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THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Budget: A mathematical confirmation of your suspi-

— AA Latime

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Prompt rescue operation by IAF in

BUDGET SESSION 2018-19 - LA PROCEEDINGS - DEMAND FOR GRANTS

CM replies to the discussion on Demand of Grants

 Mehbooba favours cross LoC cooperation, opening of more routes Terms dialogue core philosophy of her Govt., says Centre, State on same page on extending healing touch

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 02: Chief JAMMU, FEBRUARY 02: Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today favoured cross LoC cooperation in the State in sectors like tourism, environ-ment, disaster management and related areas even as she asked all shades of contributed in the bitation of provided to the contribute of the section of the provided to the contribute of the section of the provided to the contribute of the section of the provided to the contribute of the provided to provided provided to provided to provided to provided provided to provided to provided opinion to join hands in bringing a

Pleasant change in the State.
Replying to the discussion on
Demand of Grants for the Departments Demand of Grants for the Departments under her charge, the Chief Minister said she wishes people on the two sides of the divide would cooperate with each other towards prosperity of the State. She reminded the House of the earthquake of 2005 during which the need for such cooperation was felt so that rescue operations would have been carried more promptly.

Advocating opening of more routes

carried more promptly.

Advocating opening of more routes along the LoC in the State, Mehbooba Mufti said recently a group of legislators met her and expressed the desire to visit Sharda Peth across the LoC. She said she was happy to see a media report recently that a Court there had directed proper upkeep of the said shrine. She said she has maintained it a number of times that Jammu & Kashmir is strategically placed and is rich in natural resources. "Why can't rich in natural resources. "Why can't this feature be utilised to derive maximum benefits to the State and the country", she asked



Terming dialogue as the core philoso-phy of her Government, the Chief Minister said she has been emphasising on this aspect for long and an interlocu-tor has been appointed. She hoped that all shades of opinion in the State would realise the emerging situation in Jampus realise the emerging situation in Jammu & Kashmir and the heavy toll contin-& Kashmir and used violence is taking.

CONTD ON P-2

BSF foils infiltration bid on IB in Samba

JAMMU, FEB 2: Al JAMMU, FEB 2: Alert BSF troops successfully foiled infiltration bid from across the border along international bor-der in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir. "BSF troops on Thursday night foiled an infiltration bid in Chilayari area of Samba," official sources here said. fficial sources here said. They said that few CONTD ON P-2

Gurez saves life of a minor SRINAGAR, FEB 2: Prompt and timely rescue operation by Indian Air Force (IAF) has helped to

save the life of a nine year-old ill boy from border town of Gurez, which der town of Gurez, which remained cut off from rest of the state due to closure of road with district head-quarter, Bandipora. Defence ministry spokesman Col Rajesh

Kalia giving details about the rescue operation told UNI that Taufik, who lives in Gurez, suffered acute pain as a result of CONTD ON P-2



Restriction imposed, roads closed to foil separatist Shopian challo call

SRINAGAR, FEB 2: Curfew like restrictions have been imposed on Friday to foil "Shopian Challo" called by sepa-ratists against killing of civilians in security force firing in south Kashmir during the past two

All roads leading to All roads leading to Shopian have been closed and naka checking have been set up at different places to prevent people from enter the main town, where the separatists had

announced to hold a rally announced to hold a rally after Friday prayers. Meanwhile, authorities have suspended train service in the Kashmir val-ley on Friday for security

reasons, while the Integrated Child Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) has postponed interview which were scheduled to be held

today. Internet mobile service remained suspended in Shopian and Pulwama districts for the past over a

The District Magistrate The District Magistrate (DM), Shopian said that restrictions have been imposed on the movement of public and transport in the territorial limits of district Carlon and transport in the territorial limits of district Carlon and transport in the territorial limits of district Carlon and transport in the carlon and the car trict Shopian on Friday under Section 144 CrPC. The restrictions shall not

be applicable to essential services including banks, s including banks, said However, the situation

Three soldiers killed, one injured in avalanche near LoC in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, FEB 2: Three soldiers were killed and another was injured on Friday when they were buried under a snow avalanche near Line of Control (LoC) in the frontier district of Kupwara, official sources said

the frontier district of Kupwara, official sources said.

A snow avalanche occurred near LoC at Kalaroos,
Machil sector, sources told UNI.

Four soldiers present in the area were buried, they
said adding rescue operation was immediately
alunched. One of the soldier was rescued in an
injured condition, they said adding the bodies of all
them these others even recovered. three three other soldiers were recovered.

The entire belt received fresh snowfall during the past two days, they said.

Geelani. Mirwaiz. Malik taken into preventive custody in Kashmir

of both the factions of the Hurriyat Conference (HC) Syed Ali Shah Geelani and Mirwaiz Ali Shah Geetani and iviirwaiz Moulvi Omar Farooq were taken into preventive custody after they defied restriction and stepped out

of their houses on Friday.

Meanwhile, JKLF chief
Mohammad Yasin Malik, who early gave slip to security forces and managed to reach Jamia

SRINAGAR, FEB 2: Chairman the mosque in south Kashmir,

evoking massive protests As soon as Mirwaiz left his Nigeen house for joining the Shopian challo march, security forces deployed outside took him into preventive custody. He was under house arrest for the past about a week. He has been lodged in police station Nigeen. Similarly, Geelani was arrested immediately after he stepped out of his Hyderpora residence, where he was under house arrest.

Geelani has been taken to Humhama police station in the central Kashmir district of

Badgam.

Malik gave slip to security forces and reached Jamia masjid Shopian to lead a protest march against civilian killings. However, as soon as the JKLF chief left the mosque after Friday prayers, he was taken into preventive custody by security forces deployed outside.

Security force resorted to aerial

firing and burst teargas shells to disperse protestors, who tried to stop people from detaining Malik It was, however, not clear how Malik managed to reach to Shopian despite unprecedented security arrangements in the dis-trict, where all roads have been closed since early this morning. The security forces have now

further tightened cordon around the masjid to prevent people from

CONTD ON P-2

Summer-like weather during day, night temp dips in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, FEB 2: After witnessing intermittent rain and snow during the last about four days, people on Friday enjoyed summer-like weather due to sunshine though the night temperature dipped and settled below freezing point at majority of the places in Kashmir valley.

y. The border town of Kargil was the cold-The bordert down of Kargin was the Collegest place in the region at minus 13 degree, followed by neighbouring town of Leh, where mercury dipped and settled at minus 11.5 degree.

A Met department spokesperson told

UNI that the weather will remain dry during the next 48 hours, which could result in further dip in the night tempera-

The night temperature at Kargil dipped about 10 degree from Thursday and set-tled at minus 13 degree. Leh also wit-nessed a dip of about 3 degree from Thursday in the night temperature which settled at minus 11.5 degree.

After witnessing a dip of about a degree in the night temperature, people woke up in the night temperature, to a chilly Friday morning.

CONTD ON P-2

No fresh case of swine flu reported in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, FEB 2:

(SKIMS).

A spokesperson of the SKIMS that no fresh report of swine flu has been reported in the Kashmir valley during the past 24 hours. e past 24 hours. CONTD ON P-2

I&K Bank chairman announces comprehensive accidental insurance cover for its employees IAMMU, FEB 02: All

JAMMU, FEB 02: All employees of Jammu & Kashmir Bank would be provided comprehensive accidental insurance cover by the bank through its by the bank through its general insurance partner Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Limited (BAGICL). The aim is to boost morale of the employees through this insurance protection cover so that their families remain insulated against remain insulated against any financial or social insecurity in the unfortunate event of his/her absence. The cost of insurance pre-



mium would be borne by the bank and the staff would be getting a risk cover from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 5 crore. This was stated by J&K Bank Chairman & CEO, Parvez Ahmed, while addressing a Condolence Meeting held at the Bank's Jammu Zonal office here today as an officer of the bank, M. K. Bhat, had expired after being seriously injured in a mishap at home during Diwali celebrations. The officer had sought accidental insurance cover under Bajaj Allianz Clobal Guard Policy (Individual) at a premium of 8s.12f6.
Chairman Parvez Ahmed accompanied by T. A. Ramalingam, BAGI-CL. Chief Distribution Officer and other senior

Officer and other senior functionaries of Bank & CONTD ON P-2

Curfew-like restrictions in SeK, downtown in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, FEB 2: Curfew-like restrictions have been imposed on Friday in the Shehar-e-Khas (Sek), downtown and parts of old city and civil lines in summer capital, Srinagar to prevent any law and order problem following "Shopian Challo" called by separatists against the civilian killings in security force firing in south Kashmir.

south Kashmir.

All main gates of historic Jamia Masjid, stronghold of moderate Hurriyat Conference (HC) chairman Mirwaiz Moulvi Omar Farooq, were again closed. Large number of security forces and state police personnel had been deployed outside the historic worship place.

The Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL) consisting of Swid All Shab Cendon. Mirmary Own and Visconia.

Sved Ali Shah Geelani, Mirwaiz Omar and Yaseen Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Mirwaiz Omar and Yaseen Malik has given Shopian challo to offer Friday prayers in a Jamia Masjid there before holding a rally against the civilian killing. However, Geelani and Mirwaiz are already under house arrest while Mali has gone underground to evade arrest.

Friday prayers not allowed in **Jamia Masjid** for 2nd week

SRINAGAR, FEB 2 SRINAGAR, FEB 2
No Friday prayers wer
allowed for the second
successive week today
in the historic Jami
Masjid in downtown
Srinagar, where curfew like restrictions had been imposed to prevent any law and order prob-lem following "Shopiar Challo" called by sepa

ratists.
Police said restrictions under Section 144 CrPC have been imposed within the territorial jurisdictions of Khanyar, Rainawari, Nowhatta, Safakadal and MR Gunj police stations of the dis-trict on Friday. "Partial restrictions within the territorial jurisdictions of Maisuma in the civil lines and Kralkhud in the old city police sta-tions of the district have also been imposed since

hold of moderate Hurriyat Conference (HC) chairman Mirwai: Moulvi Umar Farooq CONTD ON P-2

Failure in providing the information to the detenue, has the effect of invalidating the order of detention: HC

JAMMU, FEB. 02: While quashing detenion orders of Shakeel Ahmad Itoo and Mohammad Ramzan Khan, Justice MK Hanjura observed that while applying its ratio to the facts of the instant case, what can be said is that it is an open and shut case of the deprivation of an inalienable right of the detenue, inasmuch as, he has not been informed that he can make a representation to the Detaining Authority till such time that the detention order is not approved by the Government. This permitted no option as it is a right guaranteed under article 22(5) of the Constitution of India and section 13 of the Act of 1978. It is incapable of being taken away and the failure, in providing this information to the detenue, has the effect of invalidating the order of

CONTD ON P-2

<u>A man</u> slipped to Court awards rigorous life-impriosnment to Real leath in central Uncle for killing his nephew over property dispute **Kashmir forest**

ASSIMINITION TO SRINAGAR, FEB 2: A man, who had gone to collect firewood, slipped to death in central Kashmir district of Ganderbal forest, official sources said on Friday.

They said 32-year-old Sheikh Zakir Ahmad had gone into gazhu forest to

one into nearby forest to ollect fire-wood on

impriosnment and life impriosiment and fine Rs 20,000 Joginder Kumar S/O Chuni Lal R/O Dan, Danjasdhar, Tehsil Billawar, District Kathua for killing his real nephew over property dispute

While awarding conviction, Principal Sessions Judge Kathua Sanjeev Gupta ordered that State should be burdened to

JAMMU, FEB. 02: provide monetary assis-Principal Sessions Judge tance to the family of vic Kathua Sanjeev Gupta tim out of its own funds, today awarded rigorus because it is the protector because it is the protector of life and property of its citizens being their custocitizens being their custo-dian. Therefore, in my view, a compensation of Rupees Two Lacs will be just and reasonable amount for providing financial assistance to the family of victim which family of victim, which shall be paid within one month by the Member Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir State Legal

from reliable sources that a boy Nitin Kumar @ Golu S/O Vijay Kumar R/O Dhan, Tehsil Billawar, aged about 4 years (here-inafter called as deceased), had been killed by slitting his throat by a by slitting his throat by a sharp edged weapon in sugarcane field towards left of his house by his real uncle Joginder Sharma

S/O Chuni Lal R/O Dhan, Tehsil Billawar (accused), and the dead body was lying there. Principal Sessions Judge Services Authority.
According to police case that On 02.02.2013, an information was received at Police Post Ramkot from reliable sources that Kathua Sanieev

Kathua Sanjeev Gupta after hearing both the sides observed that, it is no doubt true that convict had committed the mur-der of an innocent child, but as per evidence on record, it appears that the provocation to commit the provocation to commit the murder was on account of his enmity with the father CONTD ON P-2

FROM PAGE-1

CM replies...

sm that they would join the dia She expressed optimism that they would join the title logue process initiated by Dineshwar Sharma to cut through the unending cycle of violence and uncertainty

in the State.

On her efforts of extending healing touch, the Chief Minister said her Government took the initiative of withdrawal of cases against more than 9700 youth against whom cases of stone pelting were pending since 2008. whom cases or some penning were penning since 2000. She, however, appealed these youth and their parents to go back to their studies and jobs and take benefit of this amnesty adding that based on the positive feedback of this gesture her Government would also review similar cases against more youth. She said that she was happy to say that on this subject both Central and State

Governments are on the same page.

Mehbooba Mufti said her Government is keen that laws like AFSPA are withdrawn and for that conducive atmosphere is created. She regretted that as the violence kicks up the corresponding footprints of the security forces, unfortunately, also go up while appealing people to give peace a chance to see the good changes take place on the ground. She said political outreach is must to get people out of despair while maintaining that the mainstream political parties have a major role in this. On the recent Shopian incident, the Chief Minister reiterated that Army as an institution has a great reputation but when someone commits a wrong the legal process has to follow. She said Government has constituted a SIT into the case of death of a young girl at Hiranagar and even the case has been handed over to Crime Branch for expeditious probe. atmosphere is created. She regretted that as the violence

expeditious probe.

On the developmental front, the Chief Minister said she has directed adoption of a three pronged strategy of Connectivity, Productivity & Employability while tak-ing up developmental projects in the State. She said her Government has undertaken financial closure of the developmental projects which would otherwise keep or lingering for years together. She said Rs. 200 crore worth drinking water schemes are being projected for

drinking water schemes are being projected for NABARD funding. Mehbooba Mufti said the projects taken up by the Government for execution are being fully funded and their time of completion is fixed at their launch time. She said employees were engaged without salaries in the past and this practice has been put to an end. Work on five Medical Colleges, she said, is apace and staff has also been created so that these colleges are operationalized as soon as these are completed.

Rejecting the charge of some opposition members of undermining the local MLAs during her public outreach programmes, the Chief Minister said wherever she went during these programmes funds were released irrespective.

during these programmes funds were released irrespec-tive of the political affiliations of the applicants. During these programmes, she said, people demanded works of immediate nature like de silting of canals, raising of embankments etc. to be undertaken for which funds were made available while as the bigger projects like col-leges etc. are already being executed under various

Mehbooba Mufti said one of the biggest achievements of her Government has been that all the recruitments in Police and Civil administration have been made in a Police and Civil administration have been made in a transparent manner and through a merit driven process. She said cadre review of various services in the State is being done to remove stagnation and induce motivation among the officers. The cut motions which were moved by the members were withdrawn after the satisfactory reply by the Chief Minister.

The cut motions which were moved by the members were withdrawn after the satisfactory reply by the Chief Minister.

Later, the House passed the grants amounting to Rs 9449.19 crore for the departments under the charge of the Chief Minister with a voice vote.

Earlier, Omar Abdullah, Choudhary Sukhnandan Kumar, Nawang Rigzin Jora, Hakeem Mohammad Yasin, Mohammad Yousuf Bhat, Satpaul Sharma, Choudhary Qamar Hussain, Bashir Ahmad Dar, Neelam Kumar Langeh, M Y Tarigami, Javid Hassan Beigh, Jeevan Lal and Shah Mohammad Tantray participated in the discussion on Demand for Grants. the discussion on Demand for Grants.

BSF foils...rounds were fired from across the border to support movement of terrorists but own troops acted swiftly and

retaliated.
"The infiltrators were pushed back," they added.

Prompt rescue...

Prompt rescue...

appendicitis on January 31 night. However, due to non availability of adequate medical care in the area, he had to be evacuated to Srinagar for treatment.

Col Kalia said a message for evacuation was received at the Air Force Station, Srinagar at night. Crew along with helicopter was put on standby. However, bad weather at Gurez prevented the helicopter from getting airborne next morning.

He said that the helicopter was then put on another assignment. On the way back from this assignment the crew of the helicopter received a message that the weather at Gurez had improved to 'marginal'. The helicopter was diverted to the landing site. After a successful landing, Taufik and his father were picked up despite continuous snowfall and low clouds and evacuated to Srinagar.

Prompt action by IAF and its highly motivated crew saved a young life. Taufik is now recuperating at a med-

Saved a young ine. Taunk is now recuperating at a med-ical facility in Srinagar, he said. Gurez, surrounded by Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) was recently cut off due to fresh snowfall early this week. However, the Gurez-Bandipora road remained almost open due to less snowfall this winter.

Restriction imposed... forces and state police personnel were directing people to remain indoor. Repeated announcements were being made directing people not to violate restrictions, official

source said.

The Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL), comprising of
Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Mirwaiz Moulvi Omar Farooq Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Mirwaiz Moulvi Omar Farooq and Mohammad Yaseen Malik have called for "Shopian Challo" to express solidarity with the families of civilians killed in Shopian district during the past two weeks. The JRL has announced that a joint Friday prayers would be held at Jamia Masjid followed by a rally. However, large number of state police and central paramilitary forces, braving chill because of fresh snow-

fall in the heights, have been deployed around the Jamia masjid to prevent people from assembling there.

All roads leading to masjid have been closed with barbed wire and by parking bullet proof vehicles to foil any attempt by people from nearby village to enter

there.

Meanwhile, the Mission Director, ICDS, said that the interview for the post of Health and Nutrition Mobilizer at District Shopian, scheduled to be held today have been postponed. The next date shall be notified separate-

Though no reason was given by the ICDS, the interview were postponed following imposition of restrictions in the district by District Magistrate (DM) tomorrow following Shopian Challo call given by separatists to express solidarity with civilians killed in security

to express sölidarity with civilians killed in 'security force firing during the past two weeks. Three civilians were killed and eight others were injured when Army opened fire on demonstrators in Shopian while a 10-year-old boy Musharaf Fayz, who critically wounded when an explosive device went off, in Shopian on January 25, where people were removing debris of a house damaged during an encounter in which two militants were killed by security forces on January 24, succumbed in a hospital on Thursday. A youth was also killed and two girls injured when security forces opened fire to disperse demonstrators, who

youtn was asso kince and two girss injured when security forces opened fire to disperse demonstrators, who
were trying to disrupt the Cordon and Search Operation
(CASO) in Shopian on January 24.

Meanwhile, situation was also tense in another south
Kashmir district of Pulwama, where strike continued for
the 9th day today against civilian killings. Shops and
business establishments remained closed and traffic was
off the read-Additional country forces remained. off the roads. Additional security forces remained deployed to maintain law and order

Large number of security forces have been deployed the Srinagar-Jammu national highway, passir ough south Kashmir, including Pampor

through south Kashmir, including l'ampore, Awantipora, Sangam, Bijbehara, Anantinag and Qazigund to prevent any stone pelting incident. The authorities have suspended all train runs in the Kashmir valley, including Srinagar to Banihal in Jammu region for security reasons. Mobile service also remained suspended in Shopian and Pulwama district to prevent spread of any rumours.

Geelani, Mirwaiz...

locals are also inside with Malik.

eports reaching here said. The Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL) consisting of Geelani, Mirwaiz and Malik had given Shopian challo to offer Friday prayers in a Jamia Masjid there before holding a rally against the civilian killing during the past about two weeks

Summer-like...

However as the day progressed, sun came out resulting in major improvement in the weather. Against 1.7 ing in major improvement in the weather. Against 1.7 degree recorded on Thursday, the night temperature at Srinagar was 0.7 degree, which is still a degree above normal. Meanwhile, the day temperature recorded on Friday was 5 degree above normal.

World famous ski resort of Gulmarg, about 55 km

Fig. 19 Million and the right temperature though it settled over a degree above normal. Against minus 5 degree recorded on Thursday, the night temperature at the ski resort was minus 6 degree.

degree.

The night temperature at world famous health resort of Pahalgam, about 100 km from here in south Kashmir, dipped and settled at minus 4 degree, against minus 0.6 degree recorded on Thursday. The night temperature at Pahalgam was 2 degree above normal.

The mercury at Qazigund, gateway to the valley, Kupwara in north Kashmir and tourist resort of Kokernag dipped and settled at minus 2.6 degree, minus 2.8 degree and 0 degree, respectively.

No fresh...

She said this winter a total of 147 cases of swine flurere reported in the valley. However, 115 were disnarged after treatment. But, she said 30 persons have ied due to the swine flu while two are still in the hospil. However, there condition is stable.

I&K Bank...

Bajaj Allianz visited the family of the deceased today and offered his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family besides handing over a cheque worth Rs 25 lakhs as insurance claim settlement to the family of the

On the occasion, Parvez Ahmed stated: "No amount of On the occasion, Parvez Ahmed stated: "No amount of money can compensate for the loss of human life and in this tough time of the untimely loss the JK Bank family stands in solidarity with the family of the deceased. We can at least come to the rescue of the family of the deceased and protect or bail them out of any possible social and financial turmoil. The human capital of the Bank at all levels is priority to me and I would like to see them fully comfortable and financially secure as they are the prime movers of the premier organization of the state."

The chairman instantly approved extending comprehensive accidental insurance cover under Bajaj Allianz Global Guard Policy to all staff members of the bank. The premium would be borne by the bank and risk would be covered from Rs20lakh to Rs 5 crore depending upon the band of the employee. He also appreciated the insurance partner BAGICL for helping the bank to extend hassle free insurance services, be it settlement of claims or extending tailor-made insurance schemes, to its internal as well as external customers. He specifically hailed them for settling the claim of the deceased officer quickly. The deceased is survived by his wife and two minor girls. Notably, the wife of the deceased has already been given employment in the bank.

arteauy overn given enproyment in the bans. Farlier, T. A. Ramalingam, Chief Distribution Officer of BAGICL, spoke about the importance of accidental insurance cover which can go a long way to support families financially in such hours of distress. He requested the chairman of the bank to consider this policy cover for his employees. Notably, Ajaz Khan, Zonal Head (North) in his welcome address hailed Parvez Ahmed for his vision, customer service and overall well being of

Curfew-like...

NEWS

Police said restrictions under Section 144 CrPC have been imposed within the territorial jurisdictions of Khanyar, Rainawari, Nowhatta, Safakadal and MR Gunj police stations of the district on Friday."Partial restric-tions within the territorial jurisdictions of Maisuma in the civil lines and Kralkhud in the old city police stations of the district have also been imposed since this morning." The restrictions have been imposed as a precautionary measure to avoid any untoward incident, police civil.

said. However, situation on the ground was entirely different as people in restricted areas were being directed to remain indoors as curfew has been imposed since early this morning. The road to 5 K Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) passing through downtown areas of Nawa Kadal, Safa Kadal and Eidgah was however, open though only patients and paramedical staff and ambulances were being allowed after their property checking. Initially there were no restrictions in the morning though security forces and state police personnel had been deployed to prevent any untoward incident since early this morning.

early this morning.

However, as the day progressed all main and interior roads were closed with barbed wire and by parking bullet proof vehicles in the middle to prevent any pedestri-

let proof vehicles in the middle to prevent any pedestri-an and vehicular mowement.

Roads leading to Jamia masjid at several places, including Rangar stop, Gojwara and Rajouri Kadah lave been closed with barbed wire. Large number of paramil-itary forces and police personnel had been deployed in the Jamia Market to prevent people from going inside the worship place since this morning.

The busy Nallahmar road from Bulbul Lankar Nawa Kadal to Khanyar was also closed for any traffic or pedestrian movement. Security forces deployed after every ten feet have closed the otherwise busy road with barbed wire and by parking bullet proof vehicles in the middle.

People living on both sides of the Nallahmar road alleged that they were not being allowed to move out of their houses by the security forces. They said milkmen and vegetable vendors were also not allowed to enter the restricted areas from outskirts while the local breadmakers were not allowed to open their shops

Security forces had also been deployed in strength in Khanyar, Rainawari, Nowhatta, Bobdem and Malkha to

deployed in the civil lines, particularly in Maisuma area, stronghold of Yassen Malik. Security forces were also seen patrolling in the historic Lal chowk, Moulana Azad road and Amira Kadal to prevent any demonstration. Similar measures were also taken in the areas falling under the jurisdiction of police station Kraikhud in the old city.

Three civilians were killed and injured when the properties of the civilians were killed and injured when the properties of the civilians were killed and injured when the civilians were killed and in strictly implement restrictions. Large number of state police and CRPF personnel were

old city.

Three civilians were killed and eight others were injured when Army opened fire on demonstrators in Shopian while a 10-year-old boy Musharaf Fayz, who critically wounded when an explosive device went off, in Shopian on January 25, where people were removing debris of a house damaged during an encounter in which two militants were killed by security forces on Injuryary 24, excembed in a boest-la on Thureday. A which two militants were killed by security forces on January 24, succumbed in a hospital on Thursday. A youth was also killed and two girls injured when securiyouth was also kined and two girls injured which secur-ty forces opened fire to disperse demonstrators, who were trying to disrupt the Cordon and Search Operation (CASO) in Shopian on January 24. However, Army said (CASO) in Shopian on January 24. However, Army sau soldiers opened fire in self defence when troops came under heavy stone pelting by a mob in Shopian while police has registered a case against army for firing in which three civilians were killed and eight others injured. Government has appointed District Magistrate (DM) to conduct inquiry into the firing incident.

With these observations Justice MK Hanjura allowed the petitions, as a consequence of which, the order of detention bearing No. 17/DMB/PSA of 2017 and No. 103/DMS/PSA of 2017 is quashed.

A man slipped...

A fild in slipped... by the villages and family members. The body of the Ahmad was found in the forest, they said adding he had a fall from a top and died. However, police has registered a case and initiated proceedings.

Court awards...

Court awards...
of deceased over some land. However, after taking
into consideration aggravating and mitigating circumstances besides long incarceration of about five years of
the convict, I am of the opinion that this case does not
fall in the category of 'rarest of the rare'. In view of the
discussion made above and on the facts and circumstances of the case, convict is sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for life and a fine of Rs. 20,000/under section 302 RPC. In default of payment of fine, the
convict shall undergo simple imprisonment for six
months.

Friday prayers...

Friday prayers...
main gates of the historic mosque, where Mirwaiz addresses Friday congregation every week, were locked. Mirwaiz was this aftermoon taken into preventive custody after he defied restriction and stepped out of his house on Friday. A large number of security forces and state police personnel remained deployed outside the Masjid and adjoining areas to stop any movement on the roads. "There was also no 'Azanr' (call for prayers) in the historic Masjid today," local residents said, adding that nobody was allowed to enter the area. However, prayers were offered in the Valley, barring mosques on main roads in the areas where restrictions were imposed. People offered prayers in mosques in the

were imposed. People offered prayers in mosques in the interior areas in restricted areas. Friday prayers were offered at Hazratbal shrine, which houses the holy Relic of Prophet Muhammad, on the bank of Dal Lake. of rrophet Muhammad, on the bank of Dal Lake. Reports of offering of Friday prayers were also received from other parts of the valley. The Joint Resistance Leadership (RIL) consisting of Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Mirwaiz Omar and Yaseen Malik had given Shopian challo to offer Friday prayers in a Jamia Masjid there before holding a rally against the civilian killing.

HELPLINE

POLICE STATIONS	
Bagh-e-Bahu	2459777
Bakshi Nagar	2580102
Bus Stand	2575151
City	2543688
Gandhi Nagar	2430528
Gangyal	2482019
Nowbad	2571332
Pacca Danga	2548610
Railway Station	2472870
Sainik Colony	2462212
Satwari	2430364
Channi Himmat	2465164
Transport Nagar	2475444
Trikuta Nagar	2475133
Gandhi Nagar	2459660
SSP City	2561578
SP City North	2547038
SP South	2433778

Public Utility Services

NDIAN AIR LINES City Office 2542735 2430449 Air Port Jet Air Ways 2453999 City Office 2573399 RAILWAYS

131, 132, 2476407 Railway Enquiry Booking Reservation 2470315

Public Health Engil ing Station Bakshi Nagar 2543557 Gandhi Nagar 2430786 Company Bagh 2542582 2573429 New Plot Panjtirthi 2547537

Telecommunication Department Directory Enquiry Fault Repair 198 runk Booking Billing Complaint 2543896 JAMMU MUNICIPALITY

Jn. Lines 2578503 Administration Officer 2542192 Health Officer 2547440

POSTAL SERVICES lead Post Office City Gandhi Nagar FIRE SERVICES

101 132 2476407 Control Room City Gandhi Nagar 2457705 Canal 2480026

2543606

2435863

2452813

Gangyal COOKING GAS DEALERS

Chenab Gas 2547633 2430835 Gulmour Gas IAKFED 2548297 HP Gas 2578456 2577020 Shivangi Gas Tawi Gas 2548455

POWER HOUSES Gandhi Nagar 2430180 Canal Road 2554147 2533828 anipur Nanak Nagar 2430776 2542289

Satwari Cantt HOSPITALS GMC Hospital

2584290 S.M.G.S. Hospital 2547635 C.D. Hospital 2577064 2544670 Dental Hospital Gandhi Nagar Hospital 2430041 Sarwal Hospital 2579402 G.B. Pant Cantt Hospital 2433500 Avurvedic College 2543661 C.R.P. Hospital 2591105 Acharva Shri Chander 2662536 2577444 Mental Hospital

Swami Vivekanand 2547418 Blood Bank 2547637 Ambulances 2584225 2575364 Ambulances (Red Cross) 2543739

NURSING HOMES 2456727 Maddan Hospital Medicare 2435070 Triveni Nursina Home 2452664 2555965 Suvidha Nursing Home Al. Firdous Nursing Home 2545050 Astha Nursing Home 2576707 Ree Enn Charitable Trust 2505310 2573580 Chopra Nursing Home Harbans Singh Mem Hsp. 2541952 2576985 2547821

Jeevan Jvoti Yudhvir Nursing Home Mediaid Nursing Home 2466744 2435007 Sita Nursing Home Vibhuti Nursina Home 2547969 2580601 Bee Enn Cheritable 2555631 laharishi Dayanand 2545225

Drug peddler arrested in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY '02: In its continuous efforts against the drug abuse & drug peddlers, Police party of police post Chanapora during naka apprehended one drug peddler namely Adil Farooq Mir son of Farooq Ahmad Mir resident Rambagh Bala and recovered 24 bottles of codeine phosphate, 345 tablets of Alprazolam and 40 strips of Spasmo proxyvon (24 strated in a post strip). apsules in each strip). Case FIR No 14/2018 under section 8/21 NDPS Act

was registered against the accused & further investi-gation was taken up.

Bootlegger arrested in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 02: As a part of special drive against social crimes, police party of police station Shaheed Gunj under the supervision of SDPO tion Shaheed Gunj under the supervision of John Shaheed Gunj laid a naka & while checking appre-hended 01 person namely Mohammad Anees sheikh son of Ghulam Rasool resident of Hari Singh High Street & seized 43 bottles of illicit liquor from his

possession. In this connection case FIR no 14/2018 under section 48 Excise Act was registered & further investigation

Interactive meeting with lawyers held in Kulgam

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 02: A meeting cum dis-cussion session between Police officers of district Kulgam and prominent lawyers was held at district Police office Kulgam to discuss the crime scenario and to elicit the suggestions to improve the bonhomie

between police and lawyer community.

Prominent lawyers which include president BAR association Kulgam advocate Tahir Ahmed and Police association Kulgam advocate Tahir Ahmed and Police officers of district Kulgam took part in the discussion. Main focus of the discussion was to ensure justice delivery system and professional ethics. It has been unanimously agreed that all the people who are working in criminal justice system shall work within professional ambit. The aim of the meeting was purely in the interest of general public.

It has been agreed that such meetings will be conducted in the future also.

Zulfkar condoles demise of **Prabodh's mother**

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 02: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) and Tribal Affairs, Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali has condoled the demise of mother of Editor in Chief Kashmir Times, Prabodh Jamwal. The Minister has prayed for peace to the departed soul and conveyed sympathies with the bereaved family.

Mehbooba condoles demise of mother of Prabodh Jamwal

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 02: Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti has condoled the demise of mother of Prabodh Jamwal, Editor in Chief, Kashmir Times, who passed away early today.

The Chief Minister conveyed her personal sympatities to Jamwal and Anuradha Bhasin Jamwal and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

Chief Minister grieved over deaths in Rudhal road accident

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 02: Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti has expressed grief over the death of three persons in a road accident at Budhal, Nowshera

The Chief Minister has extended sympathies with

the bereaved families.

Meanwhile, Mehbooba Mufti has directed the Jammu divisional administration to ensure that the injured in the accident are provided all possible assistance. She also directed airlifting of critically injured persons to Jammu for specialized treatment.

ADC Kargil inaugurates Sparsh Leprosy awareness campaign

KARGII, FEBRUARY 02: Additional Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Imteeyaz Kacho today inaugurated two-week long Sparsh Leprosy Awareness Campaign at District Hospital Kargil.

The programme has been organized by the District Health Society Kargil and would involve the training and awareness of the field functionaries besides to

carry out active surveys for case detection.

While underlining the importance of the said pro-gramme, the ADC highlighted the need to generate timely and proper awareness thus ensuring the diag-nosis and complete treatment of leprosy cases which he said would be significant for the eradication of the

isease.

The ADC also stressed on the need to encourag community participation during the campaign to reduce social stigma and discrimination against lep-

rosy patients.

The participants on the occasion also took an oath to contribute their best efforts and active role in the erad-ication of leprosy from the district.

ication of leprosy from the district.

Among others who were present on the occasion included Chief Medical Officer Kargil Dr Ibrahim Khan, Deputy Chief Medical Officer Kargil, Dr Muhammad Afzal Lone, Block Medical Officer Kargil Dr Sajjad Hussain, District Medical Officer Leprosy Dr Liyaqat Ali Khan, Consultant Pediatrician Dr Ghulam Muhammad, pharmacists and other field functionaries as well as civil society members.

NOTICE

I, Davinder Singh R/o Udhampur have lost my driv-ng licence bearing No. 32238, PAN Card, ATM of unjab National Bank. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same

Objection if any may be convyed to concerned author-ty within seven days from the date of publication of nis notice.

Dr. Hina reviews PMEGP implementation in **Punjab and Haryana Region**

JAMMU, FEB. 02: To review implementation of Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) in Punjab, Haryana States and Punjab, Haryana States and Union Territory Chandigarh, a review meeting was conducted under the chairmanship of Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat, Member (NZ), KVIC. During meeting Director Industries and Commerce D.P. (IAS), Kharbanda Convenor SLBC, in Puniab Convenor SLBC, in Punjab, Haryana States and Union Territory Chandigarh, Representative RBI, Member Convenor, V. K. Nagar State Director KVIC in Punjab, Haryana States and Union Territory Chandigarh,

Banks were present. Dr. Hina held a detailed review of the PMEGP being implemented by all spon-soring agencies viz KVIC. KVIB & DIC. She said PMEGP is the flagship scheme of Ministry of MSME and is an effective instrument for generating employment opportunities in urban and rural India through setting up of micro enterprises. She said PMEGP is an

effective scheme to tackle effective scheme to tackle unemployment, generate sustainable employment opportunities in rural and urban areas and financial institutions like banks play a crucial role here."

She asked the banks to work in right earnest to



meet the targets of the pro-gramme and expedite dis-bursement of the margin

money. Member (NZ) expressed

during the review meeting with all the stakeholders, including representatives of various Banks, States officials and other beneficicial areas like collateral free loans, timely bank sanc-tions, release of margin money subsidy and loan installment, coverage of credit guarantee scheme, achievement of social cate-gory targets of SC, ST, minority, women etc. The meeting will encourage all the stakeholders and will leads to better implementa-tion of PMEGP Scheme in tion of PMEGP Scheme in in Punjab, Haryana States and Union Territory Chandigarh, thereby achieving the set targets in time and providing better employment opportunities to the youths

The position was reviewed in the meeting and also the bottlenecks

and also the bottlenecks were examined.
Before, this State Director V.K. Nagar briefed the Member and all present during the meeting about the District-Wise and Bank-Wise arreases of PMECD. Wise progress of PMEGP for the year 2017-18.

Balbir conducts inspection of the unit financed by Corp

units financed by Jammu and Kashmir Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes Backward Classes & Backward Classes
D e v e l o p m e n t
Corporation Limited, its
Vice Chairperson, Balbir
Ram Rattan, along with
Jammu District Manager
Joginder Paul Atri and Field Supervisor Jatinder

Field Supervisor Jatinder Singh, inspected a Tailoring & Cutting shop in Sanjay Nagar area of Jammu District. This shop is being run by one Jeet Lal, belonging to Scheduled Caste cate-gory, with the financial sistance of rupees one lakh as loan from the said



Balbir Ram Rattan, on this occasion, enquired about the utilization of the loan availed by the loanee and stressed upon him to educate the unemployed males and females of his community to avail the benefits of the welfare

schemes of the union gov-ernment as well as those of the state government meant for the socio-eco nomic upliftment of the weaker sections

The Vice Chairperson, while advising Jeet Lal to ensure timely deposit of

Corporation, said that the amount paid back is used for providing loan to other people of the weakother people of the weak-er sections for helping them in establishing own earning units and become self dependent instead of sitting idle. He also shared the scheme of granting Education Loan and said that the meritorious students of the ous students of the reserved categories, whose parents cannot afford to send their wards for professional and tech-nical courses, can get financial assistance from

Corporation

studying within the coun-try and abroad.

PCPG meeting held at Police Station Bijbehara

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 02: Police-community Partnership Group (PCPG) meeting was held at police station Bijbehara.

With an aim to strengthen Police relations with pubic & also to establish first hand contact with masses, Police station Bijbehara convened a public interaction meeting in which respectable citizens and traders association of

Town Bijbehara participated .

Under the supervision of Senior Superintendent of Police Shri Altaf Ahmad Khan, the meeting was chaired by SDPO Bijbehara Shri Rashid Akbar accompanied by SHO Police Station Bijbehara. The participants high-lighted various issues.

Referring to the issues highlighted by the participants SDPO Bijbehara assured them that issues pertaining to police will be solved in shortest possible time & the rest will be taken up with the civil administration for their redressal on priority,

During the interaction, Senior officers of Police also asked participants to keep cooperating with police in order to make the society crime free.

Shiksha Niketan school organised Best out of Waste



Shiksha Niketan Sr. Sec. School, Jeevan Nagar organised a competition for the students of class 6th on the topic 'The Best out of Waste'. In this

four students from each section participated in it. All the students used waste material to made their best. All the stu-

dents puts great effort to gave their best. The judging criteria

dents. Students of class 6th D bagged 1st Position, students of Class 6th F bagged 2nd Position and 3rd Position is bagged by 6th B. Further Principal RAMESHWAR MENGI

ncharge of the

IAMMU, FEBRUARY 2 JAMMU, FERRUARY 2: Northern railway mens union Jammu organized an impressive rally at Jammu Tawi railway sta-tion in which more than 1000 employees took part in the rally. The rally is organized against the cenorganized against the cen-tral govt. policies which are being criticized by northern mens union. The chief guest on this occa-sion was comrade Shiv Dutt Sharma divisional president of NRMU in Firezuru division.

Firozpur division Speaking in this rally ongrats Shiv Dutt congrats demanded renovation of demanded renovation of railway quarters, removal of NPS system, better health facilities, and high pay scales for different categories and better



wav emplovees. strongly condemned the strongly condemned the privatization in Indian Railway and warned high authorities to fulfill the demands of the working class at the earliest other-wise threatened the authorities to face rail authorities to face rail roko andhollan.

Impressive Rally by NRMU in J&K

Divisional president of Firozpur

this occasion included Branch secretaries of Ludhiana Jalandhar, Pathankot, Firozpur and Jammu (Sambhar Singh Branc h secretary Jammu). Union leaders Ram Paul Sharma and Harpal Singh of J&K also spooked in this rally.

Panthers Delegation met with DC Udhampur highlighting shortage of staff, equipments and infrastructure in Sub District Hospital Ramnagar: Shiv Dev The deputationists requested the

UDHAMPUR, FEB. 02: Taking serious note of large scale casualties of accidental cases and referring even normal ortho, surgical and delivery cases to District ery cases to District Hospital Udhampur, a Hospital Udnampur, a delegation of panthers activists led by Mr. Shiv Dev Singh Provincial General Secretary JKNPP met with DC Udhampur and apprised him of the difficulties faced by

them. While interacting with DC Udhampur, Singh DC Udhampur, Singh said that most of the equipment and infra-structural facilities are not available in the SDH Ramnagar, as a result the hospital authorities are forced to refer such cases to Udhampur or Jammu for further treatment for further treatment.

concerned, there is acute shortage of Medical, Para-Medical and Class-IV staff. The post of sur-geon specialist, dental surgeon, anesthetists, MCH is deficient in SDH Ramnagar as well as most of the post of doc-tors and surgeons are lying vacant in surround-PHC ing PHC Rang, Bhugartian, Chanunta, Ghordi, Nalla Ghoran and Ser Manjla leading to very poor health care facilities. Moreover 4 post of class IV and 4

post of class IV and 4 post of Lady Health Visitor are falling vacant in SDH Ramnagar.

So for equipment is concerned, there is neither digital X-ray machine nor CT scan machine, no MRI facility,

So for staff position is no advanced test labs, as concerned, there is acute a result the patients have shortage of Medical, to go to Udhampur for no advanced test labs, as a result the patients have to go to Udhampur for accurate investigation report.

Ramnagar being the biggest Tehsil comprising of more than 2 lacs

ing of more than 2 lacs population, it require atleast 4 ambulances including a critical care Ambulance and a hearse(for shifting of dead body) but it is very shocking that only one ambulance is in working condition rest are lying defunct. Lack of transportation facility also portation facility also leads to the death of critleads to the death of crit-ical accidental cases. Had the Hospital been provid-ed with sufficient and sophisticated equip-ments, many lives of seri-ous patients would have

requested the DC Udhampur to redress their genuine demands and provide required staff, equipments and infra-structure so that people can get best health care facilities at their facilities at their doorsteps. The DC Udhampur assured all Udhampur assured all possible help and said that their long standing demands of staff, equip-ments and infrastructure shall soon be fulfilled including an Ambulance within month's time.

within month's time.

Among others who participated were Rameshwar
Sharma, Geeta Devi, Shiv
Ram Sharma, Mansa Ram
Dhoi, Pritam Singh,
Pushpinder Singh, Om
Parkash, Darshan Singh,
Satish Kumar Gupta and
Dharanter Singh Dharanter Singh.

Union Budget totally

disappointing for J&K JAMMU, FrB. 02. Congress has said that Union Budget is totally disappointing for Jammu and Kashmir State and there is no provision for checking the sky-rocketing prices and creation of adequate job opportuni-ties for youth. Reacting to the Union Budget Chief Spokesperson JKPCC Ravinder Sharma has described the budget as disappointed for the people of J&K State. He said that being the last budget of the Modi Govt, there are hollow slogans and Jumlas but there is nothing He said that being the last budget of the Modi Govt, there are hollow slogans and Jumlab sut there is nothing for the youth, poor and middle class people who are suffering due to price rise as the prices of several commodities of common use will further go up and there are no commitments or initiatives for fulfilling the promises of job creation in the country. Ravinder said the salaried and working class of Jek State has also disappointed and working class of Jek State has also disappointed and dissatisfied as nothing has been done which was expected by various sections including small and middle class and educated youth. There are no provisions for developmental infrastructure and railway connectivity projects especially between Jammu and Poonch. Modi Govt. has tried to convince the farmers that too in the last year of its rule. However these measures are insufficient to give any relief to small or medium class formers. He also criticized Modi Govt. to lack of any provision for the refugees, displaced people of 1947,1965 and 1971 besides any relief for the border residents who are under heavy shelling for the last three years and facing great hardships.

Murder case filed in mysterious death of Class 9 student in Delhi school, 3 detained

the death of the Class 9 student who was found dead under mysterious investigating the case scanned the CCTV scanned the CCTV
footage and claimed that
he had a fight with four
students in which he was
injured and later died.
"After scanning the
CCTV footage, we transferred the case registered

ferred the case registered under Section 304 to 302 (murder). We found that he had a fight with 4 students. He fell down after



Tusshar, a Class 9 student, was found dead under mysterious cirhis school's washroom found unconscious by some students in the bathroom and was taken to a hospital. He was

ter referred to the GTB Hospital where he was declared brought dead.

The school administra-tion has claimed that he was suffering loose motions, but the boy's family has alleged that he had a fight with some and

Police had earlier said

that no injury marks were found on the boy's

Police are questioning nis classmates and the students who had found

students who had found him in an unconscious state in the bathroom. The family also alleged that school authorities were trying to shield the students he had a fight

Tusshar is a resident of Tusshar is a resident of Karawal Nagar. Local residents along with the boy's family members staged a protest at the Karawal Nagar Chowk and demanded a probe into the matter. Karawal

NATONAL

Nagar MLA Kapil Mishra said that he is monitoring the situation and is in ouch with the police and assistant authorities.

Meanwhile, a Medchal-Malkajgiri District Education Officer (DEO)

conducted a preliminary investigation, into the case and will submit the report recommending cancellation of the Department by Friday

19-year-old girl raped inside cinema hall in Hyderabad, accused nabbed



In a shocking incident, a 19-year-old girl was allegedly raped inside a cinema hall in Hyderabad on Monday last. Acting swiftly in the case, the Hyderabad police have arrested the accused and also initiated action against the owner of the cinema hall.

In a similar incident almost two months back, a 16-year-old girl was allegedly gangraped inside a movie the-atre in Meerut district in Uttar Pradesh. The police had arrested two people in The accused had reportedly befriended the girl over telephone, following which they decided to meet for shopping in Mawana. After shopping, the duo went to a cinema hall where were joined by a friend of the prime

As the film began, the duo allegedly took the girl to the balcony area of the theatre and forced themselves on her After committing the crime, they reportedly took the victim to Muzaffarnagai

Malayalam actress molested on train, says 'nobody came to help'



THRISSUR THRISSUR: A man was today arrested for alleged-ly attempting to misbehave with a Malayalam film actress while she was travelling in a train.

Railway police said actress Sanusha com-plained that a man who was travelling on the berth next to her had tried to harass her in the early hours. She said she caught hold of the man's hand. switched on the light and

informed the railway police about the incident.
Based on her complaint, the accused, 40-year-old Anto Bose, a native of Kanyakumari in neighbouring Tamil Nadu, was arrested by 1.30 am when the Thirusannthanyana. the Thiruvananthapuram-bound Maveli express from Kannur reached Thrissur station, railway police said. He was arrested under

IPC section 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) and remanded to

with intent to outrage her modesty) and remanded to judicial custody till February 15, they said. While talking to the media later, the actress complained that a majority of the co-passengers had ignored her plea for help. "It was really sad to say that nobody came to my help," she said. Only scriptwriter Unni R and another person, who were travelling in the same coach, rushed to her rescue hearing her scream and offered support to alert the ticket examiner and police. ticket examiner and police, Sanusha said.

The other passengers had pretended to be to be alleged. she Sanusha has acted in a few Malayalam and Tamil

Gujarat elections a trailer, Rajasthan bypolls interval, film coming in 2019: Shiv Sena to BJP

at Bharatiya Janata Party's per-formance in Rajasthan bypolls and Gujarat 2017 Assembly elections, Shiv Sena on Friday said that there's no question of going for an alliance in upcoming 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

ing 2019 tok Subba elections
"Gajant elections were a trailer and Rajasthan bypoil the
interval. Now the film twe will
show in 2019. No question of
going back from our resolution
of fighting alone in 2019. Once
arrow has left the bow, it doesnot come back/said Shiv Sena
leader Sanjay Raut.
Attacking. Modi government's first all full union budget,
presented by Finance Minister
Arun faitley. Rautsid, "faitleys"

Arun Jaitley, Rautsaid, "Jaitley's Union Budget 2018 was fantastic but only on paper. Farmers are committing suicide, it won't be suitable to comment about it's implementation so soon. The Congress party posted a



spectacular victory in the Ajmer and Alwar Lok Sabha bypolls, defeating the nearest BJP rivals with massive margins. Congress also won the Mandalgarh Assembly seat.

second term in the state. Taking to Twitter, the Chief Minister wrote that she pts the verdict of the people

with humility.

"We have worked tirelessly over the years, with the people

attention and shall work hardwith renewed fervou dedication, taking our bea State to new heights," she

Raje further said, "Our efforts shall continue and we will keep the welfare of the people of

Rajasthan at the forefront, as democracy is ultimately for and of the people. I congratulate the winning candidates and wel-come them to this celebration of democracy."

come them to mis occercians it is democracy."

Defeating the BJP's Shaki Singh Hada, Congress candidate Vivek Dhakar won Mandalgarh Assembly seat by 12.976 votes. In Ajmer, Congress candidate Raghu Sharma defeated BJP's Ramswaroop Lamba, while in Alwar, Congress leader Dr Karan Singh Yadav established his victory, defeating the BJP's Jaswant Yadav by 164.96 votes. Congress' chief Rahul Gandhi also took to Twitter to congratulate party cadres. to congratulate party cadres "Well done Rajasthan Congress! Proud of each and every one of you. This is a rejection of the BIP by the

Delhi 2021 master plan: DDA takes major decisions SC frames 5 questions on Jallikattu case, to tackle sealing fallout, alters floor area ratio

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Friday took several important decisions on DA) on several floor area ratio (FAR) for shop-cum-residence

In order to stop sealing, FAR was increased from 180 to 300. Penalty amount for non-payment of conversion charges was reduced to two times from the current 10

Godowns will now to be regular on 12-meter roads.



n Friday morning. "Three proposals about

master plan of Delhi have been passed. Period of proposal being put in public domain has been reduced from 45 days to 3 days. Proposal will be approved in another DDA meeting of LG

been prevented if BJP did that. All legitimate demands of Chief Minister Kejriwal have been approved in meet ing. These demands will be put in public domain." AAP has been demand-

DDA

member and BJP MLA

Reacting to the devel-opment, DDA member

opment, DDA member and AAP MLA Somnath Bharti said, "It's BJP's duty to fill loopholes in master plan as it is in the

AAP has been demand-ing changes in the Master Plan 2021 to stop sealing in Delhi. Meanwhile, traders in Delhi called for a two-

bandh starting Friday to protest against friday to protest against the ongoing sealing drive in the national cap-ital. It is expected that at least 8 lakh shops and a large number of factories would remain closed as power of centre and MCD. Sealing could've

refers matter to Constitution bench

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has referred the matter relat-ing to Tamil Nadu's buil taming sport Jallikattu to a Constitution bench. The apex court has framed five questions to be adju-dicated by Constitution bench in the matter. "We have formulated five questions for the Constitution bench," Justice Nariman said

Constitution bench,"
Justice Nariman said
while pronouncing the
order. The court, while
reserving its order, had
said the larger bench
would decide whether
states have the "legislative competence" to make
such laws on grounds,
including that 'Jallikattu'
and bullock cart racing
fell under the cultural



Article 29(1) and can be protected constitutionally.

Tamil Nadu Maharashtra have amended the central law, have the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and allowed Jallikattu and bullock cart racing, respectively. The state

lenged in the apex court.

The top court had referred to Article 25

(right to freedom of reli gion) and Article 29(1) (protection of cultural and educational rights) of the Constitution and said they may not to make such laws.

Eruthazhuvuthal. bull-taming sport played in Tamil Nadu as part of the Pongal harvest festi-

The apex court had earlier dismissed the Tamil
Nadu government's plea
seeking a review of the
2014 Judgement banning
the use of bulls for
Jallikattu events in the
state and bullock cart
races across the country.
The court in its 2014
judgement had said bulls
cannot be used as performing animals, either
for Jallikattu events or
bullock-cart races in
Tamil Nadu,

Nadu Maharashtra or where in the country and had banned their use

Budget 2018: Salaried class gets standard deduction of Rs 40K. Here's what it means

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Arun Jaitley did not provide any relief in the income tax rates in the Union Budget 2018-19. He however proposed to allow a standard deduc-tion of Rs 40,000 in lieu of the present exemption in respect of trans-port allowance and reimbursement of miscellaneous medical

It is to be noted that the transport allowance at enhanced rate shall ontinue to be available to differently-abled per-sons. Also, other med-ical reimbursement ben-efits in case of hospitalisation etc., for all employees shall continue. Jaitley has said that the total number of

salaried employees and pensioners who will benefit from this decision is around 2.5 crore

Experts believe that the move to announce standard deduction of Rs 40,000 apart from reducing paper work and compliance, will help middle class employees even more in terms of reduction in their tax liability. This decision to allow standard deduction shall significantly benefit the pensioners also, who normally do not enjoy any allowance on

any allowance on account of transport and medical expenses The current tax-free limit for medical expense reimbursement is set at 15,000 per annum and transport



Rs 1,600 per month. Manish Gupta, CA and Partner at Kanchan

explained the tax benefit on standard deduc tion of Rs 40,000 under

se categorie a) Assuming the standard deduction is inclusive of medical

expense reimbursement and transport allowance b) Exclusive of medical expense reimburse-

ment and transport c) Benefit for pension-

Before understanding the break-up, check out the income tax slab (unchanged this year) under which you fall Individual Tax Payers

-Up to Rs 2,50,000 NII

Rs 2 50 001 to Rs -Rs 2,50,001 to Rs 5,00,000: 5 percent -Rs 5,00,000 to 10,00,000: 20 percent -Above Rs 10,00,000: 30 percent

nior Citizens 60 years but less than 80 years -Up to Rs 3,00,000: NIL

Rs 3,00,001 to Rs 5,00,000: 5 percent -Rs 5,00,001 to Rs 10,00,000: 20 percent

Assuming that the amount is inclusive of medical expense reim-bursement and trans-port allowance here is how much it will

impact you. Tax-free limit for medical expense reim-bursement = Rs 15,000 er annum

Transport allowance exemption = Rs 1,600 per month (Rs 19,200 per annum) Total = 34,200 p.a

After the deduction the calculation and sub

the calculation and sub-sequent tax benefit will be as follows: Proposed: Rs 40,000 Deducted: Rs 34,200 (on medical and transport combined) Effective change: Rs

NEWS JKNPP HOLDS RALLY IN RAMNAGAR

Union Budget belies the hopes of common man: Harsh

RAMNAGAR, FEB. 02:
Despite the last Budget of B2:
led govt at the centre having
been packaged and projected
as pro people, it in essence and
content was an attempt to
serve the interests of the corporate houses and multi nationals said Harsh Dev Singh JKNPP Chairman and Former Minister. With the concerns of Minister. With the concerns of the middle class and economi-cally weaker sections of society having been completely dis-regarded, they were simply advised to feel satisfied with the slogans of good gover-nance that had been held out during the last four years of BJP rule. Describing the Budget exercise as a wasted BJP rule. Describing the Budget exercise as a wasted mandate, Singh said that the final Budget of the NDA Govt had immensely disappointed the youth who had overwhelmingly voted for the BJF

demoralized the common demoralized the common man, the unemployed as also the activists of the saffron brigade. He was addressing a public rally in Ramnagar today.

The election googly in the

form of announcement to douform of amouncement to dou-ble farmers income by 2022 was as amusing as it was ridiculous, said Harsh. "The BJP gort will seek a fresh man-date in around an year or so. But it wants people to wait till 2022 for it to fulfil its election impercompilment and its time commitment and social obligation". He said that rather than committing itself to honour, during the currency of honour, during the currency of its five years term, its loudly trumpeted promises including housing for all, quality educa-tion and Health care for the weaker and marginalized, curbing inflation, removal of in-equalities, empowerment of youth through increased jobs opportunities etc, the Union Budget for current year was most ludicrously and repeat-edly harping on 2022 as the year for fulfilling its commitments. He said that Budget being an annual exercise, the Finance Minister was supbeing an animal exercise, me Finance Minister was sup-posed to provide specific solu-tions to the economic suffer-ings of the people and its chal-lenges vis a vis its public com-mitments during the current fiscal rather than paking

fiscal rather than making prophesies for the future. Describing the BJP leaders as experts in the art of self promotion and in manufacturing lies tion and in manulacturing lies and buzzes, Singh said that people of the country would no longer be befooled by their gimmicks and "Chunavi Jumlas". He said that despite creeping inflation during BJP



rule, the Finance Minister had failed to spell out any plausible roadmap to deal with such

elections by the BJP leadership

He said that as against the
promised 2 crore jobs for He said that as against the promised 2 crore jobs for most menacing threat to the poor and weaker sections. He unemployed youth every year the unprecedented unquantifipoor and weaker sections. He said that despite this being the final year of the incumbent BJP govt at the centre, there was nothing tangible to address the concerns of teening millions of unemployed youth of the able retrenchments in private able retrenchments in private sector had caused huge com-motion amongst the educated youth. He said there was no relief for salaried dass, no con-cession in tax rates and contracountry who were assured of gainful employment during ily interest on savings had been

outstanding wage liability under MGNREGA, there was under MGNREGA, there was hardly any increase in provi-sion for this significant Rural Employment Scheme and the provision for Swachh Bharat Mission had also been cuttailed without any tangible impact having been crated on the ground under the scheme. He said that even the announcement to increase the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for kharif crops to cost plus 50% was a chunavi Jumbla as there can't be a single formula to determine inputs costs of geographically diver-

costs of geographically diver-gent crops.

Strongly condemning the neglect of J&K state in the Budget, Singh said that people of the state were left high and dry with hardly any new having

announced for the so called special category state. "Not a word was said about separate Railway division for Jammu as repeatedly assured. Similarly no rail lines for Rajouri-Poonch, no special package or concessions on the analogy of NE states, no incentives for J&K industries, no employ-ment schemes were ment schemes were announced despite huge expectations created amongst the people. He said that while the central Budget had announced Health Insurance Scheme for BPL category, the already existing PM's Health insurance scheme had not been implemented in the state been implemented in the state despite its launch several years back. It was a defeatist Budget which would prove BJPs waterloo at the hustlings, said Singh.

Regarding the prevalent

development scenario in Ramnagar constituency, Singh took to task the highly impu-dent administration and the incumbent leadership for pushing Ramnagar to terminal decline. He said that once con-cidend a the fortest developsidered as the fastest developing constituency, Ramnagar had witnessed the worst era of mis-governance, under devel-opment and decadence during opment and decadence during the last three and a half years. He said that with an all perva-sive culture of corruption in the constituency, the development funds were being brazenly looted by contractor-politician nexus. Seeking a probe into the funds drawn for nonexis hunds drawn for nonexistent works especially in RDD, PHE and R&B sector, Singh sought exemplary punishment to these who had had made for-tunes for themselves at the cost of tax payers' money.

DoPT officials thank Dr Jitendra for budget relief to salaried employees

tion of DoPT (Department tion of DoP1 (Department of Personnel & Training) officials led by Union Secretary Personnel Ajay Mittal, today called on Union Minister Incharge DoPT, Dr Jitendra Single and conveyed their appre ciation and gratitude for ciation and gratitude for the relief given to the salaried employees in the union Budget presented by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley yesterday. They also requested the Minister to convey their thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for eivine priority to Modi for giving priority to their issues and concerns in the annual budget.

Responding to their gesture, Dr Jitendra Singh beyond the realms of finan-said, this is for the first cial reform and, in fact,

time that a Governmen amounts to publicly according respect and revhas acknowledged the erence to the honesty and

important role of the salaried class in contributsalaried class in contribut-ing the bulk of Income Tax collections, throughout the country. He said, the men-tion made in this regard by the Union Finance Minister in his Budget speech, goes beyond the realms of finanerence to the honesty and sincerity shown by the employees as tax payers. Dr Jitendra Singh said, a standard deduction of Rs.40,000/- per annum on Income Tax in lieu of the

existing transport allowance and reimburse-

announced specifically for the salaried class will offer a huge reinforcement not only to the working employees, but also the pensioners in the later phase of their life. In addi-tion, he said, this class of citizens will also be the beneficiaries of health insurance cover offered for ment of medical expenses, the first time by the gov-

interest on deposits being increased from Rs.10,000 to Rs.50,000 for elder pen sioners. For wome employees, Dr Jitendra Singh noted, the contribu-tion to Provident Fund has been reduced to 8% and this also is a relief for the salaried class. With ever salaried class. With ever increasing number of pensioners in the govern-ment service, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the issues like late age illness, lack of caretakers for help and financial constraints have been addressed by the been addressed by the budget. This is not only a financial support but also a huge social reform con-templated for the first time by any government, he said.

DDC Rajouri reviews media fellowship project

RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 02: District Development Commissioner, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary today convened a meeting of nodal officers appointed for Media Fellowships in Development Administration to review the progress and devise further planning, Regional Director, Land Records & Survey, Showlast Kazmi, CED Rajouri Development Authority, Dr Tahir Findous, CEO Lal Hussain, CMO Pr Suresh Gupta, CAO My Choudhary, Dy Registrar Wagar Talib, DSWO Dr Abdul Khabir, BEO, Imfaz Ahmed attended the meeting in which DlO Mohammad Shafait briefed about normses and monosals for next meeting in which DIO Mohammad Stratam briefed about progress and proposals for next

The DDC reviewed the proposals furnished The DIX reviewed the proposals furnished by nodal offices for associating media persons who were awarded fellowships for detailed study of projects and schemes to suggest ways for improvement in service delivery. These include fellowships in Health, rural savilation, rural development, agriculture, land revenue, disaster management, and social welfare, public service guarantee, Right to Information Act, flagship schemes and various sectors of development administration.

briefed about departmental plans and schedule for field visits by selected fellows. The selected fellows will conduct detailed study of critical infrastructure at field level, available human resource, service deliver and therein suggest required improvements taking into account feedback from public as well as field functionar-ies.

Iteedtack from public as well as held functional-ies.

The Education Department will get the impact of teacher training modules assessed; Health Department has proposed to conduct assessment of health services delivery in border areas, likewise a critical appraisal of turism infrastructure will be conducted under the fel-lowships. Eco-Tourism, Wage Employment, Convergence, Sanitation, Odd Age Persions, Revenue Settlement and Seed Plan are among the projects to be handled by the fellowships already awarded in key sectors. The fellowship includes Rs 20,000, Citation and Medal. It was also decided in the meeting that nominations for next year's fellowships will be notified in the month of March, 2018 and media persons from outside the district shall also be considered in view of number of fellow-ships proposed to be increased to 30 from exist-pits proposed to be increased to 30 from exist-pits proposed to be increased to 30 from exis-

opment administration. ships proposed to be increased to 30 from exist ing 15 awards.

DSS urges Govt on joint women's resolves, releases logo

JAMMU, FEB. 02: concerned authorities oday the 2nd Feb. 2018 towards restoration work 'h. Gulchain Singh of the Mubarak Mandi JAMMU, FEB. 02:
Today the 2nd Feb. 2018
Th. Gulchain Singh
Charak Former Minister
and President Dogra
Sadar Sabha (DSS)
addressing the Press
Conference at Dogra Sadar Sabha Bhawan said that the Sabha held a meeting of it's executive body today on 2nd Feb 2017 at its Bhawan to consider the resolutions unanimously passed jointly by the large assembly of distinguished women of the Dogra region to urge the govern ment to come out of the slumber and see the writ-

slumber and see the writ-ing on the wall.

The president DSS in a press release apprised the J&K State Government of the disgust felt by all the the callous attitude of the by the culprits involved in

of the Mubarak Mandi heritage complex, shifting of the precious records of Archieves in an unsafe building and the annoy-ance over barricading of the road in front of winter the road in front of winter secretariat causing incon-venience to women using the Zanana Park or going to temples. It causes hard-ship to the daily com-muters, school children, evacuation of the sick to evacuation of the sick to SMGS hospital and is cruel on the funeral processions going to Jogi Gate for cregoing to Jogi Cate for cre-mation; besides hamper-ing tourism of historical sites in winters. He also criticized the government and conveyed the anguish of the women over the beinous crime committed

the case of abduction of the Kathua minor girl and her detentiom, brutal rape and murder. Women members also expressed grave concern over the increased the drug addic-tion among the Youth and sought a special police sought a special police team under an able officer to nab the culprits and arrest the trend.

It was pointed out that in a matriarchal society that draws its strength by wor-ship of goddess Durga as 'Shakti' (power) the women empowerment is getting a mere lip service getting a mere in service and the women below poverty line (BPL) are denied their due share in power sharing, financial management and are ren-dered to a status of unpaid bonded domestic workers. He also urged all Dogras



and preserve our old values of mutual peaceful co-

existence.

The executive body also officially released the DSS LOGO that shall represent this 114 years old secular organization of the State and works for social uplift without bias of gender, caste, community or religion. The main features of the LOGO are the rising progress, enlightenment, warmth and positive and positive development. It shows the Trikuta hills as symbolic to the region and the three populations of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh which have now settled homogeneously here as a cosmopolitan society without any discrimina society; tion or discord within

historically the main occuhistorically the main occu-pation of Dogras earning laurels in establishing the J&K State, expanding it up to Leh, Ladakh, Gilgit and Baltistan as also for persistently defending it from foreign invaders in international wars and internal enemies of the country for which they have made supreme sacri-fices and earned bravery

fices and earned bravery awards in a very high proportion. The executive body also formally released the list of distinguished daugh-ters of the soil "Dhiyan

regards and respect to each others' sensitivities and faiths. The logo also shows a lion as symbol of strength and valour, while the base comprises of two swords, a traditional sign of soldiering that has been been been soldiering that has been been soldiering that has been soldiering that has been been s Nanda, Seema Anil Sehgal, Sheetal Rajput, Prof Posh Charak, S Prot Posh Charak, Seema Shekhar, Babita Rakwal, Anjali Sharma, Rita Jatinder, Veena Rajput, Dr Sunanda Raina, Mrs Savita Bakshi, Mrs Asha The executive body also

complimented another daughter of the soil Ms. Ganiv Kaur D/o Col Harjender Singh, SM who topped the selection list of the Army's Judge Advocate General Branch (JAG) bringing honour to us all. The DSS shall be

event of geting together the distinguished women achievers "Dhiyar Dogren Diyan - Ik Malati" Dogren Diyan – Ik Malati' every year. Those present in the press conference were Sh. Prem Sagar Gupta, Col Karan Singh Jamwal VP, G.A. Khawaja Jamwal VP, G.A. Khawaja Additional Gen. Secretary, Brig M.S. Jamwal Incharge Media Cell, Col Virendra K Sahi VrC Convener Media Cell, Syed Amanta Ali Shah, Karan Singh President Kathua, Dharam Chand President Ramban, Mrs Santosh Mangotra.

BJP holds review meeting for displaced persons from PoJK, Kashmir

JAMMU, FEB. 02: JK BJI JAMMU, FEB. 02: JK BJP led by its State General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Kaul along with State General Secretary Dr. Narinder Singh held a review meeting regarding the issues pertaining to Displaced persons from Pakistan occupied Jammu Kashmir (PoJK) and Kashmir

Sham Choudhary, Minister Ajay Nanda, MLCs Ramesh Arora, Surinder Arora, Surinuer Ambardar Girdhari Lal Ambardar, Girdhari Lal Raina, Rufugee Cell State Convenor Pt. Ashok Khajuria, Displaced Kashmir Migrants' District President Chandji Bhat and other senior leaders participated in the meeting participated in the meeting held at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar.

While addressing the meeting, Ashok Kaul said that the prime aim of BIP is



group or community feels deprived of its due rights. He said that the core of the He said that the core of the BJP lies in its organizational principles of "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas" and "Antodaya (ensuring the reach of every benefit to the last person in the most deprived section of society)" which has been taken on the war foot by the Prime Minister Narendra

led Government. He said that BJP has always been on the front foot to raise the issues of Displaced per-sons whether form PoJK or sons whether form PoJK or Kashmir and is committed to end the woes of con-cerned communities. He called upon the BJP leaders to seek every minute details of the compensa-tions and other issues of the affected families. Dr. Narinder Sinph who

to end the woes of con-corned communities. He called upon the BP leaders to seek every minute details of the compensa-tions and other issues of the affected families. Dr. Narinder Singh who also heads the BJP's com-

Displaced Persons said that all the details concerning issues pertaining to the community have been enlisted and have been

points under strategy to preservation of the rich culture and traditions of the community after their displacement from the val-

Pt. Ashok Khajuria, informed that out of 36, 384 registered cases for Displaced persons from PoJK, 12844 cases are already cleared and sent to already cleared and sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), out of which 6601 cases have been settled so far on the ground by clearing their payments through DBT by MHA and termed this as a big achievement for the community. He also said that about 2800 cases will be cleared in the coming 10 days and all the pending days and all the pending cases will be followed by the BJP's Refugee Cell for their clearance very soon. He also informed that the Cell will hold a programme for the beneficiar-

gramme for the beneficiar-ies in the month of April. Chandji Bhat also delib-erated on the progress over issues of the members from the Kashmir Displaced community that have been taken on hand by the displaced district and said that there is an urgent need to ensure the implementation of 2500 jobs as means of employ-ment to the community ment to the community members and also con-struction of accommoda-tion of these employees in Kashmir Valley that has been set into motion by the Modi Government. He also discussed the PM also discussed the PM Package of 2000 Crore rupees and said that there is a dire need to expedite the process which will ensure the land cost, construction cost and emplo ment generation for the community youth.

Chief Minister expresses sorrow over death of 3 soldiers at Machil

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 02: Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti has expressed deep sorrow over the death of three soldiers in Machil sector of Kupwara who were killed when their post came under an avalanche today.

The Chief Minister has conveyed her sympathies to

the families of dead soldiers.

DY CM condoles demise of mother of Prabodh Jamwal

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 02: Deputy Chief Minister, Dr Nirmal Singh has condoled the demise of mother of Prabodh Jamwal, Editor in Chief, Kashmir Times, who passed away early today.

Dr Singh while conveying his sympathies with Mr Jamwal prayed for peace to the departed soul.

Power shutdown

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 02: According to a communiqué received from Superintending Engineer, Elect. Maint. and RE Circle Kathua, the power supply to Changran, Chak Desa, Manke Talab, Lower Shiv Nagar, Upper Shiv Nagar and Housing Colony fed by Changran Rural feeder shall remain affected on February 03 from 10 am to 03 pm.

JINDRAH IMAGES

Raiasthan win of bypolls elates Cong cadres

ongress is elated by the Rajasthan win of all the three seats in bypolls results of which were declared yesterday. Its cadres now feel that the party is now on a revival mode. The win has also improved to some extent the image of AICC president Rahul as all eyes are now set on him to see him performing better. He has always been on the target of BIP and some other political parties for the 'poor' content of his speeches but Congress has never come forward strongly with answers to these accusations. Rather the party 'think-tanks' never bothered to counter such allegations against their leader and project him as a man of vision and wisdom. Instead the party was fulsome in its praise for him. This party strategy neither helped Rahul nor Congress and ultimately led to the party's debacle in the last Lok Sabha polls. The party of course needs someone of the stature of Narendra Modi to take on its political rivals, and not Rahul, who according to the party insiders, was still not ripe for the top job. They feel that he should first gain political maturity while working under the party elders and then lead the party from the front. Though success in politics is broadly the result of team work, the leader has to be a visionary and acceptable to the masses and the party cadres as well. Rahul still has a long distance to cover, they feel. He, however, proved them wrong by his improved performance and to some extent the balanced use of words in Gujarat polls. And, now the results of bypolls in Rajasthan have come as a shot in the arm for BJP. Rahul Gandhi has now to be careful while making public utterances. People, his own party leaders, opposition and political pundits would analyse every bit of his speeches to see if he delivers the quality stuff to the countrymen or not. Even as he has given a tough fight to BJP in the recent Guiarat polls, he is still not taken seriously even by his party men who feel he is 'unimpressive'. Everyone feels that he hasn't much to offer to the people except for criticising prime minister Narendra Modi, his policies and the Saffron Brigade. People now realise that this criticism is for the sake of criticism only as its lacks logic. All this compels one to think if he needs more exposure and grinding to become ripe for giving direction to his party and the country, especially when there is no one in Congress who can even think of tutoring or mentoring him. He is often accused by the party elders of stubbornness and lack of motivation to become a leader. Of course, he has Sonia Gandhi behind him but she can't be Indira Gandhi as she herself is dependent on a 'select' group of party leaders who guide her on various issues facing the country. Rahul, however, with all the party backing, should now focus on establishing him-

self as a leader of masses.

Budget 2018-19: More sleight of hand

MOHAN GURUSWAMY

The Union Budget 2018-19 the Indian economy is facing the worst slowdown in at the worst slowdown in at least half a decade (according to the Central Statistical Office). While macroeconom-ic shocks like demonetisation and the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) are likely to have con-tributed to the slowdown, the root of the slowdown lies in the decline of investm

The slowdown in invest-ments has led to all-round and widespread gloom and distress. The big question about this Budget then was to see how it addresses issues arising out of this — such a job contraction in the infor-mal sector, the slowdown of manufacturing, increasing farmer and lower middle class distress?

In a Budget, you take from some and give to others. So who gives and who takes is who gives and who takes is where we should be looking. The challenge of Budget-making is to take enough from the nearly 15 per cent of the population, or about 200 million people making up 40 million families liable for direct taxes, without dissatisfying them too much.

This should provide enough to blunt the edge of enough to blunt the edge of popular anger of the 60 per cent who make little more than subsistence in terms of income. This covers about 700-750 million of the popularity of tion, or 150 families. It is these people have largely been bypassed by the huge growth gains made since 1998. That neans the two NDA and two

PA terms. Added to this, the government has to promise deliver-ing all this with a most expen-(10.4 per cent of GDP), and an



defunct delivery system. A majority of government employees million are the bedrock of the direct taxes-paying cohort. So, in effect, a major part of the direct taxes are realised by the government from those who work in it. In either case, we the people pay

So you need to get much from others. This is where indirect taxes come in. Indirect taxes are derived from a far bigger base of the population. For instance, even the lowest sections will buy matchboxes, from which taxes are derived. As you go up the chain of manufactured goods, the incidence of indirect taxes increases. This is you run up against powerful lobbies

powerful lobbies.

For instance, polyester yarn
manufacturers will look at
askance at too many reliefs
and benefits given to the cotton textiles sector. Balancing
the Budget is the easier part. Balancing aspirations is next to impossible.

Thus, Budgets haven't really changed over the decades.
An analysis of Budget breakups since 1999 shows that proportions of most heads just do not change, as GDP growth and hence tax es usually stay nearer where they have been before. Discretionary revenue expen-

terms of growth Against this backdrop, hov Narendra Modi Arun Jaitely faring? I must say quite heroically. Like say quite heroically. Like boys on the burning deck. They are just distracting us with promises and hoping to stave off the inevitable popular discontent. Take for instance the much-hyped National Health Protection Scheme to cover 500 million people, or 100 million families, with mo.³¹ people, or IOV Hannon Inter-lies, with medical cover of up to Rs 5 lakhs. But what is the outlay for this? It is a measly Rs 30,000 crores, translating into a premium of about Rs 3,000 per beneficiary family, whereas the prevailing pre miums are at about Rs 4,400 a year. Even here, the govern year. Even here, the govern-ment is being disingenuous. If this were in addition to what is allocated to the Rs 1.38 lakh crores for health, which was Rs 1.22 lakh crores is the receipton when these in the previous year, there would be some little cause to cheer. No, instead it comes from the health budget. which in effect means that

spent on public healthcare So if government happy with your health insurance and go to a private nursing home or corporate hospital and see how soon the cover evaporates. In effect this is a direct benefit to priand insurance companies who will get a `30,000-crore windfall.

Similar sleight of hand is indulged in increasing the standard deduction to Rs standard deduction to Rs 40,000 for salaried persons. The outlay for this is Rs 8,000 crores. But the education cess goes up by one per cent, which means an outgo of Rs 11,000 crores. So who is out of pocket by Rs 3,000 crores?

The government has announced that it will fund scheme. But reports from gas agency dealers in several parts of the nation, specially those in rural areas, have reported that an extremely w number of Ujjawala ben eficiaries are returning for refills of their cylinders. Thus, the number of LPG

connections may be rising rapidly, but LPG usage is not. The catch is that below poverty line families who exist on less than Rs 32 a day in rural areas and Rs 47 a day in urban areas are simply too poor to afford the market rate of LPG.

There was much expecta-

tion of an agriculture-orient-ed Budget. Nothing has been announced that would suggest that Institutional credit to the agriculture sector has gone up to Rs 11 lakh crores when it was Rs 10 lakh crore last year. The finance minister spoke about "revitalising infrastructure and systems in education by 2022... Technology to be the biggest driver in improving the quality of education. To increase digital intensity in education digital intensity in education, it will move infrastructure from blackboard to digital board. By 2022, every block with more than 50 per cent ST population will have Eklavya schools at par with Navodaya Vidvalayas".

Mere paas Maa hai...

THE popular dialogue - Mere paas Maa hai in popular dialogue — Mere paas Maa hai — seed by various television channels to pay homage to hashi Kapoor, made me ponder over the statement ttered by the star in the film Deewar. What made film buffs and ordinary people connect and identify themselves so strongly with the dialogue? Was it the charisma of Shashi kapor, or his choked voice that lent an emotional appeal to the dialogue? Was it the magic of the pen? Was the scene so gripping that it oft the audience spellbound? I concluded that it wa Maa' that catapulted it to the top of the popularity

The dialogue reinforces the centuries-old fact that other is an embodiment of love, compassion, kind-ess and sacrifice. She inculcates a value system in her kids, which is based on truth and justice. The value ystem has magical powers that can transform ar rdinary human being into a superman. History is ystem has magical powers that can transform artificiary human being into a superman. History is wash with such brilliant tales. Mahatma Gandh nbibed from his mother the indomitable spirit to fight till the end. This quality stood him in good stead and also gave him the much-needed strength to tak on the might of the British. His struggle saw many ups and downs, but he kept moving on his path. His efforts bore positive results.

Bhagat Puran Singh, who spent his life working for

the marginalised, was pushed into serving destitute by his mother. She extracted a promise from him that he would never flinch from serving the poor and y mis motilet. Size extracted a profitise from finith in e would never flinch from serving the poor a rould put all resources in his command to apply alm of love and compassion on those who had be neglected by society. Stirred by the emotional appea of his mother, he passionately put his body and soul in the service of the poor and opened a pingalwara (a nouse for the disabled) in Amritsar.

Abdul Sattar Edhi, who changed the face of welfare ervices in Pakistan, was also motivated by his moth-

er. When he was a schoolboy, he was instructed by his mother to share half of his pocket money with a poor classmate. He was also made to deliver packets of ruits and laddoos to houses of the poor during festirals. And when on one occasion, Edhi sustained injuries while shielding an aged leper from the punch injuries while shielding an aged leper from the punch-se of street urchins, his mother lavishly praised him for standing up for a hapless soul. This metamor-phosed a simple soul into a messiah of the poor. Alast mothers are being ill-treated these days. Recently, a son pushed his ailing mother to her death

from the terrace. A mother is an ambassador of God Prophet Muhammad rightly said: Heaven lies under

We must remember these words if we wish to seel entry into heaven. A mother's love is like no other Value her, while there is still time.

FM walks the talk, honestly and judiciously, but very diffidently Bharat Net, the fiber connec

The Union Budget 2018-19 appears an honest and judi-cious construct when con-veyed aurally. The biggest relief is that there has been no substantive deviation from the path of fiscal discipline. The fiscal deficit for 2017-18 is pegged at 3.5 per cent of GDP. This is 0.30 per cent higher than the budget-ed estimate for this year. But it is well within the

0.50 leeway recommended by the N.K. Singh Committee report on Fiscal

Responsibility and Budgetary Management. With the disruptions caused by GST still lingering and by GSI still lingering and the need to recapitalise banks and push public investment in an environ-ment where the private sec-tor is still sitting on its funds, the stage seems set for los-ing the leeway in the interest of growth and jobs. More reassurance comes

More reassurement from the fiscal deficit target from the fiscal deficit target for 2018-19 set at 3.3 per cent of GDP. This re-establishes the declining trend for fiscal deficit towards the magic number of three per cent of GDP, which has eluded us

On the expenditure side. agriculture and rural develagriculture and rural devel-opment takes centrestage. This is more than welcome against the backdrop of agrarian distress and farmer suicides. Ajay Jhakkar of the Bharat Krishak Samaj points out, that a Indian farmer out that an Indian farmer commits suicide every 40 ninutes

No wonder then that Mr Jaitley outlined, in great detail, many of the specific measures proposed to reverse this trend. One popular, but possibly

ineffective step is an assur-



ance that all the crops noti-fied for the kharif cycle will be covered under the mini-mum support price (MSP)

Basically, this means that if market prices fall below the cost of production plus 50 per cent as margin for the farmer, the government will stand committed to make farmer, the government will stand committed to make good the difference (as is being done in Madhya Pradesh now) or to physi-cally procure the produce. But representatives of

farmers' interests are not satisfied. They assert that the manner in which cost are to be determined should be spelt out in a participa-tive manner first to ensure that a meaningful MSP is assured. The downside of an MSP type of production incentive is that it kills innovation and crop diversifica-tion away from those cov-ered under MSP. This way of assuring farmer incomes also privileges the tradition-al "Green Revolution" areas in the North, which unfortu-

with the natural resources

water, for example — to
sustain intensive modern
farming, at the expense of Eastern India, which has all of nature's bounties except that it is very far from the national capital-oriented policy structure

Other big-ticket items in agriculture are a more than doubling of the outlay for agro-processing industries to Rs 14 billion and assurances that the export of agri products would be liber alised to boost their exports threefold to their potential of around \$100 billion.

For the Northeast, a Bamboo Mission was announced with an outlay of Rs 13 billion. Two new infrastructure funds are to set up - one for fisheries and aquaculture infrastruc ture and another for animal husbandry infras at a total outlay of Rs 100 bil-lion. Crop credit would increase by 10 per cent to Rs 11 trillion and lessee farmers

access crop credit from banks – something which they cannot do today and have, instead, to rely on private moneylenders

per year towards the Employees' Provident Fund

contribution in the medium,

small and micro enterprises

to all the manufacturing sec

The idea is to increase the attractiveness of employing young job seekers by reduc-ing their cost to the employ-

er for three years, by which

time it is expected the skills

they acquire will make their

value addition viable on its

The highlights for new

projects in infrastructure are that 99 smart cities have been selected with an outlay

of Rs 2.4 trillion, against

which projects worth around 10 per cent of the

around 10 per cent of the outlay are ongoing and projects worth one per cent of the outlay have been completed. The government expects to complete 9,000

expects to complete 9,000 km of highways in this year.

The budgetary outlay for rural roads, affordable houses, toilets and electricity extension of Rs 2.4 trillion ty extension of Rs 2.4 trillion will leverage five time more funds from other sources and generate work for 10 million people, as per the Budget documents.

Big changes were also announced in healthcare. A new flagship scheme will provide in-hospital medical insurance to 100 million insurance to 100 million poor families with an insur-ance cover of Rs 5 lakhs. Compare this with the measly cover now available of Rs 30,000 only under the Rashtriya Swastha Bima Yojana. The outlay on health, education and social protection increases by around 13 per cent over the 2017-18 spend to Rs 1.4 tril-

tivity programme, is also proceeding apace. The Railways will spend Rs 1.48 Railways will spend Rs 1.48 trillion on capital invest-ments, mostly in new works in 2018-19. Six hundred rail-way stations are to be upgraded.

The total expenditure next

year is around 10 per cent higher than the estimate for 2017-18 of Rs 22.2 trillion The nominal GDP in 2018-19 is estimated to be 11.5 per cent higher than in the cur-rent year. On the revenue rent year. On the revenue side, the big increase is an estimated increase of 12 per cent in GST revenues next year by around Rs 2.6 trillion to a level of Rs 4.4 trillion, and Rs 20,000 crores lion, and Rs 20,000 crores from the new capital gains tax of 10 per cent on equity sold after holding it for one year. This makes sticking to the 3.3 fiscal deficit target a bit dodgy in 2018-19.

But who knows, maybe the finance minister has some artillery hidden up his sleeve.. Disinvestment essed conserv in 2018-19 at Rs 80,000 crores, against the achievement this year of Rs 1 trillion. The bank recapitalisation support of Rs 80,000 crores is expected to leverage new lended to leverage new lend-ing capacity of Rs 5 tril-lion. But one cannot but het the feeling that some of the expenditure estimates are a bit conservative rela-tive, the ambition tive to the ambition embedded in the pro-grammes. The good news is ending 2018-19 with a fiscal deficit equal to this fiscal deficit equal to this year's at 3.5 per cent is no big deal. But for the Narendra Modi government, which takes targets seriously, it could be a bit of a come down.

Businessman accused of stalking Zeenat Aman arrested



Bollywood actress, Zeenat Aman had filed a complaint of stalking intimidation

against a businessman in Mumbai a few days back. According to PTI, the 38-year-old businessman has been arrested for allegedly

stalking Sarfaraz the actress. alias Aman Khanna, the accused, was arrested in the DCP (Zone IX) Paramjit

The actress had filed a complaint against Khanna at the Juhu police station on Monday reportedly.

The police official told II, the accused was known to the actress and

ever, she had stopped speaking to him following a dispute.

In her complaint, the actress said that Khanna kept calling the actress and even stalked her on

The police have regis-The police have registered a case under IPC sections 354 (D) (stalking), 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) and other relevant sections.

The actress ruled the Hindi film industry during 70s and 80s era. Before ing 70s and 80s era. Betore venturing into films, she participated in the beauty pageant and was the sec-ond runner-up in the Miss India contest. She went on to win the Miss Asia Pacific in 1070 Pacific in 1970.

blockbuster films and has worked with almost all the B-Town A-listers. Her impeccable acting prowess and immense contribution to Hindi cinema won her many fans across the country.

She featured in several



Sanjay Leela Bhansali is not done with Deepika Padukone vet

she is such a jaan. I just

she is such a jaan. I just love her. All her hard work and brilliance that she brings to the set is effortless. She does her preparation but there is none of the 'I am prepared for a role' heaviness around her. It is done with so much



Filmmaker Sanjay Leela actress, Bhansali said, Bhansali, who has deliv- "Deepika is so fabulous; ered some great hits with ered some great hits with Padmaavat' star Deepika Padukone over the years, has said he is not done with the dimpled beauty as yet.Bhansali has direct-ed Deepika previously in 2013'e Golivon Ki 2013`s `Goliyon Ki Rasleela Ram-Leela` and

said, "It's such a pleasure to work with someone who does what she is who does what she is doing at that moment with absolute honesty. She's an actor who feels so honestly and simply, but her performances are detailed and nuanced. I'm not done with her Bhansali's much-await-

ed film 'Padmaavat' released on January 25 and crossed Rs. 100 croremark at the box office within four days. The magnum-opus currently stands at Rs. 155 crore.

'Padmaavat' also stars Shahid Kapoor, Ranveer Singh, Jim Sarbh, Aditi Rao Hydari and Raza

Amitabh Bachchan has the last laugh after he threatens to quit Twitter!

NEW DELHI:

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan has an ocean of fan following not just in the country but globally. His impeccable acting prowess and classic baritone is immensely loved by the fans

Recently, Big B, in a shocking tweet threat-ened to quit Twitter, leaving his fans aghast. He wrote: "TWITTER .!!!?? you reduced my number of followers !!??НАНАНАНАНА HAHA .. !! thats a joke time to get off from yo ... thank you for the ride there are many 'other' fish in the sea – and a lot more excit-



ened to be the most followed Indian celebritv on the micro-blog ite with mill

past him and became the most followed Indian celeb on Twitter,

Now, immediatel Now, immediately after Big B posted the tweet about quitting Twitter, fans thronged his timeline and com-mented on how sad they After all, the megastar enjoys the fandom on social media like none

This morning, Bachchan senior again took to Twitter and posted a hilarious tweet Well, this clearly

Well, this clearly shows Big B's Twitter game is bang on! On the professional front, the noted actor will be seen in YRF's 'Thugs Of Hindostan' starring Aamir Khan, Katrina Kaif and Fatima Sana Shaikh in the lead Also, he will be seen in Brahmastra, the first part of the trilogy announced by Dharn Productions. It stars Ranbir Kapoor and Alia

Shahid Kapoor to go back to his 'chocolate boy' look for 'Batti Gul Meter Chalu'

New Delhi: After traying the powerful act in Padmaavat' as Maharawal Ratan Singh, Shahid Kapoor will be seen playing a young romantic in his next reportedly. Shahid will be seen in

Batti Gul Meter Chalu', the film which is being helmed by 'Toilet: Ek Prem Katha' director Shree Narayan Singh. According to Mumbai Mirror, the actor will go back to his 20s and undergo a complete makeover.

The report quotes Prernaa Arora, the producer of the film as saying,
"Shahid plays a young
local boy from
Uttarakhand who is a diehard romantic."
The costume designers
Neelanchal Ghosh and



a's charac reveals, "She's apoor, who plays male lead in the film will

film. Post interval, her character undergoes a transformation and with her behaviour her look will also change." Reportedly, she plays a small-town girl. "Batti Gul Meter Chalu' also features Yami Gautam in the lead

Yami Gautam in the lead.

The trio of Yami, Shraddha and Shahid will Shraddha and Shahid will be seen first time together on the big screens. After the success of his previous ven-ture 'Toilet: Ek Prem Katha, all eyes will be set on the next directorial venture of Shree Narayan Singh, Like his previous outing, the filmmaker has addressed vet another issue which a yet another issue which a common man faces every day. The film is likely to bring forth the problem of electricity bills and how it affects the daily life.

Shama Sikander meditates for 'peace' but it's her red bikini which grabs attention



DELHI: NEW DELHI: Actress Shama Sikander is a known telly face. Before taking a big leap towards movies, the actress fea-tured in some hit TV shows such as 'Yeh Meri Life Hai', 'Baal Veer' etc to

Recently, Shama took to ner Instagram account and posted a where she can where she can be seen donning a red bikini. While the actress looks svelte avatar, her caption is worth a read. She wrote: "World peace can be achieved peace can be achieved
when in each person the
power of love replaces the
love of power.
#AbDilKiSunn."
The actress meditating at
the backdrop of such a

peaceful surrounding will surely inspire you to start your fitness regime asap but it's her bikini which is

but it's her bikini which is grabbing more attention. Several celebrities have often been trolled for their pictures online as Shama too faced her share of criticism earlier. However, the actress never really bowed out and shot back at her trollers when earlier one of her pictures received flak.

Rani's 'Hichki' gets a new release date!



'Hichki

have decided to postpone earlier scheduled to the release of the film to release on February 23,

Taran Adarsh took to Twitter to make the announcement as he wrote, "#Hichki shifted ahead... Will release on 23 March 2018... Reason: March 2018... Reason: Having evoked positive reactions during the pri-vate screenings, the mar-keting/distribution team of YRF convinced Aditya Chopra that the movie should release post should should release post exams... Hence 23 March

exams... Hence 23 March 2018... Stars Rani Mukerji." Directed by Siddharth P Malhotra and produced by Maneesh Sharma, the flick features Rani as Naina Mathur who has a nervous system disorder nervous system disorder, Tourette Syndrome, that an individual to make involuntary repeti-

sounds

Deepika Padukone gears up for Vishal Bhardwaj's next with Irrfan Khan MUMBAI: After essaying

Rani Padmavati in Sania Leela Bhansali's controve Padmaayat Deepika Padukone is all set to team up with Vishal Bhardwaj for the first time. The dimpled beauty, who

has wowed moviegoers by her performances in films such as Cocktail, Piku Mastani

Bajirao Mastani and Padmaavat, will join forces with Irrfan Khan for Bhardwaj's venture. The thriller to be directed by Haider helmer will go on floors on March 5, a Mumbai Mirror report sug-

The film will see Piku couple Deepika and Irrfan reuniting after a hiatus of three years. They were seen together for the first time in



Shoojit Sircar's comedy-drama Piku co-starring Amitabh Bachchan.

Speculations were rife that Bhardwaj's untitled

Pictures and KriArj Entertainment will be based on Hussain Zaidi's book Mafia Queens of Mumbai and will be focus film jointly produced by T on Rahima Khan aka Sapna Series, Vishal Bhardwaj Didi. Deepika was believed

to have been roped in for the role. But coproducer Prernaa Arora of Kriarj Entertainment

rumours. She said that the film be a work of fiction "This film is not a biopic.

Vishal sir is directing a fic-tional thriller that deals with the topic of revenge," Mirror quoted Prernaa as

Mirror quoteu Freinaa as saying.

Vishal Bhardwaj, best known for adapting William Shakespeare's works on celluloid, hasn't had a great time at the Box Office for quite some time

His previous release His previous release – Rangoon – starring Saif Ali Khan, Kangana Ranaut and Shahid Kapoor proved to be a disaster at the Box Office.

However, he has a num ber of successful and critically acclaimed films to his credit and the list includes -Omkara, Maqbool, Haider, Machis and Kaminey to his

Despite 25 surgeries, 'tree-man' in Bangladesh still hasn't been cured



A year ago Abul Bajandar, a Bangladeshi rickshaw-puller dubbed "tree-man" for the bark-like growths that once covered his body, appeared to have made a full recovery from the rare condition that has afflicted him for a decade.

him for a decade.

But twelve months after doctors declared him all but cured following 24 surgeries, Bajandar's hands are once again covered in the growths that characterise his same condition. rare condition.

Surgeon Samanta Lal Sen, who last year hailed his cure who last year hailed his cure as a milestone in medical history, now admits Bajandar's case may be more complicated than first thought. His patient, who has been unable to work for years and whose young family lives in the hospital, says he fears he will never be cured

will never be cured.

"I am scared to have any more surgeries. I don't think my hands and feet will be my hands and feet will be okay again," the 27-year-old said at the Dhaka hospital where he first came for treat-ment in January 2016. Bajandar suffers from epi-dermodysplasia verruci-

formis, an extremely rare genetic condition known as

Intrigued by his condition,

small room in the hospital.



HEALTH

This Bajandar

"We're grateful for the free

formis, according to Ser formis, according to Sen.
Last year the Dhaka
Medical College Hospital
treated a young Bangladeshi
girl suffering from the condition.
Doctors declared surgery

to remove the growths a success, but her father later said they had grown back in even greater numbers.

even greater numbers.

He withdrew her from
treatment, saying he did not
want to watch her grow up
in a hospital toward.

"Nobody deserves to be in
a hospital forever," said a
nurse working in the plastic
surgery unit.

"Unfortunately, he
(Reiandar) may have to stay.

(Bajandar) may have to stay here for a while." Meanwhile Bajandar wor-

ries about money, and how he will pay for his daugh-ter's education.

"She's growing up so fast,"

"She's growing up so fast," he said.
"I always wanted her to become a doctor. But if my condition worsens, how can I even send her to pre-school, let alone a medical college?

Migraines could increase risk of cardiovascular diseases: Study



NEW DELHI: Headaches are a huge nuisance. They occur at the most inappropriate times, reduce conce tion and happen due to various reasons.

However, there is one headache disorder that surpass-

riowever, timer is one neadatine disorder that surpasses most of them and that is migraine.

Migraines are super intense and give you a splitting headache that takes hours to subside and the associated dizziness and sensitivity to light don't exactly help mat-

The disease can be debilitating and although a number of interventions exist, many only work for a certain time

of interventions exist, many only work for a certain time before they fail to prevent or relieve pain. Now, researchers have associated migraines with cardiovascular health saying that people who suffer from migraine may be at an increased risk of heart attacks, stroke, blood clot and an irregular heart rate. Around one billion people worldwide are affected by migraine. It has a considerable impact on quality of life and imposes a substantial burden on society. Although the absolute risks were low, the findings suggest that "migraine should be considered a potent and persistent risk factor for most cardiovascular diseases in both men and women", said researchers from Aarhus University Hospital, Denmark and Stanford University, US. Migraine's association with cardiovascular disease risk can be attributed to the increased use of anti-inflammatory drugs, by the patients suffering from the headache disorder. Anti-inflammatory drugs are associated with increased risks of heart problems, are associated with increased risks of heart problems while immobilisation related to migraine attacks may be

while immobilisation related to migraine attacks may be behind the increase in the risk of blood clot. Current guidelines do not recommend the use of anti-clotting drugs such as aspirin to treat migraine, but clinicians need to "consider whether patients at particularly high risk of heart disease would benefit from anticoagulant treatment", the researchers said, in a paper published in the journal The BMJ. For the study, the team compared data from over \$1,000 Danish people who had been diagnosed with migraine with over \$10,000 Danish people who had been diagnosed with migraine with over \$10,000 Danish people who Danes who were migraine free over a 19 year period, from 1995 to 2013. While a link between migraine, stroke and heart attacks, have been previously established, the new study showed that migraine also was positively associated with a blood clot and irregular heart rate.



treated him for free, surgi cally removing more than five kilos (11 pounds) of growths from his hands and feet.

ems to be a time-consuming case," surgeon Sen said.
"We will keep on investigating to reach the ultimate success, though it's tough to

his wife Halima Khatun, life is on hold as she tends to her husband and looks after their four-year-old daughtime in the ward making jewellery for a little cash. Fewer than half a dozen people worldwide have epi-







Union Budget 2018: No bill needed to claim Rs 40K standard deduction

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Arun Jaitley did not provide any relief in the income tax rates in the Union Budget 2018-19. He however proposed to allow a standard deduc-tion of Rs 40,000 in lieu of the present exemption in respect of transport allowance and reimbursement of miscellaneous medical expenses.

medical expenses.

The government decision has also led to speculations about how individuals can claim the tax benefit under the standard deduction.

the standard deduction.

Central Board of Direct
Taxes (CBDT) Chief Sushil
Chandra has said that
salaried taxpayers and
pensioners will not have to
furnish any bills or documents to claim the standard deduction of Rs
40,000 announced in the
budget.

budget. The deduction of flat Rs



40,000 will be applicable to every salary earner and they can straightaway claim it. Chandra said

claim it, Chandra said.
Till now, these category
of taxpayers had to furnish
medical bills and an undertaking for conveyance
expenses to get benefit of
Rs 19,200 under transport

crore under the medical

Jaitley has said that the It is to be noted that the total number of salaried transport allowance at enhanced rate shall continwho will benefit from this ue to be available to differ-ently-abled persons. Also, other medical reimburse-ment benefits in case of decision is around 2.5

Experts believe that the nove to announce stan-

employees shall continue

dard deduction of Rs 40,000 apart from reducing paper work and compli-ance, will help middle class employees even more in terms of reduction in their tax liability. This decision tax liability. This decision to allow standard deduc-tion shall significantly bention shall significantly ben-efit the pensioners also, who normally do not enjoy any allowance on account of transport and medical expenses. FM Jaitley, giv-ing it to popular demand, has re-introduced standard deduction after more than a decade.

BUSINESS

a decade.

Taking into account the recommendations of the Kelkar Committee on direct taxes, the then finance minister P Chidambaram had announced abolition of standard deduction in the Budget 2005-06. It was abolished with effect from

abolished wit 1 April, 2006. shed with effect from

Sony CEO Hirai to step down; turnaround ally Yoshida to take helm



TOKYO: Sony Corp said on Friday CEO Kazuo Hirai will be replaced by chief financial officer Kenichiro Yoshida, who is credited with leading many of the changes that have helped the company recover from years of losses in consumer elec-

Under Hirai, who became CEO in 2012, the company has cut thousands of jobs and withdrawn from or cut back in areas such as PCs and TVs. Although Hirai struggled

7th Pay Commission: Fair compensation for central

in his first few years as leader, repeatedly cutting earnings guidance, he man-aged to regain the market's confidence with a no-non-sense restructuring plan as well as strong sales of image sensors, used in smart-phones

phones. People familiar with the company say Yoshida, a close ally of Hirai who became CFO in 2014, was a key proponent of those changes, some of which were controversial including a decision to sell the Vaio personal computer division and spinning off the TV busi-

and spinning off the TV busi-ness.

The announcement comes as Sony looks set to book record annual operating profit in the year through

March.
"I would like to take over the management foundation that was built under Hirai's leadership, and to improve

leadership, and to improve Somy's competitiveness as a global company," Yoshida said in a statement. Analysts expects Sony to post an operating profit of around 681 billion yen in the current business year, the highest ever in the compa-ny's 72-year-old history. It is due to announce its third quarter results at 3 pm.

third quarter results at 3 p.m. (0600 GMT) on Friday.

Yoshida's appointment is effective April 1. Hirai will become chairman.

Budget 2018: No change in Income Tax slab, but some relief for salaried class



NEW DELHI: Contrary to expectations, nance Minister Arun Jaitley announced that ere will be no change in personal income tax ab for salaried employees in the current fiscal Noting that the number of those who filed Income Tax return in the last year has nied income lax return in the last year has increased, Jaitley said: "the Government has made many positive changes in the personal income tax rates applicable to individuals in the last three years, therefore, I do not wish to make any changes to this." However, in some relief for the salaried class, laitley anyounced that the standard

class, Jaitley announced that the standard deduction of Rs 40,000 has been increased in respect of transport allowance and reimbursement of miscellaneous medical expenses.

Presenting the Budget, the Finance Minister said, "Standard deduction shall significantly benefit the pensioners also, who benefit the pensioners also, who normally do not enjoy any allowance on account of transport and medical expenses. The revenue cost of this decision is approximately Rs 8,000 crors. The total number of salaried employees and pensioners who will benefit from this decision is around 25 crores."

The Finance Minister further said, "Apart from peducing pages work and compliances."

from reducing paper work and compliance, this will help middle class employees even more in terms of reduction in their tax liabilimore in terms of reduction in their tax liability." In his last Budget, Jaitley had proposed to reduce existing rate of taxation of those with income between Rs 25 lakh to Rs 5 lakh from 10 percent to 5 percent in the Budget, Jaitley also made significant announcements for incentives aimed towards senior citizens. The exemption of interest income on deposits with banks and post offices has been increased from Rs 10,000 to Rs 50,000 and TDS shall not be

NEW DELHI: Bringing respite to lakhs of central government employees, the government may finally pay increased salaries under the recommendations by the 7th Pay Commission in April, as per media

m April, as per literia reports.

Media reports also added that the Gazette will have this information in the next financial year while the implementions will be made

Cabinet had in June approved recommendations of the CPC with 34 modifications, which will mean an additional annual burden of Rs 30,748 crore on the exchequer. All allowances are given effect from July 1, 2017. The recommendations

benefit over 1 crore employ-

m April 2018. The Union

COMMISSION

ees. This includes over 47 lakh central government employees and 53 lakh pen-sioners, of which 14 lakh employees and 18 lakh pensioners are from the defence

The new scales of pay pro-The new scales or pay provide for entry-level basic pay going up from Rs 7,000 per month to Rs 18,000, while at the highest level i.e. Secretary, it would go up from Rs 90,000 to Rs 2.5 lakh. For Class 1 officers, the starting salary 56,100.

Here we will show you how the 7th Pay Commission will change your exact salary keeping in mind the 4 main pay bands: Existing Pay Band (5200-

20200) (All numbers are in

(All numbers are in rupees) Basic pay = 5200 Grade pay = 1800 Total entry pay = 7000 Dearness allowance: 125%

on Basic pay and Grade pay = 8750 Total salary = 7000+ 8750+ allowances = 16750 +

allowances New salary (as per 7th

Pay Commission) = 18000 + allowances
Net difference = 1250
Employees fall under this
pay band: Security guard,
Junior Attendant, Driver etc.
Existing Pay Band (9300-

34800) Basic pay = 9300

Grade pay = 4200 Total entry pay =13500 Dearness allowance: 125%

on Basic pay and Grade pay = 16875 Total salary = 13500+ 16875 + allowances = 30375

+ allowances New salary (as per 7th Pay Commission) = 35400 + allowances

govt employees to come into force from April

Net difference = 5025 Employees fall under this pay band: TGT Teacher, Pharmacist, Senior Security Inspector, Junior Engineer

Existing Pay Band (15600-

Existing Pay Band (15600-39100)
Basic pay = 15600
Grade pay = 5400
Total entry pay = 21000
Dearness allowance: 125%
on Basic pay and Grade pay
= 26250

Total salary = 21000+ 26250 + allowances = 47250

+ allowances – 47250 + allowances New salary (as per 7th Pay Commission) = 56100 + allowances

allowances
Net difference = 8850
Employees fall under this
pay band: Medical Officer,
Manager, Scientific Officer, Assistant Professor. Engineer etc.









US wants Pakistan to act against terrorist sanctuaries: Official

WASHINGTON: The United States has made United States has made it clear that it expects Islamabad to take action against terrorists in sanctuaries inside Pakistan, a top American diplomat has eaid

Deputy secretary of state John I Sullivan who recently returned from a visit to Afghanistan, said the US also expects Pakistan to contribute to a lasting and enduring peace in the region. "That was certainly part of my conversation with the Afghan leaderwith the Afghan leader-ship," Sullivan said in a briefing with reporters on his return. "We have made clear to the Pakistani govern-

for them to take action against terrorists that Pakistan, to reduce the pressure and the threat of violence in Afghanistan," he said.

The trip to Afghanistan, Sullivan said, was an important opportunity for him to reaffirm the US' commitment to strengthen

ing its partnership with the country. He met with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, chief executive Abdullah Abdullah, foreign minister Salahuddin Rabbani

Salahuddin Rabbani and other government leaders during the visit. "During each of these meetings, Afghanistan's leadership made it clear to me that despite the



cent tragic events, the Afghan government will continue to work to create the ne create the necessary conditions to bring the Taliban to the negotiat-ing table, and establish an environment for a sustained piece,"

Sullivan said. "We applaud this conas the path to

peace and rec an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned as we have laid rocess, as we have la ut in the president's outh Asian strategy,

he said. Sullivan rued that despite everyone want ing peace at this stage, the Taliban still seemed unwilling to come to

the negotiation table. "The Taliban's reprehensible attacks targeting innocent civilians demonstrate that they are not ready to enter into good faith peace negotiations," Sullivan

"The US will continue to support its Afghan rs to defeat the partners to deteat to ISIS, Al-Qaeda, and other terrorist groups in Afghanistan, and deny them and their affiliates safe haven and material support, he said.

Sullivan said he dis-Sullivan said he dis-cussed security cooper-ation, and the impor-tance of holding timely, credible and inclusive parliamentary and pres-idential elections with

"During an executive committee meeting of the Afghanistan co pact, we reviewed Afghanistan's progress in the areas of security, governance, rule of law onomic development and peace and reconciliation," Sullivan said.

Responding to a ques-tion, Sullivan said President Donald Trump's recent com-ments ruling out talks with the Taliban is a reflection of the ground realities.
"Our policy is to con-

"Our policy is to con-tinue to put pressure on the Taliban to bring them, eventually, with patience and persever-ance, to peace talks that are Afghan-led and Afghan-owned," he said

Nurses with a mission: Send older ER patients home with help

EK PATIENTS NUME SAME AS CHICAGO. When 86-year-old Carol Wittwer took a taxi to the emergency room, she expected to be admitted to the hospital. She didn't anticipate being asked if she cooks for herself. If she has friends in her high-rise. Or if she could spell lunch backward.

"H-C-N-U-L," she said, ruling out a type of confusion called delirium for the geriatrics-trained nurse who was roosine the questions in a special wing of Northwestern

posing the questions in a special wing of Northwestern Memorial Hospital's emergency department. Wittwer's care is part of a new approach to older patients as US emergency rooms adapt to serve the com-

patients as US emergency rooms adapt to serve the com-plex needs of a graying population. That means asking more questions, asking them earlier and, when possible, avoiding a hospital stay for many older patients. The surprising truth? Hospitals can make older patients sicker. Infections, incontinence and weakening muscles from bed rest can cascade into delirium, frailly and death. More than 30 percent of older adults go home from a hospital stay with a minor or major health problem they picked up at the hospital. But for an ER doctor, sending an elderly patient home sometimes feels risky.

But for an ER doctor, sending an elderly patient home sometimes feels risky.

"The doctors are not comfortable sending you home unless you're safe," said Northwestern Medicine's Dwayne Dobschuetz, a nurse practitioner who started making house calls by bicycle a year ago for the health system's geriatrics department. "It's easier to admit older patients than to send them home."

One of his patients, Marvin Shimp, 87, has lost much of his vision to macular degeneration, but lives independently. Dobschuetz helps him stay out of the hospital with regular visits to check vitals and answer questions.

tal with regular visits to eneck virus and answer questions.
"He becomes quite a helper," Shimp said.
Emergency rooms have been called the hospital's front door, so that's where reformers are starting.
"The emergency department is not designed with older adults in mind," said Dr Scott Dresden, who heads the Geriatric Emergency Department Innovations program at Northwestern. "You've got really thin stretchers. You've got patients in the hallway. There's mechanical noise all around."
Early research at Northwestern and other hospitals shows care from geriatrics-trained nurses in the ER can

shows care from geriatrics-trained nurses in the ER can reduce the chances of a hospital stay after a patient's

emergency visit and for a month afterward.

About 100 hospitals in the United States have opened geriatric emergency departments or trained ER teams in geriatrics care. These teams can arrange home services such as light housekeeping or a break for a caregiver.

In June, for instance, a man in his 90s arrived at the emergency department at University of California, San Diego's La Jolla medical campus. His left arm and shoulder hurt. He couldn't stand because of weakness and pain in his left foot.

Geriatric emergency nurse Tom Crisman learned the man was a veteran who had outlived his wife and son.

man was a veteran who had outlived his wife and son. The man was eager to get home because he now cared for a daughter with Alzheimer's disease. Crisman identified caregiver strain, weight loss and swallowing difficulties. His patient was in danger of falls and malnutrition. But the man was lucky in a way, Crisman said. "He was not alone like many seniors." Crisman

Crisman said.

"He was not alone like many seniors," Crisman recalled. He told Crisman he had social ties "and some basic care provided by his church fellowship."

Crisman organized home physical therapy for the man, connected him with a nutritionist and speech therapist and invited church members to help with the resource planning. "They were treated like family," Crisman said.

This kind of emergency medicine is only about a decade old. An influential 2007 article described the emergency department of the future, designed to prevent confusion and falls in the elderly and to increase their comfort.

their comfort.

It would have windows and skylights instead of windowless spaces with glaring bulbs. Pressure-reducing mattresses instead of thin ones. Soundproofing.

Above all, it would hire nurses trained to untangle the complex complaints of aging, slowing down the frenet-ic pace of the ER enough to fully evaluate each patient. Physical therapists and pharmacists would be ready to

Now, the ideas are catching fire. Northwestern's geriatrics ER has soundproofed rooms with comfortable beds and windows. Hospitals in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Illinois and Georgia formed a collaborative to share ideas.

latest nudge is an accreditation program,

"We want to have at least 50 certified hospitals by the end of 2018," said Dr Kevin Biese of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine, who leads the accreditation push for the American College of Emergency Physicians.

All 955 miners trapped in **South Africa resurface** unharmed: Mine owner

THEUNISSEN: All 955 gold miners who were trapped underground for more than a day in South Africa following a power cut resurfaced unharmed on Friday, the mine's owner Sibanye Gold said.

"Everybody's out," said spokesman James Wellsted, adding that there were "cases of dehydration and high

adding that there were "cases of dehydration and high blood pressure but nothing serious".

The miners were stuck in the Beatrix gold mine, in the small town of Theunissen near the city of Welkom, for around 30 hours after a massive power outage caused by a storm prevented lifts from bringing workers on the night shift to the surface.

After represent hours, engineers, were able to restore

After several hours engineers were able to restore power, allowing the hoist to bring up the miners — who had been trapped since Wednesday evening — in batch-

Asked if there had been any casualties. Wellsted said Asked if their lad been any destanties, we instead saut there was "no indication so far that anyone has been in distress" although it had been a "traumatic experience". Several ambulances arrived on-site overnight, the AFP

ered along the road to the shaft, kept at a distance by

Maldives top court orders retrial of ex-president, opposition leaders

MALE: The Supreme Court of the Maldives on Thursday ordered the immediate release of former presi-dent Mohamed Nasheed and eight other opposition lead-ers, saying their trials had vio-lated the constitution and

ers, saying their trials had vio-lated the constitution and international law - but it also ordered new trials. The country has been mired in political unrest since Nasheed, its first democrati-cally elected leader, was oust-ed in 2012. He was later sen-tenced to 13 years in jail on tenced to 13 years in jail on terrorism charges after a trial denounced as hasty and unfair by the United Nations human rights chief

In its ruling on Thursday, the Supreme Court said it found that prosecutors and judges had been unduly influenced "to conduct politically motivated investiga-tions" into the allegations leveled at Nasheed, former vice president Ahmed Adeeb and the other opposition leaders who had challenged wno nad challeng President Abdulla Yameen It ordered fresh investiga

tions and trials to be held.

It also nullified a ruling nullified a ruling in

It also nullified a ruling in which 12 legislators lost their parliamentary seats for defecting last July from Yameen's ruling party. Yameen lost his majority in the 85-member legislature after the defections. Ibrahim Hussain Shihab, a spokesman for the President's Office, said in a statement that the government had questhe government had ques-tions about the ruling but

would comply with it. "The Administration will work to engage, and consult with, the Supreme Court in order to comply with the ruling in line with proper proce-dure and the rule of law." Attorney General Mohamed Anil said however that Yameen had dismissed the chief of police following the ruling after he had been unable to reach him to ensure law and order

After the ruling, hundreds opposition supporters eered and waved national gs outside the main opposi-in Maldivian Democratic rty (MDP) campaign cen-

recited at the opposition rally, and people chanted: "The government is over." Maldives police said their

er - prior to hi sacking by Yameen - and deputy commissioner had deputy commissioner had decided to enforce the ruling

after seeking legal advice.

"Police have started work to enforce the ruling," they said

President Yameen's official website said the defense minister had called on the Maldivian people to put on a united front and work togeth-er to maintain peace and stability. US Ambassador for

US Ambassador for Maldives Atul Keshap wel-comed the Supreme Court decision. "I urge the govern-ment and security services to respect this ruling, which bol-sters democracy and rule of law all Maldivians," Keshap tweeted

Nasheed, who has been in xile in the United Kingdom but wants to contest a presi-dential poll this year, had sought UN help to restore his political rights

The joint opposition in a statement welcomed the rulings and called for the imme diate resignation of President

Japan's 'Insta-gran' finds fame with wacky selfies

cap Japanese great-grand-mother armed with a cam-era and an appetite for mischief has shot to fame for taking side-splitting selfies -- many of which appear to put her in harm's

Closing in on her 90th birthday, Kimiko Nishimoto tweaks the nose of fear: she has amassed more than 41,000 followers in just two months since she started regularly posting her hilarious snaps on

The goofy photos show ne fun-loving pensioner iding a broomstick like riding a broomstick like Harry Potter or, even more alarmingly, knocked over in an apparent traffic acci-

actually never iniured myself taking a

photo," Nishimoto tells AFP in an interview at her home in Kumamoto, western Japan

always hard on taking a fun photo

hard on taking a fun photo so I really don't think about the danger too much," she explains. Nishimoto, who only took up photography aged 72, reveals she quickly became hooked on the hobby after being invited to join a local class. to join a local class.

"I love my camera," adds "I love my camera," adds the sassy octogenarian, who has three grandchil-dren and six great-grand-children. "I even sleep with it by my bedside, just in case. I always have it close."

A decade later she secured her first solo exhibition -- held in her home town -- but Nishimoto's recent decision to show-case snaps of her daredevil stunts on social media has now catapulted her to star-

Such is her celebrity now that many fans were shut out of her exhibition at a

out of her exhibition at a Tokyo gallery in December as it struggled to cope with the crowds. "At first I didn't even know that my photos were that popular," the former housewife muses with a twinkle in her eye, adding: twinkle in her eye, adding:
"It's not so much that I'm
trying to shock people, I
just take photos that I find
funny. It's just a bit of fun
really."

Born in 1928 — the year

really."

Born in 1928 – the year
Emperor Hirohito was
enthroned and Walt
Disney created Mickey
Mouse -- Nishimoto is disarmingly young at heart

through her smartphone, while her son helps her to set up some of the shots.

Many of Nishimoto's
photos show her face con-

torted in mock anguish. In one instance she is shown having seemingly fallen off a bike as a car speeds off a bike as a car speeds past, narrowly avoiding catastrophe. In another, she is whizzing along on

she is whizzing along on her motorised buggy while fighting off a flock of angry birds. In a more risque image that could pass for a kid-napper's ransom photo, she is seen wrapped in a

garbage bag. "It's not like ideas just suddenly pop into my head but wherever I go I

ern technology and fancy editing gadgets were for think again Nishimoto's mastery montage techniques has her 'levitating' in several pictures -- sometimes as a frilly fairy, or while offering a prayer to her late husband's shrine. "My husband passed

away five years ago but even today I still show him even today I still show him photos I've taken," explains the rambunctious senior. "He was always so supportive of whatever I chose to do."

These days Nishimoto lives with a humanoid robot called Pepper, a model sold in Japan to keep the elderly company

and possesses a wicked sense of humour.

She manages her social media accounts herself

Madi you thought mod
think about what it would be fun to dress up as in son — although she conmedia accounts herself

And if you thought modthe chatty droid these days

"Oh, I haven't switched it on for quite a while," she sniffs, reaching for the power button. "It's more ouble than it's worth, the silly thing!"

After fetching her cam-

era from her cluttered nome studio, Nishimoto slips into a fluffy one-piece dog suit to take photos of herself in costume chained

herself in costume chained to a post in her garden.
"To be honest I don't think too deeply about what photography means to me," she muses.
"I just want to try and bring in the people. Taking

bring joy to people. Taking photos is the secret of my happiness. I'll keep doing it for as long as I'm alive." launched this year.
"We want to have at least 50 certified hospitals by the

Trump set to defy FBI, allow release of classified memo

WASHINGTON: Over the strong objections of his own Justice Department, President Donald Trump will clear the way for the publication of a classified memo on the Russia investigation that Republicans say shows improper use of sur-veillance by the FBI, White House officials said.

The memo, prepared by

House officials said.

The memo, prepared by
Republicans on the House
intelligence committee, is
said to allege FBI misconduct in the initial stages of its investigation of potential ties between Russia and Trump's 2016 campaign. Trump's Justice Department and Democrats furiously lobbied Trump to stop the lobbied Trump to stop the release, saying it could harm national security and mislead the public.

A White House official said Congress would probably be informed of the deci-

sion Friday, adding Trump was "OK" with its release. A second White House official said Trump was likely to declassify the congressional memo but the precise method for making it public was still being figured out.
The officials were not
authorized to be quoted
about private deliberations
and spoke on condition of

anonymity.

The FBI's stance means
Trump, by allowing the
memo's release, would be
openly defying his own FBI
director. It also suggests a clear willingness by FBI Director Christopher Wray, who in the early stretch of his tenure has been notably low-key, to challenge a pres ident who just month fired his predece

Comey. The House intelligence panel voted along party

memo out, giving five days to reject the release under committee rules. But Trump also has the power to declassify the document himself and either release it or hand it to Congress to release. One of the White House officials said the memo would be in "Congress' hands" after "Congress' hands" after Trump declassified it and there were unlikely to be any redactions to the docu-

Trump has said he wants the memo released even after the FBI declared Wednesday that it has "grave concerns" about its accuracy. The document was written as part of an effort to reveal what Republicans say are surveil-lance abuses by the FBI and the Justice Department early in Russia investigation,



Robert appointed to take it over

enior FBI officials have also made direct appeals to the White House that it could set a dangerous

precedent.

Democrats call the memo an attempt by Republicans to distract attention from the investigation into Russian meddling in the election that sent Trump to the White House. Democrats on the intelligence paper made intelligence panel made a last-ditch effort Wednesday

saying the men no had been "secretly altered" by the Republicans who wrote it.

California Rep. Adam Schiff said in a letter to the Schiff said in a letter to the House intelligence commit-tee chairman, Republican Devin Nunes of California, that committee Democrats had discovered changes that were made after the vote Monday.

"The White House has therefore been reviewing a

therefore been reviewing a document since Monday night that the committee

never approved for public release," Schiff said in the let-

ter. Schiff asked Nunes for another vote on the memo, but Republicans didn't appear to waver. Nunes spokesman Jack Langer said the committee vote was

"procedurally sound."
"To suggest otherwise is a
bizarre distraction from the
abuses detailed in the abuses detailed in the memo, which the public will hopefully soon be able to read for themselves," Langer

said. This all comes as special counsel Mueller is investi-gating whether the Trump campaign improperly coor-dinated with Russia and whether Trump sought to obstruct the inquiry by, among other actions, firing Comey. Republicans have intensified their pressure on the Justice Department as Mueller's probe has moved closer to Trump's inner cir-

cle.
Trump has been telling confidants in recent days that he believes the docu-ment will validate his conrns that the FBI and Justice Department conspired Department conspired against him, according to one outside adviser familiar one outside adviser familiar with those conversations but not authorized to speak publicly about private dis-cussions. The president also has told allies that he believes the memo bolsters his claim that accusations of collusion between his cam-paign and Russian officials are false and part of a conspiracy to discredit his elec tion. House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer are press-ing House Speaker Paul Ryan to stop the release.

Ryan charged that the Democrats were just out for political gain, saying the purpose of the memo is to reveal whether there have been abuses of surveillance laws. "This memo is not an indictment of the FBI or the indictment of the FBI or the Department of Justice, it does not impugn the Mueller investigation or the deputy attorney general, "he said, referring to Rod Rosenstein, who appointed Mueller in May. But Schiff said the opposite Thursday, asserting that Trump is looking for a reason to fire Mueller and Rosenstein, the Nesenstein, He Mueller and Rosenstein. He said he's more worried about Rosenstein because he decides the scope

Mueller's investigation.
"The White House knows it would face a firestorm if it fired Bob Mueller," Schiff said. "What's more effective to fire Bob Mueller's bos

Virat Kohli hails 'top-class' Ajinkya Rahane after easy Durban win

DURBAN: India captain Virat Kohli on Thursday said that the six-wicket vic-tory in the first one-dayer against South Africa will give his side the moment tum in the remainder of the six-match series.

"First match of the series "First match of the series is important. We wanted to take the momentum of the (third) Test win into this and when we restricted South Africa to 270 on this sort of a pitch, we were happy," Kohli, who hit 112 of 119 balls for his first ODI hundred in South Africa, said after the match.

Asked about his first ODI Asked about his first ODI hundred on South African soil, he simply said "Yeah it was quite special". He said he was very happy for Ajinkya Rahang

who scored 79 of 86 balls batting at number four and



shared with him 189 runs for the third wicket.

"Jinx (Rahane) is a top class player. We under stood fast bowling was stood fast bowling was going to be a big factor in this tour. He was superb, he took on the fast bowlers," said Kohli who was adjudged man of the match. On the performance of his bowlers, Kohli said, "Bhuvi and Buyersh wa bask on

and Bumrah, we bank on them. Picking up one or two wickets in the top ten is South Africa captain Faf du Plessis said he was dis-appointed for his side's batting show. "Definitely, we did not

score enough, we did not bat well enough. I reckon we were about 50-60-70 runs short. Chris had a

runs short. Chris had a good partnership but as a batting unit we were disap-pointing," he said.

"When you're chasing five runs an over here, it's pretty easy. We tried everything with field placements and tactics but Virat and Rahane played very well."

Asked if he had suffered

Asked if he had suffered any injury while fielding, du Plessis said, "Just a few battle scars. Just went upstairs to get the fingers checked. One-day cricket the intensity is a lot higher. Happy to go through the game. Feeling strong.

History awaits Rahul Dravid's boys at U-19 World Cup final against Australia

World Cup, here on Saturday. India and Australia are the two most successful teams in the history of the tournament having won the coveted trophy thrice each. But come tomorrow, Dravid's sprightly boys will be desperate to outwit their Australian counterparts and become the first team in the history of the event to lift the history of the event to lift the trophy for a record fourth

The promising Prithvi Shaw, already being seen as the next big thing in Indian cricket, will be eager to join

M O U N T
M A U N G A N U I:

Unstoppable so far, India
would be aiming to rewrite
the record books with a
fourth title when the Bahul
Dravid-coached side
squares off against an equally formidable Australia in
the final of the ICC Under-19
World Cup, here
on
Saturday.
India and Australia are the
two most successful teams in
the history of the tournment having won the covetel trophy thrice each. But
come tomorrow, Dravid's
sprightly boys will be des-

Pakistan in the semitinal will do a world of good to India's confidence. After putting a total of 272 on the board, they dismissed the opposithey dismissed the opposi-tion for a paltry 69.

So far, it has been collective

performance from Dravid's boys as every member of the squad has contributed to the team's success in any

India's batting has been at its lethal best. While the openers — Shaw and Manjot Kalra — have given the team good starts throughout the tournament, Shubman Gill has been in phenomenal form at the number three position.

form at the number three position.

In fact, all eyes will be on Gill, who has been the most consistent batsman of the tournament. He scored a scintillating unbeaten century against Pakistan in the sensis and would be eager to script one more impactful knock. In the bowling department, Shivam Mavi and Kamlesh Nagarkoti have been phenomenal, raking up speeds in excess of 140kmph at their will. But they will have their work at the strength of t

Australia

low spinner Anukul Roy
would look to exploit the
Australian batsmeris weaknesses against spin.

Besides his spin, Abhishek
is also a hard-hitting lower
middle-order batsman.

India's fielding has also
been exemplary in the tournament so far. India U-19
teams have had a legacy of
producing future Indian
stars and this group of players too has the potential to
make it big, Australia, on
the other hand, would be
desperate for revenge after
their big loss to the Indians
in their tournament opener.

After that one bad day at
the office, the Australians
have bounced back strongly and won four games in a
row to make it to the final.
The Jason Sangha-led side's
last two performances signal that they have upped
their game when it has mattered.

Rafael Nadal will return to action in Acapulco in late February

Spanish world No. 1 Rafael Nadal said he will return to tennis action at a hard-court event in Acapulco, Mexico, in late February. That means an encouragingly speedy recovery for the 16-time Grand Slam champion after he suffered a muscle tear in his right hip that forced him to retire in the fifth set of his quarter-final match at last month's Australian Open, reports Efe.

Nadal, who serves as brand ambassador for Banco

Nadal, who serves as brand ambassador for Banco Sabadell, made those remarks to around 1,200 people during an event organized by that financial institution at the Auditorium of the Provincial Council of Alicante. The tennis star said he planned to compete at Acapulco in the last week of February and then at two other hard-court tournaments in March — the BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells and the Miami Open. But the General two resources the control of the province of the pro

But the Spaniard, who is almost universally regarded as the greatest clay-court player of all time, said he was as the greatest clay-court player of all time, saud he was focused on being in top form at the "most important time of year," referring to a series of major clay events—the Monte-Carlo Masters, the Madrid Open, the Italian Open and the French Open—played between mid-April and early June. Referring to his disappointing exit at the Australian Open where he was forced to retire while testilors (Crosiles Mario (Eliz & & 6.3.6.7, (5.7.1, & 2.2.0.)). trailing Croatia's Marin Cilic 3-6, 6-3, 6-7 (5-7), 6-2, 2-0, Nadal said the injury was just "a small tear, but it was impossible to keep going.

Mary Kom, Basumatary, Borgohain claim gold in India Open boxing

MC Mary Kom claimed gold but the Indian men's juggernaut was denied a complete sweep by tradi-tional powerhouses Cuba and Uzbekistan on an exiti-por final day of the India ing final day of the India Open international boxing tournament in New Delhi on Thursday

and Yuzvendra Chahal),

outstanding bowling by

both of them. They are working wonderfully for the team. They're playing in South Africa for the first time. They were very brave, they were throwing it up and that's why they got wickets.

"As a captain, it's out-

standing when you have

two guys who know what

both of them. They

on Thursday.

Mary Kom won against Josie Gabuco of the Philippines 4-1, en route to her gold in the 48kg class.

Pwilao Basumatary (64kg) was the first among the Indian women to fetch a

Indian women to fetch a gold. The former world and Asian bronze medallist claimed a 3-2 win over Thailand's Sudaporn Seesondee. The Assam boxer is a regular in the national camp and had claimed a gold medal at the 2015 Nation's Cup in Serbia. She hails from a small vil-

lage in Kokrajhar where sev-

family was among those dis-placed by the violence but has since moved on.

Lovlina Borgohain claimed the welterweight (69kg) gold among women, getting the better of compatriot



Pooja. L Sarita Devi (60kg) settled for a silver medal after losing to Finland's Olympic bronze-medallist Mira

Potkenon. Sarita gave her all in the bout but lost on a 2-3 deci-sion after Potkenon sal-

In the men's draw, (91kg) picked up India's first gold of the day when he upstaged Uzbekistan's Sanjar Tursunov.

The Indian matched Tursunov punch for punch in an engrossing contest

dict in his favour.

National champion

Manish Kaushik (60kg),
who stunned world and

Asian medallist Shiva Thapa yesterday, didn't have to step inside the ring to collect

his gold. Manish was Manish was given a walkover by his Mongolian rival Battumur Misheelt, who pulled out owing to a cut sustained on his fore-head during his semifinal bout. Asian Games bronze-medallist Satish Kumar (+91kg), however, settled for a silver, outwitted by Lizbekistan's. Bakhodit Uzbekistan's Bakhodir Jalolov in a split 4-1 decision.

Dinesh Dagar took the welterweight (69kg) silver after going down to Uzbekistan's Bobo-Usmon Baturov. In perhaps the most entertaining bout of the day, the Uzbek turned

before getting a split 3-2 ver- on the style against the grit-

ty Indian. With a smile on his face throughout and a mostly non-existent guard, Baturov was every bit a showman as he craftily got the better of Dinesh in a unanimous ver-

To his credit. Dinesh connected a few lusty jabs of his own but Baturov was never eally troubled. Later, Devanshu Jaiswal

(81kg) was up against Cuba's David Gutterrez. Although the crowd favourite gave a good account of himself in defensive tactics, the Cuban connected enough with his jabs

to score a split 4-1 victory Former world silv medallist Saweety Boora (75kg) also had to be content

Sports Budget hiked by 258 Cr, SAI funding slashed by Rs 66 Cr

NEW DELHI: The sports ministry on Thursday received a hike of Rs 258.2 crore in the union budget for 2018-19, presented by finance minister Arun Jaitley in the Parliament here.

Jaitley allocated a total of Rs 2196.36 crore for the sports ministry, compared 1938.16 crore earmarked last However, one distinct fea-

ture of this year's sports budget is the reduced fund-

budget is the reduced fund-ing allocated to the Sports Authority of India (SAI). SAI had received Rs 495.73 crore in the 2017-18 financial year 2017-18, but this year the allocation has been reduced to Rs 429.56 crore, a cut of Rs 64.17 corps.

66.17 crore.

The category which received the maximum



India', which has received Rs 520.09 crore from the Rs 350 crore that it got last year. In fact 'Khelo India' constitutes 23.67 percent of the total sports budget this year.

The Khelo India is one of The Khelo India is one of the subsidiary part of the composite Khelo India — National Programme for Development of Sports — under which a total of Rs 1262.79 crore has been ear-marked, a sharp increase

year. The budgetary assistance for the enhancement of sports facility in Jammu and Kashmir has been reduced to Rs 50 crore from previous financial year's Rs 75 crore.

While there is no specific mention of budgetary assis-tance for athletes, who are preparing for the upcoming Commonwealth and Asian Games, the finance minister announced an increas nearly Rs 40 crore for the ious National Sp Federations (NSFs).

In the previous year (2017-18), NSFs received a total of Rs 302.18 crore. This year, it has been increased to Rs 342 has crore – an 41.82 crore.

National - an increase of Rs

The National Sports Development Fund's (NSDF) Development Fund's (NSDF) allocation remained static at Rs 2 crore while contribution to World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) remains at Rs 1 crore.

Rs 1 crore.

The allocation for incentives to sportspersons has been increased from Rs 18.13 crore (2017-18)to Rs 22 crore for the year 2018-19.

The scheme of Human Resource Development in Sports saw a cut by 50 percent from Rs 10 crore to Rs 5 crore.

EPL: Christian Eriksen stuns Manchester United as Chelsea crash to Bournemouth

Tottenham's Christian Eriksen scored within 11 s onds on Wednesday to ov Enksen scored within 11 sec-onds on Wednesday to over-shadow Alexis Sanchez's Premier League debut for Manchester United as Chelsea crashed 3-0 to Bournemouth

at Stamford Bridge. Manchester City ignored

Manchester City ignored the carmage around them to march servedy on, widening their lead to an encomous 15 points with a 3-0 victory at home to West Brom with just 15 games still to play.

The build-up to Wednesday's matches was dominated by late moves in the transfer window but Spurs ensured the focus switched back to the pitch immediately, stunning Jose Mourinho's men with a performance full of attacking verve.

verve.

Chelsea, who earlier announced the signing of Olivier Giroud from Arsenal,



conceded three second-half goals while Theo Walcott scored twice for his new club Everton in a 2-1 win against Leicoster. The 2-0 defeat for United realistically ends any lingering, hopes they may have harboured of catching runaway leaders City. Mourinho signed Sanchez this month to bolster his attacking, opions but Spurs

attacking options but Spurs caught the visitors cold at a packed Wembley, Eriksen opening the scoring from the kick-off following a long ball

have conceded in 2018 but despite some bright moments of their own they were 2-0 down just before the half-hour after Phil Iones lashed the ball

after Phil Jones Lasses into his own net.
Tottenham, who announced the signing of Moura from Paris Lucas Moura from Paris Saint-Germain shortly before kick-off at Wembley, were a constant threat and had multi-ple chances to stretch their

Mourinho threw on Juar in the 63rd minute but bizarrely took Fellaini off just seven minutes later, replacing him with Ander Herrera. The Belgium international took of his shirt and marched straight

he shirt and marched straight down the turned. The impressive win for Spurs puts them right back at the heart of the hunt for a Champions Losgue qualification spot, just two points behind fourth-placed Liverpool, while United are a further three points shead in second place. Mauricio Pochettino's men were further buyed by the defeat for Chelsea, who fielded only Pedro up front, showing their need for more firepower. Callum Wilson, Junior Callum Wilson, Junio need for more firep Callum Wilson, J Stanislas and Nathan scored the goals Bournemouth.

Mahi bhai eased 50 percent of my work, says Kuldeep Yadav

DURBAN: Left-arm spin ner Kuldeep Yadav has cred-ited MS Dhoni for his success in his first outing on South African soil, saying the former skipper eased 50 percent of his workload by giving useful advice from behind the

Yadav and his fellow spin-ner Yuzvendra Chahal shared five wickets between them to restrict South Africa to 269 for 8, a target which India overwhelmed with six wickets in hand to take a 1-0 lead in the six-match ODI series here on Thursday

radav finished with 3 for 34 in 10 overs and was easily the pick of the India bowlers. He bamboozled the South African batsmen with his craft and removed JP Duminy, David Miller and Chris Morris to star in the

made easier by skipper Virat Kohli, who believes in his abilities.

"Actually I was confused a bit what I should bowl bit what I should bowl because I am playing in South Africa for the first time and it was a new experience for me. The wind was good and the ball was drifting so I was confused what to bowl, and which variation to use. So I was asking Mahi bhai (Dhoni) and he told me 'bowl

one is leading the team and the other has led the team, it is helpful. As a spinner, Mahi bhai does 50 percent of your work because he has played



(Dhoni) and he told me 'bowl as you are bowling'. It is good that he keeps advising from behind the wickets, it gets eas-ier," said Yadav. "When you have two leg-ends, Virat (Kohli) and Mahi, one is leading the team and so much cricket, he reads the batsmen easily," the spinner said at the post-match press

"We are youngsters and we don't have that much experi-ence. That is why he (Dhoni) keeps telling me what to do in different situations. And the

ner Chahal have been at the heart of India's sensational ODI run since last year's Champions Trophy. India

one extra wicket is more important than trying to save 10 runs. If your captain tells have lost just four of the 21 you that, then you start believing in yourself," he matches they have played since the mini World Cup in

England.
Of late, Yaday and Chahal Yadav and fellow leg-spin-

have become a lethal spin combination in world cricket and the former says they complement each other brilliantly while bowling togeth-"Obviously there is a lot of

"Obviously there is a lot of understanding between us. We now have been bowling for 5 years together. We were together at Mumbai Indians as well. So there is a mutual understanding between us," Yadav said about his pairing with Chahal. "Even when he (Chahal)

"Even when he (Chahal) bowls first in the match, we talk how the wicket is behav-ing and whether it is turning or not, whether it is drifting and how the wind is blowing. So communication is very important and it is very good between us," he said.

Asked about the challenges of playing in overseas condi-tions for the first time, Yadav

said, "It doesn't matter where you are playing. Since child-hood I have bowled on hood I have bowled on cement wickets. So that was tough wicket for me. Here the ball was turning, so it helped ball was turning, so it helped me. "Whether you are playing in India or South Africa, it doesn't matter to me. In my head the only thing is taking wickets for the team and this is Chahal's plan as well when we are bowling as a pair." we are bowling as a pair." Talking further about his strengths and weaknesses, strengths and weaknesses, the young spinner said, "Sometimes you are under pressure, like at the start of your first over. For me, I was nervous too because it was my first game in South Africa but slowly I got into the rhythm and then you start laying with the balsmen playing with the batsmen.

"My quality is that if I go to stop runs, if I bowl fast, I will go for more runs. I try to bowl

it slow, and then change the it slow, and then change the pace, then it makes life diffi-cult for the batsmen. It is easi-er to bowl to someone who likes to play his shots than someone who keeps rotating the strike!

the strike."

Yadav said India bowled
well in the middle overs
against South Africa on
Thursday.

"We bowled very well in
the middle overs and we put

them under pressure. If you bowl well on any wicket, it is very difficult to score runs very difficult to score runs.
There was a partnership in the middle between Faf du Plessis and Chris Morris. If Morris had batted for a few more overs, they could have reached 290 or 300," he said.

"I felt I could get him

"I felt I could get him (Morris) out and I took my chance. I always think if I try to bowl to contain, I will con

BJP Kissan Morcha credits Union Government for Public Friendly Budget

by its State President Rajinder Singh Chib credited Union government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitely for the public and especially farmer friendly budget in 2018

the media persons, Rajinder Singh Chib said that the present dispensa-tion is seriously working for upgrading the status of living of farmers while opening new paths for the increase in the income of



farmers while also focussing on the distribution and other factors after the production till its final imption by the con-

ous farmer friendly points, he said that farmers will get 1.5 times more price than their last price from Kharif crops. He also

the farmer working in fisheries and dairies will also be issued with Kissan Credit Cards with Kissan Credit Cards, which will go a long way in meeting their day to day investments in the business. He remarked that rupees 2000 Crore have been kept for construction of local markets

direct access, 10,000 crore will be spent for increas-ing the fisherica its for last 5 years. For pacing the modernization of farming techniques, Crore villagers will connected with intern work/dairies rupees
while rupees 2600 crores
will be spent for irrigation
purpose in 96 districts,
thus reducing dependenfor which rupees 1000 Crores is kept. He also said that every poor famisaid that every poor fami-ly will be covered for Health Insurance of rupees 5 lakh each by which over all 40 crore people will be benefits from this budget. Kissan Morcha State General Secretaries Capt. Kasturi Lal Sharma and on the natural rains. Under Yojana 'Operation Green' for protection of Potatoes Tomatoes Potatoes, Tomatoes, Onion rupees 500 crores will be spent while for standardizing Bamboo production, rupees 17.90

Kasturi Lal Sharma and Capt. Raghubir Singh Manhas and Morcha State Media Secretary Deepak Sharma were also present during the Press Conference.

Warm send off given to J&K Bank Sr President



gave a warm send-off to its Senior President Abdul Rashid, who attained superannuation on January 31, after serving for

The farewell was attended by the Chairman and CEO Parvez Ahmad along with Executive Presidents Vagish Chander other senior officers of the bank. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Parvez Ahmad said, "Strong leadership is the guiding force of every organi towards realizing its objectives. And in this sense Abdul Rashid has richly contributed to the growth and development of

this institution."
"He has always been direct yet dignified in his conversa tions across hierarchies for which he will be remembered

which he will be remembered by one and all in the bank", Parvez Ahmad added.

The chairman hailed him for establishing his connections to the grassroots levels and fer-vently hoped that he would be continuing his contribution to continuing his contribution to

the society at large. Abdul Rashid in his address Abdul Rashud in his address while thanking all his colleagues all along his career adonovl-edged their support and coop-eration in allowing him to reach this position despite various constraints. Other speakers in the event also hailed his contri-lution and unifold him present. bution and wished him peace. progress and prosperity post his

Kindly make policy decisions on your own, keep Centre's interference aside: Omar tells Mehbooba

JAMMU, FEB 2: National Conference working president Omar Abdullah on Friday asked Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti to make major policy decisions on her own rather than getting directions from the Centre and waiting for them to make announce-

"It was disheartening that announce-"It was disheartening that announce-ment for the amnesty to stone pelters was made by Centre's special represen-tative Dineshwar Sharma after submit-ting his report to the Centre," said Mr Abdullah while speaking in the House on grants of Mehbooba Muffii. He however, urged the Chief Minister

on grants of Mehbooba Mufti.
He however, urged the Chief Minister
to ensure that announcements on major
policy decisions come from her and
other cabinet ministers but not from the
Central Government, as the same would estore the institutional credibility of the Sovernor, Chief Minister and the state

Lashing out at the Chief Minister, Mr Abdullah said that she bulldozed her Abdullah said that she bulldozed her political agenda comprising self rule, dual currency, troop withdrawal and

troop reduction, adding, "though Pakistan is responsible for lot of troubles and the people of Jammu and Kashmir are facing that country can't be blamed for every mess the rulers in Jammu and Kashmir have themselves created."

"Now it is an opportunity for course correction has come to Ms Mufti," he

The former Chief Minister also lam-

The former Chief Minister also lam-basted the government in failing to maintain peace in the state. While quoting a Greek myth about Eros and Psyche, Mr Abdullah explained the resourcefulness and powerfulness of the state government in lieu of the sale of its soul: it once carried, to the Cent

its soul; it once carried, to the Centre.

He however, suggested Ms Mufti to opt for 'Tapasaya'.

"To cage people in their homes every Friday has now become a routine in Kashmir valley. Curfew restrictions are imposed every Friday and mosques remained locked," he said adding that it was the first time that in your government (PDP-BJP) people were barred to offer the Eid prayers.

Wetlands important part of natural wealth: PCCF

STRESSES ON SYNERGIZED EFFORTS FOR THEIR PRESERVATION

IAMMU. FEBRUARY 02: Directorate of Ecology, Environment and Remot ensing today organised a nme at Surinsar to the "World Wetlands Day".

rores will be spent, he

added.

He also enumerated various other things which will help farmers like all Agro Companies will be excused from Tax on prof-

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests CF) Ravi Kesar sided over the pro-PCCF)

presided over the programme.
Chairman ,State
Pollution Control
Board(SPCB), B
Siddhartha, Chief Wildlife
Warden, Manoj Panth,
Director Social Forestry , Ashwani Gupta, Director SFRI, B M Sharma, Director Soil Water and Conservation , Javed Iqbal Punju, Chief Conservator of Forests, Farooq Gillani, Managing Director Store Forest

Suresh Gupta, Regional Director ,SPCB, Showkat Chowdhary, Regional Director Wildlife Warden. Dr V S Sinthil Kumar, Regional Director Social Forestry, Roop Kour Forestry, Roop Kour Avtar, Conservator East Circle ,Kh Qamar-ud-Din

Circle ,Kh Qamar-ud-Din besides other senior offi-cers of Forests were pres-ent on the occasion. While addressing a large gathering. PCCF stressed on importance of preser-vation of wetlands as they are the life support sys-tems that ensure functioning of the water cycle.

Underlining the importance of wetlands, he said that wetland help to recharge groundwater aquifers, cleanse polluted waters, protect shorelines and act as sponges to mitigate floods. He further said that the extensive food chain and biological diversity in wetlands make them 'biological supermarkets'. He further said that wetlands are valuable sources and are

valuable sources and are indeed an important part of our natural wealth The PCCF said that the Forest Department and its allied wings have been tasked with a very important role to conserve the wetlands and other natural resources which direct-ly impact the life of human beings and other living creatures. He said dedicated efforts are required to meet this noble cause.

Asserting that the that the responsibility of another tion lies on both the government and people, the PCCF called for collective efforts on part of all stake holders so that the mission of compensating the depletion of forest cover in the state can be achieved.

achieved.

He appealed the people to actively organize and participate in plantation drives in monsoon every year to make it a regular activity. He stressed the need for coordinated efforts with the involvement of various stakeholders to minimize loss to the natural loss to the natural resources. He said the department

should keep close watch on the activities of executing agencies to ensure that the natural resources are saved. The PCCF informed tha the World Wetland Day,

February each year around the world to mark the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands in the city of Ramsar in Iran in 1971, is a day to Iran in 1971, is a day to promote, create aware-ness and ensure positive and affirmative action for conservation of wetlands. Theme of this year is 'Wetland for our Future-Sustainable Livelihoods', he added. Earlier, the Directorate of Fcolooy, Environment

of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing organized various programmes like painting competition, debate competition, and cultural activities to generate mass awareness on Wetland and its importance for our livelihood.

BUDGET SESSION 2018-19 & LA PROCEEDINGS - QUESTION HOUR

House discusses Demand for Grants of Devartments under CM's charge

IAMMU. FEBRUARY 02: Several members took part in the Discussion on Demand for Grants of General Administration. Planning Development

& Development, Information, Hospitality & Protocol, Estates and Culture Departments in the Legislative Assembly

the Legislative Assembly today.

The legislators gave their valuable suggestions to improve the working of these departments and asked the government to make efforts to ensure that make efforts to ensure that there are no civilian causalities during defence, police operations, especially in the valley. They demanded for expediting the process for selection of candidates for vacant posts, providing necessary infrastructure and sanctioned staff to newly creat-ed administrative units in ed administrative units in State, opening of police stations, fire fighting sta-tions, enhancing the salaries of SPO's, home guard, ration money in favour of police personal. The legislators also urged for modernizing the State Police Force includ-ing Police Stations and making them corruption

making them corruption

Initiating the discussion, leader of the opposition and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah demand ed for constituting a high level Special Investigation Team to look into the FIRs registered in the Shopian incident

Referring to the case of Referring to the case of killing of minor girl in Kathua district, he demanded justice for the deceased and strict action against the culprits. He asked the government to against the culprits. He asked the government to provide clarification

regarding withdrawal of cases against second time offenders.

He called for cadre review of J&K Police and review of J&K Police and also asked the government to seriously look into the issue of re-engagement of wireless operators who were earlier disengaged on court orders. He urged the government to fulfil the commitments made by the Chief Minister during her public outreach programme.

bility in public service delivery system, strength-ening of RTI, transfer policy, single window system, digitization to make government functioning paperless besides appealing the government to revoke SRO 202.

revoke SRO 202.
Choudhary Sukhnandan
Kumar appreciated the
government for various
achievements made in the
departments under the
charge of Chief Minister.
He stressed for focusing on He stressed for focusing on development of rural areas

besides, demanded for Leh. strict implementation of strict implementation of ban on polythene to save environment of the State. He demanded for provid-ing bulletproof vehicles and fire tender for every police station along the border and LoC

Nawang Rigzin Jora asked the government to improve the functioning of and

improve the functioning of Planning and Development Department. He demanded for compre-hensive transfer policy for police personnel posted in

Jora also urged for estab-lishment of PSC and SSRB campuses/centres at Leh besides creation of police range and women police station in Leh district.

Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen while taking part in the discussion stressed in the discussion stressed for taking necessary meas-ures for bringing peace in the region. He urged the government to strengthen Public Service Guarantee Act for ensuring public delivery system, devising

mechanism for setting up a single line administration and timely disposal of

He also urged to take steps to bring State Human Rights Commission at par with the National Human (NHRC), establishment of (NHRC), establishment of more Fire Fighting Stations, opening of Police Stations and Chokis at Raithan, Parnewa, Doodipathri and Airzal. Mohammad Yousuf Bhat appreciated the Chief

Minister for reaching out to people by touring far flung areas of the state and giving on spot directions to redress people's grievto redress people's griev-ances. He also appreciated the steps being taken to ensure durable peace in

the state

the state.

Satpaul Sharma
demanded CBI enquiry
into the murder of minor
girl in district Kathua. He
appreciated the government for taking measures
to make JK Police more
people-friendly and

demanded enhancement in honorarium of Home guards.

guards.

He urged the govern-ment to provide compen-sation to the people living along international border in Jammu on the pattern of compensation being procompensation being pro-vided by the government to people living along LoC affected during cross bor-der firing

der firing.

He also urged the government to increase the CDF allocation to legisla-



