

TIME AND US

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WEDNESDAY

- NOVEMBER, 29, 2017
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WEATHER TEMPERATURE			SUNSET WEDNESDAY: 05:23 PM
STATION	MAX TEMPERATURE	MIN TEMPERATURE	SUNRISE THURSDAY: 07:18 AM
	ACT	ACT	
SRINAGAR	11.2	-1.9	LOCAL FORECAST OF SRINAGAR Generally Cloudy sky. Maximum & Minimum temperatures will be around 13°C & 0°C respectively.
JAMMU	24.2	9.1	
LEH	5.4	-7.3	
KARGIL	6.3	-6.4	

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RAVICHANDRAN ASHWIN IS CURRENTLY THE BEST SPINNER IN THE WORLD: MUTTIAH



CM talks to home secretary over assault of Kashmiri prisoners in Tihar

Srinagar, Nov 28 (KNS): Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti Tuesday spoke to Union Home Secretary and expressed her concern over the alleged harassment and manhandling of some Kashmiri inmates at New Delhi's Tihar jail.

According to state Information department, Mehbooba took a serious view of these reports, and asked Union Home Secretary, Rajiv Gauba to intervene in the matter. "A prison is considered to be the safest place but the

Sharma meets 27 delegations in restive Anantnag

People seek return of power projects, development of JK

Srinagar, Nov 28: At least 27 delegations Tuesday called on the Government of India's representative, Dineshwar Sharma, to continue the process of sustained dialogue in Anantnag to carry out sustained dialogue process.

Sharma started meeting delegations in the morning and was busy meeting them till late evening.

Sources said that the delegations which met Sharma sought return of hydro power projects from NHPC, lack of good governance and daily issues of development.

Official sources said that the delegations which called on Sharma included Anantnag Youth Forum, BJP, Indian national Congress, Youth Services and Sports, Youth from Kehribal Rambirpora, Civil Society, students and different little known activists of the district.

The authorities had made strict security arrangements for the meetings at Dak Banglow throughout the day.

Sofi Arafat, Sajad Ahmad and Umar Nisar of 'Be The Change' group who met Sharma urged him that dialogue must be institutionalized for peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue.

Official sources said the delegations raised the issues of return of power projects from NHPC, peaceful resolution of Kashmir issue and lack of good governance in the state.



Sharma is on the second leg of his visit to the state which began from Jammu, Pulwama visit on Sunday.

After its hard stance on Kashmir, BJP government on October 23 announced

to carry sustained dialogue on Kashmir through Sharma by talking to all stakeholders to understand legitimate aspirations of people in Jammu and Kashmir.

However, till now, major stakeholder, Hurriyat, has rejected the process, while prominent trade bodies of the

Entire Kashmir to be electrified soon: PDD

JK to procure 10 lakh electricity metres

Srinagar, Nov 28: The Power Development Department is going to procure 10 lakh electricity metres to ensure 100 percent metering in Jammu and Kashmir in the coming years.

An official of the PDD said that the government of India will provide funds for procurement of 10 lakh metres for the state. "Process has already begun in this regard," the official said.

The official said that the new metres will be of better quality and will replace the old ones.

The official said there were complaints that the old metres developed defects within months after installation and at several places had come obsolete.

Chief Engineer, PDD, Shehnaz Goni, said that 10 lakh metres will be for the entire state. "These metres will also be installed in Kashmir so that people use electricity judiciously," she said.

The Chief Engineer said there were some villages which are yet to be electrified. "We are making efforts to ensure that these villages in Gurez, Machil and Keran get electrified very soon. Presently we provide them electricity through diesel generators from three to six hours in a day," she told KNS.

Ghulam Mohammad, a resident of Pampore, said the meter that the PDD had installed in 2012 has not been working for the last few years. "We asked the PDD officials many times to replace the poor quality meter but nothing happened so far," he said.

The PDD has been facing hurdles in installing metres in several areas due to public resentment resulting in missed several deadlines of 100 percent metering.

The PDD officials said the department had envisaged to meter to all its consumers by the end of the 2019.

The official said that PDD has projected installation of 1147723 metres from 2015 to 2019 in domestic and non-domestic categories of which 202374 have been installed during 2015-2016 and had projected 252537 meters in 2016-2017 but could not achieve the target due to unrest in the valley.

"The metering process has been slow due to situation in the state and due to resource constraints," the official added.



Apathy: RETIRED EMPLOYEES STILL HOLD OFFICE IN JK CEMENTS

Srinagar, Nov 27: Due to mismanagement in Jammu and Kashmir Cements Limited, the superiors are not only giving legal extensions to retired employees but they don't also bother to put the Corporation on tracks which has been suffering huge losses for last four years while according to reliable sources the liabilities of the Corporation has gone up to Rs 150 crore.

The men who are at the helm of affairs in Jammu Kashmir Cements Limited have been extending the services of blue eyed retired employees. These measures have complicated the situation and according to disgruntled

Govt amends recruitment rules for LMD Gazetted services

New rules will strengthen the Department: Zulfkar

Jammu, Nov 18: Government has notified fresh Service Recruitment Rules for Gazetted services in Legal Metrology Department by replacing J&K Legal Metrology (Gazetted) Service Recruitment Rules, 2005.

In this regard, the government has issued SRO 466 notifying J&K Legal Metrology (Gazetted) Service Recruitment Rules, 2017 in which



substantive service in that recognized University while

two criteria have been mentioned for recruitment for the post of Assistant Controller.

For the Assistant Controller, there will be 50% direct recruitment and during probation period of one year, a candidate has to successfully undergo basic trainings course from the institute established by the Government of India for the purpose.

IS KASHMIR BECOMING A PARADISE FOR NON-LOCAL BEGGARS?

Admin clueless over their huge influx

Srinagar, Nov 28: Kashmir valley, popularly known as paradise on earth for its breathtaking beauty, is fast turning into a "beggars paradise".

The increasing number of non-local beggars - who are mostly found indulging in drug abuse and pick pocketing has not only become a matter of concern for the people.

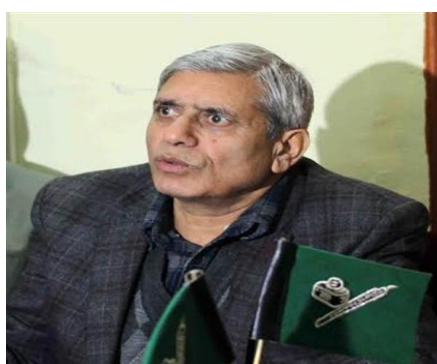
These non-local beggars could be seen at various important places in the city, especially in commercial hub, Lal Chowk, Dal-Gate and along the boulevard stretch, Jehangir Chowk and other areas.

"We don't have any exact official record about the

Industrial sector getting renewed focus for growth, employment generation: Bhat

'Govt taking tangible steps to address unemployment problem'

Jammu, Nov 28: Jammu and Kashmir Government is taking tangible steps to address problem of unemployment in the state with renewed focus on Industrial growth. Vice Chairman Handloom and Handicrafts Corporations, Nizam-ud-Din Bhat said in the process the small-scale Industries will get a further push as sustained effort is being made for its added viability. He said employability of local art and craft is an acknowledged fact and government is aware of its importance. He said State's Finance Minister is involved in a serious exercise reviewing the absorption of available finances and looking into possibilities of more support from Government.



He said recent measures taken by the

BARAMULLA POLICE RECOVERS KIDNAPPED MINOR GIRL FROM PUNJAB

Kidnapper, abettor arrested

Srinagar, Nov 28: Baramulla police recovered a kidnapped minor girl from Punjab and arrested two persons involved in the crime.

Police Station Kunzar received a complaint from Javed Ahmed Shah resident of Batpora Kunzer to the effect that his niece (name withheld) was kidnapped by one Arjun Singh resident of Punjab on 18th of this month. On receiving the complaint, a case FIR number 97/17 under section 363 was registered in the police station Kunzar and investigation was set into motion.

During the course of investigation it came to fore that

Performance not seniority should be yard stick for promoting teachers: Er Rasheed

Welcomes Govt's interest to improve quality education

Srinagar, Nov 28: Appreciating Govt's concern to improve quality education in Govt. schools, AIP Supremo and MLA Langate Er. Rasheed has said that recent directives passed by education department seeking action against teachers who performed below standard is a welcome step.

"However the proposal to post the teachers showing poor performance to remote areas like Keran, Karnah and Machil has exposed the truth that Govt. has never been sincere to the people of remote areas," Er. Rasheed said in a statement issued to KNS.

Er. Rasheed said "Transferring dull performing teachers to remote areas and project-



ing the decision as a punishment to them is ample proof to realize that Govt. does not want good teachers to post in these remote

SCHOOL WITH TWO BUILDINGS AND TWO STUDENTS IN NORTH KASHMIR

'Teacher's absence means closure of school'

Langate, Nov 28: In a bizarre incident, two little kids enrolled by their parents in a school were seen waiting outside their school on Tuesday that was locked due to absence of lone teacher deputed by Education Department.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Primary School located at Takiapora Zone Langate in North Kashmir has two buildings on which lakhs of rupees have been spent. "There are only two students enrolled in this school while a single teacher has been deputed by Zonal Education Officer to teach these two kids. The school remains closed in absence of the deputed teacher. Today both these little kids waited

Don't violate your own SC guidelines, Shift Kashmiri prisoners to Kashmir, JRL to India

Srinagar, Nov 28: Joint Resistance Leadership comprising Syed Ali Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Muhammad Yasin Malik expressed serious concern over the plight of hundreds of Kashmiri prisoners lodged in Tihar and various jails in and outside the state stating that jail authorities are badly treating all these prisoners in complete violation of jail manual.

Expressing serious concern over the reports of thrash-



ing prisoners in Tihar jail, the joint leadership said that the ghastly act has put the lives of all Kashmiri political pris-

oners in risk.

Appealing international organizations including United Nations Human Rights Commission Asia watch and Amnesty International for their cognizance, the leadership stressed to take notice of the inhuman and hostile treatment meted out to detainees lodged in Tihar jail. The leadership sought help from international agencies and asked to provide suitable treatment to those injured

SHUTDOWN IN RAJPORA AGAINST ARMY 'ASSAULT' ON LOCALS

Pulwama, Nov 28: A complete shutdown was observed in Rajpora area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Tuesday.

The shutdown was observed against the alleged army assault on locals.

All the shops and business establishments are shut while agitated youth pelted stones on Jammu Kashmir Bank branch forcing it to close the business.

According to locals, on Sunday, when Indian interlocutor Dineshwar Sharma was busy interacting with different delegations, a group of army soldiers appeared in Rajpora and thrashed people irrespective of their

Naeem for ensuring adequate passenger-safety measures on highways, roads

Reviews developmental scenario in Chenab Valley; Stresses on timely completion of connectivity projects

DODA, NOVEMBER 28: Expressing concern over loss of precious lives in road accidents, Minister for Public Works, Naeem Akhtar today directed the engineers to install crash barriers along the National Highway and other roads in district Doda to ensure safety of passengers.

"These roads have become death trap due to lack of adequate safety measures," the Minister said, adding that special thrust should be given on putting in place adequate safety measures for passengers while constructing roads.

The Minister issued these instructions while chairing a meeting here to review progress of road and bridge projects in Chenab Valley.

MLA Doda Shakti Raj Parihar, MLA Bhaderwah Daleep Parihar, MLC Firdous Tak, Chief Engineer, PWD (R&B) Sudheer Shah, Deputy Commissioner, Doda Bhawani Rakwal, Superintendent Engineer, PWD (R&B) Circle Doda Niaz Bandy, engineers of PWD (R&B) and senior offices of other concerned departments were present in the meeting.

The meeting was informed that a road length of 27.05 km, 11.95 km and 15.70 km have been upgraded in Doda, Bhaderwah and Gandoh respectively while as the work on Nagri to Ghat, Doda to Beoli, Khellani to Old Doda Bridge, Gandoh to Jai, Jakyas to Chhillipani and Beoli to Lal Draman are going on in full swing. The Minister directed the officers to prepare DPR for Thathri to Kilotharian road which is the lifeline of people living in Bhallessa.

The DC informed the Minister that the road projects are delayed due to



shortage of crushers and hot mix plants in Doda. Two new mobile hot mix plants have been setup here for a specified period of time that have provided some pace to the road projects, he added.

He further informed that the construction work of prestigious Ganpath Bridge and Batote to Kishtwar road has been completed while as the work on steel girder bridge over river Chenab at Shiva Dal will be completed by the end of this financial year. The restoration work of Doda-Batote National Highway-244 and construction work of motorable bridges over Neelu Nallah at Khulsari and Dherja Bhaderwah have been started. The first floor of Govt. Degree College, Gandoh will be completed by March, 2018 and would be made suitable for starting the academic process, he added.

The Minister directed the engineers to start work on road projects under CRF in Doda and Bhaderwah within a week's time and complete them within the specified deadlines. The road infrastructure should be improved in Doda to boost the development activities and increasing livelihood opportunities for the common mass-

es, he stressed.

The Minister was also informed about the status of other development projects including District Hospital in Doda, Sub-District Hospitals in Bhaderwah and Gandoh, PHCs in Bhella, Barath and Gundnah, New Medical College, Doda, Multipurpose Indoor Hall and Sports Stadium in Doda and Polytechnic College Boeli. The Minister asked the concerned agencies to expedite these development projects for the welfare of the people of Doda.

The Minister directed the officers of Agriculture Department to promote organic farming especially walnut, sweet corn and olive and involve local youth in marketing and processing of these products.

The officers of agriculture department informed that they have distributed Rabi seeds among the farmers and awareness camps under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana have been organized at both Panchayat and block level.

The Minister asked the Deputy Commissioner to identify students who can be sent on educational tour to Srinagar so that they know about the different techniques involved in

agriculture and horticulture sector.

During his tour to Doda, the Minister also interacted with the locals at Batote and listened to their demands. The Minister informed them that the government will look into the issues raised by them.

The Minister assured them that he would discuss the prospect of declaring Batote as Tourist Village with the Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti for promoting tourism activities in the area and providing opportunities to the people to earn their livelihood.

He stressed on creating way side amenities on both sides of the road and asked the people to start the business of homestays which will enhance their income and will also boost the tourist influx in the area.

The people demanded the construction of approach road to Kendriya Vidyalaya, Batote while as the locals at Assar asked for construction of 7 km long road from Banjar Morh to Shanti and link road to PHC, Assar. Reacting to their demands, the Minister directed the engineers to complete the requisite formalities and remove hiccups, if any, and start construction work as soon as possible.

"EK BHARAT SHRESHTHA BHARAT" TO STRENGTHEN BOND OF UNITY: PRIYA SETHI

Cultural exchanges must for showcasing rich heritage of different States

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 28: Minister of State for Education, Culture and Tourism Priya Sethi today called for strengthening the bonds of unity and spirit of nationalism, maintaining that every citizen must rejoice the diverse characteristic of India which is the unique identification and strength of this great democratic nation in the world.

Speaking at the Cultural session organized for the students of Tamil Nadu under "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" programme at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra today, the Minister said that the idea of a cultural exchange between different states is aimed at to create mutual understanding amidst a shared history that will form a special unity in diversity among them.

Under the programme, every State and UT in the country would be paired with another State/UT for a year, during which they would carry out a structured engagement with one another in the spheres of language, literature, cuisine, festivals, cultural events, tourism etc. The Jammu and Kashmir is partnered with Tamil Nadu for this year's cultural exchange programme.

Vice Chancellor SMVDU, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Additional CEO, SMVDSB, Dr. M K Kumar, Registrar SMVDU, V.K Bhat, Dean of Students, Dr. Yugal Khajuria, besides other faculty members and students were present on the occasion.

The Minister said that the government is committed to carry forward the missionary programme of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" with enthusiasm which was mooted by him during the Rashtriya Ekta Divas held on 31st October, 2015 in connection with the commemoration of the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. She said the Jammu & Kashmir is a perfect bouquet of diverse tradition and

culture and programmes like this will showcase the rich heritage, culture, customs and traditions of the State.

Priya said that J&K and Tamil Nadu have immensely contributed for the development and progress of the country. She said Tamil Nadu is Asia's oldest civilization; whereas J&K has a rich cultural heritage value of old civilization. One has given India Kancheepuram Silk and other Pashmina and Silk. Jammu is blessed by Vaishno Devi and Tamil Nadu has the blessings of Meenakshi temple, she added.

The Minister said that the cultural department headed by Chief Minister has initiated various programmes to showcase the beauty of diversity of the state to the world. Referring to heritage week celebrated recently, she said that about 40,000 students all over the state participated to know about their own culture and glorious history and through such programmes, they will be able to know about other states too. She asked the students of Tamil Nadu to visit the heritages sites, religious and other places of historical importance to know more about J&K's magnificent history and sharing their experiences with others in their State. She lauded the efforts of Vice Chancellor for supporting the programme appropriately and making the visit of the students a memorable one.

Folk singer from J&K Asha kesar who is popularly known for her traditional Bhakh singing enthralled the audiences through her mesmerizing performance. She was supported by Rakesh Mesih, Rajiv kumar, Girdhari Lal, Sonika Jamwal and Sudesh Manhas.

Later, the Minister also visited the newly constructed Basohli Boys Hostel at SMVDU and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing and took stock of the infrastructure and facilities being provided to the students.

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CM

alleged incidents that have come to light put a question mark on it," she said.

The Union Home Secretary assured the Chief Minister of a thorough probe into the incident and punishing the culprits for having violated the jail manual.

The photographs of several injured under trials was circulated by the on social media that read some Kashmiri inmates were beaten in the jail.

SHARMA

valley have stayed away from meeting him.

Earlier, he visited the state and met nearly 100 delegations, political, apolitical and civil society groups.

PDD

A report submitted by the Abraham Committee headed by P Abraham in 2011 had slammed the Power Development Department of JK that it had not made "any serious effort to reduce the loss levels".

The committee had found that T&D losses were due to lack of up gradation of old lines and equipments, poor repair and maintenance of equipments, non-installation of sufficient capacitors, theft and pilferage, tampering of meters, and low accountability of employees.

As per the official figures, the Jammu and Kashmir has over 50 percent transmission and distribution losses, while the national average is around 30 percent.

RETIRED

employees, the Corporation has been going from bad to worse.

"We fail to understand why the formal order issued by Industries and Commerce Department was violated and illegal extensions were given to blue-eyed employees," said a group of employees from JK Cements Limited to news agency CNS.

Latest reports said that illegal extension was given recently to two retired employees Qaiser Wani and Sushil Hakroo.

General Manager Qaiser Wani is still performing his duties despite attaining superannuation in October last month. "No, his service has not been extended and yet he is enjoying the same powers illegally and even

put signatures as General Manager on various documents. Despite clear orders from the Industries department that he should not exercise financial powers, he is right now enjoying the same.

A formal government order vide number. IND/JKCL/12/2010 dated 22-07-2014 of Industries Department reads: "Q A Wani, FA/CAO should not be given any responsibility which entails exercise of Financial Powers since he as Manager Finance has acted carelessly and released on account payment without following due procedure i.e. having failed to obtain the approval of Managing Director."

Retired as Personal Secretary to Managing Director J&K Cements Ltd early this year, another employee Sushil Hakroo is still enjoying the same powers without any extension.

Sources said that son of a former Manager Finance Sandeep Razdan has also been given illegal extension.

The concerned officials declined to comment on the issue.

ZULFKAR

Similarly, Assistant Controller will be recruited in the Department 50% by promotion from amongst the members of Class-I (Executive) of Jammu and Kashmir Legal Metrology (Subordinate) Service having not less than five-year substantive service in that class and having passed the Basic Training Course from the Institute established by the Government of India for the purpose.

Following notification, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali said after assuming the charge of the Department, he was trying hard to amend the rules according to the present need and now Government has issued fresh rules replacing 12 years old rules. He said that new rules will strengthen the Department in better way.

BEGGARS

number of non-locals. There has been no exercise on their survey," an official at Divisional Commissioner's office told KNS. Most of these beggars belong to the states of Bihar, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. "They won't let you go, until you pay them. Now they don't take a one rupee note. Even they chase you," pedestrians who often face these beggars say. Most of these beggars are teenagers and children who wander on the streets both naked and half-naked.

"There is no doubt that the social crimes are increasing here. From last one-and-a-half month some cases of kidnapping, murder, trafficking and disappearances have been reported," a senior police officer said.

"They make a good amount of money here in the summer season. But we are now concerned over their huge presence. They bring diseases here as well. Our society is at the risk of communicable diseases. Government has to act swiftly before it is too late," says Ghulam Muhammad Chapri, a shopkeeper at Lal Chowk.

There are also reports that these non-local beggars after the sunset indulge in illegal practices and other drug abuses.

"During late evenings, flocks of drunkards comprising mostly non-local beggars flock at the Bund area and Lal Chowk," said the locals.

BHAT

government include making silk, Handloom, Handicraft and joinery items a focused component of Industrial policy, has earned appreciation from the public and private sector. "There is an increased engagement witnessed at grass-root with private dealers getting involved in planning and promotion of the local trade and commerce," he added.

Bhat said chambers of Commerce and Industries from Jammu and Kashmir valley and organization like PHD camber of the state have a vital role to play in encouraging the promotion of art and craft and in generating interest among the youth to be beneficiaries of skills and tradition.

Bhat said along with government the trade unions and associations can change the discourse by allowing youth to Industrial sector for growth, employment and social empowerment, a positive trend is witnessed in this direction.

VC said scores of youth have already shown the way in Horticulture and Tourism sectors who availed incentives and innovative technologies to be partners in economic empowerment. "As new techniques or production and quality are revolutionizing areas like horticulture, floriculture, agriculture and sericulture, there is a greater allurements for involvement. Several entrepreneurs have raised the assets, enhanced their prestige and are becoming contributors to overall development hick is a healthy sign," he said.

Bhat said that like in Horticulture, floriculture and Tourism activity in public and private sectors Handloom and

Handicraft sectors are getting due attention. Things will further improve to attract business for the state in these sectors he hoped.

He said once all these productive sectors are made more viable, the opportunities for employment and added growth will become increasingly visible and potential for skill development will be channeled in right direction.

Bhat invited youth of the state to make use of their experiences, talent and energy by availing avenues thrown open by government and by emulating the success made in private and public sectors He said as huge opportunities lie ahead for self-reliance we have to be the rightful beneficiaries for our own good.

POLICE

the accused namely Arjun Singh son of Nirmal Singh resident of Khizarpore Mukeriyana Punjab with the help of Tasleema Begum wife of Riyaz Ahmed Mir kidnapped the girl from Batpora Kunzer.

Subsequently a police party led by ASI Abdul Rashid under the supervision of SHO Kunzar Shri Waqar Yunis was deputed to Punjab. After the strenuous and joint efforts with Punjab police, the accused was arrested and the kidnapped girl was recovered from his possession.

The kidnapped girl was later handed over to her parents after completion of medical examination and other legal formalities. It is pertinent to mention here that the abettor Tasleema Begum who happens to be the maternal aunt of kidnapped girl was booked under section 109 RPC for the abetment to offences under section 363/376 RPC.

RASHEED

areas, who otherwise deserve and require more attention than cities, towns and well connected villages. If Govt. wants education standards to improve and teachers to perform well, the promotion of teachers should be made on the basis of their performance and their posting in any case should not be seen or made like a punishment. The performance should be the only criteria to elevate teachers and their length of servicing should not be the criteria for their promotion. If Govt. truly wants bad performing teachers to take them to task, their postings should never be seen or related to their performance. By posting poor performing teachers it goes the impression that remove areas don't deserve or require good teachers". Er. Rasheed added while performance not seniority should be the yard stick for promotions for all Govt. employees, the education sector needs to be reformed on the basis of performance of teachers. However Govt. must also provide adequate staff in schools, proper facilities and excellent infrastructure before holding teachers accountable. Er. Rasheed appealed teacher community to offer their co-operation to the Govt. for improving the overall performance of teachers but added that Govt. needs to keep the education sector on top most priority to ensure that state competes to the best possible extent.

SCHOOL

for a long time outside the school and left after when the teacher didn't turn up," said a local Muhammad Ashraf.

The villagers told news agency CNS that they don't prefer enrolment of their kids in the school due to callous attitude of the Education Department.

"These two building were constructed to drain the State Exchequer. Lakhs were spent on them while no effort was made to depute teachers here. Some of the money went into the coffers of those at the helm of affairs. It remains closed

at least thrice a week. Due to lack of accountability, no official takes cognizance of the state of affairs that are messy," said another villager.

Ironically, ZEO Langate, when contacted said that it is not an issue at all. "These kids can study at home in absence of teacher in the school," he said.

JRL

in recent thrashing incident and ensure their security and safety.

JRL while referring to Supreme court ruling, demanded shifting of prisoners, saying detainees are subjected to vengeance, and despite sufficient accommodation in local jails, they are shifted to outside jails and as such their families face immense difficulties to see meeting with their wards.

They even ignore the ruling of Supreme Court regarding prisoners wherein it has clearly directed state authorities to lodge detainees adjacent to their home cities' said leadership.

Criticizing authorities for their "callous approach", JRL said: "It is extreme state sponsored oppression and their tall claims and rhetoric about humanity and democracy are mere hoax."

Thrashing incident in Tihar jail is extremely inhuman and immoral act and blaming authorities for their bigoted mindset, JRL added that these cowardice attacks are being carried on their directions, said JRL.

Resistance leaders strongly condemned the thrashing of Syed Shahid Yusuf in high security ward of Tihar jail, saying that on behalf of jail authorities, criminals are attacking and taking extreme steps against Kashmiri detainees.

They said those claiming to be the champions of democracy are violating the basic norms of humanity while treating these detainees in total violations of norms set by international community.

In their statement, JRL said that these criminals have admitted that they are carrying out the orders of jail administration and attacking and injuring Kashmiri prisoners.

Resistance leaders said that the attack on Syed Shahid Yusuf and other prisoners was carried by the jail administration, saying that the 18 accused were injured by Tamil Nadu Police, deputed in Tihar jail and added that Dr Gh Mohd Bhat, Ahtisham, Shazad Ahmad, Mohd Subhan, Ayaz Akbar, Raja Meraj u Din Kalwal, Altaf Ahmad Shah, Mohd Aslam Wani and Dr Waseem are lodged in same ward.

Resistance leaders while terming the incident as extremely brutal and callous, asked International human rights organizations to facilitate suitable treatment to those injured and ensure their security and safety.

Resistance leadership said these detainees are not criminals involved in any offence but they represent political aspiration of their nation and added that subjecting detainees to physical torture, reflects the sectarian mindset of authorities and terming it as a slur for Indian authorities, added that it won't break our resolve and will pursue freedom mission till its logical end.

SHUTDOWN

age and gender.

"Army soldiers thrashed people including shopkeepers without any reason. Two shopkeepers identified as Mudasir Ahmed Wani and Muhammad Asif Wani suffered critical injuries. They were taken to District Hospital Pulwama where Doctors referred them to Bones and Joint Hospital Srinagar," said locals.

Station House Officer Rajpora, Nisar Ahmed said that they have been investigating the matter as locals are claiming that they were beaten up by some army soldiers.

Veeri reviews progress on Rs 1500 cr World Bank funded JTFR project

Emphasizes strong mechanism to ensure prompt response during emergency situations

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 28 – Minister for Revenue, Disaster Management, Relief Rehabilitation & Reconstruction and Parliamentary Affairs, Abdul Rehman Veeri today convened a high-level meeting to review the progress on implementation of Rs 1500 crore Jhelum-Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP), here today.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce Shailendra Kumar, Secretary DMRRR department Shafiq Raina, Director General Police (SDRF) Dilbagh Singh, Development Commissioner Works Bimal Tickoo, General Manager JKPCCHar Kewal Singh, Director Finance M Y Pandit, Director Disaster Management Aamir Ali, Director P&C Iftikhar Ahmad Hakim and other concerned officers. Taking note of the progress made in the project, the Minister asked all concerned to strictly follow deadlines to expedite work on

this prestigious project besides directing for initiating all related works by December end. He also sought details of ongoing works under this project.

The meeting was briefed about project's progress and about the issues hampering the pace of the project. The Minister also took indepth review of various sub-projects being executed under the Jhelum - Tawi Flood Recovery Project. While giving details of the works to be carried out by Industries department, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce apprised the Minister that works at Bemina Woolen Mills, Silk Factory Srinagar and Bagh-e-Ali Mardan Khan would be commenced by December end. He also said that the construction work of Craft Development Institute Srinagar (CDI) will also be initiated soon and simultaneously required machinery to be installed at the Institute would be procured in con-

sultation with experts.

Veeri asked the Industries department to generate data based information of all artisans registered with the government so that they can benefit from various welfare schemes.

Deliberations were also held on setting up of International Trade Centre (ITC) and Kashmir Haat-II in Pampore. It was informed that land for both the projects have been identified and required formalities will be completed at the earliest. It was also decided in the meeting that existing Common Facility Centre (CFC) at Sethar in Bijbehara and Cricket Bat Manufacturing Centre would be renovated which were damaged due to floods in the valley.

Directing the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) for expediting the works under the project, the Minister asked to initiate all the works by December end. He directed the SMC to pre-



pare DPRs for 76 new projects and complete all the necessary formalities for starting the works on same. Reviewing the status of R&B works taken up under the JTFRP, the Minister was informed that the Terms of Reference (TOR) have been approved by the World Bank and soon a team comprising of experts would be visiting the state after which the tender will be floated through e-tendering process. With regard to upgradation of infrastructure in government schools,

the Minister directed the concerned officers to create class rooms for Higher Secondary Schools to provide additional accommodation to the students. It was further informed that out of total 460 R&B works, 300 are being executed in Kashmir and 160 to be taken up in Jammu division. While reviewing the works of JKPCCH, it was informed that out of 5 road projects, work on 2 is in progress besides taking up the construction work of a bridge.

The Minister also directed them

to expedite the work on construction of additional building at LD Hospital. Discussing the progress on Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) at Gogo Land in Srinagar, the Minister directed the JKPCCH to widen the existing approach road leading to EOC for its better utilization during emergency.

DGP, SDRF, while giving out the details of the measures taken to meet any eventuality, informed that process of buying boats is under process and a good number

of boats have been received by SDRF. Other necessary equipments required are being procured in a phased manner. "This project provides an opportunity to rebuild or upgrade the required infrastructure to increase disaster resilience in the affected districts including Srinagar and to prepare for responding effectively during any emergency situation during floods, earthquake or any kind of natural disaster", the Minister said. Veeri, while directing the concerned officers for close monitoring of the works, asked them to ensure clearing of all related formalities including preparation of DPRs, tendering process and others in a speedy manner for effective implementation of the project. He said this prestigious project needs to be completed at the earliest so that the people of the state would be benefited and a strong mechanism would be put in place to respond during emergency situations.

Ramesh Arora chairs DRSC meeting

Reviews functioning of PDD

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 28: A meeting of the Department Related Standing Committee (DRSC-IV) of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Council was held here today under the Chairmanship of MLC, Ramesh Arora to review the functioning of Power Development Department (PDD).

Legislators, Rani Gargi Blowria, Saif-ud-Din Bhat and Vibod Gupta attended the meeting and gave their valuable suggestions to further improve the functioning of PDD.

Detailed discussion was held on regularization of 400 Daily Wagers working in the State Power Development Corporation and the Chairman of the Committee asked the concerned to take steps for speedy regularization of these workers.

Giving details about the process of regularization of these Daily Wagers, the Managing Director, SPDC Shah Faisal said that this matter has already been taken up with the Finance Department.

While taking stock of ongoing power projects in the State, it was informed in the meeting that the construction work on all projects is apace and the directions have

already been given to the Executing Agencies to expedite the work for timely completion.

It was also informed in the meeting that about 75 Lakh LEDs have been distributed among the consumers of the State. It was also informed that 53 percent metering of house hold consumers has been done in Jammu region, so far.

Taking stock of the measures being taken up to cover left out un-electrified habitations, it was informed in the meeting that during the survey it was found that 108 villages have been identified without power supply in the State which will be covered soon. The panel asked the concerned to ensure adequate power supply to all besides utilizing the funds judiciously.

Among others the meeting were attended by Commissioner Secretary, PDD, Hirdesh Kumar, Development Commissioner Power, SPDD, Asgar Ali Majaz, Chief Engineer (S&O), Kashmir, Director Finance PDD, Director Planning PDD, Special Secretary Legislative Council and other senior officers Council Secretariat besides concerned officers of PDD department.

Minister expresses dismay over sluggish performance under IWMP in Jammu

Abdul Haq calls for regular performance-check of field officers

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 28: Expressing dismay over poor performance in the implementation of IWMP works, Minister for Rural Development Panchayati Raj, Abdul Haq Khan on Tuesday took serious note of the less important works taken up under the program. While reviewing the progress of IWMP works in Jammu division, Minister observed that many works have been taken up or completed that are either not mandated under the program or are not so important works. Minister also ordered initiation of action against the non-performing officers. Abdul Haq said aim of IWMP is to save every drop of water that falls on earth and increase the availability of surface water & groundwater. He said under the program, only those works that can fulfil the aim of the program need to be executed on ground. He said in IWMP, we treat land to increase water table and convert barren land into cultivable land. He said the department will make short term missions to reach

to the larger goal and hence the works will be prioritized according to needs. He said there is huge capacity of building irrigation dams in mountainous terrains of the state which can be used to tap flowing water and channelized for irrigation as well as drinking purpose. He said for the purpose government has appointed experts in every district who can suggest the works to be executed for conservation of water in that particular area. He said the existence of the program serves no purpose if similar works are being executed which are being executed by other departments including under MGNREGA.

The ministers said the IWMP should not be confused with MGNREGA as the aim of MGNREGA is to provide jobs while the primary purpose of IWMP is to conserve soil and water and directed the officials to make use of scheme effectively so that water is conserved for present as well as future generation. He said like other schemes, we can't expect immediate results in

IWMP but it will benefit the public in long run and our next generation benefit from it.

While calling for performance check of the field staff and experts, Minister said action will be taken against non-performing officials and he will not hesitate in terminating the services of such officials.

Minister directed the officers of the department to take regular reviews of the works and also visit the spots regularly to review the works on ground. He said IWMP works should benefit the society as a whole and not an individual. While calling for officers to change the style of working, Minister said he will again review the works on ground after a month and will personally visit the districts to inspect the works being executed under IWMP. He said the young talent posted in the IWMP should be innovative while planning works in their respective areas so that the works benefit the society as a whole and fulfils the mandate of the Program.

Minister said whatever the work may be, the officers and field staff should work religiously and maintain high standards of work so that the future generations remember our contribution. He said it is the duty of this generation to conserve natural resources including water so that our next generation doesn't suffer owing to our wrong doings.

Minister asked the officials to lay stress on water conservation by constructing water harvesting tanks and small dams in upper belts of villages to tap water for future use besides construction of check dams and percolation tanks. He said aim of IWMP is to save every drop of water that falls on earth and coordinated efforts are needed to forward in its mission. He said in convergence mode with various other department consolidation of works can be done hence avoiding repetition of works as the similar works are done under MGNREGA, Irrigation, IWMP and Agriculture Department.

GOVT MULLING TO SET UP MEDICAL UNIVERSITY IN JK: BALI BHAGAT

Constitutes 4-member Committee to suggest modalities

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 28 – In order to cater to the growing demands of large number of government and private medical colleges, including dental, AYUSH, para-medical and physiotherapy institutions across the State, Government is mulling to establish an independent Medical University in Jammu and Kashmir. Presently there are more than two dozens of medical institutions, including nursing and para-medical colleges/schools in the State which affiliated to the Kashmir and Jammu universities and many more are coming up. These institutions are confronted with multiple issues related to their academic activities viz-aviz admissions, counselling, timely conduct of exams, results and other allied issues in absence of exclusive Medical University in the State. The two

main universities in the State viz; Kashmir and Jammu are catering to the needs of thousands of students from all three regions of the State as also the medical colleges are affiliated with them and thus overburdened with the multiple workloads. To explore the possibility of establishing an independent medical university in the State, Minister for Health & Medical Education, Bali Bhagat today convened a high-level preliminary meeting of officers in his office chamber and discussed the feasibility and modalities related to this ambitious move. A detailed discussion was held on the issues related to the need and establishment of an exclusive medical university in the State. As a preliminary move, the Minister constituted a 4-member Committee to be headed by Additional Secretary

Health & Medical Education with representatives from Jammu University, Medical and Dental Colleges which would suggest ways and means for setting up this vital institution after detailed study of modalities and viability. Principal Secretary Health & Medical Education, Pawan Kotwal, Principal Dental College, Jammu, Dr. Romesh Singh, officiating Principal and HoD Pathology GMC, Jammu, Dr. K.K. Koul, Registrar Academics, GMC, Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Directors Health Services, Kashmir/Jammu, Dr. Saleem-ur-Rehman and Dr. Gurjeet Singh Soodan, Director Finance, H&ME, Mohammad Rafiq, Additional Secretary H&ME, Naseer Ahmed Wani, Additional Secretary Health, K.S. Chib and Joint Director Planning, Madan Lal were present in the meeting.

Asiae Naqash for creating friendly environment for specially-abled

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 27- Minister of State for H&UD, Health and Medical Education and Social Welfare, Asiae Naqash on Tuesday said that government is committed to make an inclusive environment for differently able people so that they can work normally in the society and live a dignified life with respect and honour.

The Minister said this while speaking in a day long programme at Abhinav Theatre Jammu organized to celebrate passing of disability bill 2016 by Government of India. The function was organized by Management team of Kalpana Kala Kendra Jammu in collaboration with Jammu Institute of General Education and Rehabilitation (JIGAR). The Institute is working for the Children with disabilities under aegis of Humanity Welfare organization who is also working for disabled and community children.



Speaking on the occasion the Minister said that government is committed to bring the bill in J&K and to give full support to the differently able persons. She said that SC/ST Corporation is working for the welfare of differently able persons and government is ready to

provide loan facilities to the differently able persons so that they can work and open their own venture as per their requirement so that they can earn their livelihood. The function was attended Member Parliament, Nazir Laway, MLC, Vikram Randhawa, Vice Chairman SC/ST Corporation Balbir Rattan, Commissioner disability, Iqbal Lone, Commissioner Relief and Rehabilitation (Migrant) M.L. Raina, MLC, Ajay Bharti, besides a number of people with several disabilities, eminent citizens, representatives from the various NGOs, students from various schools and volunteers who participated and performed various cultural programmes on the occasion. On the occasion the Minister gave away the letter of appreciation to the differently-abled persons who are doing some extra ordinary work for the community.

Trial debut of e-Assembly project in upcoming Budget session: Speaker

Directs for expeditious execution of project

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 28: Speaker J&K Legislative Assembly, Kavinder Gupta today directed the concerned officers to expedite work on e-Assembly project so that the remaining works are completed in time. Speaker, while chairing a meeting held to review the progress of e-Assembly project, was informed that the ambitious project has been envis-

aged for end to end computerization and digitization of the assembly processes thus making an end to paper work.

The meeting was attended by Secretary IT, Saugat Biswas, Secretary to Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Abdul Majeed Bhat, Secretary Assembly, M R Singh, Additional Secretary IT, S K Gupta, Senior Officers from J&KEGA, NIC and other concerned officers.

It was informed that the department will initiate the

trial debut of e-assembly in the forthcoming session of the assembly, for which the IT department has already distributed the I-pads to all MLA's, MLC's, Administrative Secretaries and other concerned officers to view and download the answers of the questions in a digital format.

In this regard, the IT department has installed two servers in the state data centre.

The meeting was informed

that the department is ready with Question Answer Management System of the software and soon will be introduced to its users. However, the department is working on other areas i.e. work flow section of the program, which is in progress and is expected to be automated soon.

Moreover, the officers further apprised that the raised questions during the assembly session will be uploaded and respective secretaries can

download and upload their answers through online system of e-assembly. The speeches, budget, resolution and other related information will be available on website.

Regarding training required for the purpose, the Speaker was informed that the J&KEGA will provide trainers for imparting training to the members of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council and other concerned officers.

It was informed that the

department requires some funds to meet its hardware requirement.

On the occasion, the Speaker commended the work of the concerned department for its dedicated efforts and said that more work needs to be done on the project to achieve the goal of making governance fully digitized. He directed the concerned officers to put more efforts to accomplish e-Assembly project and also make the software more user friendly

and convenient.

Speaker directed the concerned officers to maintain a strong coordination regarding the project related issues and come up with findings and results, to remove obstacles that create hindrances in accomplishing the project.

He also suggested two members from Legislative Assembly and two from Legislative Council and other related officers from NIC for this purpose.

DAILY Editorial Time and Us SRINAGAR J&K

MESSY FIX: THE AMENDED INSOLVENCY CODE

Less than 12 months after the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code came into force with the goal of easing the resolution of corporate insolvency, the Central government has passed an ordinance that significantly amends the original law. The aim of the changes is clearly stated in the preamble: "...to strengthen further the insolvency resolution process, it has been considered necessary to provide for prohibition of certain persons from submitting a resolution plan, who, on account of their antecedents, may adversely impact the credibility of the processes." The ordinance then specifies the categories of persons who are deemed ineligible to participate in resolving a corporate entity's debt once it has been put under the process of insolvency resolution by creditors. Here lies the nub. While there is no quibble about the need to deny unscrupulous and wilful defaulters who have put banks and other creditors to substantial financial hardship the opportunity to regain control of corporate assets that have been put under resolution, the category of people barred is too broad and risks the very objectives of the original code. It is germane to remember here that the IBC is not intended to serve as a mere instrument of liquidation. Instead, it is to provide an enabling legal framework for the "reorganisation and insolvency resolution of corporate persons... in a time bound manner for maximisation of value of assets of such persons" and to promote entrepreneurship, among other goals.

By including promoters and those in management whose loan accounts are classified as non-performing assets for one year or more, as well as any person disqualified to act as a director under the Companies Act, the amendment risks becoming an instrument of blunt force that hurts more than it helps. As policymakers and central bankers have often pointed out, not all bad loans are a result of mala fide intent on the borrower's part. Specifically, in cases where companies have ended up struggling to service debt as a result of unpredictable external factors that adversely impacted their operations and financials, barring the promoters of such firms from a chance to restructure and turnaround the business, merely because the loans have turned sour, is unfair to both the entrepreneur and the enterprise itself. For instance, steel companies were among the worst hit in the wake of the global downturn in commodity prices and depressed demand. It has been reported that the promoters of some of these debt-laden steelmakers were considering participating in bids to restructure the debt and businesses and hoping to run them again. By widening the scope and definition of those it considers ineligible to participate in the resolution process and, worse, making the amendments retrospective to cover even those cases already referred to the National Company Law Tribunal, the Centre may have ended up, unintentionally, throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

SMART-BALANCING CHINA

Happymon Jacob

How do you deal with an inscrutable, revisionist and rising superpower next door with whom you have had a historical rivalry and whose brazen inroads into your traditional sphere of influence leave you embittered, but whose trading relationship is important to you? There are no easy answers even though we often come across many 'simple and straightforward' solutions: ranging from military options to cutting off trade ties. The recent revival of the 'Quadrilateral' (or Quad) and the consequent talk of an 'Asian NATO' have brought the India-China rivalry back to the limelight. Let's be clear: how to 'balance' China will occupy a great deal of India's strategic attention in the years ahead as China charts its course towards superpower status. Any such strategising by India needs to be prudently thought out.

In perspective For President Xi Jinping's new China, the days of "hiding capabilities and biding time" of the Deng era are finally over — it's time to become "a global leader in terms of composite national strength and international influence". If it utilises the power vacuum left by Donald Trump's 'reluctant superpower', China's superpower ambitions are bound to have a system-shaping impact on the Asian region. There will be China-led alliances, Chinese client states and the establishment of Chinese spheres of influence. The alleged China connection to the recent 'regime change' in Zimbabwe is perhaps a harbinger of things to come.

Moreover, it would ensure that its access to overseas resources/markets and the oceanic trade routes are unhindered. In doing so, it is increasingly seeking to build military facilities overseas and offset the U.S.-led coalition in the region. In this big picture of Chinese grand strategy, New Delhi, seen increasingly aligned with the U.S., is a spoiler. Denying India entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group, repeatedly blocking UN sanctions against Pakistan-based terrorists, and ignoring India's sensitivity over the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor are outcomes of this vision.

There are several sources of increasing Sinophobia in India. For one, Chinese revisionist claims in the land and oceanic space have been a major source of concern. Beijing's deployment of naval assets to enforce its claims across the South China Sea, construction of artificial islands in the region, and the rejection of a UN tribunal judgment on a complaint filed by the Philippines, last year have only strengthened this feeling. China has also been increasing its naval presence, including dispatching its nuclear submarines on patrol, in the Indian Ocean. Would this eventually lead to a more permanent Chinese naval presence in the region? It is in this broader context that China's revisionist statements on Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh are worryingly viewed in New Delhi.



Second, along with military assertion, Beijing has also been stepping up its political and economic footprint in the region, dismissing New Delhi's protests. Third, and perhaps most importantly, what worries New Delhi is the ever-strengthening China-Pakistan military alliance and its implications for the country: the insecurity stemming from a so-called 'nutcracker' situation.

Dilemmas of checkmating The current Indian strategies to 'checkmate' China seem more zero-sum and less efficient. To be sure, New Delhi has chosen to adopt an unequivocal U.S.-centric strategy to deal with Beijing, most recently the Quad. There are several problems with this approach: the U.S. is a quickly-receding extra-regional power whose long-term commitment to the region is increasingly indeterminate and unsure; U.S.-China relations are far more complex than we generally assume; and Australia is caught between the U.S. and China. While India may have shed its traditional reticence about a strategic partnership with the U.S., it would still not be what Japan is to the U.S., nor should it.

The second broad policy direction seems to be to compete with China for regional influence in South Asia. Let's be realistic: trying to match the powerful yuan, backed by vigorous political support from Beijing, with our humble rupee is a losing battle. Military preparedness to offset any potential Chinese aggression is something that India

can and should invest in. But again, Chinese military aggression has really not been India's central concern, but a China-dominated region in which India is hemmed in and forced to play second fiddle. Military preparedness, in which we will inevitably lag behind China, alone cannot address such a concern.

Some have suggested that India should use its \$70 billion-strong trading relationship with China as a bargaining chip to check Chinese behaviour. However, doing so would hurt both sides. While it is true that India-China bilateral trade is heavily skewed in favour of China, let's not forget that China's exports to India comprise under 3% of its total exports (and India's exports to China is 3.6% of its total exports). Boycotting Chinese goods would also mean Indian consumers paying more to get them from elsewhere. Clearly then, trade as a bargaining chip vis-à-vis China is just a popular urban myth.

So what then are our options? Adopting a straightforward balancing strategy (which is what states normally do when faced with a stronger neighbour) may become costly, counter-productive, and not deliver the desired results. Bandwagoning (jumping on board the wave of the future, in this case, China), on the other hand, may be both undesirable and insufficient for obvious reasons. Neither of these two mutually exclusive options are ideal for serving India's current and future interests vis-à-vis China. Hence New Delhi would be better served by adopting a more

nuanced balancing strategy, a strategy of 'smart-balancing', towards Beijing, one that involves deep engagements and carefully calibrated balancing, at the same time.

A possible road map Let's examine some elements of such a strategy. First of all, it would involve co-binding China in a bilateral/regional security complex: that is, view China as part of the solution to the region's challenges (including terrorism, climate change, piracy, infrastructural/developmental needs) than as part of the problem, or the problem itself. Some efforts in this direction are already under way such as India-China joint anti-piracy missions in the Gulf of Aden. The two countries could consider initiating regular, structured consultations in this regard. In other words, enhancing security cooperation with China is a sure way of alleviating the persistent security dilemma between them. A mutual 'complex interdependence' in economic, security and other domains should be strengthened and front-loaded over zero-sum competition.

This security cooperation should most certainly be enhanced in the Indo-Pacific where India should, even while being part of the Quad, talk of cooperating with China. Language is important: talk about security community and joint efforts than containing China.

Second, India should cooperate with and trust China while at the same time keeping its (gun) power dry, for after all, in the anarchic international system that we inhabit, the role of military strength in guaranteeing national security cannot be underestimated.

Third, New Delhi's response to Beijing's refusal to act against Pakistan-based terrorists needn't be strait-laced. However, while Beijing is unlikely to make Islamabad politically uncomfortable by public terror-shaming, the more China gets involved in Pakistan, the less it can afford to ignore terrorism within Pakistan. Around 30,000 Chinese nationals currently reside in Pakistan (and over 71,000 Chinese nationals visited Pakistan last year) and these numbers will only increase over time which will perform motivate Beijing to 'work with' Islamabad on the terror question. That is precisely where New Delhi should use its diplomatic skills to make an impact.

India urgently needs to develop a clear vision for a stable regional security order and work out what role India would like China to play in that vision and how it can nudge China towards that. Keeping China out of the regional security order is not realistic, letting China dominate it is not desirable: smart-balancing China within such an order is indeed the optimal strategy.

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Locked out, without a GI tag

Jupi Gogoi

The law of Geographical Indications (GIs) is linked to the terroir, that is the quality of a product is essentially attributable to the territory where the product originates from. GIs support local production and are an important economic tool for the uplift of rural and tribal communities. Unlike other Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) which guarantee the protection of individual interest, GI is a collective right. If their products qualify, producers can use the collective GI mark while commercially exploiting their products.

Path to introduction India implemented a sui generis legislation on GI in 1999, a prime reason being its obligation to have a law on GI as a member of the World Trade Organisation-Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (WTO-TRIPS).

The politics behind the incorporation of GI in TRIPS is revealing. The United States was not a supporter of GI, and it was lobbying by the European Union (EU) that ensured its inclusion in TRIPS. The EU already had its domestic mechanisms in place to protect GIs and was keen to protect its products in international markets.

Interestingly, the debate on GI in India has never gone beyond Article 23 of TRIPS, which gives a preference to

wines and spirits over other goods. Scholars in India have always observed that the additional protection of wines and spirits is a huge setback for GI trade related to the developing countries whose GIs are largely related to agricultural and handicraft products. The protection given to wines and spirits is absolute and unqualified, and unlike right holders of other goods, the proprietor of GI relating to wines and spirits does not have to prove that incorrect use of the geographic origin is misleading as well.

Shortcomings in Indian Act As India has failed over the years to introspect on its own domestic legislation, it is important to highlight the shortcomings of the Indian GI Act. It is important to note that TRIPS only provides a minimum standard of protection. Nowhere is there an insistence on a particular framework for protection of GI. In fact, TRIPS does not even mandate a sui generis mode of protection for GI.

Against this backdrop, proof of origin is a mandatory criterion for registering GIs in India. This provision is borrowed from the EU's regulations on GI protection. What is cause for concern is not proof of origin as a criteria to register GI, but the focus on historic proof in the form of documentary evidence (such as gazetteers, published documents, news articles, advertisement materials) to bring out the historic development of



GIs as laid down under GI Rules, 2002, and clarified by the GI Manual of the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks, and Registrar of Geographical Indications to establish proof of origin. The point

here is about the rationale behind including such a provision in our law as there was no mandate under TRIPS to do so.

Documentary evidence as proof of origin may be a foolproof mechanism to ensure the link between the product and territory, but in a country such as India where there are regions like the Northeast where oral history has had far wider convention over written history, this provision will prove to be a formidable hurdle.

The case of Assam

Assam has been exploring its natural, agricultural and traditional products as potential GI material. One such example is a traditional rice wine called 'Judima' which is made by the Dimasas tribe of Dima Hasao, one of the autonomous hill districts of Assam. The State government has been tracking academic discourse on the subject with the intent of exploring possibilities in registering it. But a stumbling block has been the difficulty in gathering documentary evidence as proof of origin. It is the same case with many other products from the Northeast. For example, in the case of 'Judima', the word 'Ju' stands for drink and 'Dima' for Dimasas, but the absence of any documentary proof makes the case a difficult one to prove.

Therefore, what is the rationality behind including and retaining such provisions in the law? For most products,

especially those of tribal communities, this is bound to be a recurrent problem.

A few years ago, India faced difficulties in a patent case involving turmeric when two scientists of the University of Mississippi Medical Centre, were granted the U.S. patent for the use of turmeric in wound healing. India's Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), which opposed this, was asked by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to submit documentary evidence of usage of turmeric for healing purposes in India in order to revoke the patent. On finding the existing documentary evidence insufficient, CSIR was compelled to launch a project of translating ancient Sanskrit texts which were later produced as evidence, and accepted.

So, what happens in cases such where a written history is rare? Do the products of the region then not stand a chance under the GI law? In a particular instance, the GI Registry considered etymology in establishing proof of origin. However, this does not guarantee that a similar stance will be adopted while considering other potential GI products, especially when the existing law leans heavily on documentary proof. The GI authorities should amend the existing provision.

Jupi Gogoi is Assistant Professor, the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi

Ivanka Trump meets PM Modi, Sushma Swaraj

HYDERABAD: United States President Donald Trump's daughter and advisor Ivanka Trump met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday on the sidelines of the Global Entrepreneurship Summit here. She also met External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, and had a productive discussion on women entrepreneurship and empowerment, as per the Ministry of External Affairs.

Ivanka arrived at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad early Tuesday morning, ahead of the Global Entrepreneurship Summit. On a related note, the summit is being hosted for the first time in South East Asia by the Governments of India and the United States. With the theme of "Women



First, Prosperity for All," the three-day summit will witness majority of women participants, with over ten countries being led by all-female delegation.

Jitendra Singh hits back at Congress over 'unsavory terms' for PM

NEW DELHI: Minister of State for the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region Jitendra Singh on Tuesday said the more Congress leaders refer to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in unsavory terms, the more he becomes dear to people of India. "The more the Congress leaders refer to the Prime Minister in unsavory terms the more he becomes dear to people of India. The more they speak such things the easier things become for us in Gujarat. They must introspect if their comments can be deemed acceptable," he told ANI. Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi had, earlier, taken a dig at Prime Minister Modi following the release of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) chief Hafiz Saeed, saying that the former's 'Hugplomacy' with US President Donald Trump failed.



Prime Minister Modi yesterday launched a veiled attack at Rahul Gandhi saying those "slinging mud on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will help the lotus bloom even more," referring to their party symbol - the lotus. Alluding to Rahul, the Prime Minister had said a large number of people had tried to malign the image

of the state. "I am grateful for all the kichad (muck) being thrown at me. After all, a lotus blooms only in kichad. So, I don't mind if more is thrown at me. Those slinging mud on us will help the lotus bloom even more," he said, while addressing a rally in Bhuj of Gujarat's Kutch district.

Want to make Amaravati a knowledge hub: CM Naidu

AMARAVATI: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday inaugurated the Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) campus at Amaravati and said he wanted to make Amaravati a knowledge hub.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, the chief minister said, "When we allotted the land for VIT in Andhra Pradesh, I asked to make it the best in India, better than their mother campus. Now, VIT Andhra Pradesh is on the way of making it to the top."

He added the student life was full of fun, enjoyment and career building and claimed Andhra Pradesh had the most hardworking students.

"We need the best opportunities. There are not many outstanding institutes and we are on the way. In the IT sector, Andhra Pradesh students are at the best position all over the world. Satya Nadella, the chief executive officer of Microsoft, is one example. I want to make Amaravati a knowledge hub and the VIT is working on that front," the chief minister said.

He further said VIT was offering not only engineering, but teaching MBA, hospitality and many other courses.

"With premier academic institutes launching their branches, Amaravati will soon become a great knowledge hub. We are providing all infrastructure facilities for the convenience of students. This initiative will make Amaravati an education hub. The VIT is working on social responsibility, by providing free education to poor rural youth," Naidu added.

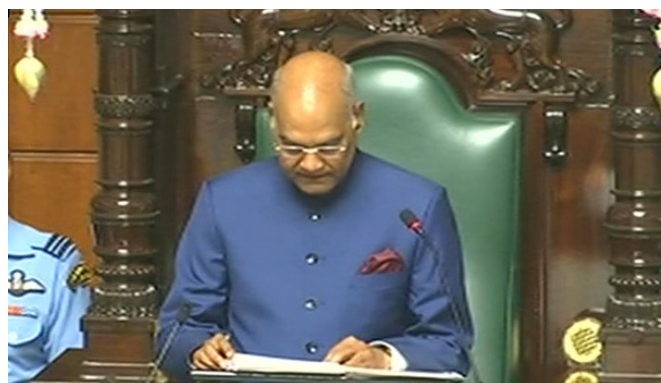
He said students were the future of India and that they would make the nation stronger.

More than 5,000 students turned up for the event.

Bengal, North East have role to play in India's 'Act East' policy: Kovind

KOLKATA: President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday said the Government of India has embarked on an ambitious Act East Policy, which involves building connectivity projects and taking economic initiatives.

Maintaining that these projects and initiatives would be beneficial to India's eastern and north eastern states, besides neighbouring countries, the president, speaking at a civic reception organised in his honour here, said, "The people of Bengal are crucial to this programme. Being a border state gives Bengal certain advantages. It also gives it certain responsibilities. Forces of radicalism and extremism, some of them with cross-border linkages, seek to take advantage of our democratic spaces. We must guard against this."



"Our nation building owes so much to Bengal and the sacrifices and achievements of the people of this land. A galaxy of revolutionary heroes from Bengal helped us get independence, each doing his or her little bit, quietly, without seeking any reward," President Kovind said. He added, "Bengal has been central to our national identity.

Our national anthem, Jana Gana Mana, was written on the soil of Bengal by the Nobel Laureate Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. Gurudev ke pronam korte jabo. Tomorrow morning, I plan to visit Jorasanko, Gurudev's ancestral home, to pay my heartfelt tributes. Our national song, Vande Mataram, a rallying cry for our freedom fighters, was composed

by Maharishi Bankim Chandra Chatterjee as early as the 19th century. And our beloved slogan Jai Hind was given to us by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, a great son of Bengal and a leader who is cherished, remembered and missed to this day in all parts of our country. These three - Gurudev Rabindranath, Maharishi Bankim and Netaji Subhas - were instrumental in defining our nationalism. Our freedom came faster because of the energy they gave our people."

"Somehow, in some manner, this state has touched every Indian and enriched the life of every Indian. Every Indian child has grown up on stories about Bengal or written in Bengal. Bengal has a great history - but it is for each one of us to ensure that Bengal also has a great future," President Kovind said.

Nahargarh Fort case probe in advance stage: Rajasthan police

JAIPUR: The Director General of Police (DGP) of state on Tuesday said probe has reached advanced stage in Nahargarh Fort suicide case.

Talking to ANI, DGP Ajit Singh said, "It's a complicated case, we are investigating all the angles. We are examining CCTV footage. The handwriting and the surface on which the notes were written were not normal. However, probe has reached advanced stage."

Body of Chetan Saini, a 40-year-old local resident, who ran a jewellery and handicrafts business from home, was found hanging in the fort on Friday. A message written in Hindi on a rock nearby suggested the death was linked to the row over the Bollywood movie Padmavati. "We don't just hang effigies. Padmavati," said the message.

Brother of deceased, Ram Ratan Saini, on Saturday said, "My brother cannot commit suicide. It appears to be a murder. We will demand an investigation into the death. He has nothing to do with it threat note written on rock".

The period drama directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali and starring Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh, and Shahid Kapoor has been facing protests from Shree Rajput Karni Sena for allegedly tampering with historical facts.

Padmavati has been facing controversy since Sanjay Leela Bhansali started shooting the film earlier this year. The director was roughed up by the Shree Rajput Karni Sena members in Jaipur and the film's sets were vandalised.

The epicenter of protests is Rajasthan. The Karni Sena activists have upped the ante against Padmavati by staging protests in various parts of the country, covering Bangalore in the South as well.

Delhi High Court says can't act as post office for CBI

NEW DELHI: In a case of alleged corruption involving Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) officials, the Delhi High Court told an NGO on Tuesday that it would not act as post office for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

"We will not act as post office for the CBI. Please submit additional evidence directly to the agency," the court said, while hearing a plea filed by Telecom Watchdog.

The NGO had filed the plea to submit additional information in



the case. In its reply, the CBI told the court that preliminary enquiry (PE) was underway.

Meanwhile, the BSNL objected to the PIL by saying that confidential information was being leaked by someone.

The PIL has alleged that officials of the BSNL had connived with M/s ZTE Telecom India Pvt Ltd, a Chinese contractor, and forged official records of BSNL to release 'undue payment' of about Rs 1,000 crore to the firm.

Vice President reiterates Google can't replace guru

AMARAVATI: Vice President Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday reiterated Google can never replace Guru (teacher).

Speaking at a function here, the Vice President made this remark while emphasising on the importance of education and teachers. "Google can never replace Guru. A guru gives not mere academics, but gives insight also," Vice President Naidu said.

On November 11, the Vice President had also said in Odisha that teachers play a key role in transforming the society and they can never be replaced by anything, including Google. He said a state's future is built in the classroom. "A state's future is built in classroom. Education for employment is not important, but education is for emancipation, empowerment and empathy," the Vice President said. He said Andhra Pradesh has inherent potential of knowledge and it needs to be utilised properly.

The Vice President also said he wanted to take part in the development of state's capital Amaravati.

"I want to take part in development of Amaravati. The new capital can be the hub of education, engineering, etcetera," Naidu said. The Vice President praised state's soil and intelligence of its people.

"Our lands and brains are so fertile.



Positive thinking, smart work can take us to new heights," Naidu said.

Praising Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, the Vice President said, "The Chief Minister is dynamic and using central government's support to develop the state."

He also said that very soon Amaravati will get Videshi Bhanwan.

"I asked External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj to do something for Andhra Pradesh. She offered to setup 'Videshi Bhanwan' in Amaravati. Immediately, Chief Minister Chandrababu came forward to give enough land for it. Soon, Amaravati will get Videshi Bhanwan," Naidu said.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has been leaving no stone unturned to develop state's new capital a world class city.

BJP brings out 2010 incident to attack Rahul Gandhi

AHMEDABAD: Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Tuesday raked up a 2010 incident in which Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi had termed 'Hindu terror' as a threat to the nation instead of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) chief and 2008 Mumbai attack mastermind, Hafiz Saeed. Prasad's latest salvo comes in response to Rahul Gandhi's 'hugplomacy' jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "In 2010, then US foreign minister Hillary Clinton came to India. Then prime minister Manmohan Singh invited her for dinner and Rahul Gandhi was also present there. US Ambassador Timothy Roemer, who was also there, asked Rahul's opinion on the Lashkar-e-Taiba. On that note, he said 'leave that, Hindu terror in India is a more crucial issue,'" Ravi Shankar Prasad said, at a press briefing. The union minister further said the international media had reported it all over. Prasad further elaborated, "The Guardian, in its news piece wrote, 'According to WikiLeaks, Rahul Gandhi said Hindu groups were more dangerous than Lashkar-e-Taiba. Responding to Ambassador's query about Lashkar-e-Taiba, Rahul said there were evidences of some support for the group amongst certain elements in India's indigenous Muslim community.'" However, Rahul warned the bigger threat maybe the growth of radicalised Hindu groups which create religious tensions," he added. The campaign for the Gujarat Assembly polls is in full swing and both - the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) - are pulling all stops and digging out old issues to ensure victory in the crucial elections, which are being considered as a precursor to 2019 general elections. Ravi Shankar Prasad also noted another incident dating back to 2009, when the then prime minister and Congress leader, Manmohan Singh, at Sharm-El-Sheikh Summit in Egypt, let go of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism and instead, expressed concern over the Balochistan issue. "Dr Manmohan Singh and then Pakistan prime minister Ghilani had a talk where they discussed about terrorism as well. Pakistan said they are worried over the Balochistan issue and an embarrassing moment was faced by India when Manmohan Singh accepted Pakistan's concern over Balochistan," Prasad said. He added, "It is so shameful that Pakistan intrudes in PoK and Kashmir and spreads terrorism, attacks on Mumbai in 2008 and an year later, Manmohan Singh accepts that Balochistan issue was more important. He bartered the national interest."

In Kurukshetra, villagers mourn BSF man's death

KURUKSHETRA: A pall of gloom descended on Kirmach village of Kurukshetra district soon after the news of BSF head constable Chanderbhan Verma's death in Bandipora district reached here this morning. The villagers are unaware about the cause of his death, but said the body of the 40-year-old soldier will reach the village by the evening.

Chanderbhan is survived by his wife, Bina Devi, and two children, a son who studies in Class X and a daughter who is in Class V. His father, Harichand Verma,

is also an ex-serviceman. Kurukshetra deputy commissioner, Smedha Kataria, told Hindustan Times that she had been informed about Chanderbhan's death by the BSF authorities. "I was told that he was found injured in the camp in Bandipura district of the Jammu and Kashmir, and was declared dead by the doctors at the army hospital," said Kataria. There are reports that he was allegedly shot by another BSF jawan following a heated argument, but the local authorities refused to confirm them.

Energy is weapon of socio-economic transformation: Pradhan

NEW DELHI: Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Tuesday said energy is the weapon of socio economic transformation. He made this comment while addressing 'Changing Indian Landscape Adaptive to New Normal and Reality' Programme here.

"Energy is the big enabler of development. Energy is the weapon of socio-economic transformation. So, it is our aim that if we supply energy to 125 crore people in the coming three-four years then the energy will remain secure, sustainable," Pradhan said.

The Union Minister also said that the per capita energy consumption in India is lowest in the world, which needs to be increased. "Today, India's per



capita consumption of energy is lowest in the world. It is going to increase rapidly in the coming years. India now con-

sumes only six percent of the world's primary energy.

This will go up to 25 percent in the next 15-20 years," Pradhan asserted.

Energy in India is multi-dimensional as there are many ministries: Ministry of Power, Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Renewable Energy, Ministry of Nuclear Science, and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. He advised the conference that its approach should be to find out what is real road-map to for India in the next two-three decades.

Today India's per capita consumption of petroleum is 10 kg, whereas the world's average is 30 kg. Therefore petrochemical can become a very big catalyst, the Minister said.

Talking about Prime Minis-

ter Narendra Modi's vision, Pradhan said, "By December 2018 around 18000 villages will be electrified. In September, we released a survey that out of 25 crore households, four crore households don't have electricity. The Modi government has launched Pradhan Mantri Saubhagya Yojna with a fund of Rs 16000 crore to fill this gap by the end of 2018."

The scheme was launched by Prime Minister Modi on September 25.

The objective of the 'Saubhagya' is to provide energy access to all by last mile connectivity and electricity connections to all remaining un-electrified households in rural as well as urban areas to achieve universal household electrification in the country.

You can dream even outside REM sleep cycles

Contradicting popular belief, a new study published in Nature Neuroscience suggests that it's possible to dream outside of REM sleep cycles, the deepest and most restorative phases of sleep.

REM (Rapid Eye Movement) sleep cycles are the deepest phases of sleep, during which brain activity is also the most intense, compared to the wakeful state. That's why this sleep cycle is usually recognised as the time when dreams occur.

The body usually enters an REM sleep cycle around 90 minutes after falling asleep. It is a period of deep sleep that's particularly restorative. In adolescents especially, REM is the most important phase of sleep for learning, memory consolidation and social adaptation.

A single night's sleep contains an average of four to six REM cycles of around 90 to 100 minutes each — it varies from person to person. Researchers studied 32 volunteers who agreed to spend the night in a sleep lab wearing caps fitted with electrodes to monitor their sleep and brain activity. Each volunteer

was woken at different times — depending on the readings — and was asked if they were dreaming and whether they could recall details about the dreams.

Previous studies have found that 80 to 90% of people can describe a dream if woken up during an REM sleep phase, compared to 50 to 75% in another sleep cycle during the night.

Similarly, the researchers found that many participants reported dreaming during non-REM sleep cycles but that they had more difficulty remembering their dreams.

A second experiment involving seven volunteers, who spent between five and 10 nights in the lab, found that participants dreamed 71% of the time during non-REM sleep and 95% during REM cycles.

The researchers also found a correlation between dreaming — during both REM and non-REM sleep cycles — and low-frequency brain waves occurring in an area in the back of the brain they called the "hot zone." The scientists were then able to predict when a person was dreaming by identifying a hot zone.

EATING FRESH FRUITS EVERYDAY CAN REALLY CUT THE RISK OF DEVELOPING DIABETES

According to a new study, eating fresh fruits everyday can significantly lower the risk of developing diabetes.

A bowl of fresh fruits a day may lower the risk of developing diabetes by 12%, a study has showed.

In individuals with diabetes, consuming fresh fruit more than three days a week was associated with a 17% lower relative risk of dying.

Further, it can lower the risk of developing diabetes-related complications affecting large blood vessels -- ischaemic heart disease and stroke -- and small blood vessels -- kidney diseases, eye diseases, and neuropathy -- by 13-28%, the findings revealed.

Although the health benefits of diets including fresh fruit and veg-



etables are well established, the relatively high sugar content of fruit has led to uncertainty about associ-

ated risks of diabetes and of vascular complications of the disease, said Huaidong Du of the Univer-

sity of Oxford.

This has led to frequent abstinence from fruit consumption among individuals with diabetes in many parts of the world, he noted in the paper published in the journal PLOS Medicine.

The study, which assessed nearly 500,000 people from China, also showed that people who reported elevated consumption of fresh fruit had an estimated 0.2% reduction in the absolute risk of diabetes over five years.

In addition, higher consumption of fresh fruit in people with diabetes, led to the decrease in mortality risk of 1.9% at five years, and lower risks of microvascular and macrovascular complications.

DID YOU BUMP INTO YOUR PARTNER'S EX AND FIGHT? HERE'S SOME EXPERT HELP



As a Bollywood celeb's fight with his girlfriend's ex at a party makes news, we ask experts how to deal with such a situation. Reportedly, a few days

back, Farhan Akhtar — Shraddha Kapoor's alleged beau — and Aditya Roy Kapur, her alleged ex, fought at a party. This was because Shraddha

was bonding with Aditya at the bash, which didn't go well with Farhan, and post the incident Shraddha even did damage control.

It is common knowledge that most people don't like their partner's ex. Often, things turn ugly if you bump into them, especially when

you are with your partner or a spouse. There is always a possibility that some pleasantries may be exchanged on such an occasion.

Consultant psychiatrist, Dr Ambrish Dharmadhikari explains how best to deal with situations like these. "Jealousy is the first emotion that is evoked in such a situation. One should be welcoming to your partner's ex. You should also realise that your partner is not a trophy for which you are fighting.

Instead, you should have trust and confidence in your relationship. One should remember that a positive reaction at such times reflects security in your current relationship. It can also help build trust. Yes, there should be a limit but a courteous greeting would save a lot of trouble."

There is also the possibil-

ity of your partner interacting with his or her ex at such a meeting, which may not go down well with you. But, Dharmadhikari says one should not try to convey your displeasure immediately. Instead, communicate and discuss the issue with your partner in private. He says, "Current relationship matters more. Not liking someone is fine but expressing it in public is not. So, just take a deep breath and let the displeasure go."

Consultant psychiatrist Gaurav Wadgaonkar says that having a problem with your partner or spouse's ex in such a situation is only natural. He says, "Humans have the ability to override emotions with rational thinking. Healthy communication with your current partner or spouse can avoid confrontations in such situations."



EASY EXERCISES TO STAY IN SHAPE DURING MENOPAUSE

Exercise is a great ally to help women through menopause and its various unpleasant effects (fatigue, weight gain, irritability, hot flashes), although it often falls by the wayside during this time of life. However, alternating strengthening exercises and regular cardiovascular exercise can help fight weight gain and reduce the frequency of hot flashes. Nutritionist Raphaël Gruman suggests a simple program to help get meno-

pausal women moving every day. During menopause, women suffering from physical and psychological symptoms tend to be less active. Yet several studies have shown that women who are regularly active during menopause can significantly reduce their weight and BMI (Body Mass Index). The least active women may also enter menopause earlier.

Nutritionist Raphaël Gruman has developed a four-week program

to help women get into — or get back into — sport after the age of 50. The program includes short daily exercises to help women maintain muscle mass and strength while keeping weight down during menopause. Here's a look at some of the exercises he suggests.

Strength training to sculpt the silhouette and boost muscle mass. Loss of muscle mass is a common side-effect of menopause, and it can be difficult to build back up.

Strength training exercises working core strength (the plank) and the thighs (wall sit) are the most effective exercises for strengthening and building muscle mass quickly. Every other day, pick either exercise and hold the position for 30 seconds, repeating it three times.

Otherwise, try signing up for a local exercise class. Pilates is Gruman's pick for conditioning the body's deep stabilizing muscles with precise results. Other quick but effec-

tive exercises include lunges and sit-ups. Aim for a series of 20, repeated three times.

Easing in to cardiovascular exercise after the age of 50 and with no previous training, don't suddenly start exercise sessions that are too intense. However, cardiovascular exercise is essential for burning fat and maintaining a stable weight. To boost metabolism, it's best to do 30-minute sessions every other day, alternating with

strengthening exercises.

Try 30 minutes of jogging (15 minutes is fine at first) — if your back and joints allow — alternating with 30 minutes of cycling, either outdoors or on an exercise bike. Short interval-based running sessions are a good option for burning fat quickly. For example, start running for five minutes at a normal pace, then do three minutes at a much higher speed, then drop back to the initial pace.

To help prevent the loss of bone mass while also working cardiovascular fitness, walking is a very good compromise for anyone who needs to avoid high-impact activities. At the weekend, try to fit in a long walk of around an hour at a brisk pace, or try walking with sticks — sometimes called Nordic walking — to get the arms and upper body working too. Swimming and aqua gym also help bust cellulite and maintain a healthy weight.

Industry risk review by Alea Consulting on Indian Defence Sector

NEW DELHI: The Indian Army is amongst the top 4 largest armies in the world. In 2015-16 it imported USD 5.5 billion of defence equipment to meet approximately 70 percent of its requirements.

India is executing defence projects using indigenous technologies and skills, including Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (artillery modernisation), Basic Trainer Aircraft HTT-40 developed by HAL, indigenous naval systems viz. ABHAY, HUMSA UG, NACS and AIDSS for underwater surveillance capability.

India is emerging as a global R&D hub for foreign entities, including for Rockwell Collins, Boeing, Textron GE and Honeywell.

In 2001 the defence sector was opened up to private investment, subject to licensing. Policy initiatives like Raksha Udyog Ratnas (for public/private companies with expertise), and defence offsets were introduced to promote a competitive eco-system and encourage private participation.

India aims to build a domestic industrial base for defence products and achieve more than 60 percent indigenisation, and is supporting strategic partnerships with foreign OEMs. Modern equipment has a

greater emphasis on cyber security, and digital technology approaches to warfare, which provides an opportunity to collaborate with Government organisations like the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Defence Public Sector Undertakings like HAL, Bharat Electronics Ltd., Bharat Dynamics Ltd., Mishra Dhatu Ltd.

Key Statistics:
• In the 2017-18 budget, allocation for defence increased by 6 percent to Rs. 2,580 billion (USD 38 billion). India's Defence budget is about 1.9 percent of its GDP.

• About 33 percent of defence equipment is manufactured in India, mainly by DPSUs.

• In October 2017 Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation cleared a plan to invest Rs. 3 billion (US\$45 million) towards a VC fund of Rs. 5 billion (USD 75 million) for SMEs with strong growth potential in defence and aerospace manufacturing. India's first Defence Industrial Park will be setup at Ottapalam, Kerala to aid component manufacturers.

• Capital expenditure on procurement of equipment by the three defence services (Army, Air Force

and Navy), from Indian vendors has increased from Rs. 315 billion (47 percent of total procurement value) in 2013-14 to Rs. 418 billion (60.5 percent of TPV) in 2016-17.

• Government has set plans of privatisation in motion with disinvestment of Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. The Indian defence industry is mostly State-owned and susceptible to non-competitiveness, delays in finalisation of orders, and sluggishness in improving acquired technologies. Incentives offered by some States like interest subsidy on external borrowings; exemption on electricity duty; subsidy on construction cost of R&D centre; reimbursement of taxes, stamp duty and land registration charges.

For companies engaged in manufacturing and having an in-house R&D centre, a weighted tax deduction of 200 percent under Section 35(2AB) of the Income Tax Act for both capital and revenue expenditure incurred on scientific research and development is allowed.

Foreign vendors can select Indian Offset Partners and offset product details a year prior to intended discharge of offset obligations or can even undertake the activity

and submit claims thereafter.

2016 Defence Procurement Procedure has brought about changes such as introduction of a new category named 'Buy-Indian IDDM' (Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured), alteration in MAKE Procedures, notification of 'Strategic Partnership' model. This will help in speedy procurement, and technology transfers.

Licensing regime liberalised for defence items. Private players can apply to the Commerce Ministry for licences to manufacture defence equipment. Companies can tie-up with a foreign OEM for Transfer of Technology under 'Buy and Make (Indian)' and 'Buy and Make' categories of capital acquisition to promote 'Make in India.'

A Defence Innovation Fund has been approved, with initial funding by Bharat Electronics Ltd. and HAL.

FDI in the sector is subject to security clearances. Investment up to 49 percent is permitted under the automatic route. Requirement of single largest Indian ownership of 51 percent of equity removed. Lock-in period of three years on FDI equity transfer removed. Contenders for deals include global players from

Russia, Israel, Germany, Japan and France. Under the new strategic partnership model private companies may bid for mega deals viz. submarines, single-engine fighter aircraft, helicopters and armoured vehicles. Entities likely to bid are Larsen & Toubro, Mahindra and Mahindra, Adani Group, Tata Advanced Systems Ltd., and Reliance Defence. Some new entrants are: CRON Systems Pvt. Ltd., Comint Systems and Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Ideaforge Technology Pvt. Ltd., Tonbo Imaging India Pvt. Ltd., Viz Experts India Pvt. Ltd.

Indian private companies and publicly funded research laboratories are seeking international partners to make good deficiencies in the sector. There is significant opportunity in the high quality component manufacturing such as resistors, capacitors, diodes; general supplies such as nuts, bolts, washers; special purpose gears; aero-engines, generators/alternators; and electronics such as components for radars, communication equipment. Policies are being synchronised with the changing reality, indicating assurance of orders and encouraging international collaboration.

Amazon India to empower women entrepreneurs with the launch of 'Amazon Saheli'

NEW DELHI: Amazon India today announced the launch of Amazon Saheli, a new pioneering program aimed at empowering and enabling women entrepreneurs across the country to sell their products on the Amazon.in marketplace. In collaboration with notable organisations that work to encourage women entrepreneurship, the program is in line with Amazon India's vision to transform the way India sells. Currently, the partner organisations include SEWA (Self-Employed Women Association) and Impulse Social Enterprise.

Amazon Saheli, in collaboration with its partner organisations, will offer women entrepreneurs' access to nationwide customers on the Amazon India marketplace, the most visited and transacted marketplace in India.

Thousands of women entrepreneurs associated with these partner organisations will be able to offer their products to Amazon.in customers through a dedicated storefront, 'The Saheli Store'.

The store will feature unique products produced locally by these women entrepreneurs. Initially comprising handicrafts, apparel, handbags and home decor items, the store will gradually scale up to on-board women entrepreneurs selling in different product categories.

Besides offering the registered women entrepreneurs an unparalleled reach to customers, Amazon Saheli will help them gain world-class logistics and fulfillment facilities to help their businesses soar.

Women entrepreneurs under the program will be able to enjoy a slew of benefits such as subsidized referral fees, free imaging and cataloging during launch, account management and post launch support and enhanced discoverability and differentiation of products through specialized storefronts. "We are delighted to join hands with partner organisations such as SEWA and Impulse for Social Cause that have done remarkable work to aid marginalized women entrepreneurs and help them scale up for a multiplier impact. Through Amazon Saheli we aim to bring a change in the lives of thousands of women entrepreneurs with the help of our partners," said director and GM Seller Services, Amazon India, Gopal Pillai.

"SEWA is happy to partner with Amazon which share the same vision to not only provide women entrepreneurs access to millions of new customers and become economically secured and will generate employment opportunities for many more young women," said Reema Nanavati who leads SEWA. Hakhbir Ahir, a postgraduate in Arts from a village in Santalpur, Gujarat - is a seller on Amazon under the program. She is a teacher but also continues their family's embroidery tradition and sells her embroideries on Amazon as "Hansiba. Paliben used to collect waste from the streets in Ahmadabad and feed her family.

"Today she is a seller on Amazon - selling stationery made from recycled waste paper through her co-operative 'Gitanjali. This is freedom from poverty, hunger - we call second freedom - life of dignity," said Nanavati.

"Promoting entrepreneurship among women has become a key focus area for companies everywhere - globally and in India. E-commerce and specifically the e-marketplace model is a great avenue for women entrepreneurs to benefit from the fast-growing digital economy. We are very encouraged by the creativity and drive we see among India's women entrepreneurs and are excited to see how Saheli can inspire their innovative spirit," said senior vice president - Global Corporate Affairs, Amazon Inc., Jay Carney.

RCom shares dive over 9% on insolvency case buzz

NEW DELHI: Shares of Reliance Communications fell sharply by over 9% in early trade today amid reports that China Development Bank has filed insolvency case against the telecom firm, which the company has denied.

The stock tanked 8.61 per cent to Rs 12.20 on BSE. At NSE, shares of the company dived 9.36 per cent to Rs 12.10. However, later the stock recovered some of its early losses and was trading 4.12% lower at Rs 12.80 at 11:40 hrs on BSE. BSE had sought clarification from Reliance Communications Ltd after market hours yesterday with respect to news that China Development Bank files insolvency case against it.

In a clarification to BSE, Reliance Communications spokesperson yesterday said, "The company has not been served any notice of the application filed by China Development Bank with NCLT, as reported in the media."

However, in the interest of all stakeholders, the spokesperson said: "The company is engaged through the JLF (joint lenders forum) with all its lenders for a successful resolution of the SDR process. The China Development Bank has also been actively participating in the JLF."

The company is therefore, surprised by the untimely and premature action of the China Development Bank of filing an application at NCLT, the spokesperson added.

The company continues to remain engaged with all lenders including the China Development Bank and is confident and committed to a full resolution with the support of all the lenders.

FIR registered against Flipkart founders for alleged cheating



BENGALURU: An FIR has been lodged against e-commerce giant Flipkart's founders and a few other company officials for allegedly "cheating" a businessman to the tune of Rs 9.96 crore, police said.

The case pertains to non-payment of dues by Flipkart to C-Store Company for laptops it supplied, officials at the Indiranagar police station here said.

They said an FIR has been registered against Flipkart's Sachin Bansal, Binny Bansal and a couple of company officials, based on the complaint by C-Store Company's Naveen Kumar. According to the complaint, C-Store had entered into a contract with Flipkart for supply of laptops along with other electronic goods for its sale, and had supplied about 14,000 laptops, police said.

Flipkart, which returned about 1,480 units, did not pay for the remaining, the complainant said, adding that the other charges, including shipping had also not been paid.

The complaint alleges that there has been cheating to the tune of Rs 9.96 crore, police said.

A case has been booked under different sections of IPC, including cheating and criminal breach of trust, an official involved in the investigation said.

When contacted for its reaction, Flipkart said it did not wish to respond for now.

HAL Robotics launched in India; aims at augmenting operational efficiencies

NEW DELHI: Gurgaon-based start-up Robotics">HAL Robotics on Tuesday announced the launch of its operations in India, to help enterprises gain better visibility and control over key business metrics in real-time via its IoT data platform and product-suite. Robotics">HAL Robotics, which seamlessly integrates custom-designed plug-and-play sensors, wireless protocols, and AI-powered IoT data platform, into an easy-to-use, simple and DIY (do-it-yourself) deployment, can deploy these smaller and cost-effective sensors to remove operational bottlenecks and increase the efficiency of the operations.

"We are excited to announce the launch of operations at Robotics">HAL Robotics. For long, enterprises have been left in the dark wondering how they may remotely control the thermal or humid environment, or monitor certain gases in the plants, track the shipment, stop pilferages, avoid contamination and adulteration of substances, utilization of resources effectively and efficiently and more. Our IoT sensors, products and platforms are aimed at solving the same challenges, while offering reliable, secured, and end-to-end solutions to our clients," said MD - Robotics">HAL Robotics, Prabhakar Chaudhary.

Robotics">HAL Robotics is fundamentally bringing a new paradigm for #multistack computing™, pixelate where intelligence is distributed across each layer of tech stack. The products and solutions offered by the startup ensure seamless interaction between HAL' designed-from-scratch Hardware, machine learning over M2M communication, API layer, Visualization layer, Predictive and descriptive analytics.

The solutions by Robotics">HAL Robotics are being widely used by various industries, including pharmaceuticals, chemicals and life science, Supply chain, Telecom, and Food processing.

GST reshaping FMCG logistics into modern business, says study

NEW DELHI: Trade and industry may have faced teething troubles from the Goods and Services Tax (GST) but the entire business landscape of FMCG (fast moving consumer goods), retail and logistics is going to be transforming into modern and efficient model with introduction of uniform tax regime, says a joint study by ASSOCHAM-MRSS India. "All big corporations with positive impact for their supply chain are remodeling their operations into bigger logistics and warehousing. This is being enabled by the fact that unlike in the past when a company was required to have warehouses in each state or else the goods movement would be subject to Central Sales Tax (CST), the IGST (Integrated Goods and Services Tax) has come as an enabler for setting up larger warehousing units without fear of tax burden," noted the ASSOCHAM-MRSS India joint study titled, 'FMCG sector growth and logistic innovation.'

"New age warehousing and logistics would be assisted by the GST. Small and often ill-equipped storage space in the country would give way to neatly stacked, air-conditioned warehouses, with higher levels of automation. And driving the change in India's supply chain are consumer goods companies," the study said.

The big FMCG firms are in the process of consolidating their supply chain operations into bigger warehouses. "The new facilities will now cover about 450,000-500,000 square feet of space, almost five times the biggest warehouses right now. At the same time, logistics majors such as DHL, All-cargo and Mahindra Logistics are leasing bigger logistics spaces while real estate developers are investing billions in building bigger storage facilities."

Till now, the entire warehousing for FMCG was based on a tax law that attracted imposition on movement of goods between one state and the other. "Post-GST, with a uniform tax structure, large format modern warehousing is coming in a big way and they are closer to consumption centre."

One or two small warehouses by large companies in each state may be phased out if they do not fit into their business models after implementation of GST. "Besides, large FMCG players are training their vendors and distributors on how to go about GST roll-out."

ASSOCHAM secretary general, D.S. Rawat said, "A well-designed, agile, responsive and an efficient supply chain is a clear competitive advantage for business today as such expectations held of India's supply chain ecosystems are no different."

Mickey Mehta ups fitness quotient through strategic alliance with Talwalkars

NEW DELHI: Global leading holistic health guru, wellness wizard and corporate life coach, Dr. Mickey Mehta, announced a strategic alliance with Talwalkars Better Value Fitness Limited (Talwalkars), one of Asia's largest fitness companies.

The two titans of fitness and wellness have partnered in a global endeavor to start a wellness revolution for human evolution. The agreement was signed by Dr. Mickey Mehta and Prashant Talwalkar, MD & CEO of Talwalkars at St. Regis Hotel, this afternoon.

With the health and fitness industry evolving, Mickey wants to bring a holistic offering to the fitness industry. This partnership helps consolidate his leadership position in the industry enabling him to make world-class holistic health and wellness offerings accessible to everyone across India and eventually across the globe.

With Mickey Mehta's branded workout programs, products, services, wellness intellectual properties and Talwalkar's organizational strengths, infrastructure and national network, both brands complement each other and will collectively grow to reinvent fitness standards and thus get this world "Mickeymized!" The visionary guru plans to revolutionize the usual gym workout, by transforming the mindsets from conventional fitness modalities to adopting ancient wellness wisdom & philosophies. Today Mickey has 15 wellness centers across Mumbai propagating Mickey's wellness programs. With Talwalkars' industry leadership and national footprint of over 220 fitness centers, this partnership will leverage Talwalkar's infrastructure to promote Mickey's signature wellness offerings and branded IPs in India which will help him build a global brand footprint.



Some of Mickey's signature wellness offerings and branded IPs include wellness foods, nutraceuticals, fitness/sports merchandise and programs such as 'Learn swimming in 24 hrs', 'Grow Tall with Mickey Mehta', 'Be stronger, Live longer - Age Reversal Program' and most importantly Mickey's 'Eco-friendly Green Workouts-the first ever green work-out in the world amongst many others. Apart from this Mickey plans to strengthen his digital presence and launch Mickey Mehta 2.0 across the world!

Speaking about the alliance, Dr. Mickey Mehta says, "I want to make wellness the religion No.1, and this partnership takes me one step closer to fulfilling that dream. This alliance represents the coming together of a fitness and wellness brand who share the same ide-

ologies, values and vision to bring a holistic offering to consumers in the health and wellness category. My partnership with Talwalkars gives me a national platform and is just the first step in building a global brand footprint."

"We believe in Mickey's vision and want to create more value through wellness foods, nutraceuticals, merchandise, digital Mickey and Mickey's IPs and services via the Talwalkars network. We are excited about this partnership, and believe the synergies this will benefit not only our audiences in the markets we directly impact, but thousands of people pan India in our effort to make our nation live fitter, thus have healthier and happier souls walking this earth," said MD and CEO Talwalkars, Prashant Talwalkar.

Matt Prior raises hopes of Ben Stokes' possible Ashes participation

LONDON: Former England wicketkeeper-batsman Matt Prior fuelled speculation of suspended Ben Stokes reinforcing the tourists after their 10-wicket loss to Australia in the Ashes opener, when the all-rounder was spotted at Heathrow airport en-route New Zealand. Delighted at Stokes' possible return, Prior took to Twitter saying: "If Stokes is heading to NZ then he must be cleared I'd assume?" "Get the long flight out the way. Best place to get acclimatised and ready whilst not being in Oz... fly in for the Test when decisions have been made (which must be close)..." he wrote in another tweet.

England would be hoping for Stokes' early return, especially after their massive 10-wicket loss to the hosts at the Gabba in Adelaide on Monday. The 26-year-old Stokes was initially named in the Ashes squad for the tour of Australia but was stood down following his arrest on suspicion of causing actual bodily harm during a brawl in Bristol during England's one-day series against the West Indies two months ago. While the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) played down the issue, saying Stokes was on a personal trip to New Zealand, a statement from Canterbury Cricket revealed that they have been in initial informal discussions with Stokes' representatives regarding his potential availability for the Ford Trophy and Burger King Super Smash cricket. However, the ECB's decision to grant Stokes a No Objection Certificate (NOC) last Friday, which cleared him to play in New Zealand, suggests a softening on their stance.

The fact that he has been cleared to travel, added to the proximity of New Zealand to Australia, means that ECB wants Stokes to be match ready and immediately join the squad once the probe by the Avon and Somerset Police is over.

Ravichandran Ashwin is currently the best spinner in the world: Muttiah Muralitharan

NAGPUR: Sri Lanka cricket team legend Muttiah Muralitharan feels India's Ravichandran Ashwin is presently the best spinner in the world and his achievements with the ball are a testimony to his greatness. Ashwin became the fastest bowler to reach the milestone of 300 Test wickets in his 54th match on Tuesday, breaking Dennis Lillee's record during Indian cricket team's convincing win over Sri Lanka in the second Test. (IND vs SL, 2nd Test, highlights) (Scorecard)

And Muralitharan congratulated the Indian off-spinner on his achievement. "I want to congratulate him (Ashwin). It's a big achievement as getting 300 Test wickets is not an easy job. Definitely, he is the best spinner in the world at the moment," Muralitharan said.

"He is not in the One-Day team but hopefully he will return and do wonders in the shorter formats also," said the spin legend, who holds the world record of capturing 800 wickets in 133 Test matches. Australian fast bowling legend Lillee had reached the milestone in 56 Test matches way back in



1981 and it took 36 years for another bowler to eclipse the record. Ashwin is also ahead of some of the illustrious names, who had completed the milestone in quick time.

Among them are Muralitharan (58 Tests), Richard Hadlee, Malcolm Marshall and Dale Steyn (61 Tests each). Having eclipsed Lillee's feat, the real challenge now for Ashwin is to break Muralitharan's record of being the fastest to 400, 500, 600, 700 and

800 Test wickets.

"He (Ashwin) is hardly 31, 32 years old and can play for another 4-5 years at least. But it will also depend on how he performs and remains injury free. Only time will tell as it will be very hard for him after 35," said Muralitharan.

Besides, Ashwin also has 150 ODI wickets from 111 matches.

Not just quality of two teams but over-

kill of contests have taken the sheen out of India-Sri Lanka series, a fact which was recently endorsed by India captain Virat Kohli. Asked Muralitharan about the issue, he gave a tongue-in-cheek reply.

"I can't say there is too much of (India-Sri Lanka) cricket but may be Virat (Kohli) is getting bored of winning every time," he said. While Muralitharan complimented the current Indian team under Kohli for its level of consistency, he expressed serious concern about the sorry state of Sri Lankan cricket. "India is a very good side and I rate them very high. You can't take credit away from India by saying that Sri Lanka is a weak team. They are doing really well in every format," he said.

"Alarm bells (in Sri Lankan cricket) have rang two three years ago. For me it's a matter of great concern. You lose sometime but this (Sri Lankan) team is losing a lot and that is a major worry," a concerned Muralitharan said.

"Young cricketers are not coming through. They are not performing. That's the biggest concern we have," concluded the spin great.

Murali Vijay, Ishant Sharma, Rohit Sharma make Indian cricket team depth enviable

NAGPUR: For the second Test starting in Nagpur, India had lost three of their main performers, who had all done brilliantly in the series opener against Sri Lanka at Eden Gardens. India's pace spearhead, Mohammed Shami had claimed four wickets, swing sensation Bhuvneshwar Kumar had a match-haul of eight wickets and opener Shikhar Dhawan had blasted 94 in the second innings.

Any team would be rattled; they are big holes to fill. But what does India do? In comes Murali Vijay for Dhawan and smashes a hundred, Ishant Sharma fills in for Bhuvneshwar and outshines all other bowlers, and Rohit Sharma creams a free-flowing hundred.

India has the kind of depth teams dream of, and the second Test proved prof. This is India's main strength at the moment.

Ishant and Vijay were like-for-like replacements while Rohit got a chance because India chose to go for a six-four (batsman-bowler) combination.

JOSTLING FOR SPOTS

The Mumbai batsman is likely to go back to spending time on the bench, and will get his next chance when India decide to add an extra batsman. However, the impressive performances of Ishant and Vijay have increased the competition for places in the playing XI - a welcome headache for the team management.

Captain Virat Kohli will have a tough choice to make between picking Dhawan and Vijay for the third Test starting in New Delhi on Saturday. Dhawan can change the game within a session and was India's highest run-getter in the series in Sri Lanka as well. But Vijay was the first-choice opener and the left-handed batsman only got a chance only because Vijay got injured ahead of the away Sri Lanka series. The call has to also be based on who the team management plans to open with in the upcoming South Africa series.

ISHANT'S FORM

Though Ashwin bagged an eight-wicket haul, the talking point of the game among bowlers was Ishant's

impressive performance. The lanky pacer was in the kind of rhythm which had helped him make a name when he first burst on to the scene. To add to his three-wicket haul in the first innings, he bowled two dream deliveries in the second essay for a match haul of five.

It gives Kohli a ready-made back up for the fragile Shami. With Bhuvneshwar Kumar swinging the ball like a sultan, Umesh Yadav will be under pressure to keep his place in the playing eleven for the South Africa series.

India were already in a strong position when Rohit Sharma came out to bat, but it was an important hundred for the Mumbai batsman; not just from a personal point of view, but it fits into the team's preparations for South Africa, where India are likely to feel the need to bolster the batting.

BATTLE-READY

It's credit to the team management for how they have kept their troops battle-ready. Rohit was playing his

first Test since October 2016, Ishant and Vijay their first since March.

Talking about the mindset needed to wait for a chance after a long time, Rohit explained: "The most important thing is when you get an opportunity you have to be more than ready, not just ready to play the game (but) deliver the goods that your coach, captain and team expect from you.

"When I was in Sri Lanka or before that, you never know you are going to be guaranteed a place in the 11.

You got to try and figure out the way when you are in the middle, how you are going to be destructive and make an impact on that particular game. So, my focus was particularly on those aspects.

"We have got some good set of coaches to go through all that and it really depends on the captain and coach, what combination they want and what they are comfortable with. And every member of the side completely understands that and back them 100 per cent to make the right decision."

Juventus' Gonzalo Higuain could play through pain of broken finger in Serie A



MILAN: Argentina ace Gonzalo Higuain could play Friday's Serie A clash against Napoli despite a broken finger, Juventus general manager Giuseppe Marotta has insisted. Champions Juventus, four points behind Napoli, travel to the San Paolo Stadium on Friday before two other crunch ties -- a Champions League trip to Olympiakos on December 5 and a Serie A clash against second-place Inter Milan on December 9.

"Today surgery can produce real miracles. Gonzalo has 50 per cent chance of playing at the San Paolo," Marotta told Sky Sports Italia on the sidelines of Monday night's Grand Gala del Calcio awards organised by the Italian Footballer's Association.

The 29-year-old Higuain, who left Napoli in 2016 for Turin in a 90 million euro deal, and has scored 10 goals this season, underwent surgery on a fractured bone in his left hand earlier on Monday.

It's an important game against Napoli, but I don't think it'll be decisive for the end of the season. Of course we'll try to honour it in the best way," said Marotta.

"Generally this game comes when Juventus aren't at the top, but we're aware how hard the match is and while we respect them,

we're not afraid."

Despite two lost Champions League finals in the past three years -- 2015 and 2017 -- Marotta said that they were not focusing more on Europe this season.

"We know that the charm of the Champions League is unique.

But let's not forget that we play in Italy and we want to honour the championship in the best way, winning what is just as beautiful a cup for the seventh time (in a row)."

Bosnian midfielder Miralem Pjanic added: "Higuain is very motivated, we will see if he will be available against Napoli. We hope so, but even if he's not we will do our best to get to the three points.

"It will be a match between two beautiful teams, who will battle to the end for the Scudetto." "We have many champions and, although we have shown some struggles, we want to win the Scudetto which is the number one goal, hoping to be able to continue the Champions League."

Juventus are second in the Group D behind already qualified Barcelona and a point ahead of third-place Sporting Lisbon, needing to secure their Champions League qualification at Olympiakos.

Darren Lehman says Adelaide Oval 'quickest under lights' ahead of 2nd Ashes Test

BRISBANE: Darren Lehmann has told the England cricket team to brace themselves for the fastest wicket in Australia under lights in the day-night Ashes Test at the Adelaide Oval.

England flew to South Australia licking their wounds after a crushing 10-wicket defeat in the opening match of the series on a Gabba pitch that was not as quick as usual.

James Anderson will be expected to come to the fore with a pink ball that should swing in the first day-night Ashes Test, which starts on Saturday.

Australia head coach Lehmann feels pacemen Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins

will be excited at the prospect of bowling on a surface which he expects to offer plenty of bounce.

"It's a fascinating Test match, there's a lot of talk about it'll seam and it'll swing," Lehmann said on Tuesday.

"The ball stays pretty good, but you can make runs if you play well as per normal. And it does quicken up at night - probably the fastest wicket around Australia at night, so that's going to be interesting, how it plays.

"[Bowling short of a length] certainly hasn't changed from four years ago. It's a bit different in Australia than England where grounds are small-

er and you can't really get away with it, on bigger grounds you can.

"So that's one for us that we see as an advantage. They did it quite a lot to us as well, it's a play a lot of people do now. At the back end when the wicket quickened up and we could go after them a bit harder was helpful. That's the blueprint, it's no secret we're going to attack their middle and lower order like that." "You're more comfortable in your preparation [with experience of playing day-night Tests], you know what you have to do to get ready. So the lead-in is a lot more normal for us than other teams having done it twice.

Lionel Messi blames Neymar departure for FC Barcelona's defensive style

MUMBAI: FC Barcelona ace Lionel Messi has said that it was the shock departure of Brazilian star Neymar that prompted new manager Ernesto Valverde to adapt to a slightly more defensive style of play as opposed to the team's conventional, attacking game.

FC Barcelona have conceded only six goals in their 19 games this season, having played opponents such as Atletico Madrid, Juventus (in the Champions League) and Valencia, who are currently placed second in the La Liga. Their defensive solidarity has kept them as one of the three unbeaten teams in the domestic as well as in UEFA Champions League. Neymar's Paris Saint Germain and former Barcelona manager Pep Guardiola's Manchester City are the other two teams

in the special club.

"The departure of Neymar has led to a change in our game," Messi revealed to German magazine Kicker as part of an interview with European Sports Media. "Although we lost a lot of clout in attack, we are better sorted on the defensive. The midfield is now clearer, there is a better balance. That has made us defensively stronger."

Messi, while acknowledging PSG and City's current form as a threat to Barcelona's European plans, also named arch-rivals Real Madrid and German champions Bayern Munich as other dangerous opponents. City is one of the strongest teams so far, together with PSG. But, the season is still very long. I never overlook Real Madrid for its class and experience,



even though they are not currently achieving the results that are expected. Or Bayern Munich. Bayern are the other big team that

will be ready at the end of the season," Messi said.

However, Real have not been in the ping of form this season.

The European champions have drawn three and lost two of their 13 games in La Liga this term, are placed fourth, eight points

behind Barcelona.

But Messi believes that given their squad strength and history, Real will bounce back and fight for all the titles on offer.

"That it's just a snapshot. It is not the first time that we see a club like Real in such a situation. In the end they will be back and fight for every title. Because of the squad they have. Because of the players who have them. And because it always was like this," added Messi. Also, speaking of his relationship with Real's Portuguese talisman Cristiano Ronaldo, Messi said: "I do not know if we will be friends. Friendship is born and grows by spending time together and getting to know each other properly. We have no relation to each other, mainly because we only see each other at awards ceremo-

nies and then that's the only time we talk to each other. Everything is fine, but our ways of life do not intersect very often."

Messi and Ronaldo have dominated the world of football for over a decade now -- the duo having split between themselves the last ten individual awards for best player in the world. But Messi, who recently won his fourth Golden Boot award has labelled teammate Luis Suarez, Neymar, PSG's Kylian Mbappe as serious contenders for the award in the future.

"There are many great players in the world who can win these awards. For the past few years, we've both been there, but now players like Neymar, Kylian Mbappe and Luis Suarez are serious contenders for these awards," opined Messi.