

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 Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today favoured cross LoC cooperation in the State in sectors like tourism, environment, disaster management and related areas even as she asked all shades of opinion to join hands in bringing a pleasant change in the State.

Replying to the discussion on 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 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 the 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 this feature be utilised to derive maximum benefits to the State and the country", she asked.



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

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BSF foils infiltration bid on IB in Samba

JAMMU, FEB 2: Alert BSF troops successfully foiled infiltration bid from across the border along international border in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir.

"BSF troops on Thursday night foiled an infiltration bid in Chilayara area of Samba," official sources here said. They said that few

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Prompt rescue operation by IAF in 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 remained cut off from rest of the state due to closure of road with district headquarter, 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

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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 separatists against killing of civilians in security force firing in south Kashmir during the past two weeks.

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 after Friday prayers. Meanwhile, authorities have suspended train service in the Kashmir valley on Friday for security reasons, while the 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

week. The District Magistrate (DM) Shopian said that restrictions have been imposed on the movement of public and transport in the territorial limits of district Shopian on Friday under Section 144 CrPc. The restrictions shall not be applicable to essential services including banks, he said. However, the situation on the ground was entirely different as security

CONT'D ON P-2

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.

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 launched. One of the soldier was rescued in an injured condition, they said adding the bodies of all three other soldiers were recovered.

The three were held fresh snowfall during the past two days, they said.

Geelani, Mirwaiz, Malik taken into preventive custody in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, FEB 2: Chairman of both the factions of the Hurriyat Conference (HC) Syed Ali Shah Geelani and Mirwaiz 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 Masjid Shopian, was also taken into preventive custody outside

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. 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 district, 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 entering the worship place

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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.

The border town of Kargil was the coldest 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 temperature.

The night temperature at Kargil dipped about 10 degree from Thursday and settled at minus 13 degree. Leh also witnessed 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 to a chilly Friday morning.

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No fresh case of swine flu reported in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, FEB 2: There was no fresh case of swine flu reported in the Kashmir valley, where 30 persons have died and two are still admitted in S K Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS).

A spokesperson of the SKIMS said no fresh report of swine flu has been reported in the Kashmir valley during the past 24 hours.

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J&K Bank chairman announces comprehensive accidental insurance cover for its employees

JAMMU, FEB 02: All employees of Jammu & Kashmir Bank would be provided comprehensive accidental insurance cover 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 any financial or social insecurity in the unfortunate event of his/her absence. The cost of insurance premium 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 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 Global Guard Policy (Individual) at a premium of Rs.1276.

Chairman Parvez Ahmed accompanied by T. A. Ramalingam, BAGICL Chief Distribution Officer and other senior functionaries of Bank &

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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.

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 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.

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Friday prayers not allowed in Jamia Masjid for 2nd week

SRINAGAR, FEB 2: No Friday prayers were allowed for the second successive week today in the historic Jamia Masjid in downtown Srinagar, where curfew-like restrictions had been imposed to prevent any law and order problem following "Shopian Challo" called by separatists.

Police said restrictions under Section 144 CrPc have been imposed within the territorial jurisdictions of Khanayara, Rainawari, Nowhatta, Safakadal and MR Gumb police stations of the district on Friday. "Partial restrictions 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," they added.

All roads leading to Jamia Masjid, stronghold of moderate Hurriyat Conference (HC) chairman Mirwaiz Moulvi Omar Farooq, remained closed and the

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

JAMMU, FEB 02: While quashing detention orders of Shaheed 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 detainee, 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 detainee, has the effect of invalidating the order of detention.

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A man slipped to death in central Kashmir forest

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 nearby forest to collect fire-wood on Thursday morning. However, when he did not return till late in the evening, a massive search operation was launched

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Court awards rigorous life-imprisonment to Real Uncle for killing his nephew over property dispute

JAMMU, FEB. 02: Principal Sessions Judge Kathua Sanjeev Gupta today awarded rigorous life imprisonment 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

provide monetary assistance to the family of victim out of its own funds, because it is the protector of life and property of its citizens being their custodian. 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 shall be paid within one month by the Member Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir State Legal

Services Authority. According to police case that On 02.02.2013, an information was received at Police Post Ramkot from reliable sources that a boy Nitin Kumar @ Golu S/O Vijay Kumar R/O Dhan, Tehsil Billawar, aged about 4 years (hereinafter called as deceased), had been killed 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 Kathua Sanjeev Gupta after hearing both the sides observed that, it is no doubt true that convict had committed the murder of an innocent child, but as per evidence on record, it appears that the provocation to commit the murder was on account of his enmity with the father

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CM replies...

She expressed optimism that they would join the dialogue 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. 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 must be 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.

On the developmental front, the Chief Minister said she has directed adoption of a three pronged strategy of Connectivity, Productivity & Employability while taking up developmental projects in the State. She said her Government has undertaken financial closure of the developmental projects which would otherwise keep on lingering for years together. She said Rs. 200 crore worth 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 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 colleges etc. are already being executed under various schemes.

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 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.

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 Sukhmandan Kumar, Nawang Riginz Jora, Hakeem Mohammad Yasin, Mohammad Yousof Bhat, Satpal Sharma, Choudhary Kamal Hussain, Bashir Ahmad Dar, Neelam Kumar Langgeh, M Y Tariqani, Javid Hassan Beigh, Jeevan Lal and Shah Mohammad Tantray participated in 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...

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 medical 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 indoors. 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 and Mohammad Yaseen Malik have called for "Shopian Chalho" 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 intervention 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 separately.

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 Chalho call given by separatists to express solidarity 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 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 roads. Additional security forces remained deployed to maintain law and order.

Large number of security forces have been deployed on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway, passing through south Kashmir, including Pampore, Awantipora, Sangam, Bijbehara, Anantnag 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...

though about a dozen locals are also inside with Malik, reports reaching here said.

The Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL) consisting of Geelani, Mirwaiz and Malik had given Shopian chalho 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 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 from here in north Kashmir, also witnessed a dip in the night 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.

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 Kokerang dipped and settled in 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 flu were reported in the valley. However, 115 were discharged after treatment. But, she said 30 persons have died due to the swine flu while two are still in the hospital. However, there condition is stable.

J&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 deceased.

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.

Earlier, 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 the society.

Curfew-like...

Police said restrictions under Section 144 CrPc have been imposed within the territorial jurisdictions of Khanayr, Rainawari, Nowhatta, Safakadal and MR Gunj police stations of the district on Friday. "Partial restrictions 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 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 S 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.

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 pedestrian and vehicular movement.

Roads leading to Jamia masjid at several places, including Rangar stop, Gowara and Rajouri Kadal have been closed with barbed wire. Large number of paramilitary 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 Khanayr 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 Khanayr, Rainawari, Nowhatta, Bobdem and Malkha to strictly implement restrictions.

Large number of state police and CRPF personnel were deployed in the civil lines, particularly in Maisuma area, stronghold of Yaseen Malik. Security forces were also seen patrolling in the historic Lal Chowk, nerve centre of the city, Budshah Chowk, Regal 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 Kralkhud in the 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 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 were trying to disrupt the Cordon and Search Operation (CASO) in Shopian on January 24. However, Army said 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.

Failure in...

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/DM/PSA of 2017 is quashed.

A man 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...

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...

main gates of the historic mosque, where Mirwaiz addresses Friday congregation every week, were locked. Mirwaiz was this afternoon 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 'Azaan' (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 interior areas in restricted areas. Friday prayers were offered at Hazratbali shrine, which houses the holy relic of Prophet 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 (JRL) consisting of Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Mirwaiz Omar and Yaseen Malik had given Shopian chalho 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	2453688
Gandhi Nagar	2430528
Gangyal	2482019
Nowbad	2571332
Pacca Danga	2548610
Railway Station	2472870
Sainik Colony	2462212
Satwari	2430364
Chanmi Himmat	2465164
Transport Nagar	2475444
Trikuta Nagar	2475133
Gandhi Nagar	2459660
SSP City	2561578
SP City North	2547038
SP South	2433778
Public Utility Services	
INDIAN AIR LINES	
City Office	2542735
Air Port	2430449
Jet Air Ways	2453999
City Office	2573399
RAILWAYS	
Railway Enquiry	131, 132, 2476407
Booking	2470318
Reservation	2470315
Public Health Engineering Stations	
Bakshi Nagar	2543557
Gandhi Nagar	2430786
Company Bagh	2542582
New Plot	2573429
Panjirithi	2547537
Telecommunication Department	
Directory Enquiry	197
Fault Repair	198
Trunk Booking	180
Billing Complaint	2543896
JAMMU MUNICIPALITY	
Jn. Lines	2578503
Administration Officer	2542192
Health Officer	2547440
POSTAL SERVICES	
Head Post Office City	2543606
Gandhi Nagar	2543583
FIRE SERVICES	
Control Room	101,132, 2476407
City	2544263
Gandhi Nagar	2457705
Canal	2554064
Gangyal	2480026
COOKING GAS DEALERS	
Chenab Gas	2547633
Gulmour Gas	2430835
JAKFED	2548297
HP Gas	2578456
Shivangi Gas	2577020
Tawi Gas	2548455
POWER HOUSES	
Gandhi Nagar	2430180
Canal Road	2554147
Janipur	2533828
Nanak Nagar	2430776
Parade	2542289
Satwari Cantt.	2542813
HOSPITALS	
GMC Hospital	2584290
S.M.G.S. Hospital	2547635
C.D. Hospital	2577064
Dental Hospital	2544670
Gandhi Nagar Hospital	2430041
Sarwal Hospital	2579402
G.B. Pant Cantt. Hospital	2433500
Ayurvedic College	2543661
C.R.P. Hospital	2591105
Acharya Shri Chander	2662536
Mental Hospital	2577444
Swami Vivekanand	2547418
Blood Bank	2547637
Ambulances	2584225, 2575364
Ambulances (Red Cross)	2543739
NURSING HOMES	
Maddan Hospital	2456727
Medicare	2435070
Triveni Nursing Home	2452664
Suvidha Nursing Home	2555965
AI. Firdous Nursing Home	2545500
Astha Nursing Home	2576707
Bee Enn Charitable Trust	2505310
Chopra Nursing Home	2573580
Harbans Singh Mem Hsp.	2541952
Jeevan Jyoti	2576985
Yudhvir Nursing Home	2547821
Medialid Nursing Home	2466744
Sita Nursing Home	2435007
Vibhuti Nursing Home	2547969
Rameshwar Nursing Home	2580601
Bee Enn Charitable	2555631
Maharishi 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 Ferooz Mir son of Ferooz Ahmad Mir resident Rambhag Bala and recovered 24 bottles of codeine phosphate, 345 tablets of Alprazolam and 40 strips of Spasmo proxylon (24 capsules in each strip).

Case FIR No 14/2018 under section 8/21 NDPS Act was registered against the accused & further investigation was taken up.

Bootlegger arrested in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 02: As a part of special drive against illegal crimes, police party of police station Shaheed Gunj under the supervision of SDPO Shaheed Gunj laid a naka & while checking apprehended 01 person namely Mohammad Anes 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 was taken up.

Interactive meeting with lawyers held in Kulgam

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 02: A meeting cum discussion session between 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 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.

Zulfiqar condoles demise of Prabodh's mother

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 02: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) and Tribal Affairs, Chowdhary Zulfiqar 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 sympathies to Jamwal and Anuradha Bhasin Jamwal and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

Chief Minister grieved over deaths in Budhal 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 today.

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

KARGIL, FEBRUARY 02: Additional Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Imteyaz 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 programme, the ADC highlighted the need to generate timely and proper awareness thus ensuring the diagnosis and complete treatment of leprosy cases which he said would be significant for the eradication of the disease.

The ADC also stressed on the need to encourage community participation during the campaign to reduce social stigma and discrimination against leprosy patients.

The participants on the occasion also took an oath to contribute their best efforts and active role in the eradication 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.

While interacting with DC Udhampur, Singh said that most of the equipment and infrastructural 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.

NOTICE

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

Objection if any may be conveyed to concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this 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 Union Territory Chandigarh, a review meeting was conducted under the chairmanship of Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat, Member (NZ), KVIB.

During the meeting Director Industries and Commerce D.P. S. Kharbanda (IAS), Convener SLBC, in Punjab, Haryana States and Union Territory Chandigarh, Representative RBL, Member Convener, V. K. Nagar State Director KVIB in Punjab, Haryana States and Union Territory Chandigarh, were present.

Dr. Hina held a detailed review of the PMEGP being implemented by all sponsoring agencies viz KVIB, 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 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



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meeting the targets of the programme and expedite disbursement of the margin money. Member (NZ) expressed that the discussions held during the review meeting with all the stakeholders, including representatives of various Banks, States officials and other beneficiaries, will be fruitful on crucial areas like collateral free loans, timely bank sanctions, release of margin money subsidy and loan installment, coverage of credit guarantee scheme, achievement of social category targets of SC, ST, minority, women etc. The meeting will encourage all the stakeholders and will lead to better implementation of PMEGP Scheme 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 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 progress of PMEGP for the year 2017-18.

Balbir conducts inspection of the unit financed by Corp

JAMMU, FEB. 02: In order to have the physical verification of the small units financed by Jammu and Kashmir Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes & Backward Classes Development Corporation Limited, its Vice Chairperson, Balbir Ram Rattan, along with Jammu District Manager Joginder Paul Atri and 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 category, with the financial assistance of rupees one lakh as loan from the said Corporation.



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 government as well as those of the state government meant for the socio-economic upliftment of the weaker sections. The Vice Chairperson, while advising Jeet Lal to ensure timely deposit of the monthly instalments of the money taken by him as loan from the Corporation, said that the amount paid back is used for providing loan to other people of the weaker 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 reserved categories, whose parents cannot afford to send their wards for professional and technical courses, can get financial assistance from the Corporation for studying within the country and abroad.

Shiksha Niketan school organised Best out of Waste



JAMMU, FEB. 02: four students from each section participated in it. All the students used waste material to make their best. All the students puts great effort to have their best. The judging criteria

was based on material theme and timing. The competition was held on the supervision of co-coordinator of 6th Class. Further Incharge of the School Mrs. Nirmal Sharma appreciated the efforts of students. 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 congratulate the winners.

Impressive Rally by NRMU in J&K Divisional president of Firozpur participated in the rally



JAMMU, FEBRUARY 2: Northern railway mens union Jammu organized an impressive rally at Jammu Tawi railway station in which more than 1000 employees took part in the rally. The rally is organized against the central govt. policies which are being criticized by northern mens union. The chief guest on this occasion was comrade Shiv Dutt Sharma divisional president of NRMU in Firozpur division. Speaking in this rally Shiv Dutt demanded renovation of railway quarters, removal of NPS system, better health facilities, and high pay scales for different categories and better working conditions of railway employees. He strongly condemned the privatization in Indian Railway and warned high authorities to fulfill the demands of the working class at the earliest otherwise they threatened the authorities to face rail roko andhollan.

Others who spoke on this occasion included Branch secretaries of Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Amritsar, Pathankot, Firozpur and Jammu (Sambhar Singh Branch 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

UDHAMPUR, FEB. 02: So far staff position is concerned, there is acute shortage of Medical, Para-Medical and Class-IV staff. The post of surgeon specialist, dental surgeon, anesthetists, MCH is deficient in SDH Ramnagar as well as most of the post of doctors and surgeons are lying vacant in surrounding PHC Rang, Bhugartian, Chanutna, Ghordi, Nalla Ghoran and Ser Manjila leading to very poor health care facilities. Moreover 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,

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 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 leads to the death of critical accidental cases. Had the Hospital been provided with sufficient and sophisticated equipments, many lives of serious patients would have been saved?

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

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

Union Budget totally disappointing for J&K

JAMMU, FEB. 02: Congress has said that Union Budget is totally disappointing for Jammu and Kashmir State and there is no provision for checking the skyrocketing prices and creation of adequate job opportunities for youth. Reacting to the Union Budget Chief Spokesperson JKPC Ravinder Sharma has described the budget as disappointing for the people of J&K State. He said that being the last budget of the Modi Govt. there are hollow slogans and Jumbas but 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 salaries and working class of J&K 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 farmers. 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

NEW DELHI: A case of murder has been registered in connection with the death of the Class 9 student who was found dead under mysterious circumstances in his school in Delhi. Police investigating the case 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 under Section 304 to 302 (murder). We found that he had a fight with 4 students. He fell down after he received punches during the fight and died later," DCP (northeast) Ajit K Singla said.

Three people have been detained so far in connection with the death.



Tussar, a Class 9 student, was found dead under mysterious circumstances in his school's washroom in northeast Delhi's Karawal Nagar. He was found unconscious by some students in the bathroom and was taken to a hospital. He was later referred to the GTB Hospital where he was declared brought dead.

The school administration has claimed that he was suffering from loose motions, but the boy's family has alleged that he had a fight with some students and was thrashed.

Police had earlier said that no injury marks were found on the boy's body.

Police are questioning his classmates and the 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

with.

Tussar 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 Nagar MLA Kapil Mishra said that he is monitoring the situation and is in touch with the police and hospital 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 school's recognition to the commissioner of School Education Department by Friday evening.

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 theatre in Meerut district in Uttar Pradesh. The police had arrested two people in connection with the case.

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 they were joined by a friend of the prime accused.

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 Muzaffarnagar on their bike.

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



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

Railway police said accused Sanusha complained 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 screamed for help before

altering the travelling ticket examiner, who later 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 Thiruvananthapuram-bound Maveli express from Kannur reached Thirissur 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 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, Sanusha said.

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

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

NEW DELHI: Taking a shot at Bharatiya Janata Party's performance 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.

"Gujarat elections were a trailer and Rajasthan bypoll the interval. Now the film we will show in 2019. No question of going back in 2019. Once arrow has left the bow, it doesn't come back," said Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut.

Attacking Modi government's final full Union budget, presented by Finance Minister Anurag Kejriwal, Raut said, "Jai's Union Budget 2018 was fantastic but only on paper. Farmers are committing suicide, it won't be suitable to comment about its implementation so soon."

The Congress party posted a



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

Congress' victory has come as a big jolt for Vasundhara Raje-

Rajasthan at the forefront, as democracy is ultimately for and of the people. Congratulate the winning candidates and welcome them to this celebration of democracy."

Defeating the BJP's Shakti Singh Hada, Congress candidate Vivek Dhakar won Mandalgarh Assembly seat by 12,976 votes. In Aijmer, 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 196,496 votes.

Congress' chief Rahul Gandhi also took to Twitter to congratulate party cadres. "Well done Rajasthan Congress! Proud of each and every one of you. This is a rejection of the BJP by the people of Rajasthan."

Delhi 2021 master plan: DDA takes major decisions to tackle sealing fallout, alters floor area ratio

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

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 times.

Godowns will now be regular on 12-meter roads.

The meeting between DDA members and Lt Governor Anil Bajaj at LG secretariat was held



on Friday morning.

"Three proposals about amendments in 2021 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

house after 3 days," said Vijender Gupta, DDA member and BJP MLA.

Reacting to the development, DDA member and AAP MLA Somnath Bharti said, "It's BJP's duty to fill loopholes in master plan as it is the power of centre and MCD. Sealing could've been prevented if BJP did that. All legitimate demands of Chief Minister Kejriwal have been approved in meeting. These demands will be put in public domain."

AAP has been demanding changes in the Master Plan 2021 to stop sealing in Delhi.

Meanwhile, traders in Delhi called for a two-day bandh starting Friday to protest against the ongoing sealing drive in the national capital. It is expected that at least 8 lakh shops and a large number of factories would remain closed as part of the strike.

SC frames 5 questions on Jallikattu case, refers matter to Constitution bench

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has referred the matter relating to Tamil Nadu's bull taming sport Jallikattu to a Constitution bench. The apex court has framed five questions to be adjudicated by Constitution bench in the matter.

"We have formulated five questions for the 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 fall under the cultural



rights enshrined under Article 29(1) and can be protected constitutionally.

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

Eruthazhuvuthal, is a bull-taming sport played in Tamil Nadu as part of the Pongal harvest festival.

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, Maharashtra or elsewhere in the country and had banned their use across the country.

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 deduction of Rs 40,000 in lieu of the present exemption in respect of transport allowance and reimbursement of miscellaneous medical expenses.

It is to be noted that the transport allowance at enhanced rate shall continue to be available to differently-abled persons. Also, other medical reimbursement benefits 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 account of transport and medical expenses.

The current tax-free limit for medical expense reimbursement is set at 15,000 per annum and transport



allowance exemption of Rs 1,600 per month.

Manish Gupta, CA and Partner at Kanchan & Associates has explained the tax benefit on standard deduction of Rs 40,000 under these categories:

a) Assuming the standard deduction amount is inclusive of medical expense reimbursement and transport allowance

b) Exclusive of medical expense reimbursement

ment and transport allowance and

-c) Benefit for pensioners

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: NIL

-Rs 2,50,001 to Rs 5,00,000: 5 percent

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

-Above Rs 10,00,000: 30 percent

Senior 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 standard deduction amount is inclusive of medical expense reimbursement and transport allowance here is how much it will impact you.

Tax-free limit for medical expense reimbursement = Rs 15,000 per 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 subsequent tax benefit will be as follows:

Proposed: Rs 40,000

Deducted: Rs 34,200 (on medical and transport combined)

Effective change: Rs 5,800.

JKNPP HOLDS RALLY IN RAMNAGAR

Union Budget belies the hopes of common man: Harsh

RAMNAGAR, FEB. 02: Despite the last Budget of BJP 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 the middle class and economically weaker sections of society having been completely disregarded, they were simply advised to feel satisfied with the slogans of good governance that had been held out during the last four years of 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 overwhemingly voted for the BJP

in last elections besides having 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 gooply in the form of announcement to double farmers income by 2022 was as amusing as it was ridiculous, said Harsh. "The BJP govt will seek a fresh mandate in around an year or so. But it wants people to wait till 2022 for it to fulfil its election time commitment and its social obligation". He said that rather than committing itself to honour, during the currency of its five years term, its loudly trumpeted promises including housing for all, quality education and Health care for the weaker and marginalized, creeping inflation, removal of

in-equalities, empowerment of youth through increased jobs opportunities etc, the Union Budget for current year was most ludicrously and repeatedly harping on 2022 as the year for fulfilling its commitments. He said that Budget being an annual exercise, the Finance Minister was supposed to provide specific solutions to the economic sufferings of the people and its challenges vis a vis its public commitments during the current fiscal rather than making prophesies for the future.

Describing the BJP leaders as experts in the art of self-promotion and in manufacturing lies and buzzes, Singh said that people of the country would no longer be fooled 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 most menacing threat to the poor 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 teeming millions of unemployed youth of the country who were assured of gainful employment during elections by the BJP leadership. He said that as against the promised 2 crore jobs for unemployed youth every year, the unprecedented unquantifiable retrenchments in private sector had caused huge commotion among the educated youth. He said there was no relief for salaried class, no concession in tax rates and contrary interest on savings had been curtailed. He said that with

thousand of crores of rupees as outstanding wage liability under MGNREGA, there was hardly any increase in provision for this significant Rural Employment Scheme and the provision for Swachh Bharat Mission had also been curtailed without any tangible impact having been created 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 jumla as there can't be a single formula to determine inputs costs of geographically divergent 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 scheme having been

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 employment schemes were announced despite huge expectations created amongst the people. He said that while the central Budget had announced Health Insurance Scheme for BJP category, the already existing PMS Health insurance scheme had not been implemented in the state despite its launch several years back. It was a defeated Budget which would prove BJP's Waterloo at the hustlings, said Singh.

Regarding the prevalent

development scenario in Ramnagar constituency, Singh took to task the highly impudent administration and the incumbent leadership for pushing Ramnagar to terminal decline. He said that once considered as the fastest developing constituency, Ramnagar had witnessed the worst era of mis-governance, under development and decadence during the last three and a half years. He said that with an all pervasive 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 nonexistent works especially in RDD, PHE and R&B sector, Singh sought exemplary punishment to those who had made fortunes for themselves at the cost of tax payers money.

DoPT officials thank Dr Jitendra for budget relief to salaried employees

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 2: A delegation of DoPT (Department of Personnel & Training) officials led by Union Secretary Personnel Ajay Mittal, today called on Union Minister Incharge DoPT, Dr Jitendra Singh and conveyed their appreciation 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 giving priority to their issues and concerns in the annual budget.

Responding to their gesture, Dr Jitendra Singh said, this is for the first



time that a Government has acknowledged the important role of the salaried class in contributing the bulk of Income Tax collections, throughout the country. He said, the mention made in this regard by the Union Finance Minister in his Budget speech, goes beyond the realms of financial reform and, in fact,

amounts to publicly according respect and reverence to the honesty and sincerity shown by the employees, but also the pensioners in the later phase of their life. In addition, he said, this class of citizens will also be the beneficiaries of health insurance cover offered for the first time by the gov-

ernment and exemption of interest on deposits being increased from Rs.10,000 to Rs.50,000 for elder pensioners. For women employees, Dr Jitendra Singh noted, the contribution to Provident Fund has been reduced to 8% and this also is a relief for the salaried class. With ever increasing number of pensioners in the government service, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the issues like late age illness, lack of caretakers for help and financial constraints have been addressed by the budget. This is not only a financial support but also a huge social reform contemplated 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, Showkat Kazmi, CEO Rajouri Development Authority, Dr Iqbal Firdous, CEO Lal Hussain, CMO Dr Suresh Gupta, CAOM Y Choudhary, Dy Registrar Waqar Talib, DSWO Dr Abdul Khair, BDO, Imtiaz Ahmed attended the meeting in which DIO Mohammad Shafiq briefed about progress and proposals for next year.

The DDC reviewed the proposals furnished by nodal officers 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 sanitation, 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.

During the meeting, the Nodal officers

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 delivery and therein suggest required improvements taking into account feedback from public as well as field functionaries.

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 tourism infrastructure will be conducted under the fellowships. Eco-Tourism, Wage Employment, Convergence, Sanitation, Old Age Pensioners, 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 fellowships proposed to be increased to 30 from existing 15 awards.

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

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 its 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 government to come out of the slumber and see the writing on the wall.

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

concerned authorities towards restoration work of the Mubarak Mandi heritage complex, shifting of the precious records of Archives in an unsafe building and the annoyance over barricading of the road in front of winter secretariat causing inconvenience to women using the Zanana Park or going to temples. It causes hardship to the daily commuters, school children, evacuation of the sick to SMGS hospital and is cruel on the women processions going to Jogi Gate for cremation; besides hampering tourism of historical sites in winters. He also criticized the government and conveyed the anguish of the women over the heinous crime committed by the culprits involved in

the case of abduction of the Kathua minor girl and her detention, brutal rape and murder. Women members also expressed grave concern over the increased drug addiction among the Youth and sought a special police team under an able officer to lead the culprits and arrest them.

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



to promote the Dogriyat 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

sun depicting hope, progress, enlightenment, warmth 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 discrimination or discord within them and with due

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 historically the main occupation 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 sacrifices and earned bravery awards in a very high proportion.

The executive body also formally released the list of distinguished daughters of the soil "Dhayan Dogren Diyan" that were ceremoniously honoured by the DSS in a unique function held on the 31st of January. The list included Mrs Vijay Kotwal, Maj Gen Sunita Kapoor, VSM, Mrs Sheetal Nanda, Seema Anil Sehgal, Sheetal Rajput, Prof Posh Charak, Seema Shekhar, Babita Rakwal, Anjali Sharma, Rita Jaitinder, Veena Rajput, Dr Sunanda Raina, Mrs Sanvita Bakshi, Mrs Asha Kesar.

The executive body also

honouring her in due course. DSS informed that the event is receiving applauds from the Dogras spread in various parts of the world and it was unanimously decided to organize this unique event of getting together the distinguished women achievers "Dhayan 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 Additional Gen. Secretary, Brig M.S. Jamwal Incharge Media Cell, Col Virendra K Sahi V/C Convent Media Cell, Syed Amanat 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 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.

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

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



to address every single issue of the common masses promptly, so that no group or community feels deprived of its due rights. 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

Modi led Centre. Displaced Persons said that all the details concerning issues pertaining to the community have been enlisted and have been time and again brought to the notice of concerned authorities. He also provided with the details of the concentrated efforts done by the party in the matter while expressing hope that soon their issues will be taken care of. He also discussed various

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

Pt. Ashok Khajuria, informed that out of 36, 384 registered cases for Displaced persons from PoJK, 1284 cases are 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 are cleared in the coming 10 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 pro-

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.

BY 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 communication 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

Rajasthan win of bypolls elates Cong cadres

Congress 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 BJP 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 Gujarat 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 it 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 himself as a leader of masses.

Budget 2018-19: More sleight of hand

MOHAN GURUSWAMY

The Union Budget 2018-19 was presented at a time when the Indian economy is facing the worst slowdown in at least half a decade (according to the Central Statistical Office). While macroeconomic shocks like demonetisation and the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) are likely to have contributed to the slowdown, the root of the slowdown lies in the decline of investments in the country.

The slowdown in investments 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 as a job contraction in the informal 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 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 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 population, or 150 families. It is these people who have largely been bypassed by the huge growth gains made since 1998. That means the two NDA and two UPA terms.

Added to this, the government has to promise delivering all this with a most expensive public administration (10.4 per cent of GDP), and an



almost defunct delivery system. A majority of government employees — over 25 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 for them.

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 where you run up against 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 do not change, as GDP growth and hence tax revenues usually stay nearer where they have been before. Discretionary revenue expenditure can only go up when GDP growth really perks up, as we saw in 2009-2012. From

and insurance companies who will get a '30,000-crore windfall.

Similar sleight of hand is indulged in increasing the 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 eight crore new stoves and cylinders on getting a gas connection. This is an existing scheme. But reports from gas agency dealers in several parts of the nation, specially those in rural areas, have exposed that an extremely low number of Ujjwala beneficiaries 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 expectation of an agriculture-oriented 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 crores 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, 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 Vidyalayas".

So if government hospitals and clinics have fewer doctors and lesser medicines, be 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 private healthcare providers,

Mere paas Maa hai...

The popular dialogue — Mere paas Maa hai — used by various television channels to pay homage to Shashi Kapoor, made me ponder over the statement uttered by the star in the film Dewar. What made film buffs and ordinary people connect and identify themselves so strongly with the dialogue? Was it the charisma of Shashi Kapoor, 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 left the audience spellbound? I concluded that it was 'Maa' that catapulted it to the top of the popularity chart.

The dialogue reinforces the centuries-old fact that a mother is an embodiment of love, compassion, kindness and sacrifice. She inculcates a value system in her kids, which is based on truth and justice. The value system has magical powers that can transform an ordinary human being into a superhero. History is awash with such brilliant tales. Mahatma Gandhi imbued 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 take 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 destitutes by his mother. She extracted a promise from him that he would never flinch from serving the poor and would put all resources in his command to apply a balm of love and compassion on those who had been neglected by society. Stirred by the emotional appeal of his mother, he passionately put his body and soul in the service of the poor and opened a pingalwara (a house for the disabled) in Amritsar.

Abdul Sattar Edhi, who changed the face of welfare services in Pakistan, was also motivated by his mother. 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 fruits and laddoos to houses of the poor during festivals. And when on one occasion, Edhi sustained injuries while shielding an aged leper from the punches of street urchins, his mother lavishly praised him for standing up for a hapless soul. This metamorphosed a simple soul into a messiah of the poor.

Alastair 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 the feet of your mother.

We must remember these words if we wish to seek 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

SANJEEV AHLUWALLIA

The Union Budget 2018-19 appears an honest and judicious construct when conveyed orally. 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 budgeted 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 distortions caused by GST still lingering and the need to recapitalise banks and push public investment in an environment where the private sector is still sitting on its funds, the stage seems set for losing the leeway in the interest of growth and jobs.

More reassurance comes 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 so far.

On the expenditure side, agriculture and rural development takes centre stage. This is more than welcome against the backdrop of agrarian distress and farmer suicides. Ajay Jharkar of the Bharat Krishak Samaj points out that an Indian farmer commits suicide every 40 minutes.

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 notified for the kharif cycle will be covered under the minimum support price (MSP) scheme.

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 good the difference (as is being done in Madhya Pradesh now) or to physically procure the produce.

But representatives of farmers' interests are not satisfied. They assert that the manner in which costs are to be determined should be spelt out in a participative 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 diversification away from those covered under MSP. This way of assuring farmer incomes also privileges the traditional "Green Revolution" areas in the North, which unfortu-

nately are not well endowed 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 liberalised 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 infrastructure and another for animal husbandry infrastructure — at a total outlay of Rs 100 billion. Crop credit would increase by 10 per cent to 11 trillion and lessee farmers

would be facilitated to access crop credit from banks — something which they cannot do today and have, instead, to rely on private moneylenders.

The budgetary outlay for rural roads, affordable houses, toilets and electricity projects of Rs 2.4 trillion will leverage five 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 poor families with an insurance cover of Rs 5 lakhs. Compare this with the meagre 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 trillion.

To boost employment in



Bharat Net, the fiber connectivity programme, is also proceeding apace. The Railways will spend Rs 1.48 trillion on capital investments, mostly in new works in 2018-19. Six hundred railway 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 current 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 from the new capital gains tax of 10 per cent on equity sold after holding for one year. This makes ticking 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 has been selected with an outlay of Rs 2.4 trillion 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 lending capacity of Rs 5 trillion. But one cannot but feel the feeling that some of the expenditure estimates are a bit conservative relative to the ambition embedded in the programmes. The good news is ending 2018-19 with a 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.

The idea is to increase the attractiveness of employing young job seekers by reducing their cost to the employer for three years, by which time it is expected the skills they acquire will make their value addition viable on its own.

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 outlay are ongoing and projects worth one per cent of the outlay have been completed. The government expects to complete 9,000 km of highways in this year.

Businessman accused of stalking Zeenat Aman arrested



NEW DELHI: Veteran Bollywood actress, Zeenat Aman had filed a complaint of stalking and criminal intimidation against a businessman in Mumbai a few days back. According to PTL, the 38-year-old businessman has been arrested for allegedly

stalking the actress. Sarfaraz alias Aman Khanna, the accused, was arrested in the evening, DCP (Zone D) Paramjit Singh Dahiya said. The actress had filed a complaint against Khanna at the Juhu police station on Monday reportedly.

The police official told PTL, the accused was known to the actress and were acquaintances, however, 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 some occasions. 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 venturing into films, she participated in the beauty pageant and was the second runner-up in the Miss India contest. She went on to win the Miss Asia Pacific in 1970. She featured in several 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.

One of the most beautiful women of India, Aditi Rao Hydari



Sanjay Leela Bhansali is not done with Deepika Padukone yet



NEW DELHI: Speaking about the filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali, who has delivered 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 directed Deepika previously in 2013's 'Goliyon Ki Rasleela Ram-Leela' and 2015's 'Bajirao Mastani'.

silence." The 54-year-old further said, "It's such a pleasure to work with someone 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 yet."

Bhansali's much-awaited film 'Padmaavat' released on January 25 and crossed Rs. 100 crore mark 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 Murad.

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 threatened to quit Twitter, leaving his fans aghast. He wrote: "TWITTER ..!!!!? you reduced my number of followers ..!!!!? HAHAAHAHAHAHAHA ..!! that's a joke .. time to get off from you .. thank you for the ride .. there are many 'other' fish in the sea - and a lot more exciting!"

Bachchan senior happened to be the most followed Indian celeb on the micro-blogging site with millions of followers. However, Shah Rukh Khan raced

past him and became the most followed Indian celeb on Twitter, soon after which the Twitter blast tweet came in.

Now, immediately after Big B posted the tweet about quitting Twitter, fans thronged his timeline and commented on how sad they

would be if he does so. 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 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 Dharma Productions. It stars Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt in lead roles.

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

New Delhi: After portraying 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 Preena Arora, the producer of the film as saying, "Shahid plays a young local boy from Uttarakhnad who is a diehard romantic." The costume designers Neelanchal Ghosh and

Darshan Jalan are working closely to give Shahid a perfect look for the film. Similarly, Shraddha

Kapoor, who plays the female lead in the film will be seen in a different look. Talking about

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. The trio of Yami, Shraddha and Shahid will be seen first time together on the big screens. After the success of his previous venture '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 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

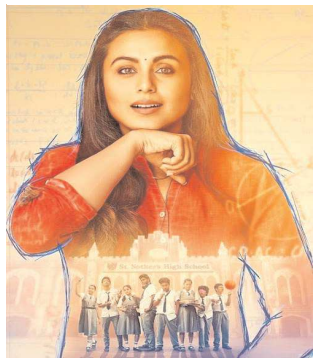


NEW DELHI: Actress Shama Sikander is a known telly face. Before taking a big leap towards movies, the actress featured in some hit TV shows such as 'Yeh Meri Life Hai', 'Baal Veer' etc to

name a few. Recently, Shama took to her Instagram account and posted a picture where she can be seen donning a red bikini. While the actress looks super fit flaunting her

velte avatar, her caption is worth a read. She wrote: "World peace can be achieved when in each person the power of love replaces the love of power. #AbDiKisunn." The actress meditating at the backdrop of such a peaceful surrounding will surely inspire you to start your fitness regime aspart 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 trolls when earlier one of her pictures received flak. Shama was last seen in Vikram Bhatt's web series, Maaya.

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



The makers of Rani Mukerji-starrer 'Hichki' have decided to postpone the release of the film to

will now come out on March 23. Trade Analyst Taran Adarsh took to Twitter to make the announcement as he wrote, "#Hichki shifted ahead... Will release on 23 March 2018... Reason: Having evoked positive reactions during the private screenings, the marketing/distribution team of YRF convinced Aditya Chopra that the movie should release post 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, Tourette Syndrome, that forces an individual to make involuntary repetitive movements or sounds.

Deepika Padukone gears up for Vishal Bhardwaj's next with Irrfan Khan



MUMBAI: After essaying Rani Padmavati in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's controversial film Padmaavat, 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, 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 suggests. 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 film jointly produced by T Series, Vishal Bhardwaj

Pictures and KriArj Entertainment will be based on Hussain Zaidi's book Mafia Queens of Mumbai and will be focus on Rahima Khan aka Sapna Didi. Deepika was believed

to have been roped in for the role. But coproducer Preena Arora of KriArj Entertainment refuted rumours. She said that the film is a work of fiction. "This film is not a biopic.

Vishal sir is directing a fictional thriller that deals with the topic of revenge," Mirror quoted Preena 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 now. 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 number of successful and critically acclaimed films to his credit and the list includes - Omkar, Maqbool, Haider, Machis and Kamney to his credit.

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.

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 rare condition.

Surgeon Samanta Lal Sen, 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.

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

Bajandar suffers from epidermodyplasia verruciformis, an extremely rare genetic condition known as "tree-man disease".

Intrigued by his condition, doctors at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital

He has been there ever since with his wife and family, who live together in a small room in the hospital. "We thought we had achieved (a cure). But now it



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

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



say how long it will take." This week Bajandar underwent his 25th surgery to remove some of the

ter. "We're grateful for the free treatment, we couldn't have afforded to pay for it," said

dermodyplasia verruciformis, 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.

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

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

"Unfortunately, he (Bajandar) may have to stay here for a while."

Meanwhile Bajandar worries about money, and how he will pay for his daughter's education.

"She's growing up so fast," he said.

grows from his hands. For time in the ward making jewellery for a little cash.

Fewer than half a dozen people worldwide have epi-

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Migraines could increase risk of cardiovascular diseases: Study



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

However, there is one headache 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 matters.

The disease can be debilitating and although a number 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, 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 51,000 Danish people who had been diagnosed with migraine with over 510,000 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.

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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 deduction of Rs 40,000 in lieu of the present exemption in respect of transport allowance and reimbursement of miscellaneous medical expenses.

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

The deduction of flat Rs



40,000 will be applicable to every salary earner and they can straightforwardly 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

allowance and Rs 15,000 crore under the medical allowance.

It is to be noted that the transport allowance at enhanced rate shall continue to be available to differently-abled persons. Also, other medical reimbursement benefits 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 account of transport and medical expenses. FM Jaitley, giving it to popular demand, has re-introduced standard deduction after more than 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 1 April, 2006.

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 electronics.

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

in his first few years as leader, repeatedly cutting earnings guidance, he managed to regain the market's confidence with a no-nonsense restructuring plan as well as strong sales of image sensors, used in smartphones.

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 business.

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 Sony's competitiveness as a global company," Yoshida said in a statement.

Analysts expect Sony to post an operating profit of around 681 billion yen in the current business year, the highest ever in the company's 72-year-old history.

It is due to announce its third quarter results at 5 p.m. (0800 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, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announced that there will be no change in personal income tax slab for salaried employees in the current fiscal year. Noting that the number of those who filed Income Tax 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, 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 normally do not enjoy any allowance on account of transport and medical expenses. The revenue cost of this decision is approximately Rs 8,000 crores.

The total number of salaried employees and pensioners who will benefit from this decision is around 2.5 crores."

The Finance Minister further said, "Apart from reducing paper work and compliance, this will help middle class employees even more 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 2.5 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 required to be deducted on such income.

7th Pay Commission: Fair compensation for central govt employees to come into force from April

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

Media reports also added that the Gazette will have this information in the next financial year while the implementations will be made from April 2018. The Union 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-



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

The new scales of 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 will be Rs 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:

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

Net difference = 8850

Employees fall under this pay band: Medical Officer, Manager, Scientific Officer, Assistant Professor, Engineer etc.

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

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

Net difference = 8850

Employees fall under this pay band: Medical Officer, Manager, Scientific Officer, Assistant Professor, Engineer etc.

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BJP Kissan Morcha credits Union Government for Public Friendly Budget

JAMMU, FEB. 02: BJP State Kissan Morcha led by its State President Rajinder Singh Chib credited Union government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley for the public and especially farmer friendly budget in 2018 during a press conference held at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar.

While interacting with the media persons, Rajinder Singh Chib said that the present dispensation is seriously working for upgrading the status of living of farmers while opening new paths for the increase in the income of



the farmers while also focussing on the distribution and other factors after the production till its final consumption by the consumers.

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

direct access, 10,000 crore will be spent for increasing the fisheries work/dairies rupees while rupees 2600 crores will be spent for irrigation purpose in 96 districts, thus reducing dependency on the natural rains. Under Yojana 'Operation Green' for protection of Potatoes, Tomatoes, Onion rupees 500 crores will be spent while for standardizing Bamboo production, rupees 17.90 crores 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-

its for last 5 years. For pacing the modernization of farming techniques, 5 Crore villagers will be connected with internet for which rupees 1000 Crores is kept. He also said that every poor family will be covered for Health Insurance of rupees 5 lakh each by which over all 40 crore people will be benefited from this budget.

Kissan Morcha State General Secretaries Capt. 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



JAMMU, FEB 02: J&K Bank gave a warm send-off to its Senior President Abdul Rashid, who attained superannuation on January 31, after serving for almost four decades in the bank.

The farewell was attended by the Chairman and CEO Farveez Ahmad along with Executive Presidents Vajish Chander

Presidents, Vice-Presidents and other senior officers of the bank.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Farveez Ahmad said, "Strong leadership is the guiding force of every organisation 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 conversations across hierarchies for which he will be remembered by one and all in the bank", Farveez Ahmad added.

The chairman hailed him for establishing his connections to the grassroots levels and fervently hoped that he would be continuing his contribution to the society at large.

Abdul Rashid in his address while thanking all his colleagues all along his career acknowledged their support and cooperation in allowing him to reach this position despite various constraints. Other speakers in the event also lauded his contribution and wished him peace, progress and prosperity post his retirement.

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 announcements.

"It was disheartening that announcement for the amnesty to stone pelters was made by Centre's special representative Dineshwar Sharma after submitting his report to the Centre," said Mr Abdullah while speaking in the House 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 reduce the institutional credibility of the Governor, Chief Minister and the state cabinet.

Lashing out at the Chief Minister, Mr 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 added.

The former Chief Minister also lambasted 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 powerlessness of the state government in lieu of the sale of 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 (DDP-BJP) people were barred to offer the Eid prayers.

Wetlands important part of natural wealth: PCCF

STRESSES ON SYNERGIZED EFFORTS FOR THEIR PRESERVATION

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 02: Directorate of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing today organised a programme at Surinsar to mark the "World Wetlands Day".

Principal Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Ravi Kesar presided over the programme.

Chairman, State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), Siddhartha, Chief Wildlife Warden, Manoj Panth, Director Social Forestry, Ashwani Gupta, Director SFRL, B M Sharma, Director Soil Water and Conservation, Javed Iqbal Punjia, Chief Conservator of Forests, Feroz Gillani, Managing Director State Forest Corporation,

Suresh Gupta, Regional Director SPCB, Showkat Chowdhary, Regional Director Wildlife Warden, Dr V S Senthil Kumar, Regional Director Social Forestry, Roop Kour Avtar, Conservator East Circle, Jh Qamar-ud-Din besides other senior officers of Forests were present on the occasion.

While addressing a gathering gathered, PCCF stressed on importance of preservation of wetlands as they are the life support systems 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 mit-

igate 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 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 directly impact the life of human beings and other living creatures. He said dedicated efforts are required to meet this noble cause.

Asserting that the responsibility of afforestation lies on both the gov-

ernment and people, the PCCF called for collective efforts on part of all stakeholders so that the mission of compensating the depletion of forest cover in the state can be 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 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 that the World Wetland Day,

celebrated on 2nd 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 promote, create awareness 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 Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing organized various programmes like painting competition, debate competition, 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 Departments under CM's charge

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 02: Several members took part in the Discussion on Demand for Grants of Home, Administration, Planning & Development, Information, Hospitality & Protocol, Estates and Culture Departments in 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 there are no civilian casualties 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 created administrative units in State, opening of police stations, fire fighting stations, enhancing the salaries of SPOs, home guard, ration money in favour of police personal.

The legislators also urged for modernizing the State Police Force including Police Stations and making them corruption free.

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

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 provide clarification

regarding withdrawal of cases against second time offenders.

He called for cadre 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.

He stressed for accountability in public service delivery system, strengthening of RTI, transfer policy, single window system, digitization to make government functioning paperless besides appealing the government to revoke SRO 202.

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

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

Nawang Rizgin Jora asked the government to improve the functioning of Planning and Development Department. He demanded for comprehensive transfer policy for police personnel posted in

Leh.

Jora also urged for establishment 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 for taking necessary measures 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 files.

He also urged to take steps to bring State Human Rights Commission at par with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), establishment of more Fire Fighting Stations, opening of Police Stations and Chokis at Raithan, Parnawa, Doodpathari and Arwal.

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 grievances. He also appreciated the steps being taken to ensure 'durable peace in 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

demanding enhancement in honorarium of Home guards.

He urged the government to provide compensation to the people living along international border in Jammu on the pattern of compensation being provided by the government to people living along LoC affected during cross border firing.

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

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Position of A&T's Under Process

Publishing Date	01-02-2018
Download Start Date	01-02-2018
Bid Submission Start Date	01-02-2018
Bid Submission End Date	08-02-2018 up to 04:00 PM
Date of Submission of Hard Copies	On or before 08-02-2018 up to 04:00 PM (In the Office of Wildlife Warden, Jammu, Manda Hills, Jammu)
Date of opening of Technical Bid	09-02-2018 at 11:00 AM
Date of opening of Financial Bid(online)	09-02-2018 at 12:00 PM

01. Bid documents can be seen at and download from the website :- <http://tenders.gov.in>. Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidders: specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.

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