

# TIME AND US

DAILY

SRINAGAR, KASHMIR

THURSDAY

● NOVEMBER, 23, 2017  
 ● 04 RABI-AL-AWAL 1439  
 ● ISSUE: 274  
 ● VOLUME: 03  
 ● PAGES: 08

WEATHER TEMPERATURE		
STATION	MAX TEMPERATURE	MIN TEMPERATURE
	ACT	ACT
SRINAGAR	13.3	-2.0
JAMMU	24.6	8.5
LEH	-	-11.4
KARGIL	-	-6.2

SUNSET THURSDAY: 05:25 PM  
 SUNRISE FRIDAY: 07:12 AM

LOCAL FORECAST OF SRINAGAR  
 Generally Cloudy sky. Maximum & Minimum temperatures will be around 14°C & -3°C respectively.

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

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## CM chairs meeting of Ahrabal, Kokernag, Verinag Dev Authorities

Focus on Daksum, Margan Top, Kongawaten for tourism promotion: Mehbooba

Jammu, Nov 22: Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti has directed the Tourism Department to focus on places like Daksum, Margan Top, Kongawaten and other areas for tourism promotion even as she directed setting up of an expert group to suggest measures to control the decline in the height of world famous Ahrabal fall.

Addressing a joint meeting of Ahrabal, Kokernag and Verinag Tourism Development Authorities here today, the Chief Minister directed exploiting the potential of Daksum, Margan Top, Kongawaten, meadows of Noorabad and other places in the areas which, she said, have been famed attractions in the past. She said Daksum has been blessed with unparalleled scenic attraction besides a wildlife sanctuary which can make a great tourist attraction.



Expressing concern over the reports of dwindling level of famed Ahrabal fall, the Chief Minister directed constitution of an expert group comprising subject experts and engineers to study the problem and come up with suggestions to arrest the decline of the fall, which has been a major tourist attraction in the past.

Mehbooba Mufti directed start of white water rafting, introduction of eco tourism and showcasing ethnic culture at these places to attract and sustain the tourist footfall. She also directed raising of more facilities of public convenience along the roads to these places.

The Chief Minister directed resolving issues of bus stands of Achabal and Kokernag besides the entrance of Ahrabal at the earliest. She also directed development of a pony track from Kungwaten to Guriwatan and construction of a foot bridge at Sangam connecting the area with Shopian.

See CM...Pg 02

## Khawaja Digar offered at Naqashbandh Sahib (RA) shrine



Srinagar, Nov 22: Khawaja Digar, a special prayer, was on Wednesday offered at the Naqashbandh Sahib (RA) shrine in Shahr-e-Khaas with thousands of devotees thronging the revered shrine for the congregational Asar Salah amid chilly weather.

Chairman of Hurriyat Conference (M) Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and other scholars addressed the devotees.

Braving cold wave, devotees thronged the

shrine of the revered Sufi saint located at Khwaja Bazaar, Nowhatta, for prayers and supplications. A large congregation of devotees offered special Khwaja Digar prayers in the afternoon.

Mirwaiz threw light on the life of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and asked the Ummah to follow Quran and Sunnah. They also threw light on the life of Hazrat Khwaja Baha-ud-Din

See Digar...Pg 02

### PAKISTAN RESORTING TO CROSS BORDER FIRING WITHOUT ANY PROVOCATION: LT GEN SARANJIT SINGH

Jammu, Nov 22: General Commanding Officer 16 Corps, Lieutenant General Saranjit Singh Wednesday alleged that Pakistan this year resorted to massive shelling and firing and targeted civilian areas along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.

He was responding to questions of reporters in border district Poonch.

"This year, Pakistan violated cease fire and without any provocation targeted military posts and civilian areas. We also gave them befitting reply," he said and added that army has constructed bunkers and when need arises, civilians can be accommodated in them.

Lieutenant General Saranjit Singh said that they are in touch with state administration and bunkers will be constructed for the safety of the civilians.

See Singh...Pg 02

## GoI has advised JK Govt to give amnesty to first-time stone pelters: Sharma

'Will definitely try to meet Hurriyat'

Srinagar, Nov 22: The Government of India's special representative, Dineshwar Sharma, who is visiting the state from 24th of this month, Tuesday said that the centre government has asked the state government for granting amnesty to youth who are accused of being involved first time in the Kashmir valley.

Talking to KNS over phone Sharma said that he is visiting Jammu on November 24 and Kashmir on November 26. Sharma, who has been



accorded cabinet secretary Ministry has asked the state government to "give amnesty to first time stone pelters," Sharma told KNS.

"I think the MHA (Ministry of Home Affairs) has formally announced something and they are advising the state government to give amnesty to first-time stone pelters," Sharma told KNS.

Sharma said he has recommended suspension of cases against the first time stone-pelters.

On his first visit, Sharma met around 65 delegations See Sharma...Pg 02

## COURT OVERTURNS THE RULING OF SUB-JUDGE PATTAN

Directs Municipality to demolish illegal structure on state land

Baramulla, Nov 22: Overturning the ruling of Sub-Judge Pattan, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court has directed Municipal Committee to dismantle illegal structures being raised on state land in Pattan town of North Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Some members of Ziyarat Shareef Committee Pattan in violation of Municipal Committee orders had dumped material on the state land and were raising shopping complex claiming that income generated from it would be used

See Court...Pg 02

## Kashmir businessmen aghast over power crisis

'PDD curtails power in metered and non-metered areas'

Srinagar, Nov 22: Industrialists and businessmen in the Kashmir valley are aghast over power crisis and they say their industrial production is declining and the people are also badly hit.

The Power Development Department has resorted to power cuts in both metered and non-metered areas, citing the reason that power consumption in winter spikes in the valley. PDD officials said that against the supply of 1250 Mega Watts, the power consumption requirement is 1750 MW in winter.

President, Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCCI), Javaid Ahmad Teng said that local industrial production has de-



clined by almost half. "Workers and machines cannot work without uninterrupted electricity supply," Teng told KNS.

See Kashmir...Pg 02

Big fish:

## SMC DEMOLITION SQUAD RETREATS WITHOUT PERFORMING LEGAL DUTY

Srinagar, Nov 22: The demolition squad of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Wednesday became butt of jokes, when on the behest of some officials and politicians the squad was stopped from dismantling a portion of a hostel that has been raised illegally in violation of Building Permission Order.

Reports said that a demolition squad from SMC assisted by a police party faced embarrassment at Sanat Nagar area of Srinagar city when an influential family utilized all their resources to sent back the squad comprising Chief Enforcement Officer, Ward Officer and other

See SMC...Pg 02

## Dr Drabu calls for expediting process of moving to PAO system

New system to simplify process of govt payments



Jammu, Nov 22: Minister for Finance, Labour & Employment Dr Haseeb A Drabu today reviewed the progress made on See Drabu...Pg 02

### Day 2: TRAL OBSERVES SHUTDOWN TO MOURN THE KILLING OF TEENAGER MILITANT

Pulwama, Nov 22: Mobile internet service has been restored in Tral township of South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Wednesday.

The service had been suspended shortly after the killing of Hizb-ul-Mujahadeen teenager militant Adil Rashid Chopan of Larow Tral.

Meanwhile, a complete shutdown was observed in the town for the second consecutive day in memory of the slain militant.

All shops, business establishments, and private offices remained closed in the town while public transport See Tral...Pg 02

## Zulfkar reviews food grains supply to Kashmiri Migrants

Asks for issuance of ration slips quarterly instead of yearly basis

Jammu, Nov 22: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) and Tribal Affairs Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali today reiterated directions for providing adequate and timely supply of ration to Kashmiri migrants in a fair and transparent manner.

The Minister said this while chairing a meeting of officers of FCS&CA department and Relief Organization



held to review stock and supply position of food grains, sugar in the Kashmiri Migrants Camps. Deputy Commissioner Relief Organization (Migrants), Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, Controller Legal Me-

trology Raj Kumar Katoch, Deputy Controller Legal Metrology Manoj Prabhakar, Assistant Directors of FCS &CA department besides other senior officers of Relief Organization and FCS&CA attended the meeting.

The Minister was briefed about the status of present quota of ration available with the department for the 16439 migrant souls living in See Zulfkar...Pg 02

### Court overturns the ruling of Sub-Judge Pattan DIRECTS MUNICIPALITY TO DEMOLISH ILLEGAL STRUCTURE ON STATE LAND

Baramulla, Nov 22: Overturning the ruling of Sub-Judge Pattan, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court has directed Municipal Committee to dismantle illegal structures being raised on state land in Pattan town of North Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Some members of Ziyarat Shareef Committee Pattan in violation of Municipal Committee orders had dumped material on the state land and were raising shopping complex claiming that income generated from it would be used for the welfare of the shrine.

Though Municipal Committee Pattan had raised See Director...Pg 02

## GOVERNOR CHAIRS VALEDICTORY FUNCTION OF SILVER ROLLING TROPHY AT BGSBU

RAJOURI, NOVEMBER 22: The team comprising Ms. Shivika Thakur and Ms. Sang Priya of the University of Jammu won the Silver Rolling Trophy at the 3rd Inter-State (North Zone) Declamation Contest which was organized by the Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University. 27 students from various universities and colleges of J&K participated in the contest. Ms. Thakur of Jammu University also won the 1st prize as the best debater in English category whereas Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad of BGSBU bagged the first prize for being the best debater in Urdu Category. It is relevant to recall that the Silver Rolling Trophy has been presented by Governor N.N. Vohra to the University for organizing an Annual (North Zone) Declamation Contest. The topic of the declamation contest was "Idea of Global Peace-an Impossible Dream". The Runner up team, comprised Ms. Razeena Konser and Ms. Mehvish Naqvi of PG College Mendhar and Consolation Prizes were given to Mr. Adil Farooq of Central University of Kashmir and Ms. Sang Priya, University of Jammu, in the English language and in the Urdu language to Mr. Ghulam Nabi of GDC



Poonch and Ms. Mohsina Aslam of GDC for Women, Gandhinagar. Governor N. N. Vohra accompanied by Mrs. Usha Vohra, First Lady, participated in the concluding function. Governor congratulated the winners and the participants for their performances and observed that the objective behind instituting the Silver Rolling Trophy was to provide opportunities to the students of Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir regions and the neighbouring Northern Zone States to get to know each other when they meet for

competing in the Annual Contest. He added that this provides them a valuable opportunity of appreciating the views, feelings and sentiments of people from other areas and regions. He urged the Vice Chancellor BGSBU to ensure larger participation of students from the far off and rural areas of the State in the next Annual Declamation Contest. Governor emphasised the high importance of extracurricular activities in the holistic development of students and stressed the need for providing greater opportunities to the youth so that they

are adequately equipped to successfully shoulder their future responsibilities of nation building. On the occasion Governor also launched the new official website "www.bgsbu.ac.in" of the university designed and developed by the Department of Computer Sciences of the University. Earlier Vice Chancellor BGSBU Prof. Javaid Mussarat also expressed his views on the topic of the Declamation Contest. The participants were adjudged by a three member Jury comprising of Prof. Naseem Ahmad from BGSBU.

## ENSURE TIME BOUND COMPLETION OF ONGOING PROJECTS: SPEAKER TO JMC

Convenes meeting to review progress on projects being executed in Gandhi Ngr Constituency

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 22: Speaker J&K Legislative Assembly and MLA Gandhi Nagar, Kavinder Gupta, today directed Jammu Municipal Corporation to put in extra efforts for execution of all ongoing and upcoming projects initiated for the development of the constituency.

The Speaker said this while chairing the meeting convened to review the progress on various developmental works being executed by the JMC in Gandhi Nagar constituency. The Speaker said that considerable amounts have been sanctioned to conduct development works in the constituency. He said that a blanket amount of Rs 1.5 crore has been sanctioned to conduct minor works in all 23 wards of Gandhi Nagar constituency including works for lane, drains, repairs etc. The Speaker also said that he will take up the matter of installation of statue of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur in Kunjwani Chowk with the Divisional Commissioner for necessary approvals, post which the works will be assigned to JMC or PWD for



execution. He said that amount of Rs 30 lakh stands sanctioned for the same out of CDF. During the meeting, the Speaker took detailed report on progress of each project. Taking note of slow progress on some works, he asked JMC to increase the pace of work to ensure time bound completion, so as to minimize hassle to local populace. He also laid stress on ensuring that works being executed are according to prescribed norms and quality materials used in construction works. Taking note of JMC's pending works worth Rs 4 crore in the Constituency, the Speaker directed JMC to undertake a technical feasibility of these projects and initiate works in accordance with their on-ground priority. He

also directed JMC to initiate the works for construction of entry gate at Apsara road at the earliest. The Speaker was informed that works worth Rs 12 crore for blacktopping of internal links have been sanctioned and initiated by JMC for various localities including Preet Nagar, Digiana, Nanak Nagar, Channi Himmat and others. It was further informed that works are being executed using paver machines to lay asphalt on roads to ensure its longevity. Regarding the construction of entry gate at Apsara Road, the Speaker was informed delay in execution of work was due to design element of the project. It was further informed that architectural design for this Rs 14.95 lakh heritage gate has been final-

ised and works will be initiated very soon. With regards to installation of additional lighting on Apsara road, the Speaker was informed that feasibility check for this has been conducted and plans are in final stage of approval. He also asked JMC to construct parapets along deep drains, nallahs in the constituency. The meeting was attended by Joint Commissioner Adm Rajesh Sharma, Joint Commissioner Works Kushal Chand, FA/CDO Neeraj Gupta besides other officers of the corporation. Later, the Speaker also attended the 10th annual day function of Lawrence Public School, Sidhra Jammu, which was held at Abhinav theatre. DGP Home Guards Dilbag Singh, Director School Education Ravinder Singh, Vice President Gandhi Global Family were present on the occasion. The students put up a colourful performances showcasing varied dance forms of the country.

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### CM

She also directed conclusion and finalisation of the Master Plans of these places for an onward action on the same. As a specific direction, the Chief Minister asked the Tourism Department to include restoration of shrines, mosques, temples and Gurduwaras at these tourist destinations as part of the beautification activity. She also directed installation of street lights on the main roads, markets and gardens of these tourist spots to enhance the appeal of these places. Mehbooba Mufti directed conservation of Tashan spring at Kokernag, development of Mehmoodgami Park at Verinag and other water bodies at these tourist places. She asked for revisiting the architectural designs of buildings at all the tourist places and stressed on making the structural designs completely compatible with the local environment and ambience with little of cement and concrete and more of local material. She also directed posting of adequate staff at these Development authorities to make them vibrant and active in functioning. Minister of State for Hajj & Auqaf, Syed Farooq Andrabi; Minister of State for Tourism, Priya Sethi; legislators, Abdul Majid Padroo, Gulzar Ahmad Dar, Abdul Rahim Rather and Muhammad Yousuf Bhat; Vice Chairman, JKTDC, Rafi Ahmad Mir; Vice Chairman, KVIB, Peerzada Mansoor Hussain; Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Rohit Kansal; Secretary, Tourism, Sarmad Hafeez; Deputy Commissioners of Kulgam and Anantnag; Talat Parvez and Mohammad Younis; Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Mehmood Ahmad Shah and other officers were present on the occasion.

### DIGAR

Muhammad Naqshband Bukhrai (RA). The Urs is celebrated on the 3rd Rabi-ul-Awal every year. Besides, the gatherings for special prayers (khatmat-muazamat) are held for 12 days from 21st Safar to 3rd Rabi-ul-Awal. These gatherings are held every day at 8 AM in the Khanqah-i-Naqshbandiya. On the urs day after the Asr prayers, special mass prayers are held called Khawaja Digar.

### SINGH

Responding to a question, Singh said that so many militants are on launching pads across border and are trying to cross in this part of Kashmir. "Pakistan is encouraging these militants and helps them to infiltrate but we are alert and will foil their every attempt," he said.

### SHARMA

including political leaders, religious leaders and other civil society members and different NGOs. But the prominent trade and business bodies refused to meet him while Hurriyat Conference, considered a key stakeholder of the Kashmir issue refused to hold talks with Sharma. Officials in the state home department told KNS that they have not yet received any such official communication about the purported decision of GoI. Over his meeting with Hurriyat leaders on his second visit, Sharma said, "I will definitely try to meet them. Let me see how they respond." A report in Hindustan Times cited that the government is likely to announce an amnesty scheme for stone pelters in the Kashmir Valley and withdraw cases against first-time offenders. Quoting senior government officials, the report said that the scheme was discussed between officials from the state and the Centre and is likely to be announced as a show of good faith ahead of Sharma's second visit to the state later this month. "There are thousands of youth facing FIRs and we will be withdrawing cases against first-time stone pelters as a goodwill gesture," Hindustan Times quoted a home ministry official in the report.

### COURT

for the welfare of the shrine.

Though Municipal Committee Pattan had raised objections, but the members of the shrine approached Sub-Judge Pattan who after submissions from the Shrine members had allowed them to go for construction of the shops on the state land. Locals who used this state land as parking slot approach High Court and on its directions, Administrative Judge Baramulla Justice Ali Muhammad Magray over ruled the directions of the Sub-Judge Pattan and asked Municipal Committee Pattan to dismantle structures and clear the state land from construction material. The court of Justice Ali Muhammad Magray gave his verdict in the light of Article 227 of the Constitution of India read with Section 104 of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir. Meanwhile, locals from Pattan hailed the verdict of court.

### KASHMIR

He said that the unavailability of power i impacting their business and industry. He said that the decline in the production can force closure of many units if power situation is not improved. "Industries become first casualty in the prevailing power crisis. He said that majority of the units presently are idling as the PDD was not providing the required power supply to them. "Every winter we have to face such issues and ultimately our economy gets hit and sadly the government does not prepare for the winter and make proper arrangements," he said. Kashmir Traders and Manufacturers Forum (KTMF) President, Yasin Khan, slammed the Power Development department saying the PDD does not adhere to its own schedule, even in metered areas. "The Government does not care about its own care, either in the city or in rural areas. It is a punishment to businessmen and the people in Kashmir," Khan told KNS. "Our business suffers are we have to do online billing. We are using generators and invertors which are in excess of the power bills. We pay bills and despite that do not get electricity. Security forces are getting 24\*7 power supply without paying bills," he said. "The government has moved to Jammu and left people in the valley on the mercy of Allah." President Federation Chambers of Industries Kashmir, Mohammad Ashraf Mir, said that the unscheduled power cuts to Industrial Estates of the valley have brought the Kashmir Industry to the brink of closure. "The sector which was already under stress due to varied reasons is being pushed to the wall by unscheduled power cuts even during the routine working hours. The augmentation of power infra structure to the organised industrial sector of the state and the demand of a dedicated 33kv circuit for the purpose has been ignored by the PDD," Mir told KNS. "The bosses in the PDD have failed to understand the importance of industry in the modern day economy of the state that's why power supply to industry is not being taken seriously by them and the designated industrial feeders emanating from different grid stations and receiving stations are casually manned by unprofessional switch board assistants." "The power crisis in the valley wouldn't be dismal had the PDD taken timely action to restore the damaged transmission towers on Kishenpore-Pampore line," Mir told KNS. The power infrastructure of the valley has been ignored as the handling capacity of the sector has not been enhanced resulting in the present day power crisis, he said.

### SMC

employees of the Corporation. "We have been waiting here for couple of hours but the owner of the hostel is not letting us in. Even a politician along with his security men arrived here in his vehicle to support the owner of the hostel who has violated Building Permission

Order," said an SMC employee on condition of anonymity to news agency CNS. He added that the hut of a poor man is being dismantled without any delay, but big fish are always spared. "Though Municipal Commissioner SMC is keen to follow rules and wants illegal portion of the hostel to get dismantled, but the owner is very influential and has been stopping us from performing our duties," said an SMC official adding that despite SMC order directing the owner of the hostel to halt construction work, the construction is going on. An order copy duly signed by Joint Commissioner Planning SMC is lying with CNS which reads: "Whereas building permission was issued for construction of Ground plus three storeyed hostel building with stilt parking in ground floor vide order number 1690 of 2016 dated 19/2/2016 in favour of one (name withheld, read Mr X) at Sanat Nagar." "Whereas this office has received complaints from two persons wherein they alleged that Mr X is constructing commercial complex in their premises and is brazenly violating the building permission, the complaint is duly endorsed by Private Secretary to Divisional Commissioner Kashmir vide number DivCom/Ps/Misc/2017/4786 Dated 31/10/2017." "Whereas Ward Officer, Ward Number 32 reported that the construction in question have come up with gross violation of the sanctioned plan and recommended for demolition and keeping the building permission in abeyance." "ATP after site visit reported that the applicant has deviated from approved proposals in terms of setbacks/plinth area." "Taking the cognizance of the matter, Competent Authority has ordered that the permission issued vide order number 1690 of 2016 dated 19/2/2016 in favour of Mr X be kept in abeyance till further orders." When contacted, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation Reyaz Ahmed Wani said that law will take its own course. "Let me check the report and I will let you know," he said.

### DRABU

replacement of existing Treasury system to Pay and Accounts Office (PAO) system in a meeting convened, here today. Principal Secretary, Finance Navin Kumar Choudhary, Director General Accounts & Treasuries Altaf Hussain Mirza, Director Codes Mohammad Rafi Andrabi and other senior officers of the Finance Department were present at the meeting. While reviewing the progress, Finance Minister asked the concerned officers to expedite the process so that PAO system can be launched in the state by January 18. He said that the Finance department has a huge public interface and this new system would surely help in simplifying the whole process of government payments. During the meeting, a detailed presentation was made by concerned officer about the proposed organizational set up and functioning of this new system. Speaking to the officers, the Minister asked them to ensure that everyone working with this new system should be assigned with a meaningful role for better delivery of services. He said that the operational staff should lay focus on streamlining the payment system and to ensure payments in a specified period. Dr Drabu said that there is a need to design the system in such a way that it meets the future requirements and should be functionally aligned rather than geographically demarcated. He said that he will personally review the progress twice a week so that the required changes in the draft model including administrative reforms would be made before finally switching to the PAO system. It was informed in the meeting that this system is being integrated with Budget Estimation, Allocation & Monitoring System (BEAMS) for better check of budgetary allocation and authorized expenditure.

### TRAL

is off the roads. Adil was killed in a brief shootout in Gujarbasti area of

the town on Monday. Earlier, in May this year, he was able to escape from an encounter site at Saimoh when top militant commander Sabzar Ahmed and his another aide were killed. A civilian had also lost life in government forces firing after that encounter, when people were protesting the militant killings. Meanwhile, Government Forces cordoned off Lurow Jagir village - the native village of the slain militant. Hundreds of people have been flocking the house of the slain militant's house to express sympathies with the bereaved family. Local sources told CNS that combined forces including Army cordoned off the village this afternoon. Sources said that search operation is underway and identity cards of the people are being checked. Pertinently, a couple of armed militants had appeared at the funeral of slain militant to offer gun salute on Tuesday in the same village.

### ZULFKAR

Purkhoo, Muthi, Nagrota and Jagti Camps. He directed the concerned officers to timely distribute ration including sugar among the migrant families and ensure quality control in procurement and distribution of food grains. "Strictly adhere to time schedule to avoid delays in ration distribution", he asked the concerned. Taking serious notice of delay in distribution of ration particularly sugar in various migrant camps, the Minister directed to hold enquiry in this regard. Zulfkar asked the officers to start the process of preparing new ration cards for Kashmiri migrants under relief and non-relief categories for their convenience besides issuing ration slips quarterly instead of yearly basis. He directed the officers of Relief organization and FCS & CA department for quarterly reconciliation of food grains for proper monitoring of food supply. Zulfkar emphasized for close coordination and collective efforts between various departments to streamline public distribution system among migrants. He asked the officers to monitor the distribution of food grains among the migrants and submit the physical report in detail to the administrative department on monthly basis. The Minister said various initiatives have been taken by the government to bring transparency and accountability in the functioning of all departments. Linking of ration cards with Aadhaar is a step in the same direction, he added. The Minister said FCS & CA department is working hard to complete digitization process expeditiously to curb black marketing and make Public Distribution System more transparent and accountable in the state. He directed for installation of PoS machines at ration depots in Jagti Camp. Zulfkar directed Deputy Commissioner Relief for preparing a detailed project report for opening of fair price shops, government ration depots in transit camps in Kashmir at Vessu Quazigund, Mattan Anantnag, Hawal Pulwama, Veervan Baramulla, Natnusa Kupwara for smooth distribution of ration supply among the consumers.

### DIRECTS

objections, but the members of the shrine approached Sub-Judge Pattan who after submissions from the Shrine members had allowed them to go for construction of the shops on the state land. Locals who used this state land as parking slot approach High Court and on its directions, Administrative Judge Baramulla Justice Ali Muhammad Magray over ruled the directions of the Sub-Judge Pattan and asked Municipal Committee Pattan to dismantle structures and clear the state land from construction material. The court of Justice Ali Muhammad Magray gave his verdict in the light of Article 227 of the Constitution of India read with Section 104 of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir. Meanwhile, locals from Pattan hailed the verdict of court.

# Economic independence key to women empowerment: Abdul Haq

Asks womenfolk to avail benefit of self-employment schemes

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 22- Minister for Rural Development Panchayati Raj, Law and Justice Abdul Haq on Wednesday stressed on the women to avail the benefit of various schemes launched to uplift their socio economic condition.

Minister said was interacting with members of various Self Help Groups at a function organised by State Rural Livelihood Mission (SRLM) here at Dansal block. The meeting was attended by Additional Mission Director Kapil Sharma, BDO Dansal and other senior officers of the district.

While complimenting the SHG members for writing their success stories and contributing positively to their families, the Minister said that an empowered woman guarantees an empowered society.

Listing the intervention schemes, the Minister said empowerment of women is imperative for the development of society adding that many schemes have been launched to make them self dependent.

He said more possibilities would be explored to provide SHGs requisite market support and their products are sold across the country at good



prices. He said Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, has flagged women's welfare as a priority area and efforts are being made to achieve the targets in this regard.

Abdul Haq said the Umeed scheme has greatly helped the rural women to contribute in the family income and meet the expenses of the family thus making them self-reliant as well as become socially, economically and politically relevant.

Exhorting upon the participants to avail the benefits envisaged under the mission and strive for their economic uplift, Haq Khan said UMEED initiative has become a driving force for poverty alleviation in rural areas through capacity building and generating livelihood avenues.

The Minister said that livelihood mission mainly focuses on women empowerment, providing them avenues through formation of self-help groups for which State Government is providing adequate financial support. "Women are supported in different trades including handicraft production, cattle rearing, Weaving, Horticulture, agriculture, dairy farming, running provisional stores, poultry farming, saffron cultivation etc".

Abdul Haq said the main aim was to reach out to all the poor families, link them to sustainable livelihoods opportunities and nurture them till they come out of poverty and enjoy a decent quality of life.

The Minister impressed upon the Self Help Groups to work with more

zeal and dedication and avail the benefits of the state and centrally sponsored schemes.

Earlier, the Minister inaugurated a Milk Collection Centre at Gajarkotli in Dansal block. The collection centre is managed by the Self Help Groups of the district. The women involved in dairy farming collect the milk in the Milk Collection Centre which is fitted with a Bulk Milk Cooler.

The Minister appreciated the efforts of the Self Help Groups for managing the Milk Collection Centres in the block and said that the dairy farming by SHGs has helped in increasing the production of milk in rural areas and increased the income of these households.

# Mir Zahoor hands over 70 bicycles to fishermen of Batmaloo Constituency

Minister highlights flagship employment schemes

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 22: Minister of State for Forest, Environment, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, Cooperative and Fisheries, Mir Zahoor Ahmad today handed over 70 bicycles among the registered fishermen of Batmaloo Constituency.

The bicycles were provided to the fishermen beneficiaries to boost their livelihood.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said the state government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, is committed to raise the living standard of the people of the State especially weaker sections of the society. He said several welfare schemes have been launched in the State with the aim to improve the socio-economic condition of the people.

The Minister said that taking in account the challenge posed by unemployment, the government has introduced several flagship schemes including skill development programmes to create varied avenues of employability in the State. He said the Government is providing loans to the educated unemployed youth to establish dairy, poultry, fish ponds and other units to earn livelihood.

Listing the measures taken to boost the fish culture, the Minister said that Blue Rev-



olution programme has been launched in the state with the aim to increase the fish production and provide adequate facilities to the people associated with this trade. He appealed the farming community and fishermen to come forward and take advantage of the schemes meant for them.

MLA Batmaloo, Noor Mohammad Sheikh also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the achievements of the present Government. He said liberal funding under different sectors is being provided by the Government for carrying out developmental works in the Batmaloo constituency.

On the occasion, local people presented a charter of demands to the Minister.

The Minister gave a patient hearing and assured them that their genuine demands will be looked into sympathetically.

Senior Officers of Fisheries and other concerned Departments were present on the occasion.

# Lal Singh reviews physical, financial achievements under District Plan

Asks to gear up efforts for providing basic amenities to all

UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 22- Minister for Forests, Ecology and Environment Choudhary Lal Singh, Chairman of District Development Board Udhampur, today reviewed the physical and financial achievements under the District Plan and implementation of decisions taken in the last District Development Board meeting.

Minister of State for Finance and IT, Law, Ajay Nanda, Vice Chairman State Advisory Board for Kissan Daljeet Singh Chib, Legislators Pawan Kumar Gupta, Dina Nath Bhagat, R.S. Pathania, District Development Commissioner, Ravinder Kumar besides HODs of various departments including district officers attended the meeting.

Calling for need based development and quality work, Choudhary Lal Singh stressed on the utilization of allocated funds for various developmental works to the full. He informed that Government has approved Rs. 187.53 crore District Plan for the year 2017-18 for providing modern basic amenities to the people across the district including



better road connectivity, adequate drinking water, health, education, power besides improved lanes and drains.

The Minister said the officers will be held accountable for implementation of all the programs and schemes under execution in their respective jurisdictions. He directed the officers of various departments to work as a team and strive for overall development of the Udhampur district. He reiterated Government's resolve towards strict adherence to e-tendering to ensure transparency and accountability in the system so that the benefits reach the targeted populace.

The Minister also direct-

ed the Forest Department to conceive innovative project for checking deforestation and maintaining ecological balance. He also stressed the need for planting good quality fruit trees in the potential areas of the district for boosting horticulture and raising the income of farming community.

Earlier, District Development Commissioner, Ravinder Kumar briefed the meeting about the physical and financial progress achieved under different schemes/sectors in the district. He gave a detailed resume of achievements under PHE, PDD, PWD, PMGSY, Education and Health, Irrigation, Social Welfare and Agriculture Department.

Minister of State for Finance, IT, Planning Ajay Nanda stressed the need to expedite the construction work of tourist Sarai Panra and developing Gangerahill, Panchari and Sankri Devta site as tourist spots.

MLA Ramnagar RSPathania suggested for creating a separate Development Authority for bringing Dudu-Basantgarh on the tourism map. He said the area has huge tourism potential with many places that can act as a great attraction for the adventure and leisure tourism. He also called for exploring the possibility of developing an herbal research centre to tap the rich herbal medicines found in the forests of the area. He further demanded transformer repair workshop for Ramnagar.

MLA Chenani, Dina Nath Bhagat demanded blacktopping of Chenani Pattan Garh road. He also demanded funds for Ritti Batla and Mani Water Supply Schemes besides 3.15 MVA receiving station at Sudhmahadev. He further urged for early replacement of electric poles at Chenani.

# Chief Secretary reviews Law & Order situation, winter preparedness with DCs, District SPs

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 22: Chief Secretary, B B Vyas together with Director General of Police, Wednesday chaired a video conference with Deputy Commissioners and District SPs to review the law & order situation and other issues of public importance including winter preparedness.

Principal Secretary, Home, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, IGP CID, J&K, IGP, Jammu zone and other senior officers attended the meeting. Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, IGP, Kashmir Zone participated in the meeting via video conference.

The Deputy Commissioners and District police heads informed the meeting about the obtaining status of law & order situation in their respective districts.

Chief Secretary stressed upon the officers to focus on extensive tours and public outreach programmes, in their respective areas for enhancing the quality of delivery of public services, particularly in regard to healthcare, electricity, drinking water and education.

Director General of Police, J&K urged the civilian administration to work in great



er coordination and synergy with the police administration so that the sufferings of the people are mitigated and their grievances addressed.

With regard to winter preparedness, Chief Secretary stressed on the Divisional and the District Administration to ensure that people especially living in remote and snow bound areas do not face any difficulty on account of availability of essential commodities and supply of electricity.

Chief Secretary reviewed the status of implementation of the Chief Minister's Commitments and asked the Deputy Commissioners to follow up on all the decisions taken in the meetings conducted by the Chief Minister as part of her mass outreach programme in districts. He observed that Planning Development & Monitoring Department has already released funds for the purpose and advised Deputy Commission-

District Administration to avail of the Helicopter service and reach out to the people living in far flung and snow bound areas for addressing their problems at their door steps. Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara informed that work on civilian Helipads at Tangdhar, Keran and Machil is in the final stages and is expected to be completed shortly.

In regard to operationalization of Helicopter services to various sectors in both the divisions, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir and Divisional Commissioner, Jammu were asked to work out an appropriate flight time schedule.

Status of implementation of the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) was also reviewed in the meeting with directions to concerned Deputy Commissioners to speed up implementation of BADP schemes strictly in accordance with the BADP guidelines.

Chief Secretary also emphasised upon holding of timely DPCs and completion of departmental enquiries. He asked the DCs to ensure attendance of all employees through Aadhaar Enabled Bio-Metric System (AEBAS).

# Chief Justice credits workforce for enhanced productivity, economic growth

Advocates judicious, judicial approach for addressing issues of unorganized manpower

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 22: Terming labour as primary and capital and entrepreneur as secondary factors in a nation's economy, Chief Justice, Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Justice Badar Durrez Ahmed today advocated for judicious and judicial approach for addressing the issues of unorganized manpower.

He also emphasized on bringing about an attitudinal change in the society towards this most essential component of the modern economic system.

Chief Justice was addressing the Assistant Labour Commissioners, Labour Officers and Labour Inspectors of Jammu Division, after inaugurating the 2nd Phase of 5 day training programme on Labour Laws and firsthand knowledge about court proceeding, quasi-judicial proceeding and conduct of the officer in discharge of their judicial/quasi-judicial functions. The training course has been organised by State Judicial Academy from 22nd of November to 26th of November, 2017.

"The dignity and modesty associated with labour community has to be inculcated in our thinking and value system asserted" the Chief Justice said while advocating implementation of labour laws in letter and spirit".

Describing issues of unorganized

labourers as a matter of big concern requiring collective attention, the Chief Justice said "We need to introspect and ponder upon the fact that human survival is possible only because of hard labour put into by these workers."

"Let's bring up a generation where a man doing hard physical work is equally respected as a man, solving a differential equation", he maintained. He added that a Labourer must get as much as he is putting into his work.

Chief justice, while expressing optimism over the successful outcome of such innovative programmes, said that this intensive training would surely take the participants through a journey in judicial ethics, various enactments, and procedural codes. He exhorted upon the trainees to adopt judicious and judicial approach towards their working. He added that such events would immensely help the participants to work earnestly for protecting the labour class from any kind of exploitation thus ensuring justice for all.

The programme has greater significance for the participants because they do not have judicial backgrounds but their nature of work essentially require judicial knowledge for ensuring fairness in the system, the Chief Justice asserted.

The Chief Justice complimented the Judicial Academy for organizing the five day programme on different types of labour laws as the training programme will enlighten the labour officers to serve the cause of labourers and workers who deserve social justice as well as access to justice.

Being organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy, the training programmes is aimed at to further strengthen the Judicial Institutions and impart necessary skills to all stakeholders of justice delivery system.

Chairman J&K SJA, Justice Alok Aradhe, while highlighting the laws envisaging Labourers right against exploitation, said that constitution seeks to provide that the health and strength of the workers both men and women and the children is not abused. He exhorted upon the need of weeding out wide disparity in emoluments and working conditions between contract labour and direct labour as they are not treated equally. He said that this training would enable the participants deliberate upon issues of labourers in light of various social welfare legislations.

Member, J&K SJA, Justice Janak Raj Kotwal described the cannons of Judicial ethics as of utmost importance for the trainees in delivering services



towards their clients. He termed investment in worker's health as a "gift edged security" which helps in yielding immediate return in the increased production.

"Medical care and health facilities not only protect against sickness but also ensures stable manpower for economic growth", said the member asserting that medical facilities are surely a part of social security. He also dwelt on other Acts like Maternity Benefit Act which is aimed at to ensure social justice to all women. "While dealing with social welfare legislations, the Labour courts and Tribunals have to adopt a practical

approach by observing fundamental principles of natural justice.

Labour Commissioner, Jammu, was also present on the occasion.

Director, J&K State Judicial Academy, Abdul Rashid Malik, while elaborating on the significance and objective of organising this programme, said that through the events on varied subjects of importance, Academy provides a platform to all the Stakeholders of justice administration including the Labour Officers to ponder upon crucial issues and exchange valuable experience and knowledge. Judiciary stands committed to the ideal of social justice, he added

and said labour workers are a vulnerable class and deserve full benefits of constitutional provisions, the legislations framed by the Parliamentarian and State legislatures as well as the directions given by the Apex Court to improve their lot.

The working Sessions of the training programme were chaired by the Resource Person, Justice Hasnain Massodi, former Judge, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir alongwith Abdul Rashid Malik, Director, J&K State Judicial Academy and Dr. G.R. Ghani, Former Commissioner/Secretary.

In the 1st session, Cannons of Judicial Ethics while discharging quasi-judicial functions, hearing of parties and decision making, Providing of Opportunity of being heard to Women, Children and Disabled by the Labour Courts/Tribunals, The Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service Act, 1996 were discussed and deliberated upon.

In the 2nd and 3rd Sessions, Remedies available to the parties after the passing of Awards by the Industrial Tribunals/Labour Courts and Procedure adopted by Judicial and Quasi Judicial Authorities under Labour Laws were discussed at length.

## Time and Us

Editorial  
SRINAGAR  
J&K

### A FINE BALANCE

Over four months into the troubled implementation of the goods and services tax, the Centre has operationalised a provision in the GST law that has been worrying industry. The National Anti-profiteering Authority, whose constitution was approved by the Cabinet last Thursday, is empowered to crack down on firms that fail to pass on the 'benefits' of the tax regime to consumers. The authority can order businesses to reduce product prices or refund to consumers 'undue benefits'; in extreme cases it can impose a penalty on errant firms and cancel their registration as taxpayers. Where the consumers are difficult to trace individually, the amount construed by the authority to be the extent of undue benefit will be deposited in a consumer welfare fund. The authority will have its own bureaucracy — including a screening committee in each State that consumers can complain to; a standing committee in which profiteering allegations with an 'all-India' impact can be taken up; and an investigation wing that will vet complaints 'with prima facie' merit and report its findings to the NAA. More clarity is needed on how the government will ascertain the difference between undue profit and fair play — or the discretionary space available to the NAA could enable rent-seeking.

The trigger for setting up the authority is clearly the recent large-scale reduction in tax rates on more than 300 items, of which about 200 rate changes were to come into effect from November 15. The government is keen on ensuring that consumers have a better perception of the GST's ground-level impact. Union Finance Secretary Hasmukh Adhia has urged companies (especially those in the fast-moving consumer goods segment) to ensure that new maximum retail prices are inscribed on products from November 15, even on existing inventory in the market. While wholesalers can still implement this, reaching every last retailer is a challenge. But firms have been warned that the entire retail chain must reflect revised prices in order to avoid anti-profiteering action; and the expectation is that there will be some exemplary action soon to make industry fall in line. Restaurant chains are also likely to face the heat for retaining price hikes; even though their tax rate has dropped, they no longer get any credits for taxes paid on inputs. Protecting consumer interest is important, but the prospect of the government monitoring prices and asking businesses to justify pricing decisions instead of letting market forces play out is unnerving. The NAA could take a cue from, if not partner, the Competition Commission of India in this, and focus on firms raising prices indiscriminately in markets where they enjoy a dominant position, or forming pricing cartels. The government must ensure that the authority's powers are used transparently and only where there is genuine consumer/public interest at stake. Else, it runs the risk of making profit itself a bad word.

# Losing the war, winning the peace

► **Bérénice Guyot-Réchart**

**THE STORY OF NEFA'S OCCUPATION SUGGESTS THAT, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE 1962 WAR WAS CHINA'S CHANCE TO PROVE TO HIMALAYAN PEOPLE THAT IT WAS THE BETTER STATE — WHEREAS A WEAK INDIA COULD NEITHER PROTECT NOR DELIVER. THE UNILATERAL CEASEFIRE AND WITHDRAWAL HELPED PRESERVE THE IMAGE OF CHINESE INVULNERABILITY AND BENEVOLENCE VIS-À-VIS LOCAL INHABITANTS WHILE PREVENTING AN INTERNATIONAL ESCALATION OF THE CONFLICT. "TELL US TO COME BACK AND WE'LL FREE YOU FROM INDIA," DEPARTING TROOPS REPORTEDLY SAID.**

India is not short of memories on 1962. The India-China War ended fifty-five years ago to the day, yet each winter brings back reminiscences of the conflict. The Chinese assault on the Thagla Ridge early in the morning of October 20, 1962, which turned simmering military tensions into open war. The doomed struggle of ill-equipped jawans. Jawaharlal Nehru's awkward radio address to Assam, just as the Chinese seemed poised to enter the plains. The unilateral ceasefire that China announced on November 21, 1962, saving Assam but ending India's chance of recovering the Aksai Chin. And above all, the scar of national humiliation at the hands of a triumphant China.

But is there all there was to the war? One can doubt it. Standard histories of 1962 almost completely ignore a key aspect of the conflict: the way the authorities and people of Arunachal Pradesh — the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA), as it was then called — experienced it. Look away from the fighting and the India-China War takes on quite a different hue, one where the war does not end at the point of ceasefire and where the roles of winners, losers and bystanders aren't so neatly divided.

#### THE OCTOBER SHOCK

When large-scale fighting erupted between China and India, it did not take long for NEFA's civilian officials to realise their entire administration was in jeopardy. By October 23, Tawang had to be abandoned. Meanwhile, Chinese troops were advancing onto Walong in the east. The retreat of the Indian Army entailed that of the civilian administration. Dozens of administrative centres were evacuated, leaving most of northern NEFA unoccupied and open for Chinese occupation. Thousands of Tibetan refugees followed suit, along with many local people (Picture shows refugees fleeing from the India-China border war, in 1962). Evacuee officials focussed on organising relief, and even began considering their permanent rehabilitation elsewhere in Assam. At the time, India's loss of NEFA seemed in danger of becoming permanent.

The war formally came to an end with China's unilateral ceasefire on November 21, but the crisis did not. Gains in the Aksai Chin aside, the People's Republic of China (PRC) now occupied significant portions of NEFA. Officially this was temporary, but everything was done to complicate India's return. Government stores, supplies, equipment, furnishings, weapons and often buildings were systematically damaged, eaten or destroyed. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) pointedly delayed its departure, keeping Indian troops and officials in the dark about it. On January 17, 1963 the Chinese still occupied Tawang. The local official only resumed his duties a



few days later. In military terms, the India-China War had lasted only a month. As an occupation, almost three.

#### BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS

What most worried India's frontier officials was how the inhabitants would receive them back. India's state presence in NEFA was recent. The Raj's eastern Himalayan frontier had barely been administered and remained poorly explored. Civilian administrators had made huge efforts since 1950 to consolidate India's sovereignty over the region; but given the difficult terrain, wet climate, and financial and human shortages, doing so required local inhabitants' cooperation. Gaining the loyalty of the Mishmis, Monpas or Adis was an aim in itself, if they were to become Indian citizens. Winning them over was key. The problem was that Indian officials' state-building per force had to contend with the PRC's own efforts in nearby Tibet. China too faced an uphill struggle to concretise its hold there, and it too needed border inhabitants' cooperation. Yet, in this porous Himalayan borderland crisscrossed by social, cultural or family ties and regular movement, people had ample opportunity to observe and compare what India and China respectively offered — both the good and the bad. The result was a fierce competition for Himalayan hearts and minds, well before military and diplomatic tensions appeared between the two countries.

This struggle for authority and legitimacy did not stop when fighting erupted. On the contrary, the 1962 War offered China a chance to gain the upper hand in it. There is much evidence that the PRC's occupation of northern NEFA was a sort of public relations exercise vis-à-vis local people. Indian officials came back to Tawang to find that no women had been molested and nothing taken without payment; houses, monasteries and possessions were intact. Chinese troops had brought in gifts and exotic goods and made every effort to convince people that their religion, customs, and freedom would be respected. In fact, China had one key message for the people of NEFA: it was there to liberate them from India.

The story of NEFA's occupation suggests that, among other things, the 1962 War was

China's chance to prove to Himalayan people that it was the better state — whereas a weak India could neither protect nor deliver. The unilateral ceasefire and withdrawal helped preserve the image of Chinese invulnerability and benevolence vis-à-vis local inhabitants while preventing an international escalation of the conflict. "Tell us to come back and we'll free you from India," departing troops reportedly said.

In an ideal scenario, Himalayan inhabitants would do just that. More realistically, a China-supported, anti-Indian uprising might erupt like in nearby Nagaland — and India would stop posing a threat to China's sovereignty in Tibet.

#### GOING BACK

India's frontier officials had every reason to worry about returning to NEFA. Would people welcome them back considering China's impressive wartime performance? To their own surprise, the answer was by and large yes. Many inhabitants expressed both their disappointment at having been left behind and their support for Indian authorities' return. They made concrete demands to ensure that the disappointment would not re-occur, and that their support would be rewarded. Something strange was happening. China had won the war on both fronts, military and political; yet this had not been enough to win people over, especially since many people had heard of repression in Tibet from refugees passing through. In hindsight, China's demonstration of superiority seems to have been counterproductive. The Indian state might be weaker and less efficient, but from the inhabitants' standpoint it was less of a risk, and offered more chance for negotiation.

On that count, we may need to revise our standard narrative of 1962. The war was not just about winning more territory (in the Aksai Chin) or teaching India a lesson (which it did). It was also about winning over hearts and minds. And if the PRC did win the war, on that front it also lost the peace.

*Bérénice Guyot-Réchart teaches contemporary history at King's College London. Her book, 'Shadow States: India, China and the Himalayas, 1910-1962', was published this year*

# The danger of electoral bonds

► **G. Sampath**

If being ranked 100th out of 190 countries in the World Bank Ease of Doing Business Index was a matter of national celebration, how do we celebrate India being ranked a far more impressive 19th out of 180 countries in the Paradise Papers leaks? Though more than 700 Indians figure in the documents cache, celebrations have been muted, to say the least.

All these Indians are on the list for one reason: their association with shell companies set up to siphon vast sums of money out of India and into a tax haven under the cloak of secrecy. The best part is that it's all legal, more or less.

An interesting case unearthed from the Paradise Papers pertains to a law firm's refusal to supply nominee directors to two Mauritius-based companies of an Indian business group due to fears of 'round-tripping' — a term that denotes the (illegal) routing of Indian-origin illicit funds from a tax haven (in this case, Mauritius) back to India.

What if there was a legal channel for companies to round-trip their tax haven cash to a political party? If this could be arranged, then a businessman could lobby for a change in policy, and legally funnel a part of the profits accruing from this policy change to the politician or

party that brought it about.

Well, the government introduced precisely such a scheme earlier this year: electoral bonds. These bonds share with tax havens the two characteristics that make the latter such attractive destinations for black money: secrecy and anonymity.

Transparency in political funding is the global norm. The 255th Law Commission Report on Electoral Reforms observed that opacity in political funding results in "lobbying and capture" of the government by big donors. The lower the transparency in political funding, the easier it is for the super-rich to buy the kind of government they want.

According to the NGO, Association of Democratic Reforms, 69% of the income of political parties is from unknown sources. But even the 31% from known sources pertains only to the income that the parties declare to the Income Tax (IT) department.

Thanks to black money, the real incomes of political parties are far greater than their declared income. In other words, not only is the source unknown for the greater chunk of a party's income, even the very existence of this income is 'unknown', as it is not captured in any official record — either with the Election Commission (EC) or with the IT department. Put simply, transparency in political funding in India is already abys-



mal.

This is despite the existence of declaration norms, traditionally governed by four legislations: the Representation of the People Act (RPA), the IT Act, the Companies Act, and the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA). Under these laws, political parties have to declare the source and the amount donated for all contributions above ₹20,000.

Similarly, companies have to declare in their profit and loss (P&L) statement the party-wise break-up of political donations. Also, a company must be at least three years old to contribute to a party. Its contribution cannot be more than 7.5% of its average net profit in the three

preceding years. And parties cannot accept foreign contributions.

But declaration to an institution is not the same as disclosure to the public. Even with all these stipulations, as of today, it is barely possible to glean, via multiple Right to Information applications, a rudimentary idea of political parties' sources of funding. Now electoral bonds are set to eliminate even this smidgen of transparency.

The government set the ball rolling with the Finance Act 2016, which amended the FCRA to allow political parties to accept donations from foreign companies. This year, the Finance Act 2017 did the rest, by amending the RPA, the

Companies Act and the IT Act. The Reserve Bank of India Act was also amended to enable the issuance of electoral bonds, which would be sold through notified banks.

What electoral bonds do  
Electoral bonds are essentially bearer bonds that ensure donor anonymity. They are like cash, but with an expiry date. Let's say company 'X' wishes to contribute ₹100 crore to political party 'Y'. It could buy ten electoral bonds of ₹10 crore each from bank 'A'. These bonds would carry only a serial number and not the identity of the buyer.

X would have these bonds deposited in Y's designated account with bank 'B'. B would know that this money belongs to Y but it doesn't record the fact that it has come from X.

The cluster of amendments around electoral bonds makes the scheme's intent amply clear: first of all, they eliminate the 7.5% cap on company donations (which means even loss-making companies can make unlimited donations); also gone is the requirement for a company to have been in existence for three years (paving the way for fly-by-night shell companies); and finally, companies no longer need to declare the names of the parties to which they have donated (so shareholders won't know where their money has gone).

As for political parties, they no longer

need to reveal the donor's name for contributions above ₹20,000, provided these are in the form of electoral bonds. In a nutshell, a foreign company can anonymously donate unlimited sums to an Indian political party without the EC or the IT department ever getting to know. It is difficult to imagine a better instrument to ease the flow of black money into the coffers of political parties.

#### Danger to democracy

By far the most pernicious feature of electoral bonds is their potential to load the dice heavily in favour of the ruling party. In the hypothetical transaction above, only bank 'A' knows the identity of the donor, while bank 'B' knows only the identity of the recipient.

But both the banks report to the RBI which, in turn, is subject to the Central government's will to know, though it remains to be seen if the former's autonomy can withstand the latter. So, only the ruling party — and no one else — can ascertain which companies donated to the Opposition parties. It is then free to use the organs of the state to gently dissuade (or retaliate against) these misguided donors. What this means is that once the scheme for electoral bonds is notified, the Opposition parties may struggle to raise adequate funds to put up a fight. The implications for democratic politics are obvious.

## Irani takes on Congress over 'chaiwalla' meme



NEW DELHI: Information and Broadcasting Minister Smriti Irani criticised the Congress party on Wednesday for the derogatory meme, put out by a Congress-linked magazine, on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking to ANI, Irani said, "It is for the Congress party to introspect that the man they call 'chaiwalla' is the same gentleman under whose leadership the 'Ease of Doing Business' has seen such a huge increase through the World Bank's eye. It is the same leadership of Narendra Modi through which the sovereign ratings of India, through Moody's perspective, has seen such a huge increase after 13 long years."

The union minister's comments come a day after Yuva Desh, the Indian Youth Congress's online magazine, tweeted a disparaging picture, mocking Prime Minister Modi for having been a tea seller in his earlier days.

The tweet drew severe flack and has since then been deleted. Irani said citizens of India have "reassured the Congress party that their dynamic politics is not acceptable to them, their mockery of prime minister's position is not acceptable to them." A similar comment ahead of 2014 general elections, by senior Congress party leader Mani Shankar, had given political ammunition to the Bharatiya Janata Party for dubbing the Congress as elitist and anti-poor.

## Sibal thanks Hardik for supporting Congress, says their fight will dethrone BJP

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Kapil Sibal on Wednesday thanked Patidar leader Hardik Patel for declaring his support to the party in the Gujarat Assembly polls after it accepted the community's quota demand, and said their united fight would dethrone the BJP.

Sibal, however, held his cards close to his chest when asked about details of the formula the Congress and the Patel-led Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti (PAAS) have worked out on the quota demand, and added that the related issues would be decided later.

The former Union minister said winning the Gujarat Assembly election was the priority so that the promises made to the people of the state could be fulfilled.

Sibal, who had held meetings with the PAAS leadership on the quota issue earlier, also accused the ruling BJP of betraying the community's trust by not doing anything for it during its 22-year rule in the state.

"We are very happy that a 'sanjha morcha' (united front) will now fight against the BJP... We thank him that they (PAAS) have joined us with an ideology to contest the election by coming together... Our target is to win the election and fulfill promises made to the people," Sibal told reporters here. Asked about details of the formula agreed upon by the two sides, Sibal said Patel himself would talk about it.

"These issues will be decided later. First we have to fight together, win the election, then fulfill the promises made," he said.

Sibal added the Congress has given the PAAS a suggestion "keeping in mind the issues they raised before us".



To a question, he also made light of Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel's reported comment that the Congress's suggestion would not hold ground constitutionally and that it would be used only to garner votes.

Sibal accused the saffron party of hatching conspiracies, imposing sedition case on Patel for leading the quota campaign and misleading the community during its rule.

"I want to ask the BJP if they know anything... they have got nothing to do with the Constitution which they have never followed. Gujarat is a symbol of it. So, the less they talk about the Constitution, better it is," he added.

Patel on Wednesday declared his support to the Congress in the Gujarat elections, to be held in two phases on December 9 and December 14, and said the opposition party had accepted its demand for reservation for the community. The PAAS leader said the Congress would include the extension of reservation benefit to Patidars in its election manifesto.

The Congress, which has mounted a hectic campaign to dislodge the long-ruling BJP in the home state of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and saffron party chief Amit Shah, has been wooing the Patel stir spearhead for quite some time.

## UP: Lady made to remove burqa at CM Adityanath's rally

BALIA: In a video clip that is going viral on social media a burqa clad Muslim lady is seen removing her burqa on being asked by police officers present at Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's rally in Balia on Tuesday. In the video, the woman is seen first taking off a saffron scarf that was around her neck. In the next few minutes, during her interaction with three police officers she even took off the burqa. However, Amit Kumar, the SP of Balia refuted the occurrence of such incident saying, "I have not been informed of any incident where a woman was asked to take off her burqa." "However, everyone had the instructions to see that no one shows black cloth to Yogi ji. Whatever you are mentioning will be probed and action will be taken," added Balia SP. Few days back, black flags were shown to Adityanath in Meerut where he had gone to address a rally ahead of the local bodies' election. Meanwhile, voting for the first phase of local body election in Uttar Pradesh has begun. In the first phase, polling is being held for five municipal corporations, 71 nagar palika parishads and 154 nagar panchayats.

## DMK highlights 'contradictory hospital reports' on Jayalalitha death

CHENNAI: Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) candidate Thiruparankundram Sarvanan raised doubts over the death of former Tamil Nadu chief minister J. Jayalalitha, claiming that Apollo Hospital had given contradictory reports on her 75-day-long treatment.

"I have appeared before the commission and given the explanation. I have highlighted that there are contradictions between the actual condition of former Chief Minister Jayalalitha as presented by the Apollo Hospital found on the official website and various press releases given by the hospital over the due course of over 75 days of treatment," Sarvanan told ANI. He added that there are a lot of contradictions between the actual health state of former CM in the press release of Raj Bhawan and the condition which was explained to the public.



"Tomorrow, I am submitting some important documents regarding the fingerprints and forged signatures, and the commission will continue its investigation as well," he said.

Earlier on November 3, the Supreme Court dismissed a plea challenging the enquiry commission constituted to probe former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalitha's death.

Earlier on October 30, a probe relating to the death of former the Tamil Nadu chief minister begun.

In September, Retired Madras High Court judge, Justice Arumugasamy, was appointed to head the probe into the death of Jayalalitha, following Chief Minister E Palaniswamy's announcement in this regard.

The Tamil Nadu government had set up the inquiry commission in September to investigate Jayalalitha's death. Report is to be submitted in three months.

This decision of the state government comes after Tamil Nadu's Minister for Forests Dindigul Sreenivasan revealed that all ministers of the state had lied to the people about hospitalisation and death of the former AIADMK general secretary and said that only former confidant V K Sasikala and her family had access to see ailing Jayalalitha.

## Versova beach clean-up 'suspended' as campaigner Afroz Shah allege abuse by goons

MUMBAI: Lawyer and social activist Afroz Shah who started the biggest clean up at Versova beach two years ago, suspended the drive after he alleged that a few goons thrashed him for cleaning up a pile of garbage.

"Our work was voluntary driven; and we worked with a Gandhian response to the problem of garbage," the cleanup crusader Afroz Shah told ANI.

He added that the Prime Minister himself have been a prime supporter of clean India.

"Our prime minister shouted that we need to make India, garbage free and we were working very hard with it as well. This beach cleanup became the largest cleanup drive. But more than that, we were working on the mindset of people," said Shah.

Speaking about the incident that forced Shah to suspend the whole drive, he said, there was a police of garbage near a fishermen's area on the beach.

"Some people there started heckling us there and abused us. They asked us not to pick up the garbage and let it be," alleged Shah.



He also said, he has met the police and told him everything, and "they have promised to look into it." "I suspended the drive, because if I can't change the mindset of the people, then what is the point of all this. I am sad and after a lot of thought decided to do it. But one has to be realistic and understand the ground reality," added Shah. Afroz Shah had started the campaign in October 2015 and has reportedly removed more than five million kilograms of trash from the beach.

He had shared pictures of a much cleaner and hard to recognize Versova beach on his Twitter which led to many on social media applauding his efforts.

## EC bribery case: Close associate of 'middleman' Suresh Chandrashekhar arrested

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police on Wednesday arrested Pulkit Kundra, a close associate of 'middleman' Suresh Chandrashekhar, who had tried to bribe Election Commission officials to get nod for using two-leave election symbol for Sasikala's faction of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK).

Chandrashekhar was arrested on April 16 in connection with the case that also involves AIADMK (Aamma) leader TTV Dinakaran. He was accompanied by Delhi Police for his court hearing in Mumbai, Coimbatore and Bengaluru between October 9 and 16. Dinakaran, who was also arrested on April 25 for

allegedly attempting to bribe an unidentified Election Commission official, was granted bail in the case on June 1.

Seven Delhi Police personnel have also become casualty of this case after they allegedly allowed Chandrashekhar to roam freely in a Bengaluru mall, while he was in their custody.

## Kerala love jihad case: SC to hear Hadiya's father plea on Nov 27

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday decided to hear the plea by Hadiya's father, seeking in-camera proceedings of the case on November 27, when Hadiya will appear before the court, in connection with the Kerala 'love jihad' case.

Earlier on November 21, Hadiya's father moved a fresh application in the Supreme Court seeking direction for in-camera proceedings of the hearing on Monday.

The 24-year-old Hadiya has been in the headlines after she became a Muslim following her marriage to Shafin Jahan.

Earlier on Monday, the Chairperson of Kerala Women Commission was again denied permission to meet Hadiya, whose marriage to a Muslim man set off a legal war - famously known as Kerala 'love jihad' case.

Last week too, Hadiya's father did not allow Commission chairperson M. C. Josephine to meet her.

The chairperson had visited to ensure Hadiya's safety during her journey to Delhi for the hearing in the Supreme Court on November 27.

The commission has now sought a report from the district police chief regarding her travel arrangements and safety measures. As of now, the 24-year-old, Hadiya, is with her parents, who have alleged that her marriage to a Muslim man is a case of 'love jihad'.

The case is under consideration of the apex court now, which had ordered the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to look into it.

Jahan filed a plea in the Supreme Court on September 16 and requested to call off the NIA probe, alleging that the investigation agency "is not being fair".

## Will fight against BJP: Hardik Patel



AHMEDABAD: Hardik Patel, the convener of Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti (PAAS), has said that his organisation will continue to fight against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Gujarat. "The Patidar communities have been victimised by them (BJP)," Patel told mediapersons here. Patidars or Patels are an important group in Gujarat, who enjoy great political dominance in the state. Often regarded as the deciding factors in the elections, the community has largely voted for the BJP since 1990s, but a section is miffed over a lack of quota in government jobs and education. "Do not waste your vote by voting for BJP. They believe people are stupid," said Hardik Patel in Wednesday's media interaction. "Several horse-trading attempts being made with our conveners in North Gujarat, Rs. 50 lakh being offered," he claimed. Patel also claimed that the Congress party has agreed to give reservation to the Patidar community, if the party comes to power in Gujarat.

## Congress gave 'lollipop' to Hardik: Gujarat Dy CM

AHMEDABAD: Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel on Wednesday said the Congress party is misleading Hardik Patel, the convener of Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti (PAAS) in the name of reservation.

The Deputy Chief Minister's remark came after the Patidar leader claimed that the Congress party has agreed to give reservation to the Patidar community, if the party comes to power in Gujarat.

Nitin said that Hardik has

not discussed about alliance with the Congress Party with the members of Patidar community. "Hardik Patel is aware that over 50 percent reservation is not possible. In the name of reservation, Congress has given a 'lollipop' to Hardik. He should not mislead the people," the Deputy chief Minister said while addressing a press conference here. "A fool made a request and another fool accepted it, and they say others are fool," he added. Nitin even accused

the Congress Party of bargaining with Hardik Patel and trying to divide the Patidar community.

Earlier, Hardik Patel, while addressing the media, said the Congress Party will introduce a bill in the Gujarat Assembly for the reservation, if they win the forthcoming elections. "Congress has accepted our issues. Congress has agreed to give Patidars reservations under section 31, and provisions of section 46," he said. "Draft has been

prepared between us and the Congress. Formula is not restricted to Patidar community alone," he added.

On that note, the Patidars constitute 16 percent of the state population and play an important role in swinging the voters' mood. The Congress is counting on the Patidar votes to sway the election results of Gujarat polls in their favour and uproot the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has been in power since 1995 in the state.

## Attempt to muzzle media, says editor on Karnataka assembly sentencing him to jail

BENGALURU: A day after Karnataka assembly rejected a plea by two editors of Kannada-language tabloids to reconsider jail sentences awarded to them for breach of privilege, one of the journalists on Wednesday termed the decision as an attempt to crush "journalistic independence." The assembly had passed a resolution on June

21 holding Ravi Belagere, editor of 'Hai Bangalore', and Anil Raju, editor of 'Yelahanka Voice', guilty of breach of privilege and awarded them one-year jail term and imposed a penalty of Rs 10,000 each. The editors had challenged the resolution in the high court, but the court had asked them to find an amicable solution to the controversy.

Subsequently, the editors had moved the speaker seeking revision of the resolution.

The revision pleas were rejected by the house on Tuesday after a discussion was initiated by speaker KB Koliwad, the complainant against Belagere.

Taking part in the discussion, BJP legislator S R Vishwanath, who had complained

against Raju for allegedly writing defamatory articles against him, said the plea had to be rejected outright. "They should have been punished by now..."

Their punishment should be increased," he said. MLAs cutting across party lines such as S R Mahesh (JDS), Ashok Pattan, G S Srinivas, Vijayanand Kashappanavar and Lobo, (all

Congress) and B R Patil (Others) supported Vishwanath's demand. Speaking to HT, Belagere said the assembly resolution was an "attempt to crush journalistic freedom." "I do not know what grudge he [Koliwad] has against me," he added.

Belagere, who was accused by Koliwad of publishing defamatory articles against him in

September 2014, further questioned how Koliwad, being a complainant, could adjudicate on the issue

"There were other forums for him to challenge it (the articles). He could have filed a defamation case in the court," he added. Belagere said an independent body should look into the case, adding he would chal-

lenge the verdict in court as soon as he received a copy of the order. Raju could not be reached despite repeated attempts to contact him over phone calls and text messages.

The Editors' Guild of India had termed the sentence a "gross misuse" of power which "violates" the fundamental right of freedom of speech.



## Here's why compound exercises are the secret to faster muscle gains

Most of us while working out tend to opt for a workout that involves training a single muscle in isolation. For example, we tend to train one body part a day, that is chest one day and back the other, and so on. While this kind of workout and schedule is perfect for someone whose primary aim is to sculpt his/her muscles and focus on aesthetics. However, it's not ideal for someone whose target is to get fit and athletic, in a short span of time. This is where compound exercises come in; they can either involve single moves that include multiple muscle groups such as deadlift and lunges or two moves combined together to create one exercise like a should press combined with bicep curl. We got in touch with fitness experts Amaresh Ojha and Jinnie Gogia Chug, who explain why you need to opt for compound exercises rather than isolation exercises.

1) Burn calories at a fast rate: Exercises that involve more tissues than one single tissue, require more oxygen. Therefore, compound exercises tend to burn more calories than isolation exercises and build more muscle in the process.

2) Enhances intermuscular coordination: It improves the function and coordination of various muscles around the joints. For example, the gluteal complex (the hip) consists of three muscles - gluteus maximus, medius and minimus. Together, they are the ones responsible for controlling the motion of the hip. While you perform a compound exercise like a squat or deadlift, then it improves the coordination between gluteus maximus, medius and minimus in the hip.

3) Provides cardiovascular benefit: The purpose of cardiovascular exercise is to strengthen the heart muscle so that it can pump blood efficiently to keep your muscles active and strong. For cardio, you either opt for running or cycling, which can reduce the size of the muscle.

Compound exercises are done within a short span. Therefore, they provide the cardiovascular benefit without muscle loss.

4) Dynamically flexible: Flexibility doesn't always mean standing in a static position. When you stretch, that is holding your muscle in a lengthened position, you reduce tension in your muscle but it reduces your neurologic activity (body's ability to quickly respond), which is not recommended before any dynamic activity. Compound exercise improves your dynamic flexibility, which reduces muscles tension without hampering your neurologic activity.

5) Improves movement and posture: Ever wondered why body-builders move like robots? Isolated training reduces coordination between multiple muscle joints in your body.

This leads to bad posture and rigidity in the body. Compound exercises lead to a better posture and better overall movement of the body.

- 5 compound exercises you need to try:
1. Dumbbell Thrusters
  2. Push-Ups
  3. Renegade Rows
  4. Dumbbell Deadlifts
  5. Bent-Over Dumbbell Row

## Seven natural ways to treat and prevent cracked heels

In today's fast-paced lifestyle, most of us are on our feet all day, making them prone to skin problems. Direct exposure to dirt and the absence of oil glands make the skin in the foot area much drier than any other part of our body. Dropping temperature in winter adds to the problem, causing flaking of skin. It can also lead to cracked heels that cause pain and discomfort. Here are seven simple tips that will help you achieve silky, smooth feet. Moisturise affected area: One of the major causes of cracked heels is the lack of adequate moisture content in the skin. Constant hydration can prevent the skin from drying out. A gentle moisturiser can help you get rid of this problem. Moisturising the soles of the feet and heels twice every day will prevent the feet from getting rough and dry. Honey and water therapy: These two easily available ingredients can do wonders. Soak your feet in a warm water mixed with honey and gently scrub the affected area. Honey is a natural moisturiser and popular in Ayurveda for its bactericidal and antiseptic properties.

Honey with warm water helps gently peel off the dead skin and replenish the moisture content. Keep area between toes dry: When you dry your feet, ensure the area between your toes is wiped of dampness and dirt. Dampness creates a perfect environment for Athlete's foot and other fungal infections. Massage with turmeric and oil: Since the foot area is devoid of oil glands, it is important to apply it externally. Massaging oil and turmeric will help in moisturizing the cracked area as well as reduce any swelling or pain from cracks.

Regular massages to the heels can increase blood circulation and rejuvenate the skin. Oil has been used in the bath for centuries to keep skin smooth and nourished, whereas turmeric is known for its antiseptic and anti-inflammatory properties. Wear cotton socks: Walking barefoot exposes them to bacteria and dirt. It's always better to protect your feet from pollution and dust. Wear cotton socks to aid good air circulation and to keep the feet clean. Comfortable footwear: Choose your footwear wisely. Tight footwear can lead to sweaty feet, causing fungal infections. Go for footwear that gives your foot some space to breathe. Apply foot care cream: Foot care creams with natural ingredients are available in the market today. Creams with ingredients like sal tree and fenugreek can help heal cracked heels naturally. Traditionally, fenugreek has been used as an excellent moisturiser and Sal tree is known for its antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory properties. Wash feet with lukewarm water and pat dry. Apply foot care cream over the affected area twice daily, once in the morning after bathing and again at bedtime.

## You will want to steal Shilpa Shetty's stylish indigo kurta and denim sharara

Want to be the best-dressed lady on your next weekend getaway? If you've exhausted your floral dresses and jumpsuits, look to actor and reality TV judge Shilpa Shetty's latest fashion choice for inspiration.

On Tuesday, Shilpa, 42, stepped out for an event in Chandigarh in an indigo embroidered kurta, which she paired with an insanely cool denim sharara by designer Shivangi Sahni and silver jhumkas from Sangeeta Boochra.

We're the first to admit that the kurta-sharara combo can seem monotonous. That being said, there are some really dope iterations, like Shilpa's ensemble that show how inherently cool denim shouldn't be reserved for casual dresses and jeans, or even saris.

Thanks to the low-fuss and edgy bottom, Shilpa's otherwise simple look has got style on lock. Her flowy lady-like kurta really wowed us, but really, it is all about the sharara. Perfect for work and play.

Shilpa's sharara has a little bit of everything -- a feminine silhouette, retro detailing, major personality and an I-like-to-try-new-things-because-why-not feel. If you liked everything you just saw, you might as well jump on the denim sharara bandwagon, too.

Now, go on and dress yourself in a denim sharara, straight away. Want to go feminine without being girly? You've met your match in a denim sharara. The beauty of it is that you can also wear it as pants, for a cool and loose vibe.



Don't self-judge your skin and arrive at your own skin diagnosis, say experts who suggest using a sunscreen is a must even if you don't spend most of your day outdoors. Here are some other essential skincare facts and some myths:

FACT: Oily skin too needs moisturising

Many people think that oily skin doesn't require moisturising. However, every skin type needs a moisturiser. Whenever you cleanse your skin, you strip it of its natural moisture, which might trigger excessive oil production in oily skin. That can lead to additional breakouts and



scarring. To avoid the dreaded shine, a light water-based, oil-free moisturiser would work best.

FACT: Sunscreen is a must even in cloudy weather

Even on a cloudy day, UV radiation from the sun penetrates into your skin. So make sure you use sunscreen every day, and reapply after every two hours especially, after swimming or sweating. Don't fall prey to the myth that just because you are wearing make-up with an SPF, you are protected. Make sure you use sunscreen in addition to your make-up.

MYTH: The harder you scrub or exfoliate, the better

This is one of the most common myth we hear for oily skin and skin with acne. Cleansing too often, using too much pressure, or over-exfoliating your skin can actually make the problem worse.

FACT: If the label reads natural, it is not necessary that its organic

The process of organic certification is a long process which takes many years and is greatly regulated. Unfortunately, the use of the word organic alone does not ensure that the product is certified organic. A product that carries ecocert, onecert and nature certified label entails that the product has been qualified and certi-

fied as having organic ingredients. FACT: Deep penetration massage is important. It will effectively remove the free radicals and daily pollutants that rest in the open pores within the skin. Apply and gently massage some clarifying gel wash onto the skin daily every morning.

This will help increase the blood circulation on your face and if done routinely, can reverse the slightest signs of skin-ageing.

MYTH: Skincare products need to have preservatives to be safe

Preservatives are added to prevent the growth of bacteria, yeast and fungus when water is part of the ingredient list. While preservatives are safer than bacteria, if your skin care product does not contain a water-based product then there is no need for preservatives. Read the description before you start using a product. FACT: Layering is important.

Use fluid-based serums. Due to the light texture of the fluid serums, the product is able to administer a more potent dose of say vitamin C or minerals into the skin, which is able to be absorbed better by the skin in the deeper derma layers.

## This 15-minute test can tell you if you've been misdiagnosed with depression

A simple 15-minute electrocardiogram could help a physician determine whether a patient has major depression or bipolar disorder, suggests a study. Bipolar disorder often is misdiagnosed as major depression. But while the symptoms of the depressive phase of bipolar disorder are similar to that of major depression, the treatments are different and often challenging for the physician. In bipolar disorder, formerly

called manic depression, a patient swings between an emotional high (manic episode) and severe depression. Treatment for the depressed phase includes an antidepressant along with a safeguard such as a mood stabilizer or anti-psychotic drug to prevent a switch to a manic episode. A physician who misdiagnoses bipolar disorder as major depression could inadvertently trigger a manic episode by prescribing an antidepressant without a safeguard

mood stabilizing drug. The Loyola Medicine study found that heart rate variability, as measured by an electrocardiogram, indicated whether subjects had major depression or bipolar disorder. Senior author Angelos Halaris noted that having a noninvasive, easy-to-use and affordable test to differentiate between major depression and bipolar disorder would be a major breakthrough in both psychiatric and primary care practices.

# Cabinet clears ordinance to change bankruptcy laws

NEW DELHI: The Cabinet on Wednesday sought President's approval for amending the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). This amendment is through an ordinance and will be placed before the Parliament in the winter session.

Finance minister Arun Jaitley did not divulge details about the changes being made to the Code, as it is yet to be approved by the President. "Some changes are proposed to the IBC, since this is being done by an ordinance and till it is approved as a matter of propriety we don't give the details," Jaitley told reporters at a press conference after the cabinet meeting.

Top sources in the government told HT that this amendment is likely to streamline the process of selecting buyers of stressed assets.

It is aimed at preventing promoters who are wilful defaulters and

those with past records of fraud from buying stressed companies cheap. Government officials added that the amendment should not be seen as a blanket ban on promoters of companies who have been on banks' non-performing account (NPA) list. "There might be promoters who have gone through the corporate resolution procedure and have managed to get their balance sheets in shape; they will not be kept out," said one of the three. IBC does not specify the buyers that can bid for stressed assets of companies that are undergoing bankruptcy proceedings. This has triggered concern that promoters could reacquire their companies at a discount once the lenders decide to sacrifice a part of the money they are owed.

"So there is the need to amend the law to ensure only deserving candidates are allowed to bid for



stressed assets under the corporate resolution process," said a second official. The amendment is part of an effort spearheaded by the ministry of corporate affairs and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India to strengthen the IBC. "The code is just a year old. So

there is scope for improvement, and we will realise it as we go ahead..." said the third official.

The code was strengthened on 8 November to streamline the due diligence process while choosing a buyer of stressed assets.

Credibility, financial strength,

experience and track record are some of the factors that will be considered by the committee of creditors in disposing of a stressed asset that is up for sale. The IBC came into force in which month 2016, and the first batch of 12 large defaulters were referred to their creditors by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in June 2017 for launch of bankruptcy proceedings at the National Company Law Tribunal. These 12 defaulters account for 25% of the total NPAs of banks. Experts disagree with the government's move to amend the IBC. "The committee of creditors has an enormous amount of commercial wisdom. So there should not be a prescription on the choice of buyers from the government, especially since a notification on due diligence while selecting a buyer has already been issued," said Sumant Batra, an insolvency expert.

## After death of 8th child, Ikea relaunches dresser recall



NEW YORK: Ikea relaunches a recall of 17.3 million chests and dressers Tuesday after the death of an eighth child.

CEO Lars Pettersson said Ikea wants to increase awareness of the recall campaign for several types of chest and dressers that can easily tip over if not properly anchored to a wall.

The death of a California toddler, who was found trapped underneath an Ikea Malm dresser in May, has raised questions about whether Ikea has effectively spread the word about the recall, which was first announced in June 2016. The Swedish retailer and the federal safety regulators are asking customers to take immediate action to secure the dressers, or to return them. Pettersson said Ikea has had an "extensive communication" campaign through social media, its website and television and print ads. The company emailed 13 million people about the recall two months ago, he said. Still, he said heightening awareness of the recall is necessary "because we think that it's so important to reach as many people as possible."

Acting CPSC chairman Ann Marie Buerkle said that people who own the furniture can take care of any potential hazards by contacting Ikea.

The recall is for children's chests and drawers taller than 23.5 inches and adult chests and dressers taller than 29.5 inches. Customers should contact Ikea for a free wall-mounting kit. The company is also offering to send crews to attach them in the home.

Ikea originally said the recall was for 29 million chest and drawers in the U.S. but has revised the figure downward to 17.3 million because the bigger figure included furniture that didn't fit the parameters of the recall. Canadian safety officials issued a similar recall last year for Ikea chest and dressers that don't meet North American voluntary standards.

Ikea is offering full refunds for anyone who no longer wants the chest and dressers manufactured between January 2002 and June 2016. Those with recalled furniture made prior to that can receive a partial store credit. Customers can bring them to a store, or Ikea will pick them up.

At least eight children under the age of three have been killed when an Ikea dresser fell on them, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. The first death occurred 28 years ago and the others occurred after 2002.

The latest death was Jozef Dudek, 2, of Buena Park, California.

The toddler had been put down for a nap when his father went in to check on him and found him under the dresser, according to details released by lawyers retained by the family.

Alan Feldman, one of the lawyers representing the Dudek family, said Ikea's recall has been ineffective and the recent announcement will not change that. Rather than distributing wall-mounting kits to people,

Feldman said Ikea needs to get "these dangerous dressers out of kids' bedrooms."

The Dudek family never received any additional information about the dresser from Ikea even though they bought it directly from the retailer and had given the company their email and home address to join a customer loyalty program.

"It sounded to me like the same lame, ineffective recall that we've had since the children were killed," Feldman said. The same team of lawyers represented the families of three toddlers who died when Ikea dressers fell on them. Ikea reached a \$50 million settlement with those families last December. Feldman said the Dudek family will also sue Ikea.

Pettersson said that more than 1 million dressers of have been returned for a refund or have been secured to walls with Ikea's help since 2015, when the company first offered free wall-mounting kits.

Buerkle said Ikea has "worked hard to make this an effective recall." She said it presents customers with an array of options "and is as least burdensome to the consumer as it could be."

Ikea said the recalled products are sold with instructions that they had to be attached to walls. Pettersson said the recalled units are safe when this is done. The recall is for all Ikea chest and dressers that do not comply with voluntary industry standards.

They included 8 million Malm chest and dressers that were sold from 2002 through June 2016. Pettersson said that Ikea has stopped selling products that do not adhere to voluntary standards, which were first developed for furniture stability in 2000 and have been updated several times since.

The latest version includes a requirement that furniture like dressers should come with wall restraints.

## Inland World Logistics wins supply Chain Icon Award

NEW DELHI: Inland World Logistics part of the Rs. 2,200 crore Inland group and one of the finest logistics companies of the country, recently won the Supply Chain Icon Award at the 11th Express, Logistics and Supply Chain Supply Chain Leadership Awards.

It is one of the most prestigious awards in the industry and Asia's Largest End-To-End Logistics and Supply Chain Supply Chain Conference.

"It is a great achievement and honour that Inland World Logistics has won this prestigious award. This is the sheer hard work and dedication of every employee at our organization that has helped us achieve such feat. We feel proud as it recognizes our continuous endeavor of achieving high standards of services", said Praveen Somani, Director, Inland World Logistics.

Inland World Logistics offers point to point services with minimum delivery time and has the widest reach with presence in over 350 locations, fleet of vehicles and a nationwide network.



## Relief for customers: FMCG firms slash prices post GST reduction

NEW DELHI: FMCG companies, including ITC, Dabur, HUL and Marico, on Tuesday said they have cut prices of various products to pass on the benefits of GST rate reduction to end-consumers.

The companies said they will extend the price reduction to other categories, which have also seen tax rate cuts. The development comes a day after the government asked the firms to pass on lower GST rates to consumers.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate was reduced on 178 items, including detergents, shampoos and beauty products, from 28 per cent to 18 per cent from November 15.

"ITC has modified the price of its relevant products keeping in mind the applicable rates under the recent GST notification," a company spokesperson told PTI.

Similarly, an HUL spokesperson said: "We have reduced price for Bru Gold coffee from Rs 145 to Rs 111 on a 50 gm pack. Any further price changes will be communicated in due course."

HUL remains committed to passing on the benefits of GST reduction to the consumers, the spokesperson added.

Likewise, Marico CFO Vivek Karve said the company has effected MRP reductions on products across categories such as deodorants, hair gels, hair creams, body care etc.

"While the new production shifts to new reduced MRP immediately, we are passing on the benefits on existing stocks either through sticking the products with reduced MRP or by providing additional discounts to our trade channel partners," he said.

Karve further said the company has also sent out communication to its partners to pass on the benefit of reduced taxes to the consumers.

Earlier in the day, Dabur India said it has cut prices of existing stocks across categories such as shampoos, skin care and home care by 9 per cent.

The company said it had also revised the MRP of fresh production with immediate effect which will hit the shelves by next month.

When contacted, a Patanjali spokesperson said: "We welcome this step and the benefits must be transferred to the customers. We are evaluating over the quantum of decrease."

Yesterday, CBEC Chairperson Vanaaja Sarna in a letter to all major FMCG companies had pointed out the need to immediately revise the MRP on all the products for which the tax reductions have been announced by the GST Council.

GST rates on a number of items have also been reduced from 18 per cent to 12 per cent and from 12 per cent to 5 per cent. Items on which tax rate has been cut from 28 per cent to 18 per cent include chewing gum, chocolates, coffee, custard powder, dental hygiene products, creams, after-shave, deodorant, detergent and washing power, razors and blades, cutlery, batteries, goggles, wrist watches and mattress.

Tax rate on condensed milk, refined sugar, pasta curry paste, diabetic food, and bamboo/cane furniture has been cut from 18 per cent to 12 per cent.

## RSDC's 2nd award ceremony celebrates skilling excellence in rubber

NEW DELHI: With a view to recognise the sterling contributions made towards skill development in the Rubber value chain including both plantation and manufacturing segments, Rubber Skill Development Council (RSDC), the sector skill council in Rubber celebrated the 2nd Award Ceremony at New Delhi recently.

As one of the prominent gatherings in Rubber sector, the award ceremony brought together a large number of stakeholders from all the parts of the country.

Welcoming the guests, Chairman of RSDC, Vinod Simon said, "RSDC has cast its net wider in the last one year and is making its presence felt in all the places where skilling could provide better em-

ployment, ease the lives of people, enhance competitiveness and bring a sense of pride by making skills aspirational. According to Simon, RSDC has already tied up with 10 State Missions besides 11 universities. Overall 70,000 people have received trainings under the aegis of RSDC so far. Manish Kumar, MD and CEO of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Chief Guest on the occasion received huge applause from the audience when he stated that demographic window of opportunity for India is currently open and could lead to country's turnaround if exploited well. Citing examples of South Korea and China, Kumar stated that per capita incomes in these countries

have gone up manifold in the last two to three decades as these countries made the most of the available opportunities through emphasis on skilling. Guest of Honour Satish Sharma, Chairman Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association (ATMA), said "India is undergoing tremendous change perhaps something never experienced earlier. Technological adaptation is taking place at a fast pace leading to large scale changes in the way we live, travel or do business. According to him, India has decided to move from BSIV to BSVI emission norms in three years while worldwide this transition took place in 15-20 years. Skilled workforce is a must for this technological leap."

Prof. Anjan Kr. Ghosh, Vice

Chancellor, Tripura Central University and Guest of Honour emphasised on more academia - industry interaction so that students pursuing polymer and rubber technology could be encouraged. He invited the industry to visit Tripura to get a first hand exposure to the courses being run by the University. In breakthrough initiatives and firsts by any Sector Skill Council in India, RSDC launched Stimulated e-learning content and Mobile app to provide the ease in connecting with the target segment by introducing the courses online and benefit the students and those looking for up skilling in rubber across the country.

Best Training Partner award was received by Rubber Board of

India, Dr. Rani Joseph was adjudged as the Best Trainer. Mettl received the award as Best Assessment Agency while Best Assessor award went to Sarvana Kumar. Anjitha A M were conferred the best trainee award in manufacturing, whereas in Plantation best trainee award was shared between three candidates, Prasad Sing, Sunil A and Udaya P S, respectively.

Under the special category awards Best University Award went to Kamraj College of Engineering & Technology.

RSDC also introduced another Special Category for honoring the Best State Skill Development Mission Award which was bagged by Additional Skills Acquisition Programme (ASAP) Kerala.

## Jumbo sale: Two Boeing 747 jets auctioned on Chinese online shopping portal

BEIJING: The sky seems to be the limit for Chinese online shopping portal Taobao, which auctioned off two Boeing 747 jumbo jets on Tuesday for nearly \$50 million.

Chinese air cargo company SF Airlines bought the pair for over 320 million yuan (\$48 million), the official Xinhua news agency reported.

After six failed attempts over two years to sell three 747s from defunct carrier Jade Cargo International, a court in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen decided to auction them online.

The jets were put up for sale Monday on Taobao, which handles billions of dollars in orders for everything from everyday items like food and stationery to the bizarre -- such as giant cargo planes and even bottled flatulence. The third freighter could not be sold because only one buyer registered for the



auction. Taobao, the shopping platform of e-commerce giant Alibaba, is immensely popular in China and estimated to hold more than 90 percent of the consumer-to-consumer market.

Its hundreds of millions of users include courts trying to auction off assets of bankrupt businesses.

Xinhua said Taobao started a judicial sales platform in 2012 with which most Chinese courts have registered.

## Hike partners with Airtel Payments Bank to power its Wallet

NEW DELHI: Hike on Wednesday announced its partnership with Airtel Payments Bank to have access to the latter's payment services, wide merchant network and KYC infrastructure.

Hike users will have access to Airtel Payments Bank's vast product line including merchant and utility payments, KYC infrastructure which will give a big boost to the platform.

The move is likely to bring more Indians online and enable easy transactional services for them, Hike said.

Hike Wallet crossed more than five million transactions in November, 2017 growing 30 percent month on month.

"As we scale up the number of services on our platform in the coming months, we expect this to grow even faster. In light of the new KYC guidelines, we are also excited to announce a new partnership with Airtel Payments Bank. This is a great move for our users and it will ensure that they



have an uninterrupted service when the new guidelines kick in," Patihk Shah, VP, Product at Hike Messenger said.

Through this partnership, Airtel Payments Bank gets access to over 100 million users on Hike.

"The addition of Hike Wallets to our portfolio will position us as one of the largest digital payments platforms in India," A Ganesh, Chief Operating Officer, Airtel Payments Bank said.

# Hasan Ali, Shakib penalised for misconduct during BPL match

LAHORE: Comilla Victorians' Pakistani recruit Hasan Ali and Dhaka Dynamite's captain Shakib Al Hasan were penalised on Tuesday for breaching the code of conduct set by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) during the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League (BPL). The BCB found Ali and Shakib guilty of violating level one and level two of the BCB code of conduct respectively, during a BPL match at the Sher-e-Bangla stadium on Nov 20.

Ali was fined 25 per cent of the match fees after he was found guilty of breaching Article 2.1.7 of the BCB code of conduct for players and players support personnel, which relates to "using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batsman upon his dismissal during a match".

Ali confessed to his misconduct and accepted the sanction proposed by match referee Samiur

Rahman. In addition to the fine, two demerit points have been added to Ali's disciplinary record.

Meanwhile, Shakib was fined 50 per cent of the match fee for his offensive reaction to an LBW appeal that was being turned down by the umpire. He was penalised under Article 2.2.4 of the BCB code of conduct.

The Article relates to "using language or gesture(s) that is seriously obscene, seriously offensive or of a seriously insulting



nature to another player, player support personnel, umpire, match referee or any other third person during a match". In addition to the fine, three demerit points have been added to Shakib's disciplinary record. Under Article 7.5 of the code, if a player reaches four or more demerit points in a tournament, the points will then be converted into suspension points. Four demerit points equate to a ban of one match.

A day earlier, Hasan Ali

stunned his fans in Bangladesh as he took five wickets for just 20 runs in his first match of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL). He took five wickets in 3.3 overs putting his side, the Comilla Victorians, in a commanding position against the Dhaka Dynamites. The number one ranked One Day International (ODI) bowler became only the second after Bangladesh's Rubel Hossain to have bowled five batsmen out in a single Twenty20 game.

## Yuvraj Singh chooses National Cricket Academy over Ranji Trophy, questions raised in BCCI

NAGPUR: Out of favour India veteran Yuvraj Singh's decision to do fitness training at the National Cricket Academy at the expense of Ranji Trophy matches has not gone down well with a section of BCCI officials. Yuvraj has skipped four of Punjab's five Ranji games so far, featuring in one game, against Vidarbha scoring 20 and 42 respectively.

Some of the BCCI office-bearers are now raising questions on his presence at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) given that he does not have any reported injury issues plaguing him right now.

It is learnt, Yuvraj is bent on clearing the YoYo fitness test, which he has failed in the past, but it has been at the expense of competitive matches.

A comeback in the Indian team is also necessary for Yuvraj as he is expected to be back in the IPL auction pool and for franchises, India discards are not the priority options.

"There aren't any reports that Yuvraj is doing rehabilitation but we have come to



know that he is doing exclusive fitness training to pass the YoYo test. Now whether taking Ranji Trophy for granted is a good thing or not, Yuvraj has to decide.

"Does this mean that if he attains 16.1 (fitness parameter set by Indian team management) and is without any runs behind

him, he will be selected for the Sri Lanka limited overs series?" a very senior BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Yuvraj, however, could not be reached for a comment on the matter.

"We heard that Yuvraj has told the Punjab team management that he has been asked

by the Indian team to do fitness test whereas selectors have always stressed on Ranji Trophy performance. Look at Ishant Sharma. He is a part of Indian team but he was released a day before Kolkata test so that he can play Ranji Trophy against Maharashtra," the BCCI official added.

It is not yet clear whether chief selector MSK Prasad, who had been an advocate of playing matches, was kept in the loop about this decision.

In less than a month, Yuvraj will be celebrating his 36th birthday and his fielding has gone down by a notch. He hardly bowls his slow left-arm spin that was instrumental in India's 2011 World Cup triumph.

The left-hander has played 40 Tests, 304 ODIs and 58 T20 Internationals in his 17-year-career scoring 1900, 8701 and 1177 runs across the respective formats.

There is a school of thought doing rounds that if Yuvraj is selected against Sri Lanka, there is a possibility that it could well be his swansong series for the Indian team as it looks forward towards the 2019 World Cup.

## Saina Nehwal, PV Sindhu advance in Hong Kong Open badminton

NEW DELHI: Saina Nehwal, PV Sindhu and HS Prannoy won their respective openers to advance to the second round at the \$400,000 Hong Kong Open Superseries badminton tournament on Wednesday.

However, it was the end of the road for Parupalli Kashyap, B Sai Praneeth and Sourabh Verma, who lost their men's singles first round matches at the Hong Kong Coliseum.

Rio Olympics silver medalist and second seed PV Sindhu barely broke a sweat as she marched past local girl Leung Yuet Yee 21-18, 21-10 in only 26 minutes. This was World No.2 Sindhu's first match against the Hong Kong girl.

The three-time World Championships medalist will next face the winner of the match between Japan's Aya Ohori and Russian Evgeniya Kosetskaya.

Sindhu is gunning for her third Superseries title of 2017 after triumphing in India and South Korea.

A short while earlier, Saina also eased into the second round of women's singles with a straight games victory over Denmark's Mette Poulsen. The World No.11 won 21-19, 23-21 in 46 minutes in her first clash against the Dane.

Saina, who won the National Badminton Championships earlier this month, will next face Chinese eighth seed Chen Yufei in the second round.

The World No.9 has been in brilliant form this year and also clinched the bronze at the Glasgow World Championships in August and will be facing Saina for the first time.

Prannoy also made it to through to the second round of men's singles but not before he was given a tough fight by veteran Hu Yun, who had a lot of local support cheering him on. But the new Indian national champion stuck his neck out and won the contest 19-21, 21-17, 21-15 in an hour and one minute. After beating Hu Yun in their first ever encounter, the World No.10 Prannoy will take on qualifier Kazumasa Sakai. But significantly, the Japanese has a 2-0 lead over the Kerala shuttler. Kashyap and Verma fought hard in their openers but their campaign came to a crashing end.

South Korean Lee Dong Keun beat reigning Commonwealth Games champion Kashyap 15-21, 21-9, 22-20 in an hour and nine minutes to level their head-to-head to 2-2.

A little while later, Indonesian veteran Tommy Sugiarto beat Verma 21-15, 21-8 in half an hour to take a 2-1 advantage in career meetings over the Indian.

South Korean World No.3 Son Wan-ho earned a straight games victory over Sai Praneeth. The second seed won 21-8, 21-16 in 35 minutes to earn his third win over the Indian in as many meetings.

Ashwini Ponnappa and N. Sikki Reddy also lost their women's doubles match in the opening round. Chinese pair of Huang Dongping and Li Wenmei won 21-11, 19-21, 21-19 in 55 minutes.

Men's doubles pair of Manu Attri and B. Sumeeth Reddy will play their opener later in the day.

## Bhuvneshwar Kumar's form warning for South Africa, England and Australia

NEW DELHI: Bhuvneshwar Kumar's eight-wicket match haul (8/96) against Sri Lanka on a lively Eden Gardens pitch could serve as a warning to India's away opponents in 2018 — South Africa, England, Australia and New Zealand. Along with Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav, India possess a potent medium-pace battery capable of testing the best in the business, and more so in conditions which offer some movement. Bhuvneshwar's spell in Kolkata helped India almost pull off a win after a batting failure got the hosts into a hole. Since his debut in 2012 against Pakistan in T20, Bhuvneshwar's speed ranged between 130-135 kmph, giving him full control on his line and length. Like former South African skipper and pacer Shaun Pollock, Bhuvneshwar too bowls from middle of the crease and slight variations of his bowling arm in the follow through help him to move the ball both ways. Prodigious swing, clever use of the crease and the decision to bowl within himself made Bhuvneshwar stand out. Though he is much stronger now and can consistently clock over 140kmph, Bhuvneshwar's new gained wisdom to opt for control has seen him become India's leading pacer since 2016. Till the end of 2014, Bhuvneshwar played 11 Tests picking 28 wickets at 30.25, took 44 wickets in 42 ODIs at 36.59 and picked 11 wickets in nine T20s at 17.59. After India's tour of England in 2014, where he took 19 wickets in five Tests, it seemed Bhuvneshwar has ended India's search for the third pacer. But then came the slump in 2015. His focus had shifted to working on fitness and going for pace. It did not work. He played just one Test against Australia and had one wicket to show for. An ankle injury kept him out of action till June. In ODIs too, 2015 was a nightmare. He played just 13 ODIs taking 15 wickets. The South Africa ODI series in India proved to be his worst. He conceded 106 runs in Mumbai, 68 in Chennai, 65 in Rajkot and 67 in Kanpur. His pitch map showed deliveries sprayed all over and his focus on bowling over 140 meant less control and very little swing. Bhuvneshwar agreed that his basics had gone wrong. "In that series, I didn't go for speed but I bowled badly. I couldn't swing the ball and it was a bad series. But it wasn't that I stopped swinging the ball because of speed. I realised I needed to go back to basics and get my swing back. I don't need to bowl over 140 as long as I can swing the ball," Bhuvneshwar had told HT in May 2016 after becoming the best bowler in IPL taking 24 wickets in Sunrisers run to the title. The West Indies tour in August, 2016 was a proof that Bhuvneshwar had regained his mojo. He took six wickets on a bouncy track in Gross Islet. Playing at home, India have preferred Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav in Tests on tracks where spinners have dominated the show. But Bhuvneshwar's fifer at Colombo and his three-wicket hauls against Australia and New Zealand in Kolkata and Pune have brought him back. Since 2016, Bhuvneshwar has taken 24 wickets in seven Tests including eight in the last one in Kolkata where pacers ruled the show on a greenish top.

## Ashes 2017-18: Jake Ball included as fourth pacer, Craig Overton out

BRISBANE: England pacerman Jake Ball has beaten out Craig Overton to be the touring side's fourth seamer in the series-opening Ashes test against Australia starting in Brisbane on Thursday.

Ball will be thrown into the Gabba cauldron in just his fourth test after recovering from a sprained ankle that saw him scratched from the tour match in Adelaide and rested for the final warm-up in Townsville last week, where Overton bowled.

Ball joins front-line quicks James Anderson and Stuart Broad at the Gabba, along with pace-bowling all-rounder Chris Woakes.

"It wasn't an easy decision. Craig



has come into the squad and everything asked of him he's done really well," Root, who declined to name the side earlier at his pre-match media conference on Wednesday, later said in a statement. "All the players on their first tour have impressed and it's great that the whole squad seems to be performing. Jake has bowled well when

he's had his opportunity on the tour and the way he goes about things on these surfaces could be really challenging for the Australians."

Team: Joe Root (captain), Moeen Ali, James Anderson, Jonny Bairstow, Jake Ball, Stuart Broad, Alastair Cook, Dawid Malan, Mark Stoneman, James Vince, Chris Woakes.

## Ashes 2017-18: Glenn Maxwell included as cover for David Warner



BRISBANE: Glenn Maxwell has been called into Australia's Ashes squad as cover for vice-captain David Warner, but Steve Smith's side remain confident the big-hitting batsman will take on England in the first Test.

Warner hurt his neck on Tuesday and the star opener showed some signs of discomfort during a 30-minute session in the nets at the Gabba on Wednesday.

Australia captain Smith fronted the media in Brisbane afterwards and revealed selectors were considering a replacement player if War-

ner was unable to prove his fitness before day one on Thursday. Smith and Cricket Australia's hierarchy believe Warner will face England but they have opted to bring in Maxwell as a precaution.

Maxwell was in contention to claim the number six role in Australia's batting line-up, but the entertaining Victorian lost out to surprise inclusion Shaun Marsh.

The 29-year-old has played seven Tests for Australia, scoring a century and 339 runs at an average of 26.07.

## Top BCCI officials meet sports minister to discuss NADA, series with Pakistan

NEW DELHI: At loggerheads with the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) on the testing of Indian cricketers, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Wednesday discussed the matter with Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore and also sought the government's view on playing arch-foes Pakistan in the planned ICC Test Championship. NADA wants to bring Indian cricketers in its net but the cricket board has rejected the demand. BCCI has insisted that it is a WADA-compliant organisation so there was no need for it come under NADA's supervision. The BCCI has its Special General Meeting (SGM) scheduled for December 9, where the NADA issue has now been added to the agenda after the meeting with Rathore. BCCI CEO Rahul Johri and General Manager (Administration and Game Development) Prof. Ratnakar Shetty, who is well-versed with the BCCI's anti-doping policy, met Rathore at his office for about 45 minutes. "The topic of discussion today was about NADA and WADA. During yesterday's meeting, it was decided that Rahul will be accompanied by Prof Shetty as he is aware about the anti-doping policy

of BCCI. There were some other operational topics discussed but main was anti doping policy," a BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity. The ministry's view, which is not yet clear, will now be conveyed to officials and also discussed at the SGM. When CK Khanna, the acting BCCI President, was contacted, he confirmed that anti-doping policy has been added to the agenda. Another BCCI official said, "This meeting was a courtesy call and was planned long ago. Since Rathore took charge, they wanted to meet him. All issues, including cricketing ties with Pakistan, was discussed." "Anyway, playing Pakistan or not, it is not only the decision of Sports Ministry but it lies mainly with PMO and the Home Ministry," the official said. Also discussed was the contentious issue of playing Pakistan. India has not played any bilateral series with Pakistan since the limited overs series featuring two T20Is and three ODIs in India in 2012-13. The Twenty20 series was drawn and Pakistan won the ODIs 2-1. As per the ICC Future Tours Program, each of its member countries are bound to play against each other at least once and if India do not play with Pakistan, they would lose points.