



### Stop fudging data to show improvement in punctuality figures: Goyal to rly zones

**NEW DELHI, OCT 3 /-/-** Union minister of railways Piyush Goyal has warned zonal railways to stop data manipulation to show improvement in punctuality figures provided by zones varied from passengers' feedback. The national transporter had released figures that showed 76 per cent trains were running on time, as compared to an average 60 per cent all through. In a letter to the zone heads, the Railway Board last week warned against such fudging of data.

"Wrong feeding of arrival/departure of trains at terminals and interchange points continues to be adopted by zonal railways and divisions falsely need to improve punctuality. Feedback from general public through social media is continuously being received on daily basis. MR (Minister of Railways) has expressed his serious displeasure and directed that the practice must stop forthwith. Please ensure strict compliance to avoid any unpleasant situation," it said. Punctuality performance of mail/express trains during the period from September 17 to September 23 showed that the Ranchi division in the South Eastern Railway had achieved 100 per cent punctuality and 21 divisions had recorded punctuality of 90 per cent and above during the period. (PTI)

### NYT accuses Trump of engaging in suspect tax schemes; claims he reaped riches from father

**WASHINGTON, OCT 3 /-/-** A top American daily has alleged that President Donald Trump was engaged in suspect tax schemes as he reaped riches from his father Fred C. Trump, the legendary New York City builder. In its investigative lead story, The New York Times said that Trump, who assumed office of the President of the United States in January, 2017, won the presidency proclaiming himself as a self-made billionaire, and he has long insisted that his father, Fred Trump, provided almost no financial help. "But The Times' investigation, based on a vast trove of confidential tax returns and financial records, reveals that Mr. Trump received the equivalent today of at least USD 413 million from his father's real estate empire, starting when he was a toddler and continuing to this day," the daily claimed.

Much of this money, the daily claimed, came to Trump because he helped his parents dodge taxes. "He and his siblings set up a sham corporation to disguise millions of dollars in gifts from his parents, records and interviews show. Records indicate that Mr. Trump helped his father take improper tax deductions worth millions more," the daily alleged. "He also helped formulate a



strategy to undervalue his parents' real estate holdings by hundreds of millions of dollars on tax returns, sharply reducing the tax bill when those properties were transferred to him and his siblings," it said, adding that these maneuvers met with little resistance from the Internal Revenue Service. The White House expressed its outrage over the news report and demanded an apology from NYT. "Fred Trump has been gone for nearly 20 years and it's sad to witness this misleading attack against the Trump family by the failing New York Times," White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said.

### Inter-ministerial meet on rupee, trade deficit today

**NEW DELHI, OCT 3 /-/-** Union commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu will chair an inter-ministerial meeting on Thursday to discuss the depreciating rupee and widening trade deficit, an official said.

The meeting will deliberate upon ways to address India's trade deficit in goods and pressure on the rupee, the official added.

Representatives from the department of economic affairs, coal ministry, steel ministry, oil ministry and department of pharmaceuticals are expected to attend the meeting.



The meeting assumes significance as the rupee has hit an all-time high of 73.74 against the USD dollar, which would raise India's import bill and widen the trade deficit (difference between imports and exports). The trade deficit was at

a five-year high of USD 18.02 billion in July. It came down to USD 17.4 billion in August.

During the April-August period this fiscal, the country's exports recorded a growth of 16.13 per cent, while imports grew by 17.34 per cent.

The depreciating rupee puts pressure on the country's oil import bill. The domestic currency has depreciated nearly 13 per cent since the beginning of this year. Besides having impact on current account deficit, the sliding rupee has made

imports costlier and led to oil prices skyrocketing to record highs. India is the third largest importer of crude oil.

Oil imports during the first five months of the current fiscal rose by 53.55 per cent to USD 58.81 billion. Since 2011-12, India's exports have been hovering at around USD 300 billion. During 2017-18, the shipments grew by about 10 per cent to USD 305 billion.

Promoting exports helps a country to create jobs, boost manufacturing and earn more foreign exchange. (PTI)

### RBI MPC begins three-day meet, may raise key rates by 25 bps to counter impact of rising oil prices on inflation

**MUMBAI, OCT 3 /-/-** The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), headed by RBI governor Urjit Patel, began three-day deliberations Wednesday to decide on the key policy rates amid expectations that it would go for a 25 basis points hike to counter the impact of rising oil prices on inflation.

If the RBI raises the interest rate on Friday, it would be third in a row. It hiked key policy rate in this fiscal's second bi-monthly policy in June after a hiatus of four-and-a-half years. Subsequently, the RBI raised the repo rate or short term lending rate by another 25 basis points in August policy meet. After two successive hikes, the repo rate currently stands at 6.50 per cent. According to experts, rising crude oil prices, devalue of rupee and widening current account deficit are some of the factors the

policy making body would keep in mind while deciding on interest rates. The rupee Wednesday weakened further to 73.25 against the USD dollar while Brent crude was trading near USD 65 per barrel.

"With petrol and diesel prices moving up, there is a strong expectation that inflation will also move up. So, they (RBI) may take a pre-emptive action. I feel there will be an increase of 25 basis points in the repo rate," Union Bank of India managing director and chief executive Rajkumar Rai G said.

Despite the rise in oil prices, the headline inflation number came down to 3.69 per cent for August as against 4.17 per cent for July. The government has mandated the Reserve Bank to keep inflation within a band of 2-6 per cent. Given the macro-economic situation, the RBI is



expected to raise the rate by 25 basis points in its upcoming policy review, another public sector bank head said.

Experts says the weaker trend in the rupee may also prompt the central bank to raise repo rate. "Given where currency level is at this point of time, I think they will increase the interest rate by a quarter basis points," HDPC vice chairman and chief executive Keki Mistry said. (PTI)

### News In Brief

#### Infy Foundation signs MoU with CID, DSCI

**BENGALURU, OCT 3 /-/-** Infosys Foundation Wednesday announced it has signed an MoU with the Criminal Investigation Department of Karnataka Police and Data Security Council of India to set up the Centre for Cybercrime Investigation Training & Research (CCITR) in the city. Data Security Council of India (DSCI), an industry body on data protection, has proposed to start the centre in collaboration with the CID of Karnataka Police, the Foundation, the philanthropic arm of IT major Infosys, said in a release. (PTI)

#### Airtel launches VoLTE services in Bengal, Sikkim

**KOLKATA, OCT 3 /-/-** Telecom major Bharti Airtel on Wednesday announced the launch of Voice over LTE (VoLTE) services across West Bengal and Sikkim. The New Delhi-headquartered company had rolled out the high-speed wireless communication technology in Kolkata earlier this year. Airtel has been ramping up its 4G capacity in both the states, the company said in a release.

#### Telangana BJP leader on AAI Bd

**NEW DELHI, OCT 3 /-/-** Senior BJP leader from Telangana Kasm Venkateswarlu was appointed non-official independent director on the board of Airports Authority of India (AAI) Wednesday an order issued by the Personnel Ministry stated. Venkateswarlu, at present vice-president of the Telangana BJP, has been appointed to the post for three years, it said.

#### Gayatri Projects receives Rs 1,312 cr road project

**NEW DELHI, OCT 3 /-/-** Gayatri Projects Ltd Wednesday said it has bagged a Rs 1,312 crore road project in Maharashtra. In a BSE filing Gayatri Projects said, the order is for construction of access controlled Nagpur-Mumbai super communication expressway (Maharashtra Samruddhi Maha Marg) in Maharashtra on engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) mode for package-11, from 502.688 to 532.094 kilometre in District Ahmednagar.

### After years of debate Oz scraps 'tampon tax'

**SYDNEY, OCT 3 /-/-** After almost two decades of political wrangling Australia on Wednesday finally agreed to scrap its so-called "tampon tax". When Australia introduced a Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2000, health products such as condoms and sunscreen were exempt from the 10 per cent charge, along with most foods. But tampons and other women's hygiene products were not.

Since then, the "tampon tax" has drawn widespread fire, branded as "sexist" by campaigners, and a regular source of bickering between Canberra, and state and territory governments, which receive revenues from the GST. Australia's health minister in 2000 Michael Woolridge set a dark trajectory for the tax when he

suggested tampons should not be exempt as they did not "prevent illness". "As a bloke, I'd like shaving cream exempt, but I'm not expecting it to be," he told national broadcaster ABC, sparking a sharp public backlash. Years of outcry followed, with "stop taxing my period!" campaigns and staunch activism from groups like the "menstrual avengers". Leaders on both sides of politics flirted with the exemption, while others shied away, passing the buck onto state and territory governments.

But on Wednesday a meeting of state and territory treasurers agreed unanimously to scrap the tax as of January, agreeing to forgo the reported A\$ 30 million (USD 21.5 million) in revenue it raised each year.

### Pak takes U-turn, says Saudi Arabia won't be part of CPEC

**ISLAMABAD, OCT 3 /-/-** In a U-turn, Pakistan has announced that its close ally Saudi Arabia would not join the \$50 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, days after Islamabad said Riyadh will be the third "strategic partner" of China's flagship project, the Belt and Road Initiative.

The CPEC is the flagship project of the multi-billion dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a pet project of President Xi Jinping

aimed at enhancing China's influence around the world through China-funded infrastructure projects.

Minister for Planning and Development Khusró Bakhtiar told media that the cash-rich kingdom's proposed investments would fall under a separate bilateral arrangement, Dawn news reported. "Saudi Arabia is not to become a collateral strategic partner in the CPEC. This impression is not true," he said. A

third country can participate in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) by taking part in the business and investment ventures arising out of the project, Bakhtiar said. "The framework between China and Pakistan is bilateral and Saudi Arabia is not entering the framework as a third-party investor, rather the base of the CPEC will be broadened and its pace will be expedited," he said. (PTI)

### 'Lot of fuel still left in my tank, want to do something different with life'

**NEW YORK, OCT 3 /-/-** PepsiCo's Indian-origin CEO Indra Nooyi, who will step down Wednesday after 12 years at the helm of the global beverage giant, said that "lot of fuel" is still left in her "tank" and she looks forward to doing something different with her life and

spend more time with her family.

Chennai-born Nooyi not only broke the glass ceiling in corporate America when she was named CEO of the global beverage giant in 2006 but, through her journey, inspired millions of young Indians who dreamed of and aspired to emulate the success the Indian-born woman achieved in America.

In her concluding remarks during PepsiCo's Third Quarter 2018 Earnings Conference Call on Tuesday, Nooyi said, "You know years is a long time with my family and even though I have a lot of fuel still left in my tank, I wanted to do something different with my life. Spend more time with my family and give the next generation in PepsiCo a chance to lead this great company."

shareholders and all our other stakeholders.

Nooyi will step down after 24 years with the company, the last 12 as CEO. She will remain Chairman until early 2019 to ensure a smooth and seamless transition.

PepsiCo's Board of Directors had in August announced that they unanimously elected Ramon Laguarta, 54, to succeed Nooyi, 62, as Chief Executive Officer. Laguarta was also elected to the company's Board of Directors, effective October 3. One of the most powerful and influential business leaders in the world, Nooyi was regularly featured on power lists compiled by Forbes and Fortune magazines. She was also among the few female executives to lead global corporate giants. Just under five per cent of Fortune 500 companies currently have a

female CEO. Apart from being a prominent face of women leadership across the world, she was also the epitome of success for the millions of young Indians who aspired to be like her as they watched her journey through the ranks of PepsiCo and eventually leading the global conglomerate. She was among the first of a handful of India-born executives to helm global corporates. Nooyi was appointed as CEO in 2006, becoming PepsiCo's fifth chief executive in its 41-year history, and the first woman. Nooyi, a mother of two daughters, was also very vocal about the challenges women faced in trying to find a balance in managing their home and work. She had famously said at an event during Ideas Festival in Colorado in 2014 that women "cannot have it all."



### Weather Report

	MinTemp.	MaxTemp.	Weather
<b>Gangtok</b>			
04-Oct, 2018	15.0	21.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
05-Oct, 2018	16.0	21.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
06-Oct, 2018	16.0	21.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
07-Oct, 2018	16.0	21.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
08-Oct, 2018	16.0	21.0	Rain or Thundershowers
09-Oct, 2018	16.0	21.0	Rain or Thundershowers
<b>Gyalshing</b>			
04-Oct, 2018	15.0	23.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
05-Oct, 2018	16.0	24.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
06-Oct, 2018	16.0	24.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
07-Oct, 2018	16.0	24.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
08-Oct, 2018	16.0	24.0	Rain or Thundershowers
09-Oct, 2018	16.0	24.0	Rain or Thundershowers
<b>Mangan</b>			
04-Oct, 2018	17.0	26.0	Generally cloudy sky with a few spells of rain or thundershowers
05-Oct, 2018	18.0	27.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
06-Oct, 2018	18.0	27.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
07-Oct, 2018	18.0	27.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
08-Oct, 2018	18.0	27.0	Rain or Thundershowers
09-Oct, 2018	18.0	27.0	Rain or Thundershowers
<b>Namchi</b>			
04-Oct, 2018	16.0	26.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
05-Oct, 2018	17.0	26.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
06-Oct, 2018	17.0	26.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
07-Oct, 2018	17.0	26.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
08-Oct, 2018	17.0	25.0	Rain or Thundershowers
09-Oct, 2018	17.0	25.0	Rain or Thundershowers
<b>Tadong</b>			
04-Oct, 2018	18.0	26.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
05-Oct, 2018	18.0	26.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
06-Oct, 2018	18.0	27.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
07-Oct, 2018	18.0	27.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
08-Oct, 2018	18.0	27.0	Rain or Thundershowers
09-Oct, 2018	18.0	27.0	Rain or Thundershowers
<b>Darjeeling</b>			
04-Oct, 2018	11.0	18.0	Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
05-Oct, 2018	11.0	19.0	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of moderate rain or Thunderstorm
06-Oct, 2018	10.0	18.0	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of moderate rain or Thunderstorm
07-Oct, 2018	10.0	17.0	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of moderate rain or Thunderstorm
08-Oct, 2018	10.0	17.0	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of rain or Thunderstorm
09-Oct, 2018	10.0	17.0	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of rain or Thunderstorm

Source: IMD

