



**6**  
**LOCAL**  
**Exclusive Indian property exhibition ends successfully**

# THE TIMES

KUWAIT'S PREMIER WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE

**VIEWPOINT 15**  
The Politics of Financial Volatility

**10 REGIONAL**  
GCC pavilions display cultural heritage at Global Village

Issue No 785      Established 1996      06 -12 March, 2016      [www.timeskuwait.com](http://www.timeskuwait.com)      150 Fils

## Kuwait to launch new fund to manage domestic assets

In February, Kuwait announced plans to create a new fund to manage its domestic assets with the aim of selling them to private investors within five to seven years. In a step intended to signal its drive towards privatizing state-owned companies, the government said the new fund could manage up to \$100 billion in local assets and would be managed by the country's sovereign wealth fund manager, Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA).

The fund is expected to invest in local companies, as well as in power, water and other utility projects, as well as domestic assets currently being managed by KIA. The move is primed to support the government's plans to privatize its utilities over the next five to seven years, as well as encourage the private sector to play a more significant role in the country's development.

Though previous attempts at privatization by the government have been, at best, lukewarm, this time around there is a sense of



determination to see it through. The fact that oil prices have been in a slump for over 18 months and a looming budget deficit have added urgency to privatization drive.

However, analysts say that in order to make the utilities and other local assets attractive to potential investors, the government will first have to make these ventures more

profitable. Currently the utilities are drowning in subsidies and many local assets are saddled with bloated number of employees who are Kuwaiti nationals and enjoy large salaries and perks. Before putting these assets to the market, the government will have to reduce or remove the substantial subsidies and find ways to rationalize manpower in these sectors.

Kuwait's move to create a new sovereign wealth fund comes nearly a decade after the government first began preparing the groundwork for privatization of some of its assets including sale of the national carrier Kuwait Airways.

In May 2010, the country's then contentious parliament approved a privatization bill that could pave the

way for the sale of some of Kuwait's state-owned entities. While the bill included certain downstream energy assets, it banned the privatization of oil and gas production, as well as assets in the health and education sectors.

The bill allowed government to reduce its stake in other major assets to 20 percent or less, with Kuwaiti nationals being given the opportunity to buy 40 percent of shares in the privatized firms through initial public offerings (IPO) and the remaining 35 percent to be offered to local listed shareholding companies through public auctions.

Under the regulations, the Supreme Privatization Council, led by the prime minister, would oversee the process and ensure earnings from the privatization were added to the government's budget with half of all revenue going to the Future Generation Fund. Unfortunately, the privatization agenda all but ground to a halt, while seemingly more

*Continued on Page 5*

### Ambassador Awadhi keen to take India-Kuwait relations to new heights

**SA H Rizvi**

Special to The Times Kuwait

Destiny had something else in store for Kuwait's Ambassador to India H.E. Fahad Ahmad Mohammad Al-



Awadhi when he returned home after graduating with a degree in Economics and Business Administration from the United

States. Soon after arriving back in Kuwait and with dreams of contributing to the economic resurrection of his country, Ambassador Awadhi, unlike many of his countrymen, took an assignment in the private sector,

"I worked for more than a year in the private sector" recalls the ambassador "but my father had other ideas. He kept urging me to join the government where, he said, I could make similar contribution. Convinced with the merit of his argument. I ultimately yielded to his advice and joined the diplomatic service and here I am sitting today with you," the ambassador said with a smile. Today, the envoy says he is proud to have followed his father's advice. "I have enjoyed every moment of my career in diplomacy; its challenges,

*Continued on Page 2*

### Oil prices to remain stagnant through 2016

Oil prices plunged to the lowest monthly average in a decade at the start of 2016 and with supplies continuing to outpace demand, as it has in the last two years, experts believe oil prices will remain below last year's level throughout the year ahead.

The US Energy Information Administration (EIA) projects that Brent price will average \$37.4 per barrel in 2016, reaching \$43 by December; with Brent futures contracts averaging \$35 per barrel for 2016, it appears that many investors also subscribe to the EIA's view. However, according to analysts at Asiya Capital Investments Company, a Kuwait-based international investment firm, the market may be underestimating future supply and overestimating future demand. They believe that oil prices could fall below EIA's forecast for a third consecutive year. Though the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected

the global economic to grow from 3.1 percent YoY in 2015 to 3.4 percent in 2016, according to Camille Accad, economist at Asiya Capital, global



demand will most likely decelerate to around 2.8 percent this year.

The company bases their analysis on the less than optimistic economic data from major sectors of global

economy. Though the IMF expects US growth to rise slightly this year, recent data suggest otherwise; investment and consumption are

sluggish in the US with the industrial sector contracting and the labor and property markets showing early signs of a slowdown.

*Continued on Page 3*



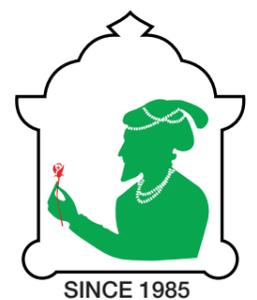
هويلى

Quick Bites  
وجبة سريعة



#### Our branches

<b>Hawally</b> 22626782 22626783 /4	<b>Sharq</b> 22425131 22425132	<b>Fahaheel</b> 23911174 23911175	<b>Farwaniya</b> 24726126 / 7 24740003 / 4	<b>Salmiya 1</b> 25722223 25722224
<b>Al-Rayan</b> 23911174 23911175	<b>Jahra</b> 24565111 / 222 24565333	<b>Fintas</b> 23900026 23900027	<b>Salmiya 2</b> 25729292 25729293	<b>Marina Mall</b> 22244523 <b>Sharm El-Sheikh</b> +20693604548



SINCE 1985

**MUGHAL MAHAL**  
**مغل محل**

Everyone's First Choice

[fahaheel@mughalmahal.com](mailto:fahaheel@mughalmahal.com) - [www.mughalmahal.com](http://www.mughalmahal.com)

## TEF celebrates attaining ISO certification

Tamilnadu Engineers Forum (TEF) in Kuwait, an association of alumni from various engineering colleges in Tamil Nadu, India, announced its attainment of ISO 9001 - 2008 Certification. Around 600 engineers from various disciplines and industries spread around Kuwait are members of the forum.

Announcing the achievement, during the 16th inaugural function of the forum on 27 February, TEF General Secretary Dr. Shan Senthil noted that it added another glowing triumph to the list of TEF's achievements. He pointed out that the forum is the first, nonprofit, voluntary organization in the region to obtain this ISO certification.

The forum's President Jayakumar then elaborated on the vision of TEF to become the best engineering



association in Asia by establishing continual improvements, transparency and applying standard operating culture. He added that

TEF's ISO 9001-2008 accreditation will support it in demonstrating the highest levels of performance and stakeholder satisfaction.

## 400,000 live with diabetics in Kuwait



Internal medicine and diabetes consultant at the Amiri Hospital Dr. Abdul Nabi Al-Attar said that recent statistics showed that the number of diabetics of Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti amounted to about 400,000 where treatment of each of them costs about USD 2,000 per year.

Al-Attar said in a statement on Saturday during the 7th awareness campaign for the prevention of diabetes organized by the hospital

under the auspices of the Minister of Health Dr. Ali Al-Obeidi at the Avenues Mall that all the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states have entered the list of the 1st 10 countries in the spread of the disease.

He urged citizens and residents to visit the awareness campaign for testing glucose, blood pressure, blood sugar, triglycerides, cholesterol and carrying out a retina exam.

**UAE XCHANGE**<sup>®</sup>  
Service is our Currency

### NOTICE

**UAE Exchange Group is no longer associated with UAE Exchange Centre, W.L.L, Kuwait.**

Kuwait, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2016

**UAEXCHANGE**, a renowned brand in the global financial market blossomed in early eighties. It is a globally recognized brand with its operations in thirty (30) countries across the globe. The brand '**UAEXCHANGE**' and its associated rights are exclusively owned by the UAE Exchange Group of Companies.

In Kuwait, UAE Exchange brand made its presence through UAE Exchange Centre W.L.L. Recently the UAE Exchange Group has decided to disassociate itself from the UAE Exchange Centre W.L.L and consequently suspend all its business affiliations and associations with UAE Exchange Centre W.L.L.

Through this public notice, **UAE Exchange Group** wishes to inform the valued customers and partners of '**UAEXCHANGE**' brand about our disassociation with UAE Exchange Centre W.L.L., and regret any inconvenience that may be caused to the customers and partners in this regard.

**UAE Exchange will continue its business association with Kuwait National Exchange WLL., Kuwait, and would continue to offer its world-class products and services in Kuwait through this entity.**

- UAE Exchange



## ESF celebrates Kuwait National Day

The English School Fahaheel (ESF) recently held a Kuwait Tradition Day to mark the National and Liberation days. The students

came dressed in colors of the Kuwaiti flag and other traditional outfits associated with the country's culture.

## Oil prices to remain stagnant through 2016

Continued from Page 1

On a similar note, the IMF also expects the euro zone and Japan to accelerate, but these economies show no signs of strength. February's PMI figures suggest a deceleration in all three developed markets.

Moreover, China, the world's largest oil importer, is expected to continue down its deceleration path this year due to its structural rebalancing. "The EIA and International Energy Agency (IEA) expect oil demand growth to decelerate slightly from 1.5 percent YoY in 2015 to 1.3 percent this year. In our view, these growth estimates are too high," says Mr. Accad.

EIA and IEA also estimate oil supply growth to fall from 2.5 percent YoY in 2015 to 0.5 percent and 0.3 percent YoY respectively, driven mainly by a decline in shale output. The low oil price environment has forced US and Canadian companies to cut back on investment and close down rigs. However, the effect is yet to be seen on crude stockpiles, which are still around all-time highs.

Upside risks to supply are more evident in other markets such as Iran, Iraq and Libya. Iran and Iraq are producing below their full capacity. The recent removal of sanctions on Iran and the return of Iraq's energy industry, following years of devastating conflicts, are driving a reemergence in their output.

Meanwhile, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, who are producing near record

highs, are ready to cap production at current levels, but the deal depends on the participation of Iran and Iraq, which is unlikely to happen. Moreover, sectarian tensions in the region have complicated the relationship between Saudi Arabia, Iran and Iraq. As such, these countries' production levels are likely to increase in an uncoordinated manner.

A return of Libyan crude to global markets would also raise global supply further. Libya is currently producing 400,000 barrels per day, a quarter of its output before the Arab Spring. However, although a strong comeback is unlikely, slow progress towards the formation of a unity government raises the possibility of a small upturn. "There is no conclusive evidence that the supply gap will narrow this year, and we expect oil prices to remain lower than EIA's estimates," said Mr. Accad.

Noting that the oil market rebalancing process will be slow as stronger economic conditions are needed to raise demand, the Asiya Capital economist concluded, "This year, we expect low oil prices to have stronger economic implications on oil-producing and oil-consuming countries. In oil-producing economies such as the GCC, deteriorating fiscal balances will lead to more aggressive measures. Meanwhile, net oil consumers may feel more positive effects of low oil prices as the lagged price transmission mechanism of the energy supply chain takes effect."

# Ambassador Awadhi keen to take India-Kuwait relations to new heights

Continued from Page 1

its changing idioms, meeting people, understanding new places, and new history." Urbane, suave, and extremely humble, Ambassador Awadhi leaves an indelible imprint on anyone who meets him. His courteous behavior and his readiness to help anyone in need has attracted attention from all quarters of the Indian capital. It is probably the economist in him that prompts him to make good social investments.

**India and Kuwait have shared a long history of friendly relations and that is manifested with the way the huge Indian expatriates are partnering the progress of Kuwait.**

Leaving his cushy job in the private sector in 1982, he joined the Foreign Ministry with his first posting as Diplomatic Attache in the Department of Administration and Finance and within a year was promoted to the rank of Third Secretary.

In 1985 he was transferred to the Embassy of Kuwait in Libya and was then elevated to the rank of Second Secretary in 1987. After a successful stint in Tripoli, the envoy was transferred to the General Diwani

Ambassador Awadhi presented his credentials to President of India Pranab Mukherjee on 13 November, 2015. During the presentation ceremony held at the majestic presidential palace, the Indian President asked the new Kuwaiti Ambassador to convey his greetings to H.H. the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and wished the Kuwaiti people progress and success. President Mukherjee also recalled the visit of the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to India in 2006 and the visit of the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah saying that those visits helped to further cement the ties between Kuwait and India.

The President also pointed out to the robust trade ties between the two sides which touched US\$14 billion last year while expressing his hope that Ambassador Fahad Al-Awadhi would help to further strengthen cooperation with the Indian government to achieve goals which will serve the interests of the peoples in both the friendly countries.

"India and Kuwait have shared a long history of friendly relations and that is manifested with the way the huge Indian expatriates are partnering the progress of Kuwait," the Ambassador said. He added that trade links between Kuwait and India are centuries old and are getting stronger due to significant imports and exports of crude oil and other commodities. Up to 10 percent of Indian oil demand is supplied by Kuwait.

"I would like to see more of Kuwait-Indian partnerships in all fields of business," Ambassador

trade component to a higher level. "Our relationship exists on mutual trust that has developed over the years and we have to take it forward".

"The India - Kuwait joint commission would meet soon; we are working on the dates and modalities and I am sure we will make significant gains," the ambassador revealed, adding, "The last visit of H.E. the Prime Minister had not only set the agenda but the momentum of the growth." Ambassador Awadhi is happy over the increase of tourist traffic from Kuwait to India and hopes that private players from Kuwait and entrepreneurs would also look towards India for investment and business. "I am confident that we will take it further," he said.

Happily married with five children, Ambassador Awadhi was a keen



football player in his youth, a game that he still loves. "But these days, I have developed sudden liking for motor bikes and love to ride the Bullet," he added.

We hope the finer nuances of

economic strategy and skills of diplomacy would make a wonderful combination that will propel Ambassador Awadhi to script a new chapter in the India - Kuwait relations as never before.



Kuwaiti ambassador to India Fahad Ahmad Al-Awadhi and Indian official during celebration of Kuwait National and Liberation Days

in 1989 and took assignment in the Department of Asia and Africa.

Promoted as First Secretary in 1993, he served two stints at the Embassy of Kuwait in Zimbabwe and then in South Africa before his promotion as Counselor in 1997.

An Amiri decree appointed him as Charge d Affaires to the Kuwait Embassy in Sudan in 2000 and he was elevated as Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Sudan through an Amiri order in 2002.

In 2005, he took over as Ambassador of Kuwait to Syria and was later appointed as Kuwait's Ambassador to Tunisia in 2009 before his new assignment to India.

Awadhi said that the initiative of NAPESCO (Kuwait), the first private sector to start business in India in the Oil and Gas sector, could utilize the manpower and technical skills of India. He added that investments from Kuwait have great potential and should be encouraged in future and "it is a good step forward for the oil and gas industries as their demands are always on the rise."

It is here that the economist in the ambassador takes over. "India is emerging as a strong economic force and valuable market and Kuwait could play a significant role in this direction. There are so many areas to work up so that we can increase the

NOW OPEN  
REGISTRATIONS/  
BOOKINGS  
OF APARTMENTS  
AT PRIME LOCATION IN  
AMMAN ST. SALMIYA

**Relax Solutions**  
Solutions are unlimited

- REAL ESTATE & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
- HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT & AMENITIES SUPPLY
- FOOD & ACCOMODATION FOR CORPORATE FIRMS
- CATERING AND F & B SERVICES
- MEDICAL TOURISM ■ TOURISM
- INTERNATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES ■ IT SOLUTIONS
- OVERSEAS MANPOWER PLACEMENTS
- BUSINESS SETUP & SOLUTIONS ■ EVENT MANAGEMENT
- INTERIOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTIONS

**OUR PARTNERS & CLIENTS**

**KUWAIT – Office 11, Floor 13, Burj Al Ali – Kuwait City**  
**INDIA – No.10 RT Nagar, Bangalore +919901611786 / +919538759999 | UAE – 7<sup>TH</sup> Floor, Fairmont, Sheikh Zayed Road**  
**QATAR – Al Handassah St., B Ring Road - DOHA | OMAN – P. C. 311, P.O. BOX 91 | BAHRAIN - Manama**

**(+965) 220 92 450 - 690 45 777 - 966 68 085**  
**www.relaxkuwait.com - info@relaxkuwait.com**

@relax-solutions-w-l-i-kuwait?  
trk-top\_nav\_home

@relaxsolutions1

@relaxsolutionskw

@Relaxsolutions1

OUR BUSINESS STRATEGY – A SATISFIED CUSTOMER!

# Exclusive Indian property exhibition ends successfully



The two-day Indian realty exhibition, which brought together some of the top builders and developers from South India and opened to large crowds at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Salmiya, concluded successfully on Saturday, 5 March.

The premier show, which was held on 4 and 5 March, was inaugurated by Ambassador of India to Kuwait H.E. Sunil Jain, in the presence of Mr. Vigneshkumar VP Marketing, The New Indian Express, Mr. Mousa A Al Najadah Asst. CEO of Warba Insurance, Mr. Vikram Shekhawat Expat Group Head, National Bank of Kuwait, Mr. Mohandas NC of Indian Frontliners, Mrs. & Mr. Natarajan, Hotel Saravana Bhavan, Mr. Chelladurai President Kuwait Tamil Sangam, Mr. HIRAK Mukherjee Country Head Air India, Mr. Anural Regional Director TCIL, Mr. Devesh Kumar Resident Manager LIC International & Mr. Rajeev Sakhuja Resident Manager LIC HFL.

Following the lighting of the

ceremonial lamp, Ambassador Jain toured the various booths and discussed salient features of the properties being showcased with the exhibitors.

Organized by the New Indian Express newspaper in association with LIC Housing Finance Limited (LIC HFL), the Indian Realty Exhibition 2016 highlighted prime properties from over two-dozen top Indian builders and developers. Among the properties being displayed were luxury villas, apartments, row houses, budget homes and developed plots, from cities such as Bengaluru, Chennai, Kochi and Hyderabad. During the two day show period, realty developers offered exclusive, one-time bargain prices and special discounts on select properties.

Another aspect of the exhibition was the highly informative realty consultancy services being offered on the sidelines of the show. Mr. V. Nagarajan, editor and publisher Priya Publications provided advisory services for NRIs and a seminar was



held on FDI/NRI investment in real estate. The Government of India has considerably eased investment norms for real estate sector and considering several policy measures to boost the realty sector, such as the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill, guidelines for the launch of REIT units and is encouraging development of infrastructure, which will give a much-needed fillip to real estate sector. The NDA government has

also recently approved a proposal allowing investment made by NRIs to be deemed as domestic investment on par with resident investments. The repatriation benefits up to two residential units and annual repatriation limit up to US\$1 million out of NRO account arising out of income from sale of properties, rentals and others have made investment in real estate a lucrative option for NRIs.

In a further move to ease the norms, residents are now permitted to remit home loan EMI on behalf of NRIs. The RBI has also clarified that income and sale proceeds of assets held abroad by the returning NRIs need not be repatriated to India and can be retained and invested outside India. Also, with the commercial property absorption increasing across metros, there will be a corresponding demand for housing both for rental and investment purposes. Experts believe that for every square meter of commercial property absorption in a city, it generates demand for three square meters of residential property.

These positive moves by the government are likely to give a much-needed boost to the realty sector in the country. For people looking to invest or buy homes in India, this is an especially opportune moment as property prices are currently stagnant, home loan lending rates are very competitive and special concession in interest rates are being offered to women homebuyers.



# Kuwait likely to impose caps on hiring foreigners

**K**uwait's government is likely to take steps to address the demographic imbalance based on recommendations in a report on the country's population. The report recommended imposing caps on foreigners coming from specific countries who could be allowed to work or live in Kuwait.

Most of these nationals include laborers who have no steady income and are affecting the local economy and causing social pressure.

Egypt was listed as one of the nations whose citizens are recruited in large numbers, amounting to nearly 700,000, with a majority of them being marginal laborers. The report suggested reducing the number of Egyptian



marginal laborers along with Egyptian teachers who are recruited annually to work in Kuwait.

Under the recommendation, only 200 teachers, down from 500, should be hired annually for school jobs.

The difference could be covered by hiring teachers from countries such as Jordan, Tunisia and Morocco, the ones that do not have large communities in Kuwait.

The report also suggested limiting the recruitment of Indian manpower to technical jobs, such as engineers, nurses and oil sector workers. Foreigners make up around two-thirds of the country's total population of 3.3 million, out of which the highest are Indians.

## Reports emerge of cheating by certain 'travel' firms



**M**inistry of Commerce and Industry has revealed that people have stepped forward with accusations against certain travel companies, specialized in ticketing and hotel bookings, of cheating through bogus offers.

These travel companies called the people on their phones to offer them promotions that would allow them to spend some nights in five-star hotels at a discounted price along with other benefits. Also offered were air tickets with hotel accommodations in some touristic countries.

On taking advantage of the offers, complaints found they had been misled as the hotels status was lower than five-star, no free meals were included with accommodation in certain cases and the promises of the travel itinerary of the countries were not fulfilled as was agreed to earlier.

The Ministry has applied for an arrest warrant from the Public Prosecution before the legal proceedings against the companies would be initiated. Moreover, the concerned official of the ministry has issued an advisory to the public to be careful and beware of such false advertising by businesses that violate regulations of the ministry.

## Kuwait to launch new fund to manage domestic assets

Continued from Page 1

important political considerations were attended to. Privatization of Kuwait Airways and the Kuwait Stock Exchange, which were delayed on multiple occasions as the executive and legislature debated, have once again gathered steam in recent months. While earlier proposals had suggested the government would retain a 20 to 40 percent stake in Kuwait Airways, in June 2015 a new structure was approved, which included 75 percent state ownership.

According to the new plan, 20

percent of shares will be offered to Kuwaiti citizens, with another 5 percent to be sold to current and retired airline employees.

Low oil prices have a significant impact on Kuwait's economy as hydrocarbons account for roughly 60 percent of Kuwait's GDP and close to 95 percent of its export revenues. With the Ministry of Finance projecting a record deficit of KD11.5 billion for fiscal year 2016/17, equivalent to nearly 30 percent of GDP, the pace of privatization plans have accelerated and this could mark a turning point for the economy if realized.



## INJAZ holds course for students at ESF

**I**NJAZ, a nonprofit, non-government organization, held a special course for students at The English School Fahaheel (ESF). Through strategic partnerships with Kuwait's business and education sectors,

and with the help of qualified and dedicated volunteers, INJAZ delivers educational programs on entrepreneurial and leadership skills aimed at inspiring and educating future generations.



## ASSE conducts a training seminar regarding HSE Plan

**A**merican Society of Safety Engineers, Kuwait Chapter (ASSE) conducted a training seminar on 'How to Build Effective Contract Specific HSE Plan' on 19 February at Kohinoor Banquet Hall, Fahaheel. Around 15 members attended and benefited from this program. The trainer for the session

was Sanjay Jaiswal. He is a Certified Safety Professional (CSP) by the Board of Certified Safety Professionals, USA and holds B.E. in Fire Engineering from Nagpur University India.

The training seminar was excellently conducted by the trainer and effectively communicated the lesson to the participants.

**Now open in Farwaniya**

**Thakkara**  
Restaurant

Authentic taste of Kerala, Reloaded

**Fahaheel**  
Next to Lulu Center & Xcite Electronics  
**23920699 - 98766801**

**Salmiya**  
Next to Amman Roundabout, Al Qatami Street  
**25629898 - 98766802**

**Farwaniya**  
Near Sana Roundabout, Next to Gulf Mart & Panasonic  
**24734994 - 9876603**

# Kuwaiti women outnumber men in workforce



Official figures indicate that Kuwaitis make up less than 20 percent of the total labor force in the country.

As per the latest release by Central Statistical Bureau (CSB), Kuwaitis consist of mere 19 percent of the people employed in the labor market while the rest 81 percent consists of foreigners mainly from India and Egypt.

The figures estimate a total of 1,805,507 people working with jobs in public and private sector, out of which 342,417 are Kuwaiti's and

remaining 1,463,090 are foreigners.

With 188,141 in the labor market, Kuwaiti women outnumber Kuwaiti men, who number 154,276. However, this is not the case with foreigners as the number of foreign men who have jobs in Kuwait is higher than that of women with 1,311,076 and 152,014 respectively.

Topping the list are workers from Asian countries with 876,577, far ahead of 554,893 workers from Arab countries, but not including the Gulf Cooperation Council states – Bahrain,

Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. India topped the list in the nationality category with 455,228 workers, ahead of Egypt with 419,088 and Kuwait with 342,417. According to 2014 figures, the labor market consisted of 28.3 percent Kuwaiti men and 39 percent Kuwaiti women.

With the addition of the family members of the workers, foreigners make up around two-thirds of the total population estimated to be 3.3 million people.

## Arrested Ethiopian maid 'dies' in police custody

The Ethiopian maid who was in custody for the alleged murder of a 24-year-old Kuwaiti woman, who was slain while asleep at her home in Andalus on 10 February, was discovered dead inside a police patrol car last evening. She was escorted to the Central prison following interrogations with the Public Prosecution, and on arrival, one of the guards found her slumped on the seat of the vehicle. She was rushed to the Farwaniya Hospital in an ambulance, and was declared dead upon arrival. An initial examination of the corpse revealed a natural cause for her death. However, her remains have been referred to Forensics.

The suspect had attempted suicide, first after the murder of the young woman by stabbing herself in the neck, but was rushed to the intensive care unit of the Al-Sabah Hospital. There she attempted to end her life several times. During the murder investigation, she was confined to the Central Prison four days ago and had reportedly revealed to the Public Prosecutor earlier that there was no reason she had committed the crime.

## Indian embassy to host cultural evening

The Indian Embassy in coordination with National Council for Culture, Arts & Letters (NCCAL) will hold an Indian cultural evening showcasing a Qawwali Group led by Imran Khan on Thursday, 10 March. All are invited to the event at the Indian Embassy auditorium (Diplomatic Enclave) scheduled for 7.00 pm.



# Bhavans celebrates Graduation and Annual Day

On this inspiring theme, the Kindergarten section of Indian Educational School, Kuwait, celebrated its 9th Annual Day, which was a 5-day event, from 17 to 22 February. The tiny tots of IES, Jack and Jill, Mangaf and Bhavans Pearls Nursery gathered to celebrate the Graduation Day of UKG and the Annual Day of LKG for the academic year 2015 - 2016. The

colorful event was a treat for the audience who witnessed the tiny tots performing onstage.

The evenings were graced by the esteemed sponsor Ali Jedyian Al Rashidi; N.K Ramchandran Menon, Chairman, Bhavans Group of Schools, Middle East; T. Premkumar, Principal, Indian Educational School; Shaima, Supervisor, Management and

Mohammed, Public Relations Officer.

T. Premkumar, the principal, IES presented the Chief Guests with souvenirs prior to the Chief Guests speaking on the occasion and sharing a few uplifting words.

The tiny tots of IES, Jack and Jill and Pearls Nursery acted and danced on stage, bubbling with confidence and enthusiasm, showcasing their talent

on the stage. The theme for the evening was 'Pearls of Wisdom', passing on the message of four important virtues that need to be imbibed by the society. On the backdrop of a Carnival Fest, the four virtues of caring and sharing, helping, honesty and respect were presented by the tiny tots of LKG, with a foot tapping Carnival Dance number, skits based on real life situations and

action songs with a strong message conveying the need to incorporate good virtues to be responsible citizens of tomorrow. The students of UKG attired in the graduation gowns received their graduation scrolls from the Chief Guests of the day.

The big show of the little ones will remain a fond memory for parents and teachers alike.

THE TIMES KUWAIT

Thank You for liking us on Facebook

31000+

Like us on facebook TimesKuwait

www.timeskuwait.com

# KUWAIT OUT AND ABOUT

09 March

## Indian cultural evening

The Embassy of India in coordination with National Council for Culture Arts and Letters will be holding a cultural evening by Qawwali Group on 9 March, at the Dasma Theater, opposite Dasma Cooperative Society, and on 10 March at the Indian Embassy auditorium. Both shows will begin at 7:00pm.

10 March



## Live music concert

The management club of Gulf University for Science and Technology will be hosting an annual charity concert by two Khaleeji singers, Fahad AlKubaisi and Hind AlBahraineya in the university's amphitheater. For more information and ticket booking: Visit, www.tktti.com.

11 March

## Free medical camp

Tulu Koota Kuwait in coordination with Metro Medical Care will be holding a free medical camp at Metro Medical Care, Farwaniya, Habib Munawar Street, Block 3, from 7:00am to 1:00pm. The camp will cover tests that include blood sugar, cholesterol and B.P. checkup. Free consultation with specialists in major departments will also be included. Pre-registration is required. For more information and registration: Call, 65808427, 94927700 or email, secretary@tulukootakuwait.org, president@tulukootakuwait.org or visit, www.tulukoota.kuwait.org. Free transportation is also available from certain routes, call 67795950.



## Kuwait Rising

Red Bull Music Academy Session Kuwait will be hosting a music festival with a line-up of international acts, including bosaina, ETYEN, perfect timing and HVOB, at Dar al Athar al Islamiyyah, Yarmouk from 5pm to 10pm. For more information: Visit, www.redbullmusicacademy.com



The Kuwait Baseball Softball Challenger League yard sale will be held at the KBSC League from 9am to 3pm. The sale will

also provide a chance for visitors to view a baseball or softball game. The seller's table is available on rental for KD12 and is limited. For more information and to book your table: Call, 65891218, 97469000, 65190319.

12 March



A charity carnival titled 'Magic World' will be organized by The American Baccalaureate School at its campus from 10:30am to 4:00pm. The activities will include games, zumba, food, haunted house, video games, vendors and much more. For more information and to register for a booth: Call, 24791791 Ext: 3009.



17 March

## Taste of Q8 Food Festival



A consumer food festival, featuring TV celebrity chefs performing live cooking demonstrations, 50 restaurants, gourmet food and cookware shopping, live music, Kids Zone, and Farmers Market, will be held at Marina Crescent, from 17 to 19 March. For more information: Visit, Q8FoodFestival.com or TheTasteofQ8.com, or call 99911498.

19 March

## PAWS Bazaar

TIES, along with Second Chance, will be hosting a fundraiser bazaar titled Paws (Protecting Animal Welfare Society). The event will be held at the TIES center from 4pm to 8pm and will include a short presentation about PAWS along with a display of vintage and hand-made goods, animal crafts and animal face paintings, raffle of designer jewelry, cakes to taste and buy, animals to pet and adopt, play area for children and a bouncy castle. For more information: Visit, www.tiescenter.net, or email info@tiescenter.net or call 25231015.



25 March

## IMA family picnic 2016

Indian Muslim Association will be organizing a Customary 'FAMILY PICNIC 2016' in a desert camp at the outskirts of Kuwait City from 7:00am to 5:00pm under the theme 'And You will be Superior, if you are true believers (03:139)'. This event will include a variety of sports for children and elders alike, cultural event, skit, literary session and brief prize distribution ceremony at the end. All basic amenities shall be provided for a comfortable stay for elders, women and children alike. For more information: Call, 67764245, 99426664, 97223941

## Pilaterday



Visit FSRI every Saturday throughout February from 9.45 to 11.15am for pilates practice. Promote the benefits of exercise for breast cancer and help raise funds for cancer care at Al-Sidra Association. Bring your mat, a towel and a donation of no less than KD5, along with a friend to BBS Alumni Club in Jabriya.

## NYF offers free yoga classes

Free yoga, breathing, meditation and reiki classes will be held by an experienced female yoga teacher for all age groups. Classes are assigned on the basis of different health problems, stress and other problems by different techniques. For more information: Call, 99315825.



## Free fitness classes

Zumba, Masala Bhangra workout, aerobics, toning and many more free classes will be held at B.FIT studio in Salmiya. To register: Call, 65077062

www.orientalkuwait.com

**Restaurants**

**SALMIYA**  
Hamad Al-Mubarak Street  
Tel: 25720788, 25720799

**CITY**  
Mubarak Al Kabeer Street  
Tel: 22456553, 22476886

*The taste that touches your heart*

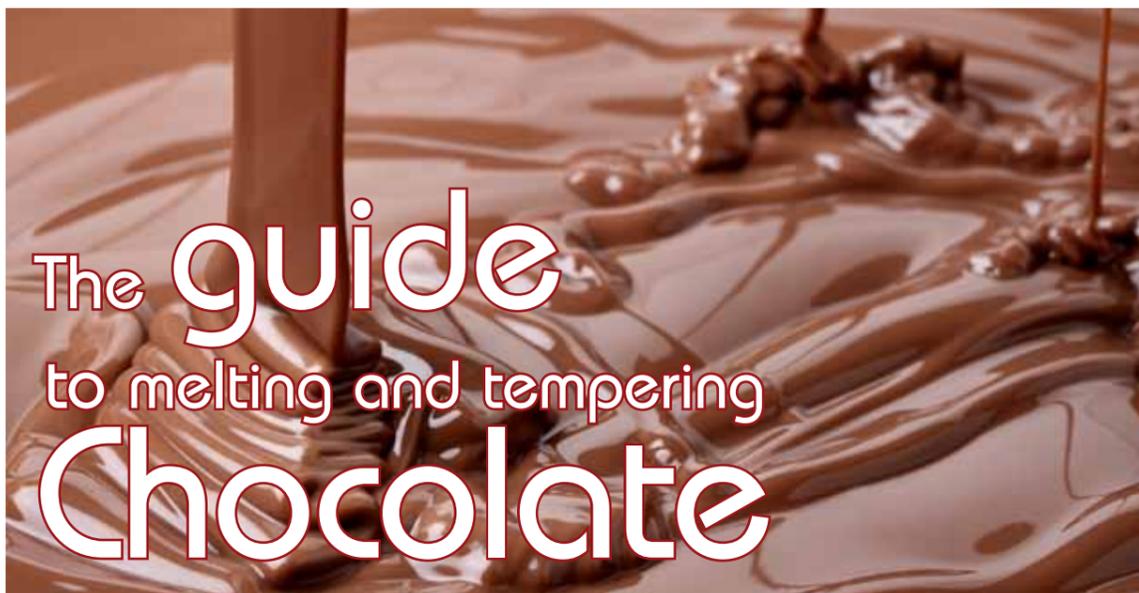
**Al-Andalous**  
Block-6, Street-4  
24802961, 24802971  
24801561

**Farwaniya**  
Block-1, Street-122  
24757070, 24758080  
24745502

**Qosour**  
Block-7, Street-14  
25425003  
25429812

**Jahra**  
Behind Zamzam Center  
Opp: Rauf hospital  
24578992, 50377799  
51691026

For publication of your announcements, upcoming activities or local events please email us at editor@timeskuwait.com To publish images kindly send pictures in high resolution.



# The guide to melting and tempering Chocolate

**Chocolate is a versatile ingredient that easily blends into recipes for, among others, cakes, brownies, molded chocolates and chocolate-dipped strawberries. But the success of cooking these scrumptious treats depends on knowing whether to use melt or temper chocolate during the preparation. Here is a guide on how the two processes differ and why melting or tempering is better when cooking various delicacies.**

**L**et us start with the difference between the two processes. While both, melting and tempering use heat to transform chocolate, the specifics of each are quite different. The main distinguishing factor between melted and tempered chocolate is the stability of the crystal structure, which ultimately affects the appearance and texture of the chocolate. Melted chocolate is made up of a network of unstable crystals, while tempered chocolate is composed of a network of stable crystals.



**Melting chocolate:** The process of melting uses heat to transform chocolate from a solid to liquid state. This can be done on the stovetop, in the microwave, with a double boiler, or with a water bath. It is also not necessary to use a thermometer when melting chocolate.

When chocolate is used in a sauce, as a glaze, or as an ingredient that is mixed into the batter for baked goods, there is no need to temper the chocolate; it is fine to stick with simple melted chocolate.

While cookies, candies and any other treats coated with a melted and cooled chocolate shell will taste just fine, the most noticeable



difference from using melted instead of tempered chocolate lies in the appearance and texture of the chocolate. Melted chocolate takes on a flat, dull, mottled, or even streaky appearance, with a texture that is soft instead of crisp.

**Tempering chocolate:** Though the process of tempering does involve melting chocolate with heat, there is a bit more to it. Besides heat, there are several other important components to take into consideration while tempering. Temperature, time and stirring all come into play when you want a chocolate product with



a glossy sheen, an even texture and a crisp snap when broken. Tempered chocolate is largely used in confections, like molded chocolates,

chocolate decorations, and anything that gets dipped in chocolate.

When chocolate is melted, the molecules of fat separate. The process of tempering brings them back together and, when done properly, results in a network of stable crystals. This is what gives tempered chocolate its glossy, even tone throughout, and the noticeable snap when broken into pieces. The process of tempering chocolate involves three steps: heating the chocolate to melt the fat crystals (all the crystals are destroyed), cooling the chocolate to bring the temperature down (new beta-crystals are formed), and then carefully reheating it again. The exact temperatures vary slightly depending on the type of chocolate being tempered. Tempering can be done on the stovetop with a double boiler, or in the microwave. But even with a good set of instructions, this is a tricky process to get right — especially if you have not tried it before.

**When to melt and when to temper:** If you are making a batter, dough, sauce, or glaze that requires the addition of chocolate, stick with melted, as there is no need to temper chocolate when it is used as an ingredient.

Consider going the extra step and tempering chocolate when you are making confections, like molded chocolates, chocolate-covered truffles, homemade peanut butter cups, chocolate-dipped strawberries, or any cookies that get dipped in chocolate, especially if it is for a special occasion.



## COOKING Tips



For a quick pickle, whisk a little salt and sugar into some white vinegar and pour over thinly sliced raw vegetables. Wait 20 minutes and serve.



Use metal measuring cups and spoons as plastic wraps over time, making them less precise.



When roasting vegetables, toss them in oil, then season them with salt and pepper and toss again. This way, the seasoning actually sticks to your food.

## DINING IN KUWAIT

For a complete list of featured restaurants, visit [http://www.timeskuwait.com/News\\_Dining\\_In\\_Kuwait](http://www.timeskuwait.com/News_Dining_In_Kuwait)

### Signor Sassi



**O**ne of the most celebrated Italian restaurants in London, which made its way to Kuwait in 2010, is located on Gulf Road next to Kuwait Towers. The restaurant offers a beautiful view of the Arabian Gulf through its floor-to-ceiling windows, which pour wonderful light into the open-plan restaurant, large enough to cater to over 100 guests. The whole place buzzes with vivacity, with songs emanating

from the kitchen as chefs serenade their food. The elaborate menu: appetizers, salads, and, as it goes with traditional Italian menus, two main meals, one of pasta and the other of different sorts of meats and vegetarian dishes, followed by dessert. The entire meal tastes exactly like something you would have at a topnotch high-end restaurant on High Street London.

**Our choice:** *Fettucine Alfredo with chicken, pasta tossed with butter, cream and parmesan cheese, and served with stuffed chicken breast with spinach and cheese.*



Gulf Road near the Kuwait Towers.  
Call 2241 8893.

### Cucina



**A**culinary vision realized by Michelin-starred chef Giorgio Locatelli, Cucina has a menu conceived by the renowned chef based on contemporary classic recipes. Using the best fresh and seasonal ingredients, the menu creates a gastronomic experience of heart-warming food that goes with the glamorous design

and elegance of the place. Ornate floral plates, polka dot cyan napkins, glints of gold and azure walls, the Arabian indulgence is resplendent. Paying true homage to the brand's iconic vision, Cucina is bold and understated, fashionable and passionate, standing out as a fine dining landmark on the local culinary scene.

**Our choice:** *Tonnarelli con Gamberi e Pomodorini with square-shaped strings of egg-free pasta lightly bathed in a sweet cherry tomato sauce, infused with hints of fresh parsley and olive oil. Bite-sized pieces of shrimp are hidden throughout the dish, adding to the rich flavor.*



1st floor Symphony Style Hotel on Gulf Road in Salmiya.  
Call 2577 0000.

### La Mamma



**N**othing says Italian food like that prepared with the love and passion of an Italian Nonna (grandmother). La Mamma speaks of casual Italian cuisine

at its finest. Brilliantly al dente pastas and fantastically light pizzas prepared by a true Italian chef trained at the hands of a Nonna. Their Tiramisu is not to be missed.

**Our choice:** *Pizza gardeniera, pizza bread topped with tomato sauce, red pesto, mushrooms, asparagus, red pepper, artichoke, cherry tomatoes and mozzarella cheese.*



Second floor of The Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait in Kuwait City. Call 2242 2055.

**Every week, our 'Dining in Kuwait' section features selected restaurants in the country that provide sumptuous cuisines from around the world. Want to feature your restaurant in our 'Dining in Kuwait' section and reach out to our wide reader base? Email us at [dining@timeskuwait.com](mailto:dining@timeskuwait.com) with a brief about your restaurant along with images in high resolution.**

# Bohra community chief Syedna Mufaddal meets Prime Minister Narendra Modi

**S A H Rizvi**

**Chief of Bureau, New Delhi**

Appreciating the great social work done by the Dawoodi Bohra community, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged the religious head of the Bohra

the Dawoodi Bohra community in the development of the Bhendi Bazaar area of Mumbai as a smart city.

Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, accompanied by a nine-member delegation, had called on Prime Minister Modi in New Delhi on 28 February. During his visit to Delhi, the

should be spread all over the world. "We must put all our effort in that direction," he said.

While alluding to the diversity of Indian society, the Syedna said that like flowers of many colors and shapes existing together and reflecting the bounty of nature, India too has much diversity and has assimilated many streams of thoughts that combined to form its unique composite culture. "We should be proud of our land," he added.

Thanking the gathering for the great love and affection showered on him, he said that his community would walk together with everyone to make India stronger and more peaceful. "This will be our strength," he pointed out.

In his felicitation address, IICC President Sirajuddin Qureshi said that it was a great honor and privilege to host his eminence Syedna Mufaddal whose work for development of the nation needed no description. He noted, "The Syedna is an epitome of



selfless service with an unwavering concern for the development of humanity as a whole."

The Syedna was later conferred with the Honorary Life Membership of IICC and presented with a shawl and memento by Mr. Qureshi.

A large number of diplomats,

politicians and academicians attended the function. Union Minister for Minority Affairs Najma Heptulla, senior leader of Samajwadi Party Jamshed Zaidi, AMU Vice Chancellor Zamiruddin Shah and Pro Vice Chancellor Ahmad were among those present on the occasion.



community Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin to continue their development work.

The Prime Minister appreciated the social reform efforts of the Dawoodi Bohra community and said the Union Government fully supported these initiatives. The Prime Minister also appreciated the progress made by

Syedna also met with Indian President Pranab Mukherjee and Congress Party President Sonia Gandhi.

Speaking at a felicitation function organized in his honor at the India Islamic Cultural Centre (IICC), the Syedna told the vast gathering that Islam preaches peace, tolerance and brotherhood and that this message

## ONCOST opens 2nd branch In Hawally

ONCOST Cash & Carry, the first and only cash and carry concept in Kuwait, held a press conference recently to showcase the company's expansion strategy for the next two years in the Kuwait market.

Sharing the story behind establishing the concept and the results of diligent market studies on which the business was modeled, the CEO of ONCOST, Saleh Al-Tunaib, said, "The ONCOST concept came as a result of the continuously evolving market and the need to provide customers with a new wholesale shopping experience with utmost convenience and value under one roof."

Revealing some of the key findings from market studies, Al-Tunaib said that the studies, conducted by specialized international firms, showed the lack of modern retail and wholesale formats under one roof at convenient locations in the country. More specifically, the lack of retail



and wholesale formats that cater to various customer categories within close proximity that provide selected assortments of food and non-food categories that are typically used by households, hotels, institutions,

restaurants and groceries.

On the same note, he pointed out that ONCOST's pricing policy is configured to offer competitive prices by the unit and wholesale prices by the carton thus passing substantial

savings especially to those customers having large volume consumption. Moreover, and unlike the traditional wholesale market, ONCOST offers customers the experience of wholesale shopping in a modern

environment, featuring trained staff, high cleanliness and hygiene standards.

Al-Tunaib added, "Since its launch in 2011 with one store in Sulaybia, ONCOST Cash & Carry has witnessed double digit growth, proving that the concept has been very appealing to customers." Capitalizing on its success, Al-Tunaib revealed that a series of stores would be opened in 2016. The second inauguration will be in early March in Hawally on Tunis Street and will be followed shortly by another store inauguration in Fahaheel.

Speaking on the occasion, the COO of ONCOST, Remesh TA, stated that the company has a large expansion plans to open a number of outlets in all major parts of Kuwait. Al-Tunaib concluded on a highly optimistic note about the future of ONCOST Cash & Carry, which he said will hold a distinct competitive edge in the Kuwait market.

**QUEEN ANNE**  
Silver Plated Tableware  
Made in England

Silver Plated Tableware

Sole distributor in Kuwait

**Al-Othman & Al-Bisher Trd. Co. W.L.L.**  
P.O. Box: 22984 Safat 13090 Kuwait  
Tel: +965 247 16 819 / 247 55 074  
Fax: +965 24755073 / 24760108  
Email: obtcwt@qualitynet.net  
www.obtcwt.com

Instagram @obtc\_kwt



# GCC pavilions display cultural heritage at Global Village

Since 1997, Global Village, the leading family entertainment and mega cultural attraction in Dubai with a unique shopping component to it, has been attracting visitors from around the world. With a variety of dining options from different international cuisines, as well as 32 pavilions each representing a different country showcasing its cultural heritage, it is no wonder that the Global Village has grown in popularity with each passing year.

The GCC Pavilions at Global Village have been celebrating the 20th season of the region's leading family destination for cultural shopping and entertainment by showcasing their rich traditions and unique heritage to guests from around the world. These unique pavilions introduce the Gulf region's range of products and aesthetics to guests, giving them the chance to learn about Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, whether they are local residents or tourists.

Commenting on the 20th edition of Global Village, Ahmad Hussain bin Essa, CEO of Global Village, asserted that the large presence of GCC pavilions is a continued strength for the park. "It is a continued source of pride for Global Village to host so many of the GCC countries as pavilions during our 20th season. All of the pavilion organizers developed and executed some amazing ideas to create beautiful facades, as well as offer products and experiences that local residents, regional visitors and guests from all over the world will enjoy."

He added: "The GCC pavilions have always been some of the most attractive elements of Global Village. Part of our goal has been to provide a comprehensive cultural, leisure and artistic experience from around the world. The GCC is a unique area that

people should be able to learn about when at Global Village and we are proud to see that the pavilions have grown over the past years in terms of the professional level of organization, the size of participating pavilions and the number of products and activities on display from individual countries."

Ahmad Hussain bin Essa concluded by saying, "We hope to see the success of the GCC pavilions



continue to grow in Global Village, because they are an added value to the rich cultural experience that Global Village provides to its guests from the UAE, the GCC and the world at large."

**UAE:** The UAE Pavilion stands as one of the most impressive in Global Village. Unique offerings from local exhibitors extend over 3,100 square feet of the richly designed Pavilion that takes on the UAE's rich heritage and architectural history. The pavilion offers guests the chance to experience traditional Emirati hospitality, and offers them a wide range of beautiful Arabic perfumes and incenses that have been developed locally.

The UAE pavilion hosts 120 various shops, around 45 percent of which are managed by women. Guests can learn how these Emirati women make perfumes, in addition to weaving clothes and textiles, all together painting a traditional landscape that has attracted thousands of guests to Global Village.

The Pavilion is home to a heritage



museum, an Emirati studio, as well as a theatre dedicated to traditional performances. Guests can also enjoy a number of local delicacies at the entrance to the pavilion.

**Saudi Arabia:** The KSA Pavilion is quick to warmly welcome guests to Global Village and the unique pavilion that boasts deeply seated traditions. The diversity of KSA comes across through the pavilions beautiful products that speak volumes about the countries love of its history.

Guests can undertake an inspiring journey of tastes and colors by sampling some of the pavilions authentic Saudi products. The KSA pavilion complements other GCC pavilions in Global Village, but also introduces visitors from outside the region to the chance to enrich their knowledge of each individual country.

The attractive façade is inspired by the main characteristics of life in the Kingdom - combining the swaying trees on the Saudi flag, the colors of the deserts, beauty of its ships and inspired from the traditional merchant caravans.

Guests are welcomed with hospitable Saudi coffee and free traditional henna, passing by the renowned Saudi majlis where friends

and family meet, and finally the traditional Saudi art group from the western region. Authentic Saudi products on display are diverse; include incense, perfumes, and relative products, in addition to Abayas and reputed Saudi embroidery.

**Kuwait:** The Kuwait pavilion has from the inception of Global Village attracted guests from all nationalities, thanks to the unique experience it provides - blending tradition with contemporary life.

The Pavilion's market is inspired by the Mubarakiya market in Kuwait which is reflected in the design of the shops and in the center of the pavilion the Kuwaiti Wadi band performs a lovely ambiance of traditional music from regional instruments. The Kuwait Pavilion in Global Village is made up of 70 shops with high value offerings. The pavilion displays many authentic Kuwaiti products, including rich perfumes, clothes, Abayas with an Arabic and Gulf touch. The Pavilion is also well known for its perfumes, whose scents dance around the Kuwaiti Pavilion - attracted by the bright colors of Kuwait Abayas and dresses, with delicious sweets, shiny silver and copper utensils and other elegant products.

**Bahrain:** The Bahrain Pavilion emphasizes on the country's simplicity and friendliness, while also exhibiting some of Bahrain's varied and distinguished products. This pavilion has been a major draw in Global Village and includes 45 varied shops that attract many visitors. The façade is a reflection of the lighthouse that is so tightly linked to pearl diving in the Kingdom, in addition to reflecting the designs of traditional Bahraini houses with their carved wooden facades.

One is surprised by the large number of Bahraini products like spices, clothes, accessories, honey and other products that are popular and attract guests.

**Qatar:** The Qatar pavilion has a unique façade that stands out with its traditional pigeon tower design and other traditional forts, like Al Zubairi fort. At night, the tower shines covered in lights that cover its façade. The pavilion on the inside is a duplicate of Souq Waqif, one of the most famous Qatari markets, and the Qatar Pavilion is renowned for its excellent products, such as traditional Abayas, perfumes, and Burqu' that cover 35 different shops.

This year at Global Village's Qatar Pavilion the entire pavilion has been booked by exhibitors who have specifically come from Qatar to showcase their goods to guests, giving the Qatar Pavilion a brand new feel to it.

The GCC Pavilions are available for guests to visit throughout the 20th anniversary of Global Village from 4pm until 12am on Saturday to Wednesday, with Global Village extending its working hours on Thursday and Friday to be open from 4pm until 1am. The region's leading family entertainment and cultural shopping attraction will continue to welcome guests until the 9 April, 2016.



# India unveils pro-poor budget, maintains deficit target

**Indian Finance Minister Arun Jaitley unveiled the Union Budget in Parliament on 29 February. The budget, aimed at winning back support among rural voters and sustaining growth against a grim global economic backdrop, manages to do both without borrowing more.**

The minister's third Union Budget marked a strategic shift by addressing rural distress in a country of 1.3 billion, where two-fifths of families rely on farming and are reeling from two years of drought. At the same time it hiked public investment in India's woeful infrastructure by 22.5 percent, while taking further steps to revive corporate investment that the government needs to create new jobs for India's burgeoning workforce.

Some of the highlights of the budget for the fiscal year that begins on 1 April include:

#### Fiscal Deficit

- Fiscal deficit seen at 3.9 percent of GDP in 2015/16
- Fiscal deficit seen at 3.5 percent of GDP in 2016/17
- Planned expenditure seen at 5.5 trillion rupees in 2016/17
- Proposes to set up panel to review fiscal responsibility management act

#### Rural Economy

- Rural jobs program allocated 385 billion rupees in 2016/17
- Farmer welfare budget to total 359.84 billion rupees
- Rural road development to get 190 billion rupees
- Target of agriculture credit at 9 trillion rupees
- Interest subvention towards farm loans at 150 billion rupees

- To set up dedicated irrigation fund worth 200 billion core initially
- Allocates 55 billion rupees for crop insurance program for 2016/17

#### Growth

- Nominal GDP growth seen at 11 percent year-on-year in 2016/17

#### Monetary Policy

- Government along with central bank to set retail inflation target every 5 years
- Monetary Policy Committee to have 6 members, including 3 appointed by federal government
- Monetary Policy Committee to decide policy rates to achieve inflation target; decisions shall be binding on central bank
- RBI act is being amended for implementing monetary policy framework

#### Banking Reforms

- Government to infuse 250 billion rupees capital into state-run banks in 2016/17; will find resources for additional capital for banks if required
- To weight cutting stake in state-run IDBI below 50 percent

#### Policy Reforms

- Proposes to raise foreign portfolio investment limit in state-run companies except banks to 49 percent from 24 percent currently
- Bankruptcy code for financial firms to be introduced in parliament in 2016/17
- To list general insurances companies on stock exchanges
- Companies Act 2013 to be amended to improve ease of doing business

#### Market Reforms

- Investment basket of foreign portfolio investors in corporate bonds will also include unlisted debt securities, pass-through securities



#### Responses to the Budget

"The government has done its part by maintaining fiscal discipline in the face of stiff challenges in the budget and now the Reserve Bank of India has to keep its end of the bargain by cutting interest rates to shore up economic growth. Macroeconomic stability is fundamental to ensuring that monetary policy has space..."

- Jayant Sinha  
Minister of State for Finance

"This government has a majority which no government has had in 30 years, but earlier governments, even if they didn't have a majority, attempted major structural reforms in 1991, 1997 and 2005-06. There was a great opportunity for the NDA government to attempt bold structural reforms but they have wasted an opportunity."

- P. Chidambaram - Former finance and home minister in the UPA Government.

"As the ink dries on the Union Budget and we closely examine the provisions of the Finance Bill 2016, it is apparent that the entire thrust is on development. There is a significant attempt to simplify the tax laws by rationalizing the exemptions and deductions in a well thought phased out manner; to tax untaxed income/wealth by providing for a one time compliance window to curb litigation by providing for time-bound disposal of appeals and settlement of disputes outside the appeal mechanism and, finally, trying to exorcise the course of retrospective legislation."

- Dinesh Kanabar - CEO of Dhruva.

- Proposes raising investment limit for foreign entities in local stock exchanges to 15 percent from 5 percent
- Government proposes developing an electronic platform for repo in corporate bonds in 2016/17

#### Infrastructure

- Allocates 2.21 trillion rupees for infrastructure development for 2016/17, up 22.5 percent on last year
- Allocation for roads and highways development at 550 billion rupees
- Capital expenditure on roads and rail development at 2.18 trillion rupees

#### Disinvestment

- Total stake sales in 2016/17 seen at 565 billion rupees
- To encourage central public enterprises to divest own assets for raising resources for new projects
- Strategic divestment seen at 205 billion rupees

#### Taxation

- Net revenue gain of 196.1 billion rupees seen from taxes in 2016/17
- Will not resort to retrospective taxation in future; one time tax dispute resolution proposed for retrospective taxation
- To rationalize corporate tax for new manufacturing companies

#### Dining out, travel, phone calls to cost more

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley did not raise service tax in a big relief to taxpayers, but he announced a 'Krishi Kalyan' cess of 0.5 percent, which will be levied on all services.

As a result, the total service tax paid, including the new cess announced today, will rise to 15 percent. Eating out in restaurants, buying property and insurance, and making mobile phone calls will therefore become more expensive. Advertising, air travel, services of architects, certain type of constructions, credit cards and event management are some of the services which attract this cess.

The finance minister had last year raised service tax rates from 12.36 percent (including education cess) to 14 percent; this was later bolstered by a 0.5 percent cess for 'Swachh Bharat'. As of now, service tax rate stands at 14.5 percent.

However, the effective rate of the Krishi Kalyan Cess, will be lower than 0.5 per cent as the government will provide input tax credit for the cess, as against no input tax credit for Swachh Bharat Cess. The cess is aimed at financing initiatives relating to agriculture and welfare of farmers.

- To implement general anti avoidance tax rule from April 1, 2017
- To levy 20 percent ad valorem duty on locally produced crude oil versus current 4,500 rupees per tonne
- Security transaction tax on options raised to 0.05 percent
- Proposes to levy infrastructure cess of 1-4 percent on certain models of cars
- Raises factory gate tax on various tobacco products by 10-15 percent
- Proposes limited compliance window on undeclared income of domestic tax payers; new dispute resolution scheme to resolve tax disputes
- Thirteen cesses levied by various ministries having revenue collection of less than 5 million to be abolished
- Proposes to raise excise duty on aviation turbine fuel to 14 percent from 8 percent
- Considers scrapping export duty on low-grade iron ore
- Increases import duty on aluminum products to 7.5 percent from 5 percent
- Redemption of sovereign gold bonds by individuals will be exempt from capital gains tax
- Forex appreciation gains at redemption on rupee-denominated bonds by non-residents will be exempt from capital gains tax

#### Expenditure

- Allocates 2.49 trillion rupees for defense sector in 2016/17

#### Borrowing

- Gross market borrowing seen at 6 trillion rupees for 2016/17
- Net market borrowing seen at 4.25 trillion rupees for 2016/17
- Government to switch bonds worth 750 billion rupees in 2016/17

#### Subsidies

- Total subsidy seen at 2.5 trillion rupees in 2016/17
- Food subsidy seen at 1.35 trillion rupees
- Petroleum subsidy estimated at 269.5 billion rupees
- Fertilizer subsidy seen at 700 billion rupees

#### Investment

- 100 percent foreign direct investment to be allowed in food processing industry
- Promises further reforms in foreign direct investment policy in insurance, pension, asset recast companies

#### Gold

- Jaitley makes no mention of revising gold import duty in budget speech
- India raises concessional countervailing duty on gold dore bars to 8.75 percent from 8 percent

## India introduces changes to duty-free allowances

As declared in the Union Budget 2016-17, India government has substituted the existing Baggage Rules 1998 with Baggage Rules 2016 to simplify and rationalize multiple slabs of duty-free allowance for various categories of passengers.

The new Baggage Rules announced as part of the Union Budget includes several major and minor changes that will come into force from 1 April 2016

**Increase in baggage allowance:** Under the new rules, duty free baggage allowance carried by an international passenger, when coming to India, is increased from Rs45,000 to Rs50,000. This incremental allowance would result in customs duty saving of approximately Rs1,800



for international passengers.

**No restrictions on age & minimum period of stay:** Restrictions on age and minimum period of stay abroad has been withdrawn. Free baggage allowances are same for all passengers irrespective of their age and period of stay. However for infants (children below 2 years), only used personal effects shall be allowed duty free.

While minimum period of stay is not mentioned for travellers to avail free baggage allowance, the minimum period of one-year stay abroad is applicable for gold jewelry and other items not included in free baggage allowance.

**Change in limits for used household items:** A person, who is engaged in a profession abroad, or is transferring his residence to India, can bring

used household items as below:

- Passengers who have stayed abroad for 3-6 months can bring used personal household items up to value of Rs60,000.

- Passengers who have stayed abroad for 6-12 months can bring used personal household items up to value of Rs100,000.

- Passengers who have stayed abroad for 1-2 years can bring used personal household items up to value of Rs200,000.

- Passengers who have stayed abroad for above 2 years can bring used personal household items up to value of Rs500,000 (subject to conditions).

**Customs Declaration Form only for those with dutiable goods:** International passenger, when coming to India, need not fill Customs Declaration Form if they are not carrying dutiable goods as part of their baggage.

This proposal should enable a hassle free entry for international passengers in India carrying goods within the prescribed duty free allowance. It would also save considerable amount in printing of the forms.

**Gold allowance specifies weight:** A passenger residing abroad for more than one year, on return to India, shall be allowed clearance free of duty in his bona fide baggage of jewelry, up to a weight of 20 grams with a value cap of Rs50,000 (for male passenger) up to a weight of 40 grams with a value cap of Rs100,000 (for female passenger)

Earlier these were defined as value of Rs 50,000 and Rs. 100,000 only.

**Drones added to Customs Declaration Form:** Drones, which are being considered a major security risk as they could be used by terror groups for mounting assaults, have been included in the prohibited list and flyers entering India will have to declare them. Indian Customs Declaration Form has been revised to include drones in the list of prohibited and dutiable goods.

# Patenting Immaculate Conception

Jasper A. Bovenberg,  
Judith Sandor, and  
Alexandra Henrion Caude

In 1899, the German-American scientist Jacques Loeb engineered the asexual reproduction of sea urchins through artificial parthenogenesis (the manipulation of egg cells to enable embryonic development without fertilization by a sperm). His speculation about complete parthenogenesis in mammals – not to mention his use of the term “immaculate conception” to describe the process – prompted public concern about whether scientists should be “playing God.”

With the International Stem Cell Corporation (ISCC) seeking patents in Europe for a technology that produces stem cell lines from the parthenogenetic activation of an unfertilized ovum, the time has come to answer that question. The question is how. Problems with the patenting of parthenogenetically activated cells are nothing new. Such cells resemble human embryos, which, under European Union patent law, cannot be patented. Following a ruling by the European Court of Justice (ECJ) in 2011 that those cells constitute human embryos, patent applications for parthenogenetic cells in the United Kingdom and other countries have been delayed and even rejected. (The ISCC does hold patents for its stem cells in the United States.)

But on 18 December, 2014, the ECJ reversed its 2011 ruling, determining that an unfertilized human ovum stimulated by parthenogenesis “does not constitute a human embryo, if it does not in itself have the inherent capacity of developing into a human being.” The ECJ based its ruling on written (unpublished) observations submitted by EU member states.



The UK High Court then remitted the application to the UK Intellectual Property Office, which granted the patent in October.

The ECJ did not rule explicitly that parthenogenesis of human ova is patentable. It did not examine whether parthenogenesis constituted “a process for the cloning of a human being,” which would not be patentable under EU law. And it did not consider whether the activated egg cell – a “parthenote” – counts as a germ cell, which also cannot be patented in the EU (though it did pose the question to the applicants at the hearing). The national court and the patent office did not, as far as we can establish from their websites, examine these exclusions from patentability either. Nor did they

consider that parthenotes develop until the blastocyst embryonic stage, harboring the capacity for full attachment.

But even if the ISCC’s patent applications are not excluded on these grounds, there is another potential roadblock for applicants: Under European law, an invention can be patented only if its commercial exploitation is deemed not to controvert ‘ordre public’ or morality. As Loeb pointed out more than 100 years ago, when it comes to inventions involving bodily materials and biological processes, moral questions are difficult to answer. They should not, it now seems clear, be left to the patent office or even the courts.

In fact, the European Patent Office (EPO) is not particularly committed

to assessing the moral implications of the patents it grants; in its view, ‘ordre public’ would be violated only in the extreme case of a truly outrageous invention. As a result, while the application procedure allows for third parties to submit to the patent office their observations on the claimed invention’s patentability, it is unlikely to spur a genuine assessment of an application’s moral implications. An opposing third party would have to shoulder the entire burden of proof, while the patent office avoided taking any real action, in order to avoid “presumptuous” interference in the public debate. As for the courts, the recent case highlighted the absence of a procedural mechanism to ensure consideration of a patent’s morality.

So who should answer questions

about an invention’s implications for ‘ordre public’? The answer is straightforward: the public itself.

Inclusive, transparent, and effective public debate about these potentially consequential issues demands, first and foremost, that citizens are well informed. After all, when it comes to technological advances relating to biological materials and processes, this is only the beginning.

As the International Summit on Human Gene Editing recently stated, it would be irresponsible to proceed with a clinical use of germline editing without broad societal agreement.

The same should go for patenting it. If, based on an understanding of the processes and their implications, a majority of a country’s citizens find them to controvert morality, democratic principles would demand a government response.

A country-by-country, public-driven approach to assessing the morality of inventions involving biological materials and processes would reinforce both EU law and democratic principles. As recent rulings have made clear, the current system is far from adequate when it comes to upholding ordre public.

*Jasper A. Bovenberg is an attorney, founder and director of the Legal Pathways Institute for Health and Bio-Law, and the author of Property Rights in Blood, Genes & Data: Naturally Yours?. Judith Sandor is a professor at the Faculty of Political Science, Legal Studies, and Gender Studies at Central European University. Alexandra Henrion Caude is a geneticist at the Children’s Necker Hospital in Paris.*

## US shale to be world’s biggest oil supplier by 2020

**Despite dozens of indebted US shale companies facing annihilation over coming months as their hedge protection runs out and creditors pull the plug, veteran shale producers defiantly insist they the slump will not stop their march to become the world’s biggest supplier of oil.**

With the 70 percent crash in oil prices since mid-2014, many US companies that formed by leveraging up to their necks, on the prospect of crude remaining in \$100 range or going higher, will no doubt be wiped out. But this pending onslaught has not dampened the spirit of die-hard US drillers who maintain that OPEC’s price war against shale will not stop their juggernaut.

Shale has been described by veterans in the industry as a mix of “hogs and dogs”. Big companies produce most of output and will weather the storm: the dogs are mostly small, and while many are going bust, they are just fringe players. Oil giants with deep pockets are waiting to gobble up distressed assets, and America’s nimble mid-cost shale producers will have an edge

when the cycle turns.

US engineers are also working out ways to double the efficiency of shale extraction to 50 percent, which would mark a big breakthrough. Meanwhile, shale producers have slashed costs since the boom days, when service fees were rocketing. While the oil price crash has stopped an extra 1.5 million bpd of shale coming on stream, producers have been remarkably resilient, cutting well costs by 40 percent. A lot of shale plays now work at \$45 to \$50, and the vast majority from \$55 to \$60. They certainly do not need the \$90 envisioned by many who predict the slow death of shale.

Analysts estimate that oil and gas investment by 2020 will be \$1.8 trillion less than forecast two years ago, with many mega projects being shelved or discarded. Combined



with oil wells depleting at an annual rate of 3 million bpd and oil demand growing by 1.2 million bpd, this could lead to market consumption rising to 100 million bpd by 2020. Much of this increase in demand will likely be met by shale producers.

The International Energy Agency expects the US to make up much of the world’s output growth by 2020, after dropping 600,000 bpd this year,

with shale production to touch 13 to 14 million bpd. Industry analysts say that many shale companies will likely survive the slump and take advantage of the recovery; they will ramp up when prices pick up. Restarting production may be easier than people think. Everything is ready to go. All the ingredients are there. There is a lot of money looking for the bottom of the cycle, waiting to get back in.

Analysts say that shale will probably stabilize near \$60 and then ratchet back up, long before it becomes worthwhile to launch offshore projects.

Once prices get there, the Permian Basin of west Texas will come into its own. Insiders say that this ‘crown jewel’ may be as big as the giant Ghawar field in Saudi Arabia, able to produce close to 6 million bpd.

EXCLUSIVE to THE TIMES KUWAIT

# The Politics of Financial Volatility



Alexander Friedman

Chief Executive of GAM Holding

**T**wenty-four years ago, in the midst of an ugly US presidential campaign, Bill Clinton's campaign manager neatly summed up his candidate's message: "It's the economy, stupid." Today, as investors struggle to understand what is driving extreme volatility in the financial markets, there is an equally pithy explanation: It's the stupid politics.

Central bank policies have moved from supporting the markets to potentially destabilizing them. Now markets are turning to structural reform and fiscal policy for assistance. In this light, current price movements should be viewed through the spectrum of geopolitics. And it is not a nice view.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the oil markets, where prices have collapsed, with both Brent and Crude now hovering around the \$30-per-barrel level. The extent of oil's fall, and consequent deflationary fears, is cited as a major factor behind overall market turmoil. In January, the correlation between crude oil prices and the S&P 500 reached the highest level since 1990. It has become increasingly clear that supply dynamics, rather than falling demand, explain the drop from \$110/barrel since the summer of 2014. The shift to competitive pricing implied by the breakdown of Saudi Arabia's monopoly power, together with OPEC's desire to counter the threat from US shale energy, drove the first downward move. Likewise, the recent lifting of sanctions on Iran, and the resulting increase in global oil supply, prompted a further 9 percent price drop over a matter of days.

These supply dynamics are shaped by politics. Daily headlines about potential coordinated measures by the key oil-producing countries fuel oil-price volatility and define risk appetite across financial markets. Yet the



“Today, as investors struggle to understand what is driving extreme volatility in the financial markets, there is an equally pithy explanation: It's the stupid politics.”

politics is so confused that coordination appears unlikely, at best; the Iranian oil minister recently described a potential OPEC production freeze as a "joke." Iran's parliamentary elections augment the uncertainty.

Aside from oil, the other popular explanation for today's market tumult is the economic slowdown in China, which many investors have cited as the reason for slumping equity prices this year. But the slowdown, reflecting China's transition from investment-led to consumption-driven growth, was widely expected, and the 2015 growth figure of 6.8 percent was within forecasts.

The real problem has been self-inflicted policy errors by China's political leaders. An ill-advised intervention in the equity markets in July 2015, followed by a poorly communicated exchange-rate adjustment in August, led investors to question the competence of policymakers.

These concerns have grown since the beginning of the year. Currency policy remains confused, while newly introduced (and soon withdrawn) stock-market circuit breakers have accelerated market falls, as investors

try to sell shares before liquidity disappears. Moreover, purchases by state-owned financial institutions, together with bans on sales by large institutional shareholders, cannot remain permanent features if the market is to be truly free. Expected leadership changes – six of the seven members of the Politburo Standing Committee will be replaced over the next 18 months – will only exacerbate uncertainty.

Labile politics are increasingly driving outcomes in other emerging markets as well. In Brazil, the government struggles to balance its populist agenda with lower commodity prices, dwindling growth, and persistent inflation. Moreover, a corruption scandal has paralyzed reform; small wonder that Brazil's stock market has fallen 28 percent since last May.

In Russia, too, politics has aggravated the negative oil-price shock. Western sanctions have contributed to an already slowing growth trajectory, and are threatening Russia's ability to raise debt capital in global markets. The ruble has plummeted 130 percent since 2014 began and GDP in 2015 contracted by 3.7 percent. Yet Russia

is a star performer compared to Venezuela, where President Nicolás Maduro's government has overseen the economy's total disintegration. Indeed, analysts are declaring the country is past the "point of no return." Even the relatively dynamic India is struggling, as its exciting reform agenda is challenged by social protests.

In Europe, the efficacy of the European Central Bank's monetary policies is waning as the political scene becomes increasingly fragile. In the United Kingdom, polls show the June 23 referendum on continued European Union membership will be extremely tight – an obvious threat to market stability, reflected in the immediate sell-off of pounds.

Meanwhile, the migration crisis threatens Germany's government; splits are now deepening within Chancellor Angela Merkel's party, which is losing popular support. The unilateral decision by Austria and nine Balkan states to block the flow of migrants across their borders has fueled political turbulence. The migrant crisis will have far-reaching ramifications, including the potential destruction of the Schengen zone.

In Southern Europe, Spain's recent elections were inconclusive, and the absence of a stable government could derail an economic recovery that gained traction in 2015. Meanwhile, the Italian government's bank bail-ins have fueled volatility, with leading banks experiencing extraordinary one-day stock declines. The damage to Prime Minister Matteo Renzi's reputation for reliability has prompted fears of renewed political turmoil.

Turning to Japan, the strength in equities since Prime Minister Shinzo Abe took office has been founded on his 'Abenomics' strategy's 'three arrows': monetary stimulus, fiscal stimulus, and structural reforms. The Bank of Japan has launched one arrow, expanding the monetary base to ¥80 trillion (\$710 billion) and more recently adopting negative interest rates. But momentum has faded considerably, as investors wait for the structural reforms needed for sustained improvement in economic, and market, fundamentals.

In the US, deep voter frustration has fueled Bernie Sanders's leftist bid for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination and the astonishingly vitriolic campaign waged by Donald Trump. With Trump's lead for the Republican Party's nomination widening following the 'Super Tuesday' primaries in ten states, financial markets, which seek stability and predictability, are struggling to find it in the politics of the world's largest economy.

History may not repeat itself, but let's hope it finds its rhyme. Back in the 1990s, the US economy stabilized and then surged forward, driven by accelerating productivity and abetted by sound monetary and fiscal policy. But economies may prove to be easier to mend than today's dysfunctional politics, which may be part and parcel of the 'new normal'.

**THE TIMES**  
KUWAIT'S PREMIER WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE

THE WHOLE WEEK  
IN ONE  
MAGAZINE

Send an email to  
[subscribe@timeskuwait.com](mailto:subscribe@timeskuwait.com)  
to receive your free copy every week directly to your inbox

[www.timeskuwait.com](http://www.timeskuwait.com)

For latest  
News Updates  
please visit

Find us on Instagram  
[@the\\_times\\_q8](https://www.instagram.com/the_times_q8)

Like us on facebook  
TimesKuwait

Follow us on twitter  
[@the\\_times\\_q8](https://twitter.com/the_times_q8)

[info@timeskuwait.com](mailto:info@timeskuwait.com)

+965 2481 0109  
+965 2481 4404



# Defeating Meningitis in Africa



Chris Elias

President of Global Development at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Africa's progress in fighting meningitis A is one of the best-kept secrets in global health. Thanks to the development and deployment of a low-cost vaccine, the lives of hundreds of thousands of children have been saved, and communities that might otherwise have been devastated by the illness are thriving.

Meningococcal A meningitis is a bacterial infection of the thin lining surrounding the brain and spinal cord, and it can be deadly. For more than a century, epidemics have swept across 26 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, killing and disabling tens of thousands of primarily young people every year. The disease is highly feared on the continent; it can kill within hours or leave its victims with severe brain damage.

Outbreaks usually occur at the beginning of the calendar year, when dry winds from the Sahara Desert begin blowing southward. The 1996-1997 epidemic resulted in more than 250,000 cases and 25,000 deaths in Sub-Saharan Africa, many of them children. Of those who survived, one in four was left with permanent disabilities, including



paralysis, blindness, hearing loss, seizures, and brain damage.

The impact of meningitis A on families and communities is devastating. In order to pay for treatment, many families are forced to sell the assets they need to sustain their livelihoods: livestock, seed stock, and tools. Furthermore, the disabilities caused by the infection can leave survivors less able to earn income or care for themselves and their families. Whole communities can be plunged into deeper levels of poverty as health-care workers struggle to contain outbreaks.

The suffering caused by the disease served as an impetus for action. Sixteen

years ago, African health ministers, the international health NGO PATH, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Serum Institute of India, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and dozens of other partners formed the Meningitis Vaccine Project (MVP). The mission was simple: to develop an affordable vaccine to fight meningitis A in Africa.

The project was successful. In less than ten years, the MenAfriVac vaccine was launched and has produced an immediate and dramatic break in the cycle of meningitis A epidemics. I was in Burkina Faso for the vaccine's introduction in December 2010. I was worried whether anyone would show

up. But when I met the minister of health the day before the launch and asked him what his biggest concern was, he gave me a surprising answer: "Crowd control."

He was right. Huge crowds formed at every immunization site, standing in line in the hot sun, eager to receive protection against the deadly disease. It was, quite literally, a state event, with the president in attendance. The first vaccination campaign reached virtually everyone in the country aged 1-29.

In the five years since then, more than 235 million people have been immunized across Sub-Saharan Africa. By 2020, the vaccine is expected to

protect more than 400 million people – preventing one million cases of meningitis A, 150,000 deaths from the disease, and 250,000 cases of severe disability among survivors.

The MVP stands as a powerful example of what is possible when African leaders and experts from across the spectrum of global health work together. Strong, temporary partnerships, with a focused goal, can have truly catalytic effects. But the work is far from over. Last year, the WHO approved MenAfriVac for use in regular vaccine schedules, making it possible for millions more to be protected.

The stakes are high. Universal access to immunization is a cornerstone of health, development, and economic growth. Recognizing this, several African countries are already making plans to roll out meningitis – and other – vaccines into routine immunization systems this year. The task before African leaders is to ensure a smooth and full transition from mass vaccination campaigns to routine immunization.

Last week, government officials assembled in Ethiopia for the first-ever Ministerial Conference on Immunization in Africa, where they re-committed to ensuring that everyone on the continent has access to the vaccines they need. This will require further investment in immunization, improved data collection and analytics, new tools and approaches, and most importantly, strong partnerships.

We must build on the legacy of the MVP and work toward a world in which every child receives the life-saving vaccines they need to survive and thrive.

## Next-Shoring to Revolutionize

# Manufacturing in Africa

Rather than focus on offshoring or 're-shoring' – the term used to describe the return of manufacturing to developed markets as wages rise in emerging ones – manufacturers need to concentrate 'next-shoring' strategies that focus on what is coming next, says a new report by global management firm, McKinsey & Co.

Next-shoring transcends geography and focuses on physical proximity to demand markets, talent and customers. Next-shoring is expected to move manufacturing areas close to where the raw materials or customers are, cutting down on distribution time and reducing costs.

Being close to demand is particularly important at a time when consumption in emerging markets is growing rapidly, boosting with it the diversity of the regional preferences that manufacturers

must contend with. A 'next-shoring' perspective, which emphasizes proximity to demand and proximity to innovative supply ecosystems, will trump labor costs as technology transforms manufacturing operations in the years ahead.

The lack of an established manufacturing sector means that Africa currently relies on importing items like



machine parts, consumables, household goods, tools and building materials. However, as next-shoring takes root, 3D printing becomes more versatile and digital manufacturing more widespread, African nations can manufacture such objects domestically and reduce dependency on costly imports. This will create an environmentally friendly ecosystem that does not require factories, machinery, labor or capital. The savings, both direct and indirect, will afford many people the opportunity to lift themselves out of poverty.

However, one area of concern is how prepared African students are to become innovators in tomorrow's economy. There are two primary entry points into the world of 3D printing and other digital manufacturing technologies. The first is the education sector. Priority should be given to getting the digital culture into schools so that youth can become conversant with the technology and increase their interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

The second point of entry involves adding latest digital knowledge and technology to Africa's innovation corridors. Exposing entrepreneurs to the latest in advanced manufacturing technologies can teach them to drive innovation through rapid prototyping.

The opportunities to unlock innovation and create employment through entrepreneurship are endless, and hearteningly the youth of Africa stand to benefit from all of them.



## New wheat variety developed in Nigeria

Nigerian researchers and their partners from Tunisia and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) have developed a new wheat variety suitable for cultivation in Nigeria.

Unveiling the new wheat variety called Atila Gan Atila recently in Abuja, the Minister of Agriculture, Chief Audu Ogbah, said 100,000 hectares of the crop has been cultivated across states in the north. He added that 350,000 tonnes of the new wheat variety, which yields between 3.5 and 4 tonnes per hectare, are expected during this harvest season. This initiative, he disclosed, was capable of saving \$4.6 billion for the country as a result of import substitution. The minister revealed that for nearly 40 years, Nigeria had tried to produce wheat of accepted quality without success, but that hurdle had now been crossed.

"Agriculture in Nigeria is no longer a rainy season event. States must

be encouraged to build dams and canals, and provide good quality seeds and seedlings. We should do more to increase our production," the minister noted. He disclosed that Nigeria was almost running out of maize due to export to North Africa and Central Africa and urged Nigerians to step up food production so as to have enough for domestic use and excess for export to earn 'agro-dollar' not 'petro-dollar'.

Speaking on agricultural mechanization in the country, Ogbah said that the government would soon launch the 2nd phase of mechanization in Ilorin, Kwara State, noting that: "We need a minimum of one million tractors in five years, now we have about 30,000 tractors."

He said Agriculture Ministry was collaborating with Water Resources Ministry and others to get young people into agriculture, even as it is lobbying banks to reduce interest rates on agriculture loans.

# Kenya a magical land beyond safaris and savannah sunsets



No other place on Earth conjures up such strong images of adventure, wildlife and the great outdoors as Kenya, a name almost synonymous with the word 'safari'. But Kenya is more than just 'safari'; the sheer diversity of exciting things to do in the country dazzles first-time visitors.

Though viewing wildlife in its natural habitat is probably on top of the list of things to do while in Kenya, even in this the variety of offering is overwhelming. You could witness the Great Maasai Mara Migration as throngs of wildebeest thunder across the savanna; marvel at Lake Nakuru flecked with thousands of flamingoes, or come eye-to-eye with elephants at the Amboseli National Reserve.

But you can also go beyond the world-famous safari parks to visit a trove of coastal treasures. Visitors can snorkel and dive fish-rich coral reefs, relax on pearly beaches, experience the melting pot of cultures and cuisines in Mombasa and Malindi, and explore tropical islands steeped in Swahili history.



**Mombasa:** Kenya's second largest city and biggest port, Mombasa is a multicultural tourist magnet. British, Portuguese, Arab, Indian, and Asian immigrants add to the rich cultural mix and their influence is evident in the architecture, as well as the many different types of cuisine. Mombasa is actually an island connected to its mushrooming development on the mainland by a causeway,

bridges, and ferries. Coral reefs fringe the coast for 480 km providing fantastic snorkeling and diving opportunities. Dolphin watching and deep-sea fishing are also popular.

**Malindi:** North of Mombasa on the Kenyan coast, Malindi is a beach resort popular with visitors. Part historic old town, part modern tourist hub, Malindi is where travelers come to sun on the white sands of Watamu Beach, dive the coral reefs of the Malindi and Watamu



Marine National Parks, and soak up a dose of Swahili history in the historic town, dating from the 12th century. Here tourists can visit the Jami Mosque, two pillar tombs from the 14th century, and the Church of St Francis Xavier, one of East Africa's oldest churches. On the promontory, the Vasco De Gama Cross is one of the oldest standing monuments in Africa.



**Lamu:** The small island of Lamu, northeast of Mombasa, oozes old world charm. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Lamu Old Town is Kenya's oldest continually inhabited settlement with origins dating back to the 12th century. Strolling along the labyrinthine streets, visitors will see the island's rich trading history reflected in the



Nairobi

Kenya's capital and largest city, Nairobi, is legendary for its colorful colonial history. It was once the capital of British East Africa, luring settlers who came here to stake their fortune in the coffee and tea industries. Today, tourists can explore the city's famous historic sites as well as some excellent wildlife-related attractions.

buildings. Architectural features from the Arab world, Europe, and India are evident, yet with a discernible Swahili technique. Visiting here is like stepping back in time. Dhows plow the harbor, few if any motorized vehicles exist here, and donkeys still rule the streets as they have done for centuries.



**Amboseli National Reserve:** Crowned by Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak, Amboseli National Reserve is one of Kenya's most popular tourist parks. The name "Amboseli" comes from a Maasai word meaning "salty dust", an apt description for the park's parched conditions. The reserve is one of the best places in Africa to view large herds of elephants up close. Other wildlife commonly spotted in the park includes big cats such as lion and cheetah as well as giraffe, impala, eland, waterbuck, gazelle, and more than 600 species of birds.



**Lake Nakuru National Park:** Well known for its huge flocks of pink flamingoes, this park also hosts more than 450 species of birds along lions, leopards, warthogs, waterbucks, pythons, and white rhinos. The landscape here ranges from sweeping

gazelle travel to and from the Serengeti, from July through October. It is also known for providing excellent



predator sightings thanks to its relatively large populations of lion, cheetah, and leopard. Due to the parks altitude, the weather here is mild and gentle year round.



**Lake Naivasha:** A haven for birders, Lake Naivasha lies at the highest point of the Great Rift Valley and has been known to shrink considerably in times of extreme drought. One of the best ways to view the wildlife is by boat. More than 400 species of birds have been spotted here, including African fish eagles. Hippos slosh in the water, and giraffes, zebra, buffalo and eland graze around the edges of the lake.



Tsavo National Park

Kenya's largest park, Tsavo, is sliced in two; Tsavo West and Tsavo East. Together these parks encompass rivers, waterfalls, savannah, volcanic hills, a massive lava-rock plateau, and an impressive diversity of wildlife. Tsavo East is famous for sightings of large elephant herds rolling and bathing in red dust. Other highlights here include the Yatta Plateau, the world's longest lava flow, Mudanda Rock, and the Lugard Falls, which spill into rapids and crocodile-filled pools.

Tsavo West is wetter and topographically more varied with some of the most beautiful scenery in the northern reaches of the park. Highlights here are Mzima Springs, a series of natural springs with large populations of hippos and crocodiles, Chaimu Crater, a great spot for spotting birds of prey and Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary.

**Mount Kenya National Park:** In the Central Highlands, east of the Great Rift Valley, Mount Kenya National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Park encompasses Mount Kenya, the country's highest mountain at 5,199 m, which provides the rare sight of equatorial snow. Formed by a series of volcanic eruptions, Mount Kenya is actually comprised of three glacier-cloaked peaks. The highest is Batian, although Nelion, the next highest, is a tougher climb. The lowest peak, Lenana, is considered the easiest climb, although unpredictable weather can pose challenges.



# Tips for the introverted career woman

**A fruitful, busy career may demand back-to-back meetings with clients, group projects requiring constant communication, and/or public speaking in front of an audience of dozens.**

As a result, embarking on a typical path to success is not ideal for the archetypal introvert who generally prefers to work alone, needs to recharge after a flurry of draining activity and finds comfort in silence rather than a continual hubbub. But despite these less-than-ideal situations that are common when developing a career, introverts can still be just as ambitious and efficacious as the more outspoken and outgoing extroverts.

Here are seven tips to show how an introverted career woman can overcome her fears and achieve her goals:

**Bookend your days with self-care:** To follow this, simply making it a

point to wake up earlier than usual. To have some alone time can make all the difference. Your entire day will feel more like you are giving and less like someone is taking.

**Avoid small talk:** Small talk is painful for introverts, and a meeting can be a breeding ground for small talk. As a result, meetings can actually be the least productive part of the workday.

To fix this, avoid this never-ending time for small talk by sending an agenda. Whether checking in with your business partner, your co-worker or your boss, encourage everyone to think through what they would like to discuss before they come in for a meeting.

**Stay prepared for all environments:** Ideally, one would like to work from home — alone. Or, maybe in an office where there are a few co-workers. But, realistically, that is not always the case. Sometimes you land your dream job but it is an open-office plan. So use the opportunity intentionally because connecting is a crucial part



of career development.

**Know what drains you:** Identify what is exhausting, and adjust your work schedule to better navigate this stress. If Sunday looks like you will be engaged with people from 9 to 5, then perhaps booking something in your social/personal calendar is not the best. Avoid putting strain on the

work/life balance and, in turn, avoid any type of resentment that could later come of it.

**Stay involved, just in a different capacity:** A successful career usually requires more than heading to the office in the morning and leaving in the late afternoon. There are professional social obligations: employee

retreats, large-scale conferences, trade workshops, office parties and more. Rather than approaching each obligation with dread, volunteer the next time an event is announced. It will allow you to engage and still remain in control of where you are.

**Networking virtually:** Thanks to the magic of the Internet, networking does not need to take place in person. Social media has the power of connecting like-minded individuals with the click of a mouse or the tap of a 'Follow' — all without leaving the comfort of your own home.

**Pause:** Know your threshold and practice self-care by pausing. For example, make it a point to stop and assess your agenda before committing to anything, such as when a client asks to send something by the next day, yet you have also been invited to an event. Offer a follow-up within 24 to 48 hours when someone asks something of you. That slight pause will prevent you from overbooking or extending yourself.

## For a stronger, more confident woman



Part of being a confident, strong, successful woman is living from a place of calm and fully connecting to your inner rhythm. Doing away with drama, chaos, worry, self-criticism and such behaviours will allow you to instantly feel a sense of calm in your life.

Being free from everything that is not authentic to you will give you a sense of calm so you can get clear and take action on the things you have been secretly dreaming about.

Here are six easy tips to find your innermost strong and confident woman.

**Confident women have no interest in interpreting the actions of others:** Let go of the need to worry, especially about what others think or meant when they did this or said that. Release the need to ruminate on what happened, what you did or did not say or what others did or did not do. Replace this energy with dreaming BIG — you will instantly feel better!

**Confident women choose a life free from worry:** Worrying about the things you cannot control never provides a helpful solution or contributes productively to our goals and dreams. Make a list of all the things you worry about on a daily basis and replace this worry

with something that positively and powerfully fills your soul instead. You will feel much better and more alive.

**Confident women enjoy every moment in life:** Confident women believe themselves to be strong, resourceful and creative, even when things become challenging. They know that through challenge, there is growth.

**Confident women feel connected:** The more you love yourself and the more connected you feel to yourself and with others, the more you give and receive. Get to know yourself well, so you can begin to create the life you want and share your best self with the people in your world.

**Confident woman smiles with her mouth, heart and eyes:** Smiling is a reflection of inner happiness and is a gift you can share with the world wherever you are.

**Confident women act spontaneously and are not paralyzed by fear:** The past is the past, and we all have things from the past we would rather forget. The future has not happened so fearing what could happen really is not the best way to engage in your life. Allow yourself to learn and grow, so you move on from the past and live in the present.



## Change your shopping habits

Many a times it happens that women end up buying things they didn't expect to or need. This is mainly because women tend to fall somewhere along the continuum between 'shopping strictly out of need' to 'shopping for purely emotional reasons' and, like with anything, it is good to strike a balance. But if you find your shopping habits lean more towards emotional shopping and you are headed towards or pretty much at addiction status, here are four things you might do, either alone, with the help of a professional, or both.

**Figure out why you over shop:** If these statements sound like you: 'I have to buy something every time I go into a store'; 'I shop online all the time'; or flat out 'I have a shopping problem', you are probably looking to gain some insight into your shopping behaviours.

If you are stuck and cannot figure it out, do not be discouraged. There are a slew of self-help books on the topic and trained professionals who specialize in helping you sort through your unique web of emotions and thoughts so that you can get to the root of your shopping problem. Once you figure out the reasons you over shop, then you can begin to focus your energies on doing something about it.

**Rethink your relationship with shopping:** Much of

our shopping habits are intimately linked with early messages we received about shopping, our unique personality traits and coping style. If faulty ideas about shopping evolved within a context of unhealthy relationships, and problematic personality traits and coping styles, we are at risk for over shopping. One of the reasons people minimize or overlook their shopping addiction is that shopping is a necessity, widely encouraged and often regarded as a status symbol.

This is mainly because today's companies do not just sell products, they sell a lifestyle.

**Find ways to fill the void:** Shopping can be fun and there are tons of products out there to make it easier for you to live the lifestyle you choose. But you cannot overspend your way into a healthy emotional life, you can only cover up a poor one — and consequently feel more miserable with each regrettable purchase. It may take some work on your part, but you can find ways to feel better without succumbing to the urge to over shop. One way to do it is to replace your over shopping with healthier, more meaningful habits.

**Be experiential:** There is no denying that the urge to shop is certainly a distraction, and in order to reframe your expectancies you have to fight off those butterflies, nausea or distress that you feel when you get the urge to over shop.

Allow yourself to sit with the discomfort of not over shopping and simply do nothing about it. It is not comfortable but the more you are able to do it, the more you realize you can feel it, still be okay, and reap the longer-term benefits such as a guilt-free, peaceful day.



# New technique protects specific areas of brain during surgery

A preliminary study has found that an innovative cooling technique could safeguard a patient's speech centers during brain surgery. A spin-off from this technique was that, when combined with verbal checks, it allowed researchers to improve understanding of brain areas involved in word formation and speech timing.

In the new technique, called focal cooling, miniature devices are used to cool quarter-sized areas of the brain by as much as 10 degrees Celsius in less than one minute. For the study, 16 patients received local anesthesia for the first part of their surgery, which left them awake and able to speak. This enabled the surgeons to map

the areas where specific functions, including speech, occur in the brain.

Once the brain mapping was done, the patients received general anesthesia for the operations, some of which involved tumor removal. All recovered from the surgery with no damage to their ability to speak. The combination of cooling and verbal checks during the initial phase of the surgery meant the surgeons, from the University of Iowa, were able to avoid speech centers when removing brain tissue later in the operation, according to the study authors.

The researchers involved said that focal cooling is a vast improvement over older brain-mapping methods,



which used electrical stimulation and had a risk of triggering epileptic seizures during surgery. The new research confirms that cooling is a safe and effective means of protecting important brain centers

during neurosurgery.

"Our study results also represent a major advance in the understanding of the roles played by the areas of the brain that enable us to form words," the researchers added. "When we lowered the temperature in specific brain areas during brain surgery and asked people to speak, we saw distinct and complementary roles emerge for specific brain regions," they explained.

The next step is to use focal cooling to learn more about the role different brain regions play in interpreting words. This research could lead to new therapies for people who have lost the ability to speak because of disease or injury.

## Therapy with potential to cure Type 1 Diabetes



A potential cure for type 1 diabetes could be on the horizon after researchers reported positive response from animals tested with a new stem cell treatment. If the treatment works as well in human patients, as it has in animals, it would eliminate the need for regular insulin injections and blood sugar testing.

In this therapy, embryonic stem cells are prompted to turn into insulin-producing cells. These are placed in a small capsule that is implanted under a patient's skin. The capsule protects the cells from the immune system, which would otherwise attack them.

In people with type 1 diabetes, the immune system destroys insulin-producing beta cells in the pancreas.

A number of approaches are being used in an effort to find a cure for diabetes, but this is the first to be tested in patients. If the treatment proves successful in human clinical trials, it could be available in several years for type 1 diabetes patients and eventually could also help insulin-using type 2 diabetes patients.

It is like having a new pancreas that makes all the hormones needed to control blood sugar, said the doctors involved in the trial. Experts say that if the therapy can lead to normal insulin levels, it is going to prevent millions of diabetics from getting dangerous complications.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), in 2014, around nine percent of adults aged 18 years and over had diabetes. More than 1.5 million deaths in 2012 were as a direct cause of diabetes, with 80 percent of all deaths occurring in low- and middle-income countries.

## Keep moving, live longer

In a study conducted in the United States on nearly 3,000 people aged 50 to 79, researchers have established a strong link between exercise and longevity.

Move more, sit less, is the main message from the new study, which found that even among people who exercise, those who spend less time sitting and more time moving around tend to live longer.

Researchers said their study showed that people who walk around, wash dishes, sweep the floor and were otherwise active tended to live longer than the people who were sitting at a desk. The study participants wore accelerometers - ultra-sensitive activity

trackers that record when the body moves - for 7 days. The researchers then compared this activity data with deaths recorded over the next 8 years to find that the least active were five times more likely to die than the most active. In their analysis, the team took account of chronic conditions or other factors that might influence the risk of death, including diagnosed illnesses, smoking, age and gender.

The researchers say they did not discover any particular threshold of physical activity above which the link with longer life kicks in. However, they did learn that just an extra 10 minutes of light activity per day makes a



difference, and that replacing just 30 minutes of sitting time with light or moderate-to-vigorous activity produces even better results.

When it comes to physical activity, more is better than less, and anything is better than nothing, say the researchers.

## Over 100 million people have correctable vision impairment

Uncorrected refractive error (URE) - nearsightedness, farsightedness, and other focusing problems correctable by prescription lenses - is responsible for moderate to severe vision impairment in 101 million people and blindness in seven million people worldwide, reports a new report. The study authors note that their total of 108 million affected by URE accounts for 1 out of 90 of the world population.

Refractive error refers to any of the common vision problems causing decreased sharpness of vision, including myopia (nearsightedness), hyperopia, (farsightedness), or astigmatism. In developed countries, eyeglasses or contact lenses are routinely prescribed to correct these causes of impaired vision.

But millions of people around the world still have impaired vision or even blindness caused by URE. This potentially correctable

vision impairment has a profound social and economic impact, including limiting educational and employment opportunities for individuals, families, and communities.

According to the report, between 1990 and 2010, the number of people with blindness caused by URE increased by about eight percent and the number with vision impairment increased by 15 percent, compared to a 30 percent increase in world population.

In most regions, the proportion of moderate to severe vision impairment caused by URE ranged from 44 to 48 percent. The exception was South Asia, where the figure was over 65 percent; possibly reflecting the younger population in that region. The study authors conclude by emphasizing that

globally one of the most simple, effective, and cost effective ways to improve the burden of vision loss would be to provide access to affordable adequate spectacles to correct refractive errors.



## HOOKAH Lounge Cafe

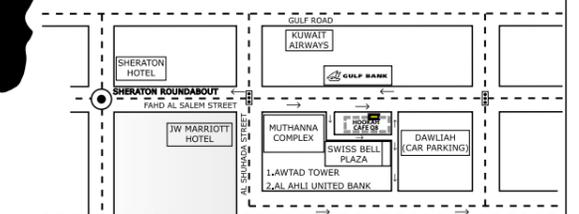
Private cabins for a relaxing shisha session,  
Valet Parking available

Ice Cream

Turkish Coffee



2244 2098





Moisturize properly

Applying moisturizer doesn't seem like one of those things that require a ton of thought. You pour a bit into your hands, slather it on your faces and go on about your day. This mentality could be causing you to misuse your moisturizer, and, for all that money you spend on your skincare routine, you should be getting the most out of it. Check out these tips on how to maximize your moisturizing experience.

**Layer it properly:** Using two or more skincare products are better than one. No matter how amazing and effective your moisturizer might be, you will get the most functionality out of it by pairing it with an equally powerful serum. Make sure you are getting the best possible moisture by throwing on a targeted hydrating serum before you slather on the moisturizer. This is especially important for those with ultra-dry and/or mature complexions.

**Timing is everything:** Make sure you are applying your moisturizer at optimal times. Meaning, there are definite times that the skin best absorbs moisture. After you shower or wash your face, for example is a great time to throw on your moisturizer. Do not apply your cream on wet, dripping skin as it will slide right off. Instead, apply it after you have patted your face and body down with a towel as your skin will still be moist and able to lock in that product.

**Use the right amount:** When it comes to applying moisturizer, you need to decide for yourself the correct portion that is just right for your skin - not too little and not too much. And while serving size can vary depending on your skin type and face shape, best rule of thumb is making sure you are able to rub in all of your product. If it won't fully absorb, you are using too much. So start with a small amount, and build as needed until your face and neck are good to go.

**Pick the right formula:** Everyone's skin needs are different, so one moisturizer does not necessarily fit all. Make sure you are picking out the correct moisturizer for your skin type to ensure you are getting the maximum benefits. Otherwise you might find yourself with some unnecessary skin problems on your hands.

**Don't neglect the neck:** One of the most important places to keep hydrated and healthy is also the most commonly neglected: the neck. The skin around the neck and décolleté is thin and pretty fragile and therefore most susceptible to dryness, damage and premature aging. The whole 'turkey neck' effect you've all heard about is a real thing. Do some damage control by making sure you are working your moisturizer onto your neck and chest area.

# Introduce bright colors into makeup

With the arrival of the new season, there is a change in fashion and beauty trends. While winter was an amazing time for makeup, with its deep rich lipsticks and flawless matte finishes, it is time to embrace spring. So, here are ways to re-introduce bright and beautiful shades of spring into your makeup routine.



**Try a pop of neon:** If you are still knee-deep in your cold-weather makeup stash and can't seem to loosen your grip on that matte foundation or taupe eye shadow, it is alright. Migrating from winter to spring makeup is all about baby steps. Start by adding a small but impactful component to your makeup routine: neon eye makeup. Whether that includes a hot pink lid or lime green cat eye, this little move will make a splash on your

overall look and make embracing the vibrant shades of spring much easier.

**Focus on the lips:** This might be the easiest way to get some color back into your spring makeup wardrobe. Instead of rocking that oxblood or plum shade 24/7, switch them out every other day or so for lighter, brighter options like coral, fuchsia or bubblegum pink. Next thing you know you will be in full blown spring mode.

**Play up the cheeks:** Flushed, pink cheeks are a staple in the spring and it seems that this year, the brighter the apples, the better. Instead of just soft pinks and peaches, this season's blush palettes are sporting a vibrant and atypical roster of oranges, purples and fiery reds. While this may seem intimidating, you will be surprised how wearable and natural these shades actually look. So, start the season off on a brave note and swipe a little blush on your cheekbones and don't forget to blend.

**Attempt darling daytime smoky eyes:** The smoky eye is the stiletto of beauty: stylish,



flattering, and able to elevate any ensemble instantly. The daytime smoky eye is a softer take on its sultry predecessor and here are some expert tips on how to master the look. To keep this look daytime appropriate, remember that a little smoke goes a long way. You can prevent the eyeliner from looking harsh, line only the inside or waterline of the eye with eye liner and smudge the eye shadow around the eye, very close to the lash line. This is a great opportunity to put away the black and play with funky shades, like bright yellow, emerald or orange.

The final step to making this look daytime appropriate is keeping the rest of the face neutral. Go for a nude lip and natural face, as too many focal points will make your face look overdone.

## Liven up your basics

The perfect wardrobe should comprise a selection of style staples that can be worn in rotation to create countless outfits that take you from day to night, and work for any occasion. But often it is difficult to be inspired by pieces that you look at and wear every day. If only we could have a eureka moment and find new and fun ways to style our tired ensembles.

If you want some inspiration, follow some fashion trendsetters and study their style to steal their tips and tricks to liven up ordinary outfits.

**Pile on print:** If there are clashing pieces hiding in your wardrobe that you are too frightened to wear together, go on and pile them on. There is a chance you might just create something beautiful. White ankle boots, printed denim, a blue bag, blue jumper and a leather biker jacket? It may seem too much but if you have the right pieces, the entire outfit screams fantastic.

**Be bold with your biker jacket:** Yes, a black leather biker is versatile and only gets better with age but why not branch out with a more adventurous colour like a pastel or neon shearling jacket. Inimitable motorcycle jackets are the ultimate wardrobe perk-me-ups - perfect to toughen up something sweet and girlish, ideal to complement a look that is equally edgy. And when you factor in the fabulous styles available now,



you will want to get your hands on more than just one.

**Double up on denim:** Those white jeans you feel are boring, pair them with a fresh pair of trainers and a different shade of denim on top for a fabulous look. Alternatively, you can match your favorite jeans with a great structured jean jacket and a tank or blouse underneath. Top it off with heels and a big,

statement handbag for an easy look. Make sure to include pop of color in your attire to break up the denim to take the whole look to another level.

**Add a choker to a polo neck:** If are a polo neck fanatic, adding a choker to said polo neck is guaranteed to transform your look from zero to hundred. Try a necklace that mixes elements like pearls, rhinestones, and studs for a look that is as versatile as it is fun.

**Don some dungarees:** Your dark dungarees can look totally polished by layering a classic white button-down underneath. Cool wayfarer shades and slip-on sneakers added the perfect amount of cool-girl flair to your laid-back look.

Another bit of advice to give your overalls a slightly sleeker feel, is to cuff them at the ankles. It helps make the baggier fit more flattering, and makes your legs look longer.

**All in the details:** A camel pullover may not sound terribly exciting but when it has ornate details on the hem and interesting cutaways it is bound to catch everyone's eye. Paint your lips red and you are an instant showstopper. Pick up your classic outerwear staple with defining interesting features to team up with great prints, simple tops and workwear appropriate separates. Indeed, there are many ways to wear stunning outerwear, which adds that final trendy edge to almost any outfit for comfort and style.



## Al Khuzama

Perfumes & Cosmetics

Now Open in The Gate Mall  
(Al Egaila)

Baitak Tower Ph: 22496158    @atyab\_alkuzama

www.atyabalkuzama.com



# Google offers free DDoS protection

**Google last week announced that it would expand its Project Shield program to offer protection from distributed denial of service (DDoS) to news and human rights websites for free.**

Project Shield uses Google's security infrastructure to detect and filter DDoS attacks, which flood websites with Internet traffic or service requests in order to impair their functioning or take them down altogether.

With the new offer, tens of thousands of news sites will have

access to Google's Project Shield. And because Project Shield is free, even the smallest independent news organizations will be able to continue their important work without the fear of being shut down.

Google's action appears to be well-timed, as DDoS attacks have become larger and more frequent. While two years ago, attacks were of the size of 300 Gb/sec they have become 500 Gb/sec now, which is more than what an average website can handle.

Defending against DDoS attacks requires two things: massive scale and broad visibility over the entire Internet; Google currently has more of both attributes than anyone on



the Web. The solution Google offers combines traffic filtering and the

ability to present cached content while a website is dealing with more

traffic that it can handle. While this can help against certain attack vectors, there are limitations even to Project Shield as it does not fully address the different DDoS threats that websites are facing today.

Project Shield cannot mitigate network layer attacks, especially direct-to-IP attacks that target specific IP addresses and elements of a network's infrastructure. There is also the question of attack duration, as many DDoS assaults can be easily sustained for days, weeks or even months at a time. For attacks like these, serving stale cached content is a hard compromise, perhaps even more so for a news organization.

## SoundCloud to become YouTube of audio

**SoundCloud, the global online audio distribution platform based in Berlin, Germany, recently announced that it had struck a long-awaited licensing deal with Universal Music, whose roster includes the likes of Kanye West, Adele and Taylor Swift.**

The site, which enables users to upload, record, promote, and share their originally-created sounds, now allows its users to have access to music from two of the top four music distributors. It had earlier signed a deal with Warner Brothers; the two still holding out are Sony BMG and Sony/ATV.

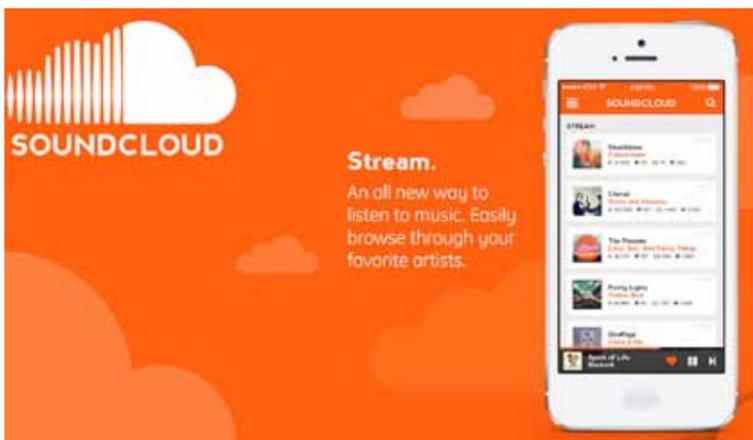
million monthly listeners against Spotify's 75 million subscribers.

One reason for the difference in user numbers is that the two sites have radically different business models. While Spotify is more of a paid service for streaming music, SoundCloud is focused on providing free content. Moreover, those who

and podcasts is an important part of the listening experience. But on Spotify, most of the music is content you can find elsewhere. The majority of Spotify's content comes from major record labels and is freely available on other streaming services, like Apple Music or Pandora. But if you want to find the latest hot tracks outside of the mainstream, you will only find them on SoundCloud.

SoundCloud is increasingly becoming a place where users can discover unique content, such as new music and new artists. Users can follow each other, which allow you to find music based on another user's musical taste and preferences. The platform provides a simple like-and-repost feature, which exposes troves and troves of activity that enables discovery by other users. Once you find an artist you like on SoundCloud, you can then see which songs that artist likes and get lost in a rabbit hole of music awesomeness.

While the music inventory on Spotify is finite and expensive, SoundCloud has the potential for YouTube-like hyper growth. As long as the platform continues to attract talented new artists and content producers, its future is very bright.

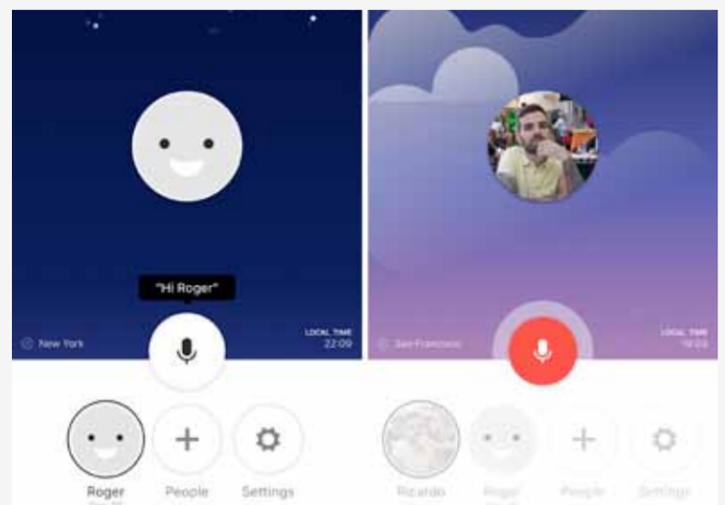


Clinching the deal with Universal is a strong indicator that the music-content platform is become a serious competitive threat to Spotify. Though Spotify has so far managed to garner most of the media buzz, SoundCloud has a much larger user base — 175

upload their content on SoundCloud are more interested in building up their fan base than on monetizing their music, while 80 percent of the revenue earned by Spotify goes to pay out its content license holders.

Additionally, finding new songs

## Roger lands on Android platform



The beautifully designed walkie-talkie style voice-messaging app that goes by the name of Roger has arrived for Android users.

The service is quite simple; it allows users to send voice messages to each other. While that is a feature available in almost every messaging app, Roger puts voice messages front and center of its beautifully-designed app, which also includes information snippets — like the weather or time of day — for the location of the person you are talking to. While we have never been as connected as we are today, we rarely talk to each other anymore. And, though there are many apps with microphones, few encourage actual conversations. The team behind the Roger app created it to humanize the dominant mode of communication on mobile — which for most people

is text — and encourage more voice conversations.

The Roger team revealed that it has users in over 120 countries worldwide. The team also shared some interesting feedback that it received from one segment of users: those who are visually impaired. The team said they were quite surprised how many blind people became users and from feedback they learned more about how blind and disabled people use technology. Though there are 300 million blind people in the world, the difficulties of communicating via a smartphone do not surface enough, they added.

The service also has a nifty feature for reaching those not using it; SMS integration allows you to send audio messages as a link that can be opened by the recipient even if they do not have the Roger app.

### ICSA INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF COMPUTER SCIENCE & ADMINISTRATION

Your Partner in Success

www.icsa.us 22467301 - 99302850

Microsoft IT Academy Program Member  
BRITISH COUNCIL Aptis Test Center

#### MGA KABAYAN!

MAGTAPOS ng KOLEHIYO sa loob ng DALAWANG TAON (2years)

**BSBA Management**

BSBA Marketing AB  
AB Economics English  
AB IT AB Political Science

ENROLL **BSBA Bachelor Degree** Thru the CHED Accredited Online Business School in the PHILIPPINES

#### Join COMPUTER SECRETARIAL + OFFICE MANAGEMENT

Secretarial Procedures  
Meetings Arrangement  
Office Etiquette  
Customer Services  
Business Correspondence  
Telephonic Techniques  
Filing System

#### Graphics & Web Designing

Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator  
Flash, Dream weaver, CoreIDRAW

Create your own fully functional Website  
Just in few months

Flexible Schedule

#### AutoCAD 2D,3D 3Ds MAX

Learn Professionally with Projects

Hands-on Training

#### IELTS

Get a better score... Up to **8+ Bands**

Classes with flexible schedule  
American Native English Teacher

# Xpress Xplus

For those who want more

ooredoo



**Unlimited**

Ooredoo  
Minutes/SMS

**Unlimited**

App Usage  
30 days

**2GB**  
Internet

4G+