

TIME AND US

DAILY SRINAGAR, KASHMIR

THURSDAY

● SEPTEMBER, 21, 2017
 ● 29 ZHUL HIJJAH 1438 AH
 ● ISSUE: 219
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WEATHER TEMPERATURE		
STATION	MAX TEMPERATURE	MIN TEMPERATURE
	ACT	ACT
SRINAGAR	30.9	11.5
JAMMU	34.1	21.4
LEH	23.9	6.2
KARGIL	26.4	7.0

SUNSET THURSDAY: 06:32 PM
SUNRISE FRIDAY: 06:20 AM

LOCAL FORECAST OF SRINAGAR
 Partly Cloudy Sky. Maximum & Minimum temperatures will be around 30°C & 11°C respectively.

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

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MS DHONI, BCCI'S UNANIMOUS CHOICE, NOMINATED FOR PADMA BHUSHAN AWARD

CM chairs meeting of District SPs, range DIGs; reviews L&O, crime situations

Act as an institution of public faith, adopt social, community policing: Mehbooba to Police

Asks District SPs to use most stringent punishment against drug peddlers, visit distant areas periodically

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 20: Asking the Police to be more relaxed and humane in dealing with the situations, Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today advised the force to act as an institution of public reassurance rather than a cause of fear among the masses.

Chairing a meeting with all the District Superintendents of Police and range DIGs of Kashmir province here, the Chief Minister asked them to adopt social and community policing to track down the crime in the State. She said a compassionate and responsive approach with the general population of law abiding citizens would automatically isolate the criminal elements in the society. This attitudinal change, she said, would make the crime eradication in the society much easy and



also improve the image of the force in the eyes of the public.

The Chief Minister asked the Dis-

trict SPs to follow a social catharsis approach while dealing with youth which would persuade them not to

venture on the path of violent waywardness, thereby utilizing these youth for positive and gainful purposes in the society. She also directed the District SPs to ensure that incidents of breach of SoPs by some jawans following a security operation in some isolated cases do not recur.

Asking the District SPs to enhance their public outreach in their respective areas, Mehbooba Mufti directed them to visit periodically the distant and far off areas of their districts to get a feel of the needs and difficulties of people. She also directed them to pace up the investigations in cases which are of public interest nature so that the faith in the institution is retained.

Flagging drug abuse as a major

See **Mehbooba...**Pg 02

Ram Madhav to meet BJP MLAs, party leaders in JK on his 2-day visit

His visit follows after complaints against BJP ministers

Srinagar, Sep 20: BJP National General Secretary Ram Madhav is visiting the state from tomorrow for two days (Thursday and Friday) to review the performance of party ministers, following complaints by BJP workers against its legislators and ministers before the Home Minister Rajnath Singh last week.

See **Madhav...**Pg 02

INDIAN SOLDIER KILLED IN CROSS BORDER FIRE

Kupwara, Sep 20, CNS: An Indian soldier was killed as the armies of India and Pakistan exchanged fire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Keran sector of Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistani troops opened fire at an Army patrol along the Line of Control in Keran sector of Jammu and Kashmir today, said an official.

An Army official said that "necessary and adequate" response has been given to the Pakistani firing.

"Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked firing along the LoC in the early hours today. One soldier was injured in the incident," the Army official said.

The injured soldier, reportedly identified as Rajesh Khatri, was airlifted to a hospital in Srinagar where he succumbed to injuries.

GRENADE NEUTRALIZED IN BUDGAM

Budgam, Sep 20: Police on Wednesday found a hand grenade concealed underground near a bank building in Omapora aras of Central Kashmir's Budgam district.

A police official said that the grenade was buried underground near bank branch.

"Bomb disposal squad lifted the grenade and neutralized it at Budgam Police Lines," he said.

ANANTNAG GIRL DISABLED BY BULLETS

SHRC directs Govt to file status report

Srinagar, Sep 20: Florie Jan of Nepora Anantnag had received bullet injuries in her neck. Ultimately, she received spinal injury which later resulted in paraplegia.

According to doctors, her degree of disability is 80 percent which means she would never stand on her legs and has to remain dependent throughout her life.

According to KNS, while hearing the case titled Ghulam Mohammad Bhat F/O Florie Jan R/O Nepora Anantnag in which complainant's daughter at the age of 13/14 years received bullet injuries in her neck, the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) Chairman Bilal Nazki observed, "..... on the face of it, attitude of the government is inhuman and barbaric. A young girl became permanently disabled

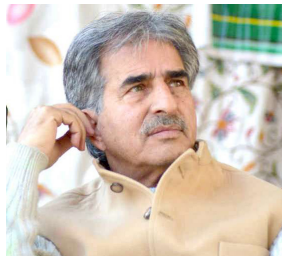
See **Girl...**Pg 02

Compromises for power in past led to present crisis in State: Madni

Late Mufti Sayeed changed discourse, assuaged feelings of people

Ganderbal, Sep 20: Blaming the opposition National Conference for the political uncertainty in the State, today said the historical blunders and compromises for the sake of power by the leadership of the Party has led the people through misery, pain and torment.

Addressing a convention of Party workers here today, said accused the opposition parties of playing with the



sentiments of people by raking up controversies which are the direct fall out of the mishandling of the political situations by these parties in

the past.

The Vice President said the unceremonious burial of the public sentiment in the State by the Kashmir accord of 1975 and muzzling of voices of dissent during the elections of 1987 led to a sense of restlessness among people which resulted into the eruption of militancy in 90 and people are yet to forget the scars of the same.

He said late Mufti Sayeed

developed an alternative narrative in the State and provide balm to the wounds of people with the launch of PDP and subsequently the government led by him in 2002 succeeded to a large extent in that. He said it was for the first time that the discourse in the State got changed to an extent that some of the monumental confidence building measures were taken to assuage

See **Madni...**Pg 02

UDAAN EXTENDED TILL DEC 2018 FOR JK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 20: The Union Cabinet today extended the time period for Udaan - the Special Industry Initiative (SII) for Jammu and Kashmir till 31 December 2018.

Udaan is a centrally funded skill enhancement scheme for J&K youth implemented by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). It is a special initiative to address the needs of the educated unemployed in the state who are graduate, post graduate and three year diploma engineers.

The aim of the scheme is to provide skills and job opportunities to the J&K youth and simultaneously provide exposure to corporate India towards the rich talented pool available in the State.

The target is to reach out to 40000 youth in J&K over

See **UDAAN...**Pg 02

Div Com reviews preparation for 'One Stop Centre' scheme for women



SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 20: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Baseer Ahmad Khan today convened a meeting to review the

preparation for the launch of 'One Stop Centre' scheme for women who have been

See **Div Com...**Pg 02

COALITION GOVT LED BY PDP IS RUNNING PAPER HORSES ONLY: CONGRESS

'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign transformed into brutalize Beti'

Srinagar, Sep 20: Strongly condemning the use of force on agitating Anganwari Workers and Helpers, Congress today described the detention of Workers as very unfortunate and sought clarity from the Govt as to why the grievances of these poor people were not being addressed

In a statement issued to KNS, Congress Spokesperson stated that people have realised the real meaning of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao movement launched by the Prime

See **Coalition...**Pg 02

PMKVY ensures skill development of youth to compete in global job market: Dy CM



SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 20: Deputy Chief Minister, Dr Nirmal Singh today said the initiatives taken by the Government for honing and providing technical skills to the youth would ensure creation of a proper man-

power besides making them job ready.

The Deputy Chief Minister was speaking at a function organized to distribute the Re-organization of Prior Learning (RPL)

See **Dy CM...**Pg 02

TO SECURE CAREER OF STUDENTS, SBOTE DECLARES RESULT IN 48 HOURS

AJKPEA congratulates Secretary and his team

Srinagar, Sep 20: For the first of its kind in the education sector of Jammu and Kashmir, the State Board of Technical Education (SBOTE) has declared the results for students in just 48 hours.

The speedy result declaration process was done keeping in view of the students who are going for B Tech in IUST or SSM and also eligibility for post of JE in JKPCDC.

Sources said that the result for the students of 6th semester has been made public in just 48 hours by the officials of SBOTE. "To secure the career of over one

See **Secure...**Pg 02

All three regions united in defending Article 35- A: NC in Leh

Leh, Sep 20: National Conference on Wednesday reiterated its stand of safeguarding Article 35 A and upholding the integrity and unity of the State and said the party would fight tooth and nail against disruptive and divisive forces.

While addressing a one day Workers' Convention at Chishot Leh, NC Provincial President Nasir Aslam Wani said, "People of Jammu, Kash-



mir and Ladakh stands united against the forces of division and NC will continue to protect the State's Special

Status at all costs. For us Art 35-A is an article of faith and therefore non-negotiable."

"The powers that be are engineering a distortion that Article 35-A is only for one region of the State while the reality is that there is a unanimous consensus in all the three regions about the importance of Article 35-A and the people of Ladakh stand shoulder-to-shoulder with

See **NC...**Pg 02

POLICE DETAIN PROTESTING ANGANWARI WORKERS

'They demand hike in their wages'

Srinagar, Sep 20: Police on Wednesday detained scores of Anganwadi workers who were on hunger strike at Srinagar's Press Enclave to press the Government over their demands of increasing the monthly honorarium.

According to the KNS correspondent, the hunger strike of the Amaganwadi workers today entered in third day.

The protesters assembled at Press Enclave here and held sit-in against what they termed as the failure of authorities over increasing their monthly dues.

The workers earlier attempted self-immolation to mark

See **Police...**Pg 02

DORJAY REVIEWS STOCKING OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES FOR LADAKH

Directs to ensure winter stocking within time frame

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 20: Minister for Co-operative and Ladakh Affairs Chering Dorjay, Wednesday, directed the concerned authorities to ensure transportation and supply of essential commodities, key construction material and petroleum products to border districts of Leh and Kargil in stipulated time frame in view of forthcoming winter season.

The Minister gave these instructions while chairing a high level meeting of the administration to review the transportation, stock supply of essential commodities, construction material and petroleum products required in the twin districts during winter season. He also took stock of the supply position and achievements made by the concerned departments so far.

The meeting was attended by Chief Executive Councillor, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, (LAHDC) Kargil, Kachoo Ahmad Ali Khan, MLA Zanskar, Syed Bakir Hussain Rizvi, MLA Kargil, Asgar Ali Karbalai, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Baseer Khan, IGP Traffic J&K, Jagjit Kumar, Secretary Cooperative Societies J&K, Bashir Ahmad, Registrar Cooperative Societies J&K, Peerzada Hafizullah, DC Leh, DC Kargil, SE PWD, Leh/ Kargil, MD JKSRCT, MD SICOP, AEE Leh/ Kargil, Deputy Director FCS&CA besides other officers of the concerned departments.

During the meeting, Minister received a brief on the requirements, stock and supply position with respect to essential commodities of food-grains, petroleum products, LPG, construction material, medicines, cement, consumer goods, timber, firewood and other material. He directed the



concerned agencies not to show any slackness in the supply, dumping and carriage of essential supplies and building material to Ladakh region for the coming winter season within the stipulated time.

The Minister directed for putting in place an efficient supply chain to ensure advance lifting, stocking and dumping of essentials across Ladakh region, keeping in view difficult topography of the region.

"Since the area remains cut off for about six months during winter, extra efforts are required for making adequate stocking of essentials in the region for upcoming winter season in advance", maintained the Minister.

The Minister was briefed about the status of the present quota of ration lying with the district administrations. The concerned department was directed to ensure adequate supply of sugar and kerosene to meet the public demand.

The Minister instructed the MD, JK Cements, to supply cement to Leh and Kargil as per the demand projected in the proposal and instructed the authorities to ensure supply of cement directly from source to supplier to rationalize the rates.

The Forest Department was also

asked to supply timber to the area to match the demand of the administration and directed to establish more outlets to provide quality timber and firewood to the people as per their needs.

Officials of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation assured that they would transport adequate number of LPG cylinders to the area to meet the demand.

Health and Medical Education Department was directed to keep available Critical Care Ambulances available preferably in the Zojila area to meet any eventuality.

The Minister was apprised that full quota of rice, wheat and fertilizers have been dumped in various stores in both the districts by the concerned departments, while as against the total requirement of 10774 quintals of sugar 4579 quintals have been stored on various locations of both the district and supply of remaining balance to the area is in full swing.

The meeting was informed that Merchants Association Leh has stored 472000 quintals of essentials commodities and other key construction material in Leh district as against the requirement of 590000 quintals thus achieved 80% of the total target re-

quired for the winter season. Likewise the Merchants Association Kargil has dumped 391500 quintals of essential commodities and other key material in Kargil against the total requirement of 530000 quintals and the balance of 138500 quintals of such material is being dispatched to Kargil for which 1538 truck trips have been arranged.

The Minister directed the Petroleum Gas Agencies to ensure supply and storage of full quota of both domestic as well as commercial gas cylinders in these hilly and border districts as early as possible. He also instructed the authorities of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department to ensure supply of full quota of kerosene oil to these districts.

Expressing his dismay for zero percent achievements by the Horticulture and Sheep Husbandry Departments, the Minister took a serious note as both the departments have not even initiated supply and storage of various kinds of material pertaining to their departments in the Leh and Kargil district. Seeking an explanation from the concerned heads for showing laxity, the Minister directed them to ensure supply and storage of the material in the twin districts within one month positively.

HANJURA REVIEWS MUHARRAM ARRANGEMENTS AT BUDGAM

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 20: Minister for Agriculture Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura today chaired a high level meeting to review the arrangements being put in place for observance of Muharram days in Budgam district.

On the occasion, the Minister directed the officials to establish Muharram Control Rooms at district headquarters for the redressal of public grievances at the earliest.

The PDD authorities were directed to ensure High Mast lights/ Halogen Bulbs and LEDs at all the important places and ensuring generator sets are installed at identified locations.

The PHE authorities were

directed to ensure that water tanks are provided at identified locations. The R&B authorities were directed to ensure that the roads where the Muharram procession would be taken are repaired at the earliest.

The CAPD Department was directed to ensure adequate supply and prompt distribution of ration, sugar, k-oil and LPG.

Regarding firewood, the SFC officials were directed to dump the required quantity of firewood at already identified locations as per past practice in the district.

Similarly, the Municipal authorities were directed to ensure proper sanitation and

cleanliness measures at all the religious places.

Fire and Emergency Authorities were directed to remain prepared to deal with any eventuality. The ARTO was directed to ensure special transport facilities till the conclusion of the procession on the day of Aashura.

The representatives of Shia community from different parts of the district also participated in the meeting. The minister assured them that their genuine demands and grievances would be addressed on priority. MLC Saif-ud-Din Bhat, Deputy commissioner Budgam and other senior officers of the district attended the meeting.

ASIEA NAQASH FOR SELF-RELIANCE OF WOMEN

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 20: Minister of State for Health and Medical Education, Housing and Urban Development, and Social Welfare Asiea Naqash today emphasized on creating wide awareness of livelihood schemes for the benefit of the women.

The Minister was speaking as Chief Guest at an event organized by Urban Development Agency Kashmir (UDAK) under National Urban Livelihood Mission Scheme.

Asiea while speaking at this occasion said that women from all sections of the society should come forward to take the benefit of Government sponsored schemes.

The Minister said that the women hold an important place both in social and economic spheres of life and empowering them is akin to empowering the whole society.

She impressed upon the officials of Social Welfare to develop strategies for assisting women in skill and entrepreneurship development. In order to become self sufficient, the Minister asked the Self Help Groups to come forward and take benefits from UDAK. She also maintained that to make the schemes of UDAK a success, more and more women should be roped in.

Later, the Minister distributed revolving fund cheques among 163 Self Help Groups worth Rs 10,000 each under the National Urban Livelihood Mission Scheme.

The function was attended by MLA Bata-maloo, Noor Mohammad Sheikh, MLA, Anjum Fazili, Vice-Chairman State Road Transport Corporation, Haji Parvez, CEO UDAK, Ghulam Jeelani Zargar.

Continue from Front Page.....

MEHBOOBA

challenge for the Police, society and the Government, the Chief Minister directed the District SPs to go whole hog against the drug peddlers and those involved in the cultivation, transportation and trading of Bhang in the State. She directed them to use the most stringent provisions of law, including PSA, against them so that the younger generation is saved from falling prey to drug abuse.

Mehbooba Mufti also asked the Chief Secretary to work with Agriculture Department for introduction of some cash crops in the areas where Bhang is presently being cultivated.

Expressing concern over the crimes against women, Mehbooba Mufti sought a detailed feedback about the functioning of women police stations set up last year in the province. She directed the District SPs to act tough against the people found involved in cases of rape, eve teasing, violence and other crimes against women and bring them to justice in a time bound manner.

The Chief Minister also reviewed the status of other crimes and cases where Special investigating teams were constituted and directed pursuing the probes with speed till the closure of the cases. She also asked the District SPs to make the Grievance Cells at their offices much more vibrant and enforce provisions of PSGA to improve public service within their domain.

The Chief Minister also reviewed the status of accommodation, mobility and other issues. She directed the District SPs to use their manpower effectively to check the traffic congestion, rash driving, smugglings of timber, building material and herbs in their respective areas.

Paying rich tributes to the officers and jawans of the force who lost their lives while on duty, Mehbooba Mufti asked the Home Department and PHQ to furnish at the earliest the details of pending such cases in whose favour compassionate help or assistance could be extended.

Earlier, Director General of Police, Dr. S. P. Vaid briefed the Chief Minister about the law & order, crime and drug abuse situations in the Valley. He also flagged the issue of space constraint for officers and constabulary in the cities and towns.

The Chief Minister was informed that so far 60 youth have been rescued by the Police from joining the anti social networks after persistent efforts.

Chief Secretary, B. B. Vyas; Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Rohit Kansal; Inspector General of Police, Kashmir zone, Munir Khan; Inspector General of Police, CID, Abdul Ghani Mir; range DIGs and all the District Superintendents of Police of Kashmir province were present in the meeting.

MADHAV

The visit assumes significance also after the Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) called a strike on Monday against "non-performance" of BJP ministers and "sheer discrimination" against the region.

Madhav is visiting Kashmir on Thursday and will visit Jammu on Friday, BJP State General Secretary (Org.), Ashok Koul told KNS.

"He (Ram Madhav) is meeting with party leaders and activists in Kashmir on Thursday and in Jammu on Friday," Koul told KNS.

Koul did not reveal whether Madhav is meeting Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti during his visit and dispelled the speculations about any reshuffle of BJP ministers.

"These are all rumours," he replied to a question about reshuffle of BJP ministers.

Before Madhav, another general secretary, Ram Lal also visited the state after Rajnath's visit to look into the complaints by party workers and people in Jammu region.

GIRL

and cannot stand on her legs because of injury sustained by firing of unknown gunman."

"She has been given a compensation of Rs. 25000 for which she cannot even get a good wheel-chair. The government has shown its inventiveness towards the plight of this young girl by refusing to accept the recommendation of the Commission of paying an amount of Rs one lakh," he observed.

According to doctors' certificate her degree of disability is 80 percent which in practical terms meant that would never stand on her legs and has to remain dependent throughout her life. Her chances of marriage are almost zero, as was listed before justice Bilal Nazki.

Nazki, while hearing the case, viewed the matter seriously and directed the Commissioner Secretary Home Department to file a detailed report in the matter by or before 01-11-2017.

And has also directed the office to send order dated 19-09-2017 passed in the case to Principal Secretary to Chief Minister.

MADNI

the feeling of the people. Criticising the Congress Party for their stand, Mr. Madni said the Party has itself been an accused in inflicting injuries on the people of the State. He wondered what were these leaders looking upto during their recent visit to Srinagar when they themselves threw the report of interlocutors into the dustbin of history.

Party General Secretary, Qazi Muhammad Afzal, District President, Farooq Ganderbali, Senior Leader Bashir Ahmad Mir, zonal Presidents Bilal Ahmad and Shakeel Ahmad and a large number of workers were present on the occasion.

UDAAN

a period of 5 years. The Udaan programme is designed to encourage corporates to travel to J&K meet with the youth and hire aspiring youth who wish to explore the opportunity to work with corporates. Udaan provides a framework of support to the youth to travel, undergo training in firms and transit to work.

Under UDAAN scheme, the selected candidates undergo rigorous training, ideally between 3 to 6 months, for a defined program. Travel, boarding and lodging costs are reimbursed.

A stipend is also provided to the candidate during the training period. At the end of training, candidates are assessed based on their training for a job position.

Around, 10555 JK youth who have joined Udaan training programs till July 2017, out of which placement orders have been made for 4,984 youth.

The aspiring candidates can register for Udaan on the link: <https://udaan.ncsindia.org/>.

DIV COM

victims of various kinds of violence. Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Deputy Director Planning, Officers from Social Welfare, and other concerned officers were present in the meeting whereas Deputy Commissioners of Anantnag, Kupwara, Bandipora and Leh par-

ticipated the meeting through Video Conferencing.

The meeting was informed that Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), has formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up 'One Stop Centre', a sub-scheme of Umbrella Scheme for National Mission for Empowerment of women including Indira Gandhi Matritrav Sahayog Yojana (IGMSY).

One Stop Centres (OSC) are intended to support women affected by violence, in private and public spaces, within the family, community and at the workplace. The victims, under this scheme can seek help by directly walking in or by calling a toll free number. The victims of rape, dowry harassment and domestic violence will get medical aid and also help in filing FIRs, legal advice and psychological counselling.

The Centres will be established across the country to provide integrated support and assistance under one roof to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces in phased manner. In first phase, Srinagar, Anantnag, Kupwara, Bandipora and Leh districts were selected for the said scheme.

Div Com directed the concerned Deputy Commissioners to start the 'One Stop Centre' for women within 2 kilometers of district hospitals. He also directed them to engage Nodal officer for setting-up help line number so that this scheme will be effectively implemented in these districts for the betterment of the women folk.

He also directed concerned to study the guidelines of the scheme and send the report to the Divisional Commissioner office within a week so that 'One Stop Centre' scheme for women will be launched soon in the five districts of the valley.

COALITION

Minister which has been transformed into "brutalize and detain beti", Govt must come clean on this issue.

He said the coalition Govt led by PDP is running Paper Horses only, whatever decisions or schemes both State and Central announced so far were yet to be transformed into reality.

Supporting the agitation of Anganwari Worker, he said, Congress Party demands redressal of grievances of the workers and asked the Govt to explain the reason behind the failures to mitigate the sufferings of these poor people.

DY CM

certificates under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) at Tagore Hall to the trainees of different trades which had come from various parts of the valley.

MLC Surindar Ambaradar was also present. The Deputy Chief Minister while highlighting the importance of PMKVY said that the initiative would ensure that proper skill training is ensured to the youth and the aspiring people so that they are able to compete in the job market not only within the country but abroad as well. He said that it is historic initiative aimed to empower the youth of the country by making them technically well versed with different trades.

While referring to the traditional Kashmiri craftsmanship, Singh said that it is well-known that it had a global appeal and reach. He said that the handicrafts made by them were being sold and marketed throughout the globe from times immemorial.

The Deputy Chief Minister while appreciating the efforts being undertaken by the Prime Minister said that these have been instrumental in ensuring that the India comes up as one of the Global giants. He said that the initiative Make in

India would change the image of country from importer of goods to exporter of goods, besides creating lakhs of jobs in the country. "Initiative would also be game changer in the economy of the country by ensuring that the quantum of exports increases which would give the necessary flip to the local industry as well," he added.

MLC Surindar Ambaradar also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the importance of Skill India. He said that the programme would empower the youth of country with job oriented skills for prospective career.

SECURE

thousand students who are going for B Tech in IUST or SSM and also eligibility for post of JE in JKPCDC, the section of SBOTE has made the result of 3th semester examinations public in just two days," they said.

Meanwhile, All Jammu and Kashmir Polytechnic Employees Association (AJKPEA) congratulated the team for making the results public in a short span.

The association said that excellent work was done by Secretary SBOTE Engineer Mehmood Ahmed Khan and his associate registrars including Jitender, Kaiser Dy registrar and Engineer Shakeel Ahmad.

They said that the SBOTE officials have secured the career of more than one thousand students by making the results of the student public in a short period.

NC

people from Kashmir and Jammu in our fight to protect the State's interests", the NC Provincial President said while speaking in Leh.

Earlier Nasir inaugurated the Party's Block Chishot Office at a function that was attended by a large number of locals and party functionaries. He impressed upon the workers to continue the party's outreach programme in all halqas and mohallas of the district and engage more and more youth into the party's ongoing programs.

"NC has always been at the forefront of keeping a fine balance between all the three regions of the State. Our work in Ladakh is a testimony to the fact that NC has always given credence to work and merit without any regional or religious prejudice and we will continue to work towards a vision of equitable development and growth of all the regions of the State," he said.

POLICE

a protest against the state government and to press for their demands.

Amid anti-Government sloganeering, the protesters while being chased by the state women police tried to resist and tried to come out of the Press Enclave but the police didn't allow them and bundled them in their vehicles.

Earlier, the Anganwadi protesters said that the government has miserably failed to look into the issues pertaining to the Anganwadi workers, who are working or serving the department on meagre amount.

According to KNS correspondent, they said that besides performing their duties, they are being sending on deputation for election duties and others. "The Anganwadi workers at various other states including Delhi and others are being paid over Rs 12000 per month but unfortunately, the JK government is still paying us Rs 3600 per month, which is insufficient," they said, adding that the government must increase their monthly honorarium upto Rs 14000 per month.

Cabinet approves Revamped Khelo India Programme

New Delhi, 20 Sept.: The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the revamped Khelo India programme at a cost of Rs.1,756 crore for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20. This marks a watershed moment in the history of Indian sports, as the Programme aims at mainstreaming sport as a tool for individual development, community development, economic development and national development.

The revamped Khelo India Programme would impact the entire sports ecosystem, including infrastructure, community sports, talent identification, coaching for excellence, competition structure and sports economy.

Salient features:
Some of the salient features of the

Programme include:

- an unprecedented Pan Indian Sports Scholarship scheme, which would cover 1,000 most talented young athletes each year across select sports disciplines.

- Each athlete selected under the scheme shall receive an annual scholarship worth Rs. 5.00 lakh for 8 consecutive years.

- This is the first time ever that a long-term athlete development pathway would be made available to gifted and talented youngsters to excel in competitive sports and will create a pool of highly competitive athletes who can compete to win at the world stage.

- The Programme aims to promote 20 universities across the country as hubs of sporting excellence, which would enable talented sports persons

to pursue the dual pathway of educational and competitive sports.

- The Programme also aims at creating an active population with healthy life-style.

- The Programme would cover about 200 million children in the age group of 10-18 under a massive national physical fitness drive, which will not only measure the physical fitness of all children in the age group, but also support their fitness related activities.

Impact:

- The power of sport in promoting gender equity and social inclusiveness is also fully recognized and special measures are provided for to achieve these objectives.

- The programme also aims at engaging youth living in disturbed and deprived areas, in sporting ac-

tivities, to wean them away from unproductive and disruptive activities and mainstream them in the nation-building process.

- The programme strives to raise the standards of competition, both at school and college level, to have maximum access to organized sports competitions.

- It also includes the use of latest user-friendly technology in all aspects of sports promotion such as, use of mobile apps for dissemination of sports training; National Sports Talent Search portal for talent identification; interactive website for indigenous sports; GIS based information system for locating and using sports infrastructure, etc.

- This programme strives to promote "Sports for All" as well as "Sports for Excellence."

Cabinet approves Productivity Linked Bonus for Railway Employees Payment

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval to pay Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) equivalent to 78 days wages to eligible non-gazetted railway employees (excluding RPF/RPSF personnel) for the financial year 2016-17. About 12.30 lakh non-gazetted Railway employees are likely to benefit from the decision. This payment will be made before Dussehra/Puja holidays, bringing a smile to lakhs of families ahead of

the festive season. The payment of PLB would serve as an incentive, and result in motivating a large number of Railway employees, particularly those involved in execution and operations of railways, to improve their productivity and ensure safety, speed and service for Railway customers. Indian Railways operates on the principle of maximum public welfare, and in this context, this bonus payment will help in improving accountability and efficiency in railways operations.

Visit of admiral Tin Aung San, Commander in Chief, Myanmar Navy to India

Admiral Tin Aung San, Commander-in-Chief, Myanmar Navy, is currently on a visit to India from 18 to 21 September 2017. The visit is intended to consolidate and enhance bilateral defence relations between India and Myanmar. The Admiral visited various Naval establishments at Mumbai and Kochi as part of his itinerary prior arriving New Delhi where he is scheduled to call on the Chief of Naval

Staff, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Air Staff. The Admiral will also hold discussions with various dignitaries from the Ministry of Defence at New Delhi. Naval cooperation between India and Myanmar has been traditionally strong, encompassing a wide span which includes operational interactions through Coordinated Patrols, Training, Port Calls, Passage Exercises along with Capacity Building.

Swachhta Pakhwada observed in Ministry of Coal from 16th August 2017 to 31st August 2017

New Delhi, 20 Sept.: Ministry of Coal, along with its attached offices and PSUs under the administrative control of Ministry observed the Swachhta Pakhwada during the fortnight from 16th August 2017 to 31st August 2017.

The Pakhwada was formally launched on Independence Day, 15th August 2017 by carrying out special activities to mark the beginning of Swachhta Pakhwada.

Shri Sushel Kumar, Secretary Coal convened a pre-pakhwada meeting to review the Swachhta Action Plan of the Ministry and PSU's. A mid-pakhwada meeting was also taken to review the activities carried out during the first week of Pakhwada.

During these meetings Secretary Coal, emphasized on working towards making 'swachata', a Jan Andolan, i.e a public movement, so that it

inculcates behavioural and attitudinal changes, thus making it sustainable.

The highlight of the Pakhwada was large scale tree plantation program that included fruit bearing, timber, medicinal plants with the provision for maintenance and watering of plants for one year. More than 5 lakh samplings were planted in the fortnight. Some of the specific activities that merit special mention are as follows:

Installation of a plant for production of drinking water under the brand name "Coal Neer" and a Reverse Osmosis (RO) Water Purification Project at Patansawangi underground coal mine. This plant has a capacity to treat 10,000 litres of water per hour.

Electrical crematorium constructed on the Ghat of Mahanadi River.

Truck mounted compactor machine provided to the Sam-

balpur municipal corporation for collection and compaction of the garbage.

A stretch of around 1.5 km in Manimukta River in Vridhachlam, TN was cleaned by involving 2000 volunteers from various NGOs.

Funds were provided to the Government of Jharkhand for making 3 districts open defecation free (ODF).

Besides the above, all the units were involved in cleaning of schools, hospitals, Primary Health Centres, anganwadis. Students and staff were made a part of the process. Three different dustbins were installed in schools and hospitals for segregating the waste at the source to ensure proper disposal of solid waste.

In villages, under the command area of the PSU's, cleaning of water bodies, wells, overhead tanks, water collection facilities, storm water drains, streets and roads was

taken up.

Swachhta Bharat awareness session on personal hygiene and environmental hygiene were also organized. This included de-worming drive, health camps, blood donation camps, distribution of Swachhta kits. Finally, for creating awareness, activities like Nukkad Natak; essay, drawing, debate, slogan, wall painting competitions; swachhta talks, discussions, seminars, swachhtarallies; and display of banners, posters were organized in schools and villages.

To promote Swachhta and recognize the efforts of the PSUs, best performing unit/subsidiary of each PSU is being awarded a running shield.

Ministry of Coal has uploaded the details of activities, photos and videos along with geo-tagging on the 'Swachhta Samiksha' Portal of the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation (MoDWS).

Environment Ministry to conduct five rounds of Quiz - 'Prakriti Khoj' across the Country

New Delhi, 20 Sept: The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change will hold a quiz on environment - 'Prakriti Khoj' throughout the country. The quiz is planned in five rounds and the qualifying round will begin on September 25, 2017 by paying tribute to Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya on his birth anniversary. The qualifying round will continue till September 29, 2017. The second, third, fourth and fifth rounds will be held subsequently, as per the schedule given below:-

- Second round: 30th October to 3rd November 2017
- Third round: 20-24, November 2017
- Fourth round: 4-6, December 2017
- Fifth round: 18-20, December 2017

The quiz will be conducted online though mul-

tiple-choice questions. The thematic areas like climate change, biodiversity, forest and wildlife, pollution, waste management, rivers and lakes, natural history, international conventions such as Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Framework-convention on climate change, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora etc. have been chosen for the quiz. A separate web portal - www.ngc.nic.in and www.pkeq.nic.in, containing information on the quiz has been developed by the Ministry. The link for first qualifying round will be open for five days from September 25 2017 to September 29, 2017 between 8.00 Am to 6.00 PM. Dates of the quiz will be updated on the Prakriti Khoj

portal, as well as Ministry's website.

In this phase, the quiz is open to only students of Eco-clubs (NGC programme of MoEF&CC). The students who are members of Eco-clubs in particular schools are required to send their names for registration through State Nodal Agency. The User Id and password will be provided to the registered students though email on their personal email IDs, as well as on their school IDs.

During the first phase, the Ministry in cooperation with State Nodal Agencies - National Green Corps, State Pollution Control Boards, state government bodies within the Environment departments and State Science Council will implement the quiz programme through online mode. The quiz will be organized in the school premises under the supervision of

Principals/Eco-club Coordinators. There will be cash prizes for the winners. All participants will receive an E-certificate of participation duly signed by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

This environment awareness initiative - 'Prakriti Khoj' had been launched on September 5, 2017. It has been launched with an aim to reach out to young, aspiring minds of school students through a fun-filled interactive learning mode for triggering a sense of awareness towards environment protection and conservation. This quiz, in a way, will provide a unique platform for students to measure their awareness levels regarding environmental issues and motivate them to participate in major programmes of the Ministry related to conservation and protection.

Cabinet approves Rationalization/Merger of the Government of India Press (GIPs) and their modernization

New Delhi, 20 Sept.: The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its for rationalization/merger and modernization of 17 Government of India Presses (GIPs)/Units into 5 Government of India Presses (GIPs) at Rashtrapati Bhavan, Minto Road and Mayapuri, New Delhi; Nashik, Maharashtra and Temple Street, Kolkata, West Bengal.

These 5 Presses will be redeveloped and modernised by monetisation of their surplus land. Land measuring 468.08 acres of the other merged Presses will be given to Land & Development Office, Ministry of Urban Development. Land measuring 56.67 acres of the Government of India Text Books Presses (GITBPs) at Chandigarh, Bhubaneswar and Mysuru will be returned to the respective State Governments.

Modernisation of the Presses will enable them to undertake important confidential, urgent and multi-colour printing work of the Central Government Offices all over the country.

This will be carried out at zero cost to the exchequer and without any retrenchment.

Cabinet approves introduction of the Dentists (Amendment) Bill, 2017

New Delhi, 20 Sept.: The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for introduction of the Dentists (Amendment) Bill, 2017 in Parliament subject to modifications of drafting or consequential nature, if any, as may be considered necessary by the Legislative Department by amending the Dentists Act, 1948 (16 of 1948). The amendment will reduce the redundancy.

The clauses being amended include those pertaining to certain modifications in the provisions of the Dentists Act, 1948 with regard to:

1. the Membership of the Dental Council of India under clause (f) of section 3 and
2. the Membership of State and Joint State Dental Councils under clause (b) of section 21 and clause (b) of section 23 of the said Act.

Background:

As per the existing Act, it was required to have the representation of dentists registered in Part B as Central Government nominees in the Dental Council of India and the election of four/ two members from Part B to the State/ Joint State Dental Councils. However, it has lost relevance. With a view to reducing the redundancy of the provisions of their representation, the Central Government has decided to delete these provisions so that their representation does not remain mandatory any more.

Abdul Haq reviews progress of Umeed scheme in Kupwara

18670 women enrolled in 2100 SHGs in 4 blocks of Kupwara; 30 AMCCs collect 750 liters milk per day

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 20: Minister for Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Law and Justice Abdul Haq today visited District Kupwara to review progress on various poverty alleviation programmes including Umeed scheme aimed to provide better livelihood facilities to the women particularly in rural areas.

The minister while addressing the gathering said the government is committed to strengthen women Self Help Groups (SHGs) by providing every possible assistance to them aimed at eradicating rural poverty and to achieve overall development of rural economy.

He said the government is taking all steps to assist the SHGs to grow besides effective and decentralized marketing of SHG products. He said the Umeed Programme launched by the state government has brought a great hope for poor women.

Minister said making women self sufficient is the first step towards empowering women folk and that the schemes of SRLM are helping women to be self sufficient ultimately empowering them to be part of decision making in a family.

He said the Scheme is aimed to provide better livelihood facilities to the women particularly

in rural areas by showing them a sustainable path to capital.

Abdul Haq while addressing the gathering said that the Scheme has already brought great hope for poor women in not only to come out of poverty but also raise their status within the communities. He said the Government is committed for bringing revolutionary changes in the economic stability of the state particularly in rural areas.

While interacting with the SHG members promoted under Umeed Programme, he said each members has inspiring stories who would motivate anybody to initiate their livelihoods.

On the occasion Minister was informed that over 18670 women members have been enrolled into 2100 Self Help Groups (SHGs) in District Kupwara, who are able to improve and generate income through these groups. These groups have their own thrift of Rs 2.88 crore, while as capitalization through the department is Rs 7.53 crore and Bank linkage is Rs 5.28 crore.

Meeting was further informed that there are 30 Automatic Milk Collection Centers (AMCC) in District Kupwara, which are in operation since last 4 months and sold 72,000 litres of Milk for Rs 21.70 lakhs so far with an average milk

production of 750 liters per day.

Minister was accompanied by Mission Director, JK SRLM, Bakshi Javid Hamayun who also spoke on the occasion and mentioned that the Umeed Programme shall be scaled up to the remaining blocks of Jammu & Kashmir.

He said the Government is committed for bringing economic stability in rural areas and praised the perseverance of women and their role in nation building.

Mission Director praised the SHG members who have accessed over Rs 15.69 crores and have invested for enhancement of their incomes.

CEO addresses valedictory function

Says ERONET app to bring every elector under one umbrella

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 20: Saying that to achieve the objectives of Unified National Photo Electoral Roll database, Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, Shaleen Kabra said that the launch of ERONET a web based app will contain names of every elector in the country at one place. The Chief Electoral Officer was speaking at the valedictory function of the 2-day training programme held here to sensitize the personnel connected with election related activities about the use of ERONET.

The application has been developed by Election Commission of India (ECI) to achieve the objectives of Unified National Photo Electoral Roll database and to ensure effective implementation of ECI mandate of "No Voter to be left behind". With the ERONET, the voter, who registers online on National

Voter's Service Portal (NVSP) will be able to track the progress of his application and become aware of the final decision by using the portal.

In this system, the inclusion, modification, deletion or transposition in the electoral rolls is done by filing and submitting Electoral Roll forms. Forms can be submitted online through the National Voters' Service Portal (NVSP) portal is provided in the website of the Election Commission of India http://eci.nic.in. Offline forms submitted in physical form to the ERO/ AERO/BLO of his or her Assembly Constituency/ Polling Station shall be digitized, uploaded and processed in the ERONET.

"The system strives to make an applicant's entry in the Electoral Roll unambiguous and error free and it will also bring in seamless pro-

cessing of forms, easy handling of the databases, regular and simpler way of monitoring and maintaining the health of the Electoral Roll" informed by Chief Electoral Officer, J&K. He further informed that Initially EPIC generation and Rationalization would be done on State Electoral Roll Management System (ERMS), and after draft publication, complete state Photo Electoral Roll (PER) data would be migrated into UNPER, the Chief Electoral Officer maintained.

On the launching ceremony of ERONET app, the Chief Secretary appreciated the features of the software and underlines the importance of the delivery by public system. He expressed the hope that with this network providing end to end change management with horizontal as well as virtual integration, the primary objective of public

delivery system vis., transparency, outreach and efficiency. He also emphasised technology is an enabler and its use needs to be increase in developmental activities. He further affirmed full support of State Government of the initiatives of Election Commission of India. The Director, ICT (ECI) Dr. Kaushal Pathak gave details of different contact centres, which have been established at National, State and District level for facilitating the electors who can access the public grievances system and make use of contact centres. He also discussed various other IT initiatives that to promote electors' registration/participation. The State Election Department organized 2-day training programme for effective implementation of this app in the State in which District Election Officers.

Orientation session on Labour laws held at Udhampur

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 20: Assistant Labour Commissioner Udhampur conducted an interactive cum orientation session on Labour laws here with the aim to make hoteliers aware of their obligations and responsibilities towards workers.

Members of Hotel Bar & Association, Udhampur were present during the programme.

Apprising the participants of their roles and duties under Labour laws, the Assistant Labour Commissioner exhorted them to conduct their business affairs with the framework of the set laws.

Laying emphasis on the importance of maintenance of registers and records in respect of service conditions of workers, Assistant Labour Commissioner appealed them to do the same in accordance with the laws. The members of the Association raised many queries on the subject matter of labour jurisdiction which were adequately addressed by the Assistant Labour Commissioner.

Assistant Controller Metrology, Udhampur and Assistant Director, Tourism, Batote also attended the session.

Appreciating the efforts of Assistant Labour Commissioner Udhampur for conducting such a programme for educating employers, the Association assured her of full cooperation in ensuring that labour laws get enforced in the field in their true essence.

Time and Us Editorial SRINAGAR J&K

THE KURDISH VOTE

Iraqi Kurdistan's decision to go ahead with a proposed independence referendum, despite strong opposition both from within and outside Iraq, has created a regional political storm in West Asia. The Iraqi Supreme Court has already asked the Kurdistan Regional Government to suspend the vote, scheduled for September 25, till its legality is settled. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has threatened to use force if the referendum turns violent. The Turkish government has ordered a military drill on the Iraqi border, while Iran has also issued a warning. Such opposition is largely driven by fears that a 'yes' vote in the referendum, which is almost certain, would enhance the nationalist aspirations of Kurds living in other countries and further destabilise the region. Besides Iraq, Kurds, the fourth largest ethnic group in West Asia but without a state, are scattered in various countries, including Turkey, Iran and Syria. In Turkey, Kurdish rebels are involved in a protracted civil war, while in Syria they have established a regional government. They are all keenly awaiting the outcome of the Iraqi vote. A 'yes' vote doesn't necessarily mean that Iraqi Kurdistan would immediately break away from Iraq. Both the regional government in Erbil and the federal government in Baghdad are not ready for that. But the Kurdish Regional Government, led by Masoud Barzani, wants to send a message to Baghdad as well as the outside world that its aspirations for independence are genuine and have popular resonance.

For generations, Iraqi Kurds have been at the receiving end in the dysfunctional relationship between Baghdad and Erbil. Kurds had been brutally repressed until the regional government was formed following the first Gulf War of 1991. Since then, they have exercised autonomy and built institutions for self-governance, but Kurdistan has remained part of Iraq. Now, Mr. Barzani, who will step down as the President of the regional government after the November 1 elections, is looking to begin the process for restructuring Erbil-Baghdad ties. Baghdad should see this as an opportunity to address the Kurdish question. In recent years, both Baghdad and Erbil cooperated in the fight against the Islamic State. Now that the IS threat has been largely contained, both sides can refocus their energies on settling the dispute between themselves. Though independence remains the proclaimed goal of Iraqi Kurdistan, Mr. Barzani himself has often signalled compromise. He once proposed a confederation, a united state in which Iraq and Kurdistan could co-exist, sharing resources and a vision on foreign and security policies. Baghdad chose to ignore such proposals. With the push for referendum, Kurds are trying to change the status quo. Federal dialogue is essential, for it is neither in Baghdad's nor the Kurds' interest to jeopardise.

THE BUSINESS OF WILFUL DEFAULT

► C.P. CHANDRASEKHAR

IN the fourth round of what has become a periodic exercise, the All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA), the "oldest and largest" trade union in the industry, has released a list of 5,610 wilful defaulters on debt they owe commercial banks. In the AIBEA's view, the failure to reduce, let alone prevent, such defaults is badly damaging bank balance sheets. The fact that attempts at recovery have also been tardy and quite unsuccessful is not helping either. The official listing of suit-filed accounts of wilful defaulters disseminated through the Credit Information Bureau (India) Ltd, reports 6,081 cases involving loans totalling Rs.59,518 crore as of March 31, 2016.

While the data single out defaulters who have been declared as wilful by their creditors, the issue of wilful default is often lost in the overall discussion of stressed assets in the banking sector. Consisting of non-performing assets (NPAs) and restructured assets, stressed assets in the banking sector are placed at Rs.733,000 crore or 14.34 per cent of bank advances. Non-performing assets at that point were estimated at Rs.594,929 crore. Wilful defaults while large are, therefore, a small percentage of total NPAs. But they point to a deeper problem in the functioning of India's market economy.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) defines a wilful defaulter as one who has diverted bank loans to activities other than the purpose for which they were originally taken, as one who siphoned funds out with no corresponding assets of any kind to show in the books of the company or one who has not repaid loans despite having adequate resources to meet commitments. Thus, the crucial issue here is not default per se but default that is intentional, deliberate and calculated. This makes wilful default a criminal offence. A default that results from a wrong investment decision, sheer mismanagement or unexpected changes in the business environment of a firm that does not have the liquidity to meet payment commitments will not fall in the "wilful" category.

Despite this restricted definition, wilful defaults are large. The total default in the 5,610 accounts revealed by the AIBEA adds up to Rs.58,792 crore. This amounts to around 11 per cent of total NPAs in the banking system at the end of March 2016. As many as 4,738 of these accounts, accounting for Rs.47,351 crore of wilfully defaulted loans, are with public sector banks (including the State Bank of India group). In an answer to a parliamentary question in the Lok Sabha in December last year, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley reported that in the case of loans of Rs.25 lakh and above from public sector banks alone, the number of cases of wilful default had risen by 44 per cent from 4,929 at the end of March 2013 to 7,265 at the end of September 2015, and the sum involved by a huge 150 per cent from Rs.25,804 crore to Rs.64,335 crore. Clearly, the credit boom during the years



after 2004 has been exploited by a set of unscrupulous borrowers, who could avoid scrutiny because of the relaxation in scrutiny that is associated with a post-liberalisation debt spiral.

What is noteworthy about the numbers released by the AIBEA is that the top 106 borrowers (1.9 per cent of the total) responsible for wilful default on loans equal to or exceeding Rs.100 crore each, together accounted for Rs.23,093 crore, or close to two-fifths (39.3 per cent) of the total sum in default as per this list. In fact, this concentration of a high level of wilful default among a few borrowers is an underestimate for two reasons. First, while firms borrow from different banks, not all of the banks may have declared them wilful defaulters. This keeps part of their debt out of the wilful default category. Thus, while Kingfisher Airlines' aggregate debt is estimated at around Rs.9,000 crore, only State Bank of India, which accounts for around Rs.1,200 crore, has declared the company a wilful defaulter. Second, firms belonging to the same group appear separately in the list of top defaulters. That makes concentration less than it would have been had all "sister companies" been clubbed together. Such difficulties notwithstanding, the sum under default in the case of the top 10 wilful defaulters is Rs.10,664 crore, or as much as 18 per cent of the total.

This suggests that fraud that hurts India's banking system is rampant and has risen rapidly in recent times. While the government's attention is focussed on the larger problem of NPAs in general, with emphasis on revealing the magnitude of the problem, ensuring that lost assets are provided for and recapitalising banks to keep them fully solvent, instances of outright fraud do not seem to be getting the attention they deserve. The Finance Minister's reply to the Lok Sabha question referred to above stated that while there were 7,265 cases of wilful default reported as of September 30, 2015, FIRs had been filed only in 1,624 cases, accounting for just about a quarter of the total sum in default. Criminal proceedings against these wilful defaulters seem to be extremely slow in coming.

The guidelines issued by the RBI on July 1, 2015, detailed the different ways in which

wilful default can be disincentivised as follows: (i) restricting additional facilities to such defaulters from banks and financial institutions, (ii) barring of such borrowers from institutional finance, (iii) criminal action, (iv) removal of directors of such companies from boards and (v) change in management. Many of these actions may be pointless because they may have lost their relevance by the time a defaulting borrower is identified as a wilful defaulter. Banks generally appear reluctant to proceed against defaulting borrowers in the belief that the inability to pay is a result of real difficulties and the hope that the company will be able to tide over the difficulties in time and begin meeting loan commitments. In fact, in many instances involving large borrowers, the loan is restructured with extended repayment periods, lower interest rates and additional support. This reticence to recognise default for what it is increases when the issue is recognising wilful default since that brings up the question whether the loan officers involved exercised due diligence when they sanctioned the loan.

Given the tendency for delay in recognising wilful default, borrowers may end up accessing credit from other banks and financial institutions and the directors may obtain credit for other companies they are associated with. So, to make a real difference, wilful default must be recognised early and followed by quick action to change the management and launch criminal proceedings. Conviction, especially of the larger defaulters, would make an example of them and possibly dissuade likely future offenders.

Tardy responses in practice to wilful default is surprising given the nature of the offences committed by large defaulters. A look at the cases of some of the top 10 defaulters is instructive. The audacity of the case involving Vijay Mallya and Kingfisher Airlines, which he created and owned, has been widely reported. Kingfisher defaulted on its large debt pile despite the repeated efforts of the banks that had lent it money to restructure this debt and even convert a part of it to equity so as to prevent "actual" default. Those efforts appear misplaced, given the allegations of the siphoning out of the company's resources for personal

enrichment after its final collapse and the inability to access much by way of collateral against the debt. Yet, Mallya was able to leave the country just before his passport was impounded as has been widely reported.

In the case of Jatin Mehta, who headed the Winsome Group before he chose to step down in 2012 and relocate abroad, two of his companies, Winsome Diamonds and Forever Precious Jewellery and Diamonds, had defaulted on the tidy sums of Rs.4,300 crore and Rs.1,900 crore respectively. Mehta claimed that this was because of default on payments to his companies by United Arab Emirates (UAE)-based clients who were being proceeded against. But some allege that there is reason to believe that these "clients" are actually erstwhile group companies and the sums involved have been diverted abroad. Jatin Mehta and his wife, who are now citizens of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis, with which India does not have an extradition treaty, are alleged to have followed the money.

But it is not always that the default occurs because of visible fraud. Zoom Developers, another among the topten, was involved in the unusual business of dismantling and either scrapping or relocating plants. Aggregators leased out the job of scrapping or relocating a plant to Zoom. Zoom had to offer a local bank guarantee to the aggregator and back it up with a bank guarantee from an Indian bank to the foreign bank. Zoom was supposed to settle all transactions and guarantees with the proceeds it obtained from the buyer of the scrap or of the relocated plant. After the financial crisis, Zoom claimed that its buyers cut back on purchases, creating cash flow problems for the company. However, investigations seemed to suggest that the promoters were "directly and knowingly involved in transferring the amounts received as mobilisation advances to the account of SBBJ for purchase of property". It also emerged that lenders had issued bank guarantees to the company without due diligence and rolled over those guarantees without much collateral. When the value of bank guarantees was around Rs.3,000 crore, the value of the collateral available was reportedly only Rs.150 crore. Loan loss was the result when Zoom chose to default.

This story of large lending to a wilfully defaulting entity by a consortium of banks seems true in many of the cases in the list of wilful defaulters. The fact that such adventurous lending followed by wilful default has become more common in recent years suggests that it is linked to the change in banking practices and the pursuit of quick profits after liberalisation.

In many cases the kind of fraud committed makes it difficult to believe that the client concerned was a creditworthy borrower in the first instance. Further, in all these cases, legal proceedings to identify and liquidate collateral assets is taking enormous amounts of time, forcing banks to write off these assets.

Seventy and surviving

► JAYATI GHOSH

THIS month India celebrates its 70th Independence Day. This is possibly still young for a country but it is a grand, some would say even stately, age in general. There can and will be many different opinions about how the country is doing at this age. But what about its contemporary and senior citizens, Indians who were born in or before 1947—how are they doing?

Of course, most of them are lucky just to be alive. In 1950, average life expectancy in India was just 36 years; only by 2011 it increased to 65 years. But this means that those borne before 1950 who are still alive today must count themselves among the fortunate few of their age cohort who survived the high probability of infant and child mortality, but also continued to survive their cohorts well beyond the predicted age of adult mortality. As it happens, both child and adult mortality rates have come down in India—slower than better-performing countries such as South Korea and China, but nonetheless at a pace that indicates some improvement.

Indeed, the improvement in adult mortality rates was especially marked in the first decade of this century. Between 2001 and 2011, the total population of India increased by 17.7 per cent, but the

number of citizens over the age of 60 increased at around double that rate, by 35.5 per cent. In 2011, the Census of India found that the number of people in the age of 70 years or more amounted to 39.7 million (3.28 per cent of the population), of whom 19.4 million were men and 20.3 million were women. Predictably, around 70 per cent of them lived in rural areas.

This is a sign of progress, but it also means that society needs to take into account the evolving material and social requirements of older people, especially the poor among them. Sadly, in the midst of all the hype about demographic dividend supposedly coming from the predominantly youthful population, all too many analysts and policymakers have missed the huge and growing concerns about the conditions of the elderly and what is required for them to live a life of dignity even in often diminished physical circumstances.

There are clearly wide differences in longevity across States, suggesting that various factors (including the obvious nutritional and health indicators) influence survival rates of both men and women. The table (based on data from Census of India 2011) shows how these rates—in terms of the number of people of 70 years of age or more—varied across States in 2011. Clearly, some States have

been better at ensuring survival for senior citizens, or have experienced more rapid declines in birth rates. But this also means that certain States and regions will bear a greater part of the burden of caring for the elderly population. Thus, the five States of the southern region (Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa and Andhra Pradesh) made up just above one-fifth of the population, but they accounted for one quarter of the people aged 70 years or more. Exactly the opposite tendency is evident in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, which contributed a quarter of the total population but just above one-fifth of the elderly (70 years and more).

But for most of these people in India aged 70 or more, their sheer survival may already be the most positive aspect of their lives. Perhaps unsurprisingly in a country that provides so little in terms of social protection to the vast bulk of the population, we perform very poorly in terms of how we treat senior citizens. In the Global Age Watch Index 2014, India ranked 71st out of 96 countries on elderly (60 years plus) care. The concerns range from lack of independent economic means (only around one-tenth have access to any kind of pensions, even the pitifully small amounts of Rs.200 a month provided under the National Old Age Pension Scheme) to inadequate

provision of and access to affordable health services, to near-absence of physical infrastructure that is supportive of the different needs of elderly people, to more personal problems of family and social neglect to downright abuse.

Obviously there are vast differences in this, within and across different States and communities and families. Yet, the overriding conclusion from most of the available data is that the self-satisfied perception of many Indians that we are a society in which family values and respect for seniors means that the elderly are treated well and with respect is generally no longer true if it ever was.

The more horrifying aspects of this were brought out in a 2012 study based on surveys in 12 cities conducted by HelpAge India, published in the report "State of the Elderly in India 2014". It found that every other elderly person in India (defined as someone above 60 years of age) suffered abuse within their own family. Four in 10 old people testified to verbal abuse, three to neglect, and a third to disrespect. One in five elderly persons encountered physical and emotional abuse almost daily, a third around once a week, and a fifth every month. The study found that the most common underlying reason for the abuse, and why so many elderly people are forced

to tolerate it, was the elders' economic dependence on their children.

This is one of the ways in which our public support systems have proved to be so inadequate. The HelpAge survey found that less than 11 per cent of elderly people had a pension of any sort. The National Old Age Pension scheme officially covers less than 20 per cent of people above 70 years, and in any case the amount it provides (Rs.200 a month for those in the age group 60 to 80 years, Rs.500 a month to those above 80 years, widows and disabled people) is so small as to be close to an insult, clearly inadequate for any real contribution to even the barest of existences. Some States have added to this amount to make a somewhat larger sum, but even so it is nowhere near the amount of half the minimum wage that has been the demand of the Pension Parishad and similar movements.

So poverty, lack of savings and lack of those who will look after them have driven many people, even those of age 70 years or more, to continue to work, so that labour force participation among the elderly remains relatively high.

Health care is another enormous problem that is worsened by poverty. Another study published in 2012 ("Health of the Elderly in India: Challenges of Access and Affordability") found that

13 per cent of the sampled elders had some type of disability that affected at least one activity of daily living. More than one-quarter of this population is underweight and nearly one-third has undiagnosed hypertension. Nearly 60 per cent live in dwellings lacking access to an improved sewerage system. Almost one-half of older Indians were found to have at least one chronic disease such as asthma, angina, arthritis, depression, or diabetes. Yet, the health insurance scheme for the poor (which also provides only a trivial amount of coverage) only covers those who are aged 65 years and younger, so those who are older are particularly vulnerable.

Instead of taking measures of social protection that would provide income support and access to health care to the elderly, the Indian state has decided to put the burden on families. The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizen Act, 2007, explicitly maintains that it is the duty of the children (irrespective of religion) to maintain their parents with no bar on age. Maintenance is to cover all basic necessities and requirements of life. The Act even includes childless senior citizens, who can claim maintenance from a relative who is legal heir of that senior citizen and who is in possession of or would inherit his property after his/her death.

Rahul Gandhi: Modi came to power because people wanted jobs but anger is growing

NEW DELHI: Leaders such as Narendra Modi and Donald Trump are being elected all over the world as the people are in pain due to unemployment, Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi said on Wednesday, but stressed that even the Prime Minister was not doing enough to solve the key problem facing India. Gandhi, 47, who is in the US on a two-week-long tour, during his interaction with students at the prestigious Princeton University admitted that the Modi-led BJP came to power in India as the people were angry with his Congress party over the issue of unemployment.

Employment is an all-encompassing means to empower, enfranchise and involve Indians in the nation building process, he said. "I think, the central reason why Mr Modi arose and to an extent why Mr Trump came, is the question of jobs in India and in

the United States. There's a large part of our populations that simply do not have jobs and cannot see a future. And, so they are feeling pain. And they have supported these type of leaders," Gandhi told students. He said another problem was that nobody was recognising that unemployment was a problem.

"I do not know Trump. I don't go there. But, certainly our Prime Minister is not doing enough (in creating jobs)," said the Congress leader. Gandhi has repeatedly raised the issue of joblessness during his meetings with experts, business leaders and Congressmen in the US. Currently, we are not producing enough jobs. 30,000 new youngsters are joining the job market every single day and yet the government is only creating 500 jobs a day. And this doesn't include the massive pool of already unemployed youngsters," Gandhi



had said in his earlier address at the University of California in Berkeley. At Princeton, Gandhi said India needed to transform itself to compete with China and for that

the people in the country required jobs. "Those same people who got angry with us because we couldn't deliver on those 30,000 jobs (a day) are going to get angry with

Mr Modi. The central question is resolving that problem. My main issue with Mr Modi is that he diverts that issue and points the finger somewhere else instead of saying

listen we have a problem," he said.

"There is anger building up in India right now. We can sense it. So to me the challenge is how to solve that job growth problem in a democratic environment. That's the challenge," he said.

"So we have to first accept it as a problem. Then we have to unite and try to solve it. Right now, nobody is even accepting it as a problem," he argued.

Focusing a major part of his question and answer session at Princeton on jobs, Gandhi asserted that new technologies and modernisation are unlikely to kill jobs. "The nature of what we call it a blue collar job is going to change. But the question is who is going to have those jobs and which countries are going to have access to those jobs," he said.

He also raised the issue of polarisation in India. He said the politics of polarisation was central

challenge in India and some sections of the society, including the minority communities and tribal people, do not feel a part of the ruling BJP's vision. "In the 21st century, if you leave some people out of your vision, you are asking for trouble. New ideas would come, new different visions would develop. So, to me, central challenge in India is politics of polarisation where you pit one community against other and you create spaces for other people to come in," Gandhi said. "There is a belt of 100 million tribal people who do not feel comfortable with the vision (of the BJP). There are a number of states in India, which don't want a single vision forced down their throat. There are minority communities, they do not feel that they are the part of the vision. So that's where the real danger is," Gandhi said in response to a question.

India's strength has always been its ability to embrace people, he said.

Eye on 2022 assembly polls, Akhilesh Yadav to get longer tenure as SP president

NEW DELHI: The Samajwadi Party has decided to extend the term of its national president from existing three to five years, allowing former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Akhilesh Yadav to fasten his grip over the party.

The move will mean that the party will face the 2019 Lok Sabha election and the 2022 assembly election under the leadership of Akhilesh.

"We have amended party's constitution to allow a five-year term for the party's new president," SP's chief spokesman Rajendra Choudhary told HT. The 44-year-old alumnus of University of Sydney will be re-elected to the party's top post during a convention of the Samajwadi Party in Agra on October 4-5.



Akhilesh took over the reins of the SP, replacing his father Mulayam Singh Yadav, on the eve of the assembly election after a bitter fight

with uncle Shivpal Yadav. SP is currently holding organisational elections at the lower levels, a process that has seen Akhilesh loyalists taking control

of the party at the district level and downwards.

"The Agra convention will reiterate party's faith in Akhilesh," a senior party functionary said, suggesting that the generational change in the party will be complete at Agra.

Unlike his father and uncle, Akhilesh has been a votary of 'non-BJP forces should unite' theory to contain the rise of Narendra Modi.

The convention however will skip the issue of political alliances and focus on presenting the Samajwadi Party as the credible alternative to BJP in Uttar Pradesh.

The meeting will discuss the strategy for 2019 Lok Sabha election and how to regain the ground it lost to the BJP in the assembly election.

BSF foil infiltration bid in Amritsar, two intruders killed

AMRITSAR: Two armed infiltrators were killed and a possible bid to breach the Indo-Pak border foiled by the BSF in Punjab on Wednesday.

The border guarding force said it has recovered the bodies of the two. An AK-47 assault rifle, a pistol and over two dozen bullet rounds were recovered.

The incident took place on the intervening night of September 19-20 in the Ajnala sector in Amritsar.

"When challenged by BSF troops, infiltrators fired on ambush line with automatic weapons. Taking cover, the fire was appropriately retaliated and infiltrators

were neutralised near the border fence," a Border Security Force (BSF) spokesperson said. The force foiled the infiltration bid, he added. A Pakistan SIM card, four kgs of heroin and Pakistani currency worth Rs 20,000 has been recovered from the two, it said. "The area has been cordoned off and the search is on at the IB," the spokesperson added.



Extreme weather in India taking a toll on people and economy

It has been a year of unprecedented and extreme weather events in India, and across the world, highlighted by freak phenomena which experts attribute to an alarming rate of climate change.

For the record, 2016 was the warmest year since climate data came to be officially compiled, claiming 547 lives in India as its southern states faced the worst drought in 40 years.

The year also saw five Indian states grappling with floods, with Assam facing the worst deluge in over a decade. A year later, the situation looks worse. Nearly 40% of the districts in India face the prospect of drought, while close to 25% districts have had heavy rainfall of more than 100mm in just a matter of hours. Sudden heavy rainfall this year has brought cities like Mumbai, Chandigarh and Bengaluru to their knees and unseasonal hail has destroyed farm produce. This may sound alarming now but climate scientists have spotted the trend early and warned the government of its devastating impact on the Indian economy. "If we fail to do adequate climate proofing of our agriculture and cities, the impact on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) could be more than one percentage point," said Kirit Parikh, former member of the erstwhile Planning Commission. Latest studies by the Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) show that average rainfall during the monsoon period is falling as the Indian Ocean gets warmer, busting the earlier claim of average rainfall between July-September months not having changed despite increase in extreme downpour.

The IITM's latest analysis show that the summer rainfall during 1901-2012 over the central-east and northern regions of India, along the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna basins and the Himalayan foothills is falling. The warming of the western Indian Ocean in recent decades has also led to a pole-ward shift of the core of low-level monsoon winds, increasing the precipitation to the north of the Western Ghats, while weakening it over southern regions of India, said Roxy Mathew Koll, a scientist at the institute's climate centre, who is also member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Koll said the enhanced Indian Ocean warming in recent decades has potentially weakened the land-sea thermal contrast, dampening the summer monsoon wind circulation, and reducing the rainfall over parts of south Asia.

India announces \$200,000 emergency aid for hurricane-hit Caribbean countries

NEW DELHI: India on Tuesday announced an emergency aid of \$200,000 to the worst-affected countries by recent hurricanes in the Caribbean.

"We feel your pain. In this trying hour, we stand with you. We know your people are resilient. We stand ready to assist in your efforts to rebuild broken lives. Our efforts go out to all those affected. I offer our heartfelt condolences on the loss of precious lives," External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said in her address to CARICOM ministerial meeting on the sidelines of UN General Assembly.

"As a token of our solidarity, India will make available an emergency aid of \$200,000 to the worst-affected countries," she said.

She also announced another \$2 million fund from the India-UN Partnership Fund for South-South Cooperation for the rehabilitation

projects in the region. "I am asking our mission to the UN to work with our partners in Antigua and Barbuda as well as Dominica and other partners to earmark an amount of \$2 million from the India-UN Partnership Fund for South-South Cooperation for rehabilitation projects in CARICOM," Swaraj said. India, she said, undertook evacuation from Sint Maarten for not only Indians but also for nationals of nine other countries. Observing that the Caribbean have a special place in the hearts of Indians, she said India would like to continue its interaction with its Caribbean partners on annual basis on the margins of UNGA. "India's ties with the Caribbean region are historic and civilisational. During the colonial era after abolition of slavery, over half a million Indians reached the shores of British colonies in the Caribbean. Many of those



have assimilated into their new homes but many also preserved their traditions, thus ensuring cultural linkages between India and the Caribbean," Swaraj said. Swaraj said terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. "Counter-terrorism requires a strong collective action by the global community. A strong legal framework also needs to be

established in order to address this problem," she said. She said an early adoption by the UNGA of the Comprehensive Convention of International Terrorism, a draft for which was proposed by India as early as 1996, is essential.

India has announced its candidature for the non-permanent seat for the UNSC for Asia-Pacific region for the period 2021-2022 and can-

didature of Justice Dr Dalveer Bhandari for re-election to the Court of Justice for the term 2018-2027.

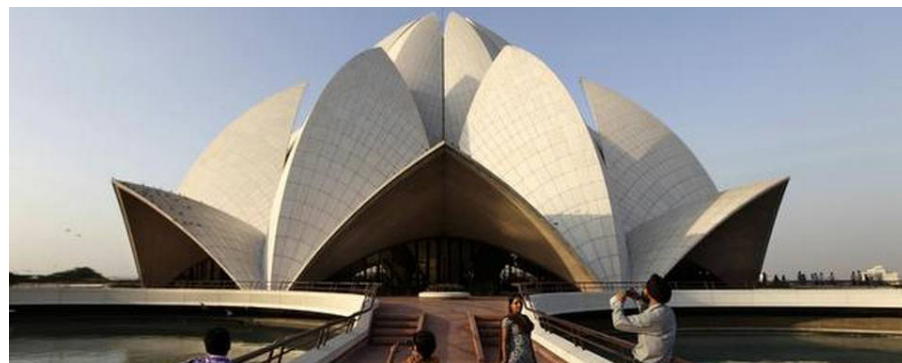
She sought the support of all CARICOM member states for these candidatures. Observing that climate change is an issue of common concern to all, Swaraj said an international regime of actions was agreed in the form of the UNFCCC in 1992.

"India's per capita emissions are very low compared to both developed as well as other large developing countries and major emitters. Let me assure you all that India is particularly conscious of vulnerability of small island states and low-lying nations to the effect of climate change and would stand behind them in mitigating the effects of climate change," she said. Stating that India has set up the International Solar Alliance jointly with France, she invited the CARICOM member countries to sign the ISA Framework Agreement.

Baha'i leader released in Iran after serving 10-year sentence

NEW DELHI: Mahvash Sabet, one of the seven members of the former leadership group of the Baha'is in Iran who were imprisoned due to religious beliefs, has been released after completing her 10-year prison sentence, an organisation representing the community in India said on Tuesday.

Prior to being expelled from her profession for being a Baha'i, Ms. Sabet worked as a teacher and school principal and collaborated with the National Literacy Committee of Iran, said the statement issued by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of India. Ms. Sabet (64), was the first member of the ad-hoc group known as "the Yaran", or the friends, to be arrested in March 2008, it said. The six others were arrested in May of the same year after an early morning raid at their homes. Their arrest and imprisonment prompted an international outcry for their release by the United Nations, governments and media around the world, the statement said. "Mahvash Sabet, one of the seven mem-



bers of the former leadership group of the Baha'is in Iran who were imprisoned due to religious beliefs, has been released after completing her unjust 10-year prison sentence," it said. The group Yaran, now disbanded, was formed with the full knowledge and approval of the Iranian authorities after formal Baha'i institutions were declared illegal in Iran in the 1980s, it said.

"The community of international lawyers,

welcomes the decision of the Iranian government to release Mahvash Sabet, who we are aware was imprisoned wrongfully along with the other 6 Baha'i leaders known as Yaran," said G Venkatesh Rao advocate, Supreme Court and life member, Indian Society of International Law.

He said the international community led by the UN Secretary General and other organs like the UN Human Rights Council have

given unstinting support to the cause of the Baha'is and their leaders.

"Iranian government would win the praise of the world and have its record of human rights straightened if they soon and immediately release the other six leaders as well," Mr. Rao said. In the past years, economic persecution against the Baha'is has escalated in what the Baha'is international community has called, in an open letter to President Hassan Rouhani, an "economic apartheid against a segment of Iran's population".

Since 2013 alone hundreds of Baha'is shops and businesses have been sealed, leaving scores of families without an income.

The six remaining members of the Yaran are also expected to complete their sentences in the coming months.

The six leaders of the Yaran still in prison are — Fariba Kamalabadi (55); Jamalodin Khanjani (83); Afif Naeimi (55); Saeid Rezaei (59); Behrooz Tavakkoli (65) and Vahid Tizfahm (43), the release said.

A Word of Advice from an Informed Mom

I am a mother who handles a family of four that includes me, my husband and our two children. As most mothers will know, this is a full-time job that does not stop even if I have a career. My priority will always be my family and home. Keeping them safe and healthy at all times is imperative. So, I am constantly on the lookout for tips and resources that will help me do so.

One of my pet peeves is changing seasons, which more often than not, results in my children falling ill. This is the time when everything goes out of gear. It also creates all round discomfort for my children, which then becomes a problem for my husband and me. The monsoons are that time of the year when these issues become extremely pronounced. Viral infections and fever, as well as the risk of dengue and malaria, can scare any mother. Hopefully, there are many ways in which all you

mothers out there can take care of their family, while enjoying the monsoons at the same time. So here is a quick guide on some of the things I do at home to battle those monsoon woes.

1. Healthy diet

Picture Courtesy: Pexels
Following a good, healthy diet that comprises seasonal fruits and vegetables is vital, as it helps build immunity. I usually take street food off the menu and prepare fresh food for every meal. I also try and ensure that we consume minimal raw food such as salads, during this season. And even if we do, I make sure to wash all these raw ingredients thoroughly, and with clean water before eating them.

2. Correct liquids

Picture Courtesy: Pexels
Like all kids, my children too love cold drinks. But this season isn't the best time for them to drink too much of these as they can easily catch a cold.



I try to replace these with things like hot chocolate and smoothies, which are delicious, safe and in some cases, quite nutri-

tious. Sometimes, I even slip in a glass of warm milk with a mix of their choice before bedtime. And when it comes to

drinking water, it is filtered and boiled to ensure there are no germs at all.

3. A remedy for fungus

Picture Courtesy: Pexels

These are two things that can instantly lead to illnesses. Many homes have damp corners that we are not even aware of. It is important to air out your furniture, mattresses, cushions and other belongings in your cupboards whenever the sun is out. This ensures they are dry and free of fungus growth. Additionally, sweeping and mopping your home should be carried out routinely during this season.

4. Keep mosquitos at bay

Picture Courtesy: Pexels
These pesky insects are one of my biggest worries because they can cause numerous problems. I generally use repellents in the mornings and the evenings to get rid of mosquitoes. You can easily switch on liquid repellents to restrict the entry of mosquitoes into your home or consider planting insect repelling herbs like chamomile and basil in and around your home.

Mesh or wire windows and doors are also quite effective when it comes to keeping mosquitoes out. Also, remove all stagnant water from your home routinely so that these insects cannot thrive there. Picture Courtesy: Pexels

Another thing I ensure during this season is that my kids always dress in clean, dry clothes that keep them warm and comfortable, especially while sleeping at night. Even when going outdoors, the kids are covered up to prevent the possibility of bites or catching any illness. And carrying umbrellas and raincoats are essential when we go anywhere.

Personal hygiene is yet another thing that I make sure my kids follow perfectly. This prevents them from getting infected by germs. By taking care of these small things, you can protect your loved ones and ensure they are always healthy and happy.

Do you have lots of negative emotions? Try Emotional Freedom Technique for best results

Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT) is an alternative medicine technique developed by Gary Craig in 1993 that's popular even today. EFT aims to remove or reprogram established negative emotions. Here's a closer look at this short-term therapy with Jean-Michel Gurret, French psychotherapist, EFT specialist and EFT trainer:

What is EFT?

Emotional Freedom Technique, or EFT, is a mind-body therapy that seeks to help patients overcome emotional blocks linked to past, present or future events, by stimulating specific acupuncture meridians with the fingertips. Whether for relaxation, stress or anxiety management, this technique acts on the autonomic nervous system and can be used alone in the event of anxiety attacks or more minor grievances.

Why see an EFT therapist?

EFT is a complement to the treatment techniques used by psychotherapists, notably for people suffering from post-traumatic stress dis-



order and depression. To this end, the discipline is recognised as a first-line treatment in the USA.

It is also helpful for dealing with self-confidence issues (public speaking, self-esteem issues, excessive jealousy), phobias, eating disorders, addictions (drugs, smoking, alcohol), irritable bowel syndrome, fertility problems, sleep problems, or to improve athletic performances. For children, EFT can help treat learning

difficulties, dyslexia, bed wetting, night terrors and school phobia. What happens during EFT sessions?

During the first session, the therapist will establish the objectives to be attained, identify the changes desired, establish the patient's history and identify the origin of their problem. Next, the therapist will guide the patient to fix their attention on whatever is bothering them, while at the same time tapping specific merid-

ians, or energy points, on the body.

During several sequences, the patient will repeat a positive affirmation relating to the problem being treated. After this first session, the patient will be given instructions allowing them to continue the work at home. In general, one to five sessions is enough for simple problems. For more complex cases, several sessions may be necessary, with varying regularity, for example, every two to three weeks or once a month.

How do you choose an EFT therapist?

Take a good look at the practitioner's website before making an appointment to find information about their training, school certification or accreditation, their therapy experience and their specialist fields. Don't hesitate to ask the therapist as many questions you like before the first meeting. Similarly, if you don't feel at ease with the person — if you don't find them kind towards you or understanding — trust your intuition and look elsewhere.

Why are freehand exercises such a draw

Don't have a pricey gym membership? No sweat! You can exercise just as well out the weights and can easily do these exercises in your office cabin or in your home. Free hand is also one of the biggest trend shifts in fitness.

Here are a few freehand exercises to try...
Push-ups
An exercise that engages the whole body, push-ups work for your legs, thighs, triceps, chest and back. Start with 10.
Chair dips
Who says you can't exercise at the office? This freehand exercise allows just that. Sim-

ply place two chairs, a little distance apart, with their backs parallel to each other. Grip the chair backs, bend your knees slightly and do dips with the arms being parallel to the floor. After every seven dips, bring yourself back up. Get into a floor push-up position with your knees parallel to the floor and instead of your palms, place your body weight on your forearms. Keep the body straight, hold and relax.
Leg lifts
Lie on your back, keeping your arms by the side and your legs flat. Tighten the core and lift your legs overhead. Hold and slowly lower your legs back to the floor. Repeat.
Lunges
Lunges can be done anywhere and target muscles in the lower body and the core. Do basic lunge movement and hold. You can also try stepping out to the side or step backwards.

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Do you get emotional after failure? It may improve your decision-making skills

If you are a really emotional person, then this news might be really important for you. A recent research has found that emotional responses to failure rather than cognitive ones are more effective at improving people's results for the next time they tackle the next related task. Noelle Nelson, assistant professor of marketing and consumer behaviour in the KU School of Business, said, "Understanding how performance differs when focusing on feelings versus thoughts could really impact the way people think about their failures or the way employers think about their employees' failures. Sometimes the literature has focused more on types of thoughts or types of emotions, but we were interested in the difference between a basic emotional versus cognitive response." The researchers conducted three experiments in which undergraduate students were required to perform tasks. In one, students were asked to search online for a blender and report the lowest price they could find with the possibility of winning a cash prize. The price search task was rigged, however, and a computer would inform all participants that the lowest price was USD 3.27 less than what they found. All failed to win the USD 50 cash prize. Some participants were asked to focus on emotions as they learned the results and others their cognitive response, such as rationalising factors for why they didn't succeed. During the next similar task, participants that focused on their emotional response to failing exerted more effort than those who emphasised a cognitive response.

Converting 'bad' fat into 'good' raises hope for tackling obesity

Researchers have managed to identify a way to convert 'bad' white fat into 'good' brown fat - a breakthrough they say could soon lead to better treatments for people suffering from obesity.

White fat stores calories in our hips, bellies and thighs, whereas, brown fat burns calories through a process that generates heat.

As per a report in Xinhuanet, researchers have found that blocking a specific protein in white fat triggered the fat to begin to brown into beige fat, a type of fat in between white and brown, thus causing the fat cells to heat up and burn calories.



"Our research suggests that by targeting a protein in white fat, we can convert bad fat into a type of fat that fights obesity," says Irfan Lodhi, an assistant professor of medicine at the Washington

University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

Though beige fat it is almost like an intermediary between white fat and brown fat, it functions more like brown fat and can protect against obesity.

A series of experiments were conducted in mice, creating a genetic strain of animals that didn't make a key protein in their white fat cells.

Those mice had more beige fat and were leaner than their littermates, even when they ate the same amount of food as other mice. They also burned more calories.

"Mice normally have very low

levels of the protein, called PexRAP, in their brown fat," he said.

"When we put the mice into a cold environment, levels of the protein also decreased in white fat, allowing that fat to behave more like brown fat. Cold induces brown and beige fats to burn stored energy and produce heat," he added.

Lodhi said if the PexRAP protein could be blocked safely in white fat cells in humans, people might have an easier time losing weight.

"The challenge will be finding safe ways to do that without causing a person to overheat or develop a fever, but drug developers now have a good target," he said.

Diabetics - Here's a paper patch to monitor your sugar level

A new paper-based sensor patch has been developed by scientists that could allow diabetics to effectively measure glucose levels during exercise.

The researchers demonstrated a self-powered, wearable and disposable patch that allows for non-invasive monitoring of glucose in human sweat.

This wearable, single-use biosensor integrates a vertically stacked, paper-based glucose/oxygen enzymatic fuel cell into a standard Band-Aid adhesive patch.

"The paper-based device attaches directly to skin, wicks sweat to a reservoir where chemical energy is converted to electrical energy, and monitors glucose without external power and sophisticated readout instruments," said Seokheun Choi, Assistant Professor at Binghamton University, State University of New York.

Today's most widespread methods for glucose self-testing involve monitoring glucose levels in blood.

Conventional measurements, however, are not suitable for preventing hypoglycemia (low blood glucose) during exercise, Choi said.

This is because the underlying process relies on invasive and inconvenient blood sampling, causing the possibility of sample contamination and skin irritation with sweat containing various electrolytes and proteins, Choi said.



Moreover, the method needs patients to carry many accessories during physical activity, including lancets, alcohol swabs and a relatively large glucometer.

"The technique requires a sophisticated electrochemical sensing technique and sufficient electrical energy, which makes the technique difficult to be fully integrated

in a compact and portable fashion," Choi added.

On the other hand, sweat-based glucose sensing is attractive for managing exercise-induced hypoglycemia because the measurement is performed during or immediately after exercise when there is enough sweat to obtain an adequate sample.

Airtel disappointed, Vodafone considering options after 'non-transparent' IUC cut

NEW DELHI: Mobile operators Vodafone India and Bharti Airtel on Wednesday expressed disapproval over the Interconnect Usage Charge (IUC) revised by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and said the decision would impact the industry grossly, especially when it is under financial stress. The telecom regulator more than halved the fee mobile carriers pay for calls made from one network to another, dragging down shares of bigger operators such as market leader Bharti Airtel that are likely to be hit hard by the move.

Operators in India do not charge users for incoming calls, but the carrier from whose network a call originates pays a fee to the network that receives the call. The top players with the highest number of subscribers tend to gain from the fees.

TRAI slashed the termination charges on Tuesday from 14 paise a minute to 6 paise, which will become effective from October 1. The charges will be completely scrapped from January 1, 2020.

Morgan Stanley estimated the fee cut could lead to an about 40% plunge in Bharti Airtel's annual profit, adding that Reliance Jio Infocomm would be the key beneficiary of the move. Reliance Jio, backed by India's richest man Mukesh Ambani, has disrupted the highly-competitive telecoms sector with free voice calls and cut-price data. Being a new player, it has relatively more calls made from its network. Jio had questioned the interconnect charges, saying that rival operators had already recovered their investments. Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Group Plc's India unit, the market's second-biggest carrier, said they were disappointed by the fee cut.

"The suggested IUC rate, which has arrived in a completely non-transparent fashion, benefits only one operator, which enjoys a huge traffic asymmetry in its favour," Airtel's official spokesperson said.

Airtel, in its statement on Wednesday, added the sharp drop in the IUC rate will only help transfer a part of its cost to other operators, thereby, further worsening the financial health of the industry. "As part of an industry, which continues to be a critical driving force behind the economic growth in the country, we are genuinely dismayed by this decision," it added. Vodafone, on its part, said it is considering their options in response to the TRAI's decision and added unless mitigated, the decision would have serious consequences for investments in rural coverage, undermining the government's vision of 'Digital India'.

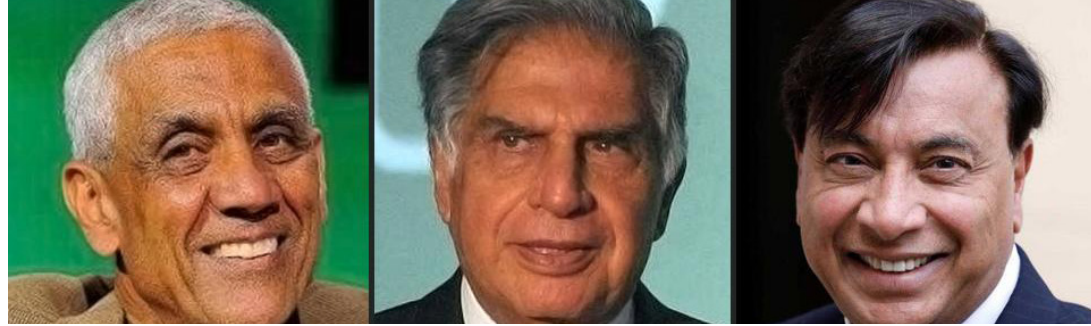
Lakshmi Mittal, Ratan Tata, Vinod Khosla among Forbes' greatest business minds

NEW YORK: Three Indian corporate czars — Lakshmi Mittal, Ratan Tata and Vinod Khosla — have been named in Forbes' special list of the world's 100 Greatest Living Business Minds.

Lakshmi Mittal is the chairman and CEO of ArcelorMittal, Ratan Tata is Tata group's chairman emeritus and Vinod Khosla is the co-founder of Sun Microsystems.

The special list also includes Donald Trump. Forbes referred him as the "Salesman and Ringmaster Extraordinaire: Owner, Trump Organisation; 45th President Of The United States".

Others in the list include Ama-



zon founder Jeff Bezos, Virgin Group founder Richard Branson, Berkshire Hathaway CEO Warren Buffett, Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates and News Corp executive chairman Rupert Murdoch.

CNN founder Ted Turner, talk show master Oprah Winfrey, Dell Technologies founder Michael Dell, Paypal, Tesla and SpaceX co-founder Elon Musk, Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg, Starbucks CEO How-

ard Schultz and Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg, among others figured in the list.

To celebrate Forbes' centennial, the magazine amassed an encyclopedia of ideas from 100

entrepreneurs, visionaries and prophets of capitalism, making it the greatest ever collection of business essays.

In developing the list, Forbes sought people who have either created something with a lasting impact on the world or innovated in a way that transcends their given field. "The list speaks to a century of entrepreneurial capitalism compiling the doers who have created, disrupted and innovated on a collectively historic scale," Forbes said. Forbes magazine was founded on September 17, 1917 by BC Forbes, a financial journalist, and his partner Walter Drey.

Trai cuts cross-network connection charge, calls could get cheaper

NEW DELHI: India's telecom regulator on Tuesday more than halved the so-called interconnection usage charge (IUC) to six paise with effect from October 1 and abolished it all together for all local calls starting January 1, 2020, dealing a big blow to older telcos and a potential boost to newcomer Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd.

Analysts had estimated earlier that a reduction in IUC from 14 paise to 6 paise would mean a gain of around Rs 3,800 crore for Reliance Jio and a corresponding loss for older telcos. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) believes that the reduction of the charge, levied by a telecom operator for terminating a call from another telco (the second telco pays) will benefit consumers and boost competition.

On its website, the regulator said that the move to the so-called Bill And Keep regime (where no interconnect charge is paid by a telco to another) would "encourage flat rate billing and time differentiated

charges, both of which will improve capacity utilisation and will be in the interest of consumers".

For months now, rival telcos have lobbied hard to have their way with IUC. Older telecom firms wanted it to be raised to at least 30 paise, while new entrant Reliance Jio wanted it cut to zero. Jio claimed in July that India's top three telcos generated Rs 1.04 trillion in the past five years because of non-implementation of a 2011 regulatory road map to cut IUC to zero. The Mukesh Ambani-controlled Jio was pressing for the BAK model. Bharti Airtel's chairman Sunil Mittal and Idea Cellular's chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla wrote to Trai seeking continuation of the IUC regime. Vodafone Group Plc's Group CEO Vittorio Colao and Singtel's Group CEO Chua Sock Koong wrote to telecom minister Manoj Sinha seeking the same.

The older telcos argued that because traffic between them and Reliance was asymmetric (more calls from Jio's network end on theirs



than the other way around), a shift to a BAK model did not make sense now. Trai's decision may be challenged in a court. Rajan Mathews, director general of lobby group Cellular Operators Association of India said Trai's move "is disappointing for the majority of our membership" and that the telcos would want "details ... used to arrive at "the 6 paise figure. He added that most affected telcos would "seek redressal from the courts in order to reverse the

order", which would be decided on Wednesday. Spokespersons for Airtel, Vodafone India, and Idea Cellular declined to comment. A spokesperson for Jio did not immediately respond to an e-mail seeking comment. Contrary to the perception that scrapping IUC will benefit one company, the move will benefit everybody since users are moving "to more and more data based communication and telecom as industry works on inter-working of the var-

ious participants," said Amresh Nandan, research director (communications), Gartner. On its website, Trai termed as "anti-competitive" the practice of older telcos offering very low tariffs for calls made within their own network and higher rates for calls made from a different network to their network.

To promote newer technologies, the regulator is expected to base its regulations (and tariff regime) on the most efficient technology, Trai added. "The Authority examined that when clear demonstrable large difference exists in the cost of providing same services, why TSPs (telcos) are not migrating to newer technologies such as VoLTE."

According to Idea Cellular Ltd, time division multiplier-based networks using 2G, 3G, 4G technology currently account for 95% of voice traffic; and the newer VoLTE-based 4G network, less than 5% of voice traffic. VoLTE is largely used by Jio; Airtel started the service in Mumbai last week.

ONGC strikes 'good' offshore field; estimated to hold reserves of 20 million tonnes

AHMEDABAD: The latest discovery of India's largest oil explorer Oil and Natural Gas Corp to the west of its Mumbai High offshore fields is estimated to hold in-place reserves of about 20 million tonnes, sources with knowledge of the matter said.

The Mumbai High field annually produces oil and natural gas of about 9 million to 10 million tonnes of oil equivalent. The company discovered hydrocarbon reserves west of Mumbai High at well WO 24-3 in July.

ONGC tested nine zones in the well, the two sources with knowledge of the matter told Reuters.

"One zone alone yielded more than 3,000 barrels per day of oil and there are deeper zones where oil and gas both are encountered," said one of the sources. "It is a large discovery going by Indian standards and is in a different play than discoveries made in the neighbouring Mumbai High fields," the source said. ONGC informed the Directorate



General of Hydrocarbons (DGH), the upstream advisory arm of the federal oil ministry, about the latest discovery earlier this month. ONGC now plans to drill ap-

praisal wells to determine the size of the new find's recoverable reserves, the sources said.

ONGC is struggling to ramp up its output as most of its production comes from mature fields.

"It is a good discovery and gives ONGC further hope. This has opened up a new area for exploration around Mumbai High," the second of the sources said. An ONGC spokesperson declined to comment on the potential for the discovery.

L&T bags Rs 1,700-crore crude oil pipeline contract in Kuwait

NEW DELHI: Engineering conglomerate Larsen & Toubro (L&T) said on Wednesday it has won a Rs 1,700 crore contract in Kuwait for building a crude oil pipeline.

"L&T's hydrocarbon division has bagged a major pipeline contract with a value close to Rs 1,700 crore from Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) for Engineering, Procurement and Construction of a new 48" Crude Transit Line (TL-5) from North Kuwait to Ahmadi," the company said in a statement.

The project is scheduled to be completed in the third quarter of 2020.

The company said the order was won against stiff international competitive bidding which reinforces its capability to deliver 'design to build' engineering and construction solutions across the hydrocarbon spectrum. L&T is currently executing Gathering Centre-30 (GC-30) project for KOC.

The company has been serving the onshore hydrocarbon sector since early 1990s.

L&T is an Indian multinational engaged in technology, engineering, construction, manufacturing and financial services with over \$17 billion in revenue.

ICICI Lombard IPO oversubscribed 3 times on last day of bidding



NEW DELHI: The initial share sale offer of ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company was oversubscribed 2.98 times at the end of the last day of bidding on Tuesday, stock exchange data showed.

The initial public offer (IPO), through which the insurer is looking to raise about Rs 5,700 crore, received bids for 18,34,60,772 shares against the total issue size of 6,16,66,740 shares, as per NSE data till 1930 hrs.

The category reserved for qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) was oversubscribed 8.17 times, non institutional investors 83% and retail investors 1.21 times, investment banking sources said.

The IPO received over 11 lakh applications, they added.

ICICI Lombard General Insurance on Thursday had raised Rs 1,625 crore from anchor investors.

The company's IPO involves dilution of up to 8,62,47,187 shares by promoters ICICI Bank and Fairfax.

The insurer has fixed the price band at Rs 651-661 per share.

Post-issue, the shareholding of Fairfax will come down to 9.91% from 21.9% now, while the same for ICICI Bank will be reduced to 55.95% from 62.95%. ICICI Lombard General Insurance is a joint venture between ICICI Bank and Canadian NRI Prem Watsapromoted Fairfax Financial Holdings.

For the ICICI Bank group, this is the second public offer this fiscal. Its life insurance arm ICICI Prudential had raised Rs 6,000 crore through an IPO earlier.

CLSA India Private, Edelweiss Financial Services and JM Financial Institutional Securities are the book running lead managers of the IPO.

Airbus opens A330 plant in China, delivers first jet to Tianjin Airlines

TIANJIN: Airbus SE opened on Wednesday its Chinese completion plant for A330 jets, with hopes that an increased presence in the world's fastest growing aviation market would help boost demand for the firm's profitable but ageing wide-body jets.

Europe's largest aerospace firm

marked the opening of the centre in the northern Chinese port city of Tianjin with the delivery of the first A330 jet from the plant to Tianjin Airlines.

The centre is a joint venture between the Aviation Industry Corporation of China and Tianjin Free Trade Zone Investment Company and was first agreed

during a visit by President Xi Jinping to France in 2014.

Airbus already has a final assembly line for single-aisle A320 jets in Tianjin, which began operations in 2008.

At the centre just opened, Airbus will perform tasks such as aircraft painting, cabin installations as well as flight tests

on aircraft received from Airbus' final assembly line in Toulouse, France.

Airbus' main US rival Boeing is also ramping up its footprint in the country as it vies for orders. It has said it will build a 737 completion plant in eastern China with planemaker Commercial Aircraft Corp of China Ltd.



An unforgettable week in Lahore



LAHORE: THE World XI tour to Pakistan is over and I believe we have done what we set out to achieve. We have managed a significant step towards taking big-ticket international cricket back there after an eight-year absence.

Right from the start, when the lads met up in Dubai, we sensed we

were doing something special and a bit out of the ordinary. We got together with coach Andy Flower and also had a security meeting that really opened our minds.

We arrived in Pakistan on Sunday night and within 10 minutes were in the hotel! It was so efficient and the extent of the security was incredible. There were two helicopters on each journey, ready to take us away if there were to be any kind of emergency; and the length of our convoy any time we went anywhere was amazing.

In the hotel, it was selfie after selfie and people were constantly thanking us for being there. Social media was going crazy with

them just loving us being in their country.

The togetherness amongst the group was pretty immediate. Guys are used to it with all of the T20 leagues around the world. We'd socialise together in the evenings and everyone gelled really quickly.

Faf du Plessis has a natural way of getting the guys together and Grant Elliott is a bit of a character and we had good fun. It was a mixture of being relaxed, being desperate to win but also seeing the bigger picture for Pakistan.

On Monday, we had a training session and I was like a kid at Christmas. Cricket was the reason we were there and to face the local net bowlers again — really quick lads — brought everything about international cricket back for me and I loved having that preparation time with so much intensity. I was told I wouldn't be playing the first game and it was obviously disappointing to lose but it was a great occasion in Lahore. We were taken around the ground in rickshaws and it was an amazing welcome from all of the Pakistan fans. It was almost like they weren't even bothered who won because they were so happy to have the matches on.

You also got the feeling that the players were really grateful we'd made the trip over and they were buzzing because they were playing in front of their family and friends. The second game was incredible. I was told in the afternoon I was playing and, to be honest, there were a

lot of nerves around, because at 41, I didn't want to make an idiot of myself! It all came flooding back, that intensity, playing in a vital game, the atmosphere, the crowds... it was sensational. I was running around in the field like an 18-year-old and it was my first time in the outer ring for about 10 years! It was nice to get a good catch off the last ball of the innings and Perera got us over the line to make it 1-1 going into the deciding game. I started at six but went down the slippery pole to eight and didn't get to bat.

In the final game, we went for a powerful batting line-up and it was disappointing not to play well enough and to lose the series 2-1 but, again, it's more about the bigger picture with all of the lads getting a game. I'd say the turn-out from the fans, as good as it was in the first match, got bigger as the week went on and the atmosphere in Lahore really was something special. It was a week I'll never forget. Reflecting on it now, it was a short tour — only five days — and the boys felt very safe and relaxed but it's the start of a process.

They're talking about some Windies' T20 games in the country and the Pakistan Super League is trying

to get more matches there.

It's just about continuing to test the water with it but everyone would have seen the calibre of players who went over to Pakistan and played in a great series.

To maintain that security for a longer period would be very expensive and you also have to consider fans of touring teams but it's a starting point.

From my point of view, I've been part of one or two run-ins with Pakistan players over the years so it was nice to build relationships with them over the course of the week and to feel how much they appreciated us being there.

We probably didn't quite realise the impact it would have on them and that's something else that I'll take away from it.

I think we did the job we went there for and the whole experience was nothing but positive.

As I say, it's a small first step but hopefully we've made a difference and when we finally have international cricket back in Pakistan, all of us will be proud to have been part of the revival process. — courtesy www.icc.cricket.com

The writer is a former England all-rounder and T20 captain



MS Dhoni, BCCI's unanimous choice, nominated for Padma Bhushan award

NEW DELHI: MS Dhoni has been nominated by the Board of Control for Cricket in India for the country's third highest civilian award — the Padma Bhushan — for his contribution to the game. A senior BCCI official confirmed that the BCCI has only sent one name for the Padma awards this year and it was a unanimous decision to nominate India's most successful captain. "MS Dhoni has been nominated by the BCCI for the Padma Bhushan award. It was a unanimous decision by the members. He has been one of the greatest names in contemporary cricket and the most appropriate choice of the Indian cricket board," BCCI acting president CK Khanna told PTI today. MS Dhoni's credentials are impeccable and as the only Indian captain with two World titles (2011 50-over Cricket World Cup and 2007 World T20), the BCCI did not have to ponder over likely names. "He is one of our greatest ODI cricketers with nearly 10,000 runs. Not many players have played 90 Test matches. There is no one better than him, who could have been nominated," Khanna added. The BCCI has not sent any other nominations for the Padma awards this year. The 36-year-old has scored 9737 runs in 302 ODIs besides 4,876 runs in 90 Test matches. He has also played 78 T20 Internationals, notching up 1212 runs. He has 16 international hundreds (6 in Tests and 10 in ODIs) along with 100 international half-centuries. A wicketkeeper, MS Dhoni has held 584 catches across formats (256 in Tests, 285 in ODIs and 43 in T20 Internationals). He has also effected 163 stumpings. MS Dhoni is already a recipient of the prestigious Arjuna, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna and the Padma Shri award. If MS Dhoni is conferred with Padma Bhushan, he will become the 11th Indian cricketer to get the third highest civilian honour.

AMLA IMPRESSED BY INDEPENDENCE CUP ARRANGEMENTS

ISLAMABAD: The arrangements, including those concerning security, made by the local administration in Lahore and the Pakistan Cricket Board for the Independence Cup T20 series staged between Pakistan and the ICC World XI early this month have received a thumbs up from South African batting maestro Hashim Amla.

Talking to a private news channel, Amla said hospitality in Pakistan made him feel at home during his stay in the country.

"It was great. The people in Pakistan were so welcoming and really made the World XI team feel at home," Amla said.

The 34-year old added the World XI players had been briefed before they arrived in Lahore.

"That's when we understood how much

planning had gone into this event to give it the best chance of succeeding," Amla added while expressing his satisfaction with arrangements made by the PCB for the much-awaited series. The South African run-machine termed the World XI series as "big effort" by the PCB in an attempt to restore international cricket in Pakistan.

"Our experience has been a good one," he said. "Slowly with time the confidence will build again. The PCB made a big effort



and if they continue to do so then things will only improve,"

added the right-hander. Amla also talked about his association with the Qalandars franchise in South Africa's T20 Global

League, which is set to commence this November, saying he's amazed at the passion and vision of the franchise owners.

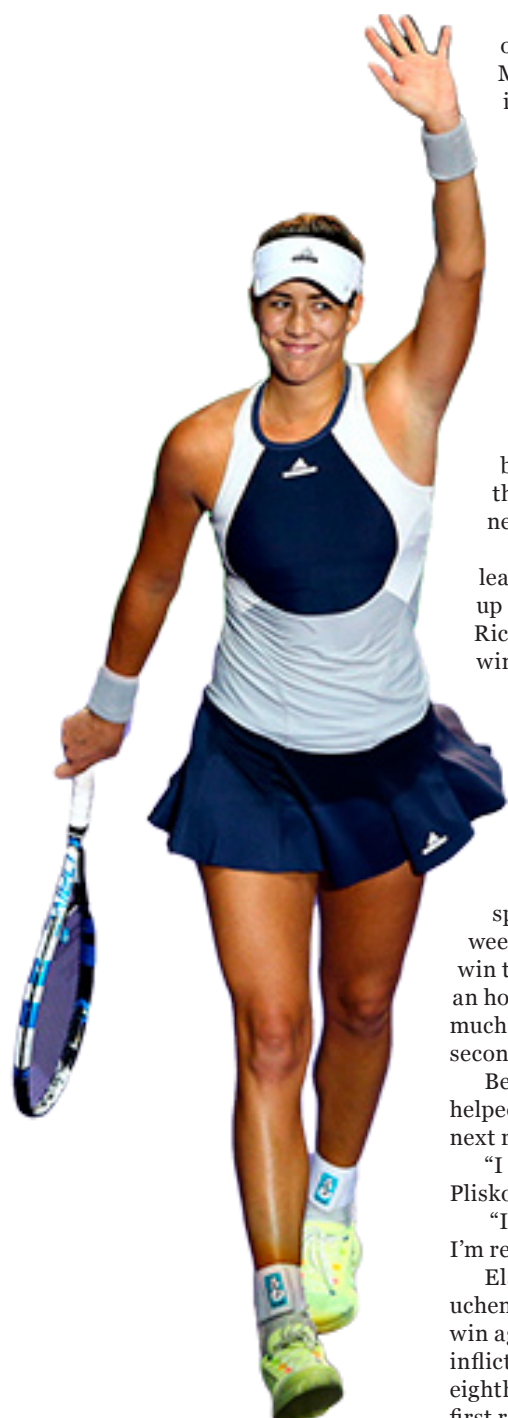
"I didn't know what to expect when the owners were announced and to be honest I have been amazed by their vision and passion," he said.

"I am quite excited and look forward to the selfless and fearless ethos which is the backbone of the franchise."

Amla said he's not likely to be available for the third edition of Pakistan Super League early next year as he'll be busy representing South Africa.

"It is unlikely as we have Test matches planned during that time next year. If at a later stage I am free and the opportunity arises then why not," Amla concluded.

Garbine Muguruza, Karolina Pliskova advance at Pan Pacific Open



TOKYO: Garbine Muguruza overwhelmed Olympic champion Monica Puig in straight sets to ease into the quarter-finals of the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo on Wednesday.

Playing her first match since taking over the top ranking, the Wimbledon champion broke her Puerto Rican opponent twice in the first set and was even more dominant in the second as she romped to a 6-4, 6-0 triumph.

Puig dropped her serve in the first game of the match but used her impressive court coverage to restore parity in the fourth game before Muguruza seized control of the contest when she broke her opponent again in the next game.

Once she had established a one-set lead, the 23-year-old Muguruza moved up a gear to race away from the Puerto Rican world number 70 and sealed the win with her third ace after 75 minutes.

Pliskova cruises Earlier, Karolina Pliskova appeared to suffer no ill-effects of playing without a coach when the tall Czech swept aside Magda Linette 6-2, 6-1 to also advance to the last eight.

The world number four, who split with coach David Kotyza last week, capitalised on an early break to win the first set in little more than half an hour. Pliskova's power proved too much for Linette, who was broken in the second game of the second set.

Before the Pole's wayward forehand helped her opponent book a place in the next round.

"I felt great on the court," second seed Pliskova told reporters.

"I think my serve was working well... I'm really happy with my win."

Elsewhere, Russian Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova laboured to a 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 win against China's Wang Qiang, who had inflicted a 'double bagel' on out-of-sorts eighth seed Kristina Mladenovic in the first round.

FIFA U-17 World Cup: Top players from previous tournaments who became superstars

NEW DELHI: The Fifa Under-17 World Cup is a window to witness football brilliance really early. Most of the current and former legends of the game took their first steps towards dizzying heights of fame in this global tournament. Players such as Neymar, Xavi Hernandez, Iker Casillas, Alessandro Del Piero, Luis Figo have all featured in previous Under-17 World Cups for their respective national teams. As the 2017 edition comes to India, it would be an opportunity to witness talented youngsters, who could one day become stars. Here, we look back at some of the top players who performed at the U-17 World Cup and then made it big at the senior level. 1997 — Egypt: Ronaldinho (BRA), Iker Casillas (ESP), Xavi Hernandez (ESP)

Ronaldinho scored two goals in six matches as Brazil went on to become the champions. Casillas and Xavi helped Spain perform well but they could only finish in third position. Ronaldinho also won the World Cup in 2002 and has a Ballon d'Or. Casillas was the captain of Spanish 2010 World Cup winning squad, while Xavi is nerve-centre. Casillas also represented Real Madrid in 510 matches in 16 years and Xavi the midfield maestro at Barcelona.

1999 — New Zealand: Landon Donovan (USA)

Donovan was instrumental in the USA finishing fourth. He scored three goals in six matches and was the winner of Golden Ball. He prospered for the senior team too. Donovan was part of the US team that reached 2002 World Cup quarter-finals, where he received the Best Young Player Award. He is the second-most-capped player of his country (157). He is also tied with Clint Dempsey as all-time leading scorer for USA (57).

2001 — Trinidad and Tobago: Carlos Tevez (ARG), Fernando Torres (ESP), Andres Iniesta (ESP), Pablo Zabaleta (ARG) Carlos Tevez and



Pablo Zabaleta scored two and one goals respectively as Argentina finished fourth. Torres also scored one goal but Iniesta none as Spain could not progress beyond the group stage. Tevez went on to win two Premier Leagues and one UEFA Champions League with Manchester United. Zabaleta also won the Premier League with Manchester City. Torres went on to become one of the costliest players ever when he went from Liverpool to Chelsea in 2011. He also scored in both the Euro 2008 and Euro 2012 final match, which Spain won. Iniesta became an integral part of the Spanish team that ruled international football from 2008 to 2012.

2003 — Finland: Cesc Fabregas (ESP), David Silva (ESP), John Obi Mikel (NGR)

Fabregas top-scored with five goals for Spain to win the Golden Boot and David Silva scored three goals. Courtesy their efforts, Spain finished runners-up to Brazil. Both went on to win the 2010 World Cup, 2008 and 2012 Euros. Mikel scored only one goal as Nigeria went out of the group stage. He went on to play for Chelsea from 2006 to 2017 and won three Premier League titles. He also won a Champions League with Chelsea.

2005 — Peru: Marcelo (BRA), Giovanni Dos Santos (MEX), Carlos Vela (MEX) Marcelo played a crucial role as a defender as Brazil ended up as runner-up. Carlos Vela ended as

the top-scorer with five goals. He and Dos Santos helped Mexico finish as champions. Marcelo is now an integral part of the Brazil senior team and also Real Madrid. He has won three UEFA Champions Leagues with the Spanish giants. Vela has been playing for Real Sociedad from 2012 while Dos Santos has played for clubs like Mallorca, Villarreal and LA Galaxy.

2007 — South Korea: Toni Kroos (GER), James Rodriguez (COL), Eden Hazard (BEL)

Kroos won the Golden Ball award, scoring five goals in six matches. He helped Germany finish as runner-up. He later went on to play for the German team that reached 2010 World Cup and UEFA Euro 2012 semi-finals. He won the 2014 World Cup also. Rodriguez though could not score a goal as Colombia went out in the second round. But in the 2014 finals, Rodriguez won the Golden Boot. As for Hazard, he did not have a major impact as Belgium was knocked out from the group stages. He, however, flourished later for French club Lille and helped Chelsea win English Premier League twice. He was the heart of the Belgian side that finished as quarter-finalists at the 201 World Cup. 2009 — Nigeria: Neymar (BRA), Isco (ESP), Mario Goetze (GER), Alvaro Morata (ESP), Shkodran Mustafi (GER), Koke (ESP), Granit Xhaka (SUI), Philippe Coutinho (BRA)

The present football scenario is headlined by the boys of this batch. Neymar, costliest football player ever, however, scored only one goal in three matches and Brazil went out in the first stage. That team also included Coutinho, who did not score any goal. Goetze and Mustafi failed to take Germany beyond the second round in the U17 competition, however, they later went on to win the 2014 World Cup. Arsenal player Xhaka had his share of fame at a young age as Switzerland were crowned U-17 champions. Neymar went on to become the protagonist of a 222 million euros transfer from Barcelona to Paris Saint-Germain. Coutinho is currently playing for Liverpool from 2013. As for the Spanish trio Isco, Morata and Koke, their team finished at the third place. Isco and Morata have been integral part of Real Madrid before Morata switched to Juventus and is currently playing for Chelsea.

2011 — Mexico: Raheem Sterling (ENG), Memphis Depay (NED) Sterling played four matches in the tournament and scored one goal as England lost to Germany in the quarter-finals. Depay's Netherlands went out in the group stages. Sterling is now a regular in the England senior team and plays for Manchester City. Depay, considered a fine young talent, went on to play for Manchester United and now plays for French club Lyon.