

# TIME AND US

DAILY

SRINAGAR, KASHMIR

THURSDAY

- OCTOBER, 05, 2017
- 14 MUHARRAM 1439 AH
- ISSUE: 231
- VOLUME: 03
- PAGES: 08

WEATHER TEMPERATURE

STATION	MAX TEMPERATURE	MIN TEMPERATURE
	ACT	ACT
SRINAGAR	29.4	8.4
JAMMU	33.4	21.6
LEH	22.5	1.3
KARGIL	24.0	6.6

SUNSET THURSDAY: 06:12 PM  
SUNRISE FRIDAY: 06:30 AM

LOCAL FORECAST OF SRINAGAR

Mainly Clear Sky. Maximum & Minimum temperatures will be around 29°C & 09°C respectively.

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

STATE | 3

PEACE IMPERATIVE FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH: ZULFKAR

NATIONAL | 5

MODI GOVT COMPETENT IN 'EVENT MANAGEMENT': 5 THINGS ARUN

BUSINESS | 7

STIMULUS, FARM WAIVER TO PUSH UP FISCAL DEFICIT BY 1%: RBI

SPORTS | 8

AFRIDI, MORGAN SPEARHEAD T10 REVOLUTION

## Mehbooba flags issues for proper, planned city growth

Directs demarcation of city's water bodies immediately

Srinagar, Oct 04: Terming Srinagar as the pride of Jammu & Kashmir, Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today flagged issues like urban mobility, disaster management, environmental awareness and protection of water bodies and solid waste management to be addressed for a proper and planned growth of the city.

Addressing the review meeting of District Development Board, Srinagar here today, the Chief Minister directed the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir for demarcating boundaries of important water bodies of the city like Gile Sar, Khushal Sar, Brari Nambal and others at the earliest. She asked the Urban Development Secretary to take restoration of these water bodies on priority which provide an aesthetic cushion to city life. She expressed dismay over the condition of Dal Lake and other water bodies and said that given the condition of the lake, she has decided to take a review of its cleaning and de-weeding every 10 days.

In a significant direction to de-congest the city, Mehbooba Mufti,



who is also chairperson of the Board, directed setting up of a Mini Secretariat at the old Batamalo Bus stand and asked the concerned to prepare a DPR for the same. She expressed dismay that a large number of offices of district administration are scattered across the city which ought to be brought under one roof. She said with the setting up of these offices at one place, many areas of the city would be de-congested and on the other hand people would be having all the offices at one place as well.

Terming Srinagar as the soul of State's civic life, the Chief Minister also flagged issues like handicraft promotion and artisan welfare for restoring the city the name it has been recognized for centuries. She directed Director, EDI to hold camps for artisans and persons connected with handicrafts for giving the industry a breather and stability to the local economy. She directed upgradation of old markets of Zainakadal, Bohri Kadal and Maharaj Gunj as heritage markets.

On the issues of day to day life, Mehbooba Mufti directed the PDD to speed up work on the Alestaing receiving station, which on operation would stabilize the electric load of a major area of downtown Srinagar. She also directed providing electricity to Ghani Memorial, Radpora and Gindun (Rajbagh) stadium in the evenings so that youth can play till late hours besides she also directed uninterrupted power supply for street lighting in the city. She also directed

▶ See **Mehbooba...** Pg 02

## Fidayeen are determined, can't stop attacks in Kashmir, says BSF chief



Srinagar: The chief of Border Security Force (BSF) KK Sharma said on Wednesday it is difficult to stop suicide attacks in Jammu and Kashmir as the militants come "wearing shrouds" and the only way to deal with them was the troops' alertness, a day after the paramilitary force's camp was infiltrated near the Srinagar airport.

"The fidayeen are determined. We can't stop their attacks. They will always manage to come but it is the response which is impor-

tant," Sharma said after participating in the wreath-laying ceremony for assistant sub-inspector of BSF BK Yadav in Humhama.

Yadav died fighting one of the three militants who entered the highly fortified 182 battalion camp near the Srinagar airport early on Tuesday. All the three were killed after a gunfight that lasted hours.

Three others security personnel also sustained injuries in the early morning attack, ▶ See **BSF...** Pg 02

## FRESH BRAID CHOPPING INCIDENTS SPARK PROTESTS IN SRINAGAR

Srinagar, Oct 4: The fresh braid chopping incidents sparked protest in Nowgam, Khanyar and Bemina areas of Srinagar city on Wednesday.

Reports said that people took to streets in Nowgam after two non-local persons allegedly chopped off the braid of a 29-year-old woman (name withheld) today morning. The protesters blocked the road, triggering a massive traffic jam in the area.

They were demanding the arrest of the alleged braid-choppers. Police rushed to spot to pacify the protesters.

Protests also erupted in Bemina and Khanyar areas of Srinagar against braid-chopping incidents. ▶ See **Fresh...** Pg 02

## By ending terror safe havens, Pak can have economic benefits from India: Mattis

Washington: Pakistan can have strong economic benefits from India if it finds a way to carry out its international responsibilities and brings an end to any kind of safe haven on its soil, a top US official told lawmakers.

Defence Secretary Jim Mattis told members of the powerful Senate Armed Services Committee on Tuesday that the administration is being very clear and firm in what it expects from Pakistan and is using



all aspects of the government to bring about the change, working internationally. This comes weeks after

President Donald Trump announced his South Asia policy in which he adopted a tough policy against Pakistan.

"There are a number of lines of effort being put together now in Secretary of Treasury's office, Secretary of State's office, my own office, the intel agencies. We are also working with Secretary General Stoltenberg to ensure that NATO's equities are brought to bear," Mattis said responding to a question on why would Pakistan change its mind on terrorist safe havens this time.

Certainly, India has a ▶ See **Mattis...** Pg 02

## Braid Chopping: 'NOT A SINGLE VICTIMS IS READY TO HELP POLICE: IGP MUNIR KHAN

Srinagar, Oct 4: While reacting to the braid chopping incidents, Inspector General of Police Kashmir Zone, Munir Ahmed Khan Wednesday said that if people want police should arrive at any conclusion and unfold the mystery, then victims ought to talk to police.

"How can we reach to truth when victims are not ready to record their statements? If they (victims) are not ready to talk to police about these incidents, how come they expect that police will unfold the mystery? It is unfortunate that victims are not ready to help the police," Khan told news agency CNS adding that they are puzzled to know that not a single victim is ready to talk to investigating agency. ▶ See **IGP...** Pg 02

## LoC, Border hostilities cause of misery for J&K: Omar

Concludes two-day tour of Gurez

Gurez, Oct 04: National Conference Working President Mr. Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said hostility and shelling on the Line of Control and the International Border was a cause of misery and suffering for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and all efforts should be made to restore an effective ceasefire to prevent any loss of lives.

According to a statement issued to KNS, addressing a public meeting at Tulail in Gurez as a part of his two-day tour of the frontier area, Omar Abdullah said a sustainable and comprehensive political initiative was the need of the hour and both New Delhi and



Islamabad should deescalate from the present hostile situation as peace was imperative ▶ See **Omar...** Pg 02

## WRITTEN TEST FOR POSTS OF CONSTABLES IN POLICE ON OCT 8

DGP Chairs meet; directs officers to conduct exam in most transparent manner

Srinagar, Oct 04: Director General of Police, Dr. S.P. Vaid today chaired a high level meeting regarding the written examination for the post of Constables in J&K Police, which is being held on October, 8 (Sunday).

The meeting was attended by Surinder Kumar Gupta, IGP (Hqrs.) Chairman (TRP), Deepak Kumar Salathia, DIG Rajouri-Poonch Range, Gh. Hassan Bhat, DIG CKR, Srinagar, Bashir Ahmad Khan, SSP, Randeep Kumar, SSP, Smt. Rashmi Wazir, SSP, Dr. Koushal Sharma, SSP, Aftab Alam, ASP, members of the TRP and all the district SSSPs. DGP directed all district SSSPs/SSP to provide all ▶ See **Test...** Pg 02

## In SC, Kashmir Bar questions J&K accession to India

'Say all elections in J&K are rigged, doesn't inspire confidence in people'

Srinagar, Oct 04: The Kashmir Bar Association Wednesday left the Supreme Court (SC) of India 'shocked' after they questioned J&K's accession to India. The J&K High Court Bar Association (HCBA) also said that "all elections in the State are rigged and does not inspire confidence in people".

The HCBA team led by its newly elected president Mian Qayoom said this in an additional affidavit submitted in the apex court. The SC took strong notice to the contents of the additional affidavit filed by the HCBA.

The SC was hearing the case about the use of pellet guns by security forces in the state when Solicitor General Ranjit Kumar brought the affidavit to the Court's notice. ▶ See **SC...** Pg 02



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## POLICE FOIL PROTEST MARCH OF BATAMALOO TRADERS, TRANSPORTERS IN SRINAGAR

Srinagar, Oct 4: Police on Wednesday foiled a protest march of Batamalo traders and transporters trying to move towards the Civil Secretariat by detaining dozens of them at Lal Chowk.

The protest march was organised by traders, transporters, and street vendors Joint Coordination Committee Batamalo.

Scores of protesting traders, transporters and ▶ See **Police...** Pg 02

## SLBC readies for Mudra Promotion Campaign

Srinagar, Oct 4: J&K State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) is all set for the launch of 'Mudra Yojna Campaign' here at SKICC, which is being carried out to boost the country's flagship scheme Prime Ministers Mudra Yojna (PMY) across the country through a nation-wide promotional campaign.

Representing Convener SLBC, J&K Bank Executive President Vagesh Chander said this in presence of Ex-



ecutive President SS Sehgal, President P K Tickoo and Vice President Rakesh Gandotra, at the press conference held at the bank's corporate office. State Mission Director (PM-JDY) Shahid Saleem was ▶ See **SLBC...** Pg 02

## Govt working out modalities to regularise persons engaged on casual, adhoc basis: Drabu

Srinagar, Oct 4: Minister of Finance, Haseeb Drabu today chaired a meeting to review the modalities for regularisation of casual labourers, adhoc employees and others.

During the meeting, Drabu discussed the administrative, financial and legal modalities involved in regularisation of casual labourers working in different departments of the State government, said an official handout. The Finance Minister



asked the officers to look into extent of problems relating to casual workers and the financial, legal and adminis-

trative bottlenecks that may arise in the process of regularisation of such workers. ▶ See **Drabu...** Pg 02

## SCHOOLS CLOSED AFTER CROSS BORDER FIRING IN POONCH SECTOR

Poonch, Oct 4: After the intense mortar shelling and firing by Pakistani Army targeting Indian forward posts, authorities on Wednesday ordered the closure of schools near the Line of Control (LoC) in Degwar area of Poonch district.

Reports said that shelling and firing from across the border started at 8:45 am in Degwar, Maldiyanal and ▶ See **School...** Pg 02

# ACADEMICIANS HAVE KEY ROLE IN FORMULATING JOB-ORIENTED ACADEMIC STRUCTURE: PROF MATTOO

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 04: Adviser to Chief Minister, Prof. Amitabh Mattoo today chaired a high level meeting on Knowledge Initiative in Higher Education and Primary Education at SKICC Srinagar.

During the daylong meeting, the advisor interacted with all the Principals of Degree Colleges from Kashmir Division and heads from various private Schools, Government schools, heads of DIETs and SIE of Kashmir Division.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary Education,

Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon, Vice Chancellor Cluster University Dr. Sheikh Javid and other officials from education department.

Prof. Mattoo called the principals of colleges and schools as the campus leaders and said that they are the people who work on ground for imparting education to students.

"The true feedback cannot be achieved unless we meet the heads of our institutions and ask them their feedback, including the problems they face in the colleges," he said.

He said it is imperative to con-



sult academicians before the incorporation of integrated courses or about the start of new courses

in the curriculum," he added.

He stressed upon the heads for helping the government in formulating the education structure so that students after finishing students can avail various jobs in the market.

Prof. Mattoo said that students should be trained and motivated from the early stages of their classes for various research programmes in their respective fields.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Hassan Samoon said that the purpose to hold this meeting is to get the suggestion and understand

from academicians as how to improve education system in the state.

It was decided in the meeting that the J&K colleges be connected with the NITs in the State, linkage between Colleges and schools, exchange programs of faculty from outside the state.

At the end of the meeting various academicians put forward their suggestions for transforming education system. The academicians pitched for the strengthening of skill development and job-oriented courses based on modern curriculum.

## Continue from Front Page.....

### MEHBOOBA

setting up of a transformer bank during winters for which she appealed the legislators also to cooperate.

The Chief Minister also directed pacing up of work on the renovation and beautification of Ziyarat Dastgeer sahib (R.A.) at Khanyar and Hazrat Shah i Hamdan (R.A.) at Khankah i Moalla and Imambara at Zadibal.

In a major direction, Mehbooba Mufti directed slapping Public Safety Act against those found involved in the sale of spurious drugs. She also directed that the medicine and drugs be made available to patients at the hospitals even as she asked the Health Department to bring an upgradation and beautification proposal for city hospitals for her consideration.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister held extensive interfacing sessions of concerned officers with the members of the Board during which the legislators put across their issues and problems for early redressal.

Legislators, cutting across party affiliations, hailed the Chief Minister for the interface which enabled them to push their problems and seek their redressal appropriately.

The meeting was informed that the Special Purpose Vehicle for the Srinagar Smart City has been constituted and the first installment of Rs. 200 crore under the projects is expected anytime now. Also some mega projects like Rambagh flyover, Grade separator at TRC, etc are in various stages of completion and many major projects like 45 MLD Tangnar Water Supply Scheme, Bemina college and Cluster University building, 18 small or medium bridges etc are being inaugurated soon.

The meeting was also informed that 10 community halls and five basketball courts are under various stages of completion in the main city. Also 6200 new street lights are being set up and 15 fountains have been made functional in various areas of the city, the meeting was informed.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed gave a presentation of various developmental activities in the district. He said by the end of September, 2017, 86% of the budgetary allocation for the district stands expended.

Minister for Education, Syed Altaf Bukhari; Minister of State for Housing & Urban Development, Asiea Naqash; legislators, Ali Muhammad Sagar, Mubarak Gul, Shamima Firdous, Muhammad Ashraf Mir, Abid Ansari; Noor Muhammad Sheikh, Ishfaq Jabbar, Anjum Fazili, Khurshed Alam; administrative secretaries of various Departments; heads of several Departments were present in the meeting.

### BSF

claimed by the Pakistan-based outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) which is blamed for similar strikes at Indian security bases including one at Uri in September last year that killed 18 soldiers.

The paramilitary force's chief without naming Pakistan said such attacks would continue until people across the border don't stop. "So long our friendly neighbour does not behave, I think we will expect we will have many more (such attacks)," he said.

Sharma said that the response of BSF was "highly professional" and the moment the militants entered they were "spotted and challenged, and were neutralised" without causing any collateral damage or "much harm" to the paramilitary force.

"You are aware of the number of fideyen attacks which have taken place in the past and the damage which was caused by them and in comparison, the BSF has acquitted itself very well. And I am proud of the boys," he said.

Sharma said that two of the three militants were wearing Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) battle uniform and the third was wearing a Pathan suit.

"We think that the fideyen were targeting the weapons of the quarter guard but an alert quarter guard detected the terrorists and he challenged them," he said.

Sharma said, "this timely detection" prevented a major catastrophe. He said the three militants dispersed and one went towards the canteen where he was immediately killed. Of the other two, one entered the Subordinate Officers Mess and another barged into the administrative block.

"In the mess, the terrorists entered the room of BK Yadav, who despite fighting bravely was hit by a bullet in the head and achieved martyrdom," Sharma said.

The one in the administrative block was forced to come out and neutralised with the help of CRPF and police, he added.

BJP leader and deputy chief minister Nirmal Singh said that such attacks were "proxy war" and state and central governments were fighting this "demon".

"We will foil these designs and I salute the forces and common people reeling under militancy," he said.

### FRESH

Reports said that protesters, mostly women, took to streets in both the areas to protest the unabated cases of braid-chopping.

They said that women held a demonstration in Khanyar after a woman's braid was mysteriously cut in Kaw Mohalla area.

The protesters blocked the road to demand arrest of the culprits.

Eyewitnesses said that two persons were thrashed by people. Locals said that people took them as braid choppers and manhandled them, however, they were later set free.

### MATTIS

role to play as a neighbour, and potentially a very strong economic benefit to Pakistan, if Pakistan can find a way to carry out its international responsibilities and end any kind of safe haven inside their country, he noted.

"There's a great deal that Pakistan can benefit economically, diplomatically, financially for its government; economically for its people; by finally sensing that the tide has shifted against this," Mattis said.

He said that the Trump administration believes that it would be highly difficult to sustain any stabilisation in South Asia, not just in Afghanistan, but certainly anywhere around Pakistan and India unless safe havens are removed.

Mattis was responding to questions from lawmakers who wanted to know why the administration believes that Pakistan will change its behaviour this time.

Trump has said that he would change the US approach to Pakistan, which continues to harbour militants and terrorists who target US service members and officials, said Senator John McCain, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"But we still do not know what specific steps the United States will take to convince or compel Pakistan to change its behaviour, or what costs we will impose if Pakistan fails to do so," McCain said.

Indeed, McCain said it is unclear to him if the administration believes any step or series of steps the United States might take will lead Pakistan to cease its support and sanctuary for certain terrorist groups, which has been a "feature of" its national security policy for decades.

Ranking Member Senator Jack Reed said if the mission in Afghanistan is to be successful, it is imperative to disrupt the external sanctuaries in Pakistan, which continue to provide the Taliban, the Haqqani network and other associated groups the ability to train, recruit, rest, refit and stage attacks without significant fear of interference.

"We have heard that the administration intends to change the relationship with Pakistan in order to compel action that supports our efforts in Afghanistan," Reed said as he sought details of tools available to press Pakistan to make more progress on these issues.

Pakistan, Mattis said has a "convoluted history" with terrorism. There can be little doubt that there have been terrorist groups that have used Pakistan as a haven for attacks outwardly, and not just towards Afghanistan.

"We've seen the attacks on India, as well. At the same time, probably few nations, perhaps none, have lost as many troops fighting terrorists as they have," he said.

### IGP

"I am surprised how come it is possible that the braid of a woman is being chopped off in a congested locality like Khanyar. Why the victim refused to talk to police," he questioned.

IGP said that it is beyond anybody's comprehension that two accused who were captured by people at Bemina locality were allowed to go. "Before the arrival of police there, people had set both the accused free. Why the people let them go and why they were not handed over to police," Khan questioned.

### OMAR

for prosperity and reconciliation. "It is the people of the State who suffer immensely and have to bear enormous economic, social and human costs because of hostilities across the Line of Control and the International Border. The people of Jammu and Kashmir are the worst victims of such aggression from both sides and can also be the primary beneficiaries of peace and stability. The State needs peace and stability to overcome the turmoil that has inflicted grievous wounds on thousands of families and such a sustainable peace can only be achieved through dialogue", the National Conference Working President said while speaking at Tulail, Gurez.

The National Conference Working President said every loss of a precious human life due to cross LoC and cross Border shelling was a painful reminder of the devastating costs of conflict. "My heart bleeds for these innocent civilians across the State who have to be usurped from their hearths and have to live under the constant fear of violence and destruction. We owe it to our people to exhaust all possible options and resources to pave a way of peace and prosperity. It is incumbent on Pakistan to reciprocate to initiatives of dialogue and peace and both countries can benefit from mutual cooperation, understanding and dialogue on all outstanding issues," Omar Abdullah added.

"We need to understand the challenges faced by the people of these areas and what our mothers and sisters and young

children have to go through and it is from this sense of empathy and realization that we are obliged to explore methods to resolve the political issue. Our State requires a serious political initiative to come out of the cycle of violence and instability. And such a political initiative is even more important for people living in far-flung and frontier areas", the National Conference Working President said.

The NC Working President said the State was facing a lot of unprecedented challenges in terms of political forces trying to weaken and fragment the State to further a long-held ideological agenda. "The onslaught on the State's Special Status is a matter of serious concern especially considering the weak and inadequate defence being mounted by the incumbent State Government. The PDP-BJP Alliance poses a huge danger to the State in terms of Article 370 and Article 35-A and National Conference is leaving no stone unturned to oppose this onslaught that is aimed at robbing our people of their constitutionally guaranteed political rights", the NC Working President added.

Senior National Conference Leaders including Party Provincial President Nasir Ahmad Wani and MLA Gurez and Deputy Speaker Nazir Ahmed Khan (Gurezi) also addressed the gathering.

### TEST

assistance to the Chairman as well as board members for conducting the examination across the State smoothly. The DGP impressed upon the members and the district SsP to conduct the examination in most transparent manner.

Chairman of the TRP Surinder Kumar Gupta briefed the DGP about the preparations of the written test. He said that the district SsPs have been directed to place Help Desks to facilitate candidates so that no candidate faces any problem. Timing of the examination is 11.00 a.m, duration is 2 hours and the paper will contain 100 multiple questions with 100 marks. There will be no negative marking. Reporting time for the candidates are 8.00 a.m in their respective centres, the Chairman stated further. The Chairman informed that the District SsPs have been designated as Controllers of Examination in their respective districts.

All the candidates have been directed that they should carry their admit cards along with valid ID proof, blue / black ball pen only. No electronic gadget including mobile, calculator, smart watch, digital watch, Bluetooth, ear speakers etc. are being allowed in the examination centre. The candidates can download their admit cards from www.jkpolice.gov.in.

### SC

He submitted, "They are questioning the accession of Jammu & Kashmir to India. They also say that all elections in the State are rigged and does not inspire confidence in people."

Taking strong exception to the affidavit, Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra said, "How is your additional affidavit relevant to the SLP? We are shocked."

The Court then proceeded to list the case for hearing on January 18.

The Bar Association team led by its president Mian Qayoom was required to submit an affidavit making clear the "actual position" on the use of pellet guns in the valley.

### POLICE

street hawkers had gathered at Press Enclave in the morning but were intercepted and cane-charged by police at Ghanta Ghar.

Earlier, speaking to media persons, Abrar Khan, chairman of the Joint Coordination Committee said instead of shifting the bus terminal, authorities should construct a road through Tattu ground to prevent congestion in Batamaloo.

"Let them make a road through Tattu ground which will divert the movement of traffic from Batmaloo bus terminal through bypass. They can erect a barricade from Batamaloo side to prevent vehicles to ply from the arterial road," Khan said.

Pertinently, the hearing for the case on shifting of Batamaloo Bus Terminal in the High Court is scheduled on Thursday.

### SLBC

also present at the press meet. Briefing the media persons about the objectives of the campaign, he said, "Reaching out to the people on a massive scale through Mudra Yojna Campaign, the Government of India also seeks to promote financial inclusion schemes and digital payment methods to encourage consumers and merchants to increasingly shift to these modes of payment.

Prime Ministers Mudra Yojna (PMMY) is the flagship scheme of Indian Government, which aims to provide formal access of financial facilities to the small businesses thereby creating more self-employment opportunities. "There is an elaborate network of financial literacy centers across the country to spread awareness about the basics of banking and finance. Currently, there are 30 financial literacy centers in the state, out of which J&K Bank runs 12. Besides, there are 21 Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSE-TIs) and 12 are being managed by J&K Bank", he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Executive President S S Sehgal said, "Under Mudra scheme, the banks operating in J&K have

disbursed Rs. 1003 Cr against the target of Rs. 2433 Crores to 41000 beneficiaries. J&K Bank alone has disbursed Rs. 788 Crores under the said scheme. A total of 20 lac PMJDY accounts have been opened in J&K state by all the banks with total deposit of Rs. 650 Crore. Out of these accounts, 17 lacs have been opened in rural areas of the state".

Detailing out the reason for the press conference, he said, "The idea is to spread the message across the state that banks are in the process of taking banking services and products to every nook and corner using the time-saving and money-saving medium of digital banking."

"It was the process of Demonetization of SBN last year that triggered a major shift from traditional banking to digital banking across the country. Through this press briefing, we would like to forward the message and urge the people to adopt digital banking for a safer and swifter services."

Giving an overview of the bank's recent initiatives in digital banking, he said, "The bank has created an Internet Payment Gateway (IPG) to facilitate the deposition of fee at many of the educational institutions of the state like the Universities, NIT etc. The bank recently introduced Campus Cards at the Central University Jammu which is a multi-functional card taking care of identity, attendance, library and the banking transactions of the students."

Addressing the media, Shahid Saleem Mission Director (PMJDY) said, "The motive of this programme is to promote financial inclusion initiatives, digitization and financial literacy among the masses. We have identified 4 sectors of Tourism, Horticulture, Handicraft and Handloom who shall erect stalls and showcase their products to the people".

Notably, the most important feature of the Mudra Finance is that it is a collateral free loan with relaxed margins and reasonable rate of interest. Categorized into Shishu, Kishore and Tarun Loans, the quantum of finance in Mudra Loans range from 50000, upto 5 Lacs and to upto 10 Lacs respectively.

Pertinently, on September 27 the Union Minister for Railway and Coal Piyush Goyal kick-started the country-wide campaign at Varanasi in UP. To be organized at 50 locations across the country till 17th of this month, the campaigns are focusing on promoting Mudra loans, Financial Inclusion, Aadhaar Seeding and Digital Payment Modes.

Meanwhile, SLBC has made all the arrangements for conducting the promotional camp at SKICC Srinagar. On the occasion, there will be at least 30 stalls established by the participating banks, insurance companies and other agencies including UIDAI, SIDBI, NPC (National Payments Corporation), JKEDI, Tourism Department and Horticulture, where-in the information brochures of the concerned shall be available. The leaflets and account-opening forms of major government sponsored schemes especially PMJDY, PMMY besides other social security schemes shall also be made available to the visitors at the promotional camp.

### DRABU

Drabu said the State government is committed to regularise the services of casual, adhoc and other employees who have been hired from time to time by different governments.

"A comprehensive policy is being worked out by the State Government which will address the concerns and grievances of all casual, adhoc and other employees working with the State Government," he said.

The Finance Minister said the State Government is going to put a stop on the menace of adhoc employment in future.

He said all orders related to the hiring process and regularisation will be declared null and void once the regularisation process of all such existing engagements is completed.

The meeting was also attended by Financial Commissioner, Navin Choudhary, Commissioner Secretary, Labour and Employment, Kifayat Rizvi, Commissioner Secretary GAD, Khurshed Shah, Law Secretary, Abdul Majid Bhat, Director Codes, Mohammad Rafiq Andrabi and Labour Commissioner, Abdul Rashid among officers of the other allied departments.

### SCHOOLS

Tarwan areas along the LoC. "Pakistan army has been firing with automatic weapons. Indian army is retaliating in equal measure," said an official.

The official said that Three soldiers of 2 Naga regiment - all residents of Nagaland-injured in the firing were shifted to a hospital for treatment.

Sources said all schools were closed in the Degwar area. Deputy Commissioner Poonch Tariq Zargar confirmed to news agency CNS that he has ordered the closure of all government and private schools today in Degwar area.

Pertinently, on Tuesday night, an Indian soldier was killed in sniper fire in Poonch Sector of Jammu and Kashmir. Earlier, three persons including two children were killed in Pakistan firing.

Both countries have been accusing each other of cease fire violations. India frequently accuses Pakistan of opening fire often to help militants enter into Indian territory, the charge always vehemently rejected by Pakistan.

Meanwhile, a Pakistan based newspaper reported that a woman and her younger brother were killed and two others were injured in Indian firing.

# Increased production and efficient distribution of food grains can move our country forward

Addresses the 49th Convocation of Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University

New Delhi, October 04: The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has said that increased production and efficient distribution of food grains can move our country forward to achieve the goal of zero hunger and adequate nutrition for all. He was delivering the 49th Convocational Address at the Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU), in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh today.

The Governor of Andhra Pradesh and the Chancellor of ANGRAU, Shri E.S.L. Narasimhan, the Agriculture Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Somireddy Chandra Mohan Reddy and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

The Vice President said that India is the world's largest producer of milk, pulses and jute, and ranks as the second largest producer of rice, wheat, sugarcane, groundnut, vegetables, fruit and cotton. He further said that the growing needs of our country's increasing population require us to evolve our own home grown food security strategy.

The Vice President suggested that first we have to provide an end-to-end (E2E) ecosystem comprising of "4-Is" namely 'Irrigation', 'Infrastructure', 'Investment credit' and 'Insurance'. The second is Lab-to-Land (L2L) transfer of technology, he added.

The Vice President said that infrastructural improvements in rural roads, dependable quality power, godowns, cold storage facilities, refrigerated vans and market yards are an essential prerequisite for improving the efficiency of the agricultural sector. Timely credit facilities at reasonable interest rates and farmer-friendly insurance policies are important building blocks of a robust ecosystem for Agriculture, he added.

The Vice President congratulated all the students, gold medalists and awardees who are receiving their degrees on this occasion.

The Vice President said that his heart swells with pride with India's prowess in space technology as country marches ahead to conquer new frontiers in space exploration. It is a double delight to him to be here as this internationally-renowned rocket launching site is located in his native district of Nellore, he added.

The Vice President said that a thousand years ahead of Europeans, Indian savants knew that the zero and infinity were mutually inverse notions. He further said that with the launch of the first sounding rocket from Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launch Station (TERLS) in 1963 and the first Satellite, Aryabhata in 1975, India has made giant strides and has emerged today as one of the leading space faring nations in the leadership of visionaries like Prof. Vikram Sarabhai, Prof. Satish Dhawan and former President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

## Remarkable team work and output shown by ISRO is a model for other departments and institutions: Vice President

New Delhi, October 04: The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has said that the remarkable team work and output shown by Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) over the years is a model for other departments and institutions. He was addressing the gathering after inaugurating the week long celebrations of World Space Week, in SHAR, Sriharikoga, Andhra Pradesh today. The Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Shri E.S.L. Narasimhan, the Chairman, ISRO, Shri Kiran Kumar and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

The Vice President said that by putting 104 satellites into orbit in one go and placing the heaviest Indian satellite, GSAT-19 weighing 3,136 kg in its orbit earlier this year, India's space scientists and technologists have not only done the country proud but made the world to sit up and take note of its accomplishments. It is not a question of mere technological advancement, but achieving launch after launch successfully at much lesser costs of similar missions in advanced countries which makes every Indian proud, he added.

The Vice President said that this space port on the spindle-shaped island is one of the busiest satellite launch centres in the world and catering to global needs by truly epitomising India's philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. He further said that all the activities of ISRO have been centred on societal applications. ISRO now stands as one of the most reputed and leading space agencies in the world and is a huge source of inspiration to students and young and upcoming scientists, he added.

The Vice President said that those who are selected for Hajj they should get their medical fitness certificate from Medical Board already existing in every districts of the State of J&K. On the occasion, the Minister distributed mementos as a token of acknowledgement among Khudam-e-Hujaj for services rendered by them during Hajj 2017. These included Peer Shabir Ahmad, Parvez Iqbal, Shabir Ahmad Baba, Danish Abdullah and Nissar Ahmad Para.

The MoU will enable technical cooperation in the following areas:-  
a. Traction Rolling stock  
b. EMU and train sets  
c. Traction Propulsion Equipments  
d. Freight and Passenger Cars  
e. Tilting Trains  
f. Railway Electrification Equipments  
g. Train scheduling and operation improvement  
h. Railway Station modernization  
i. Multimodal transport  
j. Tunneling technology

## Cabinet apprised of the MoU between India and Switzerland on Technical Cooperation in Rail Sector

New Delhi, October 04: The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Railways, Government of India and the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications of Swiss Confederation on Technical Cooperation in Rail Sector. The MoU was signed on on 31st August, 2017.

The MoU will enable technical cooperation in the following areas:-

- Traction Rolling stock
- EMU and train sets
- Traction Propulsion Equipments
- Freight and Passenger Cars
- Tilting Trains
- Railway Electrification Equipments
- Train scheduling and operation improvement
- Railway Station modernization
- Multimodal transport
- Tunneling technology

## Cabinet approves renaming of Kandla Port as Deendayal Port

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval to the renaming of Kandla Port as Deendayal Port.

Ports in India are generally named after the city or town in which these are situated. However, the Government, in special cases, after due consideration, have renamed the Ports after great leaders in the past.

By renaming Kandla Port as "Deendayal Port, Kandla", a grateful nation would be remembering the invaluable contributions made by one of the greatest sons of India, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay. This will inspire the People of Gujarat, particularly the Youth, who may not be fully aware of the contributions made by the great leader.

Background:

There have been public demands from various quarters in Gujarat, especially from Kachh district, to rename 'Kandla Port' as 'Deendayal Port, Kandla'. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay (25.9.1916 - 1.2.1968) was a prominent leader, who pledged his life to the service of the nation. He devoted his entire life serving the nation and worked among the masses and dedicated and sacrificed his life for the upliftment of the Poor & Working Class at the same time. Upholding the values of democracy founded on tolerance, discipline, selflessness and respect for the law of the land, all his actions were based on the principles of 'Integral Humanism'. Throughout his life, he worked tirelessly for Indianisation of democracy, honouring the public opinion, selflessness and respect for law of the land. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay dedicated his entire life for public service and was the epitome of simplicity, honesty and selfless service for the poor and down-trodden.

Since the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay was to be celebrated on 25th September, 2017, it was felt that it would be most appropriate if the decision to rename the Kandla Port as Deendayal Port was made as a part of the birth anniversary celebration of this great national leader.

## Hajj 2017: Andrabi receives feedback from officials, Khuddam

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 4: Minister of State for Hajj & Auqaf, PHE, Irrigation, Flood Control, Power, Industries and Commerce, Syed Farooq Ahmad Andrabi on Wednesday held a meeting with the Officers of State Hajj Committee and Khuddam-e-Hujaj 2017 to receive feedback from them regarding the arrangements put in place for Hajj 2017.

The meeting was attended by the Executive Members of State Hajj Committee, Mushtaq Ahmad Shah, Shah Mohammad Tantray and Dr Nissar Ahmad, Executive Officer, State Hajj Committee, Syed Qamar Sajad, Hajj Officer, Mohammad Maqbool and other prominent citizens including Molvi Mufti Farooq Ahmad, Syed Ishtiaq Ahmad, Fayaz Ahmad Fayaz and Khudam-e-Hujaj 2017.

The Minister expressed satisfaction over the arrangements put in place by the Government for the convenience of the Hujaj this year.

While interacting with the Khudam-e-Hujaj, the Minister applauded the role played by them during the Hajj for ensuring every possible help to pilgrims during their stay in Makkah Sharief and Madina Sharief.

Earlier, Executive Officer, State Hajj Committee briefed the meeting about the arrangements through Power Point Presentation. Executive Members of State Hajj Committee, Mushtaq Ahmad Shah, Shah Mohammad Tantray, Dr Nissar Ahmad and Molvi Mufti Farooq Ahmad also addressed the gathering and expressed satisfaction over the arrangements made by the Government for Hajj 2017. They gave their valuable suggestions for further improvement in arrangements for the next Hajj-2018.

Dr Nissar Ahmad suggested that those who are selected for Hajj they should get their medical fitness certificate from Medical Board already existing in every districts of the State of J&K. On the occasion, the Minister distributed mementos as a token of acknowledgement among Khudam-e-Hujaj for services rendered by them during Hajj 2017. These included Peer Shabir Ahmad, Parvez Iqbal, Shabir Ahmad Baba, Danish Abdullah and Nissar Ahmad Para.

## Basharat Bukhari launches MIS in Kulgam

Growers to get best market prices under MIS

KULGAM, OCTOBER 04: To improve the grading of the apple fruit so that growers are able to get the desired price for their produce, the Minister for Horticulture, Syed Basharat Ahmad Bukhari today launched the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) here. The Minister was accompanied by Vice Chairman, Horticulture Development Board, Abdul Salam Reshi, MP Nazir Ahmad Laway and MLA Kulgam Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami.

Bukhari said that under this scheme, the Horticulture Department will buy the Grade-C apple (comprising of 33% of the produce) at the rate of Rs 10 per kilogram which will be then supplied to the fruit processing units. He said that this enable fruit growers to improve the grading quality of their produce to fetch prices.

The District Development Commissioner informed, the Minister that 26300 hectares of land is cropped area out of which 19500 hectares is under fruit cultivation in the district. So far, 7 lac apple boxes were exported to different parts of India from the Fruit Mandi Kulga. He apprised the Minister that about the status of transporting horticulture produces through High-



way-44, besides need for establishing truck terminal at Brazloo to ensure hassle free movement of fruit carrying trucks.

The DDC sought the intervention of the minister in the introduction and proper execution of Fasal Bima Yojana and Prime Minister's Krishi Sinchai Yojana in the district so that the growers can avail the benefits under the scheme. He also sought the intervention regarding value addition of the fruits and establishment of Cold Storage facility in the district.

The Minister directed the Chief Horticulture Officer to get the survey and study done in lower belt of Kulgam so that the reasons of less shelf life of the fruits be ascertained.

The public representatives and the fruit growers presented memoranda to the minister regarding the issues including crop insurance policy, better marketing facilities, adequate funding to

Jablipora fruit mandi, compensation to hailstorm-affected fruit growers, mass awareness and extensive soil testing facilities.

The Secretary Horticulture Department said that the sector has the potential of generation income of Rs. 50000 crore annually but due to lack of proper perspective, the potential has not been fully tapped so far. He said that the government is very keen to develop ultra high and high density orchards in the district.

Bukhari said horticulture census has been completed by the department and on that basis policy on horticulture sector is being formulated. This policy shall serve as a guide regarding the interventions required for meeting the challenges for next 30 years. He said that a high level committee has been constituted to study the impact of climate change on the sector and what steps need to be taken to mitigate the ill effects of climate change and to undertake area mapping based on the suitability of crops.

He said that the department is embarking on developing online mandis, upgrading and modernizing the existing mandis, providing cold storage facilities, regular and sustained awareness camps and like initiatives.

To curb the supply of spurious pesticides, fungicides and fertilizers, the Minister that those involved in this practice will be booked under Public Safety Act for which necessary guidelines will be issued very soon.

The Minister exhorted upon the officers of the horticulture department to reach out to the grassroots level and educate the growers about the interventions required in ensuring the quality and quantity of the fruit.

MLA Homshalibugh, Abdul Majeed Bhat, MLA DH Pora Abdul Majeed Paddar, Secretary Horticulture Department, Manzoor Ahmad Lone, DDC Kulgam, Talat Parvez, Director Horticulture (Marketing & Planning) Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, ADDC Kulgam Mr. Khwaji Nazir and other officers of the Horticulture and J&KHMP and fruit growers were also present on the occasion.

During the camp, issues regarding road connectivity, water supply, power infrastructure, rational and speedy ration supply, removal of encroachments from various irrigation canals, de-silting of various canals, upgradation of link roads, unplugging of drains, power facility, proper upkeep of transformers, transportation facility, decongestion of the town, beautification and sanitation of the town, proper manning of various SDHs and PHCs, construction of culverts and flood protection bunds were projected by the people.

The DDC gave a patient hearing to the public grievances and issued on spot directions to concerned officers for immediate redressal of the projected demands. He directed them to furnish the action taken report within a week.

Responding to the power supply complaints, Executive Engineer PDD apprised the durbar that DPRs for repair of street lights in areas of Kangan will be submitted for accord of approval.

It was said that macadamization of the main road and link roads in Kangan area are being taken in hand shortly whereas these works are executed in phase wise manner as per availability of funds, the DDC enjoined engineers of Irrigation and Flood Control to prioritize renovation and cleanliness of Baba Canal and other Canals to boost agriculture and Horticulture sectors in the area. Besides, he called for holding awareness camps of agriculture and horticulture at Tehsil level. He impressed upon locals to cooperate with the administration in removing encroachments and extend helping hand in the early execution of development schemes.

## DDC Ganderbal holds public durbar at Kangan

GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 04: District Development Commissioner Ganderbal, Dr. Piyush Singla today conducted a public durbar at Kangan to listen to the grievances of the public at their doorsteps under 'Aap ki Sarkar - Aap ki Dwar' initiative.

SSP Ganderbal, Fayaz Ahmad Lone, Additional District Development Commissioner, N.A. Baba, SDM Kangan, ACR Ganderbal, and were also present on the occasion.

## Peace imperative for economic growth: Zulfkar

Addresses national seminar at New Delhi; Receives Bharat Gaurav award for successful NFSA implementation in JK

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 04: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs and Information, Choudhary Zulfkar Ali today said peace is imperative for economic growth and collective efforts must be made for maintaining it for overall development of the nation.

At a national seminar on 'Economic Growth and National Integration' organized by India International Friendship Society at New Delhi, Zulfkar said economic development is only possible when there is peace and tranquillity. He said all the activities would run smoothly in the country if peace is maintained and would lead to greater development and prosperity and create a feeling of trust, tolerance, and brotherhood among people and promote national integration.

He said as democracy supports peaceful relations between states, economic prosperity and fuller development of people; peace makes possible the development of stable political institutions, more productive economic activity and a more civilized social life.

In order to develop the nation, Zulfkar said that everybody needs to contribute their bit towards peace and prosperity in the subcontinent because an atmosphere of enmity can badly affect the economy as well as social life. He added that since the world is rapidly changing into a global village and there is less relevance of borders, everybody needs to think about mutual cooperation by



ending conflicting situations with neighbours and play role in making the nation a developed one.

Former Union Minister and Governor Shivraj Patil, Former Governor Bhimsen Narayanan Singh and Former Speaker Yoganand Shastri were among the notables in the audience.

Zulfkar said that India is proceeding towards becoming one of the big global economies. He said that after Independence, India's per capita income increased at only around 1% annual rate in the three decades but after 1991 economic liberalization, India has progressed towards a free market economy and specific changes were witnesses which included reduction in import tariffs, deregulation of markets, reduction of taxes, and greater foreign investment.

Termining national integration important for economic growth, the Minister said that it is highly necessary in a multi-religious, multi-ethnic, multi-caste, multi-regional society like India and for stable economic growth and national integration, we need to end impartial funding and try to uplift poor sections of the society. He added that regional

imbalance in economic development and acute poverty of certain sections of the people imposes a serious threat to the achievement of the national integration.

He also pressed for educational development which he said plays a vital role in economic development and national integration. He said that only education can promote faith in the integrity and the moral worth of the individual.

The Minister further impressed upon NGOs to work for strengthening the process of national integration. He said that these organizations can create necessary social awareness for bringing social reforms and change in the mindset of the people.

On the occasion, the Minister was awarded Bharat Gaurav Award for his outstanding performance in implementing National Food Security Act in Jammu and Kashmir.

Zulfkar thanked India International Friendship Society for honouring him for his works which he said he would continue to do for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

## Union Agri Secy reviews progress of dev schemes in Ladakh

KARGIL, OCTOBER 04: Union Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmer Welfare Secretary, S. K. Patnayak today visited Ladakh to review the progress of various developmental projects and schemes being implemented by Agriculture and allied Departments there.

He was accompanied by Principal Secretary Agriculture

Production Department, Sandeep Kumar Nayak and Director Agriculture Kashmir, Syed Altaf Aijaz Andrabi.

The Union Secretary called on Chief Executive Council, LADHC Kargil, Kachoo Ahmad Ali Khan during which programmes including the introduction of latest technology in the field of Apricot cultivation, Pradhanmantri

Krishi Sinchai Yojna, Soil Health Cards, Vegetable production in the region were discussed threadbare. Concerned officers were also present on the occasion. The Union Secretary impressed upon the concerned officers to explore all the possibilities to increase the production and productivity of different crops grown in the area.

Patnayak also visited Pushkun Farm Kargil and took stock of its functioning.

Later, the Union Secretary met Chief Executive Councilor, LAHDC, Leh, Dr. Sonam Dava. Principal Secretary Agriculture Production Department, Sandeep Kumar Nayak, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Syed Altaf Aijaz Andrabi, District Development

Commissioner Leh, representative from High Altitude Defence Research Centre and district officers of Agriculture and allied wings were also present on the occasion. Sheep production, exotic cultivation of vegetables and establishment of cold storage was among other development works discussed in detail on the occasion. Stressing on the team-

work and collective efforts of all stakeholders, the Union Secretary impressed upon concerned to achieve all set targets in a time-bound manner. He said strengthening the different allied wings of the agriculture would ultimately lead to the integrated development of the entire sector and shall boost the socio-economic status.

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

## Carnage in Vegas

The famous Las Vegas Strip became the scene of a bloody gun rampage when a shooter fired high-powered automatic rounds into dense crowds at a music concert, killing at least 59 people and injuring more than 500. This is the worst mass shooting in modern American history, although the June 2016 shooting at a nightclub in Orlando, Florida, came close with 49 people dead. Perched high on the 32nd floor of a nearby hotel, 64-year-old Stephen Paddock sat in a virtual sniper's nest, armed with a collection of 23 rifles, some of them automatic ones. And some of the semi-automatic rifles were boosted to automatic-speed firing using "bump stocks". He was subsequently found dead in the room from a self-inflicted injury. Initially, confusion prevailed over whether this attack was linked to the Islamic State. Speculation mounted further after its Amaq news agency reportedly claimed credit for the attack. However, with the authorities saying there was no evidence of a connection between Paddock and such terror groups, the authenticity of Amaq's claim has been questioned by several experts. Whether Paddock had links to the IS or not, the Las Vegas shooting once again puts the spotlight on a painful and off-debated policy issue in the United States — that of gun control reform.

Despite authoring 15 attempts to bring common-sense gun control regulations to the floor of the U.S. Congress, former President Barack Obama had in the last days of his administration launched one final attempt to close loopholes in gun laws through executive action. These aimed at expanding background checks for gun ownership, boosting funding for federal agencies enforcing the laws, and improving treatment of mental health conditions nationwide. Earlier, his most ambitious push to tighten the lax regulation of gun proliferation, floated in 2013 in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, was speedily shut down by hostile conservative lawmakers. At the heart of the U.S. Congress's reluctance to take steps to address the regular occurrence of gun rampages in public spaces is the insidious lobbying on Capitol Hill by the deep-pocketed National Rifle Association and a myriad of gun manufacturers. After several mass shootings, NRA spokespersons have claimed that the only answer to gun deaths is more guns. In President Donald Trump, they may have found their strongest ally yet. Although he described the Las Vegas shooting as an "act of pure evil", during the 2016 campaign he had pandered to the gun lobby's interest on occasion, particularly through fear-mongering that if the Democratic agenda succeeded, "Pretty soon, you won't be able to get guns." The gun lobby's multi-generational success in this regard is built upon a cultural proclivity for gun ownership rooted in the Second Amendment of the constitution. Until Americans apply reasonable, if not stringent, restrictions to gun ownership, they are unlikely to escape the regular visitation of such mass tragedies.

# In need of a psycho-economic boost

▶ Ajit Ranade

When a person decides to buy a flat, it reflects his or her optimism about the future. There is confidence that one will have enough income flowing in, to pay for the monthly instalments. This optimism is not because of job security, but because of the belief that one will get a new job, even if one becomes unemployed. The same is true for an entrepreneur setting up a new factory or new business. It's called risk taking, but that is not to imply reckless gambling. It reflects the investor's confidence about the future returns on the investment. If that confidence starts to wane, then potential home buyers refrain or postpone their decisions. Investors adopt a wait-and-watch attitude. If everyone in the economy starts becoming extra-cautious, the decline in confidence and economic activity becomes self-fulfilling. As the economy slows down, people say, "See I told you so! It was wise to not invest and take unnecessary risk now."

This decline can happen even if the economy is fundamentally sound. What causes investor or home buyer confidence to wane? It could be anecdotes, actual economic evidence, broken trust in government or socio-political developments. Not to overstate this, but there is an element of psychology that keeps the economy chugging. The government's role is as much to provide the right policy environment, as to provide a psychological atmosphere that is conducive to risk taking about the future, and inspire confidence in the people.

### THE KEYNESIAN SOLUTION

John Maynard Keynes called these the "animal spirits" which guide buyer and investor behaviour. When those spirits are in a downward spiral, the end result could be recession, if not outright depression. His remedy was to suggest countercyclical policy, which has become the hallmark of Keynesianism. This includes an injection of both fiscal and monetary stimulus. This involves increasing government spending or cutting taxes, or both, and decreasing interest rates. Despite many attempts at discrediting the efficacy of Keynesian remedies, to this day policy-makers continue to repose faith in them. Sure, the effects could last only for a short term, but if that helps the economy into a higher gear, or break out of the "pessimism spiral", it would have served its purpose.

We are not quite in a recession, nor are we anywhere remotely near a depression. But the fact is that we are in danger of the self-fulfilling prophecy nature of investment and consumer behaviour. The data need to be restated to understand the seriousness of the situation. GDP growth declining continuously for six quarters in a row, down from 9.2% to 5.7%. Investment share of GDP, which creates new factories and businesses for tomorrow, falling for almost five years. The latest data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy show that even



the project pipeline is drying up. Newly announced projects at ₹84,500 crore are at a four-year low. Even the stalled projects which have been revived are only 6% during this fiscal year, as against 25% last year. The value of stalled projects is at a record high of ₹13.2 lakh crore. During the last years of the previous government, projects were stalled due to delays in approvals and clearances, legal disputes and charges of corruption. But these issues were tackled, and yet new projects are not picking up. In fact, in terms of the number of new private sector projects announced in the latest quarter, it is at a 13-year low.

The short point is that investor enthusiasm is lacking, especially from the private sector. Added to their lack of demand is the reluctance of supply of investible funds.

### CAUTIOUS BANKS

Banks, despite being flush with deposits (partly thanks to demonetisation), are in no mood to extend new credit. This is because of the increasing burden of bad loans (called non-performing assets, or NPAs). The ratio of NPAs has been continuously going up for five years. Either you have to write-off the loans and book losses, or ask shareholders to bring more equity capital. The new bankruptcy code and procedure is promising, but is as yet untested

for timeliness and effectiveness. There is also a suggestion to collect all the bad loans (that is, toxic waste) from the various banks and move them to a freshly capitalised bank, the so-called "bad bank". The bad bank would focus solely on liquidating the collateral, bringing in fresh owners and managers to run distressed companies. Once freed from NPAs, the existing banks can resume lending to the healthy sectors. This is a promising idea as well and worth pursuing. The government cannot shy away from funding the rescue of India's banking. It has to provide capital to the new "bad bank" or to recapitalise the beleaguered public sector banks, where most of the NPAs reside.

This is where the Keynesian wisdom of stimulus is worth recalling. All four drivers of economic growth are sputtering. While reviving exports may need boosts like a weaker rupee or more export-linked incentives, consumption and investment sentiment can certainly be boosted by conventional Keynesian tools. Corporate income tax can be reduced to 25% as promised two years ago. Excise taxes on petrol and diesel need to be reduced. These are indirect taxes, hurt the poor more, are regressive and feed into general inflation through logistics and energy costs.

### FOUR STEPS

On the spending side, the government can focus on the following four areas. First, provide fresh capital either to existing banks or the new "bad bank". Second, provide some version of a wage subsidy as an incentive to labour intensive sectors. A version of this was offered to the textile and garment sectors last year, but can be improvised and extended. The successful model of Odisha in the garment sector can be replicated. Third, give a big boost to affordable housing, by funding land acquisition for the builder, and interest rate subvention for the home owner. The States of Kerala and Maharashtra have interesting and replicable models. Fourth, keep a big focus on exporters, especially in labour intensive sectors, including agriculture. This includes a weaker exchange rate, quicker refund of GST credit and expanding the scope of the Merchandise Export from India Scheme and Service Exports from India Scheme.

All of these are short-term economic stimuli, but can also provide a psychological boost to the animal spirits. Of course, consumer and investor confidence can return and sustain only when the Keynesian boost is buttressed by credibility of implementing longer-term reforms.

Ajit Ranade is an economist

# A LEGACY OF LIBERALISATION IN SRI LANKA

▶ B. Skanthakumar

The Sri Lankan government recently released its 'Vision 2025' manifesto, heralding a new wave of economic reforms. Its timing coincided with the 40th anniversary of the island's embrace of deregulation, trade liberalisation, and privatisation ahead of the rest of South Asia. While the current government seeks to revive neoliberal momentum, there is no assessment of the legacy of liberalisation even on narrow economic benchmarks.

### MODEST GROWTH

Growth in gross domestic product has been modest. It averaged 4.8% between 1978 and 2009 compared to 3.5% between 1971 and 1976. Some of the initial expansion was from massive inflows of grants and soft loans, as Western donors and multilateral agencies rushed to reward a regime hailing the virtues of high growth, foreign investment, and free market capitalism.

Average household income has

risen rapidly, but so has concentration of wealth. Inequality has deepened: the Gini coefficient, which was 0.35 in 1973, worsened to 0.48 by 2012-13. The richest 20% of households command 52.9% of income, or more than the rest combined; the poorest 20% muster only 4.5%. The bottom 40% of the population survive on under \$2.50 per day.

Inflation is often runaway into double digits, whereas before 1970 it was under 3%. Cost of living has spiralled and household debt escalated.

Manufactured goods have soared in share of exports from 13.4% in 1977 to 77% in 2016, but are dominated by ready-made apparels which have negligible local value addition.

Industries that profited from textile and clothing quotas, duty-free imports, tax holidays, free infrastructure, subsidised services and lax environmental and labour regulations still depend on imports of raw and semi-finished materials. This is a barrier to linkages in the local economy and gobbles up net foreign ex-



change earnings.

Export-oriented industrialisation is promoted as the cure-all for all ills. Its labour force is mostly of women in low-wage and highly exploitative conditions, and where unions are not allowed to organise inside and outside export-processing zones. Employment in this sector has only reached over 470,000, or under 6% of the labour force. That's the same number as those who leave every two years for foreign employment. Liberalisation has failed to create decent and secure jobs.

### AGRICULTURE IN DECLINE

Agriculture has drastically declined in economic share to 7.1% in 2016 from 35.1% in 1970-71, and in export composition to 22.6% in 2016 from 94.6% in 1970-71. It is still important to livelihood as over 70% of the population is rural, and marginally more are employed in agriculture (27.1%) than in industry (26.4%).

There has been limited diversification as tea, rubber and coconut predominate, as before 1977. Revenues from tea, plucked mostly by women, have slumped to third place in export income. However, migrant remittances of mainly women in domestic

work in West Asia amounted to nearly \$7 billion last year, or almost equal to earnings from textiles, tourism and tea combined.

Women's work is the basis of the monetised and care economy, but their labour force participation rate has plateaued at under 36%, or less than half that of men.

Sri Lanka's main food imports of wheat flour, rice, sugar, milk and milk products, and fish and fish products are unchanged. Demand has risen along with population increase and household income but not purchasing power. The rupee is currently trading at 153 Sri Lankan rupees to the U.S. dollar whereas it was 8.60 SL rupees in 1977, but with no corresponding gain in export earnings. In 2015, income from exports only equalled 55% of the cost of imports, widening further the balance of payments deficit.

Chronic under-investment in food production has intensified dependence on imports and also insecurity as consumers are more exposed to world

market price fluctuations. The withdrawal of state support in access to credit, inputs and extension services as well as in direct purchase, storage, transport and distribution has abandoned producers to predatory middlemen, aggravating agrarian distress.

### MOUNTING DEBT

All regimes have bridged the chasm between income and expenditure with loans. External debt has ballooned to \$46.6 billion (from under \$942 million in 1976), diverting resources from public spending to debt-servicing.

Foreign direct investment last year was only \$898 million, whereas foreign loans totalled \$1.287 billion. This has been the pattern despite generous incentives to private capital and wage repression in the export sector.

The war between 1983 and 2009 was disastrous but its economic impact was diffuse as export production of goods and crops was outside the conflict zone.

# MODI GOVT COMPETENT IN 'EVENT MANAGEMENT': 5 THINGS ARUN SHOURIE SPOKE ABOUT

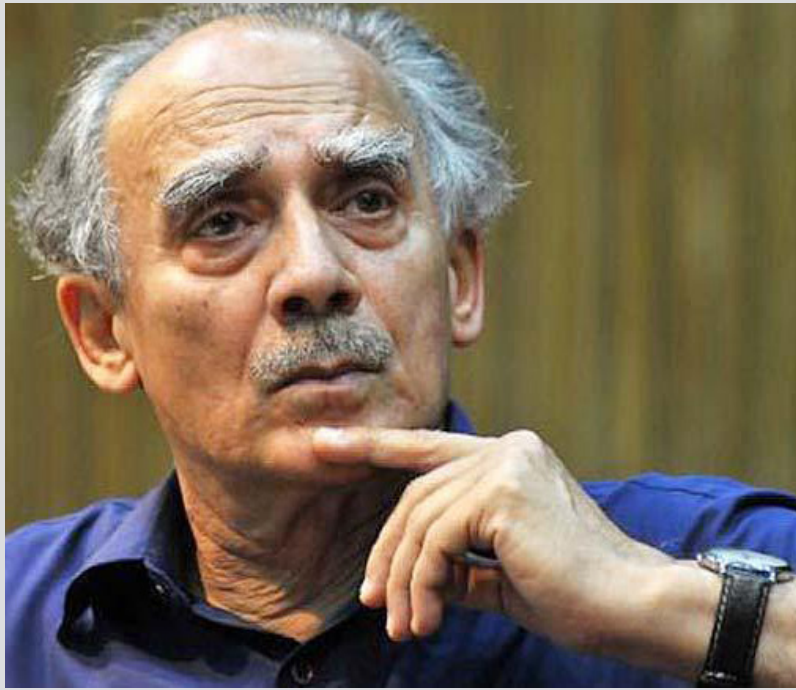
NEW DELHI: Former Union minister Arun Shourie became the latest senior politician to speak out against the government. Shourie lambasted the Narendra Modi government in an NDTV interview on Tuesday over its economic policies, sliding growth rate and unemployment.

The former BJP member also targeted the government over its decision to demonetise currency and the implementation of Goods and Services Tax.

Last week, senior BJP leader Yashwant Sinha had hit out at the government for making a "mess" of the economy, warning that its impact would be hard-hitting.

Here are the key takeaways from Shourie's interview:

**On demonetisation**  
Arun Shourie said demonetisation was the "largest money-laundering scheme ever conceived and implemented entirely by the government", according to an NDTV report. It was an "idi-



otic jolt" in which "everyone who had black (money) converted it into white (money)".

Shourie likened the withdrawal of high denomination currency to suicide. "This is a government by 'ilhaam' (revelation). The Prime Minister has the 'ilhaam' one night that demonetisation should be done and he does it. In any case, it was a bold step. I have to remind you, suicide too is a bold step."

"Which argument (offered by the government in defence of demonetisation) today survives? Black money? All of it turned white. Terrorism? Terrorists are still coming into India. At the end they have nothing to say," he questioned.

**On GST**  
On the government's claim of introducing the most revolutionary tax reform, Shourie told NDTV it was implemented poorly. He said the economy needs stability but "the rules have been amended seven times within three months". The

BJP leader also said that what made the situation worse was the "event management" of GST, including the government's comparison of the tax reform to Independence.

"...event management of the GST. Imagine! A tax reform is being compared to the independence of India."

**On the government**  
Shourie took a dig at senior BJP leaders and called the Narendra Modi government as a "government of two-and-a-half persons".

"This is a government of two-and-a-half persons, that is, Narendra Modi, Amit Shah and one in-house lawyer. They don't have the expertise and they have surrounded themselves by people who don't have the expertise."

When asked about BJP president Amit Shah saying that the current economic slowdown is "due to technical reasons", Shourie asked if Shah was "that famous economist?" and warned that official figures cannot be brushed under the carpet. "They (government) are now in a sealed echo-chamber. They don't hear what is happening. The distress the RBI has documented of small and medium enterprise. These poor fellows had been clamouring and shouting. Nobody heard them," he added.

However, he said, despite all the red signals, there was little hope of a course change as "it all flows from the nature of the government" and

the Modi government has a "sense of hustings".

"Their core competence is event management. They are so self-satisfied with it. They are just briefing each other, not listening to others... They are concerned about 300-foot statute, bullet trains etc," he said.

**On economic slowdown**  
Shourie mounted relentless attack on government over the slowdown of the Indian economy. "And those facts emerge from official reports such as The Economic Survey, the RBI surveys, the SBI's report etc. Is it a fact or not that GDP has collapsed to 3.7% according to the old series? Is it a fact or not that index of industrial production has gone down from about 9% in 2015-16 to about 1.7% in April to July? Is it not a matter of concern?" Shourie questioned.

**On Yashwant Sinha row**  
Days before, senior BJP leader Yashwant Sinha had accused the government of making a "mess" of the economy.

Shourie said it was BJP's "standard operating procedure" to call Sinha a "frustrated" person for his remarks.

"Whenever they are confronted with inconvenient facts, they try to bury it in an avalanche of abuse. I have a constructive suggestion for them. They should publish a list of persons in advance who they think are frustrated," he said.

## BJP govt not providing supportive environment for growth: P Chidambaram

MELBOURNE: Criticising the BJP government for not providing a "very supportive" environment for India's growth, former finance minister P Chidambaram said demonetisation and the GST have caused a severe setback to the economy which is now becoming visible. Delivering a public lecture on 'An Emerging Power Engages the World: India and Australia', at the Australia India Institute in Melbourne on Tuesday, Chidambaram said "the current environment, unlike 1991 or 2004, is not very supportive to implement major reforms." "There are too many distractions, and there has been a few major disruptions," he said. He alleged that the RSS and BJP have been responsible for the numerous distractions, some of which, he said, are also infractions of the law. "By questionable actions, and words, or ominous silence, they ignited debates on inter-faith mar-

riages, sale and consumption of beef, cultural norms, dress codes, primacy of Hindi language, nationalism, raising slogans in praise of motherland, uniform civil code and special status of Jammu and Kashmir," Chidambaram said. He said such debates have only divided the society more and created fear among Dalits, tribals, minority communities, women and youth.

He referred to demonetisation and introduction of GST as two major disruptions, alleging that they caused a severe setback to the economy as a result of which GDP growth rate dipped every quarter during the last five quarters. "You will not be wrong to draw the conclusion that India's economic growth faces very strong headwinds. The impact of the political storms that have been started is visible. Economic growth has slowed down," he told the audience. Chidambaram said that more

than political mobilisation, it was the social mobilisation which was impressive as young men and women in the universities were asserting themselves and raising their voices against what they perceived as injustices.

"Among social groups, the Dalits have become quite vocal. Neglected castes among OBCs are building organisations to take on the government at the time of elections," he said.

The Congress leader said that the key and trigger point is the rise in unemployment which is fueling the anger among youths. Stressing on the need to carry out major structural reforms, the former minister said that the Centre is shy of reforming the labour laws originally enacted by Parliament and among the states, the few who were willing to do reforms faced resistance from trade unions. "The result is that few regular jobs... There is a growing

contractualisation and casualisation of labour, especially for the new entrants to the labour force. The same can be said about reforming the markets for land, farm produce and finance," he said. However, he said that there was some good work across the country done by numerous individuals like Kailash Satyarthi, Rajendra Singh and organisations like Goonj, Sulabh Sauchalaya and Asha. Commenting on the growing relations with Australia, Chidambaram said the bilateral ties have risen rapidly in the last decade.

The signing of Civil nuclear cooperation deal in 2014 was a landmark agreement, he said. "I expect Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement that is under discussion will prove to be another landmark." "My party, Congress, is a strong supporter of closer economic ties between the two countries," he said.

## Honeypreet was staying with another dera follower in Bathinda: Police

CHANDIGARH: Honeypreet Insan, who is being questioned by the Panchkula police, has revealed that while absconding, she was living with another Dera Sacha Sauda follower in Bathinda district, said Panchkula police commissioner A S Chawla.

"The lady who was travelling today has confirmed that Honeypreet Insan was living with her for the last many days in a remote location at Bathinda district, where she has land and a house too, which is where Honeypreet was staying," A S Chawla told media.

This comes from an earlier revelation by the Panchkula police that jailed Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram rahim Singh's 'adopted' daughter Honeypreet Insan was travelling from Guru Sar Modia where Haryana police had conducted raids as well.

"The other lady's name is Sukhdeep and is also a follower of the Dera," said Chawla.

He further said that they have deputed senior lady police officers from Haryana for this investigation, adding that Honeypreet

Insan's questioning is still going on.

The police commissioner asserted that Honeypreet is not revealing a lot of details.

"She is not giving many details yet which is why the interrogation is taking a lot of time." He also said that the interrogation will continuously proceed, where they will take her in remand after she is presented in the court on Wednesday at 2 pm.

He also asserted that they are verifying the facts that have come to the police, adding that, "We will have to take her to the locations for confirmation."

Honeypreet was wanted by the police in connection with the violence that broke out in Panchkula in August, the day a court there declared Ram Rahim guilty of rape.

The Delhi high court, on 26 September, rejected the transit anticipatory bail plea of Honeypreet.

For almost 40 days, Haryana police has been tracking leads on Honeypreet in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan.

## High-level committee to probe Yavatmal deaths

MUMBAI: Cabinet announces 2 lakh aid for victims' families

A high-level committee was formed by the State government on Tuesday to probe the death of 18 farmers in Vidarbha's Yavatmal district. The farmers lost their lives due to improper spraying of 'Profex Super' insecticide on cotton plantations.

The Hindu on Sunday had reported that the number of deaths was likely to go up with more such instances coming to light.

Kishor Tiwari, chief of the Vasant Rao Naik Shetkari Swavalamban Mission, said over 600 cases of insecticide infection had been reported in the district.

lakh compensation

He said indiscriminate use of wrong

combinations of insecticides and direct and continuous exposure to toxic substances owing to lack of protective gear were the reasons for the death of the farmers and farm workers over the past one week. The Cabinet on Tuesday discussed the issue and announced 2 lakh to family members of each of the victims.

"The government has taken a serious note of the incident. A committee headed by Additional Chief Secretary (Home) will probe the incident and has been asked to submit its report at the earliest," said Agriculture Minister Pandurang Fundkar.

Former Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar too has sought a detailed report.

## Satya Pal Malik sworn in as governor of Bihar

PATNA: Satya Pal Malik was on Wednesday sworn in as governor of Bihar. He was administered the oath of office by Patna high court chief justice Rajendra Menon at Raj Bhawan in Patna.

Chief minister Nitish Kumar, deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi, Bihar legislative assembly speaker Vijay Kumar Choudhary and many other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

The post of governor in Bihar had fallen vacant after Ram Nath Kovind resigned following his nomination as the BJP's candidate for presidential poll in June. West Bengal governor Keshari Nath Tripathi was holding the additional charge of Bihar during



the interim period.

Earlier, Malik, 71, arrived in Patna on Tuesday. He was received at the Patna airport by the chief minister, his cabinet colleagues, assembly

speaker and senior government officers. After the chief minister presented a bouquet to Malik at the airport, he broke protocol and hugged Nitish Kumar and his deputy Su-

shil Kumar Modi. Malik, who was BJP's national vice-president before his appointment to the gubernatorial post, has also served as Union minister of state for parliamentary affairs and tourism.

Born on July 24, 1946 in a farmers family at Hisawada in Baghat district of Uttar Pradesh, he was elected to the Rajya Sabha twice in 1980 and 1986 and to the Lok Sabha from Aligarh in 1989. He was also a member of Uttar Pradesh assembly from 1974 to 1977. He holds B.Sc and LLB degrees from Meerut University and a diploma in parliamentary affairs from Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies run by Parliament of India.

## Rahul Gandhi begins three-day Amethi visit today, to attend farmers' chaupal

LUCKNOW: Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi will take part in a chaupal or meeting of farmers at Kathaura village near Jagdishpur on the first day of his three-day visit to his parliamentary constituency Amethi in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday.

This is his first visit to Amethi after the Congress' debacle in the 2017 assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh.

Gandhi's decision to hold a chaupal assumes significance in the backdrop of his objections to National Highways Authority of India's (NHAI) move to acquire land from farmers in Kathaura for broadening roads.

On August 1, Gandhi flew to Lucknow to draw the attention of NHAI officials towards the procedure that was being followed

to acquire land from farmers and payment of compensation to them.

He submitted a memorandum to NHAI chief general manager Rajiv Agarwal, who assured him of a visit to the spot and an inquiry into the issue.

As most of the issues raised at his meeting with the NHAI have remained unresolved, the chaupal is likely to bring the focus back on them. Gandhi will be visiting Amethi after a gap of six months and his absence led to anger and disappointment among the voters. In August, dozens of posters declaring the 47-year-old local MP as "missing" surfaced in Amethi. The posters carried Gandhi's picture with a message in Hindi saying "anyone giving information about Rahul Gandhi will be rewarded". The district



administration earlier requested the local Congress unit to reschedule Gandhi's programme to after October 5, saying making security arrangements on those dates will cause 'inconvenience'. District magistrate Amethi Yogesh Kumar in a letter sent to the Amethi District Congress Committee (DCC) on September 30, 2017, saying the district's police force will be

engaged in duties relating to idol immersion, Dussehra and Moharram. Reacting sharply to the letter, senior Uttar Pradesh Congress leader Akhilesh Singh accused the Yogi Adityanath-led Bharatiya Janata Party government in the state of "using tactics" to stop Gandhi from visiting his constituency. "The Uttar Pradesh government is worried and does

not want Rahul to visit Amethi, fearing that he might raise issues directly related to the public. This scares the BJP," he said.

Singh added that the Yogi government was perhaps worried that Gandhi's schedule might "eclipse" the proposed visit by BJP chief Amit Shah and Union ministers Smriti Irani and Nitin Gadkari to Amethi on October 10. Refuting the grounds on which the authorities asked the Congress vice-president to reschedule his visit, Singh told news agency PTI that almost all the festivities would be over by October 4. Gandhi on Monday received the administration's nod to visit Amethi, which also said he would be provided protection. On the second day, Gandhi will visit parts of his constituency in Rae Bareilly district.

## Two killed, houses damaged in explosion in Kanpur

KANPUR: A massive explosion in Kanpur on Wednesday killed two persons, razed a building and damaged many houses, police said. The incident occurred at one Raghunath Singh's house in Maharajpur's Sarsaul in Uttar Pradesh. It ripped through the house and razed it to the ground.

Two bodies have been recovered from the debris so far. One of the victims is Singh's son.

Rescue operations were still underway. Police officials informed that more than seven houses in the vicinity have been badly damaged. An official involved in the rescue operations told IANS as the lane where the incident took place was narrow,



JCB machines and ambulances were finding it difficult to reach the spot. District authorities said they were yet to ascertain the reason behind the explosion but fear that a stockpile of crackers could have triggered it. In this area many illegal cracker manufacturing units operate and godowns are located.



## Find out the health benefits of wheat pasta

With more gluten-free diets becoming fashionable, together with a lack of genuine understanding of the subject, many people have started to question how healthy wheat pasta really is.

The only secret to healthy and awesome food combination is a balance of protein,

Carbohydrates, fat and fibre! One such meal from the Mediterranean diet is Pasta – which is delicious and fairly easy to prepare.

Rajneesh Bhasin, MD, Borges India says, pasta provides energy and essential nutrients in the form of fiber, vitamins and minerals.

What better than filling your tummy with a platter of mouth watering pasta!

While we are frequently burdened with health advice that pastas aren't healthy, one single meal of pasta (100g) is loaded with 12.5 g protein and 2.5 g fibre while whole wheat pastas are loaded with 3.5 to 4 times the fibre of regular durum wheat pastas.

The research, published in Nutrition and Diabetes, indicates that pasta consumption doesn't contribute to obesity, and was actually linked to a lower body mass index (BMI) because it known to be a part of a healthy Mediterranean diet people across the globe aspire to adopt.

Well, it is important to know that own it doesn't raise cholesterol, it contains no unhealthy fats and it is good source of the carbohydrates and nutrients we need for our body to work properly.

Your aim should be to increase your energy expenditure while cutting down the amount of fat you eat, which will come from the accompanying ingredients rather than the pasta itself.

Bhasin further stated, wheat has been a staple foodstuff for humans for centuries, but of late refined wheat flour (maida) has taken up dominant position in our daily diets in the form of bread, noodles and other products.

It is mostly due to its ease in conversion to different shapes, better shelf life and reduced price even though we know that refined flour (maida) is difficult to digest and is known to increase insulin levels in blood over a period of time.

With this growing awareness and health concern with respect to refined flours, we are seeing a switch to whole wheat products.

These health concerns coupled with good taste are easily addressed with nutritious products like whole wheat pasta.

Whole wheat pasta is made up from whole durum wheat semolina which contains all the parts of a wheat grain i.e bran, germ, endosperm unlike refined flours which contains only endosperm which erodes major fibre and protein boosters in the form of bran and germ.

In fact, most Indians are aware of the fact that it is the bran which has the major portion of fiber and protein due to the lineage and knowledge about wheat farming and grinding process.

And cooking pasta al dente reduces its glycemic index, which cuts out any sugar rush.

Several studies have also shown that ½ cup serving of whole wheat pasta can reduce the risk of chronic health conditions like cardiovascular disease, type II diabetes, cancer, digestive issues.

Even though many of us are already aware about the health benefits of whole wheat pasta, we are apprehensive about introducing it in our daily lives due to the inhibition about its taste and pasta experience it is meant to deliver.

But in the case of whole wheat pasta, even though the taste is little different from durum wheat pasta it is nuttier goes well with the Indian palate while delivering an authentic Italian gourmet pasta experience. It is time we Indians switch to healthier products which win on the grounds of taste without compromising on the health benefits, concludes Bhasin.

## THINK GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEAN OIL IS HEALTHY SCIENTISTS HAVE BAD NEWS FOR YOU

Cooking oils and their health properties have long since been a topic of debate for scientists all over the world.

With numerous varieties of oils in the markets, it doesn't come as a surprise that the diet conscious get confused and argue about which oil is healthier.

Soybean oil and genetically modified (GM) soybean oil are two such products whose health properties are highly debated, with the latter often getting the upper hand. However, a study has now busted the myth that GM soybean oil is healthier than normal soybean oil, warning that it's harmful to liver function. According to University Of California – Riverside researchers, while soybean oil induces less obesity and insulin resistance than soybean oil, but its effects on diabetes and fatty liver are similar to those of soybean oil.

The team tested Plenish®, a genetically-modified (GM) soybean oil released by DuPont in 2014.

Plenish is engineered to have low linoleic acid, resulting in an oil similar in composition to olive oil, the basis of the Mediterranean diet and considered to be healthful.

They compared the long-term met-



abolic effects of soybean oil to those of Plenish. The study also compares both soybean oil and Plenish to coconut oil, which is rich in saturated fatty acids and causes the least amount of weight gain among all the high-fat diets tested.

Lead researcher said Frances Sladek found that all three oils raised the cholesterol levels in the liver and blood, dispelling the popular myth that soybean oil reduces cholesterol levels.

Next, the researchers compared Plenish to olive oil. Both oils have high oleic acid, a fatty acid believed to reduce blood pressure and help with weight loss. "In our mouse experiments, olive oil produced essentially identical effects

as Plenish - more obesity than coconut oil, although less than soybean oil - and very fatty livers, which was surprising as olive oil is typically considered to be the healthiest of all the vegetable oils," said another researcher Poonamjot Deol.

Plenish, which has a fatty acid composition similar to olive oil, induced hepatomegaly, or enlarged livers, and liver dysfunction, just like olive oil."

"Our findings do not necessarily relate to other soybean products like soy sauce, tofu, or soy milk - products that are largely from the water-soluble compartment of the soybean; oil, on the other hand, is from the fat-soluble compartment," Sladek said.

## You'll think twice before throwing away that banana peel Here are some health benefits

Bananas are well-known all over the world for their health benefits and are perhaps one of the most consumed fruits in the world. A rich source of energy, bananas are also nature's most under-rated fruits.

However, once peeled, the fruit goes into our tummies and the peel goes into the trash. What if we told you that banana peels have health benefits of their own?

You won't be throwing it away if you knew what it can do. Check it out!

Teeth whitening

Rub the peel on your teeth for two weeks. You should begin to see some results very soon. Remove skin warts

If you have skin warts, this problem can be easily solved with a banana peel. Simply rub the peel on the wart. This will also prevent them from appearing in the future.

Acne and wrinkles

Bananas are great for skin care. All you need to do is rub a banana peel on your skin,

specially on problematic areas and leave it for 30 minutes. Do this everyday till you start seeing the difference.

Banana peel also helps to keep your skin hydrated. Add an egg yolk to a mashed banana peel. Apply this mixture on your face and wash it off after 5 minutes.

Treat psoriasis

Apply the peel on the psoriasis affected area. The banana peel has moisturizing properties and also reduces itchiness. It will quickly heal psoriasis and you can see noticeable results within no time.

UV Protection

Banana peel helps in protecting the eyes from the harmful UV rays. Make sure you leave the peel under the sun before rubbing the banana peel on your eyes. It is also proven to reduce the risk of cataracts.

Some important tips:

Use a fresh banana peel for best results. Never keep an unpeeled banana for long.



Consume immediately after peeling. Also, the peel should be used immediately.

Store bananas in a cool, dry place and always keep them away from heat or sunlight.

## BLACK TEA MAY HELP IN PREVENTING OBESITY AND PROMOTING WEIGHT-LOSS

While the caffeine content in black tea is a concerning factor, it is still considered to be the healthier option in comparison to black coffee.

Tea drinkers are in abundance across the globe and a lot of them like theirs black. But, here's a good news for you if you're one of them.

Researchers have revealed that black tea may be as beneficial as green tea in preventing obesity and promoting well-being.

The findings showed that chemicals found in black tea – called polyphenols – alters energy metabolism in the liver by changing gut metabolites.

Studies have previously linked black tea consumption to improvement in health problems like digestion, brain health, cancer, heart health, diarrhoea and even Parkinson's, provided it is consumed in moderation.

Earlier, it was known that green



tea polyphenols are more effective and offer more health benefits than black tea polyphenols since green tea chemicals are absorbed into the blood and tissue.

However, "our new findings sug-

gest that black tea, through a specific mechanism through the gut microbiome, may also contribute to good health and weight loss in humans", said lead author Susanne Henning, Professor at the Univer-

sity of California – Los Angeles (UCLA). "The results suggest that both green and black teas are pre-biotics, substances that induce the growth of good microorganisms that contribute to a person's well-being,"

Henning added.

For the study, published in the European Journal of Nutrition, the team conducted experiments on mice that consumed a high-fat, high-sugar diets and were supplemented with green tea or black tea extracts.

Both groups had lesser type of bacteria associated with obesity, but had more of bacteria associated with lean body mass.

However, only the mice that consumed black tea extract had an increase in a type of bacteria called Pseudobutyrvibrio – which could help explain the difference between how black and green tea change energy metabolism.

The findings suggest that the health benefits of both tea go beyond their antioxidant benefits and that both have a strong impact on the gut microbiome, noted Zhaoping Li, Director at UCLA's Centre for Human Nutrition.

## Visual learning linked to deep sleep

Can lack of sleep affect our ability to learn? It appears so as researchers have found that visual learning gets cemented in the brain during the deepest part of sleep, called slow-wave sleep. When we see something, our retinas transmit that image to the thalamus in the brain, where neurons send very basic visual information to the visual cortex to be processed, said study author Sara Aton, Assistant Professor at University of Michigan in the US. When the brain is awake, neurons in the thalamus and cortex fire steadily to transmit visual information between them. However, in slow-wave sleep, those neurons will



burst and then pause rhythmically and in synchrony, Aton said. There is also communication in the opposite direction -- between the visual cortex and thalamus -- forming a loop of communication between the two structures, said the study published

in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. What is the significance of these brain waves? Lead author Jaclyn Durkin, a doctoral student in Aton's lab, made recordings in a part of the thalamus called the lateral geniculate nucleus,

which processes visual information, and the visual cortex of mice. The researchers tracked the activity of these populations of neurons while presenting the mice with patterns of visual stimulation. They did this across many hours of subsequent sleep. "In these mice, during visual experience, we saw immediate changes in the neurons in the thalamus, but nothing going on in the visual cortex," Aton said. "These waves during subsequent sleep are apparently able to transfer information from the thalamus to the cortex, and that information reflects what that animal has just been looking at," Aton said.

## Resort to Vitamin D supplements if you are suffering from asthma

Vitamin D supplements may halve the risk of suffering a severe asthma attack, claims a study. If clubbed with medicines, it can act as a source of immediate relief for the ones who suffer from a severe asthma attack. Asthma deaths arise primarily during episodes of acute worsening of symptoms, known as attacks or 'exacerbations', which are commonly triggered by viral upper respiratory infections, researchers said. Vitamin D is thought to protect against such attacks by boosting immune responses to respiratory viruses and dampening down harmful airway inflammation, they said.

Researchers from Queen Mary Univer-

sity of London (QMUL) in the UK analysed data from 955 participants in seven randomised controlled trials, which tested the use of vitamin D supplements.

The study, published in The Lancet Respiratory Medicine journal, found that vitamin D supplementation resulted in a 30 per cent reduction in the rate of asthma attacks requiring treatment with steroid tablets or injections. Researchers also found that the supplementation resulted in a 50 per cent reduction in the risk of experiencing at least one asthma attack requiring hospitalisation - from six per cent of people experiencing such an event to three per cent.

## EU orders Amazon to pay 250 mn euros in taxes to Luxembourg

MUMBAI: The EU turned the screw on US tech giants Wednesday, ordering Amazon to repay Luxembourg 250 million euros in back taxes and referring Ireland to the top EU court for failing to collect billions from Apple. Europe's competition chief Margrethe Vestager accused tiny Luxembourg of an illegal deal with internet shopping giant Amazon to pay less tax than other businesses. The two cases are part of a wider offensive by the EU on Silicon Valley behemoths as Europe seeks ways to regulate them more tightly on issues ranging from privacy to taxation. "Luxembourg gave illegal tax benefits to Amazon. As a result, almost three quarters of Amazon's profits were not taxed," Vestager said in a statement. The tax demand comes a year after the hard-charging Vestager ordered tech icon Apple to repay 13 billion euros (\$14.5 billion) in back-taxes to Ireland in a decision that shocked the world. In a sign that it was not letting up, the EU on Wednesday referred Ireland to the EU's highest court for failing to collect the bill. "The European Commission has decided to refer Ireland to the European Court of Justice for failing to recover from Apple illegal state aid," the EU's anti-trust regulator said in a statement.

"Luxembourg gave illegal tax benefits to Amazon. As a result, almost three quarters of Amazon's profits were not taxed," Margrethe Vestager, Europe's competition chief. For its part, Amazon rejected the charges and said it would "study the commission's ruling and consider our legal options." "We believe that Amazon did not receive any special treatment from Luxembourg and that we paid tax in full accordance with both Luxembourg and international tax law," it said in a statement. Vestager's announcement comes days after the EU said at a special digital summit that it was drawing up a special tax targeting

Google and Facebook, a policy championed by French President Emmanuel Macron. Silicon Valley targeted

Launched three years ago, the European Commission's probe into Amazon's deals with Luxembourg was part of several investigations into sweetheart tax arrangements between major companies and several EU countries.

The commission -- the EU's powerful executive arm responsible for policing its competition rules -- opened the probe in 2014 in the belief that Luxembourg's tax favours to Amazon constituted "state aid" that distorts competition. Many came in the wake of the "Luxleaks" scandal which revealed details of tax breaks given by the tiny but wealthy duchy of Luxembourg to dozens of major US firms.

The revelations came as a particular embarrassment for European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, who was prime minister of Luxembourg at the time when the tax deals were made. In similar cases, Vestager decided against the tax deals for coffee-shop chain Starbucks by the Netherlands and Italian automaker Fiat by Luxembourg -- both companies were ordered to pay roughly 30 million euros.

The Amazon case hinges on the belief that a tax deal between Luxembourg and Amazon in 2003 constituted illegal state aid, giving the company an unfair advantage over competitors.

Once found at fault, a country must recover the amount granted in illegal state aid, potentially a huge amount of money given that some of the tax deals date back many years. Amazon has sharply rejected the allegations, arguing that it employs 1,500 people in Luxembourg and that its business remains unprofitable in Europe.

# Stimulus, farm waiver to push up fiscal deficit by 1%: RBI

MUMBAI: Cutting its growth estimate for the current fiscal, the RBI warned on Wednesday that any economic stimulus and farm debt waivers could push up fiscal deficit by 1 percentage point, potentially stoking inflation.

Such measure could lead to inflation surging by 0.50 per cent, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in the Monetary Policy Report released along with the fourth bi-monthly monetary policy statement for 2017-18. "Real GVA (gross value added) growth is projected at 6.7 per cent for 2017-18 -- 6.4 per cent in Q2, 7.1 per cent in Q3 and 7.7 per cent in Q4 -- with risks evenly balanced around this baseline path," it said.

The RBI, in August, had pegged growth at 7.3 per cent for 2017-18 on a GVA basis.

With the government mulling a stimulus package to revive the sagging growth, the RBI cautioned that a 0.50 per cent slippage in the Centre's fiscal



deficit alone can increase inflation by 0.25 per cent.

"...the combined (Centre plus states) fiscal deficit to GDP ratio may increase by around 100 bps in 2017-18," it said. Referring to a 2005 study,

The central bank said, "higher fiscal deficits per se can lead to an increase in inflation expectations and actual inflation".

It explained that there exists a

long-running relationship between fiscal deficits and inflation in India.

Empirical estimates, according to the RBI, suggest "that an increase in fiscal deficit to GDP ratio by 100 bps could lead to a permanent increase of about 50 bps in inflation".

Under pressure because of a slow-growing economy, which slipped to a three-year low of 5.7 per cent in April-June, the government is weighing steps for

economic revival, which may include a stimulus package of up to Rs 40,000 crore, according to news reports.

The Reserve Bank has been persistently flagging concerns on fiscal slippages and also on farm loan waivers, which it fears will wreck the credit culture.

In upside risks to its inflation forecast, where the RBI expected price rise to move up to 4.6 per cent by the March quarter of 2018 from 3.4 per cent in August, the central bank flagged possible fiscal slippages due to farm loan waivers and potential stimulus measures. Other upside risks to its estimate include the expected increases in salaries and allowances by state governments and short-term uncertainty because of GST.

The RBI estimated headline inflation to rise to 4.2 per cent by the December quarter.

Professional forecasters expect inflation to rise to 4.5 per cent by the March quarter, it said.

## Disney did try to acquire Twitter, says CEO Bob Iger

SAN FRANCISCO: Disney contemplated acquiring the micro-blogging platform Twitter but ended up investing in the interactive media firm BAMTech, Walt Disney CEO Bob Iger has confirmed. Speaking at the Vanity Fair's New Establishment Summit in California late on Tuesday, Iger said he was interested in buying Twitter but things did not materialise. There were rumours last year that Google, Salesforce and Walt Disney were in the race to buy Twitter. The acquisition of Twitter -- strug-

gling to add new users amid stalled growth -- was reported to be about \$20 billion. Twitter currently has 328 million monthly active users. According to a report in The Street, Disney later acquired \$1 billion stake in BAMTech, the interactive media and Internet company of Major League Baseball. Disney then purchased a majority stake in the streaming platform for an additional \$1.58 billion. BAMTech is helping Disney bolster its direct-to-consumer streaming services.

## BHEL pays 79% dividend for 2016-17, highest in 3 years



NEW DELHI: State-owned power equipment maker Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd BSE 0.18% (BHEL BSE 0.18%) has paid a final equity dividend of 39 per cent for 2016-17.

With this, the total dividend paid during the year stands at 79 per cent, including an interim one of 40 per cent paid earlier, BHEL said in a statement today.

The figure is four times the dividend paid in the previous year and its highest in the last three years.

In value terms, the total dividend for 2016-17 amounts to Rs 386.72 crore. With the move, the company has maintained its impeccable track record of rewarding investors by paying dividends uninterruptedly for four decades without a break.

A cheque of Rs 120.39 crore towards the final dividend for 2016-17 on the equity (63.06 per cent) held by the central government was presented by BHEL Chairman and Managing Director Atul Sobti to Heavy Industries Minister Anant G Geete here today.

BHEL has paid a total dividend of Rs 244 crore to the Government of India for 2016-17, including the interim dividend paid earlier.

In spite of 2016-17 posing headwinds, BHEL achieved double-digit growth in top line and bounced back into profit, reversing the declining trend of the last three years and ending the year with significant traction in growth drivers.

During the year, BHEL recorded a turnover of Rs 28,840 crore, up 11 per cent over the previous year, and profit before tax (PBT) of Rs 628 crore compared to loss of Rs 1,164 crore (Ind-AS restated) in the previous fiscal. Ind-AS is short for Indian Accounting Standard.

Net profit (profit after tax) stood at Rs 496 crore against net loss of Rs 710 crore (Ind-AS restated) in the previous year.

# Petrol, diesel prices may further dip as Centre wants states to cut VAT by 5%

NEW DELHI: After cutting excise duty by Rs 2 per litre, the Centre now wants states to cut sales tax or VAT on petrol and diesel by 5% to provide further relief to consumers. Finance minister Arun Jaitley will soon write to all state chief ministers urging them to cut VAT on petrol and diesel, oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan told reporters. "We have proactively cut excise duty. Now it is the turn of the states to reduce VAT," he said.

Unlike the Centre, states levy VAT as an ad valorem duty which rises every time there is an increase in price. The Centre, he said, sacrificed Rs 26,000 crore in revenue in the cut in excise duty.

"States are the biggest beneficiary. They get all of the VAT collection plus they also get 42% of the central excise collections. The amount remaining with the Centre is used to finance centrally sponsored schemes in states," he said.

The Centre had raised excise duty by Rs 11.77 per litre on petrol and Rs 13.47 a litre on diesel between



November 2014 and January 2016 to take away gains arising from plummeting international oil rates.

On Tuesday, it reduced excise duty on petrol to Rs 19.48 per litre from Rs 21.48 per litre and on die-

sel to Rs 15.33 a litre from Rs 17.33. This is after petrol price rose by Rs 7.8 since early July to reach over three-year high of Rs 70.88 a litre in Delhi while diesel rates had risen by Rs 5.7 to touch an all-time

high of Rs 59.14. Pradhan said as a result of the excise duty reduction, petrol price has been cut by Rs 2.5 per litre and diesel by Rs 2.25.

Petrol in Delhi now costs Rs 68.38 a litre and diesel is now priced at Rs 56.89. He said states impose VAT ranging from 26% to 38%. "I urge all states to reduce VAT by 5% in line with the cut in central excise duty to provide farmers and consumers with one more slab of relief."

BJP-ruled Maharashtra levies 46.52% VAT (47.64% in Mumbai) on petrol, the highest in the country. Andhra Pradesh has 38.82% VAT on petrol while BJP-governed Madhya Pradesh levies 38.79% VAT on the fuel.

BJP-led NDA governs 18 out of the 29 states. Delhi and Himachal Pradesh levy 27% VAT on petrol while Punjab has 36.04% VAT. Haryana levies 26.25% VAT.

Pradhan defended the daily revision in fuel prices saying it helps pass on any benefit to consumer instantly.

The government in June junked 15-year practice of fortnightly revision in rates and moved to daily changes in petrol and diesel in line with international oil movements.

## Karti Chidambaram Appeals To Supreme Court Against CBI Questioning

NEW DELHI: Karti Chidambaram has approached the Supreme Court, seeking that the summons to question him in the Aircel-Maxis scam probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation be put on hold. The 45-year-old businessman has already been questioned twice by the agency over the last two months. A fresh notice had asked him to appear before the agency for questioning on October 4. The CBI had asked Karti Chidambaram to appear before it on September 14, but he refused, saying a special court had discharged all the accused and terminated proceedings in the matter. Last week, assets belonging to him worth 90 lakhs were being taken over by the Enforcement Directorate, which is also investigating corruption allegations against him. The son of former union minister P Chidambaram is being investigated for allegations that he used his father's influence to clear foreign investment worth around Rs. 300 crore in a television company. At



the time, INX Media was owned by Peter and Indrani Mukerjea, who are currently in jail on charges of murdering Ms Mukerjea's daughter Sheena Bora. Karti Chidambaram has denied any wrongdoing. His father has said the government was targeting him through his son. The family has challenged the government to prove that Karti Chidambaram has taken any kickbacks or parked funds in offshore accounts. A lookout notice - which alerts airports to stop a passenger from traveling abroad - had been issued against Karti Chidambaram. The CBI has claimed that he has been

using his foreign trips to delete evidence - the bank accounts where he had allegedly stashed the money. Karti Chidambaram had not appeared for questioning twice after summons from the agency. He had been called by the agency twice earlier - on May 18 and July 21. The first time, he had been abroad. On the second occasion, he had asked the agency for a reprieve, saying he had approached the Madras High Court challenging the case against him. He was questioned in August after the Supreme Court said he must join the investigation and undergo questioning.

## Aadhaar to help catch money launderers, fake bank accounts: Ravi Shankar Prasad

NEW DELHI: Linking bank accounts with Aadhaar will help catching money launderers and fake account holders, Law and IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said on Tuesday.

"Why we are linking bank account to the Aadhaar. If you do money laundering, you can be caught. If you have fake bank accounts, you will be caught," Prasad said at cyber security conference organised by Observer Research Foundation.

He said 60 lakh bank accounts have been linked to Aadhaar.

The minister said that the government has saved Rs 58,000 crore under direct benefit transfer scheme, detected 3 crore million fake gas connections and close to 27 crore ration cards with help of Aadhaar card.

The minister said everyday six crore authentications are done on the Aadhaar platform.

He said that digital governance is the form of governance.

Prasad said that the government is



bringing most of the service online from hospital to land records, crop rates etc.

"Indians have got biggest footprint in the field of banking, power, finance and we are also encouraging cyber drills and auditors," Prasad said.

The minister said that 0.06 per cent of digital frauds have been unearthed which is a challenge for the country.

"We have also set-up sectoral CERTs (computer emergency response team) in the field of banking, power, finance and we are also encouraging cyber drills and auditors," Prasad said.

The minister said that 0.06 per cent of digital frauds have been unearthed which is a challenge for the country.

# Afridi, Morgan spearhead T10 revolution

KARACHI: The United Arab Emirates will introduce a new cricket format when big hitters Shahid Afridi of Pakistan, India's Virender Singh, Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara and England's Eoin Morgan feature in a T-10 league in December. The ten-over-a-side matches will be spread over 90 minutes (45 minutes each side) and hosted in Sharjah, it was announced on Tuesday. Twenty20 cricket was intro-

duced in England in 2003 while the first international Twenty20 match was held between Australia and New Zealand at Auckland in February 2005. Since then the shortest format -- the other two are five-day Tests and 50-over internationals -- has become the most popular amongst the fans around the world. The league's president Salman Iqbal hoped the idea will kick off. "Everyone has played T-10

cricket on the streets and this will give more fire to cricket and will be a big step forward and people will definitely enjoy it," said Iqbal. The tournament will be as swift as the format, lasting just four days from 21-24 December with former Pakistan captain Misbah-ul-Haq and Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan also featuring. Afridi, who retired from international cricket last year said he was thrilled at the idea.



"When I was told of the idea I was thrilled and requested that I want to play," said Afridi, famous as Boom Boom for his big hitting. England's current one-day and Twenty20 captain Morgan was confident that T-10 cricket will have an impact. "The whole concept is exciting," said Morgan. "We all remember when the first time Twenty20 cricket was played and since then it (twenty20) has impacted the other formats.

"If this new idea takes off then I am sure it will also impact the other forms of the game." The four teams will be selected through a drafts later this month. Misbah said the new formats will be easy for ageing players as well. "It is an exciting idea and a good thing for players like me," said 43-year-old Misbah who retired in May this year. "It will need just ten overs of batting and then fielding and at this age I can afford that."

## Tamim Iqbal to miss second Test against South Africa due to injury

JOHANNESBURG: Tamim Iqbal, Bangladesh cricket team opener, will miss the second and final Test against South Africa after aggravating an injury on his left thigh he sustained during the pre-series warm-up match in Benoni. Tamim scored 39 and 0 in the first Test in Potchefstroom, which Bangladesh lost by a huge margin of 333 runs. However, a scan which was conducted after the first Test confirmed the scale of the injury, a grade 1 tear that usually takes four weeks to heal, reports ESPNcricinfo. Bangladesh was hoping that the left-handed batsman returns to fitness in time



for the ODI series. Soumya Sarkar is likely to replace him as opener in the second Test beginning Friday in Bloemfontein. Star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan has already taken rest from the two-Test series.

## Dane Paterson only newcomer as Cricket South Africa name team for Bangladesh ODIs

CAPE TOWN: Dane Paterson was handed a first call-up to South Africa's one-day international team on Wednesday for the series against Bangladesh, two days after receiving his first selection for the Test side. He is the only uncapped player among the 14 called up for the three ODIs in Kimberley on Oct. 15; Paarl on Oct. 18 and East London on Oct. 22. Paterson was called up on Monday to replace the injured Morne Morkel for the second Test against Bangladesh that starts in Bloemfontein on Friday.



"Dane did very well in the T20s against England earlier this year, particularly when it came to death bowling," said Cricket South Africa selection panel official Linda Zondi. "We now want to see if he can do a similar job in the 50 overs format. "Faf du Plessis will lead the Proteas now that he has taken over the captaincy from AB de Villiers in the ODI format. This is the start of our campaign to begin preparing our squad for the 2019 World Cup," he added.

## Sri Lanka cricket team targets Pakistan record in UAE

DUBAI: Sri Lanka will hope their left-arm spinner Rangana Herath maintains pressure on Pakistan when the second and final Test -- a day-night affair with pink ball -- starts at Dubai stadium on Friday. The 39-year-old took 6/43 on the final day to fail Pakistan's modest 136-run chase in the first Test in Abu Dhabi on Monday. The narrow 21-run win gives Sri Lanka a unique chance for a series win over Pakistan on their neutral venues of United Arab Emirates where they have never lost a series in nine attempts. They have won five and drawn four series in the UAE ever since the 2009 terrorist attacks on the Sri Lankan team bus forced them to play home matches out of Pakistan. Herath exposed the new batting line up of Pakistan, playing without their batting greats Younis Khan and Misbah-ul-Haq for the

time since they retired in May this year. Sri Lankan skipper Dinesh Chandimal described Herath as "a team man and an asset." "I have no idea how long he is going to play, but I am sure he will do what he can for the team," said Chandimal of Herath who completed 400 wickets in his 84th Tests in Abu Dhabi. "He is a team man and an asset." The left-arm spinner also reached 100 wickets against Pakistan during the first Test. "We need to beat our best again and can't underestimate Pakistan because we know they are a good team," said Chandimal whose team will rise one spot to replace Pakistan on sixth, even with a 1-0 result. Chandimal anchored the batting with a polished 155 not out in Sri Lanka's first innings total of 419, ably filling in for the more experienced Angelo Mathews who didn't



come with the squad due to a calf injury. Sarfraz Ahmed hopes Pakistan team moves on from the defeat in his first Test as captain.

"We will do our best to be more positive against Herath," said Ahmed. "We have never lost in UAE so it's also important to keep that record intact." Pakistan will be assessed pacer Hasan Ali in the next two days after he had fitness issues while they also hope spearhead Mohammad Amir returns to form with the pink ball after going wicketless in the first Test. Debutant Haris Sohail provided a positive in the batting after scores of 76 and 34 while Azhar Ali scored 85. The match will be the sixth day-night Test after the innovation was first adopted by Australia when they took on New Zealand at Adelaide in 2015. Pakistan beat the West Indies in their first day-night Test at the same venue last year but this will be the first time Sri Lanka feature in a pink ball Test.

## How a 'skinny' Cristiano Ronaldo cried, sneaked out at night to live his dreams

MADRID: Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo has revealed he used to sneak out of Sporting CP's (Sporting Lisbon) academy to work out as an 11-year-old in order to get stronger. Ronaldo always knew he had the talent to succeed in football, but grew frustrated by coaches' comments about his size. Discussing the difficulties he faced after leaving hometown Madeira to start his time in Sporting's youth system aged just 11, Cristiano Ronaldo pinpointed where his desire to improve his physicality began. "I cried almost every day," Ronaldo wrote in The Players' Tribune. "I was still in Portugal, but it was like moving to another country. The accent made it like a completely different language. "The culture was different. I didn't know anybody, and it was extremely lonely. My family could only afford to come visit me every four months or so. I was missing them so much that every day was painful. "Football kept me going. I knew I was doing things on the field that the other kids at the academy couldn't do. I remember the first time I heard one of the kids say to another kid, 'Did you see what he did? This guy is a beast.' "I started hearing it all the time. Even from the coaches. But then somebody would always say, 'Yeah but it's a shame he's so small.' "And it's true, I was skinny. I had no muscle. So I made a decision at 11 years old. I knew I had a lot of talent, but I decided that I was going to work harder than everybody. I was going to stop playing like a kid. I was going to stop acting like a kid. I was going to train like I could be the best in the world. "I don't know where this feeling came from. It was just inside of me. It's like a hunger that never goes away. When you lose, it's like you're starving. When you win, it's still like you're starving, but you ate a little crumb. This is the only way I can explain it. "I started sneaking out of the dormitory at night to go work out. I got bigger and faster. And then I would walk onto the field - and the people who used to whisper, 'Yeah, but he's so skinny?' Now they would be looking at me like it was the end of the world. "When I was 15, I turned to some of my team-mates during training. I remember it so clearly. I said to them, 'I'll be the best in the world one day'. They were kind of laughing about it. I wasn't even on Sporting's first team yet, but I had that belief. I really meant it.



## South African players oppose idea of 4-day Tests



CAPE TOWN: On the day that two of South Africa's leading Test cricketers voiced their strong opposition to the concept of four-day Tests, it has emerged that Cricket South Africa failed to properly consult with their players prior to scheduling a four-day match against Zimbabwe. Although the players have promised to take part in the match if the ICC approves CSA's request for it to carry Test status, the game is likely to be cancelled in the event that it is not. On Monday (Oct 2), captain Faf du Plessis and opening batsman Dean Elgar both expressed their desire for five-day Tests to continue in the wake of South Africa's victory over Bangladesh in the first Test, which was only sewn up on the fifth morning in Potchefstroom. While du Plessis said that removing a day would make the game

less challenging, Elgar suggested that cricket "should not tinker with something that's not broken." "I am a fan of five-day Test cricket," du Plessis said. "I believe the great Test matches have gone to the last hour of the last day on day five. That's what is so special about Test cricket. In four-day cricket or first-class cricket, it does feel easier because there are only four days. "For five days you have to graft it out. Bowlers have to bowl a lot more and batters have to construct much bigger innings. This Test proved that a day five was needed. If it was a rain-off yesterday, it would have been very disappointing so I am a fan of that." Yet Elgar, who does not play the shorter formats for South Africa, was even more vociferous in his support of five-day games. "I'm a five-day Test

specialist, and it must stay that way in my opinion," he said. "I don't think you should tinker with something that's not broken. If you go and play around the world, Test cricket is followed quite well. If you play in Australia, if you play in England, even if you play in South Africa against the relatively big nations you still get very good crowds. There are other formats that are being experimented with. I don't see why Test cricket should suffer. I am a purist when it comes to that. Hopefully the game can have longevity in the five-day format." Such vehement opposition to four-day Tests raised the question of why CSA pushed the concept by scheduling a day-night game against Zimbabwe on Boxing Day, but it turns out that no formal consultation took place. While CSA's then-chief executive

Haron Lorgat had informal discussions with the South African team management when Russell Domingo was still the coach, the final proposal was supposed to be discussed with the players -- through the South African Cricketers' Association (SACA) -- after their tour of England. Despite the fact that those talks are yet to take place, CSA announced last month that it intends to host Zimbabwe for a four-day day/night Test in December. Both the playing conditions for the game and the match's Test status will need to be ratified by the ICC when it meets in Auckland next week. "There's a lot of work that needs to go into it," added Irish. "We know there are scheduling advantages but there hasn't been enough work done on it. I understand why CSA want to do this. They want to provide content over a period where there is traditionally cricket. I am not sure that a four-day day/night Test against Zimbabwe is the answer." Lorgat was known to be a strong supporter of four-day Test cricket, but his departure from CSA last week will not change the board's approach. "We are an organisation and when the organisation comes up with an idea it is not the product of one person. We as an organisation came up with the concept," CSA president Chris Nenzani said. CSA will therefore press ahead with their request for the match against Zimbabwe to be given Test status, with acting chief executive Thabang Moroe set to present their case to the ICC. Moroe said that Irish had assured him the players would take part in the match if the request is granted - but not if it was denied. CSA general manager Corrie van Zyl and commercial manager Clive Eksteen are in the process of creating a contingency plan. "Our broadcasters need content and we need players to play cricket," said Moroe. "I have asked Corrie and Clive to work out a plan in case the ICC says 'no.' To some, the sight of South Africa beating Bangladesh by 333 runs in a Test that was played in front of small crowds at a lesser venue outside of cricket season looks like a case for the four-day concept. Although a fifth day was required to achieve a result, only 323.5 overs were needed - which could theoretically have been possible in four days if they were lengthened to 100 overs per day. As du Plessis and Elgar spoke, a stronger case against four-day Tests was being made in Abu Dhabi, where Sri Lanka beat Pakistan in an epic Test that went to the final session of day five. Around three-quarters of Test matches in the UAE since 2010 have gone into a fifth day, which is in contrast to trends in South Africa.