

# TIME AND US

DAILY

Srinagar, Kashmir

FRIDAY

● JANUARY, 05, 2018  
 ● 17 RABI-AL-SANI 1439 AH  
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 ● VOLUME: 04  
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WEATHER TEMPERATURE		SUNSET FRIDAY: 05:36 PM
STATION	MAX TEMPERATURE ACT	MIN TEMPERATURE ACT
SRINAGAR	9.0	-3.9
JAMMU	15.6	2.7
LEH		-14.2
KARGIL		-20.2

SUNRISE SATURDAY: 07:38 AM

LOCAL FORECAST OF SRINAGAR  
 Generally Cloudy sky... Maximum & Minimum temperatures will be around 7°C & -4°C respectively.

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

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SEVERAL IMPORTANT SCHEMES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE

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CHINA TO STICK WITH 'AROUND 6.5%' GROWTH GOAL IN 2018: REUTERS SOURCES

REALITY CHECK BECKONS FOR VIRAT KOHLI'S INDIA VS SOUTH AFRICA ON NEWLANDS PITCH

## Dineshwar Sharma visiting Kashmir by January 15

GOI's special envoy says after Governor NN Vohra's appeal, ball now in separatists' court

Srinagar, Jan 4: Two days after the Governor NN Vohra asked separatists in Kashmir to talk to GOI's special envoy, Dineshwar Sharma on Thursday said that the ball is now in the court of the separatists.

Talking to KNS from New Delhi over phone, Dineshwar Sharma said that he will be visiting Jammu and Kashmir by the mid of January and will continue to talk to the people of different shades of opinion for the sustainable peace in the state. "I am visiting the state again by January 15 and this will be my first visit of the year 2018 to Jammu and Kashmir. I haven't chalked out any strategy yet but this is for sure that I am coming to Kashmir this month," Sharma told KNS.

Reacting over the recent appeal by the Governor NN Vohra to separatists in Kashmir to talk to GOI's special envoy, Sharma said he has already offered dialogue with the separatists and that the ball now lies in their court only. "Now the separatists have to decide when they can talk. I have already made an



offer to them," Sharma said. Earlier, while addressing the joint session of the state legislature in Jammu ahead of the Budget session on January 2, the state governor NN Vohra had, in his address, asked the separatists to come forward and talk to Sharma.

## Sopore killing evokes widespread condemnation

BJP Claims slain Youth as active party member

Srinagar, Jan 04: From Social Media to real world people of Kashmir cutting across the political ideologies condemned the killing of young 25 year old Arif Sofi in Sopore North Kashmir who happens son of prominent Hurriyat activist Maqbool Sofi has evoked widespread condemnation from all corners of the society.

The Chairman of Hurriyat Conference (M) Mirwaiz Umer Farooq condemned the killing of

Arif Ahmad Sofi, wrote on Twitter "Deeply saddened and strongly condemn the killing of 25 year old Arif Ahmad of Sopore by unknown assailants, killing human beings in every form is cowardly and against humanity."

The BJP while claiming the slain youth as active worker, state party leadership Sat Sharma, state general secretary (Org) Ashok Kaul, state general secretary and incharge Kash-

mir affairs Dr Narendra Singh and BJP Kashmir unit in an official statement said that they are deeply saddened over the brutal murder of party worker by militants.

Reiterating that killings are no solution to resolve political issues and condemnations don't get dead bodies back, Engineer Rashid led Awami Itihad Party Spokesman has appealed militant outfits to clear their stand on the killing of Arif Ahmad Sofi in

Sopore. Chairman Salvation Movement Zaffar Akber Bhat condemn the killing of Arif Ahmed Sofi who is son of senior pro freedom leader Mohammad Maqbool Sofi and said that killers should brought to the justice, he said that whole family has rendered matchless sacrifices for the ongoing movement.

"The killing of an unarmed  
 ▶ See **Sopore**...Pg 02

## Triple Talaq bill in parliament aims to further alienate Indian Muslims: G.A. Mir

Says Govt. wants to pack jails with Muslims via Triple Talaq route

Srinagar, Jan 04: The state Congress on Thursday slammed the central government over the Triple Talaq bill, terming it unconstitutional, unacceptable and unjustified.

The state Congress chief G.A. Mir told KNS that the bill is full of flaws



and is aimed to harass the Muslim families across India. He said the BJP led government at centre hasn't consulted the Muslim community while framing the bill and if passed by the parliament, it will devastate thousands  
 ▶ See **Mir**...Pg 02

## Government yet to clear cases of Roshni Scheme

Srinagar, Jan 4: The non-clearance of cases by State Vigilance Organization has become the main bottleneck in the proper implementation of Roshni Act.

The aspirants have appealed Government of Jammu and Kashmir and Vigilance Organization to expedite the probe and clear cases against those who are being accused of land grabbing under this scheme.

The aspirants said that those cases which are outside Vigilance purview should be cleared first so that aspirants can apply anew.

Recently, Minister for Revenue, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction chaired a high level meeting to review the implementation of the Roshni Act 2001. The Minister  
 ▶ See **Roshni**...Pg 02

## 23-year-old Danish Mushtaq under incarceration since 15 months

Srinagar, Jan 04: The only hope for his parents, Danish Mushtaq, 23 year old from Alooas Bandipora languishing in jail since past 15 months, even after Public Safety Act (PSA) against him was quashed.

Exposing the rotten nature of the amnesty policy envisaged by PDP, policy sources state that police is contemplating to slap Danish with fresh PSA. Danish has several health complications and with a  
 ▶ See **Danish**...Pg 02

## No more pellets responsible for losing sight: Tarigami

Submits resolutions demanding ban on pellet guns

Jammu, Jan 04: CPI (M) leader and MLA Kulgam Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami has submitted three resolutions in Jammu and Kashmir State Assembly to urge upon the state government to ban the use of pellet guns, urging Center and State governments to fix minimum wages of workers not less than Rs.18000 per month urging upon the government to take effective measures for eradication of



corruption. "This House urges upon the Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir to ban the use of pellet guns by security forces to meet

any law and order situation," says a resolution submitted by Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami.

The second resolution states that, "This House urges the Government of India and Government of Jammu and Kashmir to fix minimum wages of workers not less than Rs.18000/- per month."

The third resolution reads that "This House expresses  
 ▶ See **Tarigami**...Pg 02

## Dy CM for expediting work on power projects to achieve the target "Power For All"

JAMMU January 04: Deputy Chief Minister, Dr Nirmal Singh today exhorted upon the officers of Power Development Department to expedite work on various power projects being implemented in the state for timely completion.

The Deputy Chief Minister, while chairing an officers meeting convened to review implementation of various schemes in the power sector, emphasized the need to accelerate the pace of progress on all works being done under



different power projects so that the motive of the government of ensuring Power to All is met in letter and spirit.

Dr. Singh had a detailed review on the status of several schemes envisaging adequate power supply in the

state which inter alia include RAPDRP, DDUGJY, PMDP etc. He asked the officers  
 ▶ See **Dy CM**...Pg 02

## Authorities foil Hurriyat's seminar India can't deny legitimacy, authenticity of UN resolution: Geelani

Srinagar Jan 04: Hurriyat conference was scheduled to organize the seminar titled "Kashmir Problem in the light of Right to Self-determination" where prominent religious scholars, intellectuals and pro-freedom leaders were invited to speak.

However, the statement issued to KNS said that a large contingent of police deployed on Airport Road here prevented the participants and journalists, besides Hurriyat activists, from entering Geelani's residence, the venue for the seminar.  
 ▶ See **Geelani**...Pg 02

## Govt endeavors to complete ePDS in J&K by March: Zulfkar

Reviews progress on the process, asks for expeditious completion

JAMMU, JANUARY 04: The government is putting in strenuous efforts to complete the process of Electronic Public Distribution System (ePDS) in the State by March, 2018.

This was stated by the Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs and Tribal Affairs Choudhary Zulfkar Ali while chairing a meeting of officers of Jammu Division convened



to review the progress on streamlining of  
 ▶ See **Zulfkar**...Pg 02

## 'Lethpora attack aftermath, MHA asks security agencies to strengthen security in vital establishments'

Security review of camps, security establishments being conducted

Srinagar, Jan 04: In the back drop of Lethpora Pulwama attack, in which five central Reserve Police personnel and three militants were killed, The Ministry of Home affairs (MHA) has advised the security agencies in Kashmir for strengthening of security in vital establishments which are "vulnerable" to militant attacks.

"There are various buildings of security forces, which give militants an advantage to fight battle for longer hours. Security of such buildings must be revived along the highway to ensure militants don't hole up inside if they carry out any attack in future," the MHA directives according to sources have said. Militants stormed a central reserve police



force (CRPF) camp in Lethpora area along the Srinagar-Anantnag highway in an audacious pre-dawn strike on Sunday, killing at least five CRPF personnel. Three militants  
 ▶ See **Attack**...Pg 02

## Panchayat Polls to be held on Non-Party Basis: Abdul Haq

Committed to strengthen grass root democracy

KUPWARA, JANUARY 04: Minister for Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Law and Justice, Abdul Haq on Thursday said that the government has decided to hold Panchayat elections on non-party basis.

Addressing a Public meeting at Lolab in Kupwara district, Minister said the Panchayat polls will be held next month and all arrangements are being made to



ensure smooth elections. He said the basic purpose of holding Panchayat elections is to bring democracy at the doorstep of the people and

empower people by giving them authority to take decision themselves with regard to development of their  
 ▶ See **Haq**...Pg 02

## 16 days on, NHM employees continue to press for their demands

Organizes medical camp, says will protest in Jammu from Friday

Srinagar, Jan 04: The National Health Mission (NHM) employees continued to protest for their demands on the 16th consecutive day on Thursday, demanding government to regularize them.

The protesters at Srinagar's Pratap Park had organized a medical camp for the general public there as mark of protest, saying that the 'arrogant' attitude of the government is taking toll on the



patients. The protesting NHM employees also condemned the

thrashing of NHM protesters at Jammu on Wednesday  
 ▶ See **NHM**...Pg 02

## PRESS CLUB KASHMIR TAKES POSSESSION OF POLO VIEW PREMISES

Srinagar, Jan 4: The Director Information & Public Relations, Mr Muneer-ul-Islam today formally handed over the possession of the 9-HB Building and the premises at Polo View, Srinagar to the office-bearers of the Press Club Kashmir.

The possession letter of the building was handed over to Mr Mohammad Saleem Pandit, President Press Club Kashmir, on the directions of the Chief Minister, Ms Mehbooba Mufti to make the maiden Aiwan-e-Sahafat in Srinagar functional at the earliest.

Pertinently, the President Press Club Kashmir along with the Director Information had earlier this morning called the Chief Minister, here this morning to finalize the modalities for transfer of the building to the Press Club Kashmir.  
 ▶ See **Club**...Pg 02

# DIV COM REVIEWS PROGRESS OF DEV WORKS UNDER CM'S COMMITMENT AT GANDERBAL

GANDERBAL, JANUARY 04: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Baseer Ahmad Khan today directed officers to play a proactive role in the execution of developmental works committed by Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti during her outreach programme last month.

The Divisional Commissioner was addressing a meeting, attended by Dis-

trict Development Commissioner, Dr Piyush Singla, various heads of departments, chief engineers, sectoral and district officers here today to review the progress achieved during last one month.

On the occasion, Div Com directed for constitution of separate interdepartmental Monitoring and Vigilance committees for monitoring and verifying of

works so that accountability and transparency will be maintained.

He reviewed all the 205 commitments/decisions taken by the Chief Minister during the Public Darbar held at conference hall Mini Secretariat Ganderbal on December 04, 2017.

The Divisional Commissioner gave on the spot decisions in respect of each

work and fixed timeline for completion of these works. He issued directions for maintaining documentation, besides pre and post photography of each work and videography during execution, dredging and other irrigation works.

While reviewing the decisions, the Divisional Commissioner directed for augmentation of facilities at fruit Man-

di Zazna, completion of 05 filtration plants in Kangan Tehsil, desilting of 37 irrigation schemes, improvement of LT/HT network and distribution system at Walivar, execution of land for Pandach-Behama road and creation of transformer bank.

Regarding upgradation and renovation of playground at Kangan and Gan-

derbal Stadium, the Divisional Commissioner fixed a timeline of 25 days for completion.

With regard to extraction of minor minerals from nallah Sindh, the Divisional Commissioner directed for organizing cooperative societies of local extractors with facilities of bank loans to facilitate employment to them.

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### SOPORE

person is unjustified, Sofi was a wonderful human being, I had not met him from several years since I left the pharmaceutical agency, but still today I lost a good friend," said a local entrepreneur Mudasir Muran while recalling his memories with Arif years back.

Pertinently, son of local head of Peoples League, a resident of Unisoo on the outskirts of Sopore was shot dead by unknown gunmen late Wednesday Night. He was laid to rest in his ancestral graveyard today amid a massive pro-freedom and pro-Pakistan sloganeering.

Sofi was working with a pharmaceutical agency is survived by two brothers and three sisters and a differently-abled father.

### MIR

of Muslim homes. There are clear indications given by the bill that the government wants to pack jails with Muslims via Triple Talaq route

Mir said that while the judgment of the Supreme Court is acceptable to one and all, however, the way in which the BJP government wants to enact the law about triple talaq is vindictive against the Muslim community. "In a bill, the centre has suggested that the man uttering talaq thrice to his wife would get a jail term for three years without any bail. But the question is who will bear the expenses of the family of the imprisoned Muslim man during his jail term. The bill is aimed to deprive Muslims in India and harass them on all fronts," Mir said.

Commenting over the recent announcement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, allowing Muslim women to perform hajj without the male partner, the state Congress chief termed such an order a direct interference in the affairs of the Muslim community. "These issues should be left to decide by the Islamic scholars. Why is Modi poking his nose in every single issue of Muslims? If the government is serious in mitigating the sufferings of the Muslim community, it should address the economic, social issues in the country," Mir told KNS.

### ROSHNI

had directed the concerned to submit a detailed report about the practical difficulties in the implementation of the Act. However, sources said that no report has been submitted before the Ministry yet.

Those who want to have land under this Act demanded that Government should invite applications from the desired people so that they can also be benefitted under this Act.

"It is high time for the government to clear the cases from Tehsildar level to DC Nazol and fix a new circular. People living below poverty line should also be benefitted but unfortunately there is no headway in this regard. We appeal State Government to clear the pending cases and invite new applications for the desired people," said a delegation.

Pertinently, the Roshni scheme has generated only Rs 78.47 crores instead of Rs 25,000 crores killing its very purpose.

In 2014, Principal Accountant General (PAG) had also expressed similar views on the scheme saying that state government has lost Rs 25,000 crore under the Roshni Act.

### DANISH

family dependent on him voices are urging to treat his case on humanitarian grounds and set him free soon.

"My son was no doubt a pro-freedom activist but his crime was not any big. The PSA was quashed but still he is not been released, what sort of Justice is this. Danish should be released as at this old age he is our only hope. We demand the state government to act upon its promise of granting Ammesty to political prisoners. His continuous languishing in jail are giving us great pain, stated her mother Fahmeeda while talking with Kashmir News Bureau.

Human right voices state that youth like Danish Mushtaq and several like him containing to languishing in jail exposes the rotten nature of the so called amnesty policy envisaged by PDP.

### TARIGAMI

its grave concern on ever-increasing corruption in public life and urges upon the government to take effective measures for its eradication."

The CPI(M) leader also submitted Jammu and Kashmir Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill, 2017, Artisans' Social Security Bill, 2018 and Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

"The Jammu and Kashmir Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill, 2017: By virtue of Constitution (86th Amendment) Act, 2002, Article 21-A has been inserted in the Constitution of India to provide that the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children at the age of 6-14 years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine. The said Constitutional Amendment is not applicable to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. In order to achieve the laudable objective behind the Constitutional Amendment, the Jammu and Kashmir Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill, 2017 provides that every child of the age of 6-14 years shall have right to free and compulsory education till completion of Elementary Education," the first bill reads.

The second bill states: "The Artisans' working in our State constitute a considerable percentage of total employment in the State. On account of their un-organize nature, these artisans' do not get adequate social security. Despite implementation of some schemes for their welfare there is a huge deficit in the coverage of artisans' in the matter of labour protection and social security measures ensuring their welfare and

well-being. The Jammu and Kashmir Artisans' Social Security Bill, 2018 aims to provide for social security and welfare of the artisans' and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto."

The third bill state: "Section 53 of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir provides that six months shall not intervene between its last sitting in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session. The said section does not provide for the number of sittings of the State Legislature. To strengthen the democratic process in the State, the Legislators have to be armed with sufficient opportunities to discuss the issues of public importance and for that adequate time has to be allotted to raise the issues of public concern. The present number of sessions and sittings are quite inadequate to carry on debate over the issues. There has been a persistent demand from Legislators across the country to fix the minimum sittings of the State Legislature in a year. The matter was discussed and agreed by the Presiding Officers of the State Legislatures of the Country on a number of occasions. As such, the sittings of the Legislature need to be increased to atleast 100 in a calendar year."

Besides, three bills submitted by Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami are under consideration in the Leganslative Assembly. They include: Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety (Amendment) Bill, 2016, Jammu and Kashmir Ecology Fund and Environment Cess Bill, 2016 and Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

### DY CM

to keep a regular monitoring on execution of various works under these schemes and ensure they are completed in time.

The Deputy Chief Minister asked the officers to synergize their efforts, so that effective implementation of various initiatives meant for augmentation of the power infra under the PMDP is fast paced and these are completed within the stipulated timeline. He said commissioning of these projects would go a long way in providing hassle free power supply to the consumers of the state.

Dr Singh said it has to be ensured that the funds earmarked for the power sector are utilized fully so that the problems being faced in the transmission, distribution and generation of power are mitigated and people get benefit from the same. "We have to ensure that the funds released by the centre are fully utilized, so that proper augmentation and renovation of the existing power infra is done and new ones are added as well," he added.

The Deputy Chief Minister also directed for expediting work under RAPDRP maintaining it would go a long way in improving the distribution of power in major towns in the state. He also called for expediting the implementation of DDUJGY and carrying out necessary formalities needed for it.

Commissioner Secretary PDD Hardesh Singh, Development Commissioner Power, Asgar Ali, Chief Engineer PDD Jammu Ashwani Gupta and Chief Engineer PDD Kashmir Shahnaz Gani besides other senior officers attended the meeting.

Dr Singh said that the State government is working under a well knit strategy to ensure that the power scenario in the state is transformed towards an improved and enhanced utility by ensuring an easy access to electricity for all.

It was informed in the meeting that the work on RAPDRP is underway and out of 30 towns 24 have been covered under RAPDRP while the work in remaining towns is going on in full swing.

The Deputy Chief Minister, while elaborating on government's initiatives of ensuring access to electricity for all, said that "Power for All" program is a major step in this direction.

Dr. Singh expressed gratitude to the Government of India for extending complete financial and logical support to Jammu and Kashmir for augmenting its power sector.

### GEELANI

"Police disallowed a seminar of the Hurriyat Conference here by blocking all roads leading to the venue, and Syed Ali Geelani who is continuously under house detention," the statement said, adding that the authorities also put Mirwaiz Mohd Umer Farooq and Mohd Ashraf Sehrai under house arrest, while as Mohammad Yasin Malik was arrested and shifted to central jail Srinagar.

Besides other Hurriyat leaders including Gh Ahmad Gulzar, Molvi Bashir Irfani, Mohd Yusuf Naqash, Mohd Yasin Ataie and Syed Imtiyaz Hyder were detained and lodged in different police stations.

Hurriyat strongly denouncing curbs on political activities and warned of dire consequences, saying that Delhi groomed henchmen in state are implementing RSS agenda.

Hurriyat condemned the 'illogical move' of police to disallow to hold the seminar, saying it is undemocratic and worst form dictatorial rule and added that government is denying us the right to hold even academic events".

Geelani said that India cannot deny the legitimacy and authenticity of UN resolution as these stand witness that political destiny of Jammu and Kashmir is yet to be decided.

"UN resolutions form basics and guarantee the peaceful and amicable solution of issue as per aspirations of people of Jammu and Kashmir," said Geelani.

While commenting over the resolution passed on 5th January 1949, Hurriyat Chairman said that even after seven decades these resolutions are a viable and provide a peaceful and durable solution for this vexed and long-standing issue. Expressing his dismay over the role of UNO, Pro-freedom leader said that it is painful that this institution failed to implement its resolutions.

"It is unfortunate that it couldn't contain the arrogant forces like India which is trampling all ethics in Jammu and Kashmir and resulting continuous uncertainty in whole sub-continent," said Geelani.

Pro-freedom leader said that on January 5, 1949 resolution accepted in UN is a clear binding on both India and Pakistan to fulfill their commitment of resolving Kashmir issue according to the wishes and aspiration of the people through a peaceful referendum.

Geelani said that these resolutions guarantee the right to freedom and other political rights to everyone irrespective of his faith and religion. Geelani said that it is very unfortunate that India is denying our right and suppressing our aspirations with its military might.

Citing the examples and procedures adopted in Croatia, East Timor and South Sudan, Hurriyat Chairman said that if UN can settle these issues, what is the reason that the longest pending issue is ignored and brushed under carpet.

Pro-freedom leader said that non-resolution of Kashmir is bone of contention between the two nuclear powers and if UN fails to play its role in solving this grave human issue not only Indo-Pak subcontinent but global peace and stability is under sever threat which may culminate in the world's biggest human catastrophe.

People of state, Pakistan and India are the principal parties and viable and lasting solution is impossible without taking into consideration the aspiration of people of Jammu and Kashmir, Geelani added, saying no solution to the dispute will be legitimate without the participation of the people of Kashmir.

Meanwhile, Geelani expressed his deep grief over demise of Habibullah Andrabi, father of Prof Khurshid Iqbal Andrabi, Vice Chancellor Kashmir University and Director Agriculture Altaf Aijaz Andrabi and prayed for departed soul. He extended his condolences with grieved family and prayed for their forbiddance to bear this irreparable loss.

### ZULFKAR

the ration distribution system under ePDS Project in the State.

The Minister, while elaborating on the measures being initiated to make the system transparent, asked the concerned officers to strictly adhere to the set deadline for completion of the project so that the purpose behind launching of this prestigious project is met in letter and spirit and consumers get ration in a totally transparent and hassle-free manner.

The Minister directed the authorities of M/S Linkwell Tele-systems Pvt Ltd. to complete 100% installation of PoS devices in 20 districts of the State by 30 January, 2018 positively to make 6000 Fair Price Shops in these districts fully functional. He said the process of installation of PoS devices in border districts of Leh and Kargil shall also be taken up soon.

Taking stock of the availability of the Computers, net facilities and other accessories required at all stores, Fair Price Shops and Offices of the FCS&CA Department, the Minister said that there is no constraint of funds but need is to submit the requisition to the concerned well in time. He instructed the concerned authorities to provide adequate number of computers with all other accessories for installation in all the ration stores and offices of the department and FCI stores for proper maintaining of daily records.

To strengthen the Supply Chain Management (SCM), the Minister directed the State Head of National Informatics Centre to conduct a training programme for all the Assistant Directors and Field Officers of the Department in the next week. He directed the concerned to ensure the implementation of the current operational status of SCM on the portal of all the districts of the State by 15th of January, 2018.

Reviewing the status of division wise target of ration cards for Aadhaar seeding, it was informed that a total of 73,090 beneficiaries have been covered in Kashmir and 76,563 in Jammu division within the fixed time.

The Minister directed the concerned to ensure that variation in the target reports shall be reduced to zero for both PHH and NPHH category. He further asked the officers of FCS&CA to ensure cent percent Aadhaar seeding of ration cards and their linkage with bank accounts to ensure transparency and accountability in the system.

Commissioner Secretary FCS&CA, Mehrajud Din Khan, Director FCS & CA Jammu, Rashid Azam Inqalabi, Additional Secretary Arun Kotwal, State Had NIC, Sunil Koul, officers of M/s Linkwel Telesystems Pvt. Limited, Assistant Directors of all the districts of Jammu division and senior officers attended the meeting.

### ATTACK

were also killed.

One of the top officials of the police officials though maintained that the security review is an ongoing process but told KNS that the security agencies are reviewing security of vital installations and establishments in Kashmir in view militants taking advantage of multi-storey concrete buildings and carrying out Fidayeen attacks on camps. "There are some establishments which are vulnerable to attacks. The security agencies have been directed to carry out their security review to combat any of the attacks," the police official said wishing not to be named.

The official said that Fidayeen attack was carried out on Lethpora camp to engage security forces for longer hours. "There are many big buildings in which militants tried to be holed up but the CRPF personnel fought and killed them and defeat what they were aimed for," the official said.

Special DGP, CRPF, S N Shrivastava, said that security is being reviewed of all security establishments. "Security review is an ongoing process. We are doing it as per the situation and upgrading security accordingly," he said.

He said that security forces were ready to combat militancy in the valley. "We will take every measure whatever is required to eradicate militancy."

Further the CCTVs are also being installed in various vital buildings of the Valley to ensure militants don't take

advantage which are vulnerable for such attacks.

Earlier, the militants had engage security forces for hours after holed up inside inside a six-storey building of Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) Pampora.

The gunfight, one of the longest in the recent history of Kashmir is believed that militants had managed to keep security forces engaged so long by taking advantage of the building.

Sources said that the issue was also raised up in a recent security meeting where it was directed security agencies to ensure militants don't manage to hole up inside such establishments and "all possible loopholes" are plugged in time. Security forces were directed to follow proper SOP so that militants don't get a change to escape.

Besides that periodical security review of these installations is also carried out to further strengthen and update the security aspects, sources said.

Earlier a high level committee of the army has suggested measures to strengthen security of various military establishments. "The new strategy on part of militants like targeting vital installations may be a move to inflict more casualties on forces besides damaging the establishments as well. So the committee reviewed the security of vital installations and suggested various measures to the concerned agencies," an army official said.

### HAQ

villages.

Abdul Haq said the Panchayat institutions will act as the mini-parliaments in rural areas where people of the particular area will decide which development works are to be taken up in their village. He said these institutions will play a vibrant role in effective execution of developmental programmes by availing full benefit of the flagships schemes of the central and state government.

The Minister said that the government is committed to empower the Panchayat Raj institutions and after the elections more funds will flow to these institutions for execution of various development schemes that will help to change the socio-economic scenario of the rural areas.

Minister appealed the people of the state to actively participate in the elections and elect the honest persons for their Panchayats so that they serve the people better and help in strengthening the institutions at grassroots level.

Earlier the minister interacted with the people during the Public meeting wherein the people raised various issues of public interest related to ration, Power supply, Water Supply, Roads, Irrigations, renovation of lanes and drains, healthcare etc. Minister gave patient hearing to the delegations and passed on-spot directions for the redressal of their grievances.

Abdul Haq said State Government is committed to the welfare of public and every possible step is being taken to mitigate the problems faced by the public. He said that the aim of conducting this programme is to address public grievances at grass root level and reach out to people who are unable to reach to the power corridors in Srinagar or Jammu. He said Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti has directed all ministers and legislators to listen to the grievances of the people at their doorstep so that people aren't forced to visit Srinagar or Jammu.

### NHM

, informing that over 15 employees sustained severe injuries in the Police action.

However, the protester said that ended their protest today in Srinagar and said that they will march towards Jammu and will press for their demands there from Friday.

The NHM employees begun their strike 16 days back to press for their demands. "We are being forced to hit the streets as the government is ignoring the work of NHM employees," the protesters said.

The employees started their protest on Dec 20 for 72 hours, which they later extended, saying that won't call off strike until demands won't meet.

Notably, the protest of NHM employees took place following the government announcement regarding the regularization of 61000 casual labours and daily wagers in the state.

"We are working on meager amount and the government is not paying any heed towards our sufferings. The government must come up with a proper road map and should secure the future of thousands of NHM employees," they demanded.

Various employees associations including EJAC and Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) headed by Dr Suhail Nayak had extended their support the NHM employees, urging the government to fulfill their demands at the earliest.

Earlier, in March last year, the NHM employees staged protest in favour of their demands and after protesting for consecutive eight days, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Baseer Ahmad Khan along with Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Farooq Ahmad Lone met protesting employees and assured them that their demands will be conveyed to CM.

Reports quoted asking the protesting employees to resume their duties and make memorandum of demands. "The absence of employees from the hospitals has caused immense hardships to the patients," he had said.

### CLUB

The Chief Minister expressed the hope that the Aiwane-Sahafat in Srinagar would not only come up as the first facility of its kind for the media fraternity in Srinagar but also become a hub of intellectual discourse.

She said the Government has initiated various measures for the welfare of the journalists in the State during the past three years and many more initiatives are in the pipeline.

## Several important schemes for development of women and children are being implemented by WCD Ministry

New Delhi, January 04: The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing various schemes/programmes for empowerment of women and development of children across the country. The details of those schemes are as follows:

**For Women empowerment:**  
Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), a comprehensive programme is being implemented to address the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of empowerment of women over a life-cycle continuum. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), erstwhile Maternity Benefit Programme has been contributing towards better enabling environment by providing cash incentives for improved health and nutrition to pregnant and nursing mothers.

Scheme for Adolescent Girls aims at girls in the age group 11-18, to empower and improve their social status through nutrition, life skills, home skills and vocational training.

Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra scheme, promote community participation through involvement of Student Volunteers for empowerment of rural women.

National Creche Scheme to provide day care facilities to children of age group of 6 months to 6 years working women who are employed.

Rastriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) to provide micro-credit to poor women for various livelihood support and income generating activities at concessional terms in a client-friendly procedure to bring about their socio-economic development.

Swadhar Greh to provide relief and rehabilitation to destitute women and women in distress.

Ujjwala, a Comprehensive Scheme for prevention of trafficking and for rescue, rehabilitation, re-integration and repatriation of victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.

Working Women Hostels for ensuring safe accommodation for women working away from their place of residence. Under this scheme, 2 new proposals have been received and 2 sanctioned in Himachal Pradesh during last three years.

Schemes of One Stop Centre (OSC) and Women Helpline (WH) are being implemented to facilitate access to an integrated range of services including medical aid, police assistance, legal aid/case management, psychosocial counseling and temporary support services to women affected by violence.

Gender Budgeting Scheme is being implemented as a tool for mainstreaming gender perspective at various stages of planning, budgeting, implementation, impact assessment and revisiting of policy/programme objectives and allocations. The Scheme helps in strengthening of institutional mechanisms and training of various stakeholders so as to mainstream gender concerns in Central and State Governments.

For Child Development Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is being implemented through States/UTs with the aim of holistic development of children upto 6 years of age and to meet nutritional needs of pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) (now Child Protection Services) is being implemented

through the State Government/UT Administrations to create a safe and secure environment for overall development of children in need of care and protection in urban and semi-urban areas.

National Nutrition Mission (NNM): The Government of India has approved setting up of National Nutrition Mission (NNM) commencing from 2017-18. The NNM, as an apex body, will monitor, supervise, fix targets and guide the nutrition related interventions across the Ministries. The programme through the targets will strive to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia and low birth weight babies. This information was given by Minister of State for Women and Child Development, Dr. Virendra Kumar in reply to a question in Rajya Sabha today.

## GOI announces launch of 7.75% Savings (Taxable) Bonds, 2018 commencing from 10th January 2018

New Delhi, January 04: Government of India has announced to launch of 7.75% Savings (Taxable) Bonds, 2018 commencing from 10th January 2018 to enable resident citizens/HUF to invest in a taxable bond, without any monetary ceiling. The main features of the Bonds are:

(i) Who can invest: The Bonds are open to investment by individuals (including Joint Holdings) and Hindu Undivided Families. NRIs are not eligible for making investments in these Bonds.

(ii) Subscription: Applications for the Bonds in the form of Bond Ledger Account will be received in the designated branches of agency banks and SHCIL in all numbering about 1600.

(iii) Issue Price: The Bonds will be issued at par i.e. at Rs.100.00

The Bonds will be issued for a minimum amount of Rs.1,000/- (face value) and in multiples thereof. Accordingly, the issue price, will be Rs.1,000/- for every Rs.1,000/- (Nominal).

The Bonds will be issued in demat form (Bond Ledger Account) only.

(iv) Period: The Bonds will be on tap till further notice and issued in cumulative and non-cumulative forms.

(v) Limit of investment: There will be no maximum limit for investment in the Bonds.

(vi) Tax treatment:

Income-tax: Interest on the Bonds will be taxable under the Income-tax Act, 1961 as applicable according to the relevant tax status of the bond holder.

Wealth tax: The Bonds will be exempt from Wealth-tax under the Wealth Tax Act, 1957.

(vii) Maturity and rate of interest: The Bonds will have a maturity of 7 years carrying interest at 7.75% per annum payable half-yearly. The cumulative value of Rs. 1,000/- at the end of seven years will be Rs. 1,703.

(viii) Transferability: The Bonds are not transferable. The Bonds are not tradeable in the Secondary market and are not eligible as collateral for loans from banking institutions, non-banking financial companies or financial institutions.

(ix) Nomination: A sole holder or a sole surviving holder of a Bond, being an individual, can make a nomination. Full details of the scheme are available in the Gazette Notification dated 3rd January 2018

## Bali for expeditious completion of infra facilities in GMC as per MCI norms

Also directs to examine norms for availing benefits of medical seats from Central quota

JAMMU, JANUARY 04 – Minister for Health & Medical Education, Bali Bhagat today took detailed review of infrastructural and other facilities in Government Medical College, Jammu to medical students at a high-level meeting held here today.

Principal Secretary Health & Medical Education, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Principal GMC, Dr. Sunanda Raina, Member MCI and HoD Medicines, Dr. Anil Mahajan, Registrar Academics, Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Additional Secretary H&ME, Naseer Ahmed Wani, Director Finance, Mohammad Rafiq, Joint Director Planning, Madan Lal and engineers of GMC were present in the meeting.

While discussing the present status of facilities vis-a-vis construction of hostel buildings (boys & girls), additional examination hall, up-gradation of library and other allied issues, the Minister called upon the Principal GMC to personally monitor the progress of the activities and ensure their time bound completion. He issued specific instructions for strict adherence to the norms of MCI and called for completion of all pending

works before the start of next academic year.

It may be mentioned here that the MCI had last year enhanced 50 more MBBS seats raising the total seats from 100 to 150 after detailed study and inspection of necessary infrastructural and allied facilities required as per the MCI norms. The MCI had



pointed out certain deficiencies, including up-gradation of infrastructure like hostels for boys and girls, increasing space for conducting exams, library and faculty members as pre-requisite to facilitate the additional students. The MCI in their subsequent inspections have directed the GMC authorities to overcome these deficiencies as early as possible.

The issues relating to the enhancement of PG seats by correspondence reduction of Diploma seats and availing the benefits of 15% share from the pool of All India Central

Quota for UG/PG seats from Government Medical Colleges across the country by the students of J&K was also discussed in detail. It was informed that more than 10,000 seats are being filled by various Government Colleges annually through NEET, but the students of J&K State do not avail its benefits in view

of State's own norms and policy. The Minister issued instructions to the Principal Secretary Health & Medical Education to examine these issues in depth and come out with a concrete proposal so that the benefits of such schemes can be availed by the students of Jammu and Kashmir as well.

It was informed that most of the deficiencies pointed out by the MCI during their inspections to GMC, Jammu stand rectified and remaining will be removed by the end of March, 2018.

## Speaker, Priya visit Bhour Camp park Prepare DPR for upgradation, improvement of the Park: Speaker to officers



JAMMU, JANUARY 04: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Kavinder Gupta Thursday directed the Department of Floriculture to prepare Detailed Project Report (DPR) for development of Bhour Camp Garden and submit the same to the concerned for sanction.

The instruction was given by the Speaker during his tour to Bhour Camp Garden.

Minister of State for Tourism, Education and Floriculture, Priya Sethi also accompanied the Speaker during the visit.

The Speaker and Minister took stock of the facilities available in the park besides taking a detailed appraisal about the upgradation and improvement works of the park. The Speaker said that the government is making all out efforts to promote Jammu as an independent tourist destination and upgradation

and improvement of the Bhour camp park with best of amenities shall help to improve tourist footfall here and also help promote the local economy. He asked the concerned departments to work in tandem and ensure the works are completed in a time bound manner to provide perquisite amenities to the tourists.

Priya Sethi emphasized upon the concerned officers of Floriculture department to plant different varieties of flowers in the available area which she said will enhance the beauty as well as to generate revenue by selling the flowers as there is a scope of commercial use of flowers as upcoming season is apt for use of flowers. She asked to take develop nursery for catering the supply of buds and saplings of Tullips and other varieties of flowers.

Director Floriculture Jammu, Babila Rakwal ap-

prised the Minister of the steps underway to improve amenities in the park for attracting more tourists here. She said that the Park is spread over 425 Kanal of land out of which 20 kanal has been marked for parking purposes.

Among other initiatives to improve facilities it was given out that about 200 street lights have been installed in the park so far and areas in the park have been marked to set up rose garden with varied varieties of roses. She said that work on developing the water bodies and fountains is in progress.

Among others, District Development Commissioner, Jammu Kumar Rajiv Ranjan, Assistant Commissioner Development Jammu, Executive Engineer Floriculture and other officers of various Departments including Floriculture accompanied the Speaker during his tour.

## Symposium on BBBP held at Shopian

SHOPIAN, JANUARY 04: With the motive to eradicate the discrimination against the girl child beside a bid to encourage birth and education of girls, ICDS department Shopian organized a symposium on the topic "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" (BBBP) at Government Girls Higher Secondary School Shopian, here today.

Additional Deputy Commissioner was the chief guest, and Principal Government Girls Higher Secondary School Shopian was guest of honour, besides large number students were present on the occasion.

The participating students threw light on various aspects of the theme 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' and highlighted the contributions of females in every field shouldering responsibility at par with male counterparts.

While speaking on the occasion District Programme Officer Shopian Parveez Sajad Ganie said that decline in the sex ratio is an alarming bell for the society that needs to be addressed with an iron hand. He sought awareness to check the menace of the female foeticide.

He said that no society can develop and progress without the contribution of the women. He stressed for the proper education of the girls. A theme based scintillating Cultural Programme was also organized on the occasion in which students presented theme based action song and a Skit. Later chief guest gave away awards among the students.

## Governor greets people on Gurupurab

JAMMU, JANUARY 4: Governor N. N. Vohra has greeted the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of the birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

In a message of felicitations, the Governor observed that Guru Gobind Singh ji was a warrior and a philosopher-poet who strived for establishing a society based on equality, brotherhood, and respect for women. He said that the values underlying the teachings of the great Guru should guide our endeavours to establish a just social order.

The Governor expressed the hope that this auspicious occasion would usher the State towards peace, progress, and prosperity, strengthen the bonds of communal harmony and brotherhood and re-invigorate the valuable traditions.

## PM to address Conference on Transformation of Aspirational Districts

New Delhi, Jan 04: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, will address the Conference on Transformation of Aspirational Districts tomorrow. This event is being organized by NITI Aayog at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi. The Prime Minister will interact with officials in-charge of

transformation of over 100 districts.

This event is in keeping with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a New India by 2022. The Union Government has embarked upon a major policy initiative for the rapid transformation of districts that are lagging on specific

development parameters. Senior Government officials in the rank of Additional Secretary and Joint Secretary have been designated as officers in-charge, to coordinate the efforts of the Centre and the States in addressing the specific developmental needs of these districts.

## Health Ministry and Tata Memorial Centre launch first digital Online Oncology Tutorial

New Delhi, Jan 4: Smt Preeti Sudan, Secretary (HFW) today launched the country's first digital Online Oncology Tutorial Series designed by the Tata Memorial Center in collaboration with the Health Ministry. The oncology tutorial series aim to train the doctors across the country to educate them in early detection, prevention, palliation, rehabilitation and treatment of various cancers. This is part of a national program that will be rolled out across the country by Tata Memorial Centre in collaboration with state governments.

Speaking at the function, Smt Preeti Sudan, Secretary (HFW) said that this is a visionary step that will leverage advances in IT to strengthen health outreach and health services in the country. She further stated that this initiative will help the doctors upgrade their knowledge and skills regularly thereby taking care of obsolescence. This initiative can save many precious lives and improve quality of life of many more, the Health Secretary added. This course is intended for physicians, gynecologists, dentists and other healthcare professionals who are not oncologists, but can play a very crucial role in early detection and diagnosis of cancers. This will equip them with the skills and knowledge on basics of oncology to detect, diagnose and refer cancer cases early. The online video lectures are also designed to update oncologists with the evidence based guidelines and skill for the management of cancer.

## Milestone achieved by Space Technology

New Delhi, Jan 4: In the recent years ISRO has achieved major milestones as below:

In April 2016, seven satellite constellation for Navigation system NavIC was established.

In August 2016, first experimental mission of Scramjet engine towards realisation of Air Breathing system was successfully tested.

In February 2017, 104 satellites were placed in a single launch.

In May 2017, South Asia satellite was launched, which was a gift to neighbouring countries.

In June 2017, GSLV Mk-III was launched successfully carrying GSAT 19 communication satellite.

In June 2017, Cartosat satellite was launched successfully by PSLV C-38

Indian Space Programme has placed Astrosat, a multi-wavelength observatory in August 2015. It observes universe in optical, Ultraviolet, low and high energy X-ray region of the electromagnetic spectrum, whereas most other scientific satellites are capable of observing a narrow range of wavelength band.

Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) is designed to orbit Mars. It is functioning well since its positioning in Mars orbit in September 24, 2014. The designed mission life of MOM was six months but has successfully completed more than three years and is expected to function further. All scientific payloads continue to perform well.

## Disabled Friendly Infrastructure in Schools and Colleges

New Delhi, January 04: The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) had issued various instructions from time to time to all the Centrally Funded Educational Institution to ensure barrier free environment in the buildings, which would include provision of ramps, rails, lifts, adaptation of toilets for wheel chair users, braille signages and auditory signals, tactile flooring etc. to PwDs, as envisaged in the PwDs Act.

University Grants Commission (UGC) has also issued various instructions from time to time to the Universities regarding Accessible India Campaign (Sugama Bharat Abhiyan), as a nationwide flagship campaign for achieving universal accessibility for PwDs. It is also mandatory for All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) approved institutions to have barrier free structure to encourage persons with disabilities for technical education.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides that every school should have barrier-free access. The Ministry of Human Resource Development on 22nd March, 2017 has advised all States and UTs to achieve 100% barrier free infrastructure/access for the benefit of children including CWSN by March, 2020.

The Centrally sponsored Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provides for barrier free access in the elementary schools for the benefit of children with special needs (CWSN). As per Unified District Information System for Education, 2015-16, 61.83% of elementary schools are having ramps and 23.08% schools have been provided CWSN friendly toilets where CWSN enrolment >0.

At present out of 1180 Kendriya Vidyalayas in the country, 1080 Kendriya Vidyalayas are provided with ramp up to ground level and 979 Kendriya Vidyalayas with Special toilets facilities.

## Time and Us

Editorial  
SRINAGAR  
& J&K

### SOLAR ENERGY FIASCO

Our country is energy hungry. Despite having largest water and coal reserves that could help generate thermal as well as hydroelectric power in sufficient quantity to meet our requirements, we are always faced with acute energy shortage. We do not have crude oil and gas enough to supplement our stocks of energy. Even though whatever little oil is available and whatever gas is available have been harnessed and the country is importing crude from the Gulf which cost-wise computes to very huge oil bill. The importance of energy in modern world and especially in a country like India cannot be underestimated. If we have to maintain the rate of economic, industrial and commercial development then we have to have assured supply of energy from whatever sources available. There are no two opinions about it.

It is in this background that the Government focused its attention on harnessing solar energy to supplement our energy resources. Two States, namely Rajasthan and Leh and Kargil in J&K State, have been identified for possessing satisfactory level of solar energy owing to radiation which if harnessed would help both the states to become self sufficient in the matter of energy. A study conducted by the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), tells us that Jammu and Kashmir has solar power potential of 111.05 GWp (Gigawatt-peak), which is the second highest in the country after Rajasthan where the potential is 142.32 GWp. None of the other States in the country have the potential even up to 65 GWp. How much of this potential are we utilising, is the precise question. That will show how much interests we evince in developing our solar energy potential to meet our requirements. It will be a shock to know that instead of making the State self sufficient in energy, during 2016-17 year merely 0.77 Million Units of electricity was generated from solar energy. Astonishingly, during the current year not even single unit of electricity has been generated from renewable energy till date. This is how our administration is handling the solar energy matter in the State.

It has to be mentioned that in view of our solar energy potential particularly in Ladakh region, some years back the Union Government had sanctioned two projects—one each for Leh and Kargil to generate 7500 Mega Watts of solar power and even a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Science and Technology Ministry of Jammu and Kashmir. About the fate of these two solar energy harnessing projects, the less said the better. Surprisingly, such is the level of short-sightedness at the administrative levels that the little potential harnessed is operating only solar lanterns and lamps, street lights and pumps in certain parts of the State. However, majority of such lanterns and lamps remain defunct owing to non-seriousness on the part of Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agencies (JAKEDA). Apathy and non-seriousness of Energy Development Agency are of the extent that the authorities are not even prepared to respond to the questions of the reporters, what to speak of showing any interest in carrying forward the task assigned to them. Worthwhile to say that average solar energy at Leh is 5530 Whr/m<sup>2</sup>/day while the estimated average for Kargil and Nubrais 5390 Whr/m<sup>2</sup>/day and 5300 Whr/m<sup>2</sup> respectively because these areas of Ladakh region have best solar radiations in the country.

Similar is the fate of Solar City Project for Leh, which was also sanctioned by the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy several years ago. But thanks to abysmal apathy of the Government, not even a blade of grass moves. It is an eye opener that many states which have very limited solar energy potential are reported to be making maximum.

# JAMMU-SMART CITY OF IIT, IIM, AIIMS

► Rajan Gandhi

Not many people of our Jammu City are aware of the fact that Jammu region has the unique distinction in whole India to have IIT, IIM and AIIMS in same region. But this rise in stature of Jammu is not an overnight transformation as Jammu has paid a heavy price time and again, be it sacrifice of Shri Syama Prasad Mookerjee or numerous agitators who sacrificed their lives for the cause and rights of Jammu. It all started during partition days itself when otherwise peaceful Jammu witnessed massacre of Mirpur, Rajouri, Poonch, Sialkot along with communal riots in Jammu also. With total neglect even during signing of Instrument of Accession to Delhi agreement which subsequently shifted the power equation from Dogra rulers to Kashmir centric NC. In fact Jammu was nowhere in the plans of respective Central Governments also. Whatever so called development took place in the name of airport, railway station, GMC; they were either necessities or strategic requirements of GoI than efforts to apply healing balm to Jammu. Leave alone the development even assembly constituencies were divided irrationally to appease Kashmir which is still prevalent today despite clear recommendations from Wazir Commission and various other committees from time to time. Though following the Constitution of J&K of the year 1939 enacted by the Maharaja which was on the basis of equality of number of constituencies yet after the accession of the State, administration suddenly carved out 43 seats for Kashmir Region and only 30 seats for Jammu region along with 2 seats for Ladakh Region. Even today, the total contestable and filled seats of the assembly are 87 with Kashmir valley region having 46 seats, the Jammu region has 37 seats and the Ladakh region has 4 seats despite being the fact that as per Census of India 2011 with a population of about 12.5 million, J&K is 19th most populated state in India while Jammu region is having 26% of the State's total geographical area but it accounts for 55% of its total population. In the Jammu division, Jammu district has the highest share of population. Along with elected 87 MLAs two women may be nominated as members by the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir if he is of the opinion that women are not adequately represented.

Expansion of Jammu city actually took its shape in 1962 with formation of Jammu Municipality over an area of 16.87 sq km. Afterwards First Master Plan (FMP) 1974-94 extended Jammu city over an area of 130.36 sq sq then delayed Second Master Plan (SMP) for Jammu was approved in 2004 and eventually now JMP-2032 has been approved. Initially all the development projects be it AIIMS (SKIMS), REC (Regional Engineering college, now NIT), 5 Star hotels, International Airport, HMT factory, Doordarshan Kendra, Cement factories, telephone and television factory, CEDTI to name a few were established in Kashmir only along with full focus of Tourism Department and industries only on Kashmir. Despite time to time agitations in Jammu region right from Praja Parishad days to moving of Secretariat permanently to Kashmir along with agitations from various other regions like Poonch, nothing changed practically for Jammu on the ground.



However, suddenly with the ethnic cleansing in Kashmir resulted a mass exodus to Jammu region and sleeping GoI was caught in precarious situation. This was a wakeup call for the GoI as no parallel setup like housing colonies, hospitals, engineering college, AIIMS to cater to specialized treatment were available in Jammu region. After taking J&K state under Governor Rule in 1990 all focus again was on stabilizing Kashmir instead of looking into the problems of Jammu Region. It took two to three years for the administration to come out of slumber to wake up and started thinking about Jammu region as it had no choice but to create a parallel infrastructure in Jammu. So the first institute to come up at least on paper was GCET in 1994, Jammu (Government College of Engineering and Technology) which started its operation from Old University Campus with majority of staff from REC Srinagar. After normalization of situation in Srinagar, in 1996 elected Government was installed and this college was again in the neglected hibernation. The College's New Campus was ultimately inaugurated in 2006 after 12 long years by the then Chief Minister Jenab Ghulam Nabi Azad when only three Engineering Departments of Civil, Computer Sciences and Electronics & Communication Engineering were shifted and interestingly its library block was completed in 2016 only which speaks about the intent and practical approach of the respective Governments in the name of Jammu development.

Jammu got its first facelift done as some road widening and parking projects were implemented during three years rule of Mufti Mohammad Sayeed from 2002-2005 along with Super Specialty Hospital, Gandhi Nagar Hospital and district hospital buildings of various districts were sanctioned and started during Gulam Nabi Azad's tenure from 2005-2008. In 2008 Shri Amarnath Agitation flared up the sentiments of Jammu and whole Jammu came on streets. The regional bias turned its full wheel and three month long agitation made the authorities realize that enough is enough. When Gulam Nabi Azad as Chief Minister resigned due to

Amarnath row GoI got the first hand information and from here onwards fortunes of Jammu changed a little bit as Central Government tried to sanction various development projects under Central Schemes only like Jammu Sewage drain project though it has not been completed till date.

It was the BJP led NDA Government in 2002 under the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee which initially intended to have IIT along with AIIMS at Jammu in 2004 but due to change of Central Government they were not established at that time. But with NDA Government coming back to power in 2014, once again focus on Jammu's development came to forefront, the first step taken for Jammu by Modi Government in 2014 itself was issuance of order for re-opening of Yuvavani services of All India Radio. Floods of 2014 and always on hartal Kashmir once again highlighted the need for infrastructure at Jammu. The ball was set rolling with the establishment of IIT Jammu at village Jagti, Tehsil Nagrota at Jammu with temporary classes being set up in the KCS campus Jammu right now as the curriculum of IIT Delhi is being followed to begin with. Similarly IIM Jammu is the 20th Indian Institute of Management established by the MHRD in 2016 and is mentored by the Indian Institute of Management Lucknow. IIM Jammu is also temporarily located at the Old Jammu University Campus till it moves to its own campus of approximately 200 acres. As per PM's development package announced for J & K in 2015, AIIMS like institute for health care in capital city of Jammu was sanctioned, specifically at Vijaypur. Similarly Jammu has been enlisted for smart City project in 2017 with a plan of Rs 3400 crore to develop amenities for the ultra modern city. Metro is another prestigious project sanctioned for Jammu for which DPR has already been prepared by RITES and in the first phase, it is suggested to operate the metro rail on the 36 km area of the city on three routes: Bantalab to Bus Stand, 7 Stations- Bantalab, Janipur, Rehari, Kachi Chawni, Parade, Shalamar to Bus Stand, second route Nagbani to Bus Stand, 4 Stations- Nagbani, Canal via Jewel Chowk

to Bus Stand and Bari Brahmin to Bus Stand, 7 Stations- Bari Brahmin, Kunjwani, Shastri Nagar, Trikuta Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Exhibition ground to Bus stand. The report submitted by the departments on behalf of the Divisional Commissioner of Jammu has been sent to the Government of India for approval and once approved JDA along with ERA will apply for loan and work is expected to commence in 2018 with the assistance from DMRC.

For Jammu Ring Road project, National Highways Authority of India has already issued Letter of Award for construction of 58.25 km long standalone ring road/bypass to be completed in three years which will usher in substantial socio-economic growth of the area as it will transverse through 56 villages, 9 tehsils and two districts. With four laning of Jammu-Akhnoor road already on track and a new airport has also been announced for Jammu though details of location will be known after DPR only; it seems that finally GoI has fulfilled Jammu's dream of development.

Once known as City of Stones it's getting its due share with PM Modi ensuring that all the projects under PMDP (Prime Minister Development Projects) are completed in time. Rising stature of Jammu under PM Modi is quite noticeable with special efforts from MoS for PMO and its time BJP local leaders must ensure that all these efforts of NDA Government are fulfilled on ground by PDP-BJP Government by sorting out all land related issues with special focus on state projects like Mubarak Mandi Heritage project, Cable Car project, Artificial lake and Tawi River front projects. All these Central projects will take 3-4 years to complete, as such people have to show some patience and meantime do not fall in trap of false and malicious propaganda. This NDA Government has allocated best of projects to Jammu and one hopes more synergy and energy is infused to make our Jammu City as one of the most modern city of India.

What else to say - Jammu's patience and perseverance has paid and Jammu is once again centre of all around development it deserved.

## Good Governance amidst Judicial Overreach?

► K B Jandial

Since coming of Modi Government at the Centre in 2014, 25th December is being observed as Good Governance Day (Susan Divas) to commemorate the birthday of Atal Bihari Vajpayee by fostering awareness among the people of accountability in Government. India became the only country in the world that observes Good Governance Day on Christmas and declared it as working day. Good governance has now come under sharp focus and a talking point in the country.

After aggressive celebration of Good Governance Day and connected enthusiasm in the last four years the people have stopped looking for good government but only good governance. But even promising, as did by Modi in his 2014 election campaign, "minimum Government, maximum governance" how can the contours of the Government be overlooked as it is the politicians who make a Government good or bad by their conduct and manoeuvrings. BJP, however, claim that 2014 mandate is for good governance, thanks to scam and policy paralysis hit UPA Government.

What exactly does 'Good Governance' mean and how it is different than 'Gov-

ernment'? 'Governance' is what the Government does. 'Governance' is a dynamic exercise of management and power, while government is the instrument that does it. The term 'Governance' was first time used by the World Bank in 1989 in its report on African economies. It used the expression "crisis of governance". But 'crisis of governance' doesn't convey much unless one defines 'governance'. The World Bank initially defined it simply as "the exercise of political power to manage a nation's affairs". In 1992, the World Bank published a report entitled, Governance and Development, which explored the concept of governance further and its application. It was redefined in 1997 as a necessary precondition for development. It considered good governance as an instrument of holistic and integrated human development.

PM Modi's mission of good governance is through "Seva Parmo Dharma". This is in consonance with true Indian ethos of 'service is the ultimate duty'. Service to humanity is the core of every religion. Is it mere a slogan like Indira Gandhi's 'mantra' of 'Garibi Hatao'?

Even though PM Modi seeks to provide good governance to the people by invoking religious edict, misgovernance

continues to be the commonality in all States. Corruption, money and muscle power influencing election of people's representatives, favouritism, vote bank politics, compromising ethics, rules & regulations etc are some of the huge challenges to good governance. So, the Good Governance is much beyond the mere observance of the Day and Govt inspired publicity. It has to be something more.

Whatever objectives have been listed out by PM Modi for his Govt, Good Governance has to make the life of people comfortable, easy access to all facilities, sincere implementation of rules and regulations and justice to all.

Good governance encompasses almost everything that is good for the citizens. Kautilya in his treatise Arthashastra propounded the qualities of good governance by Kings. "In the happiness of his subjects lies his (King's) happiness; in their welfare his own welfare, whatever pleases himself he shall not consider good". It sums up what a good government and good governance have to be.

The NDA Govt had announced five broad objectives for good governance. These are to make people aware about the Government's commitment for pro-

viding a transparent and accountable administration in the country; to enhance the welfare and betterment of the people; to standardise the government functioning and to make it a highly effective and accountable governance for the citizens; to implement the good and effective policies to complete a mission of good governance in India; to enhance the growth and development in the country and to bring citizens closer to the government to make them active participants in the good governance process. Modi's mantra is "citizen first". Laudable goals for any Govt, indeed!

Good Governance has to have some basic features. These include participatory governance i.e. civil society has opportunity to participate in formulation of development strategies; rule of law i.e. a fair, predictable legal framework enforced evenhandedly with independent judiciary; transparency i.e. the people are empowered with full information about the Govt decisions, functioning and activities; accountability i.e. Government is accountable to the people and it can only be enforced if there is transparency & rule of laws responsiveness i.e. to serve all sections of population and their problems are addressed quickly; equity & inclusiveness i.e. to

strive for wellbeing of all irrespective of caste, colour or religion; effectiveness & efficiency i.e. processes & institutions' outcome meets the needs of the people and sustainable use of resources.

Successive Govts have been taking measures that can be called initiatives towards good governance. To a few there is RTI Act that empowered the common man, universalizing banking system to fund the unfunded people, quick access to public services through computer, increased digitization of Govt activities, e-commerce, e-governance, Digital India, financial inclusion of have-nots in banking sector through Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna, electronic transfer of subsidies, some social security schemes etc.

While endeavors to transform governance into good governance, no doubt, are afoot, is it really good governance? Are the Governments, be it at the Centre or in the States, working as per rules and regulation at all levels? Are the people getting justice? Is rule of law being applied everywhere with fear or favour? Is Govt functioning at all levels exposed to transparency? Merely enacting transparency laws and keeping these on the statute book are sufficient to make Govt functioning transparent? Are authorities sincere in parting with all the

relevant information willingly without causing serious impediments in the process? There are host of similar questions that haunt ordinary citizens and the answers to most of the questions are in negative.

The Lok Pal Act was enacted by the Parliament in 2013 in the backdrop of Anna Hazare mass movement and after a great deal of debate and fanfare but even lapse of almost four years the institution is nowhere to be seen. And where ever such institutions exist their recommendations are gathering dust in the shelves of the Govt offices. In a State where corrupt is not punished what good governance one can expect? All accused in the high profile 2G scam walked away with all irregularities and possible malpractices at highest level that speaks volume for our fight against corruption. No senior political leader or bureaucrat with exception of Lalu Yadav, Madhu Koda, then coal Secretary and a few others, had been punished in India including J&K. It can be easily said that there is rampant corruption but no corrupt! In our "reformed" electoral system, leaders with criminal record and money power not only become people's representatives but are also honoured with coveted position of Minister.

## Gauri Lankesh murder: Dispute between forensics labs holds up investigation

The special investigation team probing the murder of senior journalist Gauri Lankesh has been unable to compare the cartridges recovered from the crime scene amid a dispute among three forensics laboratories over the analysis of cases recovered from the scenes of three other high-profile killings.

Lankesh was gunned down outside her house in the city by unidentified assassins on September 5 and the police are yet to crack the case. Over the past four months, the state government and the SIT have come under increasing pressure to ensure that the case is solved soon.

The local forensic science lab had confirmed in September that the bullets that killed Lankesh were fired from a 7.65mm country-made pistol.

The modus operandi in the killing of Lankesh bears a striking resemblance to those of Kannada scholar MM Kalburgi, rationalist Narendra Dabholkar and communist leader Govind Pansare but, the inability to compare the cartridges has meant that there is no conclusive evidence to prove that there is a link to the other murders.

Dabholkar was shot dead near his home in Shaniwar Peth in 2013, Pansare died of wounds after being shot in 2015, and Kalburgi was killed by a hail of bullets in Dharwad in 2015.

The dispute between the forensic



sciences labs (FSLs) of Mumbai, Bengaluru and Ahmedabad over the analysis reports of cartridges recovered from their murder scenes has delayed the handing over of the cartridges.

In 2015, the forensic analysis of cartridges recovered from the scenes of the murder of Kalburgi, Dabholkar and Pansare provided evidence that the same group might have been involved in the crimes. This was disputed by the Mumbai FSL.

"The Bengaluru FSL has photographs of the cartridges found from the scene of the murder of Kalburgi, but we need the actual cartridge to conduct a 360-degree analysis because only that will be permissible as evi-

dence," an officer said.

So far, the SIT has hit a dead-end in its investigation on multiple fronts. It had gathered closed-circuit television (CCTV) camera footage of a reconnaissance conducted by two people riding two-wheelers, but these did not have any numbers on the plates.

"There were around 13,000 bikes of that model in Karnataka, of these we have been unable to trace around 500," the officer said.

Footage taken from a camera installed above Lankesh's door, which captured the crime, too, has yielded little.

"We know, for example, that the killer was a trained professional because he appears in the footage for a

total of five seconds. Within two seconds he fires four bullets at Lankesh and in another two seconds he flees the spot," the officer said.

The officer said in this footage the model of the two-wheeler used was not clear. Besides, he said, the trail of CCTV footage runs cold after about 200 metres. Sketches released of the suspects, corroborated with eyewitness accounts, have also not provided a breakthrough, the officer said.

In addition to this, the SIT received call data dump with around 70 million calls made over a five-day period between September 1 and 5.

"We have so far analysed around 20 million calls but it is unlikely that the perpetrators would have switched on their phones while conducting reconnaissance or while committing the crime," the officer said.

The SIT had also probed illegal arms dealers in the state. This, too, has yielded little information.

"We have to now go back to older forms of policing," the officer said.

"About 99% of the cases now are solved because of digital data, be it call records, cell tower data or CCTV footage. In this case, these avenues have provided little," the officer added.

The SIT is hoping for a quick resolution of the dispute between the forensics labs so that it can get the cartridges to conduct an analysis soon.

## No benefit to people from oil money going to govt, says Congress



The Congress accused the government on Thursday of not passing on to consumers the benefits of revenue it has earned by hiking excise duty on oil products, saying it garnered over Rs 5.5 lakh crore and should tell the people what it has done with the money.

Party leader Mallikarjun Kharge raised the issue in the Lok Sabha, noting that the price of crude was \$110 per barrel in March 2014, two months before the BJP came to power, which had come down to \$40 in June 2016. It was \$60 on Wednesday, he said.

He said petrol and diesel prices were not

reduced in line with the falling price and instead, excise duty on diesel was hiked by 38% and on petrol by 126%. "You have earned Rs 1.62 lakh crore annually and Rs 5.50 lakh crore in total so far. No benefit has reached the people so far, while the extra revenue has gone to public exchequer," Kharge said during the Zero Hour. He claimed that the government has instead reduced the benefits of welfare schemes, including those meant for Dalits. "You should tell the people under which scheme this money has been used," he demanded of the government.

## Israel's Netanyahu to give water desalinisation jeep to PM Modi as gift

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will present a special gift --- the Gal-Mobile water desalinisation and purification jeep --- to his friend Narendra Modi during his visit to India starting January 14, according to sources in Jerusalem.

Netanyahu and Modi waded into the Mediterranean Sea and rode the "buggy" jeep on the coast during the latter's visit to Israel in July last year.

Now Netanyahu is going to gift the same jeep to Modi, informed sources said.

As Netanyahu prepares for his four day visit to India, sources confirmed that the jeep has "indeed" left for India and "would be arriving on time" to be presented by the Israeli Prime Minister to Modi.

The jeep is said to cost around 390,000 shekels (ap-



proximately USD 111,000).

Modi and Netanyahu had witnessed the demonstration of sea water purification technology pioneered by Israel at a water desalinisation unit on the Olga Beach during the Indian Prime Minister's visit to Israel.

"I am thankful to Bibi (Netanyahu) because the vehicle which I saw today, par-

ticularly during a natural calamity when people are suffering (shortage of) drinking water... Can provide drinking water," Modi had said after the demonstration.

Gal-Mobile is an independent, integrated water purification vehicle, designed to produce high-quality drinking water. It can be useful in natural disasters like floods,

earthquakes, military use in difficult terrain and rural areas to provide drinkable water. It can purify up to 20,000 litres per day of sea water and 80,000 litres per day of brackish/muddy or contaminated river water and bring it to WHO standards.

The camaraderie between the two leaders was on full display as they spent some time on the beach and had a long chat standing ankle deep in the waters with waves hitting their feet.

"There's nothing like going to the beach with friends!" the Israeli leader had later tweeted. The two leaders later drove together in the mobile water desalinisation unit, which looked like a dune buggy, and sipped desalinated water from wine glasses, raising a toast with others present there.

## Fodder scam: Lalu Prasad's sentencing deferred again to Friday

The case relates to fraudulent withdrawal of Rs 89.27 lakh from Deoghar treasury 21 years ago.

Deferring the sentencing for the second day in a row, CBI judge Shiv Pal Singh said he would decide tomorrow whether the sentence would be given over video conference or in the court.

To this, Prasad said he was for personal appearance and assured that there would be no slogans raised in the courtroom by his supporters.

The judge also said he had received phone calls from well-wishers of the RJD boss but did not elaborate.

With the court room packed, the judge asked the advocates not connected with the fodder scam case to leave.

Fifteen others who were convicted in the scam and were to be sentenced along with Prasad waited in the court, while the RJD chief



was whisked away to Birsa Munda jail after this.

The court had on Wednesday served contempt notices to senior leaders of the RJD and the Congress for criticising in TV channels the December 23 conviction of Prasad in the fodder scam case.

It had on December 23 convicted Prasad and 15 others in this fodder scam case and acquitted six others including another former Bihar chief minister Jagannath Mishra.

had said.

In 1996, the Patna High Court had ordered an inquiry into the fodder scam cases and a charge sheet in the Deoghar treasury case was filed against 38 people on October 27, 1997. Eleven of them died and three turned approvers while two other accused confessed and were convicted in 2006-07, a CBI official said.

On September 30, 2013, Yadav, Jagannath Mishra and several others had been convicted in another case pertaining to illegal withdrawal of Rs 37.7 crore from Chaibasa Treasury in the early 1990s. The conviction on December 23 last is the second in the scam.

Yadav faces another three fodder scam cases for illegal withdrawal of Rs 3.97 crore from the Dumka Treasury, Rs 36 crore from the Chaibasa Treasury and Rs 184 crore from the Doranda treasury.

## CBI books former AMU VC for alleged irregularities in appointment

The CBI has booked former vice chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University Naseem Ahmad in connection with alleged irregularities and cheating in the appointment of an official in the university in 2005.

The CBI action has come nearly 10 years after Ahmad had resigned from the position in 2007. He was the vice chancellor between 2002 and 2007.

The case pertains to the appointment of Shaikb Arsalan as Assistant Finance Officer in the AMU in 2005 in alleged violation of provisions of the AMU Act and rules, officials said here.

The CBI has registered a case of criminal conspiracy, cheating and provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act against Arsalan (now Joint Finance Officer), Beg now Finance Officer and Ahmad, they said.

It is alleged that the vacancy for the post of assistant finance officer and deputy finance officer were advertised by the AMU on January 1, 2004 for which 22 candidates had

applied.

Among the 22 candidates, nine were found to be eligible for the post of the AFO which did not include Arsalan, the preliminary enquiry of the CBI into the allegations has found.

Arsalan submitted a representation that his degree of Chartered Accountant is not being considered equivalent to a post-graduate degree in the shortlisting process whereas an AMU notification recognises these degrees as equivalent, it alleged.

He requested for his consideration for the interview held on February 3, 2005, it said.

The then Deputy Finance Officer Yasmin Jalal Beg allegedly in violation of laid down procedure recommended the candidature of Arsalan for interview on the grounds that CA degree is the optimum qualification for any finance person and if a CA has applied for the position of the AFO, he will be an asset for the department.

It has surfaced during the CBI



PE that Beg had put the note even though the file was not marked to her, the CBI alleged.

The note was forwarded through registrar and approved by Vice Chancellor Naseem Ahmad, it alleged.

The CBI PE also found that there was one more candidate with a CA degree with 60 per cent marks and several other candidates who had scored over 55% marks in PG examination as per advertised eligibil-

ity conditions of the University, the FIR said.

Arsalan in his representation had concealed that he scored less than 55% marks in CA examination and misled the officials by enclosing his part one marksheet which showed 55% marks, it alleged.

Beg concealed that there was one more candidate with a CA degree and recommended Arsalan's candidature as part of the "criminal

conspiracy", it alleged.

Based on the interview Arsalan's was one of the three candidates recommended for the position of AFO which was approved by the Vice Chancellor on behalf of the Executive Council.

The CBI found that the vice chancellor can use special powers on behalf of the Executive Council of the University but such decisions mandatorily should be reported to the Council which was not done in the meeting held on October 4, 2005, the FIR alleged.

"It has thus revealed that the then VC Naseem Ahmad though not competent to relax the qualification deviated from the advertised qualification and approved the candidature of Shaikb Arsalan to be called for interview for the post of Assistant Finance Officer in AMU. Further the relaxation and deviation in the matter of appointment was not reported to the Executive Council and neither ratified from them," the FIR alleged.

## China's Arunachal statement, transgression raised in Lok Sabha

An incident of a Chinese road construction party entering Indian territory and Beijing's statement on not recognising Arunachal Pradesh was raised in the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

Revolutionary Socialist Party member NK Premchandran urged the government to make a statement on the

incident. "Chinese entered Indian territory, there were attempts to construct a road. Up to one kilometre they constructed. They were then stopped by people and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police force." They had come up till the Siang river basin, so my point is upper Siang basin is being aggressed upon," Prem-

chandran said. "Further the Chinese spokesperson openly stated that Beijing has never recognised the state of Arunachal Pradesh. It is a provoking statement on China's part," he added.

"I would like to know the response of government of India on the Chinese aggres-

sion," he said. A road building party from China entered Indian territory in a remote part of Arunachal Pradesh in December-end and were sent back by the Indian troops.

Around December 26, they were found constructing a track around two kilometres away from the nearest Indo-Tibetan Border Police post.

A nearly 600 metre long and 12 feet wide track was constructed on Indian territory when the Chinese party was stopped.

The area where the Chinese workers entered is close to the place where Brahmaputra river enters India.

Indian troops pushed back the labourers and seized the

equipment. While there was no confrontation between troops on both side, Indian troops have barricaded the area since and have been guarding it. Asked about the incident, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang said: "First of all, on border issues with India, China is clear and consistent.

# Old Age : Dental perspective

► Dr. Reecha Gupta

Time is in universe: It is in Man. Because we are borne we live, we grow, and we age, finally fulfilling greatest truth of life. We die.

As we are basically a part of all life, we are amenable to all natural laws.

1st October... celebrated as International Day for Elderly People each year. This was first established on 14th December in year 1990 by the United Nation General Assembly.

Age changes form an unbroken continuity. Aging is a normal, genetically dictated physiological process. It leads to gradual impairment in performance of various systems, hence of the individual as a whole.

Based on the chronological age, the cohort of people 65 years of age or older are considered as elderly. 3 groups of older people have been identified:-

- \* Young old (65-74 years)
- \* Old-old (75-84 years)
- \* Oldest old (>85 years)

Elders above 65 years (old age) have health problems as a result of aging process, which calls for special consideration.

One or the other problems may be common but impairments are not life threatening, they affect a person's quality-of-life. Thus, planning treatment

for the senior dental patient includes an understanding of the chronic diseases the patient lives with daily, as this play a critical role in the acceptance and success of the dental treatment plans

Dental status is considered to be an important contributing factor to health and adequate nutrition in elderly. Disorders of the oral cavity, loose painful teeth, missing dentition and ill-fitting dentures cause difficulty in chewing and perception of taste of foods or even reduce desire to eat. Although chewing efficiency and nutritional status improve when inadequate dentition or edentulousness is corrected with partial or complete dentures. The dentists are hence in an ideal position to contribute to the well-being of the elderly.

The attitude should be Graceful acceptance of age changes...

Need for preventive services  
Presence of root caries, periodontal disease and xerostomia are oral diseases that are found majorly affecting the older population. Despite these conditions affecting the elderly being treatable or preventable, many of the elderly do not avail the needed treatment because, most of the current older than 60 were not introduced to the concept of preventive dentistry at a young age.



Many still hold the opinion that tooth loss is a normal part of the aging process.

Mechanical plaque removal  
The preferred method of brushing for most elders is sulcular brushing with soft toothbrush (Bass method). These may include the use of an extra soft toothbrush, use of light pressure, modification of the brushing method and effective rinsing. Older people often face difficulty in mechanical removal of plaque because of reduced

manual dexterity or impaired vision.

Use of rotary electric toothbrushes, or manual brushes that have been adapted or customized for each person can be of help.

Rinses  
A therapeutic rinse contains an agent that is beneficial to the tooth surface or oral environment. Therapeutic rinses may contain chlorhexidine, sodium benzoate, sanguinaria, a fluoride, or other remineralizing agents, which halts

oral disease and should be recommended to the elderly when appropriate.

Chlorhexidine rinse has numerous applications for treatment of elderly. Fluoridated rinses have also known to prevent the development of caries, so they should also be prescribed to the elderly. Saline rinses are very effective.

Denture care  
Many edentulous elderly believe erroneously that once all their teeth have been extracted they no longer need to be concerned about oral health. The elderly who wear dentures should be taught proper home care of both dentures and tissues on which they rest as well as the need for continued professional care. The cleaning and massaging of the tissues under a denture at least once a day increases circulation and thus enhances the health of these tissues. An average life span of a denture is 5 years.

Counseling and education  
Preventive dentistry counseling for the geriatric patient includes two components: education and motivation.

Tell-show-do procedure can be followed effectively:

- \* Tell or explain the procedure
- \* Show or demonstrate the procedure
- \* Finally, the learner can do or practice the technique until he has mastered the skills. Know your Dentures more ?

\* Dentures are removable prostheses. Dentures are not embedded in bone like natural teeth, they are placed over the ridge.

\* 'Dentures are life lasting' is not true. In spite of their durability, denture can lose their natural appearance and chewing ability

\* Lower denture retention is compromised compared to maxillary denture because the surface area of the lower jaw bone is less as compared to the upper jaw

\* While drinking water, denture may or may not displace in mouth.

\* There is increased salivation during initial period of wearing of denture and this decreases with time.

\* The patient has to learn to chew with new dentures, should chew with up and down motion and minimum sideways motion.

\* Denture should not be worn at night. This gives adequate rest to the denture bearing mucosa

\* Patients who wear dentures should be checked annually by the prosthodontist or dental professional for maintenance of optimum denture fit and function, for evaluation for oral lesions and bone loss, and for assessment of oral health status.

(The authors are faculty Dept. of prosthodontics IGGDC, Jammu.)

## MANAGING HEART HEALTH



► Dr Naresh Trehan

Cardiovascular disease (CVD), which includes heart attack and stroke, is the world's number one killer, causing 17.5 million deaths each year, with the figure expected to rise to 23 million by 2030. The good news is that many cases of CVD can be prevented with some lifestyle changes.

About Cardiovascular Disease  
Cardiovascular disease (CVD) continues to be the leading cause of death and disability in the world today: over 17.5 million people die from cardiovascular disease every year.

Any disease of the heart, vascular disease of the brain, or disease of the blood vessel constitutes a cardiovascular disease. The most prevalent cardiovascular diseases include coronary heart disease (e.g. heart attack) and cerebrovascular disease (e.g. stroke). Controlling key risk factors such as diet, physical activity, tobacco use, and blood pressure may reduce your risk for CVD.

The rise in heart diseases have been attributed to an array of factors such as ageing, genetics, gender, diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol and stress pertaining to changing lifestyles, and rapidly evolving socio-economic determinants like access to health care.

Reportedly, the cases of heart disease in India in 2016 was predicted to be three times the number reported in 2000 with an estimated 2.7 crore young Indians losing their lives to coronary heart diseases.

Get to know your heart:  
Book a visit to your doctor to know how healthy your heart is and any lifestyle changes that you need to make. It's a good idea to find out your blood pressure, which is the number one risk factor for CVD and known as the "silent killer" because it usually has no warning signs or symptoms, and many are unaware that they have it. Also have your blood glucose levels checked as high blood glucose could indicate diabetes, which if left undiagnosed and untreated can also put you at a higher risk of CVD and stroke. Also, check your cholesterol levels, weight, and body mass index (BMI) to help ensure your heart is healthy.

Eat heart-healthy food  
Aim to include five portions of fruit and vegetables in your daily diet, with each portion equivalent to around a handful of fresh, frozen, canned, or dried fruit and vegetables. Avoid processed and pre-packaged foods which are often high in fat, sugar, and salt, and try to make your own healthy meals for lunch at school or work. Cut down on sugary fruit juices and drink water instead, and keep your alcohol intake within recommended guidelines.

Kick the habit  
Stopping smoking is the single best thing anyone can do to improve their heart health. Within two years of quitting the risk of CVD is significantly reduced, and within 15 years it returns to that of a non-smoker. Exposure to secondhand smoke also increases the risk of heart disease in those around you, so by quitting you'll also help improve the health of friends and family. If you're struggling to kick the habit don't suffer in silence, seek out the support of those around you and help from a medical professional.

Physical inactivity is another contributor to CVD, as it can lead to unhealthy weight gain, diabetes, and high blood pressure. Aiming for at least 30 minutes of moderate-intensity activity five times a week can help cut this risk, with brisk walking, jogging, swimming and cycling being good options. Making everyday changes such as taking the stairs instead of the elevator and walking instead of driving are also easy ways to get more active.

# How to choose an IVF centre?

► Dr Richa Sharma

IVF has become a much talked about procedure these days and to add to it mushrooming of IVF centres even in small towns. Definitely it makes tertiary treatment accessible but at other end it creates dilemma in minds of patients as to which centre and which doctor they should see exactly

IVF involves IVF clinic and IVF (Embryology) Lab. So when all things are in place under one roof and treating physicians acquire required knowledge and skills then we can expect results as per expectations.

Out of all steps of IVF, final and deciding factors is the Embryo Transfer. So via

this blog I am going to throw light on to help to have transparent and ethical guidance.

Embryo transfer is most crucial and important procedure in IVF.

Deciding factors  
Good IVF Laboratory culture environment

Skills of an IVF clinician  
The success of IVF cycle depends upon smooth placement of the embryos near the middle of the cavity of your womb preferably under Ultrasound guidance. It has to be atraumatic and presence of pain has to be ruled out in prior work up only as else its going to spoil all hard work attend and that may sometimes needs interventions in form of-

- \* Mock or Trial Embryo



Transfer

\* Hysteroscopy (Diagnostic/Operative)

For the IVF process, the woman is stimulated with injectable medications to increase the number of eggs. Eggs develop in the follicles in the ovaries. The egg retrieval procedure removes the

eggs from ovaries when the follicles were matured. Sperm is added to those eggs and the next day we observe the eggs for proof of fertilization.

Procedure - How its Done?  
Embryo Transfer (ET) Is generally done without anaesthesia but in difficult cases you may be given anes-

thesia which will be decided by your treating physician based on your current and past clinical history. So 90% of information can be gathered from basics only if proper work up is done. So each step counts in the journey of parenthood. So doctor and patient have to work as team practically speaking.

The embryo transfer catheter is loaded with the embryos and the physician will pass it through the cervical opening up to the center of the uterine cavity. The abdominal ultrasound is used at the same time to observe the catheter tip advance to the proper location and it is sometimes hard to keep the tip of the catheter in the correct plane of the ultrasound

beam but it is significant to manage the proper placement of the embryos.

How many No of embryos permitted in IVF?

The number of embryos to be transferred will be decided after discussion of Doctor with the couple and the embryologist regarding the embryo quality. Couples should be informed about risks for multiple pregnancies versus the risk of failing to conceive at all. As female age increases, the implantation rate of the embryos tends to decline. Besides, that Certain guidelines are followed as per age and law decision is taken besides the clinical judgement.

(The authors are senior IVF Consultant Mumbai and Senior Gastroenterologist)

## Mental health at workplace

► Dr Manmeet Singh

During our adult lives, a large proportion of our time at spent at work. Our experience in the workplace is one of the factors determining our overall wellbeing. Employers and managers who put in place workplace initiatives to promote mental health and to support employees who have mental disorders see gains not only in the health of their employees but also in their productivity at work. A negative working environment, on the other hand, may lead to physical and mental health problems, harmful use of substances or alcohol, absenteeism and lost productivity.

Depression and anxiety disorders are common mental disorders that have an impact on our ability to work, and to work productively. Globally, more than 300 million people suffer from depression, the leading cause of disability. More than 260 million are living with anxiety disorders. Many of these people live with both. A recent WHO-led study estimates that depression and anxiety disorders cost the global economy US\$ 1 trillion each year in lost productivity.

Work-related risk factors for health  
There are many risk factors for mental health that may be present in the working environment. Most risks relate to interactions between type of work, the organizational and managerial environment, the skills and competencies of employees, and the support available for employees to carry out their work. For example, a person may have the skills to complete tasks, but they may have too few resources to do what is required, or there may be unsupportive managerial or organizational practices.

- Risks to mental health include:
- \* inadequate health and safety policies;
  - \* poor communication and management practices;
  - \* limited participation in decision-



making or low control over one's area of work;

- \* low levels of support for employees;
- \* inflexible working hours; and
- \* unclear tasks or organizational objectives.

Risks may also be related to job content, such as unsuitable tasks for the person's competencies or a high and unrelenting workload. Some jobs may carry a higher personal risk than others (e.g. first responders and humanitarian workers), which can have an impact on mental health and be a cause of symptoms of mental disorders, or lead to harmful use of alcohol or psychoactive drugs. Risk may be increased in situations where there is a lack of team cohesion or social support.

Bullying and psychological harassment (also known as "mobbing") are commonly reported causes of work-related stress by workers and present risks to the health of workers. They are associated with both psychological and physical problems. These health consequences can have costs for employers in terms of reduced productivity and increased staff turnover. They can also have a negative impact on family and

social interactions.

Creating a healthy workplace  
An important element of achieving a healthy workplace is the development of governmental legislation, strategies and policies. A healthy workplace can be described as one where workers and managers actively contribute to the working environment by promoting and protecting the health, safety and well-being of all employees. A recent guide from the World Economic Forum suggests that interventions should take a 3-pronged approach:

- \* Protect mental health by reducing work-related risk factors.?
- \* Promote mental health by developing the positive aspects of work and the strengths of employees.?
- \* Address mental health problems regardless of cause.

The guide highlights steps organizations can take to create a healthy workplace, including:

- \* Awareness of the workplace environment and how it can be adapted to promote better mental health for different employees. Learning from the motivations of organizational leaders and employees who have taken action. ??

## AMAZING HEALTH BENEFITS OF PEEPAL TREES

The sacred Peepal tree native to Indian subcontinent is storehouse of Medicinal Values and is used to treat many diseases like Snake bite, Asthma, Skin diseases, Kidney diseases, constipation, Dysentery, impotency and various blood related problems says Acharya Bal Krishan

Pipal, the holy tree to Hindus and Buddhists worshiped since dawn of civilization has great medicinal value apart from religious significance.

The peepal tree leaves contain Glucose, Asteriod, Mennos, Phenolic while its bark is rich in Vitamin K, tainen, Phaetosteroline

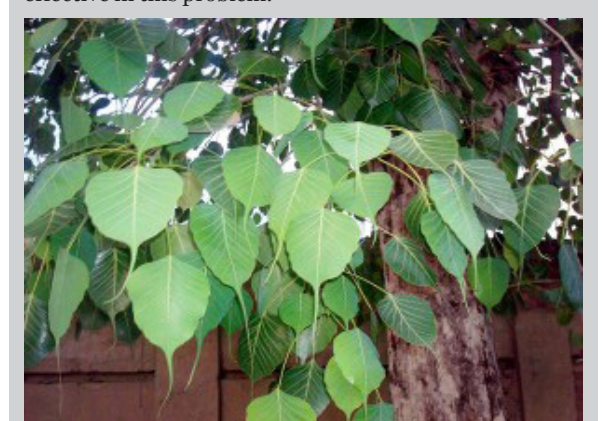
All these ingredients make the peepal tree an exceptional medicinal tree. According to Ayurveda, every part of the peepal tree – the leaf, bark, shoot, seeds, as well as the fruit, has several medicinal benefits. It is being used since ancient times for curing many diseases.

For Bleeding diarrhea, Take soft stems of peepal, coriander seeds, crystal sugar in equal quantity and mix them well and take its 3-4 grams twice a day and it is very useful in this disease

For lack of appetite—intake of ripe fruits of peepal will help cure lack of appetite, cough, pitta, blood related problems, burning sensation and vomiting etc

For stomach pain —make paste of 2.5 leaves of a peepal plant and mix with 50 grams jaggery and make small tablets of the mixture and take it 3-4 times a day .and it will soothen the stomach pain .

For Asthma—Take a bark of plant and its ripe fruits . Make their powder separately and mix them in equal quantities . In take of this mixture thrice in a day is very effective in this problem.



# China to stick with 'around 6.5%' growth goal in 2018: Reuters sources

China will keep its target for economic growth at "around 6.5 percent" in 2018, unchanged from last year, policy sources told Reuters, as it seeks to balance efforts to reduce debt risks while keeping the world's second-largest economy stable.

The proposed target, to be unveiled at the annual parliament meeting in March, was endorsed by top leaders at the closed-door Central Economic Work Conference in Dec. 18-20, according to four sources with knowledge of the meeting outcome.

Where Beijing's policymakers set the speedometer on their closely-managed economy is always of crucial interest to global investors because of China's role as an engine of growth for the world.

Past stimulus policies to stop growth flagging as the global economy passed through a sticky few years resulted in massive borrowing by state-run firms and local governments.

Total debt in the second quarter of last year amounted to 255.9 percent of Gross Domestic Product, according to Bank for International Settlements estimates.

And policymakers are on a mission

to reduce the risk of any crisis erupting out of the mountain of debt as the country makes its gradual transition from a command to a market economy.

"The economic growth target will still be around 6.5 percent as they favour stability," said one source who requested anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter.

China's State Council Information Office, the government's public relations arm, had not yet responded to Reuters' request for comment on the economic targets for this year.

There have been some doubts whether China would be putting a number on its target for 2018, as President Xi Jinping pledged in October to pursue "high quality growth".

And while Chinese leaders remain committed to meeting a goal set by their predecessors of doubling GDP in the decade to 2020, to turn China into a "modestly prosperous" nation, a senior Communist Party official said in October that goal would not be set for the following decade.

Analysts expect final numbers will show the economy grew around 6.8 percent in 2017, beating the target thanks



to strong global demand for Chinese exports, and just bettering the 26-year low of 6.7 percent posted in 2016.

To hit the 2020 goal, the economy needs to expand at least 6.3 annually over the next three years, officials have said.

The government will maintain a 3 percent inflation target for 2018, the sources said, suggesting policymakers are not foreseeing any sharp price rises, as factories struggle to pass on higher costs to consumers.

November consumer inflation slowed

to 1.7 percent, while producer price rises eased to a four-month low of 5.8 percent.

## POLICY MIX

While staying upbeat about export prospects, policymakers, according to the sources, are wary of the impact from expected increases in U.S. interest rates and President Donald Trump's tax cut plans, which might make it more difficult for China to lure foreign investment if U.S. firms repatriate more earnings.

The government plans keep a budget deficit target of 3 percent of GDP this

year in line with a pro-active fiscal policy, spending more on infrastructure, new sectors and social welfare, according to the sources.

The central bank is likely to keep its grip on money supply this year to reflect its "prudent and neutral" policy, but no rises in benchmark interest rates are expected soon after a recent increase in borrowing costs for non-financial firms.

"Monetary policy will be relatively tight to help deleverage, and risk-controls and fiscal policy will be relatively loose to focus on structural needs," said a second source.

In November, China's broad M2 money supply growth quickened to 9.1 percent from a record low of 8.8 percent in October but remained below the annual target of around 12 percent.

The central bank has said slowing M2 growth could be a "new normal" as regulators crack down on riskier banking activities.

But the crackdown has forced banks to lend more to households and businesses, with new loans hitting a record 12.94 trillion yuan (\$1.99 trillion) in January-November.

Beijing has made some progress this

year reducing corporate debt, which fell to 163.4 percent of GDP in the second quarter from 166.8 percent a year earlier, according to the BIS data.

## TOO EARLY TO DITCH GDP TARGET

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and some economists have urged China to do away with growth targets to reduce the economy's long reliance on debt-fueled stimulus.

And last month, Ma Jun - former chief economist at the central bank - said that China should replace this year's GDP target with an unemployment rate.

Chinese officials have argued that such growth targets are not mandatory and Beijing has been improving the way it assesses local officials' performance by adding environmental costs and debt levels to dilute GDP's dominance.

Still, growth targets remain central to policymakers' thinking and many state firms still look to Beijing's guidance.

"We should have a data system that puts more emphasis on high-quality growth, but scrapping growth targets completely would go too far," said one of the sources. (\$1 = 6.5036 Chinese yuan renminbi).

## 'New' RCOM to be India's largest B2B business: Anil Ambani

The "new" Reliance Communications (RCOM) will be "capex light" and emerge as India's largest B2B (business-to-business) entity that is "focused on the global and enterprise business", according to Reliance Group Chairman Anil Ambani.

It will also have a "strong strategic partner coming in the next few months", Ambani said in a wide-ranging interview to The Economic Times, his first in a decade.

"New RCOM will be stronger and be India's largest B2B business. It is capex light and we are very conservatively structured... The IDC (international data centres) business is set to explode. There is huge opportunity -- and as opportunity for India grows with \$400 billion in reserves and good ratings, we will grow as well," Ambani said.

"I told DoT (Department of Telecommunications) that I am not quitting telecom. I am exiting the mobile business. We are in Cloud, IoT (Internet of Things), data centres, submarine cables," said Ambani, who last month achieved full restoration of RCOM's debt, cutting it by Rs

25,000 crore to Rs 6,000 crore by monetising assets.

RCOM has also signed a definitive agreement with Reliance Jio to sell off its wireless assets -- towers, optic fibre cable network, spectrum, and media convergence nodes.

Commenting on the mobile business, Ambani said he saw the "tsunami" about to hit the sector in 2015-16 and began a process of consolidation.

"Competition was waning a little, the strong were becoming stronger and the weak were becoming weaker. At that time, for RCOM, we had that choice"... to be consolidated or be a consolidator.

"We had discussions with Bharti. We also had a discussion with Vodafone -- those were the two big boys. We also had a discussion with the Tatas. On the 'consolidator' part, we had discussions with SSSL (Sistema Shyam Telecommunications Ltd), Telenor and Aircel, whom we could effectively acquire," Ambani said.

There were, however, a host of legal, regulatory and bureaucratic hurdles that stymied some of these plans.

"Our first choice was SSSL. That deal just got consum-



mated, so that speaks volumes about the difficulties of completing M&A (merger and acquisitions) transactions in India. The processes are so slow, the permissions so many, the delays are so many and the legal systems are so vast and so complex. No one can put a timeline to any deal getting done." Looking ahead, the Reliance Group Chairman said "whatever size the industry structure may be, this sector is a cash guzzler. Our projections are that this sector will spend \$100 billion over five years to keep up with technology and changing demands of the consumer".

"The industry has Rs 9

lakh crore of debt -- Rs 2 lakh crore of foreign debt, Rs 2 lakh crore of bank guarantee and Rs 5 lakh crore worth of rupee debt. I wish people in the mobile business all the very best because the times are going to be very tough," he added.

Commenting on the recent 2G case ruling, Ambani said: "Truth prevails."

"No individual or corporation should undergo this humiliation, slander, damage to individual and corporate reputation. Reputation that you have built over years and years can be broken in an instant," he added.

On his decision to get rid of all debt, Ambani said he

was guided by "moral financing".

"I morally owe you money -- this is not a grant, this is not a gift, this is not charity... The Dhirubhai Ambani legacy is protected -- we have kept our word and our moral commitment, which is most important."

Sounding upbeat about the future, Ambani said: "(Our) other businesses were doing well, with 50-60 per cent EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization), an annuity nature and long-term contracts. With marquee companies like Facebook, Yahoo!, Amazon and Alibaba coming to India and buying space in data centres, there's a huge growth opportunity and this trend is to continue."

Contending that in 2017 he and his companies "have emerged stronger", Ambani said: "We did the Reliance Nippon IPO, a huge success. So, we were clear that the brand equity of Reliance is very strong and will continue to strengthen -- and what we have achieved with RCOM will further go to strengthen our equity."

## 7.75% earning savings scheme will replace 8% Gov bonds

Closing its popular GOI Savings Bonds scheme earning 8% interest per annum, the government on Thursday replaced it by another with a lower 7.75% rate of interest.

The new scheme will commence from January 10, a finance ministry statement said here.

"The government has announced to launch 7.75% Savings (Taxable) Bonds, 2018, commencing from January 10, to enable resident citizens/HUF (Hindu Undivided Families) to invest in a taxable bond without any monetary ceiling," it said.

These bonds will be available in denominations of Rs 1,000 each and will only be issued in the "Bond Ledger Account" demat form.

The interest received from these bonds is taxable at the marginal rate of income tax the investor is liable for.

On Monday, the government had announced that the GOI Savings Bonds, 2003 will cease subscription from the close of banking business Tuesday.

However, economic affairs secretary SC Garg said on Tuesday that the 8% Savings Bonds Scheme, was not being



closed, but only being replaced by the 7.75% Savings Bonds Scheme.

Earlier this week, former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram criticised the Narendra Modi government on this account, saying: "GoI 8% taxable bonds have been the safe harbour of the middle class, especially retirees and senior citizens, since 2003. Government has taken away their only safety net."

These became a preferred choice for investors seeking fixed income like senior citizens and pensioners after the government cut interest rates on fixed deposits and small savings schemes like the post

office monthly income scheme and public provident fund (PPF) to below eight per cent in April 2016.

Last week, the government cut the interest rates on small saving schemes, including National Savings Certificates (NSCs), Public Provident Fund (PPF) and Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) by 0.2 percentage point for the fourth quarter of the fiscal (January-March).

The PPF and NSCs earn 7.6% interest from January 1, while KVPs earn even less (7.3%).

The interest on the Senior Citizen's Savings Scheme of five-year period has, however, been retained at 8.3%.

## Google plans to sell Zagat, restaurant review platform it acquired in 2011

Google is exploring a potential sale of Zagat, the US restaurant review guide which the search giant bought for \$151 million in 2011, people familiar with the matter said.

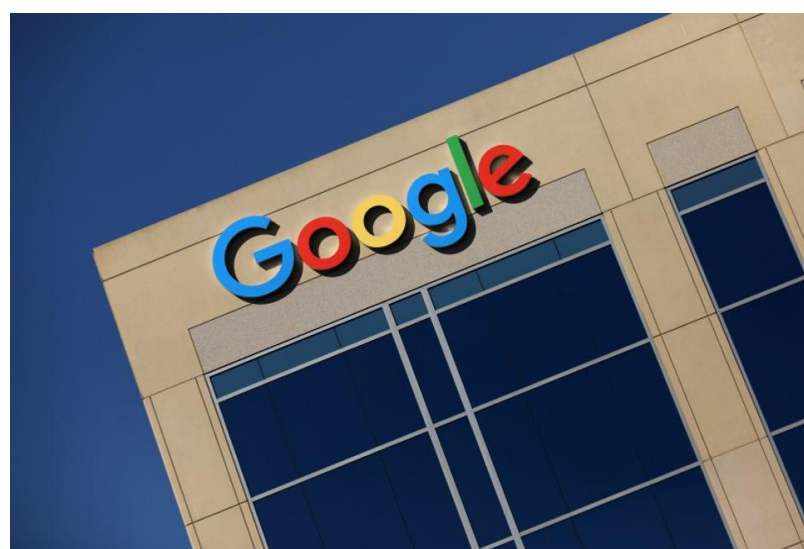
A sale of Zagat would mark a course reversal for Alphabet's once ambitious plans for the brand, spearheaded by former Google executive Marissa Mayer, who went on to become Yahoo Inc's chief executive. Zagat gradually became less of a priority as Google focused on drawing traffic to its Google+ social network.

Google has held informal talks in recent months with multiple companies about offloading Zagat, the sources said, asking not to be named because the matter is private. Any deal would likely involve the Zagat brand name and website, the sources added.

Google's asking price is not known, and there is no certainty it will agree to sell Zagat, the sources said.

A spokeswoman for Google declined to comment. Google Maps incorporates Zagat reviews into its restaurant listings, and a small team at the company maintains Zagat.com, which features articles about restaurants in major cities.

The unit makes up just a fraction of Alphabet, a sprawling holding company



whose units include Google and an array of unrelated pursuits in areas such as healthcare, self-driving cars and urban planning. Founded in 1979 by Tim and Nina Zagat, the eponymous service became known for its familiar burgundy pocket-sized guides to restaurants in cities around the world. Many establishments feature Zagat stickers on their doors and windows.

Over the past year, Alphabet has been pruning its portfolio and shedding

smaller non-core assets.

Last June, Alphabet agreed to sell two robotics firms, Boston Dynamics and Tokyo-based Schaft to SoftBank Group Corp. Last February, it announced it would sell the satellite imaging business it acquired in 2014 for \$500 million called Terra Bella, to Planet Labs, a San Francisco-based private satellite operator.

Alphabet also explored selling Nest, a maker of Wi-Fi enabled thermostats, in 2016, Reuters reported.

## ICAI told to give monthly reports on CAs

The central government has asked the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) to submit monthly reports on disciplinary action taken against chartered accountants (CAs) involved with shell companies, said sources.

The task force of shell companies created in 2017 has directed the ICAI to submit reports on CAs found operating, auditing or certifying such companies. "The task force has been discussing the role of CAs in routing black money through financial institutions using shell firms. It's been noticed that the track record of the ICAI in taking action against these erring CAs is poor," said a government official who did not wish to be named.

The Union ministry of corporate affairs has been asked to monitor all disciplinary action taken by the ICAI. The task force created in February last year has members from department of financial services, tax department, central board of excise and customs, CBI, ED, serious fraud investigation office and financial intelligence unit. The team is headed by secretaries of the revenue department and the ministry of corporate affairs. ICAI has also been asked to take speedy action against CAs under probe by agencies such as ED and CBI.

This comes at a time when the gov-



ernment is already increasing regulation for CAs.

It is likely to notify the National Financial Reporting Authority, a regulator for chartered accountants (CAs), in January as it gets serious about efforts to crack down on financial crimes including money laundering.

Minister of state for corporate affairs PP Chaudhary had said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha that "in addition to the self regulation mechanism existing within the ICAI framework, there is need

for an independent regulator... to oversee compliance with accounting and auditing standards and for oversight of audit professionals."

The ICAI, however, said the existing framework is "robust". "Until 2006 there were huge delays, but we have brought down the pendency of cases from seven years to three years as of July 2017. This will go down to one year soon," said ICAI president Nilesh Vikamsey. As of December 20, a total of 1,583 cases were pending before the ICAI.

## Reality check beckons for Virat Kohli's India vs South Africa on Newlands pitch

Forget rankings, you know this could be a good Test rubber when the teams match each other in almost every department. Having come off easy victories, India and South Africa square off in a slightly delayed New Year's Test at the Newlands stadium to kick off a year that should decide Virat Kohli's place in the annals of Indian cricket history.

Kohli's India has 12 Tests — against South Africa, England and Australia — to prove they are worth the hype. With three specialist openers, a middle order that is slowly building its own legacy, one of the fittest wicket-keepers of all time, seamers who have delivered overseas and the world's top two spinners, India give vibes of a well-rounded team. But they would be well-advised to get ahead of themselves even before the battle's begun.

The last time there was a sense India could break the hoodoo they lost 8-0 in England and Australia in 2011-12. N Srinivasan blocked MS Dhoni's removal from captaincy but Rahul Dravid and VVS Laxman retired almost promptly to spark a transition that gave us a skilled but youthful team desperate to walk the talk.



It will be far from easy though. South Africa are still licking the wounds sustained in a calamitous 3-0 loss in India three years back that snatched the No 1 status from them. So, with the help of an industrious curator in Evan Flint, South Africa are trying to prepare a pitch that will return the hospitality meted out in Mohali, Nagpur and Delhi.

The sun, though, is playing its own games by drying the Newlands pitch sooner than planned. At best, this pitch may provide something to ev-

eryone. Worst case scenario might be a track like the one that produced 1415 runs in a dead draw against England in 2016. The ground personnel though have assured there will be plenty of bounce and pace. And while the jury is still out whether swing would inflict some casualty, this India claims to be no longer a dummy against bounce.

South Africa are aware of this development. And probably that explains home boy Vernon Philander's attempt at riling India, slightly un-

natural considering the camaraderie these two teams share off the field courtesy the Indian Premier League. The gloves are off though this time as both teams are scrambling to put their best XIs on the field.

South Africa coach Ottis Gibson may have expressed reservations about fielding Dale Steyn but you won't want to buy into that after watching the man train. Shikhar Dhawan's niggles sparked rumours he might not be fit but the opener had barged back by training long and hard. For India, the million-dollar question is whether Kohli goes for Rohit Sharma as the sixth batsman or Hardik Pandya as the fifth bowler. Logically, Pandya should play but Kohli may spring a surprise.

Having already drawn here once, India need to better their 2010-11 performance. Anything else would be considered a failure and could quickly liken this team to those who have been tigers at home but lambs abroad before. To validate their supremacy in nine consecutive Test series wins, India need to play consistent cricket against top teams for a year. That reality check begins Friday.

## MS Dhoni may no longer be among India's elite cricketers to win big bucks

The new year may not bring some very good news for MS Dhoni. The former Indian cricket team captain may get a demotion in terms of top central contracts with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Currently, Dhoni is one of the seven cricketers in the top 'A' category, who are paid Rs 2 crores per annum. The other two categories are 'B' (Rs 1 crore per annum) and 'C' — Rs 50 lakh per annum.

But a proposed new structure of central contracts may see four categories — A+, A, B, C, according to reports. The top category will be A+, which will include cricketers who play in all formats. Dhoni, who retired from Test in 2014, may thus miss out on the top contract.

The structure has been proposed by BCCI's Committee of Administrators. This comes after Virat Kohli, Dhoni and Ravi Shastri met the Vinod Rai-led panel in November to request for pay hike.

However, some players like Ravichandran



Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja, who in recent time have only played Tests, may be placed in the A+ category on the basis of their ICC Ranking. Jadeja is currently world No. 3 while Ashwin is No. 4.

However, nothing has been finalised yet. The CoA will send the proposal to the BCCI officials, who will then give their feedback.

The demand for better pay is not new in Indian cricket. Former coach Anil Kumble too asked for increased pay, complaining that Indian cricketers do not get as much share from BCCI's revenue like their international counterparts.

## Australia hit back England with late wickets after Joe Root's 83 in 5th Ashes Test

Australia stunned England with two late wickets, including that of Joe Root for 83, to leave the tourists wobbling on 233 for five at the end of a rain-disrupted opening day of the fifth and final Test on Thursday.

A day that started with incessant light rain washing out the first session had looked like ending with a packed Sydney Cricket Ground bathed in summer sunshine and England's Barmy Army of fans in full triumphant voice.

Root and David Malan had combined for a 133-run partnership to help the tourists to 228 for three when Australia took the new ball with less than half an hour of play remaining.

Mitchell Starc, back after missing the fourth test with a bruised heel, induced Root into a flick to square leg where Mitchell Marsh took a superb catch before Josh Hazlewood removed nightwatchman Jonny Bairstow with the last ball of the day.

Malan, who survived a few scares to notch up his fifth test half century, reached stumps unbeaten on 55.

Despite the Ashes already having been relinquished after the loss of the first three tests in the series, the tourists had been determined to build on their performance in the drawn fourth test and secure



a consolation victory.

Mark Stoneman, James Vince and Alastair Cook departed relatively cheaply before tea but Australia's bowlers were unable to drive home their advantage until the dramatic climax.

Both Root and Malan scored slowly — the captain had six boundaries in his half century and his partner five — and there were chances to dismiss the latter in particular. Root had just reached the 50 mark when he called for a single off Nathan Lyon only for Marsh to stand his ground and then set off very late.

Marsh fielded the ball but fired it to the striker's end and Tim Paine's throw to Lyon

caused the spinner to spill the ball allowing Malan to make his ground.

Malan had eked his tally to 34 when he got an edge off to a Lyon delivery that eluded both Paine and captain Steve Smith at first slip.

Cameron Bancroft almost conjured up a sensational run-out from the close field but his throw just missed the mark and Malan again survived. They were chances that Australia would have rued had the day not ended as well for them as it had started.

Stoneman and Vince had both got starts under brightening skies but they again betrayed their batting frailties to depart for 24 and 25 respectively, both caught behind

off Pat Cummins.

Cook made 244 not out in the drawn Melbourne test last week and looked to be creeping assiduously towards another big tally when Hazlewood intervened.

With the former England captain on 39 and just five runs from becoming the sixth batsman to score 12,000 test runs, the big paceman fired down a fullish delivery that rapped the 33-year-old on the front pad.

A loud shout for lbw was turned down by umpire Joel Wilson but Smith reviewed immediately with the TV tracking removing any doubt about the ball pitching outside leg and forcing the decision to be reversed.

## Supreme Court directs BCCI to allow Bihar play Ranji Trophy, domestic cricket

The Supreme Court on Thursday ordered the Board of Control for Cricket in India to allow Bihar play Ranji Trophy and other domestic cricket tournaments. Bihar last played in Ranji Trophy plate group in 2003-04 season. MS Dhoni was the captain.

Crippled by infighting among three separate cricket units, Bihar were omitted from the Ranji Trophy with Jharkhand winning the right to play in India's premier domestic tournament.

The Supreme Court order comes in the wake of an appeal made by Aditya Verma, who is the secretary of the Cricket Association of Bihar. Verma had been fighting for Bihar's



right of place in the Ranji Trophy for almost two years.

It was Verma's petition that opened up the 2013 IPL match-fixing and betting case that led to the ouster of two BCCI presidents — N. Srinivasan and Anurag Thakur. As a follow-up to this case, the

RM Lodha commission was formed and reforms suggested for the cricket Board.

The Supreme Court bench, headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra, said the decision to admit Bihar was passed "keeping in view the cause of cricket." The Bench added that

disputes among units can be settled later but Bihar's cricketers must play.

The top court said Bihar Cricket Association (BCA), which was elected by an order given by the apex court, should be made in-charge of the sport in the state, adds PTI.

"It's not a day to talk about who will run Bihar cricket. It's about kids in Bihar who have now got the right to play in Indian cricket circuit. I am thankful to the Supreme Court," said an excited Verma to Hindustan Times.

In the new constitution proposed by the CoA, Bihar is among 30 states to be accorded full membership. The Supreme Court order is in line with that proposal.

## IPL 2018: Focus on Virat Kohli, MS Dhoni as deadline to retain players nears

In preparation for the 2018 Indian Premier League (IPL) season, the franchises will make their first move on Thursday when they submit the list of players they want to retain. Each team can retain a maximum of three players, and among the eight franchises, the three likely to benefit the most are Mumbai Indians, Chennai Super Kings and Royal Challengers Bangalore.

The top three names Mumbai Indians want are captain Rohit Sharma, Hardik Pandya and Jasprit Bumrah. But

as of Wednesday it was not clear whether they would straightaway retain Bumrah or look to get him in the auction with the Right-to-Match card. In that case, the uncapped Krunal Pandya could be the third player MI retain.

When teams decide to retain a particular player, the main criterion will be that they have built their brand around him. Hence, RCB and CSK will have Virat Kohli and MS Dhoni as the first names on their list. CSK also look certain to retain Suresh Raina and Ravindra Jadeja.

Teams can retain up to five players, out of which a maximum of three can be capped Indian players, a maximum of two can be uncapped Indian players, and a maximum of two can be overseas players. The players retained (maximum of three) will not go into the auction pool. Teams will get a second chance to hold on to a player on their 2017 roster (2015 for RR and CSK) by using the RTM card (maximum of three). With big names such as AB de Villiers and Chris Gayle in their 2017 line-up.

## Dawid Malan defends Joe Root after England captain falls short of ton in Ashes

Joe Root could score a "scary" amount of runs when he starts converting his half-centuries into centuries, team mate Dawid Malan said on Thursday after the England captain failed to do so for the fourth time in the Ashes series.

Root has often been grouped with Steve Smith, Virat Kohli and Kane Williamson as the best batsmen of the current generation but the 27-year-old's inability to build on good starts has become almost an asterisk over his inclusion.

On the opening day of the fifth Ashes test Thursday, he again crossed the 50 mark only to fall for 83, caught at square leg by Mitchell Marsh off Mitchell Starc, a couple of overs before the end of the day.

"Joe's disappointed when he gets out whether he scores 150 or he scores 50. No matter who you are you want to be scoring 100s," said Malan.

"In his own mind he's probably a bit disappointed he doesn't convert more, but he's still contributing for



the team and putting the team in really good positions.

"He still averages (52) in test cricket and the day will come when he will probably start converting as well as Steve Smith does or the other greats have done.

"And when that happens, it will

be scary to see how good he can be and how high his average can jump to."

Root is already certain of losing his first Ashes series as captain after England lost the first three tests of the series but were determined to secure a consolation victory in Sydney

after having the better of the fourth test draw.

On Thursday, Malan shared a 133-run partnership with Root that looked to have secured the honours of the day for England before two late wickets with the second new ball left them wobbling on 233 for five.

"I think the position we were in tonight before those last two wickets, I think we would have been aiming for 400 to 450 at least," said Malan, who finished unbeaten on 55.

"Losing these two wickets has put us back a bit, but there's still no reason why, if we can get through that new ball tomorrow, we can't get another 150 runs."

## Azhar, Fakhar hit tons in crushing win for Pakistan

NELSON: Fakhar Zaman and Azhar Ali both scored centuries as Pakistan cruised to a 120-run victory over New Zealand XI in their one-day tour match at the Saxton Oval here on Wednesday.

The left-handed Fakhar pounded 106 from 84 balls and Azhar made 104 from 105 balls in a 206-run opening partnership in 29 overs before retired out in the only warm-up fixture for the tourists before they face New Zealand in the first of five One-Day Internationals in Wellington on Saturday.

Fakhar took an instant like for New Zealand conditions as the left-hander hit 12 fours and three sixes against a medium-paced attack of James Baker, Michael Rae and Matt McEwan, while Azhar struck eight fours and one six during his innings.

Pakistan looked set to top 400 until former Test off-spinner Mark Craig applied the brakes, trapping Babar Azam lbw for six, and removing veteran Shoaib Malik for one.

Craig was the pick of the bowlers, snaring 2-51, while fellow spinner Aniket Parikh had the most success but was also expensive, ending with 3-74 off his 10 overs.



Hasan Ali, the world's top-ranked ODI bowler after his dream year in 2017, also showed he could hit by blasting four sixes in his 36 off 15 balls.

Pakistan are down on bowlers with Usman Khan Shinwari, Junaid Khan and Imad Wasim all ruled out with injuries, but still boast an impressive attack spearheaded by left-arm Mohammad Amir.

They bowled tight lines, the fielders chased and dived with intent and they were too good for the NZ XI containing some first-class experience. Michael Davidson (54 off 81 balls) was the top scorer before he was bowled by Hasan.