

# TIME AND US

DAILY

Srinagar, Kashmir

FRIDAY

- OCTOBER, 13, 2017
- 22 MUHARRAM 1439 AH
- ISSUE: 238
- VOLUME: 03
- PAGES: 08

## WEATHER TEMPERATURE

STATION	MAX TEMPERATURE	MIN TEMPERATURE
	ACT	ACT
SRINAGAR	26.3	6.7
JAMMU	34.1	18.2
LEH	19.2	8.1
KARGIL	19.6	4.6

SUNSET FRIDAY: 06:01 PM  
SUNRISE SATURDAY: 06:36 AM

### LOCAL FORECAST OF SRINAGAR

Partly Cloudy Clear Sky. Maximum & Minimum temperatures will be around 27°C & 07°C respectively.

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

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ASHISH NEHRA CONFIRMS CRICKET RETIREMENT, 'WANTED TO GO WHEN STILL AT TOP'

## Braid chopping an attempt to undermine women dignity: CM

'Will find out motives behind such incidents'

Srinagar, Oct 12: Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti Thursday termed the mysterious braid chopping incidents as an attempt to undermine the dignity of the women.

Mehbooba also said that her government will also find the motives behind such incidents.

"Braid chopping incidents are attempts to create mass hysteria and

undermine the dignity of the women in the state," she tweeted in this afternoon.

"Government will ensure steps are taken to find the motives behind these attacks," Mehbooba said.

The government had said that the investigation is going on to trace the culprits behind braid chopping incidents.



However, the alliance partner of

the current coalition regime has termed such incidents as disorder, saying that nobody would be behind these acts.

The opposition parties have blamed agencies for these acts and blamed the administration for failing to nab the culprits so far.

The pro-freedom camp has termed these incidents as an attempt to divert

▶ See CM...Pg 02

## Braid chopping spark panic across Kashmir as fresh incidents continue

People smell foul; want govt to act



Srinagar, Oct 12: There seems to be no end to the mysterious braid chopping incidents as the fresh incidents were Thursday again reported in parts of Kashmir. The students at varsities as well as the locals hit the streets to protest against the braid chopping incidents.

The braid choppers in this afternoon chopped off the hair of a 17-year-old girl in Wakoora area of Central Kashmir's Budgam

district and in Batamalo area of Srinagar.

"Some unknown persons today chopped braid of a 17-year old girl by forcibly taking her to bathroom inside the residential house," local sources as per the KNS correspondent informed, adding that the girl (name withheld) was later shifted to local primary health centre for medical checkup.

▶ See Braid...Pg 02

## GRENADE LOBBED AT BEAUTY PARLOUR IN PULWAMA

Pulwama, Oct 12: Suspected militants Thursday lobbed a grenade on a Beauty Parlour in South Kashmir's Pulwama district that exploded with a bang damaging the front show of the Parlour.

The Parlour is situated at the busy Rajpora Chowk in the district. Police sources informed news agency CNS that the grenade exploded outside the Parlour. They said at the time of explosion few visitors were present in the Parlour who escaped unhurt, however, a girl suffered minor injuries.

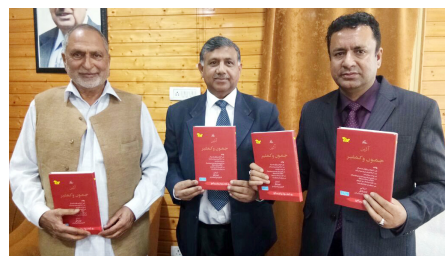
▶ See Grenade...Pg 02

## Art 370 is bond between J&K and Union of India: Zulfkar

Releases Urdu Book on Commentary of J&K Constitution

Srinagar, Oct 12: Terming Article 370 as bridge between J&K and Union of India, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs & Information Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali said that this bridge need to be strengthened more for strengthening the bond between J&K and Union of India.

While speaking during release of book ▶ See Zulfkar...Pg 02



## 'Asiya Andrabi representing the 'aimless' fringe' Official responsible for goof up suspended: Sajad Lone

Srinagar, Oct 12: The child development project officer (CDPO) of Anantnag's Breng block has been suspended after a banner on 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' campaign featured separatist leader Asiya Andrabi as an achiever alongside Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti and other personalities.

The banner aimed at highlighting the women achievers of the country was hoisted at a function held to promote



education for girls in south Kashmir's Kokernag area. It also featured tennis star Sania Mirza, legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar and Pu-

ducherry Lt Governor Kiran Bedi among others.

Andrabi, who is currently detained under the Public Safety Act, heads Dukhtarane-Millat (daughter of nation) outfit.

Social Welfare Minister Sajad Gani Lone published a press release on his twitter handle in which he claimed that Asiya Andrabi is not an achiever at all.

The press release reads: ▶ See Lone...Pg 02

## Refusal by GOI to transfer Power Projects to J&K quite disappointing: Tarigami

Srinagar, Oct 12: CPI (M) has described the statement of Power Minister R.K Singh regarding categorical refusal of Power Projects from NHPC to state highly disturbing and disappointing. The promises made and assurances given by the leadership of PDP-BJP who are running the alliance government in the state have proved mere hoax.

"The off repeated noises made by the leadership of these parties regarding initiation of dialogue and return of power projects have only



proved to be a big joke. It appears to be in total contravention to the recommendations

of the Rangarajan Committee and the commitment made by the present dispensation at the time of power sharing agreement," a statement of the party said.

The statement said that exploitation of water resources of the state by NHPC appears not to be for the benefit of people of the state. Instead of extending assistance for hydro electric projects to the state the centre is showing a callous approach to empower and make J&K resourceful

▶ See Tarigami...Pg 02

## HAJIN AND SHOPIAN SHUT TO MOURN THE KILLING OF MILITANTS

Bandipora, Oct 12: A day after the killing of two Lashkar-e-Toiba militants, the locals in Hajin town observed a complete shutdown to mourn their death.

Nasrullah Mir, a local resident, was killed along with his associate in a brief gunfight with forces on Wednesday morning in Rakh-i-Paribal area of Hajin.

Two Air Force commandos working with army for training purposes were also killed in the gunfight.

Thousands of people amid clashes and pro-freedom slogans had participated in the last rites of local militant. Reports said that all the shops and business establishments remained shut while transport also remained off the roads.

Meanwhile, Shopian town observed a complete shutdown for the consecutive fourth day against the killing of three militants.

▶ See Hajin...Pg 02

## VIGILANCE REGISTERED A CASE AGAINST CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Srinagar, Oct 12: Vigilance Organization Kashmir (VOK) has registered a case under Prevention of Corruption Act on the outcome of a verification conducted by Vigilance Organization Kashmir into the allegations that CEO Verinag Development Authority Nazir Ahmad Thakur in league with his clerk Manzoor Ahmad Bhat have fraudulently prepared liability worth Rs. 28.00 Crores without doing any work on ground.

During verification conducted by VOK, it has revealed that the then CEO Verinag Development Authority Shri Nazir Ahmad Thakur, Executive Engineers Abdul Rashid Lone and Rummy Raina, Accounts Officers Mohammed Maqbool War and Abdul Rashid Bawani, camp clerk namely Manzoor Ahmad Bhat have in total violations to Rules accorded approvals to different works against

▶ See Vigilance...Pg 02

## GOVT LOSING REMAINING LITTLE TRUST AMONG PEOPLE: NASIR ASLAM

SRINAGAR, OCT 12: NC Provincial President Nasir Aslam Wani while talking to PRES TRUST OF KASHMIR said that government has completely failed to nab the elements involved in braid chopping, losing the remained little bit trust among the people.

"Braid-chopping must end immediately, the fear it has created among Kashmiris must come to an end so that Kashmiri women continue their daily chores with absolute freedom", he added.

He further said that the situation in Kashmir is deteriorating very fast with every passing day; such incidents are increasing day by day instead of decreasing. The fear ▶ See Nasir...Pg 02

## Refusal of Power Projects exposes PDP-BJP's Agenda of Alliance: Hakim Yasin

Srinagar, Oct 12: Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) president and MLA Khansahib Hakim Mohammad Yasin Thursday said that Government of India's categorical refusal to return the hydel power projects from the NHPC to J&K has once again exposed the PDP-BJP government's so-called 'Agenda of Alliance'.

While reacting to Union Power Minister R.K Singh's statement that 390-MW Dulhasti and 4890-MW Uri-I hydro-power projects can't be transferred from the NHPC to J&K Government, he said in a statement, "The PDP leadership used to flaunt that in their 'Agenda of Alliance'



the BJP-led Center Government has agreed to explore modalities for trans-

fer of hydropower projects from the NHPC to J&K, secure a share in profits of the NHPC from its projects in the state and revise all royalty agreements between the state and the NHPC. However, time and again, these claims have been exposed by the Center."

"Earlier, Centre made it clear that it was in no mood to have any sort of dialogue with separatists in Kashmir which PDP claimed was in its 'AoA.' It is good that they make it clear that 'AoA' is nothing more than a piece of paper. People of Kashmiri can't be kept in dark further as they must have realised now how

▶ See Yasin...Pg 02

## PDP-BJP Govt non-starter even after crossing halfway mark: Kichloo

KISHTWAR OCTOBER 12- Former minister and National Conference MLC Mr Sajjad Ahmed Kichloo on Thursday described PDP-BJP government as a non-starter even after crossing the halfway mark, saying the governance is at lowest ebb and development has turned out a distant dream.

"The government is nowhere to be seen on ground", Mr Sajjad Kichloo said while addressing a day-long National Conference here.

The convention was pre-



sided over by the NC Provincial Vice President, Qazi Jalalud-Din.

He said the impact of the government is zero in rural and remote pockets with in-

frastructural development and utility services remaining in shambles. "The woes of the people are reflective of the governance deficit", he said ▶ See Kichloo...Pg 02

## ALL PERSONNEL ARE COMBATANT: ARMY

NEW DELHI: The Army on Thursday made it clear that it considers all personnel of services as combatant, saying Army performs its role in war and peace as a whole and not in isolated compartments.

The issue was raised at the ongoing Army Commanders' Conference during which some personnel from Army Service Corps (ASC) have expressed their views that since they are non-combatants they should not be considered for posting to field areas.

Responding their concern, the Army on Thursday recalled its affidavit to the Supreme Court on a jawan's plea filed against his posting to counter-insurgency unit Rashtriya Rifles, a combat unit, whereas the Army ▶ See Army...Pg 02

## New Delhi's refusal to return power projects an insult to PDP: NC

'R. K. Singh's remarks has again exposed PDP's Agenda of Alliance'

Srinagar, Oct 12: National Conference on Thursday lashed out at the PDP-BJP Government and the Chief Minister for their surrender on the demand seeking the return of power projects to the State and said the silence of the Chief Minister in view of Union Minister R. K. Singh's remarks speaks volumes about her hypocrisy and sell-out to remain glued to power.

In a statement issued to



KNS, National Conference State Spokesperson Junaid

Azim Mattu said the Union ▶ See NC...Pg 02

# INFORMATION DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES' STRIKE ENTERS SECOND DAY

Following Director's assurance strike ends partially; PR work resumes, advt distribution to remain suspended indefinitely

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 12: The employees of the Department of Information & Public Relations continued their strike for the second day today demanding immediate revocation of the attachment order of Joint Director Information Kashmir.

Work remained paralysed in the Directorate of Information, the offices of Joint Director Information Kashmir/Jammu and all the District Information Offices across the State with the employees staging protests in all the offices.

No official press releases and government advertisements are being issued to the media for the past two days due to the strike.

The Director Information, Mr Muneer-ul-Islam today urged the

protesting employees to resume their work assuring them that their genuine demands would be taken up for redress at the appropriate quarters.

Following the assurance of the Director Information, the protesting employees decided to end the strike partially by resuming the PR work in the Department from this evening. However, the distribution of advertisements to the newspapers by the offices of JDI Kashmir/Jammu shall continue to remain suspended till their demands are met by the Government.

Pertinently, the employees of the Information Department had proceeded on strike yesterday to protest the attachment of Joint Director Information Kashmir by the Gov-

ernment over the issue of advertisement distribution to newspapers.

According to a spokesman of the Information Department Employees Union the recurrent incidents of intimidation, coercion and blackmailing of the Advertisement Section staff in the offices of JDI Kashmir/Jammu by some small-time editors has to be checked to allow the Department implement the measures taken by the Government for streamlining of the advertisement distribution.

He said unfortunately there has been an alarming increase in incidents of intimidation of the staff working in the advertisement sections of the JDI Kashmir/Jammu by some editors. "And in some incidents such editors resorted to use

of nastiest abusive language against the officers and officials of the Information Department for advertisements," he said.

He said some Editors want the lion's share of advertisements for their publications circumventing the financial code and the criteria set out in the Advertisement Policy-2016.

The striking employees have sought the personal intervention of the Chief Minister, Ms Mehbooba Mufti, the Information Minister, Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali and the Chief Secretary, Mr B B Vyas in ending the impasse by revoking the attachment order of the Joint Director Information Kashmir, who they said is a highly upright officer.

They have also sought the co-

operation of the Kashmir Editors Guild, J&K Joint Forum of Newspaper Editors, Editors Guild Jammu, Working Journalists Association Kashmir and Jammu Press Club in ensuring that the incidents of intimidation and coercion of the Information Department employees by some boisterous editors is stopped forthwith to ensure a cordial relation between the Information Department and the media in the State.

Pertinently, the Information Department is issuing advertisements to the tune of Rs 30 crore every year to the newspapers under the budget head in addition to the advertisements to the tune of Rs 10 crore being distributed under the non-budget head annually.

# RESTRICTIONS UNDER SEVEN POLICE STATIONS IN SRINAGAR TODAY

Class work in Schools, Colleges will remain suspended

Srinagar, Oct 12: The authorities here on Thursday decided to impose restrictions in Srinagar areas falling under the jurisdiction of seven Police Stations in wake of the protest call given the Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL).

The authorities have also decided to suspend the class work in the schools and colleges across the Valley.

An official of the district administration told KNS that the restrictions under section 144 CrPc will be imposed in Srinagar areas falling under the jurisdiction of seven Police Stations. "Areas falling under Rainawari, Nowhatta, Khanyar, Safa Kadal and M R Gunj Police Stations will remain under tight restrictions while the areas falling under two Police Stations including Kral Khud and Maisuma will remain under restrictions partially," he said.

The officials also informed that the class work in schools as well as in the colleges will remain suspended for the second consecutive day on Friday.

Pertinently, the Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL) has appealed people to protest after Friday prayers against the growing incidents of mysterious braid chopping in Kashmir.

The JRL has also termed such acts as an attack on women's dignity.

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### CM

the attention of Kashmiris from the freedom struggle. They also called for shutdown and protests against these incidents and have appealed the locals to remain vigilant to prevent the braid chopping incidents.

The state Police as per the reports has said that 100 braid chopping incidents have taken place in the Valley while ruing the "lack of co-operation" from the members of public.

They have also announced a reward of Rs six lakhs for credible information about the braid choppers.

### GRENAD

Witnesses said that shortly after the incident, government forces rushed to spot to take stock of the situation, however, group of youth hurled stones on them, leading to clashes.

The clashes disrupted normal life in Rajpora Chowk. Forces used tear-smoke shells to disperse the rock hurling youth. The shopkeepers in the area lowered their shutters while life remained normal in other parts of the district.

### ZULFKAR

'Commentary on J&K Constitution' in Urdu compiled by Advocate S. Sundar Lehar and published by Jay Kay Law Reporter, Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali said J&K Constitution was drafted as per Article 370 of Indian constitution. He said that this Article provides special status to Jammu & Kashmir which has own Constitution, State Flag, and Ranbir Panel Code.

The Minister said that since J&K has been given special powers under Indian Constitution so everybody must respect Indian Constitution and try to safeguard the special provisions enshrined in the Indian Constitution for Jammu & Kashmir. He said that Article 370 is bridge and it has bonded relations with Union of India. "We need to strengthen this bridge so that to strengthen the bond", Zulfkar said adding that this Article provides atmosphere for cordial State - Centre relations and every citizen must respect it.

Commenting on the necessity of separate constitution for Jammu & Kashmir, Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali said that during the British period, the state of Jammu and Kashmir was ruled by a hereditary king and like many rulers Maharaja Hari Singh joined Dominion of India by signing the Instrument of Accession on October 26, 1947. He added that it is a historical fact that the accession was confirmed after the condition that Jammu and Kashmir would be governed by different rules to be framed by the Constituent Assembly which were framed and inserted in Article 370 of India Constitution. He added that this Article is very important and it must be safeguarded and strengthened more to keep the bond of state and Union intact.

Earlier the Minister released Urdu Book on Commentary of J&K Constitution which is compiled by Advocate S Sundar Lehar and published by Jay Kay Law Reporter. On the occasion, Sunil Gupta, Managing Director Jay Kay Law Reporter was also present who thanked Minister for releasing the Book. He also highlighted the importance of Book on the occasion.

### BRAID

The number of these incidents is increasing rapidly as the administration has so far failed to nab the culprits behind the braid chopping.

The braid chopping incidents have created panic among the local populace in Kashmir especially among the womenfolk who now feel insecure to sit alone at their respective homes.

Meanwhile local people claimed that they have caught two alleged braid choppers who according to them were moving suspiciously in the area. The alleged braid choppers as per locals were carrying some suspicious material like scissor and other things.

BMO Wakoora Ganderbal, Dr Waseem told KNS over phone that people brought a minor girl here who was well in her full consciousness.

"The girl told us that two unknown persons caught hold of her and chopped her braid inside home," he said, clarifying that there was no issue of using spray on the girl.

Chief Medical Officer Ganderbal, Dr. Peerzada Fayaz confirmed that doctors at PHC Wakoora examined the girl medically. He said he was not the appropriate authority to further comment on the issue.

Meanwhile, situation in Wakoora area turned ugly when police and forces used teargas shells against the people who caught hold of two people allegedly involved in braid chopping.

The fresh incident of braid chopping was also reported in SD Colony area of Batamaloo today. The braid chopping in the colony here was reported for the second consecutive day today.

The locals especially the youth later assembled on the roads and protested against the incident.

Meanwhile, on the call given by the Joint Resistance

Leadership (JRL), the students of Kashmir University and Central University Kashmir today protested against the mysterious braid chopping incidents.

Scores of students putting in hostel assembled on the Kashmir University premises and chanted slogans against the braid chopping incidents. The KU students demanded authorities to nab the culprits immediately.

The CUK students also raised slogans in favor of Azadi and alleged that the Government of India is behind such events in Kashmir.

The varsity students said that the sisters as well the mothers in the society are feeling insecure with the growing incidents of braid chopping while the administration has failed to ensure the safety and the security of womenfolk.

The locals of Banpora Naikbagh in Nowgam area also staged protest against the braid chopping incidents. The women protesters took to streets and blocked the roads for several minutes amid chanting anti-government slogans.

They urged Police department to speed up the investigation and trace the culprits behind.

Meanwhile, the growing incidents continue to give sleepless nights to the people of Kashmir especially the youth who remain vigilant during the night hours to prevent the chopping incidents.

The youth in old city areas are being seen in the lanes and the roads in wake of the braid chopping incidents.

The local youth here as per the sources have formulated groups to remain vigilant in the night hours to prevent braid chopping incidents that are growing with each passing day from last four weeks in Kashmir.

### LONE

"Yesterday an unfortunate incident of mishandling of publicity campaign on 'Beti Bachavo, Beti Padhao' took place in Anantnag, wherein the pictures of Ms Asiya Andrabi was displayed on hoardings along with distinguished women achievers of the country. The publicity wing works in a decentralized format and CDPO's devise their own publicity campaign which does not require approval of the higher authorities. The CDPO in question has committed a grievous error of judgment by including Ms Asiya Andrabi in the list of distinguished women achievers of the country."

"In any case the department unambiguously states that Ms Andrabi is not a role model neither for the women of Jammu and Kashmir nor elsewhere in the world. She at best is an aberration, representing the aimless fringe afflicting societies across the world."

The statement added that: "the person responsible for this goof up has been immediately placed under suspension and an enquiry has been ordered against her for the misconduct."

### TARIGAMI

and self reliant. "A highly empowered committee by the central government among other things recommended the transfer of few power projects from NHPC to the Jammu and Kashmir State but it is ironical that the same has been shelved, which is much unreasonable and share injustice with this energy deficit state."

PDP has time and again advocated for return of these projects to the state and making it an essential component of agenda of alliance and even claiming to fulfill the same. Now the statement of the Power Minister has put a big question mark on PDP and agenda of alliance itself.

### HAJIN

Reports said that life was completely disrupted due to shutdown.

Three local militants were killed in a gunfight with government at Gattipora area of Keller in Shopian district three days back.

### VIGILANCE

DPR of Greater Verinag mostly in favour of Blue eyed person. The verification further revealed that the accused public servants have also extended undue benefit to blue eyed persons for allotment of different works against DPR Sarbal Lake in total violation of the requisite procedure, besides rates allotted are highly exorbitant which resulted in huge loss to State exchequer.

Accordingly a Case FIR No. 29/2017 under section 5(2) of JK P.C Act Svt 2006, section 120-B RPC in Police Station Vigilance Organization Kashmir was registered against accused persons namely Nazir Ahmad Thakur S/o Ali Mohammad Thakur R/o Lasjam Budgam, Ab Rashid Lone S/o Gh Mohammad Lone R/o wanbal Rawalpora Srinagar, then Executive Engineer Verinag Development Authority Roomy Raina, then Executive Engineer, Verinag Development Authority Mohammed Maqbool War, then Accounts officer Abdul Rashid Bawani S/o Ab Rehman Bawani R/o Doru Anantnag, and Manzoor Ahmad Bhat S/o Ab Gani Bhat R/o

Verinag the then Camp Clerk. Immediately after registration of FIR No. 29/2017 in Vigilance Organization searches of the residential/office premises of above said accused persons at Srinagar, Verinag, and Budgam. During said searches incriminating evidences/documents with regard to movable and immovable properties were recovered which are under scrutiny to proceed ahead accordingly.

### NASIR

psychosis has engulfed the whole valley. Our mothers and sisters now fear to move out and have confined themselves within the four walls of their homes.

"It is surprising that despite of having all means of information available, the government seems helpless and failed to put an end to such senseless violence against our women folk", he added.

He added that a considerable amount of locals accuse intelligence agencies for these incidents in the Valley. He castigated those elements who according to him are trying to give braid chopping incidents hysteria color.

He said that police and public should work together to find out the culprits and there should a mutual cooperation between them to deal such elements in the society creating fear psychosis among the people. "Also government needs to respond why they are failing to arrest even a single such element so far as these cases are going on a rapid pace in every corner of the valley", he said.

### YASIN

they were being befooled in the name of 'AoA' in the last more than two and half years. Now it is clear that for what this so-called 'AoA' was. It was an agenda for running the government only," he said.

"PDP used to claim that 'AoA' is a sacred document and BJP has accepted in the document that it won't abrogate Article 370. But now everyone knows what BJP's stand is. Both PDP and BJP have been totally exposed that they have inherent contradictions," Hakim Yasin added.

The MLA Khansahib also lashed out at the PDP-BJP government over its failure in curbing braid chopping incidents saying it has once again exposed that this government is incompetent.

"This government has failed on all fronts. Corruption, nepotism, favouritism order of the day and unemployment has reached to alarming proportions. Government is only busy in making statements and assurances. The latest issue of braid chopping in which the dignity of our daughters, sisters and mothers is being compromised, is another blot on the face of this government. It has left people across Kashmir in a state of fear and terror," the PDP chief added.

### KICHLOO

adding that the condition across the state continues to be worse. He said the PDP and BJP alliance has miserably failed on all fronts, saying every segment of society—youth, farmers, daily rated workers, weaker sections—is feeling huge sense of deprivation and denial.

The former minister, however, gave credit to the 'North Pole, South Pole', alliance of succeeding in sowing the seeds of mistrust among different segments of society on the basis of region and religion and generating euphoria on emotive issues. In this context took a dig at the ruling coalition over BJP's rants over Article 370 and said the PDP needs to clear its stand on this sensitive issue, which is constitutional guarantee stands like a bridge between Jammu and Kashmir and New Delhi, which can't be abrogated.

Mr Sajjad Kichloo described PDP-BJP as an opportunistic alliance that can go to any extent in remaining glued to the power. He said this tie-up has proved nightmarish for the people who are suffering on every front. While the developmental initiatives taken during the tenure of Mr Omar Abdullah as Chief Minister have been put to back burner, the government has totally failed in completing various projects and schemes of immense public importance.

The MLC held the government squarely responsible for creating mess in just over three years of taking over the reins of administration and putting the state virtually at the brink of collapse. He said the engine of development is gaining rust and the atmosphere of peace and tranquility has become a fact of the past. He asked the coalition partners to spell out even one promises having been realized which they made to the people. He asked the government, either to perform or perish, as public patience and resilience can erupt into a volcano if the government goes ahead with its dangerous policies of antagonizing youth, putting brakes on development, showing scant concern towards normal functioning of the utility services and vitiating the atmosphere.

Mr Sajjad Kichloo elaborately dwelt upon the problems faced by the people of the Kishtwar district and said the power and water supply is erratic while the condition of roads has become vulnerable due to negligence thus putting the lives of pedestrians and commuters to grave risk. "This is

time for the government to put its act together and get going in the governmental business rather than indulging in diviatory and diversionary tactics", he maintained.

Speaking on the occasion, Qazi Jalal-ud-Din, former legislator, expressed anguish over highly dilapidated condition of road network in the entire district, scarcity of quality rations at the CAPD sale outlets and poor health services with most of the health institutions lacking medicines and minimum basic facilities.

Qazi Jalal-ud-Din lambasted the PDP-BJP government for virtually abandoning the remote and rural areas.

The various other speakers including Mr Farooq Ahmed Dev, Youth District President Kishtwar, Mr Tanveer Hussain Babzada Youth Vice President Jammu Province, Mr Ghulam Qadir, Mr Riyaz Ahmed Bhat, Mr Ghulam Rasool Malik and Mr Shameem Ahmed, the functionaries of the party, highlighted the issues concerning the people, especially the youth. They castigated the PDP-BJP dispensation for pursuing anti-youth policies.

Prominent among those present in the day long convention included Mr Mohd Ishaq Kumar, Mr Jasmeen Wani, Choudary Ab Wahid, Mr Javed Ahmed Shah, Mr Fakir Chand, Ms Umma Devi, Mr Iqbal Babzada, Mr Ahmad Bhat, Mr Muzaffar Ahmed Sheikh, Mr Muzaffar Ahmed Butt, Mr Mohd Nawaz Sheikh, Mr Gh Hassan Sheikh, Mr Khurshid Ahmed, Molvi Gh Mohd, Molvi Younas, Mr Bakhtayar Ahmed Babzada, Mr ariq Hussain, Mr Sabdar Hussain, Mr Noor Hussain and Mr Abdul Rashid.

### ARMY

considered him a non-combatant for promotion purpose. The Army in its affidavit said, "To boost strength essential in Line of Control, Low Intensity Conflict, Counter Insurgency and Counter Terrorist environment a number of Officers, JCOs and Other Ranks from Combat Support Arms and logistic units are posted on tenure basis in infantry.

This also provides much necessary operational experience to these Officers, JCOs and Other Ranks. It is submitted that their performance in such roles has been noteworthy."

Combat arms, combat support arms and services are operational entities of Army which has clear and defined roles with charter of duties, it added.

It was never in dispute that all arms and services are combatants. Hence, at no stage has the Army referred to Services Units being non-combatant Units, the affidavit said.

It also stated that the Chief of Army Staff on assuming the appointment had mentioned that he would consider all arms and services at par and they would get their dues that they deserve.

"The anguish amongst some personnel on discrimination in their status, needs to be put to rest and the COAS has assured that necessary corrections, where needed will be addressed," it said.

### NC

Minister had made it unambiguously clear that the demand for the return of the power projects made in the 'Agenda of the Alliance' was yet another lie that was propounded at that time to justify PDP's Freudian bargain with the BJP to form a Government in the State for purely self-seeking intentions. "This is yet another instance where the Central Government has, without any pretence, absolved itself of any promises that were made in the 'Agenda of the Alliance' between the PDP and BJP. What makes this even more tragic is the silence of PDP and especially the Chief Minister", the NC State Spokesperson said in the statement.

"It was none other than PDP Vice President Muzaffar Baigh who questioned the very existence of the 'Agenda of the Alliance' and such brazen abandonment of the document and the promises it enshrined by no less a figure of authority than a Union Minister clearly exposed PDP and proves beyond any doubt that the party had no ideological or public-interest-driven agenda to cobble up an alliance with the BJP - something that was done for the singular purpose of first making Mufti Sahab and then Mehbooba Mufti the Chief Minister", the NC State Spokesperson further added.

The NC State Spokesperson said the party demands an immediate and clear answer from the Chief Minister where she should either accept that she has fooled the people of the State or a rebuttal to the Union Minister for his remarks. "Mehbooba Ji should understand that she can't have the cake and eat it too. She can't sell out the interests of the State to remain glued to power while donning the persona of a rebel. These are glaring contradictions - contradictions which have wreaked havoc with the State and fuelled an unprecedented level of alienation and disenchantment. You made these promises to the youth of the State, even fought elections on these planks and now when your alliance partner-led Government in New Delhi has categorically abandoned all these promises, PDP has left the youth disillusioned not only with itself but also the system of governance as a whole", he said.

# President of India addresses Governors/Lt. Governors at the 48th Governors Conference at Rashtrapati Bhavan

New Delhi, October 12: The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, opened the 48th Conference of Governors at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (October 12, 2017). The Conference is being attended by Twenty-seven Governors and three Lt. Governors of States and Union Territories. The Administrators of the UTs of Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu as well as of Lakshadweep are also participating in the Conference as special invitees.

In his opening address, the President said that by participating in this Conference, Governors and Lt. Governors get a good opportunity to discuss important issues and share experiences from their respective States. He stated that Governors play the role of a bridge between the Union Government and States. The obligation of Governors to preserve and uphold the Constitution and commit themselves to the service and welfare

of the people is even more pronounced in the current paradigm of Co-operative Federalism.

The President said critical milestones and national goals have been set in the context of the completion of 75 years of independence in 2022. This period is only five years away, and the Government of India has resolved to build a society that is safe and secure, prosperous, ensures opportunity for all, and is a leader in science and technology. Given the magnitude of this task, it is necessary that the entire country works unitedly and is on the same page. The five years from 2017 to 2022 are devoted to the creation of New India, one free of corruption, poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition and unhygienic conditions. Simultaneously, a strong foundation will also be laid for the coming generations. In order to ensure 'Team India' advances in a single direction to achieve these national

goals, Governors should inspire and connect all relevant stakeholders in their respective States.

The President said that it is essential to link youth with the process of nation building. The future of the country depends on the capacities, moral values and compassion of the younger generation. Special attention needs to be paid to higher education and skill development at the level of States. This is particularly true given the challenges of automation and Artificial Intelligence. The President pointed out that 69 per cent of Universities in the country fall under the purview of State Governments, and 94 per cent of all college and university students study in these institutions.

The President said technology can propel us to reach even difficult and long-term goals, and help ensure access to quality public services for all citizens.

He also stressed trusting citizens more and gave the examples of self-attestation of documents by individuals and the easier mechanism for obtaining a passport. He urged the replication of these ideas at the level of States, since much of citizen's interaction with Government agencies is at the level of States.

The President said that being an intrinsic part of the legislative system in their States, Governors can provide a new dimension to the development of their States by communicating with legislators, and inviting them to Raj Bhavan to deliberate on subjects related to public well-being. By establishing communication with University Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors, academicians, social workers and other thoughtful and enlightened citizens in the States, Governors could help raise the quality of discussion and debate and provide an impetus to society and the State government.

The President concluded by expressing the hope that this Conference could help the Union Government and the States work together in the interests of all citizens, especially young people. The dream of a developed India will be realised, he said, only when every State develops.

Those participating in the inaugural session included the Vice President; the Prime Minister; Minister of Law & Justice and Electronics & Information Technology; Minister of Health & Family Welfare; Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare; Minister of Human Resource Development; Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship; Minister of Railways & Coal; Minister of State (I/C) of Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region, Minister of State (I/C) of Ministry of Housing & Urban

Affairs and Vice Chairman and CEO of NITI Aayog.

The two-day Conference will deliberate on distinct agenda items in different sessions. The theme of the opening session was 'New India-2022'. The first session of the Conference was addressed by Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. There was also a presentation by Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog, on the elements of 'New India 2022'.

The second session is on the subjects of 'Higher Education in States' and 'Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to Make Youth Employable'. In the third session, to take place on October 13, 2017, Governors will make brief remarks on any special issues pertaining to their respective States/Union Territories. In the concluding session, a brief report on the deliberations will be presented by the respective conveners.

## 18.8% Growth in Foreign Tourist Arrivals in September, 2017 over September, 2016

New Delhi, October 12: Ministry of Tourism compiles monthly estimates of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) & FTAs on e-Tourist Visa on the basis of Nationality-wise, Port-wise data received from Bureau of Immigration (BOI).

The following are the important highlights regarding FTAs and FTAs on e-Tourist Visa from tourism during the month of September, 2017:

Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs):

- The number of FTAs in September, 2017 were 7.23 lakh as compared to FTAs of 6.08 lakh in September, 2016 and 5.43 lakh in September, 2015.

- The growth rate in FTAs in September, 2017 over September, 2016 is 18.8% compared to 12.1% in September, 2016 over September, 2015.

- FTAs during the period January-September 2017 were 71.20 lakh with a growth of 15.5% over same period of previous year, as compared to the FTAs of 61.63 lakh with a growth of 9.8% in January-September 2016 over January-September 2015.

- The percentage share of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during September 2017 among the top 15 source countries was highest at Delhi Airport (28.69%) followed by Haridaspur Land Check Post (16.06%), Mumbai Airport (13.57%), Chennai Airport (6.56%), Bengaluru Airport (5.36%), Kolkata Airport (5.08%), Gede Rail Land Check Post (3.70%), Cochin Airport (2.88%), Hyderabad Airport (2.83%), Ghojadanga Land Check Post (2.08%), Ahmedabad Airport (1.51%), Tiruchirappalli Airport (1.35%), Trivandrum Airport (1.17%), Agartala Land Check Post (1.14%) and Sonauli Land Check Post (1.00%).

Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) on e-Tourist Visa: During the month of September, 2017 total of 1.18 lakh tourist arrived on e-Tourist Visa as compared to 0.69 lakh during the month of September 2016 registering a growth of 71.0%.

- During January-September 2017, a total of 10.67 lakh tourist arrived on e-Tourist Visa as compared to 6.75 lakh during January-September 2016, registering a growth of 58.0%.
- The percentage shares of top 15 source countries availing e-Tourist Visa facilities during September, 2017 were as follows: UK (12.1%), USA (10.2%), China (6.3%), Australia (5.5%), Germany (4.9%), France (4.3%), Spain (3.9%), Israel (3.2%), Korea (Rep. of) (3.2%), Oman (3.2%), Canada (3.1%), Singapore (2.6%), UAE (2.2%), Malaysia (2.1%) and Italy (2.1%).

- The percentage shares of top 15 ports in tourist arrivals on e-Tourist Visa during September, 2017 were as follows: New Delhi Airport (53.4%), Mumbai Airport (18.5%), Chennai Airport (6.7%), Bengaluru Airport (6.3%), Kochi Airport (4.2%), Hyderabad Airport (2.8%), Kolkata Airport (2.2%), Amritsar Airport (1.1%), Trivandrum Airport (1.0%), Ahmadabad Airport (0.9%), Tirchi Airport (0.8%), Dabolim (Goa) Airport (0.6%), Calicut Airport (0.5%), Jaipur Airport (0.4%) and Pune Airport (0.2%).

Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) on e-Tourist Visa: During the month of September, 2017 total of 1.18 lakh tourist arrived on e-Tourist Visa as compared to 0.69 lakh during the month of September 2016 registering a growth of 71.0%.

## Ladakh beacon of hope for maintaining harmony with communities, nature: Prof Matoo

Chairs Knowledge Initiative meeting in Leh

LEH, OCTOBER 12: Advisor to Chief Minister Prof Amitabh Mattoo said that Ladakh is the beacon of hope for maintaining harmony within communities and with nature as well.

Prof Mattoo said during a meeting of Knowledge Initiative in Leh today.

Mattoo is the Chairman of recently constituted Knowledge Initiative Committee by the state government with the objective of empowering J&K's youth in a global knowledge society.

Addressing the meeting, Mattoo said that the purpose of coming to Leh with the entire member of the Knowledge Initiative Committee is to have close interaction with all the stakeholders in the district to get suggestions and ideas mainly based on knowledge and values rooted in best of traditional system.

He said that earlier committees formed for same purpose on education were either away from reality or not implementable.



He added that the endeavor of this committee is to bring out a report with implementable recommendations by way of preparing a vision document for interventions in skill, teaching, curriculum, research and innovation and extra-curricular programmes that will be drawn from global best practices and traditionally rooted knowledge and ancient wisdom.

"From Leh to London", vision Mattoo vowed to take education at the doorstep of common man and ensured holistic education and plethora of opportunities to the

young students under KI through policies, guidelines, schemes and making optimum use of existing infrastructure and human resources in the state incorporated with information and communication technology. He stressed on the need to create a sense of balance between human needs, sustainability, native culture and international development.

He also said that Ladakh has been exemplary in communal harmony and expressed hope that through KI they will be able to strike a balance between their modern educa-

tion needs and traditional knowledge system.

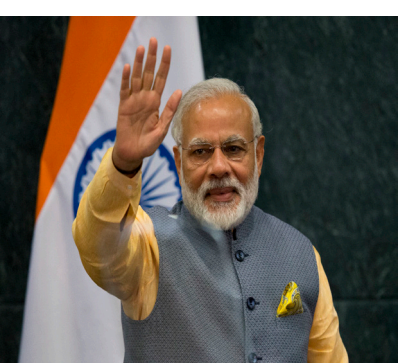
EC Education Dorjey Mup in his speech requested the committee to consider adding more subjects in the University courses in Leh that will ensure more enrolment, posting of lecturers as per subject expertise, improve education facilities in govt schools at par with private schools, entrance exams in Leh, introduction of electronic and electrical wing in ITI courses in Leh, monitoring cell in Ladakh to address the issues of vacant posts and to include Bhoti language on

the lines of Sowa Rigpa in the 8th schedule. Adding to it, Tashi Dolma JD Education Ladakh stressed on the need to recruit locals as trainers for vocational courses, internet facilities in schools, introducing technical courses

K. B Aggarwal Financial Commissioner (Coordination) further explained about KI said that their aim is to broaden the knowledge horizon and make our youth capable to competent at international level. The meeting was attended by EC Tourism Tsering Sandup, K. B Aggarwal Financial Commissioner (Coordination) J&K Govt, Dr. R. K. Bharti Addl. Secy HEC, ADC Leh Moses Kunzang, Gauri Arora Consultant KI, Ishan Dhar Research Officer, concern district officers, representatives of religious organisations, NGOs and Principals of government college and schools and other educational institutions along with faculty and students.

## PM'S REMARKS AT OPENING SESSION OF GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE

New Delhi, October 12: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today spoke at the opening session of the Conference of Governors at Rashtrapati Bhavan.



He observed that all Governors can become catalytic agents for change in society, while upholding the sanctity of the Constitution. Mentioning the target of New India by 2022, the Prime Minister emphasized that this can be achieved only by making it a people's movement.

He encouraged Governors to interact at length with students and teachers in this regard. Giving the example of the recent Hackathon conducted by the Union Government, where students had proposed technology solutions to several problems, he said Universities should be centres of innovation.

In the same vein, he said youth in every State must focus on one sport. He encouraged Governors to lead by example on the cause of Swachhata, or cleanliness. He said Mahatma Gandhi, whose 150th birth anniversary will be celebrated in 2019, is a source of inspiration, as we work towards an Open Defecation Free India. The Prime Minister said that festivals and anniversaries can be great motivators and energizers in the quest for change. He said that Governors can also motivate banks to give loans under Mudra to tribals, Dalits and women, especially in the period between Constitution Day on November 26th, and Ambedkar Mahaparinirvana Diwas on December 6th.

The Prime Minister encouraged Lt. Governors of Union Territories to share the best practices being adopted by them in areas such as solar energy, DBT, and making Union Territories kerosene free. He said these achievements must be extended across all Union Territories speedily.

## RAJOURI ADMIN HOLDS PSGA CAMP

Issues 300 certificates to residents of village Badhoon

RAJOURI, OCTOBER 12: As part of its public outreach programme under Public Service Guarantee Act, district administration Rajouri today held a camp to provide services to the locals here at Badhoon village.

A team of officers led by Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Abdul Qayoom Mir attended to a large number of local people who applied for seeking different services. Tehsildar Rajouri Salam Din was also present at the camp.

Over 300 certificates were issued by the team on the spot which included 140 Permanent Resident Certificates, 40 Scheduled Tribe Certificates, 08 Legal Heir Certificates, 7 Dependent Certificates, 35 Character Certificates, 60 Income Certificates, 10 Revenue Extracts and 5 marriage certificates. The concerned officials also attested 9 mutations.

Around 200 people availed the services and lauded the efforts of Deputy Commissioner Rajouri for mitigating the grievances of public.

## GANGA MEETS HIS ASSAM COUNTERPART

Ministers call for holding cross exhibitions in their States

GUWAHATI, OCTOBER 12: On his visit to Assam on Wednesday, the Minister for Industries and Commerce, Chander Parkash Ganga, met his counterpart in the state Chander Mohan Patowary, who also holds the charge of Transport and Parliamentary Affairs ministries.

Representing states with peculiar geographical and economic situations in the country, the two Ministers had a detailed discussion on the pattern and issues of industrial growth in Jammu & Kashmir and Assam.

Mohan Patowary, while speaking on the occasion, said Assam has seen significant progress in the industries sector over the years, being currently involved in materializing Ease of Doing Business so that more industrial houses are attracted to the State.

Ganga, on the other hand, presented the Industrial Policy of J&K to his Assam counterpart, informing him of key developments and steps taken by the State government to boost industrial development in the State. He



also apprised him of working of different departments and PSUs under the Ministry of Industries and Commerce in J&K.

The J&K Minister for Industries & Commerce also called for holding joint exhibitions of handicrafts and handlooms at different places in the two states.

The Ministers also discussed means to explore possibilities of attracting investments to their respective states. On the occasion, Ganga invited Mohan Patowary to visit Jammu & Kashmir.

Mir Zahoor reviews SFC functioning

## Corporation earns Rs 55.42 cr revenue against 8.85 lakh cft's timber sale

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 12-The Jammu and Kashmir State Forest Corporation (JKSFC) has earned an amount of Rs 55.42 crore up to ending September 2017, from sale of 8.85 Lakh cft's of timber to the consumers of S&M Circle Kashmir during the current year. This information was given by the Corporation in a meeting held under the Chairmanship of Minister of State for Forest, Environment,

Animal & Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries and Cooperative, Mir Zahoor Ahmad here today. The meeting was convened to review the overall activities of the SFC besides taking stock of timber and firewood stock position in the Kashmir Division.

The authorities of JKSFSC briefed the meeting about the functioning and financial achievements registered by the Corporation. Detailed

discussions were also held on supply position of firewood, sale and auction of timber, budgetary support, marking fallen trees, transportation and extraction of timber, besides labour component.

While reviewing stock position of timber at different Sale Depots, it was informed in the meeting that 4.95 lakh cft, timber has been dumped, 4.25 lakh timber sold to the consumers and 10902 con-

## LAWDA DEMOLISHES ILLEGAL RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS IN NISHAT

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 12: Enforcement Wing of J&K Lakes and Waterways Development Authority today carried out the second round of demolitions of illegal constructions and violations in and around Dal Lake in Nishat.

A number of commercial establishments as well as residential structures were demolished by the Demolition Squad falling in the jurisdiction of Police Station, Nishat.

The demolished commercial establishments belong to Ali Mohammad Dar R/o Laam whereas residential structures demolished belong to Mushtaq Ahmad Dar, Mohammad Sultan Dar, Mohammad Sultan Dar all residents of Laam. Moreover, residential structure of Bilal Ahmad Bhat R/o Brein, Nishat was also demolished.

One JCB and other demolition equipments were pressed into service while carrying out anti-encroachment drive.

The Lakes and Waterways Development Authority has reiterated that the drive shall be intensified and carried out with elaborate arrangements.

sumers benefited in Kashmir region during 2017-2018.

Addressing the meeting, the Minister asked the concerned to work with utmost dedication and ensure timely distribution of timber among the needy consumers on first cum first serve basis.

He further instructed the officials to adhere to the targets given to them and called for adopting innovative methods and providing facility to

consumers at their doorsteps to make the SFC more effective, people-friendly and profitable.

Mir Zahoor called for formulating abridge system for distribution of timber among the consumers so that they don't face any inconvenience while sanctioning timber.

All Chief General Managers and Divisional Managers of SFC were present in the meeting.

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Editorial

## BANNING THE BOMB

The Nobel Peace Prize conferred on the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is equally a recognition for the 122 countries that backed the 2017 UN treaty this summer to ban the bomb. The fact that it has taken over seventy years to codify the UN General Assembly's 1946 goal to eliminate atomic weapons from national armaments is a measure of the significance of this year's prize. Today, the terms of the anti-nuclear debate encompass larger issues of environmental destruction, in conjunction with the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of a potential holocaust. ICAN's emphasis on this latter dimension, an aspect underscored by the Nobel committee in Norway, marks a departure of sorts in the nuclear discourse. To appreciate it, one merely has to draw a comparison with the preoccupations of the peace movement during the years of the Cold War. The emphasis then was principally on the grave danger from serious miscalculations, stemming from mutual threat perceptions between the U.S. and the USSR. The committee has also lauded ICAN's endeavours to fill the legal gap through its leadership on the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. With cluster munitions, land mines and chemical and biological weapons having been banned, nuclear weapons remained the last category of weapons of mass destruction that had not been outlawed. Here again, ICAN's emphasis on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear destruction have galvanised global support for the new treaty. Notable is the perception that the sheer magnitude of destruction wrought by any nuclear strikes would amount to crimes against humanity.

A catalyst to this process was the stricture that the use of nuclear arms had to be compatible with humanitarian law. This was laid down in a 1996 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice. The long-term health implications for local populations from underground nuclear detonations have also been a growing concern. A plea last year, also at the ICJ, for compensation for exposure to contamination from the explosions in the Marshall Islands failed on technical grounds. But the case amplified these concerns, which human rights groups and organisations engaged in humanitarian relief activities exploited to shape a new narrative — with the result that a provision on victim protection has been codified in the new UN treaty. Given this overall dynamic, it seems reasonable to expect that the minimum number of ratifications would be submitted soon for the treaty to come into force. In September, the Italian parliament passed a resolution urging the government to explore accession to the UN agreement without contravening its obligations to NATO. A similar step by the Dutch legislature had authorised the government to participate in the treaty deliberations. These developments may not culminate in immediate ratification. But they raise the prospect that governments will be forced to heed public sentiment sooner than later. The ICAN's endeavours may pay off eventually.

## Learning from history

Neera Chandhoke

**TODAY IT IS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE MADE MISTAKES, HE SERIOUSLY MISUNDERSTOOD CASTE DISCRIMINATION, HE WENT WRONG IN HIS DEBATE WITH B.R. AMBEDKAR, HE COULD BE AUTHORITARIAN, AND HE HAD PECULIAR IDEAS ON CRUCIAL ISSUES. BUT WE ALSO REMEMBER THAT GANDHI WOULD RATHER SUFFER HIMSELF THAN IMPOSE SUFFERING ON OTHERS. WHEN HE WALKED THE STREETS, HE WAS REGARDED AS THE EMBODIMENT OF NON-VIOLENCE. IN CONTRAST, WHEN CADRES OF THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT APPEAR ON OUR STREETS, THEY EVOKE TREPIDATION. CONFRONTED BY THREATS OF VIOLENCE, PEOPLE SHIVER, THEY RUN FOR COVER. FOR THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT NOTHING HAS CHANGED SINCE GANDHI WAS KILLED BECAUSE OF HIS WORLD VIEW. INDIANS CONTINUE TO BE MURDERED FOR THE SAME REASON —**

On January 30, 1948, at a time when northern and eastern India continued to be devastated by the horrors unleashed by the Partition, another appalling event rocked the newly independent and still fragile nation, the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi. Detective novelists tell us that hapless people are murdered for mainly three reasons: greed, ambition and lust, not necessarily in that order. But Nathuram Godse of the Hindu Mahasabha assassinated Gandhi because the Mahatma stood for a world view implacably opposed to the hate-filled rhetoric of the religious right. Gandhi was a powerful moral exemplar — therefore, he posed a distinct threat to the dark forces of doom and destruction. He had to be removed physically.

An individual called Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was not murdered, an entire perspective committed to ahimsa, toleration, and respect for other religious traditions was sought to be obliterated. Ironically, his killers failed, because Gandhi continues to live in our hearts, he inhabits our imaginations. We continue to hold right-wing groups responsible for the death of a man who defied an empire as well as obscurantism within India.

A re-investigation Sixty-nine years down the line, Pankaj Phadnis has appealed that the Supreme Court reinvestigate the death of Gandhi, and holds that Gandhi was killed by a fourth bullet fired by someone else. His motive becomes clear the moment we recognise that Mr. Phadnis is a trustee of the organisation Abhinav Bharat, which is a part of the religious right. We also know that the complex of right-wing groups under the umbrella of the power wielded by the Bharatiya Janata Party seek to reduce the art of history writing to a tale told by knaves and fools on a stormy night. They labour in vain, for history does not go away at the wave of a wand, or by a PIL filed in a court of law. The past will sneak in on silent feet, relentlessly intrude into the present, and compel us to recollect murders and murderers most foul.

No country is more conscious of the persistence of the past than Germany. After the Second World War some German scholars spoke of the need to forget. The project was simply not doable, and soon enough intellectuals began to acknowledge the importance of coming to terms with the Holocaust. Theodor Adorno, the noted philosopher of the Frankfurt School of Critical Theory, spoke of the impossibility of writing poetry after Auschwitz, or philosophising after Auschwitz, or even living after Auschwitz. We cannot, he concluded, break free of the past. All we can do is to come to terms with the past. More importantly, we must learn to critically reflect on our failure to prevent groups which trade in social hatred from dominating the present. The renowned philosopher Jürgen Habermas continues the task of acknowledging the past, and learning from it. A refusal to address the past results in social pathologies.

Remember the past we must, but how do we remember history? How do we remember Gandhi, a man of whom Albert Einstein is said to have remarked that "generations to come, it may be, will scarce believe that such a one as this ever in flesh and blood walked upon this earth"? For a long time, scholars



did not write biographies of the man, they wrote hagiographies. Today it is acknowledged that he made mistakes, he seriously misunderstood caste discrimination, he went wrong in his debate with B.R. Ambedkar, he could be authoritarian, and he had peculiar ideas on crucial issues. But we also remember that Gandhi would rather suffer himself than impose suffering on others. When he walked the streets, he was regarded as the embodiment of non-violence. In contrast, when cadres of the religious right appear on our streets, they evoke trepidation. Confronted by threats of violence, people shiver, they run for cover. For the religious right nothing has changed since Gandhi was killed because of his world view. Indians continue to be murdered for the same reason — therefore, the murder of a Gauri Lankesh here, of a Narendra Dabholkar there, of a Govind Pansare here, and of an M.M. Kalburgi there.

This is not a whodunnit How on earth does it matter who killed Gandhi? We are not reading a detective novel. Nor are we concentrating on discovering clues that will lead us to the murderer before our beloved detective, for example P.D. James's Adam Dalgliesh, does so. What matters is why Gandhi, and now other dissenters, are killed. Gandhi was killed because he defended an alternative notion of politics based on swaraj, non-violence, pursuit of the truth, and subordination of power to ethics. Putative assassins should recollect that there is a nasty phrase for those who prefer extermination of the opponent to debate, it is called moral cowardice.

What do we learn from two historical narratives, of violence and of non-violence? Violence is based upon the certainty that we know all there is to know, and that is why others who do not conform to our views have to be eliminated. Non-violence is based on the philosophical virtue of doubt. Socrates, who was condemned to drink hemlock by the Athenian jury, knew he did not know. Gandhi, who was assassinated, also knew that no one knows the truth. I, he wrote, have been striving to serve the truth and have the courage

to jump from the Himalayas for its sake. But, he added, I know I am still very far from that truth: "As I advance towards it, I perceive my weakness ever more clearly and the knowledge makes me humble."

This does not mean that we stop searching for the truth. But we are seekers, not finders. We would do well to seek together. If persons have the moral capacity to know the truth, but not the entire truth, then no one person or group can claim superiority over others because their truth is the ultimate. We also realise that just as our (partial) truth is dear to us, others' (equally partial) truths are bound to be dear to them. There is simply no point in comparing world views, in grading them, or in pronouncing one conception of the good as superior to the other.

What made Gandhi great Gandhi himself was what he was, a great moral leader and a giver of remedies for the maladies of the human condition, because he drew inspiration from a variety of sources. His philosophy is indebted to four great spiritual and moral traditions: Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, and Christianity. Gandhi's philosophy is constituted as much by the Bhagavad Gita as it is by the Sermon on the Mount. And he drew inspiration as much from Tolstoy and John Ruskin as much as he drew inspiration from Vivekananda and other spiritual leaders in India. Gandhi's truth led inexorably in the direction of toleration. And it is precisely toleration that we need in today's world where dissent is suppressed through annihilation. This lesson, the religious right, indeed fundamentalists of every hue, need to learn. We do not tolerate others because we alone know the truth, we tolerate because we do not know enough. Confidence that we know the truth leads to violence, doubt that we know enough leads to non-violence. We come to terms with history by learning from it, not by erasing it.

Neera Chandhoke is a former Professor of Political Science at Delhi University

## THE ARCHITECTURE OF CHOICE

Puja Mehra

Humans are not unerring. Often enough, perfectly rational people tend to behave irrationally, as any salesman or advertiser would attest. Simply reducing the price from ₹1,000 to ₹999.99 increases sales. Economists used to believe that such human irrationality was compatible with economic theory. Psychologists showed in the 1960s that humans are irrational in a systemic way.

Consider this true story. A class found an exam in which the average score was 72 points out of 100 'too tough'. The same set of students were delighted on scoring an average of 70% in a subsequent one. Why? Because the numerical average of the class scores was 96 points. The professor had purposely raised the perfect score to 137 points. This exam was tougher; the average score had dropped. Rationally, the students should have been unhappy. Instead, they were elated.

That professor is behavioural economist Richard Thaler, the winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics this year. He went on to show that even small departures from rationality have outsized impacts, and that limitedly rational humans don't fit neatly into classical economics. So, he helped develop a new

branch of economics, behavioural economics, to study the interplay of human quirks and economic forces.

Prof. Thaler's work is famously applied in constructing choices. How a choice is framed tends to influence choosers' behaviour. Choice architects can thus 'nudge' choosers in a direction. For instance, by making a pension plan the default option, while giving the choice to opt out, people can be 'nudged' towards saving for their retirement. Scores of people have been successfully enrolled into pension schemes by default this way.

Pushing people in the directions that the choice architects prefer is not nudging, though. The nudge philosophy is that the chosen option makes choosers better off as judged by themselves. Say the problem at hand is unhealthy eating habits, which lead to obesity. An extreme solution would be strictly-enforced bans and diktats on food that can be consumed and that which is prohibited. A less extreme public policy would be a sin tax on fat or sugar. Nudge-type policies, on the other hand, would tend to include things like displaying the healthier food options relatively more prominently. Or mandating calorie labels on sweets boxes.

Changing mindsets Development policies become mea-



surably more effective when combined with insights into human behaviour. A common refrain in India is that constructing toilets will not guarantee cleanliness and hygiene; Swachh Bharat will succeed truly if behaviours change. For which mindsets must change. In experiments conducted in some States, application of behavioural economics successfully changed the sanitation mindset. The World Bank has documented some of the pilots. One such study found that open defecation dropped 11% from very high levels after a community-led total sanitation programme

was combined in a few chosen villages with the standard approach of subsidies for toilet construction and information on the transmission of diseases.

Since going out in the open is partly a social norm, the researchers tried to facilitate the building of a new social norm. A technique was used in which volunteers escorted the villagers out to the field where they put some food next to some human waste. The experiment involved watching the flies go back and forth. The villages were nudged into collectively rejecting open defecation by making a declaration in public. The point

being that to reap the benefits of sanitation, everybody has to do it together. Behaviours changed measurably.

Another study involved puzzle-solving sessions. It helped understanding the effects of caste on classroom performance. Boys from backward classes were found to be just as good at solving puzzles as boys from the upper castes when the caste identities were not revealed. In mixed-caste groups, revealing each of the boys' caste created a significant 'caste gap' in achievements. The boys from backward classes underperformed by 23%.

The behaviour-informed approach to policy-making recognises that there are two systems of thinking. Thinking automatically and thinking analytically and deliberately. Just as any tool can be used controversially, and in a way not intended by its creators, nudging is sometimes used for misshaping mindsets, behaviour or manipulation. Examples would include using stigma to deflect blame on to individuals, such as on social media, for systemic problems. The motivator in such cases encourages herd behaviour by making people think quickly. In such situations, it helps to get people to slow down their decision-making, make them think analytically.

An experiment from the U.S. is instructive. People were asked for their views on controversial topics, such as sanctions on Iran, in distinct ways. In the first approach, people were asked why they believed what they did. It immediately made them more argumentative and the polarisation increased. Then, when the same people were asked to explain how they thought the sanctions work, it made them think, and the polarisation and extreme views slowed down.

Puja Mehra is a Delhi-based journalist

# Himachal to vote on Nov 9 in test of PM Modi's popularity

Himachal Pradesh will go to polls on November 9, the Election Commission of India announced on Thursday. Results will be declared on December 18.

Chief election commissioner AK Joti said the polls in Gujarat will be held before December 18, so that results of Himachal Pradesh have no impact on them. Dates of elections in Gujarat will be declared later.

If the last round of assembly elections in five states, especially in Uttar Pradesh, was projected by the BJP as a vindication of the NDA government's demonetisation gambit, the elections for the 68-member Himachal assembly could become a test of public support for its economic policies, especially the goods and services tax (GST) that triggered protests by traders in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state.

Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi has given clear indications of the party's poll plank, attacking the NDA government for the economic slowdown, lack of employment opportunities, hasty rollout of the GST and the plight of farmers, labourers and small traders and businessmen. The BJP has put up a brave front citing how the Indian economy is the fastest-growing in the world and obliquely hinted at its return to old themes by addressing Gandhis as "shehzada" and referring to "Italian



glasses". The next round of elections could have implications for the NDA government's economic model, too. While the BJP's victories in these elections could embolden the Centre to stick to its fiscal consolidation path and go for some bold reforms, especially in the labour sector, an adverse poll outcome could put pressure on the government to opt for populism, especially with eight states going to polls next year that would set the momentum for 2019 general elections.

Odds are stacked against the Congress in Himachal Pradesh, with chief minister Virbhadr Singh facing charges of corruption and a recent incident of rape of a minor girl on the outskirts of Shimla raising questions about the Congress government's handling of the law and order situation.

The grand old party has a more daunting task in Gujarat where it won its last assembly elections in 1985. The difference in the voteshares of

the BJP—which has ruled the state for 22 years—and the Congress has hovered around 9-10% in the past five consecutive elections. The BJP is banking on the popularity of the Prime Minister to counter the resentment of Patidars—who have been agitating for reservation in jobs and education—the disgruntlement among a section of traders over the rollout of GST and demonetisation, and perceived disappointment with the state of the economy.

# SC issues guidelines to accord senior designation to lawyers

The Supreme Court issued on Thursday a slew of guidelines including setting up of a permanent committee led by the Chief Justice of India to accord senior designation to lawyers.

A three-judge bench headed by Justice Ranjan Gogoi said that besides the CJI, the committee would include a senior most Supreme Court judge or a high court judge, as the case may be in the committee.

The bench also comprising Justices R F Nariman and Navin Sinha proposed setting up of a permanent secretariat which would collate all information of a candidate who would be considered for confirming of senior designation by the permanent committee.

Besides the CJI and senior most SC/HC judge, the committee would also include a representative of the bar and Attorney General in case of apex court and Advocate General in case of high courts.

While deciding the issue of designating a lawyer as senior advocate, the committee would also consider aspects such as number of years put in the practise, judgements in cases to which a lawyer has been a part, the pro bono litigations and the test of personal-



ity. A lawyer will have to undergo the test of personality in which he will be interviewed for being designated as a senior lawyer.

The bench also made it clear that the permanent secretariat will put the name of candidates being considered for senior designation on the website for inviting suggestions of stakeholders.

It said after the names are considered and approved by the permanent committee, the name will be put before the full court (involving SC/HC judges as the case may be) which will decide to accord senior designation to an advocate either unanimously or majority through secret ballot.

# Case against Hardik Patel for 'insulting' tricolour withdrawn

The Gujarat government has withdrawn a case against Patel quota stir leader Hardik Patel for allegedly insulting the tricolour nearly two years ago.

Rajkot collector Vikrant Pandey passed the order to withdraw the case against Hardik following instructions from the state government.

"As per the instruction received from the state government (home ministry), we have withdrawn case against Hardik and activists of Pati-

dar Anamat Andolan Samiti (PAAS) which were registered in Rajkot district," Pandey said on Wednesday.

Only one FIR was registered against Hardik in the district, he said, adding further formalities will be completed in court.

Five other cases against PAAS agitators were also withdrawn, the collector added.

On October 19, 2015, Hardik, the convener of the PAAS, was booked for allegedly in-



sulting the tricolour.

Police had said Hardik jumped over the tricolour when he was on the way to the Khandheri cricket stadium in Rajkot to disrupt the India-South Africa ODI match scheduled that day.

According to police, Hardik's feet had touched the national flag which he was carrying as he jumped on a car in an attempt to speak to the media when he was stopped by the police on way to the stadium.

# Jay Shah can be probed if there is evidence: RSS

The RSS said on Thursday the charges against Jay Shah, son of Bharatiya Janata Party national president Amit Shah, can be probed if there is prima facie evidence but it is for those who allege a scam to prove it.

"Necessary enquiry should be done and action can be taken accordingly," senior RSS functionary Dattatreya Hosabale said in Bhopal, responding to queries related to the alleged spike in the turnover of a company owned by Jay Shah.

He said there must be prima facie evidence for the charges to be enquired into. At the same time, he put the onus of proving the charges on those levelling them. "Those making the allegations should prove them first."

The RSS leader also distanced himself from senior BJP leader Yashwant Sinha, who on Wednesday criticized the government for defending Jay Shah. Sinha had earlier created a furore after attacking the government's management of economy.

"They are in the BJP and they should discuss the issues within the party. We will not discuss it as it is not our obligation," Hosabale said, when a reporter asked about questions being raised vis-a-vis government by some BJP leaders including Sinha.

He also downplayed a question by a journalist who said senior leader Murli Manohar Joshi had given in writing a complaint about the government and had met RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat in this connection. "He might have come here for some other reason," he said.

Congress demands CBI probe

The Congress on Thursday demanded an inquiry by the CBI into the row.

Congress spokesperson Priyanka Chaturvedi said, "I wonder if the prime minister can explain to us this model of getting Rs 15 crore loan for our businesses. He needs to tell us."

She alleged that agencies like the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Income Tax department and Enforcement Directorate were being used to silence the opposition after the BJP-led government assumed office.

"These (agencies) have become a tool to silence the voices, and, for the CBI to function independently this is an important case," she told a press meet.

## Congress benefited, RSS suffered from Mahatma Gandhi's assassination: Uma Bharti



Union Minister Uma Bharti on Thursday said the Congress "benefited" the most from the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi while the RSS suffered the most.

"Today I ask the people of the country and the media. Who benefited most from the assassination of Gandhiji?" Uma Bharti said here.

"We went to jail. We were banned. And we are still suffering for that till today. The country suffered a lot and the Sangh and Jana Sangh suffered a lot," she said.

She added that the Congress benefited most due to Mahatma Gandhi's killing.

"Due to the assassination, the Congress benefited most as he had announced that Congress will be disbanded and a new political wing will be formed (after independence)."

The Drinking Water and Sanitation Minister's remarks came a few days after the Supreme Court appointed senior lawyer Amrendra Sharan as amicus curiae to examine whether there is scope for re-investigating the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi in 1948.

Mahatma Gandhi was shot dead on January 30, 1948 in New Delhi by Nathuram Godse.

# CBI begins probe into Louis Berger bribery case in Assam

The CBI has begun probe into allegations of bribery by US consultancy firm Louis Berger for securing Assam government contracts.

The CBI took over the case after the Gauhati High Court had on September 2 said Assam's criminal investigation department was going slow on the case and purportedly trying to shield the accused.

A CBI team on Thursday questioned the three persons who had filed a case in the bribery scam — Bhaben Handique, Abdul Wahid and Jayanta Gogoi — at the CBI's office here.

The probe agency did not disclose what transpired. The three petitioners too chose to speak "when the time comes".

The case dates back to July 2015 when the US department of justice under Foreign Corrupt Practices Act filed a lawsuit against the New Jersey-based Louis Berger. The case involved water management projects in Assam and Goa.

Soon after the US lawsuit, Handique filed a police case in Guwahati alleging Louis Berger had paid Rs 6 crore to Assam officials and politicians to secure a water supply project in Assam worth Rs 1,452 crore.



The Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) had awarded Louis Berger a contract in 2010 to manage three water supply projects. These projects, funded by Asian Development Bank and Japan International Cooperation Agency, are yet to be completed.

The case was handed over to CID, but Handique went to the high court seeking a CBI probe as he felt the state agency was trying to shield influential people involved.

Former chief minister Tarun Gogoi

and Himanta Biswa Sarma, then a Congress leader and minister for Guwahati Development Department under which GMDA functions, blame each other for giving the contract to Louis Berger.

Sarma switched over to BJP in 2015 to eventually become a minister in the BJP-led coalition government handling key portfolios such as finance, health and education.

A 40-page FIR that the CBI filed in New Delhi on October 4, however, is against unnamed officials of GMDA and of Louis Berger.

# Tamil Nadu govt to launch cleanliness drive to control dengue

As part of efforts to control the spread of dengue, Tamil Nadu government will undertake a 15-day cleanliness drive in the state and warned of action against owners whose unclean premises could lead to mass breeding of mosquitoes spreading the disease.

A decision to this effect was taken at a review meeting

chaired by chief minister K Palaniswami on Wednesday, where he took stock of the situation amidst opposition criticism over government's handling of the spread of dengue. As per the decision arrived at, the cleanliness drive will cover all parts of the state, with special focus on urban areas, an official release said

today. The drive will focus on cleaning areas which have the possibility of water stagnation.

Clearing waste and construction debris was also in the agenda, it said.

The aforesaid areas had the possibility of mass breeding of dengue causing mosquitoes, it said. Special teams have to be formed for the

cleaning drive and they will send regular reports to the respective district collectors on the action taken, the release said.

A team headed by the collectors will monitor the activities, and conservancy staff and workers covered under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act will be deployed

for the clearing work.

Action has to be expedited covering educational institutions, government and private premises, areas of construction activities among others, it said.

The government warned of action against owners of unkempt premises, saying they could lead to mass breed-

ing of mosquitoes responsible for spread of dengue.

Further, additional doctors and nursing staff will be appointed in hospitals dealing with dengue control, it added. The government has appointed senior IAS officers for every district to coordinate these activities and they have been asked.

## Azam Khan claims army 'gifted' battle tank to his university



Former Uttar Pradesh minister Azam Khan on Wednesday claimed that the army has "gifted" a battle tank to his private university.

Khan, the Chancellor and founder of Mohammad Ali Jauhar University, said he has requested the Army to provide more sophisticated weaponry to his university so that the students can acquire knowledge of weapons used by the Army.

Efforts to elicit a comment from the Army did not fructify as the spokesperson of the Central Command based in Lucknow did not reply to SMS queries, nor take the calls.

Khan hit out at his critics, saying they were indulging in a propaganda that he did not enjoy good relations with the Army.

# WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY 2017: HERE ARE SOME SCIENTIFIC TECHNIQUES TO FIGHT DEPRESSION

**NEW DELHI:** Is the loss of a loved one taking a toll on your health, or are you often feeling guilty and miserable because of your own actions? The feeling of being deprived, losing hard-earned money on the stock market, constant health issues, moving to a new city, retirement and several such stressful life events can leave a person vulnerable to depression. "As per WHO estimates, nearly five crore Indians are suffering from depression and over 300 million people are living with it globally. The figures show an increase of more than 18% in cases of depression as compared to the last decade and account for over two-thirds of global suicides in low- and middle-income countries like India," says Mahesh Jayaraman, co-founder of health platform Sepalika.com.

While there are numerous ways to deal with depression, most often, people resort to prescription antidepressants, and, in some severe cases, Electroconvulsive Therapy. Managing depression or coping with depression symptoms can be quite challenging and can take a toll on your body. That's why one needs to explore safe, alternative coping strategies to reverse depression without having to resort to antidepressants.

Eat a balanced diet rich in high quality fats: A balanced and nutritious diet helps promote good health and works effectively to fight depression. The brain tends to rely on a combination of complex carbohydrates, essential fatty acids, especially Omega 3 and Omega 6, vitamins and water to function efficiently.



While good fats — monounsaturated and polyunsaturated — are known to enhance mental calm, trans fats and saturated fats can adversely affect brain health. The low supply of essential nutrients could seriously hamper the body's production of amino acids, which are key drivers of psychological health. Incorporate nutrient-dense animal fats in your daily diet, to provide your body with Vitamin A, arachidonic acid, Omega 3 fatty acids, Vitamin D and Vitamin K. These nutrients will not only prevent or mitigate depression and anxiety but lead to improved concentration

levels, enhanced moods and will result in better focus. Conduct thyroid function tests: Abnormal thyroid hormone levels can result in mood swings, anxiety, irritability, fatigue, insomnia and depression. Most of the times, patients with hypothyroidism report these symptoms, but receive diagnosis of major depression, general anxiety or bipolar disorder.

They are prescribed with antidepressants, mood stabilisers, sedatives, or all three, leaving the underlying illness untreated. As per research, a sizeable number of patients with depression may have

early hypothyroidism, the cases of about half of which are detected only by thyrotropin-releasing hormone (TRH) testing. Therefore, if you are detected with hypothyroidism and depression, then dietary supplements that support thyroid function and natural desiccated thyroid hormone can come to your rescue. Remember, as thyroid function improves, depression goes away naturally. Consume adequate B Vitamins: Often, low levels of Vitamin B12 and other B vitamins and folate can trigger depression. These vitamins play an important role in producing brain chemicals that affect mood and

other brain functions. Several studies have found that patients with mental disorders are nutrition deficient and lack Omega-3 fatty acids, B vitamins, minerals, and amino acids. Vitamin B12 deficiency can result in compelling mental health problems. Lack of this vitamin can impair cognitive function and negatively affect the brain in several ways. Therefore,

the first step is to ensure that your body is getting an adequate amount of B12 from your diet. Vitamin B12 is found in abundance in animal products such as fish, lean meat, poultry, eggs, and grass-fed dairy products like milk and cheese. Fortified breakfast cereals are also a good source of B12 and

other B vitamins. Regular practice of yoga and meditation can combat depression and help in improving overall well-being. (Shutterstock) Practice yoga and meditation: Yoga and meditation can be the two most effective

ways to fight depression and its symptoms. Yoga and meditation have demonstrated therapeutic effectiveness on many patients dealing with depression, mental and emotional problems.

Regular practice of yoga and meditation can combat depression and help in improving overall well-being. Instead of popping prescription antidepressants that can have serious side effects,

especially after prolonged use, practice yoga and meditation as a treatment for depression, and, as an effective alternative to medication that can have serious side effects.

## Epidural painkillers do not slow labour, says study



**NEW DELHI:** Contrary to popular belief, epidural painkilling medication does not slow down labor for pregnant women, according to a US study published Tuesday.

The findings suggest that the long-held practice of reducing or stopping an epidural in the later stages of labor could be "out of date and misguided," said the report in the journal *Obstetrics and Gynecology*.

Epidurals, which deliver pain-numbing medications close to the nerves of the spine via catheter, have been widely used since the 1970s.

For the study, 400 women agreed to receive an epidural early in labor and then be randomly assigned to have that painkiller continued throughout the later part of labor, or exchanged with a saline placebo without their knowledge.

"Double-blind" study  
Neither the women, researchers, doctors or midwives knew what was in the catheter-delivered infusions -- a study design known as "double-blind" which tends to enhance reliability and avoid bias.

The second stage of labor begins when the cervix is completely dilated and ends when the baby is delivered. When this stage of labor runs long, adverse outcomes -- including harm to the fetus -- are more common.

To avoid complications, obstetricians routinely discontinue the epidural at this stage.

But the results of the study showed that epidural or not, labor lasted just about as long. All the women in the study were healthy, first-time mothers.

The duration of labor averaged 52 minutes for women given active pain medication versus about 51 minutes for women given the saline, just a 3.3 percent difference, said the report.

"We found that exchanging the epidural anesthetic with a saline placebo made no difference in the duration of the second stage of labor," said senior author Philip Hess, director of obstetric anesthesia at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and associate professor at Harvard Medical School.

Nor did epidural medication have any effect on the health of the newborn babies, the normal vaginal delivery rate, the position of the fetus at birth or any other measure of fetal well-being, said the report.

During the study, obstetricians asked to stop epidural infusions in 38 of the 400 patients because their labor was progressing poorly.

Seventeen of these women were in the saline group, while only a slightly higher number -- 21 -- were in the active medication group.

As expected, the women whose drugs were halted experienced increasing levels of pain as labor went on. "Twice as many women given the placebo reported lower satisfaction with their pain relief compared to those provided the anesthetic," said Hess, calling for more research into the matter.

"We didn't see any negative effects, but epidural analgesia in the second stage of labor remains controversial and merits follow up studies."

## Welp, Science Discovered (Yet Another Reason Women Are Better Than Men

**NEW DELHI:** If men are from Mars and women are from Venus, then we'd much rather set up financial shop on Venus, thank you very much.

Research has long found that women tend to be more altruistic and generous than men. But until recently, the reason was rather unclear. Now a new study, published in the journal *Nature*

Human Behaviour, shows that the female brain actually responds differently to generous decision-making than the male brain does. Researchers asked 40 adults to take part in brain-imaging experiments where they

had to make decisions about sharing money with others or keeping it for themselves. What they found was that prosocial (i.e., generous) behavior triggered a stronger reward signal for women than it did for men. Interestingly, male reward systems responded more strongly

to selfish behavior. Lead author of the study Alexander Soutschek, Ph.D., professor of economics at the University of Zurich, explained that the reward systems in our brain are strongly tied to learning.

Previous studies have shown that girls tend to be rewarded with praise for prosocial behavior more so than boys.

Translation? By treating boys and girls differently from a young age, girls come to expect rewards for generous behavior. "These stereotypes might

function as self-fulfilling prophecies and produce the gender differences they claim to describe," said Soutschek. "The differences in the brain might be the product of the internalization of these cultural expectations."

## Government curbs random use of stem cells for therapeutic purposes

**NEW DELHI:** In order to curb the misuse of stem cell treatments, the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) released updated national guidelines on Wednesday that restrict the use of stem cell therapy.

For adults, stem cells can be used for therapeutic purposes in different cases of leukemia (cancer of the blood) and lymphomas (cancer of the lymphatic system), solid tumours such as germ cell, and non-cancerous diseases of the blood such as severe aplastic anaemia, sickle cell disease, among others.

In children, the therapy is also permitted in different types of blood cancers, solid tumours of brain, bones, etc, and non-cancerous diseases such as thalassemia major, juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, and osteopetrosis, among others.

At the moment, certain medical practitioners offer stem cell therapy for conditions even outside their speciality and for conditions where there has been no proven cure through this treatment.

"The 2017 guidelines reiterate that any stem cell use in patients, other than that ... for approved indications, is investigational at present... every use of stem cells in patients outside an approved clinical trial is unethical and shall be



considered as malpractice," says the report. An expert, on condition of anonymity, said, "Even clinical trials in stem cell treatments should only be done by domain experts. However, these days you would find stem cell clinics almost everywhere. It is an expensive treatment modality and you can't fool people."

The guidelines elaborately mention categories where stem cell use "permissible, restrictive or prohibited".

The use of stem cells has been strictly prohibited in human germ line gene therapy, wherein changes are made to the DNA that will be passed on to the

next generation, and human cloning; use of gene modified human embryos; breeding of animals in which any type of human stem cells have been introduced at any stage of development, etc.

"India has a large unmet medical need, which requires facilitation of safe and regulated translational and clinical stem cell research," says the report.

Dr Soumya Swaminathan, director general, ICMR, said,

"These are the updated guidelines keeping in mind the advances that have happened in the field. It is a fast-paced area and needs constant upgradation."

## Sleep Talkers May Get Profane During Heated Exchanges In Dreams: 5 Foods That May Help You Sleep Better

**NEW DELHI:** Do you have a habit of sleep talking? Studies suggest that sleep talkers often mumble profanities and abuses during night time conflicts in dreams and more often than not these angry exchanges are grammatically on point.

According to a latest study published in the journal *Sleep*, sleep talkers engage in more aggressive talk than polite exchanges. For the study, the team examined sleep-associated speech in 232 adults. The findings revealed that sleep talkers often followed patterns that would ensue in a typical daily conversation and even took pauses to let the other person speak their part. The French study also stated that men abused more in their sleep than women, and the most recurrent word was 'No'. The study is considered to be one of the largest investigations into sleep-talking. The study revealed that sleep-talking may correspond to the "punch-line" of a conversation



that is the most intense point of the conversation, which can often lead to profanity and verbal abuse later. The study also stated that the participants may not use the most strongest cuss words in their awake state as much, but the rate was found

to be 800 times higher when they were sleep talking. On the other hand polite or kind words were observed only 12 times from 361 episodes. The subjects were examined across several nights, the number of words along with propositions and speech

episodes, frequency, gaps and pauses, and other factors were all tracked in the study. The findings have challenged previous belief that sleep-talkers become child-like during episodes, suggesting that even while sleeping brain can function at a high

level. Sleep talking is often emerges from irregular sleep patterns or disrupted sleep. Here are foods that may help you sleep better. Milk is a great sleep supporter. It contains tryptophan, an amino acid which converts into serotonin. Serotonin is known to induce calming effects in the brain. Lack of calcium is also one of the most common causes of disturbed sleep patterns, so get your fill. Believe it or not a bowlful of cherries can send you off to sleep. Cherries are one of the few natural foods that contain melatonin. Melatonin is a hormone produced by the pineal gland in the brain. It is known to regulate your sleep and wake cycles and control the internal body clock. Bananas can help bring a satisfying sleep because they contain magnesium and potassium - both of which are natural muscle-relaxants. They are also packed with the good carbs that make you feel sleepy. Sweet potato is another great source.

## Exposure to bright white light may help patients with depression, bipolar disorder

Previous studies have found morning bright light therapy reduced symptoms of depression in patients with Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). (Photo: Pixabay)

Previous studies have found morning bright light therapy reduced symptoms of depression in patients with Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). (Photo: Pixabay)

Daily exposure to bright white light at midday may significantly decrease the symptoms of depression and increase the functioning in people with bipolar disorder, according to a study that paves the way for new treatment options. Previous studies have found morning bright light therapy reduced symptoms of depression in patients with Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD).

However, patients with bipolar disorder can experience side effects such as mania or mixed symptoms from this type of depression treatment.

The study, published in *American Journal of Psychiatry*, implemented a novel midday light therapy intervention in an effort to provide relief for bipolar depression and avoid those side effects.

Researchers from Northwestern University in the US found that compared to dim placebo light, participants assigned to bright white light between noon and 2:30 pm for six weeks experienced a significantly higher remission rate (minimal depression and

return to normal functioning). More than 68 per cent of patients who received midday bright light achieved a normal level of mood, compared to 22.2 per cent of patients who received the placebo light, researchers said.

# OLA RAISES \$1.1 BILLION IN FRESH FUNDING FROM TENCENT, SOFTBANK

Bengaluru: India's largest cab-hailing service Ola (ANI Technologies Pvt. Ltd) has raised \$1.1 billion in fresh funding from China's Tencent Holdings Ltd and existing investor Japan's SoftBank, giving it enough ammunition to keep arch-rival Uber Technologies Inc. at bay, even as the biggest investors in India's consumer internet ecosystem begin to close ranks.

On Wednesday, Ola said it was in advanced talks to raise another \$1 billion from existing and new investors, thus rounding off what may turn out to be a \$2 billion funding round.

Ola's fund-raise is the latest in a series of billion-dollar funding rounds in the Indian start-up ecosystem this year, with both Flipkart and Paytm having raised massive amounts of capital this year. Flipkart leads the charts, having raised at least \$2.8 billion in two separate

tranches from SoftBank, Tencent, eBay and Microsoft, while Paytm raised \$1.4 billion from SoftBank earlier this year. The latest funding in Ola is also a clear sign of the largest investors in India's start-up ecosystem closing and consolidating ranks, with Alibaba and SoftBank forging an informal alliance of sorts on one hand, and Tencent and Naspers combining forces on the other. So far, these investors have put their full weight behind the consumer internet "unicorns" that they perceive to be the outright winners in their respective categories, even as these local Internet giants attempt to stave off existential threats from multinational rivals such as Amazon India and Uber Technologies. "We are thrilled to have Tencent Holdings join us as new partners in our mission to build mobility for a billion Indians. The transportation and mobility industries are seeing huge



changes globally. Our ambition is to build a globally competitive and futuristic transportation system

in India that will support and accelerate a nation on the move. Our new partners share our passion

for building the future of transportation in India together and we look forward to learn and ben-

efit from their global perspectives and ecosystems," said Ola co-founder and chief executive officer Bhavish Aggarwal in a statement.

Ola, which is the third-most valuable start-up in the country, has been trying to raise fresh capital since June 2016. Prior to this round, it has received at least Rs2,345 crore from SoftBank Group Corp. Prior to this round, Ola got a pre-money valuation of roughly \$3-3.3 billion, a sharp drop from the \$4.5 billion valuation it commanded in September 2015. Pre-money refers to the valuation excluding the current round's cash infusion. Mint first reported in June 2016 that Ola was in talks to raise fresh funding, and again in July this year reported on the latest funding discussions. Ola needs massive amounts of capital as it is locked in a bruising battle with the local unit of Uber Technologies, the world's most valuable and deep-

pocketed start-up, which is also in talks to raise funding from SoftBank. After it sold its Chinese business to Didi Chuxing in August, succeeding in India has become one of the top priorities for Uber. Those priorities have not changed under new CEO Dara Khosrowshahi. Ola and Uber currently are locked in a dispute over who controls how much of the market. Uber claims it is bigger than Ola, but executives and investors at Ola claim that Uber is less than half of Ola's size. There is no conclusive way of checking either claim. Ola reported a seven-fold jump in revenue to Rs758.23 crore in the year ended 31 March 2016, but losses nearly tripled to Rs2,313.7 crore because of heavy discounts to customers and spending on incentives to its drivers. With the latest round of funding, Ola plans to make strategic investments in its supply chain and technology,

## Brokerage View GIC Re's IPO opens Should you subscribe to the issue



new delhi: GIC Re will open its initial public offering (IPO) on October 11 and is looking to raise Rs 11,370 crore through the same. The offer will close on October 13. The IPO consists of a primary issue of 17.20 million equity shares by GIC Re and offer for sale of 107.50 million equity shares by the government. GIC Re is a government-owned reinsurance company. The price band for the issue is Rs 855 to Rs 912. Alice G Vaidyan, Chairman and Managing Director of GIC Re, said that going forward, they will be open to inorganic growth opportunities. "We are also looking to grow our international business and will be expanding in the life reinsurance space globally," she added. The reinsurer had a gross premium of Rs 33,741 crore and a profit after tax of Rs 3,141 crore in FY17. Bankers said that the huge market share and the fact that they did not have any major competitor in India has led to these valuations. A discount of Rs 45 on the offer price is being offered to retail individual bidders and to eligible employees bidding in the employee reservation portion. Brokerages largely recommend sub-

scribing to the issue, considering the penetration potential of insurance services in the country. The brokerage house said that the company is expected to continue its healthy performance, as re-insurance market is expected to reach at Rs 700 billion by FY22E. "Though GIC Re does not have any comparable peer in India,

it stands forth among similar global players in terms of premium growth, net expense ratio and investment yield," the report noted. It also expects this business to get further traction on the back of increasing awareness among farmers about Fasal Bima Yojana as this segment has consistently been growing at rapid pace for last two years.

The brokerage believes that the valuations are reasonable and attractive against ICICI Lombard despite generating same quantum RoE. IIFL believes that

the company's gross premium growth should remain sturdy in the coming years due to growth in Indian non-life insurance industry, expanding reinsurance market and tapping of new global markets including the largest ones.

## Bad loans hit record Rs 9.53 lakh crore, up 5.8% in last six months

MUMBAI: The bad loans of banks hit a record Rs 9.53 lakh crore at the end of June, unpublished data shows, suggesting Asia's third-largest economy is no nearer to bringing its bad debt problems under control.

A review of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data obtained through Right To Information (RTI) applications show banks' total stressed loans - including non-performing and restructured or rolled over loans - rose 4.5 per cent in the six months to end-June. In the previous six months they had risen 5.8 per cent. While banks remain the main source of funding for companies in India, the stubborn bad debt problem has eaten into bank profits and choked off new lending, especially to smaller firms, at a time when an economy that depends on them is stalling.

The GDP grew at its slowest pace in three years in April-June quarter - a concern for the government which faces elections in 2019 and has pledged to create millions of new jobs before then. Banks are having to take higher provisions to account for more defaulters being pushed into bankruptcy and margins are likely to be squeezed further by proposed new rules to encourage commercial banks to pass on central bank interest rate cuts. To be sure, the bulk of India's bad loans are in the state banks and stem from lending to large conglomerates, especially in steel and infrastructure. But analysts say the rise in bad loans among small firms, and even retail borrowing, is worrying and will do little to encourage new loans to help fuel growth. "On the corporate side, we think it's a recognition cycle which is nearing an end," said Alka Anbarasu, senior analyst at Moody's Investor Service, referring to more bad loans being recognised as such, as banks come under pressure from the RBI and other regulators. "But it's really those data points beyond corporate that are causing some worry." Anbarasu forecast weak quarters ahead for banks before profit-



ability picks up, and several senior bankers from public sector lenders - which account for more than two-thirds of Indian banking assets - agreed the months ahead would be strained.

Stressed loans as a percentage of total loans reached 12.6 per cent at end-June, according to the RBI data, the highest level in at least 15 years. Higher provisions, weaker loans part of the issue for banks and the government is a strict provisioning regime: the RBI wants banks to provide for at least 50 per cent of the secured loans to companies taken to bankruptcy proceedings, and 100 per cent for the unsecured part. A dozen of the biggest such cases account for near-

ly Rs 1.78 lakh crore, or a quarter of total non-performing assets. For those companies, banks will need to provide Rs 18,000 crore on top of existing provisions, according to July estimates from India Ratings and Research, the local affiliate of Fitch Ratings. More than 20 other sizeable companies are at risk of being taken to bankruptcy court. Bankers say these and other pressures - including rising government bond yields that forced banks to post mark-to-market losses - have added to the squeeze, and hit new loans. According to RBI data,

new loans grew at just about 5 per cent in the year to March, the lowest growth rate in more than six decades. Several banks have already cut back their loan books to conserve capital. "What are they (RBI) thinking while they're taking these steps all at the same time?" said a treasurer at a state-run bank,

who didn't want to be named due to the sensitivity of the issue. "Do they want banks to wind up their businesses, or do they want to save the banks?" Treasury income accounted for 22.7 per cent of banks' operating profits in the last financial year, doubling its share from a year earlier, India Ratings estimates. "The almost zero treasury income will hit provisioning ability and, in turn, make it more difficult for weaker banks to give loans as capital.

## India offers \$300 bn investment chance in oil sector Dharmendra Pradhan

new delhi: Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan today said India will offer investment opportunities worth USD 300 billion in the hydrocarbon sector over next 10 years so as to keep pace with the country's energy demand. He also said a group of experts is being set up to advise the government on issues related to energy.

Besides, he added, a Cabinet proposal is being finalised for a gas platform for having market driven prices.

"In the next 10 years, India is offering project scope of USD 300 billion (in hydrocarbon sector) looking into our future demand," Pradhan said in a media interaction at India Energy Forum, organised by CERAWEEK. On the comments of NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant about scope of USD 1



trillion investment in oil sector in the coming five year, and Saudi Aramco investing USD 300 billion in India, the minister said: "That was a miscommunication. Aramco has plan of USD 300 billion investment in their own world infrastructure." Talking about the gas platform which will

provide marketing mechanism for the gas segment, he said: "Very soon we will be coming up with gas exchange platform. Foreign Direct Investment is a contentious issue in this sector." Pradhan said the primary idea is to put some component of domestic gas (in future) and imported LNG

on this new platform. "We want to exchange (replace) the pooling mechanism of gas through a transparent exchange. We will be going to Cabinet very soon with detailed, nitty-gritty...how it will work." The existing formula for gas pooling for various sectors would exist even after operationalisation of the exchange as there are some priority sectors, but gradually India will move toward market driven gas price, he added. On the expert group, Pradhan said: "We are forming one internal think tank to advise on regular basis on ministerial work primarily on technology and on the target set by the Prime Minister on how to reduce (oil) import dependence 10 per cent. How to implement the successful.

## Facebook India Head Umang Bedi Resigns Sandeep Bhushan Named Interim Managing Director

new delhi: Facebook India and South Asia Managing Director Umang Bedi is leaving the company after a little more than a year with the company. Umang Bedi will continue with Facebook India for another three months to ensure a smooth transition, the company said. Sandeep Bhushan, Facebook's director of consumer and media businesses for South Asia, has been named as the interim director. For Facebook, India - with 180 million users - is the second largest market after the US.

"We confirm that Umang Bedi will be leaving his role and Facebook at the end of this year. He's built a really strong team and business during his time with us, and we wish him all the best," a spokesperson for the company told Gadgets 360. Umang Bedi joined Facebook after serving as managing director

for India operations for Adobe. He replaced Kirithiga Reddy as the managing director for Facebook India last year. Before joining Facebook, Sandeep Bhushan was the director of Samsung Electronics, and prior to that, he assumed various business roles at news outlets. Kirithiga Reddy,

who had served that position for more than five years, stepped down amid the company's ongoing tussle with the Indian regulator over Free Basics. At the time the company said Kirithiga Reddy was planning to change roles for some time.

TRAI banned Free Basics last year, but since then, Facebook has launched Express Wifi, another initiative part of Free Basics program, that brings connectivity to the masses. Over the months, Facebook has been scaling Express Wifi's reach in the country.

## WITH 10,000 ELECTRIC CARS PURCHASE, PM MODI LEADS THIS PLAN FROM FRONT

new delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has kicked off India's race to turn all new passenger car sales electric by 2030. The largest order has gone to a company that hasn't commercially started producing the vehicles. Tata Motors Ltd. hasn't sold a single electric car yet, though Chief Executive Officer Guenter Butschek says its late-mover status is an advantage at a time when technology advances are leading

to a fall in costs. Tata along with Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd. -- India's sole electric carmaker that plans to boost its vehicle manufacturing capacity to 5,000 units a month -- underscore the distance to be covered when compared to China and the U.S. Ramping up production of electric vehicles in a country where carmakers sell 2.5 million fossil fuel powered units annually is just one part of the problem, finding uninterrupted

power supply is another. In addition, non-existent charging infrastructure further widens the gap between India and China, the current global leader. It had 336,000 new registrations in 2016, more than double of 160,000 in the U.S., while India had just 450 cars hitting the roads, according to the International Energy Agency. "The government needs to set up charging infrastructure to make this electric business

model sustainable," said Ram Kidambi, partner at consultancy firm A.T. Kearney. "Indian automotive companies may be able to supply electric vehicles meeting the deadline. But the problem is what do the car owners do without the charging infrastructure?" The pursuit for all electric new car sales in less than a decade-and-a-half is part of PM's Modi's plan to champion the cause of combating climate change. Bloom-

berg New Energy Finance predicts the target will be "incredibly difficult" in the absence of a clearly defined policy and without subsidies. Chinese firms have benefited from generous funding offered by various regional governments. India currently has about 350 charging points while China had about 215,000 installed at the end of 2016, according to the BNEF report. It will take about 15 years in India for total cost of ownership

for electric vehicles to reach parity with conventional vehicles, around the time the south Asian nation plans to end sale of fossil fueled cars. India's EV target appears a little too ambitious, said Pawan Goenka, managing director at automaker Mahindra & Mahindra. "It would be little more moderate, though lot more aggressive growth path than what we have seen in other countries, but more moderate than being 100

percent electric vehicles by 2030." PM Modi's administration is hoping to fast-track change by leading from the front. The government-backed Energy Efficiency Services Ltd. (EESL), which is tasked with helping the nation reduce emissions and curb fuel imports, is buying 10,000 battery-powered cars from Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra to replace petrol and diesel cars used by the federal government in about.

INDIA VS AUSTRALIA T20I:

# Challenge for Virat Kohli, opportunity for David Warner

All of a sudden, a challenge confronts Virat Kohli's desperate India while an opportunity beckons Australia. The winner takes all in the T20I series decider in Hyderabad on Friday.

For the David Warner-led visitors, it's a golden opportunity to win their maiden T20I series in India after having little to cheer about in the past two months in the sub-continent.

For Kohli, the challenge is to keep his series-winning streak intact at home since taking over captaincy from MS Dhoni.

Everything seemed to be going well for the Indian batsmen in this series until Jason Behrendorff's devastating spell happened in second T20I in Guwahati. The angle that the left-arm pacer generated caught the Indian top-order off-guard.

After successfully tackling right-arm pacers like Nathan Coulter-Nile and Kane Richardson in the ODIs, the Indian batsmen found the pace and swing of the tall Behrendorff too hot to handle.

Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan and Manish Pandey became his victims as the 27-year-old, playing his debut series, returned with best



figures by an Australian bowler in T20Is in India.

The onus was on the middle-order but MS Dhoni and Hardik Pandya got out after promising starts. The result was that India were dismissed for a sub-par score of 118.

With the series on the line, India need to buck up in some areas and the team management may well have realised that. In the five T20Is India played in 2017 before this series, they won three games with at least one among the top three scoring a half-

century. While Bhuvneshwar Kumar was impressive upfront, Jasprit Bumrah, Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal went for a few runs. But they all have been consistent in the limited-overs format in recent times and Tuesday's performance was one-off.

However, a major question is the fifth bowler. India have tried Pandya and Kedar Jadhav of late.

Though Pandya was economical in the second T20I, he had leaked runs in previous matches. For someone who is being compared to Kapil

Dev, a good performance in the decider will only bolster a strong start. He and Jadhav would be the key if the strike bowlers fail.

It would also be interesting to see if Ashish Nehra, who confirmed on Friday that he will retire after the upcoming T20I series against New Zealand, will get a chance. It is unlikely he will be picked as in-form Bhuvneshwar and Bumrah have been bowling well.

Whether Nehra plays or not, the Indian bowlers will have to be extra cautious against the Australian middle-order that includes Henriques, Travis Head and Glenn Maxwell.

Like in the previous two matches, there is prediction of rain on Friday. Hyderabad had been receiving incessant showers over the past one week and the groundsmen could be seen working hard to make the field ready for Friday.

There were patches on the field which looked damp and even fans joined in to dry it. However, with the sun shining bright on the ground on Thursday, the situation is expected to be sorted out in time for the evening match.

# Ashish Nehra confirms cricket retirement, 'wanted to go when still at top'



Ashish Nehra confirmed on Thursday that he will be retiring from all forms of cricket after the first Twenty20 international between India and New Zealand at Delhi's Feroz Shah Kotla on November 1.

"It can't get bigger than this. Retiring at my home ground is big. I wanted to retire while I am still on top. It's good if you retire when people ask 'why' and not when they start saying 'why not,'" said the veteran pacer from Delhi.

"When I was selected for this series, I informed Virat (Kohli) and coach (Ravi) Shastri that I think Bhuvni (Bhuvneshwar

Kumar) and (Jasprit) Bumrah are doing really well. And that this is the right time for me to go."

Ashish Nehra made his senior debut for India during the Test series against Sri Lanka in 1999 and helped the Indian cricket team reach the 2003 World Cup final. The 38-year-old has been plagued by injuries and last played for India in February.

Ashish Nehra has collected 44 Test, 157 one-day international and 34 Twenty20 wickets in his 18-year international career. Nehra also played for four teams in the Indian Premier League from 2012-16.

# Pakistan cricket team hopes to overcome Sri Lanka in change of format

Pakistan are counting on a change in format and players to overcome a resurgent Sri Lanka in the five-match one-day series starting in Dubai from Friday.

Pakistan were upset 2-0 in the preceding Test series but they are hoping to change their fortunes and carry the limited over form which helped them win the eight-nation Champions Trophy held in England in June this year.

They only have skipper Sarfraz Ahmed, batsmen Haris Sohail and Babar Azam and fast bowler Hasan Ali from the Test series, while experienced allrounder Mohammad Hafeez and opener Ahmed Shahzad amongst the 11 who joined the squad.

Ahmed feels the pressure of losing his first Test series but promised a better performance in the limited over matches.

"Obviously, when you have a first Test series as captain, and you lose it, pressure will be there," said Ahmed who



played a match winning 61 not out against Sri Lanka in the Champions Trophy group match.

"But we will try and get out of that. Our one-day team is balanced and our record is very good. We will have some senior players returning and I hope we'll play better cricket."

Pakistan also have a young crop of fast emerging players in opener Fakhar Zaman -- who hit a century in the Champions Trophy final against India -- leg-spinner Shadab Khan, allrounders Imad Wasim and Faheem Ashraf, and

pacers Rumman Raees, Junaid Khan and Usman Shinwari.

Spearhead Mohammad Amir was ruled out of the series with a shin injury sustained in the second Test in Dubai.

Pakistan's loss in the Test series was their first in United Arab Emirates in 10 attempts since they were forced to play at a neutral venue amidst security fears sparked after 2009 terrorists' attacks on the Sri Lankan team bus in Lahore.

But their one-day record in UAE has been abysmal,

having lost nine of the 12 series since 2009, only winning twice against Sri Lanka and once against the West Indies.

Sri Lanka have come from wretched one-day form, having lost 16 of their last 21 games, winning four with one no result. That included a 5-0 whitewash against South Africa and India and first-ever series defeat against minnows Zimbabwe.

That defeat against India last month put pressure on skipper Upul Tharanga.

"We lacked consistency. We didn't bat, bowl or field well. We were outplayed by India. I am disappointed with our batting effort," said Tharanga whose team failed to reach 250 in any of the matches.

The remaining matches are in Abu Dhabi (16 and 18 October) and Sharjah (October 20 and 23). Three Twenty20 matches will follow the ODIs, two in Abu Dhabi (October 26 and 27) and the last in Lahore (October 29).

# Guwahati fans apologise to Australian cricket team for rock-hurling incident

Despite putting up an excellent show as a host to the Indian and Australian cricket teams earlier this week, Guwahati was not only left red-faced but embarrassed with the rock-hurling incident that took place post the second T20I at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium.

A glass window of the Australian cricket team bus was shattered when a rock was hurled while the visitors were leaving the Barsapara Cricket Stadium, having equalled the series with an eight-wicket hammering of the home side.

The incident certainly left a wrong impression of the football-mad city which had shown equal love for cricket. Australia spinner Adam Zampa even went on to the extent of describing how such incidents could make touring difficult in India.

As the authorities scamper to fix the loopholes and police continue to zero in on the culprits, fans in Guwahati took matters into their own hands



to ensure their visitors do not leave the city with bad memories.

Many fans turned up at the Australian team hotel with posters reading 'Sorry Australia' -- a gesture which is expected to put a smile back on the cricketers from Down Under, who are used to extensive travelling and playing in India.

According to an unverified local TV news channel report, fans also showed up at the city airport to convey the same message.

The incident was first reported on social media by Aaron Finch with stand-in Australia captain David Warner sharing the post.

However, it was Moises Henriques, who scored an

unbeaten half-century in Australia's win, who was the first to make a call of moving on and brushing this aside as a one-off unfortunate incident.

Earlier last month, the Australian team bus was attacked by a stone when they were returning post the conclusion of the first day's play in the second Test at Chittagong.

# MESSI TREBLE LIFTS ARGENTINA TO WORLD CUP

MONTEVIDEO: When it really mattered and when the pressure was most intense, Lionel Messi delivered for Argentina.

On the brink of being eliminated from World Cup qualifying for the first time in almost five decades, Messi scored all three goals in Argentina's 3-1 comeback victory on Tuesday at Ecuador overcoming the thin air in the Andes.

"It would've been crazy if Argentina didn't play the World Cup," Messi said. "This is what we came for. And on top of that we started behind. Luckily, we reacted quickly after Ecuador scored. Thank God, we fulfilled our objective."

Messi said the Argentina squad "will change, will grow a lot, will be stronger after this".

But there's still work to do for Argentina, the two-time champions who lost the final three years ago to Germany 1-0.

Messi has yet to hoist a major trophy for his country of birth, a contrast to the laurels he's brought Barcelona.

He'll turn 31 during the World Cup in Russia, so this may be his last chance.

"Messi does not owe Argentina a World Cup, but rather football owes him a World Cup," Argentine coach Jorge Sampaoli said. "He's the best player in history. This is a team victory. They played a brilliant match."

Uruguay and Colombia also qualified after a dramatic last round of South American fixtures that also saw Peru clinch a playoff spot and Chile miss out completely.

The top four teams in South America get automatic spots at next year's tournament in Russia. Brazil have 41 points and had already qualified as group winners months ago. The other three advancing Tuesday went in this order: Uruguay (31), Argentina (28) and Colombia (27).

Uruguay beat Bolivia 4-2, Colombia drew 1-1 with Peru and last-placed Venezuela beat Paraguay 1-0.

Peru (26) placed fifth and will keep alive their bid for a first World Cup appearance since 1982 after edging Chile for the South American spot in the inter-continental playoff next month against Oceania representatives New Zealand. Brazil were fortunate enough



to escape most of the drama but they still had a say in who would join them in Russia next year. And Chile, after a 3-0 loss to them, missed out along with Paraguay.

Argentina had started the day outside the automatic qualifying positions, needing to secure their first win in Quito since 2001 to be certain of claiming at least a playoff place.

It looked as if Argentina's worst fears were set to become a reality after Romario Ibarra gave Ecuador a 1-0 lead in the first minute at 2,850 metres (9,350 feet) in Ecuador's capital.

"Even with a goal against you you could see the certainty of a team that knew how to play the game," Sampaoli said.

Messi for sure, and running

mate Angel di Maria.

Messi scored off a pass from Di Maria in the 12th, left-footing home from close range. In the 20th, Di Maria slipped a pass through to Messi, who drove the ball into the top corner from 15 yards.

Messi then completed his hat-trick -- the 44th of his dazzling career -- with a sublime chip in the 62nd minute to make it 3-1.

But while Argentina celebrated, it was a miserable night for Sampaoli's former team Chile.

The Chileans were soundly beaten by Brazil in Sao Paulo to see themselves eliminated on goal difference.

Barcelona's Paulinho opened the scoring before Manchester City's Gabriel Jesus bagged a brace to secure a win already-qualified Brazil which relegated Chile to sixth place in the standings.

The Chileans finished level on points with Peru but trailed on goal difference.

Chile coach Juan Antonio Pizzi announced his resignation following the exit.

"I take full responsibility," Pizzi told reporters. "We gave everything but it was not enough. I will not continue."

The result marks the end of a brilliant run by the Chileans, who won the last two Copa America tournaments in 2015 and 2016 and qualified for the last two World Cups.

"My soul is destroyed," Arturo Vidal, the midfield dynamo who missed the match through suspension, wrote on social media.

"Thanks boys, for everything, for all these years together giving our lives in every game."

A second-half goal from Paolo Guerrero kept Peru in with a chance of a first World Cup appearance since 1982 when his brilliant free kick in Lima cancelled out Colombia's opener from James Rodriguez.

Peru, unbeaten in their last six qualifiers under Argentina manager Ricardo Gareca, failed to secure the win that would have ensured automatic qualification but have the consolation of a home-and-away playoff against New Zealand. "To be in this position was one of our targets for the qualifiers," Gareca said after the draw. "There's 180 minutes left. We know that it is difficult but we know that it is up to us."

Uruguay were jolted by a Gaston Silva own goal which gave Bolivia the lead on 24 minutes.

Martin Caceres and Edinson Cavani scored twice just before half-time to give Uruguay the lead before two goals from Luis Suarez put the hosts 4-1 up.

Bolivia reduced the deficit when Uruguay's Diego Godin scored the second own goal of the night.