people to compare prices, avail a range of offers and heavy discounts, etc. But is it good for health? A study has said a firm 'no', saying that online shopping actually damages our muscles.

A group of physiotherapists has claimed that by staying at home and ordering everything directly to themselves, people are miss-

ing out on a whole load of essential muscle-strengthening exercises. A poll of more than 2,000 people found 24 percent of those aged 65 and over admit that they now do no strengthening activities at all each week. This puts them at increasing risk of falls and other health problems. Professor Karen Middleton, chief executive of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, said, "Online shopping may be very convenient but it does mean that we are losing some of the methods that used to exist for strengthening our muscles. We're carrying fewer bags home from the supermarket because it arrives at our door." She added, "We're also waiting at home for other goods to be delivered when in the past we would have gone out to buy them. This isn't an argument against

progress. It's just to show that maintaining strength and being active doesn't have to mean going to the gym, and we should look for ways to build it into our everyday lives." National Health Service guidelines recommend two strengthening exercise sessions a week, be it weight-lifting or simply carrying home your weekly grocery. Karen continued, "As the guidelines set out, it doesn't mean immediately hitting the gym to lift weights, it can be digging in the garden or simple body-weight exercises like standing up out of a chair 10 times." Talking about the same, Dr Justin Varney, Head of Adult Health at Public Health England, noted, "Your bones start to weaken from your late 20s and muscle mass shrinks from 40, plus musculoskeletal conditions are

the biggest cause of sickness absence from work." "So it's not only older people who need to act. Include bone and muscle strengthening and balance-boosting activities into your daily routine and you'll benefit as you age, increasing the chances of being free from chronic musculoskeletal illness in your 40s, 50s and beyond," she continued.

Programme lead for Physical Activity at the Centre for Ageing Better, Jess Kuehne, concluded by saying, "We know that undertaking regular activity to strength muscles and improve balance can have a significant impact on the quality of your life as you get older and reduce your risk of falls, which are disastrous for both individuals and put heavy demands on our health and social care system."

# Breast Cancer Awareness Month: Warning signs, risk factors and prevention

Breast cancer is the top cancer victimising women in the developed as well as in the developing world.

In India, breast cancer has surpassed cervical cancer as the most common form of cancer among women. Studies have shown that both the incidence as well as deaths due to breast cancer are now way ahead of cervical cancer. Unfortunately, both low and middle-income countries are at a higher risk of breast cancer due to lack of timely diagnosis.

The incidence of breast cancer is increasing in the developing world due to increased life expectancy, increased urbanization and adoption of western lifestyles. With October being observed as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, it is important to understand the nuances of breast cancer – its warning signs, risk factors and how you can reduce your risk of developing the disease.

As the warning signs of breast cancer are not same for all women, it's important to pay attention if you spot any unusual changes in your breasts and get yourself medically examined.

Common signs and symptoms

of breast cancer include:

A lump in the breast – this is the most common, initial sign of breast cancer. Swelling, redness or darkening of the breast

Change in the size, shape or appearance of a breast

Skin irritation or dimpling

Breast pain

Pulling in of the nipple

A rash on or around the nipple

Nipple discharge other than breast milk

A lump in the underarm

While these changes can also occur as a result of other, less serious conditions, which may not necessarily be malignant, it's always better to get them checked promptly by a doctor.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), breast cancer impacts over 1.5 million women each year, and also causes the greatest number of cancer-related deaths among women.

As per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the risk for breast cancer increases with age; most breast cancers are diagnosed after age 50.

Women who have inherited certain genetic changes, such as BRCA1 and BRCA2, are at high-

er risk of breast and ovarian cancer. Some women will get breast cancer even without any other risk factors that they know of. Having a risk factor does not mean you will get the disease, and not all risk factors have the same effect. Other risk factors apart from age and genetic mutations include:

Early menstrual period

Late or no pregnancy

Starting menopause after age 55

Not being physically active

Being overweight or obese

post menopause

Having dense breasts

Using combination hormone therapy

Taking oral contraceptives (birth control pills)

Personal history of breast cancer

Personal history of certain non-cancerous breast diseases

Family history of breast cancer

Previous treatment using radiation therapy

Drinking alcohol

Reducing the risk of cancer

taking control of one's body is the first and foremost way to keep cancer at bay.

Besides replacing unhealthy

lifestyle habits with healthier ones, early detection can also help

women control breast cancer from

spreading or becoming malignant.

Here are a few measures that one needs to follow to prevent the risk of developing breast cancer. Stay physically fit

Exercise in any form has been established as the perfect medicine that one needs to curb numerous health issues.

Medical professionals all over the world have established that physical activity in any form can prevent one from contracting numerous diseases, while also helping us get rid of them.

That said, every woman should make exercise a part of her daily routine to stay fit. Staying physically fit has several advantages as it enhances the quality of life and improves physical form.

Regular physical activities such as hitting the gym or doing exercises at home has the ability to cut down one's risk of breast cancer as well. Any form of physical activity can reduce breast cancer risk by at least 20 percent.

Healthy eating

Regular exercises should always

be accompanied with a balanced diet. Eating the right food can

boost your immune system and

cut down your risk of developing



breast cancer. Avoid processed

foods and say no to aerated drinks.

Include foods rich in fibre in

your daily diet along with a lot of

fruits and veggies. These food

items can protect your body and

boost your immune system to

fight breast cancer. Always main-

tain a healthy diet and control

your body weight to considerably

reduce breast cancer risk.

Breastfeeding

Women who breastfeed are

at a lower risk of developing breast

cancer than those who don't

breastfeed at all. Breastfeeding

helps lower estrogen levels in the

body, thus preventing the risk of

cancer. Some women choose not

to breastfeed as they believe the

act will result in sagging breasts.

However, breastfeeding is con-

sidered one of the most natural

ways to protect one's body against

development of cancerous cells.

Quit smoking and control

alcohol intake

Heavy smoking and high con-

sumption of liquor are high risk

factors for breast cancer. A study

published in the journal Cancer,

revealed that women who tend

to smoke a lot have a significant-

ly higher incidence of 'estrogen

receptor-positive breast cancer,'

a common tumour characterized

by its sensitivity to hormone-

blocking therapy.

Limiting your alcohol con-

sumption and giving up on smok-

ing are important to reduce breast

cancer risk over time.

Consult a physician for hor-

monal therapies if you wish to

undergo hormone treatments, it

is essential to consult your doctor

for alternative therapies to cut

down the risk of breast cancer.

Avoid medicines that contain

hormones for long term therapy

or limit their use to less than three

years. Go for periodic screenings

Periodic screening is imper-

ative, especially for those women

who have a family history of breast

cancer. A woman should under-

go regular check-ups once she

hits 30. The two screening tests

available are mammography and

ultra-sound. Be familiar with how

your breasts feel normally.

Always notify your physician

if you observe any kind of lump,

bleeding, discharge or if you ex-

perience any pain.

There is no assured way to

prevent breast cancer, but there

are ways to strengthen your im-

mune system to fight against any

deadly disease. Cultivate a healthy

lifestyle and keep yourself men-

tales, physically and emotionally

fit to improve your body's ability

to combat any life-threatening

disease, including breast cancer.

# Sensex pulls 332 pts higher ahead of RBI monetary policy review, on global cues

MUMBAI: Stock markets after a long weekend started the day today with a bang as the Sensex surged 332 points and the Nifty was back on top of 9,800 on optimistic buying ahead of RBI policy review.

Looking good for the third day, the 30-share index advanced 331.56 points, or 1.05%, to 31,615.28. Auto, metal, consumer durables and realty stocks hit a sweet spot. The gauge had gained 123.91 points in the previous two sessions.

The NSE Nifty perked up 106.80 points, or 1.09%, to 9,895.40. The central bank's 2-day mon-

etary policy review kicks off on Tuesday and the decision is due on Wednesday. This has led to unabated buying by domestic financial institutions, which added to the positive mood.

Rate-sensitive auto stocks made buyers sit up and take note amid encouraging September sales data.

Tata Motors was trading higher by 4.90% at Rs 420.90 and Bajaj Auto was up 1.89% at Rs 3,167 while M&M gained 1.38% to Rs 1,271.

Firm Asian cues reflecting a rally on Wall Street, where all



three US indices hit new records following strong economic data, made investors here loosen their

purse strings. US manufacturing activity in September rose to its highest

level in 13 years. The deadliest mass shooting in US history, however, brought in a sense of caution, traders said.

Other gainers that supported the key indices include Asian Paints, Tata Steel, Dr Reddy's, Reliance Industries, NTPC, ONGC and Infosys. Among other Asian markets, Hong Kong's Hang Seng was up 1.62% while Japan's Nikkei surged 0.77% in early session today. Financial markets in China are closed on Tuesday for a public holiday. US Dow Jones Industrial Average ended 0.68% higher on Monday.

## Goldman Sachs studying whether to trade in bitcoins: Report

MUMBAI: Goldman Sachs is exploring whether to launch a trading venture in bitcoin in response to client demand, a person familiar with the matter said on Monday. Goldman's consideration of the digital currency could give bitcoin a boost at a time when it is under criticism in China and by some large banks.

Goldman is looking at establishing a team that could trade bitcoin and other digital currencies, said a person familiar with the bank's thinking.

The venture might resemble other Goldman teams that trade euros or treasury bonds. Goldman has received interest from a variety of parties, including investment funds, insurers and corporate clients. The study is at an early stage and may not yield a decision to proceed with such a venture, the person said.

"In response to client interest in digital currencies, we are exploring how best to serve them in the space," said Goldman spokeswoman Tiffany Galvin.

Large banks like Goldman Sachs have until now avoided trading in bitcoin due to its reputation as a conduit for illicit activity.

At the same time, financial companies have been active in the development of "blockchain," the underlying technology of bitcoin, which is seen as a potentially important technology.

Bitcoin critics include JPMorgan Chase chief executive Jamie Dimon, who called the digital currency a "fraud" that will eventually "blow up."

But Morgan Stanley chief executive James Gorman offered measured praise for bitcoin last week, calling it "obviously highly speculative" but "not something that's inherently bad."

Bitcoin has retreated since breaching the psychologically important \$5,000 level on September 1. On Monday, it traded at \$4,375.

## India's manufacturing output expands in September

MUMBAI: India's manufacturing sector expanded marginally in September due to stronger domestic demand, key macro-economic data showed on Tuesday. The Nikkei



India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index (PMI), a composite indicator of manufacturing performance, stood at 51.2 in September.

The index remained unchanged from August. However, it indicated a modest improvement in manufacturing sector business conditions in September.

An index reading of above 50 indicates an overall increase in economic activity and below 50 an overall decrease.

"September data painted an encouraging picture as the sector continued to recover from the disruptions caused by the introduction of the GST in July," said Aashna Doshia, Economist at IHS Markit and author of the report.

"This sustained amelioration reflected expansions in new work and output, supported by stronger domestic demand conditions. Subsequently, business confidence strengthened among manufacturers as they reportedly anticipate long-term benefits from recent government policies."

## Diesel prices skyrocket in Indian metros on decreased supply from global market

NEW DELHI: When it comes to everyday life, be it for people or companies, the price of fuel can disrupt the flow of activities without warning. The price of diesel scaled an all-time high in New Delhi on Tuesday when it hit Rs 59.14 per litre. It has been rising for some time now, in line with the increase in global crude oil prices, as supply from overseas markets thinned out over the last couple of months.

And India's other metropolitan cities are not far behind. The price of diesel in Kolkata is currently at a 3-year high and in Mumbai and Chennai, it is the highest it has been since May and January, respectively.

On Monday, the price of petrol in Mumbai was Rs 79.94 a litre, the highest since August 2014, while that of diesel was Rs 62.75. In Kolkata, diesel cost Rs 61.73 a litre, while in Chennai it cost Rs 62.30 a litre. According to Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the recent surge in diesel and petrol prices is primarily due to an increase in international prices after two hurricanes - Harvey and Irma - resulted in a shutdown of 13 percent of the



United States' refinery capacity. "Fuel prices have gone up recently due to the hurricane in the US. As the prices reduce in the international market, they will come down here also," Pradhan had said. Prices in Delhi alone have risen by as much as Rs 5.74 a litre since the US shutdown and people all over the country are up in arms about it. Pradhan tried pacifying disgruntled citizens by saying that the surge in prices of diesel and petrol are only transient and that they will ease soon, but this was

just met with more scepticism.

However, market experts suggest that fuel prices are poised to come down now that the refineries in US have started operating again and Libya and Algeria are expected to increase supply in the coming weeks.

In a related development, India got its first shipment of US-produced crude oil on Monday at Odisha's Paradip Port. This is one of the first shipments sent to India after the US stopped exporting crude in 1975.

## RCom shares drop 7.8% to record low after Aircel merger deal collapses



NEW DELHI: Shares of India's Reliance Communications tumbled as much as 7.8% in early trade on Tuesday to an all-time low after the company scrapped a proposed merger of its wireless arm with rival Aircel, raising doubts about a debt-reduction plan. Shares in RCom were trading at Rs 17.90, down 6.77%, at 0400 GMT, after dropping to a low of Rs 17.70. Indian markets were closed on Monday for a public holiday. Reliance Communications said on Sunday it is reassessing debt repayment options after calling off the merger deal, citing regulatory delays and legal uncertainties. The company is saddled with net debt of about \$6.8 billion. It has

earned a temporary reprieve from its banks, who have agreed to a standstill on its debt obligations as part of a planned debt restructuring. The reprieve was largely predicated upon RCom reducing debt by Rs 250 billion by merging its wireless unit with Aircel, a subsidiary of Malaysia's Maxis Communications, and selling a stake in its mobile mast arm to a unit of Canada's Brookfield Asset Management. Late on Sunday, RCom said it had agreed with Aircel to call off the merger due to regulatory delays and legal uncertainties. It is unclear whether the collapse of the RCom-Aircel deal will affect the Brookfield transaction.

## SBI Life Insurance lists with 5% gain on stock market debut

NEW DELHI: SBI Life Insurance Company made its debut on the BSE on Tuesday at Rs 733.30, a premium of 4.75% over its issue price of Rs 700. The stock opened at Rs 733.30, gained further momentum and touched a high of Rs 738. Similar movement was seen on the National Stock Exchange as well, where the stock opened at Rs 735, with a premium of 5% over its issue price. At 1002 hours, the stock was trading at Rs 731 on the BSE and at Rs 734 on the NSE.

The Rs 8,400-crore initial public offer (IPO) was oversubscribed 3.58 times.

The portion meant for qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) was oversubscribed 12.56 times while that of non-institutional investors received 70% subscriptions and retail investors 85%, data available with the NSE showed.



SBI Life is a joint venture between India's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) and BNP Paribas Cardif (BNPPC), the insurance holding company of France. The insurer had fixed the price band for the IPO at Rs 685-700 per share. JM Financial Institutional Securities, Axis Capital, BNP Paribas, Citigroup Global Markets India, Deutsche Equities India, ICICI Securities, Kotak Mahindra Capital Company and SBI Capital Markets were the book running lead managers to the offer.

## First US crude oil shipment arrives in India's Paradip port

NEW DELHI: The first shipment of US crude oil in over four decades reached Indian shores on Monday, reaffirming the energy commitment between the two countries that includes importing American liquefied natural gas (LNG).

MT New Prosperity, a ship with a capacity to haul 2 million barrels of crude, left the US Gulf Coast on August 19 and arrived at Paradip port in Odisha.

The shipment is for the state-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC), which "will process the crude at its refineries located at Paradip, Haldia, Barauni and Bongaigaon," the company said in a statement. The Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) have also placed orders for about 3.95 million barrels of US crude for their Kochi and Vizag refineries. Sunjay Sudhir, the oil ministry's joint secretary (international cooperation), Katherine B



Hadda, the US consul general in Hyderabad, senior officials of the foreign ministry and IOC were present at the welcome ceremony for the cargo. Sudhir said crude oil import from the US by India's largest

refiner will go a long way in mitigating risks arising out of geopolitical disruptions. He said the new arrangement would usher in price stability and energy security for India, which is witnessing robust growth in demand for petroleum

products. "This is one of the first shipments to India since the US stopped oil exports in 1975, and follows recent commitments to US oil purchases by IOC and BPCL," a US embassy statement said. Besides, crude oil imports have the potential

to boost bilateral trade by up to \$2 billion. Indian companies, both public and private, have also made a total investment of about US \$5 billion in US shale gas assets. The first shipment of LNG is expected to reach India next January.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump expanding bilateral energy cooperation through a strategic energy partnership during the Indian leader's June visit to Washington.

The arrival of the crude is hailed as "a significant milestone in the growing partnership" between the US and India.

"The US and India are elevating our cooperation in the field of energy, including plans for cleaner fossil fuels, renewables, nuclear, and cutting-edge storage and energy efficiency technologies," said Mary Kay Carlson, chargé d'affaires at the US embassy in New Delhi.

## RBI seen keeping rates on hold as inflation concerns revive

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is expected to keep its policy rate unchanged at a policy meeting this week despite a sharp slowdown in economic growth, after inflation surged to a five-month high, threatening the central bank's target.

The RBI has made a priority of maintaining consumer inflation at around 4% -- the midpoint of its mandated target of 2 to 6% -- having switched to a "neutral" policy stance from "accommodative" earlier this year.

It is thus expected to react with concern after a surge in food prices boosted retail prices up 3.36% in August from a year earlier. Analysts expect inflation could continue to quicken, given food prices tend to rise during the winter. Worryingly, core inflation - which excludes energy and food - has remained even higher, reaching 4.6% in August amid stubbornly high prices in key areas such as health and education.

The inflationary trend could rule out any chance that the RBI will cut the repo again, after lowering it by 25 basis points to a seven-year low of 6% at its last meeting in August, even as economic growth unexpectedly slowed to a three-year low of 5.7%. The RBI also will likely be concerned by growing expectations that the government will ramp up spending to boost growth, potentially leading to a loosening of its current fiscal deficit of 3.2% of gross domestic product for the year ending in March.

All but 3 of 60 analysts surveyed by Reuters expected the RBI's monetary policy committee (MPC) to keep the repo rate unchanged, and a majority of analysts forecast no changes until at least early 2019.

"We expect the MPC to keep rates on hold and retain the neutral (policy) stance," said A. Prasanna, an economist for ICICI Securities Primary Dealership in Mumbai.

The MPC will announce its decision at 2:30 pm India time (0900 GMT) on Wednesday.

### PRICE PRESSURES

Other signs point to potentially higher inflation, just as the RBI had projected in August, when the MPC said it expected consumer prices to advance 3.5 to 4.5 percent in October-March. Crude prices have rallied, sending Brent crude to its highest in more than two years, a worry given India imports most of its energy needs.

The RBI will also be deterred from easing given lingering uncertainty as the US Federal Reserve gears up to start unwinding some of its massive monetary stimulus later this year and continues to gradually raise US interest rates.

## Moeen braced for bouncer war Down Under

LONDON: England all-rounder Moeen Ali is expecting Australia's fast bowlers to try and unsettle him with short-pitched deliveries during the Ashes series later this year but the left-hander is confident he can survive the ordeal. The elegant stroke-maker averages almost 35 from his 44 Tests, often stitching together valuable partnerships lower down the order for England. But the 30-year-old, who also bowls off-spin, has been accused of possessing a batting technique that can be exposed by short-pitched bowling.

"It's something I've been working on and I'm looking forward to it," Moeen told reporters. "I feel when you get in, it's a good place to bat. The ball doesn't swing as much and hopefully whatever number I come in, I can express myself."

"I'm going to have to change a couple of things about the way I play but in terms of mindset, I'll just go and do what I normally do." Moeen has been in sparkling form with both bat and ball this year, and was named man-of-the-series in England's 4-0 home



victory over West Indies in their recent ODI series. Moeen was confident he could turn the short-pitched bowling against him into an opportunity when the five-Test series against Australia starts with the first match in Brisbane from Nov 23.

"The good thing is I've played against them before and I don't want to speak too early or too confident but I'll make sure I'm ready for it," Moeen said. "Hopefully they'll get tired doing it [bowling the bouncer]. But you get chances to score all the time with the short stuff and I'm going to work hard on that. I am very excited about it."

## Rohit Sharma fifth best ODI batsman, according to latest cricket rankings

NEW DELHI: Rohit Sharma's marauding form with the bat has made the Indian opener the fifth best batsman in the world, according to the latest ODI rankings released by the International Cricket Council today. Rohit Sharma's best ranking, of course, has been a No. 3 position in February 2016. Rohit Sharma smashed his 14th ODI century at the Vidarbha Cricket Association stadium on Sunday as India thrashed Australia by seven wickets to clinch the five-match ODI series 4-1. Rohit's 296 runs in the series helped him move up four places in the ICC rankings. The ODI series has been dominated by the top batsmen and India's chase in Nagpur was anchored by Rohit Sharma and Ajinkya Rahane, who produced 124 runs for the opening wicket to deflate the perplexed Australians. Rahane



has moved four places to 24th. Australian Aaron Finch has gained nine slots to reach 17th position while David Warner has closed in on No. 1 ranked Virat Kohli, bridging the pre-series gap of 26 points to just 12 points.

Other batsmen moving up include Kedhar Jadhav of India (up eight places to a career-best 36th), Marcus Stoinis of Australia (up 74 places to 54th), Jason Roy (up seven places to 30th), Jonny Bairstow (up 48 places

to 40th) and Moeen Ali (up 18 places to 56th) of England, and the Windies pair of Jason Holder (up 11 places to 73rd) and Evin Lewis (up 31 places to 78th). In the ODI bowlers rankings, young left-arm spinner Akshar Patel has reached a career best seventh position after moving up three places while wrist spinners Yuzvendra Chahal (up 24 places to 75th) and Kuldeep Yadav (up nine places to 80th) have also moved northwards. Other bowlers to move up include Australia's Nathan Coulter-Nile (up 49 places to a career-best 44th position) and Pat Cummins (up seven places to 21st), and England's Liam Plunkett (up three places to 10th) and Adil Rashid (up four places to 12th). In the list of all-rounders led by Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan, England's Ben Stokes has moved into the top five.

## Yasir Shah has a challenger in Kuldeep Yadav, says spin king Shane Warne

MUMBAI: Until a year back, Kuldeep Yadav had been grinding it out in domestic competitions, picking up a bagful of wickets in almost every tournament and yet failing to impress the selectors enough to earn a national call-up. And, with Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja bowling in tandem and contributing with the bat lower down the order, things weren't easy for Kuldeep. While the selectors now seem to be convinced with the abilities of the 22-year-old, Kuldeep also seems to have impressed quite a few former legends of the game, including Australian great Shane Warne. On Sunday, after India romped home to a seven-wicket victory over Australia to seal the series 4-1, Warne tweeted, "If young Kuldeep remains



patient when he's bowling in all forms then he could challenge Yasir as the best leg spinner in the world & quickly." Kuldeep earned his debut in all formats of the game this year and has had pretty impressive numbers so far.

He's played two Tests and an equal number of T20s besides featuring in 11 ODIs, picking up nine, three and 18 wickets, respectively. Kuldeep replied to Warne on the social media platform, stating that he would keep his (Warne's) appreciation in mind and work accordingly. Warne replied, "My pleasure mate, keep up the great work & wear that Number 23 with pride young man!!! #patience #spintowin." The player Warne compared him to --- Yasir Shah --- has already earned a name for himself in the cricketing

fraternity with 167 wickets. The bulk of those wickets have come in the longest format of the game with Shah just one shy of touching the 150-mark in Tests.

Also, while Shah is 31, the Indian still has a lot of time on hand to try and challenge the numbers set by his predecessors.

Kuldeep had broken through the ranks during the 2014 under-19 World Cup, picking up 14 wickets to finish the tournament as India's second-highest wicket-taker. Although the side led by Ishan Kishan failed to lift the trophy, it did enough to propel Kuldeep into limelight.

He would soon be bought by the Kolkata Knight Riders for \$66,000, who didn't want to risk losing out on an Indian Chinaman to be a part of the razzmatazz T20 league.

## Asian champions Iraq arrive in Kolkata for FIFA U-17 World Cup



KOLKATA: A 21-member Iraq national Under-17 football team arrived here in the early hours of Monday to take part in the FIFA U-17 World Cup starting October 6.

Coached by Qahtan Jathir, the team touched down at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport around 1.30 a.m. in the morning and checked into their hotel. They will be playing their Group F matches against England, Chile and Mexico in Kolkata. Iraq take on Mexico in their opener at the revamped Salt Lake Stadium on October 8. They are expected to train in the evening at Calcutta Cricket and Football Club (CCFC).

The Asian champions have only one U-17 World Cup appearance to their name, at UAE in 2013.

That experience was not particularly memorable as they finished last in Group F.

Iraq lost all three of their matches, against Sweden, Mexico and Nigeria, the teams that eventually claimed first, second and third place in the tournament.

Iraq emerged victorious from the 2016 AFC U-16 Championship, defeating Iran in the final to become Asian champions for the first time. After finishing second in Group C, they saw off the challenge of Uzbekistan (2-0) in the quarter-finals, booking their berth in India 2017 in the process.

In the last four, the Iraqi colts eliminated Japan, prior to getting the better of Iran on penalties after the showpiece match had ended 0-0.

Coach Jathir made history by guiding his charges to Iraq's first-ever AFC U-16 Championship success in October 2016. His playing career began at Iraqi club Al Talaba, and also included spells in Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, during which time he represented Iraq at the 2000 AFC Asian Cup.

## FIFA U-17 World Cup: Germany captain Jann-Fiete Arp joins team in Goa

MARGAO: Germany skipper Jann-Fiete Arp has joined his team in Goa and taken part in the second practice session on Monday under the watchful eyes of coach Christian Wuck at the Nagao ground, Verna.

Arp did not come along with the other members of the team, who arrived on Sunday, as he was making his Bundesliga debut for Hamburg against Werder Bremen.

The match ended in a goal-less draw.

The players had the first training session in the afternoon on Sunday soon after they arrived in Goa.

Arp reached Goa late last night.

Wuck, who has been with the U-16 and U-17 teams since 2012, got down to business right from the time the team landed in the city. "We are happy to be here and we cannot wait for the competition to start."

We have another five days to prepare ourselves and get acclimatise to the weather," said Wuck. 17-year-old Arp, who became the



first Bundesliga player to be born after 2000, is one of the most talked about young talents in Germany. He scored two hat-tricks in UEFA European Under-17 Championship in May and the team will revolve around him to win the title.

Germany lost to Spain in the semifinals but still qualified for the FIFA U-17 World Cup as four teams made the cut.

Germany are placed in Group C along with Costa Rica, Iran and Guinea.

They will begin their campaign against Costa Rica on October 7.

Germany have appeared in the FIFA U-17 World Cup nine times so far but have not yet won the tournament.

They are one of the favourites to win the title this time. They were the runners-up in the inaugural tournament in 1985 and finished third in 2007 and 2011, and fourth in 1997.

They were knocked out by Croatia in the Round of 16 in Chile two years ago.

## Herath's record 400th wicket sends Pakistan to dramatic defeat

ABU DHABI: Rangana Herath became the second Sri Lankan to bag 400 wickets as his six-wicket haul steered Sri Lanka to a dramatic 21-run win over Pakistan in the first Test in Abu Dhabi on Monday.

The veteran spinner took 6-43 - 11-136 in the match - to scupper Pakistan, set a modest 136-run target, for just 114 on a weary fifth day Sheikh Zayed Stadium pitch.

The victory was achieved when Herath trapped last man Mohammad Abbas leg before for nought to give Sri Lanka a 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

Herath, a long-time nemesis of Pakistan, also completed 100 wickets in 20 Tests against them, during an innings in which only debutant Haris Sohail fought with some resolve for his 34 runs.

An unassuming Herath said he didn't know why he always took wickets against Pakistan.

"I have no idea," said Herath, who took 22 wickets against Pakistan in 2014 - a world record for a two-match series. "Maybe I have played more against them, that's why. I am so happy with the remarkable achievement [400 wickets]." Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed called the defeat 'disappointing'.

"We should have won this," said Sarfraz skipping his side for the first time in a Test. "We have a few issues, especially in the fifth day when we come under pressure."

The 136 set Pakistan was Sri Lanka's lowest defended target, improving on the 168 they set the Pakistanis in the Galle Test in 2009. It was also a first defeat for Pakistan at this venue in 10 Tests.

Earlier, leg-spinner Yasir Shah took 5-51 - his 32nd five-wicket haul in Tests - to dismiss Sri Lanka for 138 in their second innings. Niroshan Dickwella ensured Sri Lanka had something to defend with a pugnacious 40.

Pakistan started the chase on



ashaky note when Herath dismissed opener Sami Aslam for two before accounting for Asad Shafiq, who made 20.

Herath had taken 5-93 in Pakistan's first innings of 422 and this time he shared the new ball with Suranga Lakmal to put Pakistan in trouble with regular wickets. Perera then had Shan Masood (seven) and a shaky Babar Azam for three to leave Pakistan struggling at 32-4.

In between fast bowler Lakmal had Azhar Ali caught behind for nought.

On the either side of tea, Haris and Sarfraz (19) fought hard to stitch a 42-run stand but Herath provided the breakthrough when he forced the Pakistan skipper out of his crease and had him stumped by Dickwella.

Perera ended Haris' fight by trapping him leg before and also had Shah but it turned out to be a

no-ball, halting Sri Lanka's celebrations, eventually provided by Herath. Pakistan, led by Yasir, bowled well in the morning.

Sri Lanka, who resumed at 69-4, lost their last six wickets for 69 runs but Dickwella still put up a lone fight - hitting four boundaries - and more importantly giving Sri Lanka a target to fight.

Pakistan were given two key wickets by seamer Abbas who finished with 2-22.

It was then left to Yasir who on consecutive deliveries dismissed Perera for six and then had Herath caught by close in fielder to complete his fourth consecutive five-wicket haul in as many Tests.

Dickwella then took a rearguard action, shielding the number 10 Lakshan Sandakan from the bowling during a resistance-packed ninth wicket stand of 34 which came in 10.1 overs.

Yasir finally had Sandakan caught at point while Hasan Ali ended the innings by bowling Nuwan Pradeep, leaving Dickwell's fight stranded.

Sunday's day four was tough to negotiate but despite a 32nd Test five-wicket haul for Herath, Pakistan posted 422 to take a slender three-run lead on the first innings.

Herath's 5-93 in 40 overs were well foiled by a brilliant 76 by debutant Haris, as initially it looked as though Sri Lanka would take a first-innings lead.

Pakistan then hit back in the second innings through Yasir, who first had opener Dimuth Karunaratne caught for 10 and then dismissed

first-innings centurion Chandimal, caught at slip, for seven.

Haris followed his responsible knock by claiming Kaushal Silva's wicket, whom he trapped leg before for 25, while part-timer Asad Shafiq had Lahiru Thirimanne for seven.

The 28-year-old Haris' impressive Test bow has come despite a career-threatening knee injury which required surgery in 2015.

Earlier on Sunday, Pakistan too were struggling at 316-6 and were in danger of conceding a healthy lead despite Azhar's defiant knock of 85 lasted more than five hours and included four boundaries, but with his dismissal Pakistan's hopes of building a lead looked slim.

But Haris had other ideas as he added an invaluable 50 for the ninth wicket with Hasan to lift Pakistan from 340-8.

Haris hit seven fours and two sixes before holing out to paceman Nuwan Pradeep.

Hasan's whirlwind 25-ball 29 featured three sixes and two fours.

The second and final Test - a day-night affair - will be played in Dubai from Friday.