

# TIME AND US

DAILY

SRINAGAR, KASHMIR

**TUESDAY**

- OCTOBER, 31, 2017
- 10 SAFFAR 1439 AH
- ISSUE: 253
- VOLUME: 03
- PAGES: 08

**WEATHER TEMPERATURE**

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

**SUNSET TUESDAY:**  
05:42 PM  
**SUNRISE WEDNESDAY:**  
06:55 AM

**LOCAL FORECAST OF SRINAGAR**  
Partly Cloudy Clear Sky. Maximum & Minimum temperatures will be around 25°C & 06°C respectively.

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

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**NAEEM AKHTAR REVIEWS WINTER ARRANGEMENTS**

**BJP NAMES KJ ALPHONS AS CANDIDATE FOR RAJYA SABHA BYPOLL IN RAJASTHAN**

**PPF ACCOUNTS WILL BE CLOSED, NSCS ENCLOSED IF HOLDER TURNS NRI**

**ROHIT SHARMA'S FORM GOOD NEWS FOR INDIA, SPELLS TROUBLE FOR NEW ZEALAND**

## SC adjourns hearing of Article 35A by 3 months

'Citing interlocutor's appointment, AG pleaded for adjournment'

Srinagar, Oct 30: Supreme Court of India has adjourned the hearing of Article 35A by 12 weeks after pleading by the Attorney General of India, who cited appointment of interlocutor by the Government of India for carrying out sustained dialogue on Kashmir.

State's Advocate General Jehangir Iqbal Ganaie told KNS that the hearing has been deferred for 12 weeks.

"The Advocate General of India (K K Venugopal) made a statement that it was his request to the Hon'ble Supreme Court that an interlocutor has been appointed (by GoI) and it is not the right time to consider this matter. Let the matter be deferred by six months. And the court finally granted 12 weeks," he told KNS over phone from New Delhi.

The matter was today listed at 59th position for hearing in the apex court today in the supplementary list.

A three-judge bench comprising Chief Justice of India Dipak Mishra,



Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice Ajay Manikrao Khanwikar heard the petitions.

The state government was represented by constitutional lawyers Fali Nariman, Shekhar Naphade, Rakesh Diwedi, and KV Vishvinatha. While Kashmir High Court Bar Association,

senior Congress leader Tariq Hameed Karra, Awami National Conference leader Muzafar Shah was impleaded as private parties.

Law minister Abdul Haq Khan, top officials of his department had flown to Delhi a day before to prepare for the hearing.

Karra as a private part was also in Delhi along with his counsel to defend the article.

Led by its president Mian Abdul Qayoom, KHBA delegation in Delhi included senior advocates ZA Shah, Riyaz Jan, Adil Asmi, Arshid Andrabi, GN Shaheen, Mushtaq Ahmad Dar, Sameer Ahmad Wani, ZA Qureshi, Manzoor Ahmad Dar, Nazir Ahmad Ronga, MS Reshi, Altaf Haqani, Mufti Mehraj and Bashir Sidiq.

Article 35A has been challenged by "We the Citizens" group in the Supreme Court. The Article was added to the Constitution of India by a Presidential Order in 1954 and its accords special rights and privileges to the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir and empowers the J&K legislature to frame any law without attracting a challenge on grounds of violating the Right to Equality of people from other states of India or any other right under the Indian Constitution.

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## BJP pulling Gol's representative in different directions: Oppn

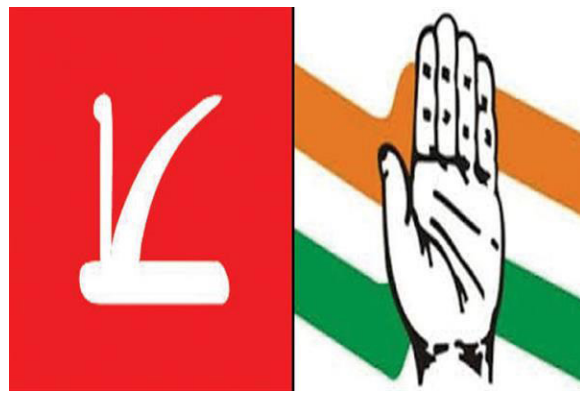
'Dineshwar Sharma's statements have created confusion among people'

Srinagar, Oct 30: Opposition political parties in the valley Monday said that the centre government has no clear roadmap how its representative, Dineshwar Sharma, will move ahead on sustained dialogue on Kashmir even as his statements have created confusion among people.

Main opposition parties, National Conference and Congress said that the BJP leaders, its ministers different statements and the representative, Sharma, himself are giving differing statements and pulling him in different directions.

National Conference said that it is not only the representative who is giving contradictory statements but the BJP ministers and its leaders are pulling him in different directions.

"After Home Minister made his announcement, a minister in PMO said that Dineshwar Sharma is a spokesman not an interlocutor, and he said that Kashmir is not an issue," NC's Provincial President Nasir Aslam Wani told KNS.



Wani said that Home Minister could not have made the announcement without the consent of the Prime Minister. "And if he has done that why is he asking other people to bite in his shoes," he said.

The NC leader said that the role of interlocutor is to talk and suggest solutions for resolution of the issue. "But in his interviews, he has said that his primary focus will be countering online propaganda in Kashmir. Is he coming to Kashmir as an investigating

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### CM'S PUBLIC OUTREACH

## Mehbooba announces Rs 45 lakh for developing civic amenities in Bla town



Baramulla, Oct 30: Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti, who was here on her public outreach programme, today announced release of Rs. 20 lakh for installing high mast lights and better illumination in the streets of the town.

Mehbooba Mufti also announced release of Rs. 20 lakh for construction of a drain from Boys Degree College to Kralhar and Rs. 10 lakh for developing a children's park in the town. She also announced release of Rs. 15 lakh for improving facilities at Jhelum Sports Stadium, Janbazpora.

The Chief Minister also directed cleaning of flood channels in the town and announced release of Rs. 50 lakh for the purpose. She also directed modernization of two madrasas at Sheeri with computerization and other accessories.

A large section of people from the town, who met the Chief Minister during her day long public interface yesterday, had demanded improvement in the civic facilities in

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## CM INAUGURATES J&K BANK ZONAL OFFICE COMPLEX SOPORE

'I feel happy to inaugurate this magnificent office'

Srinagar, Oct 30: If economic development is of vital importance for improvement in the quality of life for every society then creating financial infra structure remains at the core of this development. Today again, I feel happy to inaugurate this magnificent office of J&K Bank, which remains at the forefront of not only financial empowerment of people in Jammu and Kashmir but a pioneer in creating state-of-the-art infra-structure for its productive and efficient functioning.

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## 'Approach HC, SC for return of power projects' No accountability in BJP, its ministers involved in corruption: Taj Mohiuddin

Srinagar, Oct 30: Senior Congress leader and former minister Taj Mohiuddin Monday said that there was no accountability in the BJP and accused its ministers of being involved in corruption.

"There is no accountability in the BJP and its ministers are involved in corruption. From top to the bottom, they (BJP ministers) are involved in corruption and have framed a rate list. Even some PDP ministers from Kashmir are also involved in corruption,"



Taj Mohiuddin, the former minister of the state told KNS. He said there was "com-

plete" chaos for the last three years in the state. "The

▶ See **Modi's...** Pg 02

## QUARRY HOLDERS MEET DIVISIONAL COMMISSIONER

'Will resolve the issue soon'

Srinagar, Oct 30: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Monday assured quarry holders of resolving their core issue without any delay.

Quarry holders have been accusing government of adopting callous attitude towards them. They have been demanding that they should be allowed to operate from suitable quarries either at Athwajan, Alfathe or Pantachowk. These quarry holders who have been staging protest from couple of days have been alleging that the quarry sites assigned to them by government at Shalghup and Zewan are worthless and people in those areas are not permitting to work there.

To resolve their issue, Divisional Commissioner

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## Daily DOTS treatment launched for TB patients PATIENTS WILL BE PUT ON FIXED DRUG COMBINATIONS: DIR HEALTH

Srinagar, Oct 30: Daily DOTS treatment course for Tuberculosis patients was launched Monday by Director Health Services, Kashmir Dr Saleemur Rehman at District TB Centre Srinagar by which the patients will be given daily dose to diagnosed TB patients throughout the State.

As per the National strategy TB patients were being treated on intermittent DOTS regimen where patients were given three days TB course in a week at designated, nearby DOT centres.

"Now from today under Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP), new Technical and

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## Farooq Abdullah advises Ram Madhav to read Kashmir history

'Ongoing movement is political in nature'

Srinagar, Oct 30: Advising Ram Madhav to read Kashmir history, National Conference President and Parliament member Dr Farooq Abdullah Monday said that Ram Madhav does not know Kashmir. "He knows RSS and BJP. He doesn't know Kashmir. He has been planking. He should look into the history of Kashmir rather than speak about it," Abdullah told news agency CNS at his Gupkar based residence.

The firebrand leader said that there is no other Indian state acceded they merged with India. "We acceded with India on some con-



ditions. India should not link us with other states. This is wrong to link us with other

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## MUTTON DEALERS PROTEST AGAINST EXTRACTION OF ILLEGAL TAX IN PUNJAB

Srinagar, Oct 30: Kashmiri mutton dealers Monday staged a protest alleging that goons in Madhavpur Punjab have been demanding hefty amount from Kashmiri turkers as 'illegal tax'.

The mutton dealers under the banner of Chinar Sheep and Goat Welfare Association, All Jammu and Kashmir Mutton Dealers Association and All Jammu and Kashmir Butchers Association assembled here in Press Enclave Srinagar and urged upon the State Government to take up the issue with Punjab counterpart and relieve us from the hardship they have been facing.

Dealers said despite Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti

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## Denial of restoration of Article 370, fiddling with Article 35A unacceptable: Tarigami

'Our state has been deprived of the rights and powers which other states enjoy'

Srinagar, Oct 30: CPI (M) State secretary and independent MLA from Kulgam, MY Tari-gami Monday said that the dialogue process can be mean-



ingful only when this political issue is addressed aiming at protecting rights of the people.

In a statement to KNS, he said that autonomy, which is the core of the issue, has to

be restored and people of the state assured that there distinct identity can't be weakened in any form, whatsoever, in future.

"Denial of restoration of Article 370 and fiddling with Article 35A of the Constitution is unacceptable," he said.

"Once again discussion regarding autonomy of J&K is under debate at national level. Quite surprisingly those at the helm of affairs in New Delhi have characterized

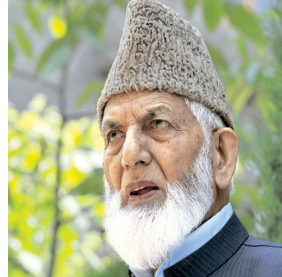
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## New Delhi's all follies will culminate at their defeat: Geelani

Condemns HR violations in Kashmir

Srinagar, Oct 30: Hurriyat Conference (G) chairman, Syed Ali Geelani on Monday said that history stands witness that in contrast to every freedom movement, occupational and tyrant forces have always suffered a defeat.

Geelani while referring to prevailing gloomy situation and commenting over unabated brutalities inflicted by authorities and intimidating statements, said, "Authorities in Delhi through its military



might seem desperate to cow down our spirits, however all the follies played by them will culminate at their defeat."

"Representing the senti-

ments and aspirations of people, it has remained our stance and we have been saying that we will never succumb to any pressure and will take movement to its logical end," he said in a statement issued to KNS.

Geelani while referring to coercive measures and atrocities perpetrated by Indian forces during last seventy years, said that despite unabated killings, plunder,

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### SC

The joint leadership trio of Syed Ali Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Yasin Malik had on Sunday warned of "mass agitation" if the apex court "delivered verdict against interests and aspirations of people of the state."

Earlier, National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah too has warned of "2008-like" agitation if the article was tampered with.

Expressing his displeasure with the adjournment of the hearing, Muzaffar Shah told KNS that linking Article 35 A with interlocutor's appointment is simply politics. "The hearing should not be delayed. Politics is being played on the petition," he said.

### OPPN

agency?" Wani asked.

"Interlocutor has a different role than a law enforcing agency. There is a lot of confusion created by him and BJP. I am not sure what is he going to do," he said.

JK Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president GA Mir said that the representative appointed by the BJP government has no agenda or roadmap for dialogue.

"First of all Government of India led by BJP has not been able to define who the stakeholders in Kashmir are," Mir told KNS.

"The representative is giving different statements everyday about his role. Even the GoI has no roadmap to address and resolve the Kashmir issue, what can its representative do," Mir said.

Home minister Rajnath Singh announced former IB director, Dineshwar Sharma, as GoI's representative on Kashmir to carry sustained dialogue on Kashmir. Since his appointment, Dineshwar Sharma has in various media interviews said that among his many challenges in Kashmir will be from preventing it to become Syria, counter social media propaganda while meeting and talking with all those people who are willing to meet him.

### MEHBOOBA

the town.

Asking the administration to pace up work on the developmental projects in the district, Mehbooba Mufti said her Government is keen on developing Baramulla on modern lines and for this many projects like widening of national highway from Narbal downwards, construction of alternative highway from Baramulla to Uri and two bridges-Fish market and Jetty bridge-over Jhelum in the town are in various stages of completion.

The Chief Minister appreciated the communal harmony of the people of the town and their peace loving nature and assured them that the assets would be created to match with the past reputation of the town.

During the public outreach programme, people hailed the Chief Minister for taking governance apparatus to their doorstep adding that it has helped them to project their demands directly without any disruption.

Later, the Chief Minister visited Sopore where she inaugurated the Zonal office complex of J&K Bank at Amargarh.

Built at a cost of Rs. 41 crore, the complex has been equipped with many modern facilities and it would be housing cluster office, currency chest and other bank facilities. The centrally located complex would also be having a 130 seater conference hall, several meeting and training rooms besides accommodation for the staff.

The Chief Minister complimented the management of the Bank for raising such a facility in the business hub of North Kashmir which would go a long way in promoting business, enterprise and employability in the whole region.

Several legislators; Chairman, J&K Bank, Parvez Ahmad; members of business community and a large number of people were present on the occasion.

### TAJ

Govt is missing on the ground. Only army and police are visible. Sometimes they too are missing," the Congress leader said.

He said that developmental works have been stalled and centrally sponsored schemes have been stopped. "Macdemi-sation of roads is not only the development. These ministers have failed to get funds from the centre for various centrally sponsored schemes."

"There is no coordination between the coalition partners. There is complete rule of BJP ministers in Jammu region while the PDP ministers are more focusing on Kashmir. The BJP ministers have no experience how to run the government. In PDP, there are some ministers who have some experience but they are in minority," he said.

Reacting to Union Power Minister that power projects can't be returned to the state, Taj Mohiuddin said that state government should take legal recourse for return of power projects.

"The Cabinet Sub Committee submitted a report which was later passed by the cabinet in the NC-Congress government that two power projects should be returned to the state. It is mentioned in the report that if the state has funds they could purchase two power projects," he said.

"The centre has also accepted it. For return of Salal Power Project from the centre, the state has to pay Rs 400 crore to the NHPC. The state has funds available to get power projects back from the centre. Why doesn't state approach the High Court or Supreme Court to get two power projects from the NHPC," he said.

The Congress leader claimed that state government was "befooling" the people over holding of Panchayat polls. "First provide security to those who have to contest the polls. The houses of political workers are being burnt. The situation is not conducive to hold the Panchayat polls even the south Kashmir by-polls could not be held."

He asked the centre to look into the former interlocutors reports on Kashmir. "Everything is available with Union Home Minister. How many reports you want," he said on appointment of Dineshwar Sharma, the former IB director, as a special interlocutor to restart the dialogue process for a solution on Kashmir.

He also denied the reports that there was any rift in the Congress party. He said Tariq Hamid Karra's entry into Congress party was a welcome step.

The Congress leader said that government was hiding

some facts over the braid chopping incidents. "The braid chopping is still a mystery. But the incidents have stopped when people and political parties protests against these incidents. This means there is something which is being kept hidden," he added.

### CM

Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti stated this shortly after inaugurating J&K Bank's North Zone Office Complex, Sopore in presence of Chairman and CEO Parvez Ahmed, MP Rajya Sabha from Kupwara Fayaz Ahmad Mir, MLA Rafiabad Yawar Dialwar Mir, Directors on Bank's Board M Maqbool Rather, M Ashraf Mir, Executive Presidents, Sr President, Presidents, Vice Presidents and other officers of the bank.

The office complex for the zone comprising districts of Barmulla, Bandipora and Kupwara, is located on the main road at Amargarh Sopore. The sprawling and state-of-the-art Zonal Complex comfortably houses Currency Chest, cluster office, LDM office, Business Unit, Residential Apartments, Stationery Department and an Onsite ATM. The new currency chest will cater to 78 branches of all banks operating in Sopore Sub District and Bandipore District.

Notably, earlier this year, the bank started functioning of currency chests in Kupwara and Baramulla to cater to the cash needs of the twin districts.

"On this occasion, I hope the bank embarks on new journeys of excellence and expect it to continue playing the major role in defining the economic future of this place by furthering its finances in vital sectors like education and housing which form the most significant part of our socio-economic infrastructure. Besides, financing generously to the entrepreneurs and start-up enterprises should be prioritized and effectively taken care of," She added.

"Having said that, I think the kind of benchmarks this bank has been setting in its commitment to people's empowerment, overcoming challenges and leveraging its given resources for expanding its base and deepening its footprint is worth emulating for all departments of state government", she remarked.

The chief minister advised the banks to extend hassle free credit facilities to the people in the state. "Easy access to credit will bring enthusiasm to people belonging to core economic sectors and ultimately the economic activity will gather pace. This will bring prosperity all around," she said.

Thanking the Chief Minister for sparing her valuable time for the event, Chairman and CEO Parvez Ahmed said, "It is a matter of great honour to have Chief Minister here inaugurating the Zonal Office Complex which has been very important project for the people of this region whose contributions to the state economy remains of great significance.

"Creation of complexes like this one are meant to consolidate our state-wide expansion and to align our operational structure with the convenience and comfort of our people across the state. This office shall play a key role in streamlining our business further besides taking us nearer to our growing customer base across the zone", he added.

The Chairman thanked the chief minister for being gracious enough in the past in the area by inaugurating state-of-the-art infrastructure of the bank in terms of its zonal office complex and currency chest in district Baramulla.

On the sidelines of the event, Chairman interacted with the MP Rajya Sabha Fayaz Ahmad Mir and MLA Rafiabad Yawar Mir.

"By establishing such a huge office in the zone we plan to transform not only the business scene of this zone but take our relationship with this zone to next level", he said.

He further added, "It will enhance the efforts of bank to provide credit linkages to area specific activities like support for sheep rearing, horticulture, apiculture, walnut industry, export grade furniture industry, high density pattern farming, tourism and other activities having local competencies like marble and gypsum industries. In short term, this office will improve the services delivery mechanism across the zone in remarkable terms."

On the occasion, Chairman urged the entire management and staff to gear up for realizing the great potential of the zone that holds immense promise in business and entrepreneurship and aim for a 100 pc increase in the total business from 9000 Cr to 18000 Cr in the next three years.

Shortly after the inauguration, Chief Minister was given a detailed presentation about the zonal complex spread on 15 kanals of land with built-up area 29000 sft. The construction cost of the complex is Rs 41 Cr in approximate terms.

Having the distinction of being unique in J&K in terms of architectural layout, the new zonal office is centrally located and equipped with state-of-the-art facilities like Conference Hall, Staff Training Rooms, Campus Residential Apartments and Pathway for specially-abled persons as well. Its basement has parking for 50 vehicles.

Notably, the function concluded with the inauguration of the bank's onsite ATM just outside the precincts of the Zonal Office Complex.

### HEALTH

Operational Guidelines -TOG 2016, the Govt. of India launched daily regimen dose to diagnosed TB patients throughout the State," DHSK spokesman said.

On the occasion Director Health launched the Daily DOTS treatment by administering the dose to newly diagnosed TB patients. While speaking, he stressed to carry the quality of sputum microscopy and other tests for diagnosis of TB.

He also said, "The new treatment protocol will replace the existing three times a week treatment and will be implemented across Kashmir. Instead of several individual drugs, patients will be put on fixed drug combinations, i.e. three or more drugs as a single dose, to reduce the pill burden and to simplify the treatment. The dosages are in four specific weight bands." He added that, findings have revealed that the old regimen has led to increasing instances of drug resistance and relapse.

The inaugural event was organised by District TB Centre Srinagar under the aegis of State TB Cell of Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK). The event was attended by Dr Kunzes Dolma, Dy Director HQ, Dr Showkat Ali Looloo, Dy. Director Schemes/State TB Officer Kashmir, Dr Mehmooda Kar, Assistant Director, DHSK, Dr Dildar Mir, CMO Srinagar, Dr Shameema Wani Director STDC Srinagar, Dr Rehana Kousar, Epidemiologist Kashmir, Dr Mushtaq Dar, DNO Kashmir NHM, Block Medical Officers, Zonal Medical Officers, Medical Officers STDC/DTC Srinagar, Officers/

Officials from state TB cell ,DTC Srinagar and RNTCP Staff Moreover various topics such as involvement of medical colleges in state for TB control, status of RNTCP in Kashmir management of drug resistant TB, technical and operational guidelines of RNTCP and sensitization and training of providers, were discussed in the day-long event.

### FAROOQ

states. I have told this to many Prime Ministers in past. Do you remember what Narsimha Rao as Prime Minister said in the Parliament? He said as far as autonomy is concerned: Sky is the limit, but no azadi.

We want autonomy to be restored," Farooq Abdullah said adding that It is within the Indian Constitution I am asking for autonomy and not asking within the moon.

Responding to a question, Farooq Abdullah said that the report of late Interlocutor Mr Padgounkar is with Home Ministry of India. Let the Home Ministry put the report before Parliament. Why are not they putting it before the Parliament rather than sending a next man to talk to everybody. It is failure from the start. Home Minister says one thing. The man in PMO says another thing. Deputy Home Minister says third thing. We are all confused that is what Mr Sharma is coming to Jammu and Kashmir for. He has already sent me an invitation. My working president Omar Abdullah has also received an invitation. Our party will meet him. It is not necessary that I should meet him. Omar Abdullah will certainly meet him and put our point before him," he said.

To a question, Dr Farooq Abdullah said that: "We are going to defend Article 35A. There is no change in our mind about that. During my father's rule, a law was passed under which 90 years lease was given to outsiders who would set up industry and that lease would be extended further. It's a renewable thing. How many they set up th industry here. And what for they want to purchase land in Kashmir," he questioned.

Farooq Abdullah while reacting to the ongoing movement said that: "It is not an Islamic movement. It is a political movement. Political movement for returning our what we have and what we had. It is not an Islamic movement nor are we fighting for Pakistan," he said.

Farooq Abdullah defended that remarks of P. Chidambaram about autonomy and said that Indian Prime Minister Mr Modi is absolutely wrong. "I heard what Chidambaram said and I feel Prime Minister is absolutely wrong. Chidambaram is correcting in asserting that majority of the people in Kashmir want autonomy. If Government of India will deny the same, then not far are the days when people will shout for Azadi," he said.

### QUARRY

Kashmir Baseer Ahmed Khan called Joint Director Geology and Mining Department and directed him to identify a suitable location for these quarry holders.

"Divisional Commissioner Kashmir gave us a patient hearing. We are thankful to him for passing directions to the Geology and Mining. We hope, he will resolve our issue," President United Quarry Association Mushtaq Ahmed told news agency CNS.

He said: "We requested Divisional Commissioner Kashmir to implement the recommendations of the committee headed by ADC Srinagar wherein he has asked government to allow quarry holders to lift lose material through blasting."

Muhammad Maqbool, president Himalayan Quarry and Tippers Association said that Divisional Commissioner Kashmir asked us to resume the work at Aaripora area while we requested him to compensate those quarry holders who may not get adjusted at that location. "We hope the Divisional Commissioner will resolve our issue without any delay," he said.

### MUTTON

taking up issue with the Punjab government, it not taking any action against these "ransom collectors".

"Every time we have to face similar kind of harassment," the protesting mutton dealers said alleging that vehicles carrying livestock are "detained by Punjab and Haryana police on the highway for hours every day, which delays the supply to Kashmir and poses threat to the life of the livestock."

They said that "gangs of almost two dozen local goons" in Punjab pretending to be Cattle Fair representatives are extorting a tax of "4 percent on the total live stock value" on trucks plying on the Pathankot- Madhopur- Lakhampur road stretch in the name of 'Punjab Cattle Fair Act 1967'.

"We procure these animals from Gazipur in Delhi under valid documents and receipts and have been doing this trade for last several years. But since last two years, we have been paying Rs 6000 - Rs 7000 per truckload to them (goons) who tell us that this is 'cattle fair charge'. Now suddenly they have increased the charges to 4 percent of the value, which comes to almost Rs 30,000 on each truckload of livestock. Dealers can't afford to pay this huge amount so we have suspended supplies," said Khazar Muhammad Rigoo.

Almost 30-40 truckloads of livestock are transported to the Valley every day, he said adding if this practice is not abolished, the price of meat will rise considerably.

### TARIGAMI

any demand for more autonomy to J&K as 'encouraging national disintegration.' What are the facts? The history reveals that under special and unique circumstances J&K acceded to India under the guarantees provided by the Constitution of India. It is the Constituent Assembly of India which incorporated Article 370 in the Constitution of India providing constitutional basis for relationship of J&K with the Union. Autonomy guaranteed under this constitutional provision i.e. Article 370 is the core of relationship between State and the Center."

"However, unfortunately Government of India, which initially recognized this special status for J&K, couldn't maintain this position. After 1953, steadily the process of centralization and erosion of autonomy began. Article 370 was subverted and misused to eliminate most aspects of the autonomy. The constitution application to J&K order of 1954 took off subjects in the Union list out of the purview of the state legislature and not just those mentioned in the instrument of accession. There were 43 constitution (application to J&K)

orders extending the scope of central intervention and laws which were not envisaged either at the time of adoption of Article 370 or the Delhi Agreement of 1952."

"The extent of misuse of Article 370 to encroach upon state's powers can be seen from one of the presidential orders which was issued in 1986 by extending to the state Article 249 of the Constriction of India in order to empower Parliament to legislate on a matter in the state list on the strength of a Rajya Sabha resolution. "Concurrence" to this was given by the Center's own appointee, the then Governor. This sort of overriding the state's list can't be done with regard to other states."

"The reality is that from special status our state has been deprived of the rights and powers which other states enjoy. The process of scuttling the spirit of Article 370 has only encouraged those elements who wanted to undermine J&K's relation with the Union. The deep rooted and the massive alienation resulting in unprecedented unrest is in reality the outcome of the process of erosion of autonomy and denial of democracy to the people of J&K."

"The dialogue process can be meaningful only when this political issue is addressed aiming at protecting rights of the people. Autonomy, which is the core of the issue, has to be restored and people of the state assured that there distinct identity can't be weakened in any form, whatsoever, in future. Denial of restoration of Article 370 and fiddling with Article 35A of the Constitution is unacceptable," he said.

"The distinct aspirations and interests of different regions and sub-regions have to be safeguarded through the process of constitutional guarantees. Whatever the circumstances, the unity of the state can't be compromised. Designs of divisive and disruptive forces in any camouflage have to be defeated."

### GEELANI

arson, showering bullets and pellets on public gatherings, maiming and blinding innocent children, brute torture of youth, braid chopping and sexual assault on women, they failed to break the resolve and commitment of people with freedom movement.

Lashing at authorities in New Delhi for their deception, Geelani said that they are following their particular sectarian dogma and propagating fabricated stories and framing fake allegations against pro-freedom leadership.

Appealing people, Geelani called for unity, dedication and sincerity and asked to stand against communal regime in Delhi, their 'stooges', local pro-Indian political parties and make their follies a failure.

He expressed deep concern over the biased approach of Indian judiciary against Kashmiri prisoners and said that although an impartial judiciary is considered as a main pillar of democracy, however while dealing with Kashmiri prisoners their partial approach has put question mark on its credibility.

"In hundreds of cases the judiciary while setting aside their cases and bailing them out, police contrary to the release orders re-arrest them even in court premises against fake charges as administration don't honour these court rulings," he said.

Referring to Masarat Aalam Bhat, Geelani said that despite several court orders he is not being released and similarly, Asiya Andrabi, Fehmeda Sufi, Muhammad Subhan Wani, Amir Hamza Shah, Ab Gani Bhat, Abdul Khaleq Regu, Bashir Ahmad Saleh, Mohammad Yousuf Lone, Sheikh Muhammad Yousuf, Shakeel Ahmad Yattoo, Javed Ahmed Flay, Haji Mohammad Rustam Bhat, Mufti Abdul Ahad Rather Mohammad Subhan Khan, Meraj-u-Din Naikoo, Haji Mansoor Ahmed Kaloo, Mohammad Ashraf Malik, Imtiaz Ahmed Mir, Salman Yousuf, Mashooq Ahmed Bhat, Ghulam Mohammad Tantrey, Nasir Abdullah, Abdul Rashid Bhat, Ghulam Rasool Parey, Bashir Ahmad Sofi, Abdul Rashid Rather, Bashir Ahmad Wani, Ghulam Nabi Khan, Sajjad Ahmed Mir, Abdul Salam Mir, Ajjaz Ahmed Bahroo, Pir Tanvir, Mushtaq Ahmed Hura, Danish Malik and scores of other despite being bailed out by court, were not released by police administration .

Condemning the 'worst human rights violations' perpetrated by Indian authorities, Geelani said that people pursuing right to self-determination are facing worst type of state sponsored terrorism'.

Expressing his deep concern over human rights violations, Geelani said that unabated killings and brutalities are worst form of state terrorism and in his appeal to international organisations for human rights and UNHRC urged to take cognizance of rights violations and added that people in state are worst sufferers.

### DIRECTOR AGRICULTURE REVIEWS STATE, CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES IN SHOPIAN

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 30: To review the progress made under different state and centrally sponsored schemes implemented in the field of agriculture and the expenditure of funds on various components of the schemes like RKVY, PMKSY, MIDH, Director Agriculture Kashmir convened a meeting of officers at district Shopian here today.

Chief Agriculture Officer gave a detailed Power Point Presentation of various activities carried out by the department under various schemes under implementation in the district. The meeting was informed that 100% disbursement and expenditure of funds have been achieved under various schemes.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Syed Altaf Ajjaz Andrabi impressed upon the participants to introduce more transparency during the expenditure of funds and put all the activities in public domain so that more accountability and credibility can be achieved.

Highlighting the importance of e-governance, Director Agriculture impressed upon the concerned officers and field functionaries to perform Adhaar based survey of various assets established under various central and state sponsored schemes throughout the district and the job should be completed within a stipulated time frame. He called upon officers to work with utmost commitment and dedication for the well being and development of socio-economic status of farming community of the valley.

# J&K to adopt best practices of Goa for Welfare, development of Tribals: Zulfkar

Both states to initiate Tribal Cultural Exchange Programmes

Goa Oct 30: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Tribal Affairs Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali today said that Jammu and Kashmir Government will adopt and replicate best practices being espoused by Goa administration for welfare and development of Tribal population.

Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali, who is on a study tour to Goa, called upon Goa's Minister for Tribal Welfare, Art, Culture, Civil Supplies and Price Control Department, Govind Gaude, and discussed various issues related to Tribal welfare and Civil supplies.

The Minister appreciated Tribal Department of Goa for taking various innovative steps for welfare of the people of tribal community. "We will deeply study and examine the best practices being exercised by Goa Government in respect of tribal affairs and Civil Supplies so that are replicated in our state for larger interest of tribal community and the consumers community", he added.

Both the Ministers agreed to start Tribal Cultural Exchange Programmes for which modalities will be worked out and finalized soon. The cultural exchange programmes will provide exposure to the tribal population of both the states for their betterment.

Earlier, Goa Minister briefed Zulfkar Ali about various reformative steps being taken up by his government for improving the living standards of tribal population. He elaborated on several measures which inter alia include effective enforcement of Constitutional Rights of Tribals, impetus to implementation of various schemes and programmes envisaging their



welfare and development, focus on protection and empowerment of ST's, strict implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act, implementation of Tribal Sub Plan thoroughly, training and capacity building among Tribals and reaching out to the Tribals living in remote and unreachable areas.

Referring to schemes meant for Tribal's development, Goa Minister said that 2 Central schemes and 19 State schemes are being implemented in the state for welfare of tribal people like Vocational Training Centres in Tribal Areas, National Overseas Scholarships for Scheduled Tribe Students, National Fellowship for ST Students, Post Matric Scholarship

(PMS) for ST students, Scheme of Hostels for ST boys and ST Girls, Pre and Post Matric scholarship, establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas, Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan (SCA to TSP), Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India, Eklavya Model Residential School, Development of Forest Village, Scheme of Coaching for Scheduled Tribes, Scheme of Grant in Aid to Voluntary Organizations working for welfare of STs, Scheme of Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PTGs), Schemes of strengthening education among Scheduled Tribes Girls in a low literacy Districts besides Vocational Training Centres in Tribal

Areas. He also briefed Minister about Vidya Laxmi scheme which is aimed at to promote education among girl students of ST communities, Grants to Voluntary Organizations for running hostels, financial assistance to ST Community students undergoing different Courses in Nursing such as Home Nursing Course, Diploma course in Nursing, Degree in Nursing, Prashikshan Yatra- Scheme to provide financial assistance for conducting study tours for ST students, assistance to ST Students under "GAGAN BHARARI SHIKSHA YOJANA", Financial Assistance for Construction of New Houses and Repairs under "Atal Aashra Yojana", scheme to support Orphan child / children of Widow belonging to ST community, Dearness Allowance to Housewives to address the problem of spiraling prices, Financial Assistance to ST people in Natural Calamities, Land acquisition for construction of Houses for ST people residing in Forest Areas, Construction of Tribal Bhavan and setting up of Tribal Research Institutes.

The Goa Minister also briefed about various activities being taken up to improve the working of Civil Supplies and Price Control Department. He told about electronic public distribution system and automation of Fair Price Shops in Goa. Zulfkar Ali said that Jammu & Kashmir Government is committed to take certain steps for welfare of tribal community for which the government for the first time after Independence created Tribal Ministry especially for the welfare of tribals in the state.

# Five Days ICT Based Training Programme organized by CUJ Concludes

KISHTWAR OCTOBER 30: The "Five Days ICT Based Training Programme" under Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission for Teachers and Teaching (PMMNMT) organised by Central University Jammu at Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Kishtwar concluded with active participation of the stakeholders.

The programme was well organised and successfully Co-ordinated by Dr Parmod Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Studies, Central University of Jammu. There were 15 sessions (three sessions each in a day) of this five day training programme. The training programme mainly focused on ICT & its Tools, Basics of Computer, MS-Word, Excel, Power Point, Internet, Smart Board and Uses of e-resources in teaching-learning process etc.

Minister of State for Transport (Independent Charge), Revenue, Public works (Road & Building), Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Agricultural Production, Sunil Kumar Sharma, in his online address highlighted the significant role of ICT in the present Indian context for professional development of teachers and said that such training programmes for school teachers of district Kishtwar is a good initiative by Central University of Jammu.

Prof Ashok Aima, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu in his online address appreciated the efforts of the Department of Educational studies for conducting this training programme at district level which directly helps in enhancing the capacity of teachers in the area of ICT and assured that department will organize more capacity building programmes in the subjects of languages, mathematics, science, social sciences for school teachers

at district level. He also expressed the vision and mission of the Central University of Jammu to improve the standard and quality of school education in Jammu and Kashmir State under prestige PM-MMNMTT scheme.

Abrahm Ahmed Choudhary, SSP, Kishtwar, who was the Chief Guest on the valedictory function highlighted the importance of PMMNMTT scheme, origin of ICT term, significance & importance of ICT in teaching-learning process/office work and capacity building of teachers.

Prof Lokesh K. Verma, Dean and Head, Department of Education, Central University of Jammu appreciated the participants for their support, enthusiasm and cooperation to make the programme successful.

Prof. Renu Nanda, Head, Department of Education, University of Jammu was the key speaker in the valedictory function.

Besides Ajit Kumar Sharma, CEO, Kishtwar, in his speech highlighted the importance of this training programme for ZEOs and Teachers and also conveyed gratitude to Central University of Jammu for organizing this training programme in very effective way. Dr Parmod Kumar, Programme Co-ordinator read out the detailed report of the five days ICT based training programme.

The participants expressed their views that such training programme should take place at regular interval of time.

Later the Chief Guest, distributed the certificates among the participants. Kishor Kumar, Principal, Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Kishtwar was also present on the occasion. Dr Asit Mantry, Assistant Professor, Department of Education, Central University of Jammu proposed vote of thanks

# JK Bank Chairman moots idea of education and health care for staff

Our well-being is linked to the welfare of this institution: Parvez Ahmed

Srinagar, Oct 30: Employees are the spine and backbone of this bank. It is their sweat and services that have gone into making this bank as the flagship institution of this state. Right from the inception they have worked day in and day out to create the brand, which has come to earn the unflinching trust and faith alike from people belonging to diverse societies, geographies and economies. But are we taking care of our staff properly?

Striking a deeply personal and emotional cord with the staff, Chairman and CEO Parvez Ahmed made these remarks on the sidelines of the inaugural ceremony at the newly built Zonal Office Complex Sopore during an interactive session with the bank's entire management and the officers heading the business units across the north zone.

On the occasion, he congratulated the staff for quick

turnaround the bank has made in its recent performance, which he said was commendable.

"Therefore, as leaders of this institution, it is our responsibility to work for the welfare of staff and make them feel comfortable, valuable besides upgrading their capacities to face upcoming challenges with same determination and commitment exhibited time and again by us and our predecessors" he said.

The chairman pointed out that the trust and confidence of the people of the state in 'JK Bank Brand' coupled with the employees' comfort will ultimately translate into the prosperity of the state

Proposing the idea of having institutions of health and education for staff to a resounding applause, he asserted, "Often, I come to know that our staff doesn't find time to attend social and various

personal needs like attending near and dear ones to hospitals or arranging for the admissions of their kids and have to look for acquaintances in this regard. Don't you think we need to have our own health institutions and schools for our kids?"

Linking the staff welfare directly to the bank's progress, Chairman urged the audience



to gear up for a challenging task of achieving 90 percent market share in the state within next few years.

"We must know that our well-being is linked to the welfare of this great institution. The more this institution grows, the better and secure our future becomes. Therefore, I urge you all to gear up to achieve the challenging goal of 90 percent market share in J&K", he added.

Hestressed upon the need to strike balance between maintaining discipline of the organisation and dignity of the individuals working for it. Sounding positive for everyone working in the interests of the organisation, he said, "I assure everyone who takes decisions including the difficult ones in the interest of organisation and with good intent that we are here to defend every decision of theirs. And we will not allow any kind of victimization at any level."

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# Naeem Akhtar reviews winter arrangements

Directs for immediate steps to address traffic, power and other issues

SRINAGAR, OCT 30: Minister for Public Works, Naeem Akhtar today chaired a high level meeting to review the arrangements made for winter season in Kashmir Division.

The meeting was also attended by Minister for Education, Syed Altaf Bukhari.

Akhtar took strong notice of complaints regarding traffic scenario and unscheduled power cuts. He directed the officials to take immediate remedial measures so that all bottlenecks are removed and smooth flow of traffic is ensured in city centre and other areas.

The IG Kashmir assured the additional police personnel will be provided to traffic department for addressing shortage of manpower. The Minister directed the officials to immediately finish the colour coding scheme of passenger vehicles and resolve



the traffic problems that arose due to shifting of Bus Stand from Batmalloo to Parimpora. To preserve the heritage of The Bund, the Minister directed that all vehicles would be banned from plying on historic road. "The Bund has a historic legacy and it should be exclusively kept for pedestrians," said Naeem Akhtar. "In no way vehicles should ply on the Bund."

The Minister was informed

about the power situation in the valley. He directed Chief Engineer PDD to immediately publish the curtailment schedule and stick to it in all areas.

The Minister expressed concern over the drought like situation in Kashmir due to which there is imminent threat of water shortage. He asked the PHE to start an awareness drive for starting austerity to save water.

The meeting was informed that there is sufficient stock of essential commodities in the division. It was revealed that there is sufficient stock of LPG, diesel and petrol. The Minister directed the officials to allocate the ration at the earliest in Srinagar and other districts. He appreciated the department for speedily completing the dumping of ration in Ladakh, Gurez, Tanghdar and other snow bound areas.

The Minister directed the CER&B to start patching work on all roads which have developed minor potholes so that further damage is prevented. He also directed the officials to upgrade the road from B&J Hospitals to Tengpora bridge underpass.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, IG Kashmir, IG Traffic, Chief Engineer R&B, PDD, and other officials were also present.

# Focus on composite culture of Srinagar to boost tourism: Priya Sethi

Meets TASK delegation, assures to redress demands

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 30: Minister of State for Tourism, Education, Technical Education, Culture, Horticulture, Floriculture and Parks, Priya Sethi met a deputation of Travel Agents Society of Kashmir (TASK), who called on her here today.

The Minister, while interacting with the delegation, said that tourism-related infrastructure is being upgraded and new locations are being added to the tourist map of Kashmir to attract more and tourists to the State. He said road shows, travel marts and other related activities are being carried out to promote Kashmir as a prime tourist destination.

She said that in this regard TASK should work towards creating better ties with the tourism players outside the State to uplift the tourism industry in Kashmir.

The Minister impressed that to boost the domestic tourism the focus should be centred around the com-



posite culture of Srinagar. She further said that Srinagar darshan should be made a part of the travel packages.

Priya asked the delegation members to sit with the officials of Cultural Academy to identify the areas which can be further developed in tune with their cultural and aesthet-

ic taste for wooing tourists to the capital city.

On the occasion, the deputations projected various demands including upgradation of the public infrastructure such as tourism resorts, heritage sites, launch of laser show on Dal Lake, restarting sound and light show at

Shalimar garden, waiving off GST on the tourism industry, among other issues. The delegation urged the Minister that efforts should be made to revoke travel advisories issued by certain countries to attract the foreign tourists to Kashmir.

They said that capacity of the trains plying to and from Jammu should be increased in order to minimize the pressure during the peak seasons. They further said that more bogies should be added to the existing trains and new ones should also be added.

The deputation later apprised the Minister that soft loans should be provided to all the registered tourism stakeholders for the work of promotions.

The Minister gave them a patient hearing and assured them that all of their projected demands would be taken up with the Chief Minister and other relevant quarters for their prioritized redressal.

# Director Agriculture reviews State, Centrally sponsored schemes in Shopian

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 30: To review the progress made under different state and centrally sponsored schemes implemented in the field of agriculture and the expenditure of funds on various components of the schemes like RKVY, PMKSY, MIDH, Director Agriculture Kashmir convened a meeting of officers at district Shopian here today.

Chief Agriculture Officer gave a detailed Power Point Presentation of various activities carried out by the department under various schemes under implementation in the district.

The meeting was informed that 100% disbursement and expenditure of funds have been achieved under various schemes.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Syed Altaf Aijaz Andrabi

impressed upon the participants to introduce more transparency during the expenditure of funds and put all the activities in public domain so that more accountability and credibility can be achieved.

Highlighting the importance of e-governance, Director Agriculture impressed upon the concerned officers and field functionaries to perform Adhaar based survey of various assets established under various central and state sponsored schemes throughout the district and the job should be completed within a stipulated time frame. He called upon officers to work with utmost commitment and dedication for the well being and development of socio-economic status of farming community of the valley.

# Special camp under SSR held

RAJOURI, OCTOBER 30 - As part of ongoing Special Summary Revision, the district administration today organized an additional special camp for enrollment, addition, deletion and transposition of voters in electoral rolls with

January 1, 2018 as qualifying date. A record number of 629 applications were received for addition with total 1,335 forms received under addition, deletion, correction and transposition. The camp received great response as result of various

awareness initiatives taken by district administration under Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme under supervision of District Election Officer Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary.

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

**BIG VISION,  
HAZY DETAIL**

Of the seven countries he visited last week, U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson chose to focus on India while spelling out his strategic vision. Just before starting the tour, he gave a speech on India-U.S. ties that was as broad as it was deep, talking of the road ahead together for "the next 100 years". He reserved his most ambitious words for the role of India in the U.S.'s plans in two spheres. In Afghanistan, as a part of President Donald Trump's new South Asia policy, and in the Indo-Pacific, as part of U.S. plans to counter China's influence and contain North Korea. On both counts, Mr. Tillerson's talks in New Delhi with External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Prime Minister Narendra Modi made progress in developing a common vision, but appear to have made little movement on the specifics. For instance, he is said to have "minced no words" when it came to tackling Pakistan's support to terrorist safe havens. Yet, the groups he referred to are not those that directly threaten India, but Afghanistan and, by extension, the U.S. soldiers based there. As for Indian hopes of increasing trade and development aid to Afghanistan through the Chabahar route, Mr. Tillerson's assurance that Washington does not seek to bar legitimate trade is welcome. However, it remains to be seen whether India can significantly ramp up cooperation with Iran to further its interests in Afghanistan at a time when the U.S. maintains its policy of isolating the Iranian leadership.

Finally, both Indian and U.S. officials spoke in detail, and in public statements, about building an alternative coalition to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative as well as its aggressive moves in the South China Sea — yet Mr. Tillerson did not add clarity on where the funding would come from. For its part, India desisted from any clear commitments on joint patrols to ensure freedom of navigation in the SCS, or even on the foundational agreements the Indian and U.S. militaries must conclude to deepen cooperation in the region. While India and the U.S. have taken great strides in aligning their vision and their hopes for future partnership, reality often trips up such lofty goals. One reason is geography — while American troops remain in Afghanistan, it is difficult for the U.S. to completely disengage from Pakistan. For India, while a maritime relationship with the U.S. is desirable, geographic proximity to China makes a very close alliance with the U.S. difficult. The other issue pertains to the strategic confusion within Washington and Mr. Trump's withdrawal from U.S. commitments in Asia, Europe and at the UN, drawing questions about its reliability as a partner. Given this, it may have been too much to expect more than the warm handshake and the encouraging words of hope Mr. Tillerson delivered.

# Tillerson's visit opens a window of opportunity that India must seize

**TODAY, BOTH THE US AND JAPAN HAVE COME AROUND TO SHARING INDIA'S VIEW ABOUT THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE, AS HAVE SOME OTHERS. SIMILARLY, IT IS INDIA THAT DEPLOYED MILITARY FORCE TO PREVENT CHINESE UNILATERAL EXPANSIONISM IN A THIRD COUNTRY AT DOKLAM IN JUNE. INDIA HAS SHOWN ITSELF CAPABLE OF SHOULDERING A BURDEN IN ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD AND THE INDIAN OCEAN REGION, WITHOUT BEING A BURDEN ON THE US—**



► Dhruva Jaishankar

In 2000, in the midst of a US election, George W Bush's top foreign policy adviser Condoleezza Rice wrote an essay in Foreign Affairs that outlined the candidate's worldview. Among other things, it recognised the importance of India, and the need to facilitate its rise as a balancer in Asia. The US "should pay closer attention to India's role in the regional balance", she wrote. "There is a strong tendency conceptually to connect India with Pakistan and to think only of Kashmir or the nuclear competition between the two states. But India is an element in China's calculation, and it should be in America's, too. India is not a great power yet, but it has the potential to emerge as one." This may seem obvious today, but it was not widely recognised in the US at the time. Many Indians — including at the senior levels of government — were unimpressed. Why should India be dragged into America's geopolitical games?

Five years later, Philip Zelikow, counsellor to Rice, now US secretary of state, said in a background briefing that the US wanted to "help India become a major world power in the 21st century", adding, "we understand fully the implications, including the military implications, of that statement." This sentiment similarly faced resistance in both Washington and New Delhi. Indeed, it was in part why the statement had to be couched in a background briefing rather than in a policy statement by a senior official. But after considerable debate and deliberation in both capitals, it manifested itself in a civil nuclear agreement and a defence framework agreement.

The success of Rex Tillerson's India visit will depend on deliverables

How times have changed. Recently, US secretary of state Rex Tillerson expressed rather the same sentiments in a public address — the first foreign policy speech in Washington by a senior Trump administration official on relations with an individual country. "The United States and India are increasingly global partners, with growing strategic convergence," Tillerson said. "Indians and Americans don't just share an affinity for democracy; we share a vision of the future. The emerging Delhi-Washington strategic partnership stands upon a shared commitment upholding the rule of law, freedom of navigation, universal values, and free trade." Tillerson contrasted India with a China that challenges international law and norms, subverts the sovereignty of its neighbours, and disadvantages other countries through its predatory economic policies. In his subsequent visit to India, Tillerson reiterated those thoughts in meetings with Indian leaders.

The fact that Tillerson's remarks were positively received in India signals just how far India has come. When the US and Japan agreed to send delegates to China's Belt and Road Forum in May, it was India that took a principled stand and articulated its concerns. Today, both the US and Japan have come around to sharing India's view about the Belt and Road Initiative, as have some others. Similarly, it is India that deployed military force to prevent Chinese unilateral expansionism in a third country at Doklam in June. India has shown itself capable of shouldering a burden in its

neighbourhood and the Indian Ocean region, without being a burden on the US — an ideal partner for a US presidency that has often criticised its allies for not playing an adequate role as net security providers.

Today, rather than concern in India about being dragged into the US' geopolitics, it is about keeping the US engaged in advancing India's strategic interests. It is important to recognise that neither the US' offers of support for India nor India's desire for the US to play an active and supportive role in its region are motivated by sentiment. Rather, the two countries have a clear congruence of interests when it comes now to China's rise and assertiveness, an open and secure Indian Ocean, a stable and democratic Afghanistan, and global counterterrorism. The signal of receptivity on the part of the US to help address some core Indian challenges is an opening for New Delhi to now seize squarely. This window of opportunity will not remain open forever.

Equally, it will be important to better manage continuing differences, especially on Pakistan. The US under Donald Trump has shown a greater receptivity to Indian perspectives about dealing with Pakistan's continued State support for terrorist organisations. What exactly Washington does about this remains a very open question. But if a shared vision of an India-US partnership is to be realised, it will now require concrete actions on the US' part to recalibrate its Pakistan policy.

**Dhruva Jaishankar is fellow, foreign policy, Brookings India, New Delhi**

# WHY INDIAN WOMEN ARE LEAVING THE WORKFORCE

► Anuradha Chenoy

Statistics from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the World Bank reveal that India scores very badly when it comes to participation of women in the workforce. In its India Development Report released in March, the World Bank ranked the country 120th among 131 countries, only above Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. While overall job creation has been limited, the report said, most of the new ones have been taken by men given the social norms. Even within South Asia, which regionally is below other developing countries, India has a lesser percentage of women in the workforce than Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

So what stops women from getting employment, and what do these numbers indicate?

The issue of the number of women in the labour force is determined by class and gender. In the rural and informal sectors, which employ the largest number of people, men dominate paid labour because women slave away in households. A woman's domestic labour is of great importance for the household, but is not

valued enough. Even in the private sector, women are losing out to men since big companies are downsizing and paying less for longer hours of work. Feminist economists argue that domestic labour should have economic value but little has happened on this front.

The World Bank's explanation is that in India the drop in women in the labour force in recent years is a combination of a lack of job opportunities, decrease in child labour, more girls joining schools, rise in household and agricultural incomes and measurement methodologies. But this is half the story.

Economist Jayati Ghosh argues in her work 'Never Done and Poorly Paid' that the issue of exclusion of women is historical and structural. Historically, women have been secluded to private spaces and public spaces are hostile to them. Whether it is lack of women's toilets or the acceptance of sexual harassment as normal, male privilege is structural and institutional. The resistance to gender sensitisation committees in universities and the attempt to control them by tweaking them administratively is one obvious recent structural and institutional indication of retaining



male privilege.

This exclusion of women has been reinforced by neo-liberal economic policies that led to an increase in inequality. In structural inequality, the already weak and excluded sections are im-

pacted unequally. So as jobs decrease, women who are already paid less than men will be the first to lose jobs.

As subsidies are cut, child care facilities for women who wish to work have also decreased. For example, wages for

anganwadi workers are so low that many feel they can save more by doing either household work or 'piece work' at home.

Moreover, we have not been able to address their distress due to the dual burden of labour outside and inside the

house. Though household staff for the middle class is a common phenomenon here, working women are still solely responsible for running the household while men can concentrate solely on their professional responsibilities.

The ILO argues that to increase the number of women in the workforce, comprehensive approaches such as improving access to education, skill and training programmes, access to child care, safe transportation, rules against sexual harassment, and a pattern of development that is inclusive and autonomous of political party intervention need to be put in place.

India has reams of report that will show that sustainable development can only come with a gender and caste inclusive policy. But the political class has not followed up on their provisions. Each government that comes tries to re-invent the wheel. Competing and rewriting the past as opposed to learning from it. This is one of the main reasons why women's participation in the workplace is declining.

**Anuradha Chenoy is professor, School of International Studies, JNU**

# First wheat consignment from India to Afghanistan via Chabahar port flagged off

NEW DELHI: India on Sunday sent its first consignment of wheat for Afghanistan to be shipped through the Chabahar port in Iran, seen as a "landmark" move to operationalise the strategic transit route. External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj and her Afghan counterpart Salahuddin Rabbani flagged off the shipment of wheat from India to Afghanistan through video conferencing, the ministry of external affairs (MEA) said.

"The shipment of wheat is a landmark moment as it will pave the way for operationalisation of the Chabahar port as an alternate, reliable and robust connectivity for Afghanistan," it said in a statement. On the occasion, Swaraj reiterated India's contin-

ued commitment to support reconstruction, capacity building and socio-economic development of Afghanistan, including under the framework of the New Development Partnership that she had jointly announced with Rabbani last month during the meeting of India-Afghanistan Strategic Partnership Council.

"She also renewed commitment to work closely with regional and international partners to bring peace, security, stability and prosperity in Afghanistan," the MEA said.

It said the Chabahar port in Iran will open up new opportunities for trade and transit from and to Afghanistan and enhance trade and commerce between the three countries and the wid-



er region. "The two Foreign Ministers welcomed the fact that this is the first shipment that would be going to Afghanistan through the Chabahar port after trilateral agreement on Establishment of International Transport and Transit Corridor was signed during the visit of the Prime Minister of India to Iran in May 2016," the MEA said.

Six more wheat shipments will be sent to Afghanistan over the next few months. Swaraj and Rabbani also reaffirmed their commitment to continue their cooperation for the benefit and prosperity of the people of Afghanistan and the region.

India and Iran have already expressed commitment for early completion of the work on the

Chabahar Port project.

Chabahar port, located in the Sistan-Balochistan province on the energy-rich Persian Gulf nation's southern coast, lies outside the Persian Gulf and can be easily accessed from India's western coast, bypassing Pakistan.

The port is likely to ramp up trade between India, Afghanistan and Iran in the wake of Pakistan denying transit access to New Delhi for trade with the two countries. India has been closely working with Afghanistan to create alternate and reliable access routes, bypassing Pakistan.

An air freight corridor between India and Afghanistan was also operationalised earlier this year to give a fillip to the bilateral trade relations.

## BJP names KJ Alphonso as candidate for Rajya Sabha bypoll in Rajasthan

NEW DELHI: Union minister Alphonso Kannanthanam will be the BJP candidate for the Rajya Sabha bypoll in Rajasthan to be held on November 16, the party announced today.

Kannanthanam's name as the party candidate for the bypoll to an Upper House seat from the BJP-ruled Rajasthan was announced by its chief Amit Shah, a party statement said.

The Rajya Sabha seat was vacated by former Union minister M Venkaiah Naidu when he became the vice president.

The notification for the bypoll will be issued on October 30 and the last date for filing nominations will be November 6. The 64-year-old bureaucrat-turned-politician, who was appointed as the Minister of State for Tourism (Independent charge) in September, is expected to get elected as out of a total 200 members in the Legislative As-

sembly, the BJP has 160 MLAs followed by the Congress that has 24.

Kannanthanam, a Kerala cadre IAS officer, first came into limelight during his tenure with the Delhi Development Authority in the 1990s and earned the sobriquet 'demolition man' after he got scores of illegal constructions razed.

He served as the district collector of Kottayam in 1988 and helped make it the first 100 per cent literate town in India the following year.

Kannanthanam, who is also the Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, started his political journey when he was elected as an independent MLA backed by the CPI(M) in Kerala in 2006. He resigned from the civil services earlier that year.

He joined the BJP in 2011 and is a member of the BJP National Executive.

## People in Karnataka do not want to wait for long for polls: PM Modi

BENGALURU: Targeting the Congress government in Karnataka, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that the people do not want to wait for long for polls and the state will join the "mainstream of development" after the Assembly elections.

The Prime Minister, while addressing BJP workers at the HAL airport in Bengaluru, also said the state was "anxious" to join the race for development.

"People of Karnataka do not want to wait for elections for long. Karnataka too is anxious to join the race for development just like other states of the country. I am quite



confident that Karnataka too will join the mainstream of development after the assembly elections," he said. The Prime Minister was referring

to the Assembly polls which are due early next year, in which BJP is hoping to unseat the Congress and come back to power for a second time.

The BJP had installed its first ever government in the south in 2008.

Modi made a day-long visit to Karnataka to take part in different public functions.

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah hit back at Modi, questioning his achievements.

Speaking to reporters, Siddaramaiah said, "What has he (Modi) done for the economically weaker section, downtrodden and minorities? Did demonetisation help the poor people? No. What is his achievement then?"

Siddaramaiah listed a number of achievements of his government.

## Congress seeks 'white paper' on outcome of Shivraj Chouhan's foreign trips



BHOPAL: The Congress today demanded a 'white paper' on the outcome of official foreign trips undertaken by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan after he assumed office.

Chouhan became chief minister in late 2005 and since then he has undertaken about 15 foreign trips during which

he was accompanied by delegations that included government officials and private persons, Leader of Opposition in the assembly Ajay Singh of the Congress said in a statement here.

"We demand a white paper on the outcome of Chouhan's foreign trips," Singh said.

He said the white paper (a government report giving information on an issue) should include details of expenditure, meeting with companies during such trips and agreements for proposed investments in the state.

"The state government should also make it public how these foreign tours benefited the people of Madhya Pradesh," the Congress leader maintained.

"A huge amount of taxpayers' money has been spent on foreign tours of the chief minister. So, public has all the rights to know the outcome of such visits," he added.

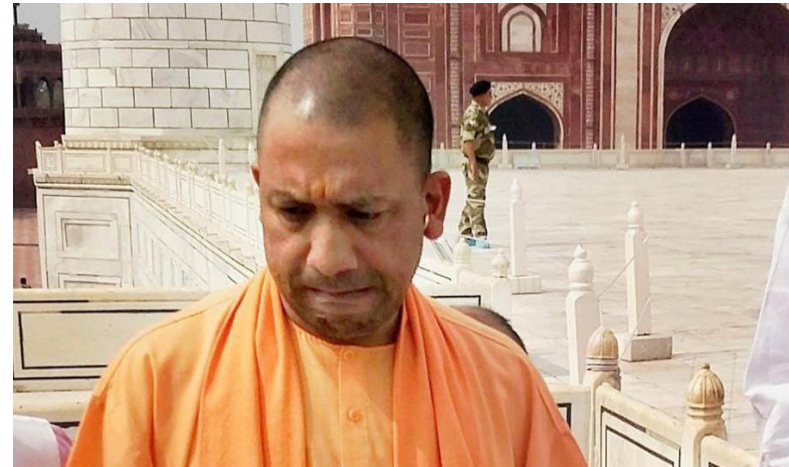
Singh said he had urged Chouhan to cancel his visit to the United States in view of the problems being faced by farmers but he still went ahead with the trip. Chouhan is returning to Bhopal on Sunday evening from a week-long trip of the US.

## Illegal mining: CM Yogi Adityanath cracks whip on officers over alleged laxity

LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath suspended on Sunday four SHOs and two mining inspectors, and issued warnings to district magistrates and superintendents of police of Gonda and Mau districts over alleged laxity in curbing illegal mining, an official said.

The CM also directed departmental action against three sub divisional magistrates (SDMs) and as many circle officers (CO), an official spokesperson said in Lucknow.

The CM has suspended the station house officers (SHOs) of Colonelganj, Umri Begamganj and Nawabganj police stations in Gonda as well as the SHO of Sarailakhansi police station in Mau, he said adding that the mining inspectors of Mau and Gonda were also suspended for their alleged failure in checking illegal mining.



The chief minister warned Gonda DM Jitendra Bahadur Singh and SP Umesh Kumar Singh and also Mau DM Rishendra Kumar and SP Lalit Kumar Singh for not keeping a tab on illegal

mining activities, the official spokesperson said. Orders have been issued to initiate departmental action against three SDMs and as many COs in both the districts, he said.

## Italian PM Gentiloni arrives in India to boost bilateral ties

NEW DELHI: Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni arrived here on Sunday on a two-day state visit to India, the first such visit in a decade, in a bid to boost ties between New Delhi and Rome after the faceoff over two Italian marines.

Romano Prodi was the last Italian Prime Minister to visit India in February 2007.

"Coming after a gap of more than a decade, the visit is aimed at strengthening bilateral, political and economic relations between the two countries," the external affairs ministry said in a statement ahead of Gentiloni's visit.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold delegation-level talks with Gentiloni on Monday following which a number of agreements are expected to be signed.

Gentiloni will also call on President Ram Nath Kovind and vice president Venkaiah Naidu during his visit.

Diplomatic ties between India and Italy virtually came to a near freeze following the February 2012 firing by two Italian marines, Massimiliano Latorre and Salvatore Gironne, from MV Enrica Lexie, killing two Indian fishermen off Kerala.

India took the marines into custody though Italy claimed the ship was in international waters and the case should be handled by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Seas (ITLOS) at The Hague. In



September 2014 Latorre was allowed to return to Italy on health grounds following a Supreme Court order. In May 2016, Gironne too was allowed to return. Both the marines are now in Italy awaiting an order from the ITLOS. The stand-off between New Delhi and Rome affected the talks for a free trade pact between the European Union and India.

Indo-Italian ties got a breather when External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited the Vatican in September last year

for the canonisation of Mother Teresa. According to official figures, Italy is among India's five largest trading partners in the EU, with bilateral trade at \$8.79 billion in 2016-17. India's exports to Italy total \$4.90 billion and imports \$3.89 billion, resulting in a trade balance of \$1 billion in favour of India. In the first four months of fiscal 2017-18, bilateral trade has reached \$3.22 billion.

Italy is the 13th largest investor in India with cumulative investments worth \$2.41

billion from April 2000 to June 2017. The top five sectors in India that attract Italian investments are automotive industry, trading, service sector, industrial machinery and food processing industry.

There are over 600 Italian companies active in India covering various sectors such as fashion, garments, textile and textile machinery, automotive, automotive components industry, infrastructure, chemicals, energy, confectionery and insurance.

## No room for politics in national security: Ahmed Patel tells Rajnath

NEW DELHI: Politicians should rise above political differences in matters of national security, senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel has told Home Minister Rajnath Singh while demanding "impartial" and "objective" investigation into the arrest of two alleged IS operatives in Gujarat. "I wish to bring to your notice the recent reports of arrest of IS (Islamic State) operatives in South Gujarat... Matters of national security cannot be a prisoner of politics and neither should be reduced to baselessly maligning political opponents for petty electoral gains," Patel wrote in the letter dated October 28. "We should rise above political differences in matters which involve national security. Framing terror charges must be done by law enforcement agencies and the judiciary and not by political leaders in press conferences from party headquarters. I call upon you... as the Home Minister of India instruct relevant law enforcement agencies to take this investigation to its logical end in an impartial and objective manner. You government has my unstinted support in this endeavor," said the Congress Rajya Sabha Member from Gujarat. He said that Gujarat is the land of Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel and the people of the state "have a proud history" of believing in peaceful co-existence. On Saturday, the BJP had sought clarification from Congress President Sonia Gandhi over alleged links of Patel to a suspected terrorist arrested in poll-bound Gujarat. "The investigative agencies have arrested an IS suspect from a hospital in Gujarat. Ahmed Patel is associated with the hospital. Congress will have to answer. It cannot run away," Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi had said at a press conference here.



# PHYSICAL ACTIVITY MAY LOWER BACTERIAL INFECTION RISK

Low or moderate levels of physical activity may significantly lower your risk of bacterial infections as compared to a sedentary lifestyle, a new study has claimed. The risk of viral infections is known to be affected by physical activity, but

little information was available regarding the more serious infections caused by bacteria.

Researchers, including those from Aalborg University in Denmark, examined the relationship between leisure-time physical activity and

suspected bacterial infections during a one-year follow-up.

Suspected bacterial infections were determined based on prescriptions for antibiotics. Results showed that compared with sedentary behaviour, low leisure-time physical activity was

associated with a 10 per cent lower risk of any suspected bacterial infection.

Further, low and moderate levels of leisure-time physical activity were associated with a 21 per cent and 32 per cent reduction of suspected cys-

titis (urinary tract bacterial infections), respectively – compared with individuals classified as sedentary, researchers said. Suspected respiratory tract bacterial infections, however, were not associated with physical activity level, they said.

## Eat Apple, Lettuce, Mint To Get Rid Of Garlic Breath

Although garlic is good for health, many people tend to stay away from it due to the stinky bad breath it produces. Now a new study has revealed that consuming raw apple, mint or lettuce right after garlic may help reduce the pungent smell.

Garlic breath is caused by the volatiles -- including diallyl disulfide, allyl mercaptan, allyl methyl disulfide, and allyl methyl sulfide -- present in garlic, said the researchers from the Ohio State University.

In the study, the team gave participants three grams of softneck garlic cloves to chew for 25 seconds, and then water (control); raw, juiced or heated apple; raw or heated lettuce; raw or juiced mint leaves; or green tea were consumed immediately. The levels of volatiles on the breath after consumption were analysed by selected ion flow tube mass spectrometry.

The findings showed that raw apple and raw lettuce decreased the concentration of volatiles responsible for garlic breath by 50 per cent or more compared to the control for the first 30 minutes.

Mint leaves had a higher deodorisation level compared to raw apple and raw lettuce for all volatile compounds measured.

Apple juice and mint juice reduced the levels of volatiles, but not as effectively as chewing raw apple or raw mint.

Both heated apple and lettuce produced a significant reduction of volatiles.

However, green tea had no deodorising effect on the garlic compounds, the researchers stated.

According to the researchers, foods deodorise garlic breath through two mechanisms. First, enzymes in the raw foods help to destroy the odours, and then, phenolic -- chemical compounds consisting of a hydroxyl group (-OH) bonded directly to an aromatic hydrocarbon group -- in both the raw and cooked foods destroy the volatiles. This is why raw foods were generally more effective because they contain both the enzymes and the phenolic compounds, said Rita Mirondo from the Ohio State University, in the paper published in the Journal of Food Science.

## No let-up in chikungunya, dengue cases in Delhi

The incidence of chikungunya and dengue is not showing any sign of declining as yet.

The latest data, released by the municipal corporations on Monday, says 1,070 cases of chikungunya have been reported from different hospitals in the past week, taking the total number of cases to 3,695.

The number of dengue cases has gone up to 1,692, with 314 new cases reported by Delhi municipal corporations in the past week.

However, the death toll due to the mosquito-borne diseases remains 10 -four deaths caused by dengue and another six by malaria.

The civic corporations have not reported any chikungunya death this week, and those reported previously by hospitals have not been confirmed by the death review committee which cited pre-existing illnesses and lack of evidence, among other grounds for fatality.

Municipal health officials told TOI that many of the cases being reported have been confirmed only this week, though patient details had already been sent earlier by the hospitals. There is a significant decline in cases of chikungunya and dengue over the past week. If there is no heavy rain in the coming days, we hope the incidence of mosquito-borne disease will decrease further," said an official.

## Smiling spouse your ticket to healthier, longer life

Having a happy, smiling partner can keep you healthy and fit as you enter middle age and move towards the golden years, say researchers, adding that simply having a happy partner may enhance health as much as striving to be happy oneself.

"This finding significantly broadens assumptions about the relationship between happiness and health, suggesting a unique social link," said William Chopik, assistant Professor of Psychology at Michigan State University.

In the study of 1,981 middle-age couples, researchers found that people with happy spouses were much more likely to report better health over time.

This occurred above and beyond the person's own happiness.

Previous research suggests happy people are generally healthy people but Chopik wanted to take it one step further by exploring the health effects of interpersonal relationships.

According to him, happy partners likely provide stronger social support such as care-taking, as compared to unhappy partners who are more likely to be focused on their own stressors.

"Happy partners may get unhappy people involved with activities and environments that promote good health, such as maintaining regular sleep cycles, eating nutritious food and exercising," Chopik added.

Being with a happy partner should make a person's life easier even if not explicitly happier.

"Simply knowing that one's partner is satisfied with his or her individual circumstances may temper a person's need to seek self-destructive outlets, such as drinking or drugs, and may more generally offer contentment in ways that afford health benefits down the road," Chopik pointed out.

The study examined the survey information of couples age 50 to 94, including happiness, self-rated health and physical activity over a six-year period.

The study was published by the American Psychological Association in the journal Health Psychology.

Disclaimer : The views and opinions expressed by the Doctors are their independent professional judgment and we do not take any responsibility for the accuracy of their views. This should not be considered as a substitute for Physician's advice. Please consult your treating Physician for more details.

## Silver lining for HIV patients: Researchers design experimental vaccine

One of the most deadliest diseases to have gripped the world is HIV/AIDS, which has caused the biggest, long-standing challenge for scientists -- a vaccine to cure it.

The research on procuring an effective vaccine is underway and scientists have come quite close to a final result.

When infected with the HIV virus, humans cannot produce the required antibodies to kill it, which is why the HIV vaccine has been a challenge to develop. However, giving HIV patients new hope, researchers have designed a novel experimental vaccine that spurs animals to produce antibodies against sugars that form a protective shield around human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in the body.

The molecule could one day



become part of a successful HIV vaccine, the researchers said. "An obstacle to creating an effective HIV vaccine is the difficulty of getting the immune system to generate antibodies against the sugar shield of multiple HIV strains," said Lai-Xi Wang, professor at the University of Maryland.

"Our method addresses this problem by designing a vaccine

component that mimics a protein-sugar part of this shield," Wang added, in the paper published in the journal Cell Chemical Biology.

The team designed a vaccine candidate using an HIV protein fragment linked to a sugar group.

The protein fragment comes from gp120 -- a protein that covers HIV like a protective

envelope, bolstering HIV's defenses.

When injected into rabbits, the vaccine candidate stimulated antibody responses against the sugar shield in four different HIV strains.

The rare HIV-infected individuals who can keep the virus at bay without medication typically have antibodies that attack gp120, the researchers noted.

"This result was significant because producing antibodies that directly target the defen-

sive sugar shield is an important step in developing immunity against the target and therefore the first step in developing a truly effective vaccine. Although, "We have not hit a home run yet, but the ability of the vaccine candidate to raise substantial antibodies against the sugar shield in only two months is encouraging," Wang added.

## Dengue claims Vikhroli woman; 8th lepto death reported

A 27-year-old woman from Vikhroli succumbed to dengue infection on September 21, said Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) officials on Monday. In its report, BMC's health department said the patient had high fever and altered sensorium ten days prior to the admission. "She was admitted to Lokmanya Tilak Municipal Medical College and Hospital (LTMGH) in Sion on September 13. On September 21, she suffered a multi-organ failure and acute respiratory distress syndrome that led to her death," said Dr Padmaja Keskar, executive health officer. This is the third con-

firmed dengue death so far this monsoon. As a precautionary measure to check the spread of the vector-borne disease, BMC officials have visited 550 homes and screened more than 3,300 people. Of the total count, three people had fever and were referred to a nearby dispensary for diagnosis and treatment.

The city also witnessed its eight leptospirosis death on September 21. The bacterial disease claimed the life of an 18-year-old boy from M/E ward. A BMC health official said, "The boy was admitted to Sion hospital on September 17 with fever and conjunctival suffusion. During

Ganesh Chaturthi festivities, the boy would wade through stagnant water. He died of leptospirosis with acute respiratory distress syndrome," said Keskar. BMC said that its pest control department had visited 45 houses in and around the area where the patient resided and found 112 burrows. "About 1,100 people were screened for leptospirosis symptoms, of which four were referred to a nearby dispensary for fever," said Keskar. BMC's health report says there has been a slight rise in dengue and leptospirosis cases in the city this year. "In September 2015, there were 248 confirmed dengue cases.

This year, there have been 296 confirmed dengue cases so far. There were 26 confirmed leptospirosis cases last year, there have been 30 confirmed leptospirosis cases so far this year," said Keskar. She added that according to a BMC survey on dengue cases, the prevalence was higher among males (76%). "We have observed that more working males are affected as the Aegypti Aedes mosquito, which is responsible for dengue, is a day biter. About 17.6% dengue cases were reported among children below 15 years. About 79.8% of dengue cases were reported among people in the group group of 15-45,"

said Keskar.

Dengue The Aedes mosquito's breeding spots are being found in stagnant fresh water. Dengue is transmitted by the bite of an Aedes mosquito infected with one of the four dengue viruses. The dengue fever is a febrile illness that affects infants, young children and adults, and occurs in tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world. Symptoms appear three to 14 days after the bite and range from a mild fever to an incapacitating high fever, with severe headache, pain behind the eyes, muscle and joint pain, and rash.

## Government may miss FY18 revenue collection target: Official



MUMBAI: The indirect revenue collection by the government may fall short of the target this fiscal due to disruption caused by the GST rollout, a top official said on Sunday.

For the year ending March 2018, the government had budgeted Rs 9.68 trillion collection from customs and GST.

However, the official of the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) made it clear that there is no plan to revise the revenue collection target for the year.

The CBEC functions under the revenue department of the Ministry of Finance.

"The revenue collection target from customs and GST, which put together is Rs 9.68 trillion for the current fiscal, seems difficult for the department (to achieve) at the moment, keeping in view the recent GST rollout," Vanaja N Sarma, chairperson, CBEC, told PTI in Mumbai.

She was talking on the sidelines of Half Marathon organised by the customs department. Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley attended the event.

GST was rolled out on July 1.

However, Sarma said the government has made it clear that it has no plans to revise the target. Rather, it will wait for the GST rollout to settle down over the next five to six months.

Moreover, the department will not penalise traders for any default on tax payment at the moment, she said.

Customs has done well but "we have to wait till the GST rollout settles down", she added.

In reply to a query, Sarma said close to Rs 200 crore has been disbursed by the department in the form of refunds to exporters so far.

Right now, she said, the department wants to be a facilitator for the GST implementation.

"It is not our job to penalise traders at the moment. This is despite the fact that our intelligence officials are constantly keeping a close watch on the entire development (related to GST)," she said.

# Note ban anniversary: RBI says still verifying returned notes

NEW DELHI: Nearly a year after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced demonetisation, the Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 bills returned to banks are still being "processed in all earnest" through a sophisticated currency verification system, the RBI has said.

In reply to an RTI query, the central bank said it has processed about 1,134 crore pieces of Rs 500 notes and 524.90 crore pieces of Rs 1,000 junked notes, having face value of Rs 5.67 lakh crore and Rs 5.24 lakh crore respectively, as on September 30.

The combined value of the processed notes is Rs 10.91 lakh crore approximately, according to the reply. "Specified Bank Notes are being processed in all earnest in double shift on all available machines (sophisticated counting machines)," the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in reply to the RTI query filed

by a PTI correspondent.

The central bank was asked to provide details of demonetised notes counted so far. Replying to a question on providing the deadline for completing the counting exercise, it said, "The verification of notes withdrawn from the circulation is an ongoing process". The RBI said at least 66 Sophisticated Currency Verification and Processing (CVPS) machines were being used for counting of junked Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes that were deposited with various banks post demonetisation.

The government had on November 8 last year banned the use of old Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes and allowed the holders of these currency bills to deposit them with banks or use them at certain notified utilities.

The notes deposited or collected are being verified by the central bank at its offices to establish the total number of currency bills returned



and to weed out those that are fake.

Several opposition parties including the Congress and Mamata Banerjee's TMC have announced that they would observe November 8, the first anniversary of demonetisation, as 'Black Day' and would hold protests across the country to highlight its "ill-effects" on the economy.

To counter the opposition protest, the ruling BJP has decided to observe the note ban anniversary as "anti-blackmoney day".

In its annual report for 2016-17 released on August 30, the RBI had said Rs 15.28 lakh crore, or 99 per cent of the demonetised Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes, have returned to the banking system.

In the annual report, which was for the year ended June 30, 2017, the central bank said only Rs 16,050 crore out of the Rs 15.44 lakh crore in old high-denomination notes have not returned.

As on November 8, 2016, there were 1,716.5 crore pieces of Rs 500 and 685.8 crore pieces of Rs 1,000 notes in circulation, totalling Rs 15.44 lakh crore, it had said.

"Subject to future corrections based on verification process when completed, the estimated value of specified bank notes received as on June 30, 2017, is Rs 15.28 trillion," RBI had said in the report.

While the counterfeit currency notes made for a minuscule number, RBI post-demonetisation spent Rs 7,965 crore on printing new Rs 500 and Rs 2,000 bills and notes of other denominations, more than double the Rs 3,421 crore spent in the previous year, it said.

## Infosys to expand team to fix bugs in GST Network

BENGALURU: Goods and Services Tax Network vendor and software major Infosys would expand its team to fix bugs in the GSTN, said Group of Ministers (GoM) chairman Sushil Kumar Modi on Saturday.

"The IT services major (Infosys) told us that it would expand its 100-member team, which runs the GSTN, to fix the bugs or technical glitches in it," Modi, who is the Bihar Finance Minister, told reporters after the third meeting of the GoM here. The software major has already fixed 18 of the 27 glitches and made them operational though more bugs were cropping up due to changes the GST Council makes after it meets every time to smoothen the new tax regime. Infosys won the Rs 1,380 crore contract in 2015 to implement the world's largest digital tax system and maintain its portal for five years.

"Suggestions by the member states at every meeting of the GST Council are creating new functionalities, which the vendor has to incorporate in the Network by tweaking its software platform," said Modi. Admitting that glitches would continue to crop up to incorporate suggestions or changes sought by the stakeholders, he said the challenge was to resolve the problems soon, given the scale of the GST rollout and its scale.

"The next challenge for the GST Council is the review of invoice matching functionality of the GSTN. The Council has to address the issue at its next meeting in

Guwahati on November 10," he added.

Noting that the Council was aware of invoices not matching, he said as more such issues arise, the system would have to be fine-tuned with new functionalities.

Giving an update on the indirect tax returns filed for the last three months across the country, Modi said 56 lakh traders filed for July, 53 lakh for August and 46 lakh for September, adding that though 46 lakh traders filed GSTR1 for July, only 12 lakh have filed their GSTR2 so far with three days left for its filing by October 31.

About 10 lakh dealers registered on the GST network have not filed any tax returns so far due to misconception on their tax liabilities.

"They (dealers) think they do not have tax liabilities to file returns. The commercial tax department in the states have to educate them to file even if they don't have tax liability as required by law," he added.

Besides Modi, other GoM members are Chattisgarh minister for commercial taxes Amar Agarwal, Karnataka agriculture minister Krishna Byregowda, Kerala finance minister TM Thomas Issac and Telangana finance minister Etela Rajendar. GSTN chairman Ajay Bhushan Pandey and GSTN chief executive officer Prakash Kumar assist the GoM in addressing the glitches, which have marred filing of returns since the new regime was rolled out on July 1. The GoM was formed on September 12 after several states complained to Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, who heads the Council, at its meeting in Hyderabad on September 9 that the glitches were causing severe problems for traders and dealers in filing returns and making payments. Since July 1, over 23,18,000 new traders registered for the AGST, with 11 lakh dealers under the composition scheme, taking the total number to over 85 lakh, including 62.25 lakh traders who migrated from the old VAT and service tax regime.

## PPF accounts will be closed, NSCs encashed if holder turns NRI

MUMBAI: Amending rules on post office savings schemes like the National Savings Certificates (NSC) and Public Provident Fund (PPF), the government has notified that such accounts would be closed prior to maturity in case of holders changing their personal status to become non-resident Indians (NRIs).

The amended rules were notified in the official gazette earlier this month.

The amendment to the PPF Scheme, 1968, says: "If a resident who opened an account under this scheme, subsequently becomes a non-resident during the currency of the maturity period, the account shall be deemed to be closed with effect from the day he becomes non-resident."

The interest payable would be up to the date of the account closure, it said. A separate notification on NSCs said in case of a similar change of status of the certificate holder before the maturity period, "the certificate will be encashed, or deemed to be encashed on the day he becomes non-resident" and interest will be paid accordingly.

NRIs are not allowed in instruments like the National Savings Certificates, Public Provident Fund, Monthly Income Schemes and other time deposits offered by the post office.

Asked to comment in this regard, an investment consultant said that it is unclear why NRIs are not allowed to invest in post office schemes.

Last month, the government had retained the interest rate on Public Provident Fund for October-December unchanged at 7.8 per cent, in line with the rates for small savings schemes.

# Air India explores operating Tel Aviv flights from Mumbai

NEW DELHI: Air India is examining the possibility of operating flights from Mumbai to Tel Aviv as the carrier weighs various options amid issues of overflying rights, a senior airline official said.

While the flagship carrier has been expanding its international presence, efforts to restart services to Israel are yet to take off. There were plans to commence the flight to

Tel Aviv earlier this year.

In the last four years, the airline has started services to 14 international destinations, with the latest being direct flight from the national capital to Danish capital Copenhagen. According to the official, the flight to Tel Aviv could have been started earlier, but the route available as of now is very long.

A flight of more than nine-hour

long journey to the Israeli city from Delhi would make the operations "commercially unviable" since duration of a flight on a straight route to this destination would take only around five-and-a-half hours, the official told PTI.

Against the backdrop of geopolitical issues, there are issues related to getting permission to overfly certain countries to reach Tel Aviv.

In case, Air India is not getting permission to fly over countries such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE, other options will be looked at, the official said. "Instead of starting a flight from Delhi to Tel Aviv, we might start a flight from Mumbai to Tel Aviv, which would cut down the nine-and-a-half hour route to seven-and-a-half hour route," the official noted.

In March this year, Air India had

announced that it would start flights to Israel in May with three weekly flights on the New Delhi-Tel Aviv route. However, the plan did not materialise. Later, during a visit to Israel in July, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said direct flights would be launched between Delhi, Mumbai and Tel Aviv to encourage people-to-people contacts.

Currently, the Air India group

flies to 44 overseas and 75 domestic destinations.

The airline has flights to Tokyo, Washington, Stockholm, Sydney, Hong Kong, Kabul, Colombo, Seoul, Singapore, London and Madrid, among other foreign cities.

To revive the loss-making national airline, the government is working on the modalities for strategic disinvestment of Air India.



# Rohit Sharma's form good news for India, spells trouble for New Zealand

KANPUR: It was an almost panic situation for India after they lost the series opener to New Zealand in Mumbai last week, and murmurs started for some overhauling in view of the 2019 World Cup. (India vs New Zealand, 3rd ODI - HIGHLIGHTS)

Even though Virat Kohli scored a century in that game, India lost by six wickets with New Zealand wicketkeeper-batsman Tom Latham and Ross Taylor hammering the Indian bowlers all around the Wankhede Stadium to ensure the team's fascinating start to the short but important series. (India vs New Zealand, 3rd ODI - SCORECARD)

Certainly, the failure of the top order denied India a big total, as openers Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan could score 20 and 9 runs, respectively. Rohit failed in the second match too, scoring 7 although India chased down 230 in Pune. Rohit's failure in the two games became a big worry for the side.

On Sunday, Rohit not only regained his form, he also gave



skipper Kohli and Co a sense of confidence, which is must for any side. Rohit, one of the most stylish batsmen in an Indian side that has the likes of Virat Kohli and Mahendra Singh Dhoni, didn't disappoint his legion of fans on a placid Green Park track on Sunday. He struck his 15th one-day hundred, and, in the process, an-

nounced that his ability to strike at will even after nearly 10 years at the international level had not diminished.

Rohit's form in the first six years of international cricket was patchy, but in 2013, a change in his batting order, turned his fortune around. After being promoted to open the innings in ODIs,

Rohit started scoring big, piling runs in the Champions Trophy and then scoring two centuries against Australia, including a 209 --- only a third double-century in ODI cricket.

Before coming to Kanpur for the third and deciding match of the series on Sunday, Rohit knew what was expected of him --- give

the Indian innings a good start. And he did it in style, hammering a 138-ball 147 with the help of 18 boundaries and two sixes. His knock mesmerised the fans, who kept rooting for him even when captain Kohli was going great guns at the other end.

Showing no sign of urgency, the man with strong wrists found the gaps and kept New Zealand pacers Trent Boult and Tim Southee guessing. While Boult kept the ball at good length, Southee probed Rohit outside the off stump, but they couldn't stop the opener from striking the ball at will.

Rohit, who scored two centuries in his first two Test innings in his career, slammed two sixes off medium pacer Adam Milne --- one each at the start and end of his innings.

With the three-match Twenty20 home series against New Zealand beginning later this week, Rohit is expected to be the centre of attraction for fans as well as for Kane Williamson and Co, as stopping him from scoring runs could well be an impossible task

## Why cricket for Irfan and Yusuf Pathan is becoming difficult



MUMBAI: Irfan Pathan, who recently acknowledged that he stands on 'thin ice' as far as return to international cricket is concerned, suffered a major setback when Baroda dropped him from the upcoming match in the Ranji Trophy 2017-18. Interestingly, Irfan was named Baroda captain for this season. On the other hand, Irfan's brother Yusuf, who scored twin centuries against Madhya Pradesh earlier this season, has opted out of the contest against Tripura as he is recovering from Typhoid.

Irfan was axed after ordinary showings in the Ranji Trophy, despite striking a fine 80 and adding 188 with Yusuf who made 111 against Madhya Pradesh. In the second innings, while Yusuf made a fine 136, Irfan's contribution was just 4. According to media reports, the Baroda Cricket Association (BCA) secretary in-charge said, "It's the selectors' decision. They decided to rebuild the team."

Baroda have played two games so far, losing to Madhya Pradesh by 8 wickets and drawing against Andhra. In the points table for Group C, Baroda are languishing at the bottom with one point. Both Irfan and Yusuf had forgettable outings against Andhra. While Irfan was dismissed for 0 and 4, Yusuf failed to build up on his start, managing 1 and 0. Once considered as the future of Indian cricket team, it's been more than five years since both Irfan and Yusuf represented India across formats.

"I started early this season and I'm doing everything that I could to hopefully achieve my dream in the future. This season is going to be very, very crucial. I know that I'm standing on thin ice," Irfan told ESPNcricinfo a few days ago.

BCA officials are reportedly unhappy with team's performance as well as Irfan's leadership. An official said, "The decision to drop him from the captaincy and team was taken two days ago." "We are going to play in a crucial match and we need experienced players. Hooda is a young player so he needs backing of a senior like Irfan. Even if the selectors decided to drop Irfan, he should have been explained about the situation," said a BCA official.

## Caroline Wozniacki beats Venus Williams 6-4, 6-4 to win WTA Finals

SINGAPORE: Caroline Wozniacki ended her career-long jinx against Venus Williams in spectacular style to lift the WTA Finals trophy for the first time on Sunday.

The Dane had won just one set in seven harrowing defeats to Williams but she turned the tables with a 6-4, 6-4 victory in 89 minutes at the Singapore Indoor Stadium.

Wozniacki had some nervy moments after 37-year-old Williams, the tournament's oldest ever finalist, clawed her way back from 0-5 down in the second set. But she kept her cool to seal victory with a backhand down the line, throwing her racquet into the air and holding her hands to her face in disbelief.

"I am so happy I managed to win in the end," said Wozniacki, describing the victory as "really sweet". "Eight is my lucky number. If I was going to beat her (Williams) once in my career, it had to be today. I couldn't be happier right now. It's been an amazing year. Last year was tough with injuries but I fought my way back and to stand here and win the title means a lot to me."

Wozniacki has been in brilliant, aggressive form in Singapore, beating Elina Svitolina and Simona Halep at the group stage and Karolina Pliskova in the semi-finals. After an even start, she seized control of the final by breaking four straight times across the sets to lead 5-0 in the second set. With the title in her sights, Wozniacki was unable to serve it out in the seventh game and the ninth, when Williams produced an astounding crosscourt winner to win her fourth straight game.

But Wozniacki finally triumphed in the 10th game with her backhand down the line. She will now be third in the year-end rankings, after starting the tournament at sixth.

Contrast of styles  
Williams looked increasingly weary as the match wore on after playing a gruelling, three-set semi-final against Caroline Garcia on Saturday.

"I didn't seem to come up with my best tennis until it was too late," the American said.

"I love being here, it is an honour. Only eight players get to be here and I hope to return."

In a contrast of styles, counter-puncher Wozniacki tried to extend the rallies while her big-hitting opponent attempted to shorten points through sheer power and rushes to the net.

Wozniacki broke three times in the first set and took a one-set lead when Williams played a loose service game at 4-5 down -- just she second set she had ever conceded to the Dane.

Wozniacki, in her first WTA Finals since 2014, flourished in Singapore, with a tough three-set defeat to Caroline Garcia her only slip-up.

It completed a stellar comeback season for the two-time Grand Slam finalist, who endured an injury-marred 2016 and finished ranked number 19, her lowest position since 2007.

Williams was denied a 50th career triumph and first for the year, having finished runner-up at the Australian Open and Wimbledon. She will remain the world number five after playing in her first WTA Finals since 2009.

Earlier, world number three pairing Timea Babos and Andrea Hlavackova won the WTA Finals doubles title on debut with a 4-6, 6-4, 10-5 comeback victory over Kiki Bertens and Johanna Larsson.

## PAKISTAN TO HOST ACC EMERGING CUP IN APRIL 2018: SETHI

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Najam Sethi on Sunday announced that Pakistan will be hosting the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Emerging Cup in April 2018.

Sethi made the announcement at a press conference in Lahore flanked by Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) President Thilanga Sumathipala, just hours ahead of the much-awaited Twenty20 International final being played between the two countries at Gaddafi Stadium.

This morning the ACC met in Lahore to discuss the tournament, he said, adding that even holding this meeting in Pakistan was a significant development.

"Six teams will be playing the cup. Out of the six teams, five will be full members of the International Cricket Council (ICC) whereas the sixth team will be the qualifier team from the qualifying rounds," he said.

The PCB chairman was confident that the matches would be played in more than one city. "I

can assure you we will have more than one venue," he asserted. "Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, India and a qualifier team will be participating in the cup," he said, adding that he hoped India would also come and play cricket in the country.

Earlier, he thanked the Sri Lankan cricket board and the team for visiting Pakistan. He termed the visit a decision of "courage, bravery, wisdom, and the vision of Sumathipala."

## David Miller hits fastest T20 century as South Africa rout Bangladesh



POTCHEFSTROOM: David Miller smashed the fastest century in Twenty20 international cricket as South Africa outclassed Bangladesh by 83 runs in the second and final Twenty20 international at Senwes Park on Sunday.

Miller's 35-ball hundred propelled South Africa to 224 for four before Bangladesh were bowled out for 141, completing a clean-sweep for South Africa in two Tests, three one-day internationals and two T20 internationals.

It was an extraordinary innings by Miller. Dropped on nought, he admitted: "I felt pretty scratchy to be honest. In the first ten balls I could have been out twice."

He had only scored 18 runs off 14 balls, then came an assault which yielded 82 runs off 21 balls to get to his century.

"Once I hit one or two I decided to keep going," he said.

The previous fastest T20 international century was made off 45 balls by fellow South African Richard Levi against New Zealand in Hamilton in 2011/12.

Five of Miller's nine sixes came off the first five balls of the 19th over, bowled by promising all-rounder Mohammad Saifuddin, who had dismissed AB de Villiers and Hashim Amla and conceded only 22 runs in his first three overs.

Miller said he felt the rare feat of six sixes in an over was possible.

"I got to the fourth one and thought I might as well go for it. The fifth one came out nicely."

Saifuddin pushed the last ball of his over wide of the off stump and Miller mistimed it for a single.

"Looking back I probably could have hit six off six," said Miller. The left-hander's innings could have ended off the second ball he faced as he gloved an attempted pull off Rubel Hossain. Bangladesh wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim dived to his right and appeared to have caught the ball but lost control as he landed on the ground.

Miller shared a 79-run fourth wicket partnership off 41 balls with Hashim Amla, who made 85 off 51 balls with 11 fours and a six.

Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan admitted it had been a poor tour for his team.

"Today was a reflection of the series. We need to learn a lot from this."

We have been terrific for the last two years at home but now it is time to get better overseas. "Bangladesh made a good start, restricting South Africa to 37 for two in the first five overs. Shakib opened the bowling and sent down all his four overs in one spell, taking two for 22. But his teammates could not sustain the pressure in the face of Miller's onslaught.

Bangladesh scored 17 runs off the first over, bowled by Beuran Hendricks. But Imrul Kayes was run out in the second over and the tourists never threatened again.

Miller was only the fourth South African to hit a century in 100 T20 internationals

## Virat Kohli slams 32nd ton, reaches 9000 ODI runs in record time

KANPUR: Virat Kohli achieved yet another milestone in his career, completing 9,000 ODI runs during the third and final one-day against New Zealand in Kanpur. His deputy Rohit Sharma too struck his 15th ODI century as India were on course for a massive score.

Requiring 83 runs to reach the milestone, Kohli achieved the landmark in his 194th innings and in his 202nd ODI. In the process, the Indian skipper emulated AB de Villiers, who held the record for being the fastest to 9,000 ODI runs. De Villiers had this record earlier this year when he got to the mark in 205 innings (214 matches). Now, Kohli holds the honour of being the fastest scorer of 9,000 runs in ODIs.

Things got better for Kohli as he notched up 32nd century and his 2nd of the series as New Zealand struggled to contain the flow of runs. The latest knock was his sixth as skipper, the most by a skipper in ODIs.

Ever since his debut year, the Indian captain has never averaged below 40 in a calendar year in ODIs and has scored 1,347 runs at an average of 74.83 this year. Last year, he averaged a staggering 92.37 in ODIs.

Rohit Sharma struck his 15th ODI century before a huge Sunday crowd as India scored 196/1 in 35 overs in the third and final one-day against New Zealand here.

After struggling with his form, Rohit, who scored 20 and seven in previous two matches at Mumbai and Pune, smashed his 15th century off 106 balls. The knock contained 11 hits to the fence and two sixes to boost India in the decider. Sunday's century for Rohit was his second this month. During his knock, he also reached 150 sixes in ODIs.

The placid wicket of the Green Park stadium was a big boost to the confidence



of Rohit ahead of the Twenty20 International series, starting on November 1 in New Delhi. In the last series against Australia last month, Rohit had two big knocks i.e., 125 at Nagpur and 65 at Bangalore.

Rohit started off confidently and did not allow New Zealand Black Caps to dictate terms against him. He targeted Adam Milne as he slammed two sixes off his bowling. Playing from the crease, Rohit first flicked Milne's delivery for a six over deep mid wicket before lifting the second one over the mid-on region just before completing his century.

Virat Kohli gave good support as he smashed his 46th ODI fifty. He handled the New Zealand pace bowlers, especially Tim Southee and Trent Boult magnificently.

Both Rohit and Virat stitched together 150-run for the second wicket after New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson asked India to bat after winning the toss for the second time in this series.

Shikhar Dhawan made a good start but on 14, he gave a straight catch to Williamson off Tim Southee. The two teams stuck to the same playing XI, which they had at Pune in the second encounter. The two teams stuck to the same playing XI, which they had at Pune in the second encounter.