

My favourite
things in life
don't cost any
money.

— Steve Jobs

**Normal life
crippled in
Sopore against
murder of
goldsmith**

SRINAGAR, JAN 31: Normal life was on Wednesday crippled at Sopore in north Kashmir district of Baramulla, where body of a murdered goldsmith was fished out from river Jehlum on Tuesday. Shops and business establishments were closed and traffic was off the road in Sopore town and adjoining areas due to

CONTD ON P-2

A youth injured in Army firing in Shopian dies, situation tense

SRINAGAR, JAN 31: A youth, who was injured in Army firing during demonstrations on January 27 in Shopian, died in a hospital here on Wednesday, official sources said. They said Rayees Ahmad Ganie, who was critically wounded when Army opened fire to disperse stone pelting demonstrators at Ganowpora, Shopian, succumbed in the S K Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) early this morning. However, a defence

ministry spokesman said that Army opened fire in self defence after a mob pelted stones on their vehicles in which 7 personnel, including an officer, were injured. Two other youths were killed and nine others, including Rayees, were injured, in the firing incident, which evoked massive reaction from all opposition parties, including National Conference (NC), Congress and Communist Party of India (M) besides separatists, who also

Army files counter-FIR in Shopian incident

NEW DELHI, JAN 31: The Indian Army on Wednesday filed a counter-FIR against the stonepelters in Kashmir's Shopian, in which two protesters were killed on the spot and a third died later. The Army's counter-FIR came after the Jammu and Kashmir Police registered a case of murder and attempt to murder against Major Aditya and his unit, 10 Garhwal Rifles for opening fire on stonepelters. "Indian Army files a counter FIR in Shopian incident in which two civilians were killed in army firing on January 27. It is as per standard practice after any such incident. All aspects of the defensive action by the Army are detailed," Army sources said here. Earlier, the sources also said that the Army will not

Separatists call for 'Shopian challo' on Friday

SRINAGAR, JAN 31: Separatists on Wednesday called for a march to south Kashmir district of Shopian in solidarity with the families of four civilians killed in security force firing in the last about a week. The Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL), comprising of both the factions of Hurriyat Conference (HC) and JKLF, urged people to march to Shopian on Friday. The announcement was made by JKLF chief Mohanmad Yasin Malik while leading a protest march at Jamia Masjid in downtown Srinagar against the killings today. Meanwhile, chairman of both the factions of Hurriyat Conference (HC) Syed Ali Shah Geelani and Mirwaiz Maulvi Omar Farooq could not attend the march in downtown as they remained under house arrest.

Earthquake of 6.2 magnitude hit J&K

JAMMU, JAN 31: An earthquake of 6.2 magnitude on Wednesday jolted the parts of Jammu and Kashmir. Tremors were felt at around 1240 hours as quake rocked the parts of the state, said an official. Meanwhile, people rushed out of their houses in panic. "Earthquake of Magnitude 6.2, occurred on Tuesday at around 12:36 hours," Director MeT, J&K Sonam Lotus here said.

Girder falls while being installed on Rambagh-Jehangir Chowk flyover, Omar hits at govt



SRINAGAR, JAN 31: A girder fell while it was being lifted by crane to be

installed on under-construction Rambagh-Jehangir Chowk Flyover in the summer capital, Srinagar, during an earthquake, created panic among people. Hitting out at the government over the incident, former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah said, "I hope that in the Govt's self appointed deadline a safety and quality aren't being compromised." However, Economic

CONTD ON P-2

Prevention of Atrocities on SCs Act 1989 is not applicable in J&K: Govt

JAMMU, JAN 31: Jammu and Kashmir Government on Wednesday said that "Prevention of Atrocities on Scheduled Castes Act 1989" is not applicable in the state. "Prevention of Atrocities on Scheduled Castes Act 1989" being a Central Act is not applicable to the state of Jammu and Kashmir, Minister In-charge Social Welfare said in a written reply to the question raised by MLA Devendra Kumar Manyal. The Government further replied, "the State of Jammu and Kashmir is reputed for its excellent track record of harmony between various communities across the religious and caste divide." There appears to be no need to bring in such legislation when there are enough safeguards

Several roads near LoC remained closed for day 2 due to heavy snowfall

SRINAGAR, JAN 31: Roads to dozens of villages, including those near the Line of Control (LoC), remained closed for second successive day on Wednesday due to intermittent heavy to very snowfall since Monday night. "Due to snow, the roads leading to Sadhna top, Razdan pass, Z-Gali and Phirkiani remained closed for the second day on Wednesday," a traffic official told UNI. "The road from Bandipora to border town of Gurez, surrounded by Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) from three sides, remained closed due to accumulation of over three feet of snowfall at Razdan pass. It was snowing last night at Razdan pass," he said. The road remained open this winter due to less snowfall at Razdan pass, he said, adding in the past

Gurez and other border areas used to remain closed for six-winter months due to heavy snowfall. Decision to allow traffic on Bandipora-Gurez road will be taken only after clearing the road and accessing the road condition," he added. About a foot of snow had accumulated at Sadhna top forcing the authorities to suspend traffic on Kupwara-Tangdhar road.

Clashes erupts after death of injured youth, CASO in south Kashmir

SRINAGAR, JAN 31: Clashes erupted in south Kashmir after a youth, injured in Army firing on January 27, died in the hospital early Wednesday morning while security forces also burst teargas shells to disperse demonstrators protesting against the Cordon and Search Operation (CASO) launched by security forces in south Kashmir. People, mostly youths, hit the streets after hear-

ing about the death of teenager Rayees Ahmad Ganie, who was injured in Army firing on January 27 in Shopian. Two other youths were killed and nine others, including Rayees, were injured in the firing by Army. Though police has registered FIR against Army, the government has ordered a Magisterial inquiry into the incident while defence authorities said soldiers opened fire after they came under heavy fire from a mob, resulting in injuries to 7 personnel, including an officer and damage to several vehicles. As the news spread about the death of Rayees, hundreds of people, mostly youth, hit the streets at several places, including Murrain and Rajpora chowks, protesting against security forces. Sensing trouble, the authorities had

deployed security forces and state police personnel in strength to maintain law and order in both Shopian and Pulwama districts. The demonstrators clashed with the security forces after they were not allowed to move towards main roads. Security forces resorted to lathicharge and later burst teargas shells at several places to disperse the

HC grants Scale equivalent to KAS to High Court staff

SRINAGAR, JAN. 31: Finally the personal staff of Chief Justice and High Court Judges gets scale equivalent to KAS. According to the order issued by Registrar General J&K High Court Sanjay Dhar that Anil Kumar Raina, R. S. Billoria, Syed Mujtaba Hussain, and Tilak Raj Sharma, Secretaries, are placed in the Selection Grade of Secretaries in the pay-scale of Rs. 12000-16500 (pre-revised) PB-3 15600-39100+GP 7600 (existing pay scale), nationally with effect from 13.12.2016 and monetarily

with effect from the date of this order. P. S. Jamwal, Baldev Raj, and Asif Iqbal Mahajan, Bench Secretaries, are placed in the Selection Grade of Bench Secretaries in the pay-scale of Rs. 12000-16500 (pre-revised) [PB-3 15600-39100+GP 7600 (existing pay scale)], nationally with effect from 28.04.2017. Joginder Singh, (Bench Secretary) is placed in the Selection Grade of Bench Secretaries in the pay-scale of Rs. 12000-16500 (pre-revised) [PB-3 15600-39100+GP 7600 (existing pay scale)], nationally with effect from 19.07.2017, i.e. the date the post of Bench Secretary (Selection Grade) became vacant due to the death of Shri Abdul Rashid Dar and monetarily with effect from the date of this order. Haroon Rashid Bhat, Ram

Court awards 1 year RI & Fine Rs 2 lacs to police cop in bigamy

JAMMU, JAN. 31: 2nd Additional Sessions Judge Jammu Pawan Dev Kotwal awarded 1 year rigorous imprisonment and fine Rs 2 lacs to Amarjit Singh U/s 494 (Bigamy is the act of entering into a marriage with one person while still legally married to another). While deciding 20 years old case, 2nd Additional Sessions Judge Pawan Dev Kotwal observed that trial is pending for more than 21 years as the complaint came to be filed on 26.12.1996 and therefore it is a mitigating circumstances in favour of the convict, as conviction itself entails serious consequences and it is also true that the accused has reached the age of 59 years as ated by him and his father is dependent least physically on him. Court ordered that the accused sentenced to

JK Bank records net profit of Rs.174.30 Cr for 09 months in current financial year

SRINAGAR, JAN 31: JK Bank today reported a Net profit of Rs 174 Cr for the nine months ended December 2017 as the Bank declared the reviewed results for the Quarter and nine months ended December 2017 subsequent to adoption of the numbers by the Board of the Bank in a meeting held in Jammu today.



"I think over the past

Bank shows steady improvement in numbers as NPA accretion tapers, Chairman lauds Government support

nine months we have been fairly successful in fine tuning and stabilizing our business model and today we are confident about the growth part of our balance sheet as during the first nine months we have achieved steady growth across all zones of the Bank. On the NPA side the accretions have tapered off though provisioning pressure will remain for a few more

Fresh weather warning issued in avalanche prone areas in J&K

SRINAGAR, JAN 31: A fresh weather warning has been issued in avalanche prone areas in Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours. A Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE) spokesperson said that medium danger avalanche warning of Level-3, exists in higher reaches of Baramulla in north Kashmir. Meanwhile, he said low danger warning of Level-2 has been issued in Kupwara, Bandipora in north, Shopian in south Kashmir and Kargil in Ladakh region. He said a low danger warning of Level-1 has been

Hit by truck, son, mother killed in Samba road accident

JAMMU, JAN 31: A boy and his mother were killed in an accident on Wednesday when a motorbike they were riding on was hit by a speedily driven truck in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir. Two persons including a woman and her son died on the spot on Wednesday afternoon when their motorbike was hit by a truck on its way to Kathua near Rara Morh in Samba, police said. They said that the duo died on the spot. The deceased were identified as Sandeep Singh Samyal and his mother Kamlesh Kumari, residents of Shiv Nagar, Jammu. "We have seized the truck while the driver escaped from the spot," police said and added that a case has been registered and investigation started.

HC quash PSA of detenu

SRINAGAR, JAN. 31: Justice MK Hanjura of J&K High Court today quashed detention order of Waseem Mehraj Farash. The detenu - Waseem Mehraj Farash, was earlier on detained by the respondent No.2, District Magistrate, Baramulla, in exercise of powers vested in him under clause (a) of section (8) of the Jammu & Kashmir Public Safety Act, 1978 (for short Act of 1978) in terms of the detention order bearing No. 2517/DMB/PSA/2017 dated 06-02-2017 and

lodged in Central Jail, Kotebhalwal, Jammu. The said order was challenged by the medium of HC(P) 65/2017 and after allowing the writ petition on 21-07-2017, the order of detention was quashed by this Court and the respondents were directed to release the person of the detenu from preventive detention forthwith. Learned counsel has stated that when the said order was served on the respondents, the detenu, instead of being released, was booked in case bear-

ing F.I.R No. 391/2016 u/s 7/25 Arms Act. The detenu was kept in illegal custody and later on by dint of another order of detention bearing No. 96/DMB/PSA/2017 dated 07-09-2017, impugned herein, the respondent No.2, directed the lodgment of the detenu in District Jail, Kathua, Jammu. The detenu continues to be there at the moment. The order of detention was executed on 08th of September, 2017.

Night temp improves in Kashmir; day chill intensifies due to overcast conditions

SRINAGAR, JAN 31: The 40-day-long Chillai Kalan, the harshest period of winter, passed almost dry with less snowfall in Kashmir valley, where night temperature further improved and settled several degrees above freezing point due to overcast conditions. However, chill intensifies in the valley during the day as mercury dipped due to cloudy skies though settled slightly above normal. Chilai Kalan which commenced from December 21

last year ended without much snow or rain. However, it didn't mark the end of chill in the valley as this period is followed by 20-day long 'Chillai Khurd' and a 10-day-long 'Chilla Bachha', when valley witness more snow. A Met department spokesperson told UNI that light rain and snow would occur at isolated higher reaches in the state during the next 24 hours under the influence of a Western Disturbance (WD), which is active in the region. The border town of Kargil was the coldest place in the region at minus 15 degree, followed by Leh, where the mercury surged 5 degree from Tuesday and settled at minus 7.1 degree. He said skies will be generally cloudy during the next 24 hours in Leh, where maximum and minimum temperatures will around 5 degree and minus 11 degree, respectively. After witnessing further improvement in the night

FROM PAGE-1

Normal life...

a strike called by the local trader body. Tariq Ahmad Malik, a goldsmith, resident of village Kalarooze in Kupwara, was allegedly murdered by four goldsmiths with the motive to loot cash and jewellery from his shop on December 26 in Sopore. Malik's body was later thrown in river Jhelum. Police claimed to have solved the case and arrested four accused early this month in connection with the murder. Malik's body was on Tuesday fished out from Jhelum.

A youth injured...

called for strike on Sunday. The incident rocked Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly and Council, where opposition clashed with Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) members, who were justifying the firing on demonstrators.

The police has already registered a murder case against the Army unit while government has ordered a Magisterial probe into the firing incident. The Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, has been appointed inquiry officer and directed to submit report within 20 days. The DC has already started recording of statements from witness and others from yesterday.

The opposition and separatists have rejected the Magisterial inquiry and demanded arrest of Army personnel named in the FIR.

However, Defence authorities have refused to conduct Court of Inquiry (CoI) against the Army officer who was leading the unit when the incident took place.

Despite opposition by the BJP members and leaders, Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti refused to withdraw FIR and announced to take the case to its logical conclusion.

Meanwhile, after the news about the death of Rayees situation become very tense in Shopian, where life remained crippled for the sixth consecutive day yesterday.

Army files...

constitute any Court of Inquiry (CoI) against Major Aditya in connection with the killing of two youths in Sopian's Ganowpora village on Saturday. The incident occurred when the 10 Garhwal Rifles was being replaced by another unit. The Army had claimed that it opened fire in self-defence after its personnel were injured in stonepelling.

Since 2001, the State police have sought permission 51 times to prosecute army personnel but the Centre has denied permission in 47 cases and the request in three cases is still pending, the sources said.

Separatists call...

"Congregational Friday prayers will be jointly offered at the Jamia Masjid Shopian," Malik said. A youth, Rayees Ahmad Ganie, who was injured in Army firing during demonstrations on January 27 in Shopian, died at S K Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) here on Wednesday. Two other youths were killed and nine others, including Rayees, were injured, in the firing incident.

Meanwhile, a civilian was killed in security force firing near an encounter site on January 24 in Shopian, where two militants were gunned down by security forces.

Earthquake...

He said that the Latitude was 37.4 N and Longitude was 69.6 E, Depth: 190 Km. "Afghanistan-Tajikistan Border was an epicentre of the quake," he added.

Girders falls...

Reconstruction Agency (ERA) Director Kashmir Satish Razdan rejected rumours that the girder fell from the top of pillars due to earthquake. "A girder was being lifted by crane to be placed upon the pillars and it might be due to the earthquake that the crane got imbalanced and the girder fell on the crane," he said. "We are looking in to the matter," he added.

A moderate intensity earthquake rock Kashmir valley, including Srinagar, forcing people to rush out of their

homes in panic Wednesday afternoon.

According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the quake of 6.2 Magnitude on Richter Scale, having epicentre 35 km south of Jarm in Afghanistan, joined parts of Pakistan and north India at 1237 hrs.

Prevention of...

in existing laws like "Civil Rights Act 1995" and other penal provisions to deal with the subject," said the reply.

Several roads...

"It even snowed last night at Sadhna top, where eleven persons, including Border Roads Organisation (BRO) officer, were killed in the first week of this month in a avalanche," a PCR official told UNI from Kupwara.

He said Keran, Karnah and dozens of other border areas remained cut off from their district and tehsil headquarters due to fresh snowfall since Monday night.

Clashes erupts...

demonstrators, who were pelting stones. Rayees succumbed in the S K Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) in the wee hours today after battling since January 27 when he was hit by the bullet in the head. Earlier, two youth Javed Ahmad Bhat of Balpora and Suhail Javed Lone of Gawnpora were killed in the firing on Saturday.

Meanwhile, troops of 55 Rashtriya Rifles (RR), Special Operation Group (SOG) of Jammu and Kashmir police and 183 battalion CDRP launched a Cordoned and Search Operation (CASO) following a tip off about the presence of militants at Kareemabad in Pulwama district late Tuesday night. However, people took to streets and clashed with the security forces, who responded by firing teargas shells.

However, the CASO and clashes continued throughout the night and ended only at 0400 hrs this morning. No one was arrested, they said.

HC grants Scale...

pay scale), notionally with effect from 13.12.2016 and monetarily with effect from the date of this order. Syed Tasaduq Hussain Qadri (Secretary), after his placement in the Selection Grade of Secretaries in the pay scale of Rs.12000-16500 (pre-revised) [PB-3 15600-39100+GP 7600 (existing pay scale)], is further placed in the Special Scale of Secretaries in the pay scale of Rs.14300-18300 (pre-revised) [PB-4 37400-67000+GP 8700 (existing pay scale)], notionally with effect from 13.12.2016 and monetarily with effect from the date of this order. Durga Dass and Mohammad Yasin Beigh, Joint Registrars, are placed in the Special Scale of Bench Secretaries in the pay-scale of Rs.14300-18300 (pre-revised) [PB-4 67000+GP 8700 (existing pay scale)] notionally with effect from 28.04.2017 and monetarily with effect from the date of this order. Nazir Ahmad Mir (Bench Secretary), after his placement in the Selection Grade of Bench Secretaries in the pay scale of Rs. 12000-16500 (pre-revised) [PB-3 15600-39100+GP 7600 (existing pay scale)], is further placed in the Special Scale of Bench Secretaries in the pay-scale of Rs.14300-18300 (pre-revised) [PB-4 37400-67000+GP 8700 (existing pay scale)], notionally with effect from 28.04.2017 and monetarily with effect from the date of this order. Azad Ahmad Wani and Ghulam Mohammad Parry Joint Registrars, are placed in the Special Scale of Deputy Registrars in the pay scale of Rs.14300-18300 (pre-revised) [PB-4 37400-67000+GP 8700 (existing pay scale)], notionally with effect from 28.04.2017 and monetarily with effect from the date of this order.

Court awards...

rigorous imprisonment for 1 year and fine to the tune of Rs 2 lacs. Court further ordered that the fine shall be recoverable from his estate and on deposit shall be paid to complainant Jee Kaur.

JK Bank...

quarters" commented the Chairman and CEO Parvez Ahmad post declaration of results. "The bank has achieved an incremental credit growth of 16% in the first 09 months of the FY 17-18 which is predominantly retail

within the state and highly rated corporate/PSUs in rest of India. On YOY basis our credit portfolio has grown 28% from Rs 45086 Cr as on 31.12.2016 to Rs 57929 Cr as on 31.12.2017. The bank is improving lending to productive sectors within the state as we see a large base of credit demand which remains untapped. To make the credit dispensation hassle free we are simultaneously driving the push to sourcing of new retail loans to digital channels and during the quarter being reported 30% of our retail loans have been processed through digital channels", asserted the Chairman.

Delineating the business numbers for the 09 months period he said, "Deposits and advances stood at Rs73155 Cr and Rs 57929 Cr as on Dec 2017 against Rs 72463 Cr and Rs 49816 Cr as on March 2017. Aided by a better liability mix with CASA ratio of close to 50% the NIM(index of profitability) has improved by 58 basis points to 3.83% during the first nine months. The NIM for the 3rd quarter crossed the 4% mark and the cost of deposits moderated to below 3% level as on 31st December 2017. The NPA coverage ratio of the bank has improved to 69.51% from 61.73 % an year ago."

Lauding the support of the state government who is also the promoter of the bank Parvez Ahmed said, "We are being supported very well by the state government who has infused additional equity of Rs.532 crores to help the bank to meet the regulatory capital requirements. Also by Roll out of Chief Minister's Business Interest Relief Scheme for all the RBI approved re-structured accounts the state government is incentivizing the restructured account holders to repay the Bank's dues timely which shall have a salutary effect on the repayment in restructured accounts by the affected borrowers who will have to repay their 2/3rd part of interest to avail of the 1/3rd part as incentive from the government."

Fresh weather...

issued in districts of Poonch, Rajouri, Reasi, Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar, Udhampur in Jammu region, Anantnag, Kulgam in south, Budgam, Ganderbal in central Kashmir and Leh for the next 24 hours.

"The people living in higher reaches of these districts should avoid movement in the avalanche-prone areas or slopes for the next 24 hours," he added.

HC quash...

Justice MK Hanjura after hearing both the sides allowed the petition as a consequence of which, the order of detention bearing, No. 96/DMB/PSA/2017 dated 07-09-2017 passed by the respondent No.2 - District Magistrate, Baramulla, is quashed with a further direction to the respondents to release the person of Waseem Mehraj Farash S/O Mehraj-ud-din Farash R/O Khanpora, Baramulla, District Baramulla, Kashmir, forthwith from the preventive custody, unless required in any other case.

Night temp...

temperature, people in the summer capital, Srinagar, woke up to a cloudy and chilly Wednesday morning. Against minus 2.2 degree recorded on Tuesday, the night temperature at Srinagar was 3.5 degree, several degrees above normal. However, the chill during the day continued in the summer capital due to overcast conditions coupled with ice cold winds.

He said there is possibility of light rain or snow during the next 24 hours in Srinagar, where maximum and minimum temperatures will be around 7 degree and 2 degree, respectively.

World famous ski resort of Gulmarg, about 55 km from here in north Kashmir, received fresh snowfall late last night, resulting in further improvement in the night temperature. Against minus 4.6 degree recorded on Tuesday, the night temperature at the ski resort was minus 3.6 degree, about 4 degree above normal.

However, the night temperature at world famous health resort of Pahalgam, about 100 km from here in south Kashmir, dipped about 3 degree from Tuesday and settled at minus 2.5 degree.

The mercury at Qazigund, gateway to the valley, tourist resort of Kulkernag improved and settled at 2 degree and 2.8 degree, respectively.

HELPLINE

Table with multiple columns listing various services and their contact numbers. Includes sections for Police Stations, Public Utility Services, Indian Air Lines, Railways, Public Health Engineering Stations, Telecomunication Department, Fire Services, and Hospitals.

RAILWAY TIMINGS table with columns for Train, Train No., Arrival, Day, and Departure. Lists various train routes and their schedules.

Table with AIRLINES TIMINGS section, listing Indian Airlines flights (IC-821, IC-822, IC-0450) and Jet Airways flight timings for Delhi and Jammu routes.

RAILWAY ENQUIRY table with contact information for Railway Enquiry, Booking, and Reservation services.

Bombay Engineer Group & Centre reunion 2018

JAMMU, JAN 31: The Bombay Sappers celebrated its Reunion 2018 wef 28 to 31 January 2018 at Bombay Engineer Group & Centre, Kirkee. The Reunion, which is organised every four years, coincided with the 198th Group Day, thus completing 198 glorious years of valour and excellence of the Bombay Sappers. Reunion 2018 also provided an opportunity to all serving ranks of Bombay Sappers to interact with the veterans and share their experiences.

Since inception, The Bombay Sappers have not only proven their prowess in battle, but have also utilised their engineering knowledge in nation building. Construction of Foot Over Bridges (FOBs) at Mumbai by the Centre in challenging conditions are testimony to this.

Reunion was held with traditional fervour with various events to include Cross Country Championship, Regimental Get-together, Commemoration Parade, Para Motor display & Para Jump and Special Sainik Sammelan by Lieutenant General D Anbu, Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, Ati Vishist Seva Medal, Yudh Seva Medal, Sena Medal, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, Colonel of the SIKHLI Regiment & Honorary Colonel Commandant of the Bombay Sappers. An AWWA Mela was also organised to showcase various endeavours being undertaken towards welfare of families of all ranks of Bombay Sappers.

Lieutenant General D Anbu, Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, Ati Vishist Seva Medal, Yudh Seva Medal, Sena Medal, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, Colonel of the SIKHLI Regiment & Honorary Colonel Commandant of the Bombay Sappers addressed the troops during the Special Sainik Sammelan on 31 January 2018. The Colonel Commandant's Banner was presented to 110 Engineer Regiment for being adjudged as the best Regiment of the Bombay Sappers for the year 2016-17. General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command also awarded on the spot memento cards to five Bombay Sappers individuals for outstanding contribution.

The most significant event of the celebrations was the Ceremonial Parade on 31 January 2018 which was organised to pay tribute to The Bombay Sappers war heroes and martyrs. The impressive Parade was reviewed by Lieutenant General D Anbu, Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, Ati Vishist Seva Medal, Yudh Seva Medal, Sena Medal, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, Colonel of the SIKHLI Regiment & Honorary Colonel Commandant of the Bombay Sappers. Personnel attended by about 1000 veterans & serving personnel.

Army conducts 'National Cleanliness Day' at Keri & Shahpur

JAMMU, JAN. 31: As part of the national drive of 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan', Indian Army celebrated the 'National Cleanliness Day' at a number of places in the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri.

As part of the campaign the troops undertook cleanliness drive in and around the deployment areas thereby exhibiting a sense of social responsibility towards the area and setting an example for the local population. In addition, a lecture on "National Cleanliness Day" was also organised at Government Model School Shahpur to educate the children about the initiatives taken by Government of India as part of 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan'. The gathering expressed their sincere appreciation to the Army for its efforts in promoting cleanliness and maintaining peace and tranquility in the region.

Army organised Medical camp for students at Madrasa, Ramban

JAMMU, JAN 31: The Army organised a Medical camp for students of Madrasa at Ramban today. The Medical camp was aimed to provide medical relief to students residing and studying at the Madrasa.

A total of 161 patients were provided medical care. The Medical camp was led by team of doctors from Army. Medical cover included screening of patients, medical treatment and distribution of free medicines. The locals expressed the heartfelt appreciation towards the Army for its efforts and assistance in providing medical relief.

Police public meeting held at Police Station Safa Kadal

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 31: Under the supervision of SDPO M.R. Gunj, SHO Safa Kadal Shri Mohd Rafiq held a PCPG meeting with the inhabitants of Bagwanpora Noorbagh at Police Station Safa Kadal. Various public tranquility related issues were discussed thereunder which included law and order incidents which occurred recently in their habitation, counselling of deviant children, public nuisances, food adulteration, polythene drive run by Police and civil administration and other allied issues. Participants were informed about the public friendly initiatives by Police. It was commonly held that the peace is imperative for all developmental works including education of children and all youths. Meeting ended with a positive note with the vote of thanks by both the sides.

Police Public meeting held at Police Station Rainawari

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 31: On the directions of senior police officers, a PCPG (Police Community Partnership Group) meeting was held at Police Station Rainawari, Srinagar. The meeting was chaired by SHO Rainawari inspector Shri G P Singh and was attended by large number of respectable citizens including Mohalla Committee members, religious clerics & other members of civil society.

The participants highlighted various issues of public importance and other issues relevant to police & civil administration. Participants assured their full support & cooperation in fighting against the social crimes. Referring to the issues highlighted by the participants, SHO Rainawari assured them that issues pertaining to Police will be solved in shortest possible time and the rest will be taken up with the civil administration for their redressal on priority.

Strong Organizational Setup and Presence on the Ground Core Strength of BJP: Vibodh

VIBODH ADDRESSES POLLING BOOTH WORKERS MEET AT PATRARA RAJOURI

RAJOURI, JAN. 31: BJP senior party leader and MLC Vibodh Gupta today addressed the polling booth workers meet at Patrara Rajouri and called upon all the participants to work with more dedication and determination to ensure strong base for the party. This very specific gathering was organized for the BJP Manjakote Mandal. In this meeting various polling booth workers and senior party leaders participated. In his address Vibodh said that strengthening booth level management is key to winning elections. He also asked the booth level workers to ensure that local issues of the common man are addressed on priority. While referring to the ongoing tension in the border

area, he appreciated the patriotic locals of the area and said that besides facing so many problems these locals never fall prey to the evil designs of the enemy. He termed the polling booth workers of the part as very strong pillars on which BJP stands and said that a strong party means a strong nation. He further informed that today our state as well as our nation is marching towards the path of growth and development only because of the fact that booth level workers across the nation are working hard. This he said is ensuring that by every passing day our Government under the dynamic leadership of PM Modi is becoming stronger and stronger. Giving details about various historic decisions taken by



PM Modi, Vibodh said that present Government is taking strong and sustainable decisions in favour of the country only because of the fact that country is being led by a strong leader like

Modi. On this occasion many prominent leaders and workers from congress including Mohd. Dawood, Mohd. Irshad, Mohd. Arif, Mohd. Azeem, Mohd. Ramzan, Mohd. Naseem,

Shamsheer Ahmed, Karamat, Khaliq Hussain, Mohd. Yunis and Khalid Hussain joined the BJP. Meanwhile another polling booth workers Samedan was

organized at Thanamandi and was addressed by BJP district president Dinesh Sharma and Former Chairman of Rajouri Municipality Rajinder Gupta. In this meeting, 200 workers from 30 polling booths participated. In his address Dinesh Sharma called upon the young party workers to do out reach programmes to ensure that more and more people understand the work and ideology of BJP. In his address Rajinder Gupta stressed on the need to inform the common masses about the remarkable progress that our country is making under the dynamic leadership of PM Modi. Prominent among others who were present on the occasion included Mohd. Azam, Kamal Bakshi, Talib Mir, Boddh Raj and Sanjay Dutt.

NSF condemns open plundering of varsity exchequer Condition of roads deplorable but JU buying luxurious vehicles: Naik

JAMMU, JAN. 31: Strongly criticizing the extravagant expenditure made by Jammu University (JU) Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ranjit Datta Sharma, the National Secular Forum (NSF) has urged the varsity administration to pay some attention to the basic issues on the campus including deplorable conditions of the roads.

Addressing a press conference here, NSF leader Ishaiq Naik said, "Within one year, the Vice Chancellor has ordered purchase of four new vehicles, including two luxury ones, which is highly objectionable. University is buying big fleet of vehicles for its officials but still the authorities are going for purchase of more vehicles hence adding burden on the varsity exchequer



which is otherwise meant for the progress of academics and research." "The condition of roads in campus is highly deplorable as several trenches have been formed on roads which indicate that poor quality of material was used to repair the

roads. There have been many accidents wherein students on bike have slipped due to bad condition of the roads but luckily they survived. But the mishap can occur anytime," he added. Ishaiq Naik further said that the Vice Chancellor had least

concern for the basic issues on the campus and instead focusing only on his comfort and luxury which is evident from the fact that he ordered purchase of the top model of luxurious Innova Vehicle costing nearly Rs 25 lakhs. "He had no specific requirement for the vehicle as already 'A' class vehicles were lined up for his use but still he thought it better to go for purchase of new vehicle for show off at the cost of public exchequer," he claimed.

Ford Freestyle: The All-New Compact Utility Vehicle from Ford Debuts in India

JAMMU, JAN. 31: Ford today unveiled its latest global production offering - The All-New Ford Freestyle, a cool, capable & connected, compact utility vehicle (CUV) for Indian consumers. The all-new product from Ford combines SUV-like robust design, benchmark performance, innovative technologies and outstanding fuel efficiency - for greater choice to consumers in India and markets around the world. India will be amongst the first across the globe where the all-new Freestyle will go on sale in the second quarter of 2018. "The global unveil of the Ford Freestyle strengthens Ford's continued commitment to India to bring products that consumers want and value," said Anurag Mehrotra, president and managing director, Ford India. "With the cool, capable and connected Ford Freestyle, we are adding yet another great product to our diverse portfolio that will help us expand our family of happy

Ford owners in India." The all-new Freestyle will position Ford to address growing consumers demand for SUV-like vehicles. Such vehicles are being preferred owing to their commanding seating position & better ground clearance to tackle congested urban environment. Compact SUVs alone, a segment that Ford pioneered with the EcoSport, have consistently outpaced overall automotive sales in India, growing more than three-fold between 2013 and 2016. In 2017 alone, compact SUV sales in India grew 37% compared to 9% in total vehicle sales. "Just like we did with the EcoSport, we see a lot of potential in offering this compact utility vehicle to meet the SUV owning aspirations of first-time buyers or young achievers who are looking to upgrade their small cars," Mehrotra added. Free-Spirited: The all-new Ford Freestyle embodies the aspira-

21st GB meeting of SMVDCoN

Finalises arrangements for organising Nursing Fest "Tarang-2018"

JAMMU, JANUARY 31: The 21st meeting of the Governing Body of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing (SMVDCoN), Kakryal, was held here and took several important decisions for developing this College as a top ranking institution in the field of nursing education.

The Governing Body, interalia, finalised the arrangements for organising a 2-day Inter-College Competition - Nursing Fest - titled "Tarang-2018" by the SMVDCoN in which various Nursing Colleges of the State are participating. The events comprising debate, quiz, poster making competition, sports and cultural programmes are scheduled to be held on 23 and 24 March 2018. The inaugural function and other events on the first day of the Nursing Fest will be held at the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University. The events scheduled for second day will be organised at the Shrine Board's Sports Complex, while the valedictory function of the "Tarang-2018" will be held at the Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra.

The Governing Body also took stock of the requirement of infrastructure and other logistics for the 3rd Batch of the students of the college which will commence from the forthcoming academic session. It also discussed and finalised the entrance examination schedule and other matters related to the admission of students for 2018-19 session.

tions of free-spirited buyers who are uninhibited and love to live life to the fullest. These consumers aren't afraid to take their chances and are driven by passion. Their motto in life is to 'Do Everything, & Regret Nothing'. "Freestyle is more than just an expression. This powerful word immediately encourages you to push the boundaries and do more, just like the product," said Rahul Gautam, vice president for Marketing at Ford India, said. Cool & Compact: Featuring a striking-look, and a commanding stance, the Ford Freestyle uses design elements common to more expensive mini SUVs. And it all begins with a unique grille with a dynamic, three-dimensional mesh. Sweeping, straight lines moving from front to the rear give the Ford Freestyle robust, muscular, & SUV looks. The front bumper of the vehicle has an integrated skid plate and sculpted fascia

sections, that create a protective full-width beam element, accentuating Freestyle's SUV looks and credentials. The sculpted rear fascia conveys Freestyle's athletic stance while precision detailing in the tail lamps ensure every colour is noticed distinctly. The blacked-out high contrast headlamps in Freestyle, complemented by fog lamp bezel, create an assertive and commanding expression. While an inclined windshield gives the vehicle a sleek, fast profile that communicates a high-end image. Capable & Safe: The Freestyle will come paired with Ford's all-new, three-cylinder 1.2L TiVCT petrol engine that is small, light, strong and delivers outstanding fuel efficiency. The naturally aspirated engine will generate best-in-class 96 PS of peak power and 120 Nm of torque to deliver Ford's fun-to-drive DNA. Consumers will continue to have

a choice to opt for Ford's trusted 1.5L TiDCI diesel engine that generates class-leading 100 PS peak power and 215 Nm of torque. Freestyle will deliver sportier performance in all driving conditions and will feature a uniquely tuned suspension with increased track-width, high ground clearance, TCS, ABS with EBD and uniquely tuned EPAS among others.

The Freestyle will continue Ford's leadership on Safety, offering up to six airbags. With the introduction of Active Rollover Prevention (ARF), Freestyle is designed to perform safely in extreme situations, without compromising on the fun-to-drive elements. Combined with Electronic Stability Control, the ARF system will be able to automatically detect potential rollover situations by applying brakes to individual tyres and decrease engine torque.

BJP pays floral tributes to 1953 Martyrs

JAMMU, JAN. 31: Deputy Chief Minister Dr. Nirmal Singh along with Kisan Welfare Advisory Board Vice Chairman Daljit Singh Chib, MLA Rajeev Sharma, MLC Ch. Vikram Randhawa, MLC S. Charanjit Singh Khalsa and other local senior BJP leaders paid floral tributes to the Martyrs of 1953 Praja Parishad Andolan for "Ek Vidhan, Ek Nishan, Ek Pradhan" in a programme at Jaurian.

Dr. Nirmal Singh while paying tributes, said that every Nation becomes great due to the sacrifices by great men and ours is a proud land where we have rich history struggles for the better society. He said that our soldiers, members of Para-military forces, policemen and civilians lay down their lives for the cause of



the nation, thereby creating legacy of Patriotism. While paying tributes to the Martyrs Wariam Singh, Baldev Singh, Sai Singh, Trilok Singh, Basant Ram, Nanak Chand and Mela Ram. Deputy Chief Minister said that the sacrifices of these martyrs will be remembered forever. He also appealed to the masses to pass on the history of these heroes to the future generations to imbibe the

spirit of patriotism among them. He also paid tributes to the CEC, LAHDC, Leh, Dr. Sonam Dawa who passed away in Leh on the other day. Earlier, the Kissan Mela due to be held here was postponed due to the untimely death of Dr. Sonam Dawa.

Daljit Singh Chib said that while the country became independent in 1947 but citizens of our state did not enjoy the same freedom like other states. He said that today we feel pride of living in a democratic setup but credit for the same goes to these martyrs. Vikram Randhawa said that these martyrs laid down their lives for complete integration of the state with the rest of country. He said that the real tributes to the dreams of these great patriots. Charanjit Singh Khalsa asked all to take pledge to always keep the National spirit high in the region. He prompted all to work wholeheartedly for the Nation and the society.

MLCs Vikram Randhawa and Charanjit Singh Khalsa announced Rs.10 Lacs each from their CDF for the construction of community hall at Shaheedee Smarak, Jaurian.

Dr. Gautam Sharma Elected President of Indian Dental Association (IDA)

JAMMU, JAN. 31: Dr. Gautam Sharma has again been elected unopposed as President of Indian Dental Association (IDA) in the executive body meeting held at Jammu. He is also the dental surgeon of the University of Jammu. Dr. Gautam has worked on various posts of IDA which includes assistant secretary, joint secretary and the secretary. He also received the award of Excellence in Dentistry two years back during his tenure as President of IDA.

Dr. Bhupinder Singh was elected as Secretary, Dr. Nipun Gupta as Vice-President and Dr. Ayush Sharma as Convener CDE in these elections. Executive members of IDA also include Dr. Vasi Khajuria, Joint Secretary and Dr. Vibha Raina, Treasurer. Dr. Bhupinder Singh while addressing the gathering congratulated Dr. Gautam Sharma and appreciated the role of Dr. Rajiv Mengt in conducting the National Dental Conference at Jammu in December last year. He also said that the vast experience of Dr. Gautam Sharma will be helpful in building IDA a strong body. Dr. Gautam has recently attended the international events which include FDI and World Dental Show.

Dr. Bhupinder Singh and Dr. Ayush Sharma are also the members of J&K State Dental Council.

All Kasganj houses are AK 47, claims BJP MLA as govt probes if incident was 'pre-planned'

NEW DELHI: BJP MLA Raja Singh on Wednesday asked the authorities to check every house in strife-torn Kasganj claiming that AK 47 will be found in each of them.

"You live in India and Tiranga invokes a feeling of 'Pakistan Zindabad' in you, it means anti-nationals have increased. To prevent incidents from happening again, Yogi ji must take action. I request the area should be checked, you'll find AK 47 in all the houses," BJP MLA from Hyderabad's Goshamahall constituency said, as per ANI.

Meanwhile, the prime accused in the murder of Chandan Gupta in Kasganj was arrested on Wednesday. "Saleem, the



main accused, has been nabbed," IG, Aligarh range, Sanjeev Gupta said. Aged below 30, Saleem, and his two brothers, Naseem and Waseem, were accused of killing 22-year-old college student, police officials said. The killing had led to further violence last week.

At least three shops, two buses and a car were torched after Gupta died of gunshot wounds.

Piyush Srivastava said notices pertaining to attachment of properties of the accused were pasted outside their houses.

On the other hand, the UP government has sent a report to the Union Home Ministry on the violence and steps taken to control it.

The state government's report contains details about the arrests made by the UP Police and circumstances leading to the death of Chandan Gupta, an official said in New Delhi, PTI reported.

The state government has conveyed that the police were investigating the case and all facts were being ascertained to know if the violence was pre-planned, he added.

Did BJP check the bill when Rahul Gandhi bought 'Rs 70,000 jacket', asks Sidhu

Amid the war of words between the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over a jacket that Rahul Gandhi wore during an event in Meghalaya, the latest to come to the defence of the Gandhi scion is Navjot Singh Sidhu.

The Congress leader defended his party chief saying he has "never seen a man like Rahul bhai who lives such a simple life while sitting on such important post". Sidhu, who was earlier a member of the BJP, also asked if the critics of Rahul saw the bill when he was buying the jacket.

"Did they go to see the bill when Rahul Gandhi was buying the jacket? How do they know?" asked Sidhu. "I have never



seen a man like Rahul bhai who lives such a simple life while sitting on such important post," he added.

This came after the Congress party laughed off the allegations of the BJP that Rahul Gandhi wore a jacket worth Rs 70,000. Senior Congress leader Renuka Chowdhury said that similar jackets could be found for Rs 700 too. "I can show you the same jacket for Rs 700," she said.

It was alleged by the Meghalaya BJP that the jacket Rahul Gandhi wore was worth Rs 70,000. Taking to microblogging site Twitter, the Meghalaya BJP posted, "So @OfficeORIG, soot(pun intended)-boot ki sarkar with 'black' money fleeced from Meghalayan State exche-

quer by rampant corruption? Instead of singing away our woes, you could have given a report card of your inefficient govt in Meghalaya! Your indifference mocks us!"

The jacket is believed to be a two-in-one down puffer jacket from Burberry, which is a British luxury fashion brand. On the Bloomingdale website, the cost of the jacket was listed as Rs 68,145.

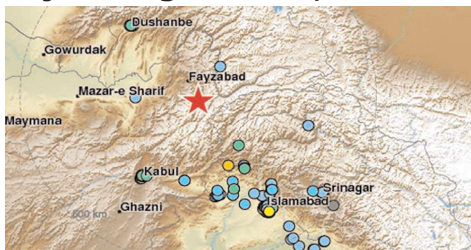
BJP's "soot-boot" reference was in retaliation to an earlier jibe by Rahul Gandhi on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Referring to a monogrammed suit that PM Modi wore during a meeting with the then US president Barack Obama in 2015, the Gandhi scion had said that the NDA government was a "suit-boot ki Sarkar".

Tremors felt in Delhi-NCR after 6.2 magnitude earthquake jolts Afghanistan, 1 dead in Pakistan

NEW DELHI: Northern and several parts of Delhi India experienced strong tremors on Wednesday after an earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter Scale struck on the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border.

The tremors were felt around 12.42 pm in the Delhi-NCR region. Strong tremors were also felt in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, covering a vast stretch of North India. The tremors triggered panic in the national capital forcing people to evacuate residential buildings and office complexes. However, no loss of life or any damage to property has been reported from Delhi and the adjoining areas due to the earthquake.

According to initial reports, the intensity of the earthquake was measured 6.8 on the Richter Scale. The epicentre of



the earthquake is believed to be very close to Jarm in Afghanistan.

"Tremors felt in parts of north India following a 6.2M earthquake on Afghanistan-Kazakhstan border," the IMD said. However, the US Geological Survey said, "The earthquake, said to be 6.1 on the Richter scale, struck at a depth of 178-km in the Hindu Kush region of Afghanistan, in Badakshan province."

An earthquake of magnitude 6.1 occurred in Afghanistan's Hindu Kush region 14 minutes ago: EMSC (European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre) had initially claimed.

Strong aftershock and tremors were felt in parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

EMSC said that the earthquake was potentially felt by 270 million inhabitants.

Social media posts indicate significant damage has been caused by the earthquake in

Pakistan and areas adjoining the Hindu Kush region.

According to Pakistan's Geo TV, a minor girl was reportedly killed and nine injured as the roof of a house collapsed in Bela town of Lasbela. A school building collapsed in Pakistan's Balochistan province following the earthquake. There were reports of tremors in various towns of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Islamabad, besides Afghanistan and India.

In Pakistan, government buildings, including the Supreme Court and Parliament, were also evacuated as the tremors struck.

Meanwhile, several users from India and Pakistan took to Twitter to spread the news and shared pictures of evacuation in their respective areas seconds after the tremors were felt.

Embarrassment for Adityanath govt: UP minister claims corruption has increased

BALLIA: The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh was left red-faced as one of its cabinet ministers, Om Prakash Rajbhar, claimed that corruption had increased under the present dispensation. A BJP spokesperson, however, rubbished the minister's claim as an attempt to "garner cheap publicity" adding that if Rajbhar had any grievances, he should air them at an appropriate forum.

"There is more corruption prevailing under the BJP regime as compared to the previous SP and the BSP regimes. Though I am a part of this government, this is not my government... We have an alliance with the BJP," Rajbhar said.

Rajbhar, who leads BJP ally Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP), also said that his party was not getting the due respect under the present government. "I have talked to the chief minister on these issues," he said.

Asked whether his party would contest the 2019 Lok Sabha polls with the BJP, Rajbhar said it depended on the saffron party.

"It depends on the BJP whether it wants an alliance with us or not. Like local body polls, if the BJP does not forge an alliance with us,

we will contest the Lok Sabha polls alone," he said.

On the violence in Kasganj, Rajbhar said the incident was unfortunate and claimed some officers were defaming the government.

Reacting to the charges of corruption levelled by Rajbhar, state BJP spokesperson Rakesh Tripathi said that it was not the tradition of his party to break pre-poll alliances.

"The statement by Om Prakash Rajbhar, who is a Cabinet minister in the Yogi Adityanath government, is simply to garner some cheap publicity," Tripathi said.

Rajbhar is a responsible minister and if he has some grievances with the government, then he should air them at an appropriate forum, and not publicly declare them, he said. "It seems that he is behaving as an Opposition leader. And, if he has some serious problems with the BJP, then he can leave the government," Tripathi said.

The SBSP, which has four MLAs in the 403-member UP Assembly, had contested the Uttar Pradesh civic polls separately. It had even contested a few seats in the Gujarat Assembly elections on its own, asserting that its alliance with the BJP was not at the national level.

Masked man points gun at child, loots couple at ATM in Indore



BHOPAL: A masked man in Indore looted money from a couple after holding their child at gunpoint.

The incident took place on December 24 at around 8:30 pm in an ATM of Punjab National Bank.

The masked man is seen pointing his gun to towards the man, who then hands over a sum of money to him from his wallet. Following this, the masked man pointed his gun at the kid who was standing with his mother. The man was then seen withdrawing cash from the ATM and giving it away to the masked man.

Karanj launched in Mumbai: 10 things you must know about the Scorpene-class submarine

Karanj, the third Scorpene class submarine constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited for the Indian Navy, was launched on Wednesday. Along with traditional ceremonies, Sanskrit shlokas were recited from the Atharva Veda at the launch.

This historic event is a step ahead in the ongoing 'Make In India' programme which is being actively implemented by the Department of Defence Production (MoD).

The submarine was towed to Mumbai Port Trust, for separation from the pontoon. Karanj will now undergo rigorous trials and tests, both in harbour and at sea before it is commissioned into the Navy.

Here are 10 things you must know about the Scorpene-class submarine:

The launch of Karanj marks a significant departure from the manning and training philosophy that was adopted for the first two submarines.

Admiral Sunil Lanba said from third submarine onwards the Navy would be fully self reliant in training and certification processes.

The state-of-the-art technology used for the construction of the Scorpene class submarines has ensured superior stealth features such as advanced



acoustic silencing techniques, low radiated noise levels, hydro-dynamically optimized shape.

It also has the ability to launch a crippling attack on the enemy using precision-guided weapons.

Scorpene submarines can undertake multifarious types of missions i.e. Anti-Surface warfare, Anti-Submarine warfare, intelligence gathering, mine laying, area surveillance etc.

The submarine is designed to operate in all theatres, with means provided to ensure interoperability with other components of a Naval Task Force

The indigenous Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) will not be incorporated in vessels five and six as originally planned but retrofitted on all six boats at a later stage. AIP is a fuel cell that replaces diesel in the conventional submarines.

The old Karanj had served the nation for 34 years from 1969 to 2003 including participation in 1971 war.

The first Scorpene class submarine INS Kalvari, was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 14 December 2017.

Khanderi, the second Scorpene class submarine was commissioned in January 2017, and is currently undergoing the rigorous phase of sea trials.

India's foreign policy is vibrant, assertive under Modi government: Chinese think tank

BEIJING: India's foreign policy has become vibrant and assertive under the Modi government with its risk-taking ability also on the rise, according to a top official of a prominent state-run Chinese think-tank.

Rong Ying, Vice President of China Institute of International Studies (CIS), a think-tank affiliated to Chinese Foreign Ministry, said over the past three years, India's diplomacy has been vibrant and assertive, and has formed a distinctive and unique 'Modi Doctrine', a strategy for the rise of India as a great power in the new situation.

In an article in the CIS journal, the first of its kind by a Chinese think tank on the Modi government so far, Rong, who also served as a diplomat in India, took a critical look at India's relations



with China, South and South East Asia, India's closer relations with US and Japan, saying Indian foreign policy under him has become increasingly assertive while offering mutual benefits.

On India-China ties, Rong said since Modi took office, the development of overall relations between the two countries has maintained 'steady momentum'.

"The Dong Lang (Doklam) incident taking place at the Sikkim section of the China-India borders has not only highlighted the border issue, but also for a time seemed to imperil the overall relationship between the two countries," he said.

Rong, also a senior research fellow at the CIS, said India and China should stick to the strategic consensus of mutual support for each other's development.

norm. This is the status quo of China-India relations, which cannot be evaded," he said.

"We must implement the strategic consensus of the two leaders," he said, adding that China is not a "hurdle" for India's development but a major opportunity for India.

"It will not and cannot stop the rise of India. The biggest obstacle to India's development is India itself," he said.

For India, India is an important neighbour and a great emerging country, an important partner in promoting the reform of the international system.

"India's huge market potential will bring about opportunities for the successful transformation of China's economy, especially for Chinese enterprises going global," he said.

He said from the 'Gujral Doctrine' to the peaceful diplomacy between India and Pakistan proposed by former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, all previous Indian governments have regarded the South Asian region as their diplomatic priority.

"After his election, Modi invited leaders of all neighbouring countries in South Asia for his swearing-in, close to visit Bhutan, the smallest country in the region, highlighting his policy of giving priority to the development of relations with neighbouring countries," Rong said. The concept and practice of the 'Modi Doctrine' reflected in South Asia diplomacy, when compared to previous administrations, has highlighted both its own authority as well as the benefits it can provide to its neighbours, and is more concerned about its dominance in South Asia, he said.

While continuing to provide massive assistance to neighbours, the Modi government paid more attention to its control over them, he said alleging that India imposed an economic blockade on Nepal on the constitutional issues relating to Madhes.

"In order to exert pressure on Pakistan, the Modi government was not averse to crossing the border to attack the base of the anti-Indian organisation in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir," he said.

Rong said Modi's strong and decisive governing style and pragmatic governance philosophy paid special attention to delivery of projects committed by India in the neighbourhood.

Also "under the influence of Modi's governing style, the risk-taking and practicability of India's diplomacy are also on the rise, he said, pointing to Indian troops crossing the Myanmar border to destroy rebel bases.

"In 2016, India risked a conflict with Pakistan and crossed the border to attack a militant camp in PoK, at one point causing great anxiety both at home and abroad," he said and criticised India's policy towards Pakistan saying the confrontation will consume India's energy and diplomatic resources and create new problems for India in South Asia.

Legislators kick start roads up gradation works



REASI, JANUARY 31: Member Legislative Assembly Gool-Arnas, Ajaz Ahmed Khan and Gulab-Garh Haji Mumtaz Ahmed Khan today kick started up-gradation works on three major link roads in Chinkah, Thakrakote, Baldano and Kakra area. Later, the legislators also kick started black topping of Arnas Thakrakote Road from 3rd to 9th Kilometer to be completed at an estimated cost of 1.82 crore under state sector and 02km road from Chinkah to Baldano which would be completed at an estimated cost of Rs 7 lakh under District Plan. Up-gradation work of 14-kilometer Chinkah to Kakra road at an estimated cost of Rs 1.92 lakh under NABARD was also launched which would provide smooth road connectivity in remote area of Tehsil Thakrakote. Later, the MLAs visited High School Chinkah and started the requisite work on school playground. Speaking on the occasion, Ajaz Ahmed Khan said that various other road works in the area will also be taken up at vigorous pace for massive development in the area. Among other present included, TehsilDor Thakrakote, BDO Thakrakote, XEN PMGSY, AEs from Irrigation, PHE, PDD, PWD and PMGSY.

"FIR on Army abominable", BJP running with hare and hunting with the hound: Harsh

JAMMU, JAN. 31: Accusing the BJP of double standards over yet another issue of J&K Police filing FIR against the Indian Army in Kashmir, Harsh Dev Singh Chairman JKNPP and former Minister lambasted the Saffron brigade for colluding with PDP in initiating legal action against the Armed forces on one hand and pressing upon its second line leaders to protest against the move on the other. He rebuked the BJP for surrendering once again over its tall slogans of '56 inches chest of PM Modi', 'Zero tolerance against terror', etc merely for keeping its alliance intact with its Kashmir centric partner and the separatists in good humour. He was addressing a press conference in Jammu today. Addressing the media, Harsh Dev Singh said that the ominous coalition had been appeasing the communal separatists and the stone pelters who were overtly assaulting and manhandling the security personnel in Kashmir. He lamented that during the bizarre era of last three years, the revered Indian Soldiers were consistently heckled, stoned, jeered, humiliated and even slapped which had never happened before. He said that the Indian Army had relentlessly protected our sovereignty and integrity but their victimization at the hands of anti-national elements in full public view had raised the question mark on the credibility of the BJP and its kernel philosophy of nationalism. Referring to the Shopian episode a couple of days ago, he divulged that the mob comprising hundreds of maniacal saboteurs pelted stones on the convoy of 10 Garwal unit and tried to snatch a weapon of a JCO with the intention to lynch him. The Army exhibited an exemplary courage of exercising maximum restraint, while countering the stone pelters but when the subversives crossed all the limits and posed a threat to the life of a soldier, it had no other

PSS holds one day Punjabi Writers' Conference

JAMMU, JAN. 31: J&K Punjabi Sahit Sangam (Regd.), Jammu conducted one day Punjabi Writers' Conference at Digiana Ashram, Jammu where Prof. Hardev Singh was the chief guest and Dr. Pritam Singh was the special guest. S. Amar Singh Kuka, a Punjabi Ghazal writer presented the requisite work on school playground. Speaking on the occasion, Missrs. Rajpaul Singh Mastana, President, J&K Punjabi Sahit Sangam, Hardeep Singh Deep, Suraj Rattan, Balwinder Singh, Harjit Singh Nagra, Ramesh Rahi and Ichhupal Singh. Welcoming the guests Rajpaul Singh Mastana said that Punjabi Sahit Sangam was registered during 1999 and has rendered its services in promoting Punjabi language and enriched the literary treasure of the language. He said that the objectives of the organization are being fulfilled by organizing literary and cultural events like literary meetings, books publications and book release functions etc. Remembering various Punjabi writers of the state he paid rich tributes to Sapan Mala, O P Sharma Saarthi, Vijay Suman Sosan, Tilak Raj Tilak, Avtar Singh Chandan, Raghubir Singh Mugadhi, Kripal Singh Kasali, Jagvir Singh Mehak and Ujjagar Singh Mastana who had contributed in the field of Punjabi literature in their own way. Two short stories were presented by Ichhupal Singh (Dubbi Agg) and Hardeep Singh Deep (Miyaan Da Khooh). An



interactive discussion was made on both the short stories. Later a Kavi Durbar was held where S. Harjit Singh Nagra, Hardeep Singh Deep, Ramesh Rahi, Rajpaul Singh Mastana, Suraj Rattan, Balwinder Singh and Amar Kuka presented their creations of Punjabi poetry reflecting on various issues and the prevailing situation at political, social, economical and religious basis. Special Guest Dr. Pritam Singh said that it's the biggest achievement of the organization that it's honouring the best poets, singers, theatre people and visual artists etc. from time to time. Prof. Hardev Singh in his address appreciated the efforts of Punjabi Sahit Sangam in promoting and preserving the treasure of Punjabi literature in the state. He said that the organization has always come forward to present various literary activities. He also appreciated the dedication of its members who are invariably contributing for the development of the literature, language and the organization as well. In his presidential address S. Amar Singh Kuka praised S. Rajpaul Singh Mastana to provide him the opportunity to preside over the function. He appreciated his extending of tributes to the departed literary personalities. He said that the contributors in any field should be remembered from time to time to acquaint the old generation to the coming generations as a source of motivation with passing of resolutions for the better functioning of the organization.



novel idea not only rescued the group of security officials but also saved lives of several civilians from the mob of stone pelters. Expressing deep shock over the way the officer was treated by the BJP-PDP, Singh regretted that the State government despicably registered FIR against the brave-heart of 53 RR and his associates u/s 342, 149, 506, 367 of the RPC which had brought disgrace to all Indians. Even the most logical and convincing explanation given by the Army officer for using the ring leader of stone pelters as human shield went unheard, Singh said while the BJP partnered government announced to proceed with the investigations and trial of the national hero, Harsh rued. Anguished over the pusillanimous surrenders of BJP before its coalition partner for the crumbs of power, he said that the State govt. announcing Rehabilitation policy for the surrendered militants with big fan fare in Kashmir while inflicting humiliation to our soldiers was obnoxious and abominable. He said that there was a complete dichotomy between BJP's jingoistic slogans and actions which had drawn nationwide criticism and condemnation from the masses. Taking a jibe on Saffron party's dual character, Singh said while the BJP had been a partner in crime with the

PDP in slapping FIRs on the Armed forces, it shamefully pressed upon its junior leaders to oppose the move in a bid to enjoy the power under their cover as well as hoodwink the people at large. Demanding immediate withdrawal of all frivolous FIRs filed against the Army, Singh said that BJP was running with the hare and hunting with the hound while playing with the morale of the soldiers. He asked Saffron party to seek unconditional apology from Armed forces for bringing disgrace to them besides 130 crore Indians. Gagan Pratap Singh State Secretary JKNPP was also present in the press conference.

Dogra Front & Shiv Sena protest against Nasir ul Islam the mid it by burning his effigies

JAMMU, JAN. 31: The Indian army which is fighting on the borders and inside the Kashmir to protect us, FIR is being filed against them. Nasir ul Islam (Deputy Grand Mufti Kashmir) is openly demanding for Pakistan in India urging Muslims to demand a separate country. Nasir ul Islam is a Muslim preacher and is this the kind of message he conveys to the children's and the adolescents in Muslim community. Mr Gupta stated that is the kind of religious education imparted to Muslims which has Pakistani poison in its essence. Why the coalition government is silent over the issue. The workers of DOGRA FRONT & SHIV SENA under the leadership of President Mr ASHOK GUPTA took out a protest in Jammu city against the Grand Mufti Nasir ul Islam for demanding separate nation for Muslims within in India. The protestors burned the effigy of Grand Mufti demanding strong action as he is nothing more than a Pakistani agent. Gupta stated that this Mufti held a Memorial for the dead terrorist Burhan wani and spilled poison against India in his speech at the memorial. No action was taken against him which led to the appreciation in his audacity as now he is demanding a separate country for Muslims. The party president



of the Prime minister towards terrorism more than 200 terrorists were killed in Kashmir, but due to the soft corner of the Chief Minister towards these Pakistani people the efforts of the Prime minister are being compromised in Valley

due to which the Indian forces are being penalised. He further stated that the only solution of this Mufti is to exile him from the country to Pakistan so that he may realise that what kind of muddle the people of Baluchistan are in who are treated nothing less than 3rd class citizens and have a realization of India where everyone is treated equally regardless of their Cast, Creed, Colour and Religion. The party people who were present at the time of protest were Bantu, Ram Paul, Nikku, Krishan, Sham, Bittoo, Dinesh, Ajay, Sunil, Kalu, Naresb, Abhishek and various others were present.

Three days Zonal Football tournament concludes

DODA, JANUARY 31: Three day long zonal Foot Ball tournament of zone Bhalla concluded at HSS Berraru, here today. In the final match (Boys Section), HSS Berraru defeated HSS Chakrabhatti by 2 goals in U/19 age group and HSS Bhalla defeated HS Seri in U/16 age group and in U/12 age group MS Bhalla won defeating UPS Gajoth. In Girls section, HSS Berraru won from HSS Malothi in U/19 age group, HS Seri defeated HS Dhadhu and in U/12 age group UPS Guttasa defeated MS Bhalla.

Legal Awareness Camp held Bhaderwah

BHADERWAH, JANUARY 31: Legal awareness camp on topic "Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation, Children and their Protection and Victims of A/C Attacks" was organized under the chairmanship of MK Sharma District Legal Services Authority Bhaderwah. He was accompanied by Renu Dogra Chairperson Tehsil Legal Services Committee Bhaderwah and Mudasar Farooq Secretary District Legal Services Authority Bhaderwah (Doda). Angarwadi Workers/helpers, ASHA Workers and local populace attended the camp. Secretary and Lawyers Chander Kant Gupta alongwith Vaibhav Sharma spoke on the topic and made aware the gathering about the laws dealing with the topic.

Awareness Activities on Swachhta Abhiyan Organized

SAMBA, JANUARY 31: In connection with the observance and celebrations of Swachhta Pakhwada throughout the length and breadth of the nation from January 16th to January 31st 2018 under Swachht Bharat Abhiya, a much publicized and well known flagship programme of NDA Government aimed at to fulfill the dreams of the father of nation Mahatma Gandhi in Clean India, Green India. Various Field Publicity Units of Directorate of Field Publicity, Ministry of Information and Publicity organized two theme based film shows at Jagrati Shiksha Niketan, Vijaypur and Govt. Middle School, Thalori, Vijaypur respectively. Two symposiums and awareness rallies were also organized during the awareness activities at Government Girls High School, Gurha Slathia, Vijaypur and Jagrati Shiksha Niketan Vijaypur respectively. An oath on Swachhta and to make the local areas, lanes, drains and the surroundings clean and green was also being administered to the staff members and students of all the three educational institutions during the awareness activities on Swachht Bharat Abhiyan. During two symposiums on



stressed upon the audience to come forward and also make each and every citizen of their respective areas empowered and aware to shoulder the responsibility of making the country open defecation free, clean and green so that the dream of the father of nation of "Clean and Green India" could be achieved and fulfilled. While interacting with the audience Shri Raina spelled out the aims and

objectives of such awareness programmes for the common masses directly at the grass root level. He requested the audience to act as ambassadors of spreading the message of provisions and importance of Swachht Bharat Abhiyan in their respective areas and strongly advocated to shoulders their responsibilities for the proper and effective implementation of this national programme. He further highlighted the significance of such awareness programmes from time to time for the awareness of "Aam Adami" especially the rural inhabitants of rural India. Raina also laid emphasis on the audience to help in disseminating the information and awareness of this national programme in every nook and corner of the country so that this National Programme could be made successful and result oriented. Later awareness rallies were also organized at both the educational institutions, which were started from the school campus and passed by the streets, lanes and by lanes of the respective areas chanting slogans "Swachht Bharat, Swast Bharat", "Ham Sab Ka Eak Hi Narha, Swachht Aur Swast Ho Desh Hamara", Bharat Mata Ki Jai" etc and later culminated at the campus. The awareness rallies were aimed at to disseminate the message of Swachhta and Swachht Bharat among the locals and those how could not attended the awareness programme due to some personal reasons. While presenting vote of thanks, the heads of both the educational institutions, appreciated the efforts made by DFP in making the rural masses aware about various central sponsored schemes and programmes launched by Govt. of India from time to time for the benefits, upliftment and regard of the people of the country in general and rural populace in particular. They requested the organizing department of more such awareness programmes on other themes and topics in the near future, so that the rural masses may be able to know more and more about various centrally sponsored developmental schemes and programmes and would be able to get maximum benefits from these schemes and programmes. Later, all the participants of symposiums at the both the educational institutions were honoured with participation certificates by the organizers.

JINDRAH IMAGES

Pak doesn't want to mend its ways

Having received a drubbing from the US and under pressure from the international community to act against the terror perpetuating from its soil, Pakistan continues to target forward Indian positions and infiltrate terrorists into the Indian territory. The US recently stopped the aid to Pakistan but despite that it has not changed its pro-terror policies. The US now should levy heavy costs on it for perpetuating terror in India. Despite its criticism at various

international forums for encouraging terrorism, it seems as if the neighbouring country is in no mood to discourage terror groups that operate from its soil. There is an emergent need for some international action against the Pak-based terrorist groups Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed and 'their shadowy supporters'. Islamabad, however,

is no mood to mend its ways. Almost every day, Indian border troops pick up the suspicious movement of terrorists across the LoC. Given its track record, Pakistan always tries to push terrorists into the Indian territory under the cover of darkness or unprovoked shelling and firing on the forward Indian posts. There is so much of international pressure on it to close down the militant training camps on its soil, but it continues to run them. It refuses to recognise that terrorism is a crime against humanity. It is, however, important to know who is behind all this and who benefits from it? Terrorists do not own banks or factories of arms and ammunition, so let us ask the real question: Who finances them, who arms them and who provides them sanctuaries? Apart from India, Afghanistan too has raised similar concerns on terror financing and safe havens. History proves that those who seed extremist ideologies, reap a bitter harvest. Pakistan is of course paying the price for creating terrorists as they have now trained their guns towards it, not sparing even the school goers, but it still does not desist from training, financing and sheltering them. This is unfortunate for the people of Pakistan that they have got a government which do not value their lives. India on the other hand, since Independence, has attempted unprecedented paradigms of friendship with Pakistan, but it pains to note that we have got Pathankot, Uri and Nagrota terror attacks in return for these goodwill gestures. India has always taken initiatives to resolve issues on the basis of friendship, but Pakistan has always put conditions. Pakistan has from the very beginning been denying its involvement in terror attacks on this side of the borders, but the confessional statements of Naved, Bahadur Ali and other Pak terrorists, who are in our custody, is a proof of Pakistan's complicity in cross-border terrorism. There was so much of anger in the country after the Uri terror attack in which 18 jawans had attained martyrdom. In retaliation, India had carried out surgical strikes on the terror camps across the LoC and smashed them, killing several terrorists. India has vowed to carry out such surgical strikes in future too in case Pakistan continues to infiltrate terrorists, posing a danger to the country's internal security.

Lanka's port for sale

PK VASUDEVA

Sri Lanka's handing over of Hambantota Port to China on a 99-year lease on 9 December 2017 has enormous ramifications for the island as well as the region and beyond. Unable to repay about \$ 8 billion debt it owed to Beijing, Colombo has handed over the port and an industrial zone surrounding it to China. Under an agreement signed by Sri Lanka Ports Authority and the Chinese government-controlled China Merchants Port Holdings Company, the latter will now control 70 per cent of the stake in Hambantota Port.

Through the grant of equity to China, Sri Lanka believes it has solved its debt problem. Chinese management of the port and investment zone, the Sri Lankan government claims, will give the island's economy a shot in the arm by promoting industrial development and tourism. The port and related road and airport infrastructure are indeed top class and Colombo may have bought itself time. However, this route towards chipping away at debt comes at a heavy cost. It will only undermine Sri Lanka's sovereignty but also endanger its own security. What other assets will Sri Lanka sell to China when the next debt-servicing bill arrives?

China's operation of Hambantota port has serious implications for India's security. Chinese presence so close to India's southern coast is a matter of grave concern. Importantly, there is a concern in Delhi that the People's Liberation Army-Navy (PLAN) ships and submarines will dock at Hambantota. To reassure India, Colombo has made the Sri Lankan security forces responsible for Hambantota port's security.



It has also clarified that it will not allow this port to be used by the Chinese navy. Delhi, however, cannot but remain uneasy, as former Sri Lankan president Mahinda Rajapaksa had allowed Chinese submarines to dock at Colombo, after assuring India that he would never do so.

Countries in South Asia and elsewhere, which are taking huge loans at high rates of interest from China for infrastructure projects, should draw lessons from the Sri Lankan experience. Chinese funds for projects don't come free and like Sri Lanka, they too are likely to be drawn into the quicksand of debt sooner than later. When a debtor country is unable to service its debt obligations, Beijing demands its pound of flesh, which is in the form of ownership of the port as in the case of Sri Lanka, ceding of land as with Tajikistan, or the setting up of a naval base as in Djibouti. Countries that are lining up to join China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) should look before they leap into debt with China, as Beijing offers no free lunches.

The project has faced protests not only from the Opposition parties of Sri Lanka but also from members of the government. Minister of Justice Wijayadesha Rajapakse was sacked for opposing the deal and Arjuna Ranatunga, a minister looking after ports, was shifted for saying that the deal undermines national sovereignty. India is worried over the strategic impact of having a Chinese-controlled port in the Indian Ocean and has voiced concerns that it may become a hub for the Chinese navy. That is why it has proposed to Colombo in the past that it is ready to spend around \$ 300 million to buy out Sri Lanka's debt to China in return for a 40-year lease over Hambantota airport, which has become known as the "world's emptiest international airport". India plans to buy the world's emptiest airport in an effort to limit China's influence in the Indian Ocean.

Designed to accommodate one million passengers per year, Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport - a vanity project by Sri Lanka's former President Mahinda Rajapaksa that opened in 2013 - is a complete dud and receives just a dozen passengers a day. Yet India is set to pay \$ 300 million for a joint venture granting it a 40-year lease over the nearly 2,000-acre space in southern Sri Lanka that was once so empty it was used to store rice. India's future plans for the airport are hazy. It may open a flight school and use the space as a marriage palace or a tourist spot but no concrete proposals have been formulated. There seems little chance that it will turn into a profitable venture. That is not the

"point of the deal," David Brewster, an expert in Indian Ocean strategies at the Australian National University, recently wrote for the Interpreter. Instead, the reason for the purchase appears to be the airport's proximity - just half an hour's drive away - from a shipping port in Hambantota, which is run by China.

As China seeks to spread its reach cross-continent via the BRI, India, the US, and Japan all hold concerns that China wants to use the Sri Lanka port as a naval base. But its ability to do so is severely hampered without access to an airport. "A key element in any overseas naval base, and even a logistics facility, is easy access by air for people and supplies. A naval base also requires maritime air surveillance capabilities. Control over Hambantota airport will give India considerable control over how the port is used," wrote Brewster. It is difficult to conceive of the Chinese navy developing a significant facility at Hambantota without also controlling the airport. In short, India is spending \$300 million buying an airport just to block a Chinese naval base.

India's fear of China's rising influence in the Indian Ocean is not unfounded. A 2015 US Defence Department report confirmed Chinese missile submarines were operating in the Indian Ocean.

The year before that, after having cultivated a close relationship with Sri Lanka, which has unnerved India, China began docking warships and submarines at a Colombo port. Despite Sri Lankan assurances, Indian observers express concerns that Beijing could operationalise Hambantota as a resupply node for the PLAN in the future.

Mystic Mantra: Don't fall in love, rise in love

In the beginning there was Love and then came the Relationship. Love was born in the human heart as an existential gift. The relationship was born in some kind of practical understanding of life; that love needs grounding, some expression, a sharing in some way on a solid ground. This sharing and commitment gave birth to a bonding with others and formation of various relationships. In these defined relationships, gift-love got transformed into need-love in the forms of husband and wife, the parents and their children, brothers-sisters and cousins, far away cousins, gurus and disciples, and friends and strangers. This was a real grounding for love, and with it came not just the sense of natural belonging, but the loss of freedom, suffocating attachments and clinging, leading to all kind of emotional sufferings and psychological violence. This can be called falling in love - in the real meaning of word.

Often we have been using this expression of falling in love in various romantic terms also - Laila and Majnu, Romeo and Juliet, there are so many such examples. These stories seem to be other-worldly, but in reality, they are very worldly. The really divine stories happen in mystic unions of Uma and Shiva, Sita and Rama, Radha and Krishna and so many other divine beings. These mystics existed in human forms, but they attained to enlightenment through meditation and transformation of love. For them it was certainly a rising in love, and not falling in love.

In the ordinary life, when people fall in love, very soon they start exploiting each other, using the others for themselves, all in the name of love. They become calculative and their love becomes very conditional and full of expectations. The real love has to be an unconditional sharing, to blossom in its absolute manifestation, like a rose flower that shares its fragrance without any expectation. This rarely happens in our ordinary relationships. It does happen wherever the relationship is based on meditation. It happens between the enlightened mystics and their close disciples. It is unconditional love without any attachment and expectation. It is pure freedom. This could happen between ordinary individuals also if they evolve into this understanding of bringing a flame of meditation in their life and radiate in love. Osho suggests: Love should come out of your silence, awareness, meditativeness. It is soft, it is unbinding - because how can love create fetters for the one who is loved? It is giving freedom to each other, more and more.

The enlightened mystic adds: "Falling in love you remain a child; Rising in love you mature. By and by love becomes not a relationship, it becomes a state of your being. Not that you are in love - now you are love."

Time is money: Why must we waste it?

JAYANT V NARLIKAR

In 2015, we celebrated the 900th birth anniversary of Bhaskaracharya, one of our ancient astronomers and mathematicians. Bhaskaracharya has been credited with highly readable texts in mathematics and astronomy. The book, Leelavati, is a delightful collection of problems requiring mainly arithmetic, algebra and geometry. It is said that he wrote this book for his daughter who had the same name. Astronomy texts are more extensive and the most referred one is Goladhaya. It mainly deals with spherical astronomy. The width and depth of Bhaskara's writings highlight the high level of these subjects in India in the 12th century.

The 900th celebrations gave us an opportunity of recalling Bhaskaracharya's works. Similar occasions for famous rulers like Alexander, Akbar or Shivaji provide us with opportunities of recalling their military victories, their statesmanship and peacetime achievements. In the case of scientists or scholars, we likewise recall their scholastic achievements. So, for Bhaskaracharya, there were meets organised wherein his achievements were highlighted. I had the opportunity of attending one such meet organised in Chalisgaon which is believed to be near the birthplace of Bhaskaracharya. The meet did present an opportunity of highlight-



ing Bhaskaracharya's work. At a less technical level, a particular speaker - let us call him Mr X - had been specially invited from Mumbai. Known for simple readable texts on varying topics in science, Mr X could be relied on to make his talk very interesting and "layman-friendly". My own brief was to present a smaller talk on the astronomical works of Bhaskara.

The meeting was planned for a two-hour duration. However, the time planning went seriously astray! Scheduled to start at 9.30 in the morning, it began at 10 am instead. This was because, as the organisers explained, the audience is normally used to such delays. When the publicity leaflets are printed for wide distribution, the starting time mentioned therein has to be taken with a pinch of salt. A typical member of the audience knows this and accordingly turns up half-an-hour late. Unfortunately, this is not the end of the matter. The important component of such a local gathering is the local VIP or even VIP. The event cannot be started until these are present and are duly felicitated by the organisers. I once heard of a vice-chancellor of a local university spending half-an-hour drinking coffee in his office, so as to make his arrival at the local event "suitably late". His argument for this action was to say that unless he made the organisers wait for him, his VIP status would not be appreciated.

There is another class of important visitors that must be cared for. If the function is held under the auspices of a school, then it is necessary for the organisers to felicitate the members of the governing board of the school. To me, it seems rather strange that the host

organisation should honour itself! For isn't the governing board part of the organisation that runs the school? The sum total was that the scheduled duration of two hours was almost taken up by these so-called formal rituals and by this time the audience was visibly bored. So much so that Mr X, the main speaker, was requested by the organisers to cut short his speech. Having sensed the restlessness of the audience, he readily agreed.

Since my own talk was only of 15-20 minutes duration, it did not suffer such a drastic cut. But I could not resist telling the organisers that their delays in earlier items had created this situation which I likened to sending Sachin Tendulkar or Virat Kohli to bat at number 8. For this reason, I decline participation in such functions. The incident

hosted to a formal dinner at the institution by the director and his wife. While being led to the dining room, I was shown a solitary room, which was used to lock up the speaker just before his talk. The director explained that this precaution is taken to prevent the speaker from absconding. Apparently, one speaker was so tensed up by the rule of ending the lecture at precisely at 10 that he ran away before the talk. This happened in Farada's time and the host had to give the lecture in place of the speaker who had run away.

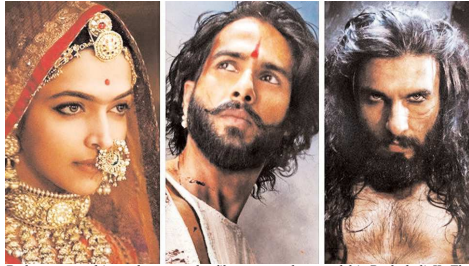
The strict time scheduling followed by the Royal Institution came out of attention to punctuality. There are other institutions that follow a punctual protocol. For example, when the founder scientist Horace Bhabha created the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, he laid down several rules and protocols. One important rule followed at a public lecture at the institute is that there is no vote of thanks at the end of the talk. For, a dry vote of thanks after the talk spoils the deep impression created by the main talk. Instead, the vote of thanks is proposed before the speaker has given his talk. This saves time and embarrassment. The latter, because in normal practice of proposing the vote of thanks after the talk, one finds the audience starting an exodus from the auditorium even as the hapless proposer of the vote of thanks is only half way through his list.

Padmaavat Box Office report: Deepika-Shahid-Ranveer's epic drama earns Rs 143 cr

NEW DELHI: Filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali's period drama has shown stupendous growth at the ticket windows. Padmaavat has emerged victorious as the movie successfully entered the coveted Rs 100 crore club in flat four days.

Noted film critic and trade analyst Taran Adarsh took to Twitter and shared the latest figures.

Padmaavat finally hit the screens on January 25, 2018, amid much hullabaloo. The film faced massive protests from certain fringe groups across the nation, demanding a pan India ban on the period drama. After braving all odds,



Padmaavat hit the screens and managed to have preview shows days ahead of the nationwide release at some places.

Amid tension and massive protests in the country, the film managed to gross exceptionally well internationally in Australia, UK and New Zealand. The film's overseas collection in these countries (Paid review) has already beaten colossal hit Baahubali II: The Conclusion and Dangal respectively.

With overseas figures already riding high at the Box Office, Padmaavat has got a big thumbs up from the audience.

The film faced massive protests by fringe groups claiming that the filmmaker has distorted historical facts in the film. However, Bhansali time and again mentioned that none of these claims is true.

The film was initially scheduled to hit the screens on December 1, 2017. It stars Deepika Padukone in the titular role of Rani Padmavati while Shahid Kapoor plays her on-screen husband Maharawal Ratan Singh. Ranveer Singh plays Alauddin Khilji in the period drama respectively.

The impeccable performances of the lead actors have been appreciated by one and sundry.

Ranveer Singh reacts to Swara Bhasker's Padmaavat letter

MUMBAI: Ranveer Singh, who essayed the role of Alauddin Khilji in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's controversial film Padmaavat is indeed the man of the moment. The bundle of energy that he is, Ranveer delivered a performance that sent shivers down the spine of many. No wonder why people are going gaga over his Khilji avatar! And among many of his admirers is Swara Bhasker.

Yes, you read that right. Swara, the same lady who slammed Bhansali for glorifying Jauhar in his film, has reportedly heaped praise on Ranveer's performance.

For the unversed, Swara, in an open letter, criticised Bhansali by saying that after watching the film, she "felt reduced to a vagina only".

When Shahid Kapoor, who played Maharawal Ratan Singh in Padmaavat was quizzed about Swara's letter, he reportedly said it is not the right time to discuss such things given the fact that the film underwent so much opposition for months.

But Ranveer chose to sidestep the issue. "I got a message from Swara just yesterday. She loved my performance in the film. So..." PTI quoted Ranveer as saying.

However, Deepika, who played Rani Padmavati in the film chose to speak about it without any inhibitions. During a recent interview with DNA, Deepika, while talking about the flak the Jauhar scene has drawn, said "Let me put things in perspective. We are not endorsing Jauhar. You must see the scene/practice in context to the period in which it was shown. And when you do that, you will realise, it's so powerful. You do not feel like she is doing anything wrong. You want her to embrace the flames because she is going to be united with the man she loves."

Hate Story IV: Urvashi Rautela oozes oomph in 'Aashiq Banaya Aapne' song



NEW DELHI: Director Vishal Pandya is back with what he does the best—presenting a thriller genre venture. After tasting success with previous franchises, Hate Story makers are back with its fourth instalment. The film titled 'Hate Story IV' and 'Pandya, who successfully helmed part 2 and 3 of the same fran-

chise is back with the new one. The trailer of 'Hate Story IV' created a flutter on the social media and was widely viewed on YouTube. Now, the makers have released a new track which happens to be an old superhit number 'Aashiq Banaya Aapne' by Himesh Reshammiya. The reprised version features

Urvashi Rautela's sizzling moves including a pole dance act. The song has been sung by Himesh Reshammiya and Neha Kakkar. The song is composed by Tanishk Bagchi and the lyrics of this new song are penned by Manoj Muntashir.

Hate Story IV features Urvashi Rautela, Karan, Wah!, Vivian Bhatena and Iliana Dhillon in the lead roles. The erotic thriller is produced by T-Series and is slated to hit the screens on March 9, 2018.

The former beauty queen Urvashi will be seen playing a supermodel in the thriller. The actress was last seen in Great Grand Masti and also did a special song in Hrithik Roshan's Kaabil. The actress will reportedly be seen making a special appearance in Salman Khan starrer Race 3 as well.

All the three instalments of Hate Story franchise have been successful at the Box Office. Let's see if the audience gives a thumbs up to this one as well!

Tiger Zinda Hai latest collections: Salman Khan rules Box Office like 'Sultan'



NEW DELHI: Salman Khan is the ultimate 'Sultan' of the Box Office. His latest release 'Tiger Zinda Hai' not only got rave reviews from the viewers and critics but also turned out to be a

money spinner. Tiger Zinda Hai happens to be Ali and Salman's second successful film together after 'Sultan'. Noted film critic and trade analyst Taran Adarsh took to Twitter

and shared the latest figures. The film not only emerged as one of the top grossers of 2017 but also proved to be Salman's third venture to cross Rs 300 crore milestone. The

actor's last three big hits in the Rs 300 crore club happen to be Bajrangi Bhaijaan, Sultan and Tiger Zinda Hai respectively.

Tiger Zinda Hai is directed by Sultan helmer Ali Abbas Zafar. The film had some kickass action stunts performed by the lead pair which will keep you on the edge of your seats.

Hollywood fame stunt master Tom Struthers was roped in for adding an international touch to all the action scenes in the film—and it certainly paid off to be the right decision.

Salman and Katrina's on-screen pairing once again proved to be the best so far.

1921 Box Office report card: Check out latest figures



NEW DELHI: Zareen Khan starrer '1921' received a decent response at the Box Office. Filmmaker Vikram Bhatt's latest directorial venture 1921 received a mixed response from the audience and the critics.

Noted film critic and trade analyst Taran Adarsh took to Twitter and shared

the latest collections with the readers. Despite clashing with two other films—Kaalakaandi starring Saif Ali Khan and Anurag Kashyap's MukkabaaZ—the film has done good business.

The filmmaker's fascination for the specific form of narrative is evident in most

of his films. His latest outing 1921 starring Zareen Khan and Karan Kundrra in the lead roles is solid proof of that. The film has been produced under his banner of LoneRanger Productions. It happens to be the fourth part of 1920 franchise.

1921, a horror drama released on January 12, 2018. The viewers perhaps also liked the fresh on-screen pairing of Zareen and Karan Kundrra, who is a known face on Indian television.

The music of 1921 has received much appreciation from the audience. It has been composed by Harish Saganee, Asad Khan and Pranit Mawale. The lyrics are penned by Shakeel Azmi and Raqueeb Alam.

Amrita Arora's 40th birthday bash got Kareena, Karisma, Malaika shimmer in style

NEW DELHI: Bollywood actress Amrita Arora's 40th birthday celebration in Goa was one starry night. Kareena Kapoor Khan, hubby Saif Ali Khan, sister Karisma Kapoor, Malaika Arora Khan and her girl gang headed to Goa for celebrating Amu's 40th birthday bash.

As Amu turns 40 on January 31, the girl gang, accompanied by Saif Ali Khan took off to Goa and pictures were shared by Karisma and Malaika on Instagram. Check it out:

The starry girl gang of Kareena, Karisma, Malaika, Amrita, Seema Khan, Maheep Kapoor, Natasha Poonawalla, Malika Bhat, Dolly Sidhwani and Rozza can be seen having a gala time on board their flight to Goa. They certainly turned



heads with their amazing shimmering costumes. Check out gorgeous pic-

tures. Amu, as she is fondly called is Bebo's BFF in B-

town and the girls even make it a point to sweat it out in the gym together.

Their fitness videos can easily inspire you to pump up some iron right away.

Nobody dare misbehave with women on my set: Shah Rukh Khan

MUMBAI: Superstar Shah Rukh Khan, known for his chivalrous attitude, says nobody has dared to misbehave with a woman on his film sets.

The actor, who was feted with a Crystal Award at the World Economic Forum summit in Davos along with Hollywood celebrities Gisele Bündchen and Ellen DeGeneres, spoke to BBC World News at length on gender equality in Bollywood and the cultural differences in India.

In the midst of the raging debate over sexual misconduct allegations against powerful men in Hollywood, Shah Rukh was asked if he has witnessed sexual misconduct in the Hindi film industry and done anything about it.

"At a level when I'm making films or working in films, we are very clear about the



attitude to women. Even the smallest aspects, of the names coming first in title, which is not going to do anything, but the kind of respectability," Shah Rukh said on the 'HARDtalk on BBC World News' show.

"Even this small thing needs to be done just to bring

about the equality... just see what we've reduced ourselves to. You know, to put a girl's name in front just to show what little guys we are, thinking of them as equals. And that is sad and that is strangely dichotomous when you're talking about creativity, and you have boys

and girls working together. "I have never personally, first hand and nobody, if I may say, nobody dared misbehave with a woman on my set. I am very clear on that," he added. A transcript of the interview was provided to IANS by BBC.

On inter-communal ten-

sions and divisions that the world has been observing in modern-day India, the actor said: "There will be dissent for everything and I think, like you would also believe and we all believe, there has to be a discussion on it."

Shah Rukh believes there cannot be a racial standoff when there is dissent.

"I think you can have a discussion and then you can talk about it in our country - we are the biggest democracy - and if you are the biggest democracy, dissent is a part and parcel of that and as much is discussion.

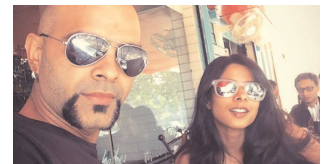
"So, when you have a story and you know when you do it sometimes, there's dissent, but as a filmmaker, as a citizen of a country and the world, you know when there's dissent, can we just have a little bit of discussion about it and sort it out

instead of you know taking standoff positions... So it is possible," he added.

Questioned if there is a kind of Hindu nationalism that is not fostering good inter-communal ties, Shah Rukh said: "Because of social media, whenever a certain thing, when small factions or fractions of things happen now, they seem a little bigger. But the beauty of all this is that within all this trolling and anger and people expressing themselves, they're all also connecting.

"I just see it on social media. I don't see it live anywhere and I would be wrong to comment on it that way, but I think if you have this kind of dissent or whatever if people claim it, I think just a bit of discussion especially, finally, if it's not going to be inclusive, everybody will suffer.

Raghu Ram and Sugandha Garg part ways in the coolest way possible



NEW DELHI: Roadies fame Raghu Ram's divorce was finalised with wife Sugandha Garg on January 29, 2018. The couple announced their decision to part ways back in 2016, after a 10-year long marriage. After getting legally separated, the two took to their respective Instagram handles to share photos of their wedding day and their divorce day with unusually cool captions. There are couples who still stay friends after a divorce but this is something that has never happened before! What do you think of this? Let us know in comments. As per a Pinkvilla report, a while ago, Raghu told a leading daily - "Today, we might not be a couple, but we are still the best of friends. The important thing is that we started off as friends, and we realised that if our relationship isn't working, then it is best to stay friends. We have prioritised our friendship over everything else. I am happy about that, and so is she."

Frailty Increases Delirium Post-Surgery Among Older Adults

Older adults, who are frail are twice more likely to experience delirium following a surgery, a study found. Delirium is a serious disturbance in mental abilities that results in confused thinking and reduced awareness of your environment. The researchers noted that a delirium, frailty and cognitive impairment are the risk factors most strongly associated with the development of post-operative delirium.

Other risk factors that are associated with developing postoperative delirium include smoking and the use of psychotropic medications. Previous researches found that frailty and cognitive impairment before surgery are asso-

ciated with developing complications after surgery, but age is not.

"Chronological age from your birth date is not always an accurate assessment of how you've aged over your lifetime," said Jennifer Watt, a geriatric medicine fellow at St. Michael Hospital in Canada. "This study highlights how common delirium is among older adults undergoing elective surgery, and the importance of geriatric syndromes, including frailty, in identifying older adults who may be at risk," Watt added.

For the study, published in the Journal of General Internal Medicine, the researchers reviewed 41 existing studies includ-



ing more than 9,000 patients 60 years and older and reporting on postoperative delirium following an elective surgery. The results showed that one in six older adults experience delirium following an elective surgery.

Patients who developed delirium following elective surgery are also

at an increased risk of developing other adverse post-surgical outcomes, and are more likely to be discharged to a long-term care facility, or die following surgery, according to the review.

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New 'smart' material to help fight tooth decay



TORONTO: Researchers have developed a 'smart' material to minimise cavities caused by bacteria digging under the dental fillings. These recurrent caries affect 100 million patients every year and cost an additional USD 34 billion to treat, researchers said.

In the study published in the journal Scientific Reports, researchers from the University of Toronto in Canada have proposed a

novel solution. They have developed a filling material with tiny particles made by self-assembly of antimicrobial drugs which is designed to stop bacteria in its tracks.

These particles may solve one of the biggest problems with antibacterial filling materials: storing enough drug within the material to be effective for someone's entire life.

"Adding particles packed

with antimicrobial drugs to a filling, creates a line of defence against cavity-causing bacteria," said Professor Ben Hattori.

"Traditionally there has only been enough drug to last a few weeks. We discovered a combination of drugs and silica glass that organise themselves on a molecule-by-molecule basis to maximise drug density, with enough supply to last years," said Hattori. The discovery of using antimicrobials which self-assemble means the team can pack 50 times as much of the bacteria-fighting drugs into the particles, researchers said. "We know very well that bacteria specifically attack the margins between fillings and the remaining tooth to create cavities," said Professor Yoav Finer.

Vitamin D3 may heal or prevent damage to your heart

NEW YORK: Are you suffering from heart disease? A treatment with Vitamin D3 might help restore damage to your cardiovascular system, finds a study.

Vitamin D3 is produced naturally when skin is exposed to the sun or through over-the-counter pills. Several diseases, including high blood pressure, build-up of fats, cholesterol in and on the artery walls, and diabetes, can cause damage to the cardiovascular system thus increasing the risk of heart attack.

However, taking Vitamin D3 - associated with the bones - at doses higher than those currently used for the treatment of bone diseases may be highly beneficial for the treatment of the dysfunctional cardiovascular

system, the study showed.

"Generally, Vitamin D3 is associated with the bones. However, in recent years, in clinical settings, people recognise that many patients who have a heart attack will have a deficiency of D3. It doesn't mean that the deficiency caused the heart attack, but it increased the risk of heart attack," said Tadeusz Malinski, a graduate student at Ohio University.

The team, in a paper published in the International Journal of Nanomedicine, used nanosensors, which are about 1,000 times smaller in diameter than a human hair, to track the impact of Vitamin D3 on single endothelial cells - a vital regulatory component of the cardiovascular system.

The dysfunction of endothelium is a common denominator of several cardiovascular diseases, particularly those associated with ischemic events, the researchers said.

"There are not many, if any, known systems which can be used to restore cardiovascular endothelial cells which are already damaged, and Vitamin D3 can do it," Malinski said.

"This is a very inexpensive solution to repair the cardiovascular system. We don't have to develop a new drug. We already have it."

Vitamin D3 may also be of clinical importance in the restoration of dysfunctional cardiac endothelium after a heart attack, capillary endothelium after brain ischemia (stroke), hypovolemia, vasculopathy, diabetes and atherosclerosis.

However, a study has associated it with rheumatoid arthritis, saying that the condition can be triggered because of the bacteria present in milk.

A strain of bacteria commonly found in milk may be a trigger for developing rheumatoid arthritis in people who are genetically at risk, researchers said.

Rheumatoid arthritis is an autoimmune and inflammatory disease that causes the immune system to attack a person's joints, muscles, bones and organs.

Patients suffer from pain and deformities mostly in the hands and feet. It can

Bacteria in milk associated with risk of rheumatoid arthritis



occur at any age but the most common onset is between 40 and 60 years old and is three times more prevalent in women. The study, published in the journal Frontiers in Cellular and Infection Microbiology, showed a

link between rheumatoid arthritis and Mycobacterium avium subspecies paratuberculosis, known as MAP.

Humans can contract the bacteria through the consumption of infected milk, beef and produce fertilised

by cow manure.

"We don't know the cause of rheumatoid arthritis, so we're excited that we have found this association," said one of the researchers Shazia Beg from the University of Central Florida (UCF) in

the US. The study involves 100 of her patients who volunteered clinical samples for testing.

Nearly 80 percent of the patients with rheumatoid arthritis were found to have a mutation in the F11N2/22 gene, and 40 percent of that number tested positive for MAP.

"We believe that individuals born with this genetic mutation and who are later exposed to MAP through consuming contaminated milk or meat from infected cattle are at a higher risk of developing rheumatoid arthritis," said Saleh Naser, an infectious disease specialist at UCF.

"Understanding the role of MAP in rheumatoid arthritis means the disease could be treated more effectively," Naser said.

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India Inc expects Budget 2018-19 to include GST reforms, friendly business policies

NEW DELHI: Tabled in Parliament on Monday by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, the Economic Survey has estimated that the Indian economy will grow by 7-7.5 percent in 2018-19, re-establishing India as the world's fastest-growing major economy.

Every budget rides high on the expectations of taxpayers and the finance minister has a challenging task of balancing tax cuts and increased revenues and here's what India Inc expects from Budget 2018: "Considering the government's vision to achieve Housing for All by 2022, we believe affordable housing development requires a long-term perspective supported by easy home finance at very affordable interest rates. It is therefore, the honourable finance minister must offer sizeable support to the urban middle-class population in terms of higher limits of exemption on home loans in the Budget 2018-19. The housing finance companies like us have a key role to play in boosting the government's efforts towards affordable and low-cost housing in metros as well as in tier-II and III cities," said Monu Ratra, ED and CEO, India Infoline Housing Finance Limited.

For the real estate sector, long pending demand of its recognition as industry, increase in tax rebate limit and single window clearance are among key expectations of the leaders. Getamber Anand, Chairman, CREDAI and CMD, ATS Infrastructure Ltd said, "The real estate

opportunity to boost GDP mustn't be missed by the Finance Ministry in this budget. We expect government to increase the exemption limits for deduction of interest from the income of the middle class and salaried home-buyer. Also the interest rates must further be rationalised as tax rates as the burden is ultimately passed onto the consumer."

He further elaborated, "On the supply side, we respect the changes that the government brought in last year into the sector by giving it "Infrastructure status for affordable housing", but RBI has not given any directions to the banks per se on reducing cost of capital for projects which qualify as infrastructure. Also under section 80 IB, the push for smaller houses is welcome but we have requested the government to increase the size from 30 and 60 sq.m to 60 and 90 sq.m because this is a practical size which is even aspirationally more attractive to the homebuyer."

"Also for smaller towns the condition that 80 percent of FSI must be achieved is not practical and should be reduced to about 50 percent. Having said that we are very hopeful that the government in its wisdom like last year will bring in some new exciting announcements for the real estate sector this year too," he added.

"We expect the honourable finance minister will announce increased tax rebate limit, so that the consumers may find more disposable income to buy



their chosen dream homes. He should also give a sympathetic ear to the long pending demand of introducing single window clearance system in this budget to help the developers fulfil their promises to home buyers and ensure timely delivery of projects. We also expect the government to grant industry status to real estate sector to facilitate ease of doing business and access to construction loan at a cheaper cost. At Solitaire Group we aim to develop a slew of international quality residential projects and industry status, if granted, will surely become instrumental in turning our dreams into reality," said Arjunpreet Singh Sahni, Executive Director, Solitaire Group.

Pankaj Kumar Jain, Managing Director, KW Group said, "We have a lot of expectations from this year's budget as the real estate sector is completely marred by rising input cost and week buying sentiments. We expect the honourable finance minister to announce a specific mechanism to regulate the cost of key raw materials like cement and steel to help the industry produce affordable housing units for the masses. Such an announcement will also strengthen the spirit of Housing for All initiative. We also demand that the government should immediately grant industry status to the real estate sector and open new avenues of financial support for the developers."

"We expect finance minister to recognise real estate as an industry in the upcoming budget since it stands as a major contributor in economical growth of the country by providing employment to millions and supporting various ancillary industries. This would certainly have a bearing on overall project costs since developers would be able to raise funds at lower rates and cut down on capital costs, eventually bringing solidity to the realty segment and turning GOI's dream of "Housing for All by 2022" a reality soon. Single-window clearance and cheaper

home loans would be a blessings to revive the stagnant growth and to lure homebuyers to invest in this sector," added O P Agarwal, CMD, SIR Group.

"There is a crying need for opening new avenues of financial support from the government in this budget to effectively manage the overall resources in a manner to enhance productivity using innovative technologies. The Indian manufacturing sector is already on the cusp of growth led by innovation and we look forward to a slew of strategic announcements in the Budget for the year 2018-19, so that the industry may realise its full potential soon. In a nutshell, we are looking forward to an industry-friendly budget with designated funds allocated to accentuate the growth of the industry over the coming years," said Nitin Agarwal, CEO, Prayag India.

"With the Government's continuous push towards speedy initiation of IT, digitalisation and various technology-driven initiatives,

we are very positive about the upcoming Union Budget 2018-19. Industry friendly moves like the simplification of Customs procedures and relief in GST rates are among our key expectations. We would also hope that in this budget the Government will take the spirit of Make in India several notches higher by introducing efficient policies to promote domestic manufacturing of future-proof technological IT products," said Lalit Chaturvedi, Asst. V P Marketing, Kyocera Document Solutions India.

Manesh Mathur, VP - Sales and Marketing, King Koil said, "We expect this year's budget to benefit consumer at large by rationalisation of personal income tax slabs so to increase purchasing capacity of Indian families and encourage them to invest in lifestyle products also which eventually affects the way they live and even sleep. Currently, cost of living is highly accentuated by rising inflation hence tax relaxation and more money available with the people would stimulate demand for industries, ultimately furnishing a boost to economical growth of the country."

Arush Gupta, Director, Okaya said, "We expect the upcoming Union Budget 2018-19 will surely drive the next wave of growth in water purifiers and power back-up industry which is keenly awaiting conducive business environment to unleash its full potential. Union Budget 2018-19 should also continue the

subsidy on lead acid batteries. We wish the honourable Finance Minister would offer a wide range of benefits in this budget to those manufacturers who are following all the rules and regulations."

The healthcare sector has also pinned high hopes on the upcoming budget, as Siddharth Gupta, MD, Hics India said, "We expect government to look at GST rates on medical devices since currently it is pegged at 12 percent which could affect the overall cost structure of the healthcare sector and even a minor relief may result in delivery of affordable healthcare services to the wider population. Also, some basic products like thermometers and hot water bottles should be moved to tax slab of 5 from 18 percent."

"We expect the Union Budget 2018-19 will have provisions of bringing relief to the international level Condom manufacturers like us, so that the consumers can be benefitted by affordable pricing of our most impressive product portfolio developed through extensive research into their preferences and needs," said Anupam Ghosh, Director, Anonidita Healthcare Limited.

With the ambitious Make In India movement gaining momentum, India is well poised to become a leading manufacturing hub and exporter to the entire world. Haji Kamruddin, Managing Director, Servokon Systems Limited said, "We are expecting a booster dose of reform-or-

ented policies in this year's budget. We also expect the government to stress more on improving the ease of doing business which will further help build investor confidence in the manufacturing sector."

"As the industry is currently struggling to cope with the reduced consumer demand, we also expect favourable change in the Income Tax slabs and rates leading to more disposable income in the hands of the consumers to spur consumption," said Sunil Jain, Director, Baltra Home Products.

Echoing similar sentiments, Rakesh Zutshi, President, Electric Lamp and Component Manufacturers' Association of India (ELCOMA) and Managing Director, Halonix Technologies Pvt. Ltd. said, "We expect the government to support the growth of LED manufacturing in India by providing major tax incentives, besides announcing a couple of favourable policies in the upcoming Union Budget 2018-19."

"In order to fulfil the vision of Make in India, such encouraging measures are urgently required. At ELCOMA, we have successfully travelled a long way fulfilling our mission to promote and develop co-operation among the manufacturers of electric lamps and components with simultaneously endeavoring to transform India into a global manufacturing hub of superior, but economical LED products," he concluded.

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China bullies companies over 'problem maps' which left out disputed islands that it claims

The Chinese government has expanded its bullying of countries that have allegedly printed or displayed 'problem maps' of its territory. It has issued warnings, notices and imposed fines on eight companies that allegedly published maps that didn't include that China claims as its own - like Taiwan, the South China Sea islands and the Senkaku Islands.

This latest round of governmental action on maps comes close on the heels of similar targeting over foreign companies in China. US hotel chain Marriott, Delta Airlines and the clothing brand Zara have all faced trouble in recent weeks.

China's National Administration of Surveying, Mapping, and GeoInformation (NASMG) handed out the notices,

warning and fines to eight companies - including Japanese brand-less retailer Muji and Chinese news portal ifeng.com. Chinese media have referred to this as a 'shame list'.

These eight cases of 'problem maps' were all found to have 'seriously damaged the sovereignty and interests of the country'. How did they do this? They did not include the South China Sea Islands, the Diaoyu Islands, Chiwei Island or Taiwan.

All of these islands are disputed. China is locked in territorial disputes with nine countries in the South China Sea; with Japan over Chiwei Island and the Senkaku Islands (China refers to them as Diaoyu) and has claimed Taiwan as its own ever since the Peoples Republic of China came into existence. Also,



except the islands in the South China Sea, which it has artificially expanded, China holds no control over any of the islands in question - Taiwan has functioned as a separate country since 1949, and Japan has full control over the Senkaku Islands and Chiwei.

The eight companies that have been put on the shame list are Muji, marketing consultant Hua&Hua, Hongtong Network; news portal ifeng.com for 'misrepresentation' on its 'Interactive Belt and Road Risk Map'; toy maker Longchang Company for its 'problem globe'; state-run Hunan Normal University Press for errors in high school geography textbooks; Hubei Beier Publishing for wrongly labelling Tibet a British territory; and 21st Century Publishing Group for leav-

ing out Taiwan in a children's book. Some of these map offenders have been ordered to conduct National Territory Awareness Education for staff. The action is being taken in line with the Regulations on the Administration of Map Publishing issued by the Chinese government in November 2015. The regulations had made it a legal requirement to make all published maps subject to inspection by authorities.

American companies operating in China have faced a recent series of troubles with the administration over the question of sovereignty. While Marriott got into trouble for listing Tibet as a country on its website, a dropdown menu for choice of country on Delta Airlines' site listed Hong Kong and Macau.

Cabinet papers: Top secret documents found in old government furniture

Hundreds of "top secret" and classified Australian government papers have been found in locked cabinets sold at a secondhand shop, national broadcaster ABC reported Wednesday as Canberra ordered an urgent probe.

The two filing cabinets were bought for "small change" from a store in the nation's capital that sells off ex-government furniture, the broadcaster said. The cabinets were locked and sold without keys, it added.

They were unopened for several months until someone used a drill to get into the drawers, finding a trove of documents detailing almost a decade of government workings, the ABC said.

The files include a report on the Australian Federal Police losing nearly 400 national security files in five years, and another about how 195 top secret documents were left behind in a senior minister's office after Labor lost the 2013 elections.

The documents also featured defence plans in the Middle East, Afghanistan conflict updates and intelligence on Australia's neighbours, the ABC reported.

Others detailed policy debates within the cabinets of previous Labor and Liberal-National coalition governments under former leaders Kevin Rudd, Tony Abbott and John Howard.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull quipped on Tuesday before the ABC revealed its filing-cabinet source for one story that it appeared their reporters "have come across someone's bottom drawer in Canberra". The ABC has broadcast a series of stories over the past few days, without declaring the source of the information. It has also declined to say who found the documents or handed them over to the broadcaster.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet said Wednesday it had "initiated an urgent investigation" into how the filing cabinets were disposed.

Australian cabinet papers are usually not released to the public until two decades after they were created.

Russian spy chief met American officials in US last week

Russia's foreign spy chief, who is under US sanctions, met last week outside Washington with US intelligence officials, two US sources said, confirming a disclosure that intensified political fighting over probes into Moscow's alleged meddling in the 2016 US election.

Sergey Naryshkin, head of the Russian service known by its acronym SVR, held talks with US Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats and other US intelligence officials, the sources said. The sources did not reveal the topics discussed.

A Russian embassy tweet disclosed Naryshkin's visit. It cited a state-run ITAR-Tass news report that quoted Russia's ambassador to Washington, Anatoly Antonov, as telling Rossiya-1 television that Naryshkin and his US counterparts discussed the "joint struggle against terrorism". Antonov did not identify the US intelligence officials with whom he met.

The Central Intelligence Agency declined to comment. Coats' office said that while it does not discuss US intelligence officials' schedules, "any interaction with foreign intelligence agencies would have been conducted in accordance with US law and in consultation with appropriate departments and agencies". News of Naryshkin's secret visit poured fresh fuel on the battles pitting the Trump administration and its Republican defenders against Democrats over investigations into Moscow's alleged 2016 election interference.

'It never happened': Now, porn star Stormy Daniels denies affair with Donald Trump

NEW YORK: Adult film star Stormy Daniels, in the midst of a publicity tour fuelled by past allegations of a 2006 sexual relationship with a then-married Donald Trump, said in a statement the alleged affair never occurred.

A lawyer for Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, confirmed the statement was authentic but didn't offer any further details. The statement comes at a curious time for Clifford, who is scheduled to appear following the president's State of the Union address on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live".

In recent weeks she has changed production companies, given a television interview and promoted



strip club appearances with a risqué play on Trump's "Make America Great Again" campaign slogan.

Michael Cohen, Trump's personal lawyer, has denied there was any affair. Clifford's allegation, first made in 2011 and then again a month before the election, went mostly unnoticed until The Wall Street Journal reported earlier this month that Cohen brokered a USD 130,000 payment to Clifford to keep her from publicly discussing it.

A week after that report, in Touch magazine printed a 5,000-word interview it conducted with Clifford in 2011 but never published after Cohen threatened the tabloid with a lawsuit.

In that interview, Clifford described a single sexual encounter with Trump in 2006, when he was recently married to his third wife, Melania, as well as a subsequent years-long relationship with the reality TV star. The magazine said it corroborated her account with friends and said she passed a lie detector test.

In her statement today, Clifford said she wasn't denying the affair because she was paid "hush money," but rather "because it never happened." Neither Cohen nor Clifford has addressed whether she was paid USD 130,000, or if so, why.

A publicist didn't respond to questions about the statement today.

Mexico wall, end to visa lottery and family-based chain migration: Trump's new immigration policy

President Donald Trump offered a deal on immigration in his first State of the Union address as he called for a "new American moment" of unity on Tuesday night. He also challenged lawmakers to make good on longstanding promises to fix a dangerously fractured immigration system, warning of evil outside forces seeking to undermine the nation's way of life.

Trump formally put before the Congress a four-pillar plan his administration had unveiled earlier. The first pillar, and one that might not find immediate support with the most vocal members of Trump's anti-immigrant base, is a "path to citizenship" for 1.8 million undocumented migrants who arrived at a young age.

The second pillar, Trump said, "fully secures the border" by building a huge wall on the Mexican frontier and hiring more immigration agents.

The third pillar would end America's Green Card lottery, and replace it with a so-called merit-based system for migrants with skills needed by US businesses.

And the fourth pillar - an idea that drew protests from Democrat lawmakers during the speech, would end "chain migration" policies that allow migrants to bring in family members.

Some Republicans are wary of the headline elements of Trump's plan and it's unclear whether his blueprint could pass Congress.

An impasse over immigration prompted a three-day government shutdown earlier this year, and lawmakers appear no closer to resolving the status of the 'Dreamers' - young people living in the US illegally ahead of a new February 8 deadline for funding operations.

Trump eased into the proposal with dark warnings about deadly gangs, the scourge of drugs and violent immigrants living in the United States illegally. He cast the debate over immigration - an issue that has long animated his most ardent supporters - as a battle between heroes and villains, praising the work of an immigration agent who arrested more than 100 gang members and saluting the families of two alleged gang victims.

Immigration reforms are expected to improve the situation for Indians, some undocumented but most others legally in the United States. Thousands of Indians live and work in the United States on the H-1B visa. Indian IT companies operating in the US, such as Infosys, TCS and Wipro, do not typically sponsor their H-1B employees for Green Card. They send them back to India at the end of the maximum stipulated period of six years allowed on this visa type.

If approved for Green Card, people on the H-1B visa would be using extensions. For Indians, that wait could stretch for years, given the massive backlog caused by the system of per-country annual cap on the number of permanent residencies. By one estimate it would take an Indian 70 years to get there the current rate of clearance.

Merit-based immigration, end of visa lottery: Donald Trump's vision in first State of the Union address

WASHINGTON DC: In his first State of the Union Address to the nation on Wednesday, US President Donald Trump laid down the four pillars of his immigration programme which includes offering citizenship to 1.8 million illegal immigrants and ending the visa lottery system. The other two pillars are building a wall on the Southern border and ending chain migration.

"The first pillar of our framework generously offers a path to citizenship for 1.8 million illegal immigrants who were brought here by their parents at a young age.

"The second pillar fully secures the border. That means building a wall on



the Southern border, and it means hiring more heroes like CJ to keep our communities safe.

"The third pillar ends the visa lottery - a program that randomly hands out green cards without any regard for skill, merit, or the safety of our people.

"The fourth and final pillar protects the nuclear family by ending chain migration," said Trump.

These four steps will also help end opioid and drug addiction, added the US President.

Asking the Congress to support the war against terrorism, Trump said, "I am asking Congress to ensure in the fight against ISIS and Al-Qaeda, we have all necessary power

to detain terrorist wherever we track them down, wherever we find them." He further asked the house to fully fund the American Army.

Trump also invoked the great "American Dream" and re-counted his successes in the last one-year.

"If you work hard, if you believe in yourself, if you believe in America, then you can dream anything, you can be anything, and together we can achieve anything at all.

"This is in fact our new American moment. There has never been a better time to start living the American dream," said Trump in his hour-long speech.

Trump further asked the Republicans and Democrats to work toward together to compromise on immigration and infrastructure.

"Tonight, I call upon all of us to set aside our differences, to seek out com-

Saudi Arabia says it has seized over \$100 billion in corruption purge

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's government has arranged to seize more than \$100 billion through financial settlements with businessmen and officials detained in its crackdown on corruption, the attorney general said on Tuesday.

The announcement appeared to represent a political victory for Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who launched the purge last November and predicted at the time that it would net about \$100 billion in settlements.

Dozens of top officials and businessmen were detained in the crackdown, many of them confined and interrogated at Riyadh's opulent Ritz-Carlton Hotel.

Well over 100 detainees are believed to have been released.

Billionaire Prince

Alwaleed bin Talal, owner of global investor Kingdom Holding, and Waleed al-Ibrahimi, who controls influential regional broadcaster MBC, were freed last weekend.

"The estimated value of settlements currently stands at more than 400 billion riyals (\$106 billion) represented in various types of assets, including real estate, commercial entities, securities, cash and other assets," Sheikh Saud Al Moteb said in a statement. The huge sum, if it is successfully recovered, would be a big financial boost for the government, which has seen its finances strained by low oil prices. The state budget deficit this year is projected at 195 billion riyals.

In total, the investigation subpoenaed 381 people, some of whom testified or provided evidence, Moteb said, adding that 56 people had not reached settlements and were still in custody down from 95 early last week.

The government has generally declined to reveal details of the allegations against detainees or their settlements, making it impossible to be sure how much corruption has been punished or whether the \$100 billion figure is realistic.

The only settlement disclosed so far was a deal by senior prince Miteb bin Abdullah to pay more than \$1 billion, according to Saudi officials. Miteb was once seen as a leading contender for the throne, so his detention fueled suspicion among foreign diplomats there might be political motives behind the purge.



Although officials said both Prince Alwaleed and Ibrahim reached financial settlements after admitting unspecified "violations", Prince Alwaleed continued to insist publicly he was innocent, while MBC said Ibrahim had been fully exonerated.

Economy minister Mohammed al-Tuwajri told CNN this month that most assets seized in the purge were illiquid, such as real estate and structured financial instruments. That suggested the government may not have gained large sums of cash to spend.

In another sign that the investigation was winding down, a Saudi official told Reuters on Tuesday that all detainees had now left the Ritz-Carlton. The hotel, where the cheapest room costs \$650 a night, is to reopen to the public in mid-February.

Some detainees are believed to have been moved from the hotel to prison after refusing to admit wrongdoing and reach financial settlements, they may stand trial.

Bankers in the Gulf said the secrecy of the crackdown had unsettled the business community and could weigh on the willingness of local and foreign businesses to invest. "It's reassuring if this situation is finally at an end, as the process was not clear from the start and at least if it is now ended, that provides some clarity and closure," said a banker who deals with Saudi Arabia.

But Prince Mohammed appears to have won widespread approval for the purge, partly because the Saudis, partly because the government has said it will use some of the money it seizes to fund social benefits. "What has happened is great, it will be counted as a win for the government. Whoever the person is, he is being held accountable, whether a royal or a citizen," said Abdullah al-Otaibi, drinking at a Riyadh coffee shop on Tuesday. An international financier visiting the region said authorities' tough approach might ultimately prove effective. "There are many different ways to fight corruption and not all of them are effective. Ukraine tried to do it by creating institutions, but that hasn't really worked as that approach doesn't change behaviour," he said.

"Saudi's approach stands a better chance of being effective as it's more direct."

India sense ODI opportunity in de Villiers' absence

Inevitably, everyone wants another Test between South Africa and India after the three-match series ended 2-1, with South Africa dominating the early stages and India getting progressively better. A fourth, maybe even a fifth Test would have been a fitting finale. Instead, six ODIs will take place in the space of 16 days, two of them at the venue South Africa criticised for having a subcontinental style pitch, SuperSport Park.

At least the pitches are unlikely to be the source of much discussion in the limited-overs matches with a strong likelihood of flat pitches and big totals. And there's still a strong contest to be expected - this remains a battle between No.1 and No.2, except now the roles are switched. South Africa are the top-ranked ODI side in the world, though Ottis Gibson continues to stress that it means very little in this format, while India are second with only a point separating the two sides.

Rather than focus on widening the gap, South Africa are using this

series to mark the start of "Vision 2019", a catchy name for their campaign to win the World Cup. They've set aside the next few months to trial different combinations, so expect to see new faces and funky tactics, with the view to using the time between September and June next year to fine-tune their game plans ahead of a tournament they are desperate to triumph in. India have not even mentioned the World Cup yet. For them, this is more about being able to win a series on this trip. An ODI trophy, especially after South Africa took the series in India in late 2015, will be a prized possession.

Form guide (last five completed matches, most recent first)

South Africa: WWWLW
India: WWLWW

In the spotlight

Neither Faf du Plessis nor Gibson are concerned about Quinton de Kock's form but the rest of South Africa is. With 71 runs in the Test series off the back of a lean domestic

twenty-over campaign, de Kock looks out of touch. There are suggestions from the inner circle that he requires a change of lifestyle to bring focus back to his game. Du Plessis and Gibson hope a change of format will do the same thing. They might be right - the last time de Kock made a score of significance was in a fifty-over game when he smashed 168* against Bangladesh last October. He will need a few like that to provide reassurance of his ability.

Rohit Sharma had his place questioned during the first two Tests and scored just 78 runs in four innings before being dropped for the third. But in the ODI format, Rohit is the only batsman in the world to have three double-hundreds to his name, the most recent of which came in India's series against Sri Lanka, just before they left for South Africa. Rohit remains a white-ball darling, and India will hope his best on this tour is yet to come.

Team news

IOA names Vikram Sisodia as India's Chef-de-Mission for CWG 2018

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Tuesday appointed its joint secretary Vikram Singh Sisodia as the Chef-de-Mission for the coming Commonwealth Games (CWG) to be held in Gold Coast, Australia. The IOA also appointed three team managers to accompany Sisodia and help him in the day-to-day duties during the Games.

The three team managers are Modern Pentathlon Federation of India's General Secretary Namdev Shirgaonkar, Asian Sailing Federation official Ajay Naarag and Andaman and Nicobar Olympic Association Secretary General VA Shiyad.

"Mr. Sisodia, who will be embarking on this major assignment, is currently the Joint Secretary of IOA. The three team managers will help Mr. Sisodia in the execution of day-to-day duties during the Games," the IOA said in a release. Sisodia is also currently the president of Chhattisgarh State Tennis Association.

The 21st Commonwealth Games will be held from April 4 to 15 in Gold Coast, the second largest city in Australia.

IOA President, Narinder Batra, said he's confident that the four officials would discharge their duties and do a good job during the Games. "I am sure they would take good care of the Indian contingent. I wish them all great Games," Batra said.



India Open: Hampered HS Prannoy bows out; Saina Nehwal, PV Sindhu progress

NEW DELHI: Forced to take the court despite developing foot coms, HS Prannoy lost in the opening round even as compatriots Saina Nehwal and PV Sindhu entered the second round of the USD 350,000 India Open Super 500 tournament, here on Wednesday.

Prannoy looked uncomfortable as he took the court against compatriot Shreyansh Jaiswal and handed over the match to his younger colleague 4-21, 6-21.

The new crammed BWF schedule makes it mandatory for top 15 singles players to play in 12 tournaments out of the Super 1000, Super 750 and Super 500 events, and Prannoy said it left him with no option but to take part as



he had already missed the first two Super 500 tournaments at Malaysia and Indonesia.

"I had to participate in the India Open because of the new BWF rule of mandatory 12 tournaments. I couldn't even concede the match because I have a compatriot as an opponent and according to BWF rules, if you concede against the same country

opponent, you won't get ranking points, so I had to play, though I was in no position to play," Prannoy said.

Asked what was the injury, Prannoy said: "I had developed corns in my foot in 2-3 places and I went for a treatment but the doctor didn't do it properly. I will go for another procedure tomorrow. I couldn't train and picked up the racquet first time in 15 days."

In women's singles, Indonesia Masters finalist Saina had to work hard in the opening game to get across Denmark's Sofie Holmboe Dahl 21-15, 21-9, while defending champion Sindhu ousted another Danish girl Natalia Koch Rohde 21-10, 21-13.

Saina will face Denmark's Line Kjaersfeldt, while Sindhu will take on either India's Vaidehi Choudhari or Bulgaria's Linda Zetshiri next. Among other Indians, B Sai Praneeth had to dig deep to see off 2010 Commonwealth Games silver medalist Rajiv Ouseph 21-11, 17-21, 21-17 while Aakashi Kashyap and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde too crossed the first hurdle in women's singles.

Pakistan cricket needs a Rahul Dravid, says Ramiz Raja

KARACHI: Ramiz Raja has praised the role of legendary batsman Rahul Dravid in developing the young Indian players and said Pakistan needs someone like him to unearth talent. Lamenting the 203-run defeat at the hands of India in the semifinals of the ICC U-19 World Cup in New Zealand, Ramiz said he was pretty shocked at the margin of loss.

The 1992 World Cup winner admitted that India's big win was not surprising given the fact that Indian youngsters were better groomed and prepared to handle pressure situations.

"I am impressed with the temperament shown



by some of the Indian players. They have a fine find in Shubman Gill and others. Rahul Dravid deserves a lot of credit for preparing and grooming them so effectively," he said.

Ramiz said having someone like Dravid as their coach and mentor was a big boost for the Indian youngsters.

"They learn such a lot from him not just about cricket but about everything else. How to conduct oneself, how to develop the game-sense and so on," he said.

Ramiz said he was disappointed with the lack of batting talent in the Pakistan U-19 team.

"The way our players fielded and batted, it

wasn't pleasant to watch. I think in Pakistan we need a total revamp of our youth cricket system. The cricket board needs to pay a lot more attention to youth cricket," he said.

Ramiz said a respected former stalwart of Pakistan cricket should be given the responsibility of developing the young players.

"We need to give someone charge for a proper time period like India has done with Rahul Dravid," he said.

Ramiz said youth cricket was not about winning but more importantly about scouting new players and then developing them for the future.

'Humiliating Indian Premier League auction parades players like cattle'

After India's spin legend Bishan Singh Bedi labelled the Indian Premier League (IPL) auction a platform for "money laundering", the New Zealand Cricket Players Association (NZCPA) wants an end to the "humiliating" process where players are almost traded like cattle in front of the world.

It's no secret that cricketers now look up to the IPL as one of their chief sources of livelihood, but NZCPA chief Health Mills called the auction process unprofessional in an interview to the New Zealand Herald.

"I think the whole system is archaic and deeply humiliating for the players, who are paraded like cattle for the world to see. There's a lot of good things about the Indian Premier



League and it's been great for cricket but I'd like to see it rigger the rest of professional sport in the way they engage athletes. The auction system is wrong - it's not professional, far from it," Mills said talking to the New Zealand Herald.

"The players enter the auction not knowing where they're going, who their team-mates are going be, who's managing them, who the owners are - no other sports league in the world engages players on that basis. We've seen some

players play for five or six teams over the 10 years the league has been going.

"Coaches cannot build an affinity with players; they can't build a long-term culture. The whole thing is very poor and players associations around the world would like to see it change," he added. Of the 24 New Zealand cricketers that went under the hammer during the January 27-28 auction in Bengaluru, only Brendon McCullum, Kane Williamson, Trent Boult, Colin de Grandhomme, Colin Munro, Tim Southee and Mitchell Santner found suitors. However, the auction process could be in for a change once it rings in again. A hint around that was dropped by the league's Chief Operating Officer (COO), Hemang Amin. "Going forward, the thinking is that we will reduce, maybe not have mega auctions, but consider having a draft system for new players to come in, which acts as feeder system to teams," Amin told ESPNcricinfo.

India name 27-member shooting squad for 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games

NEW DELHI: Top Indian shooters Jitu Rai, Gagan Narang and Apurv Chandel were on Tuesday named in the country's 27-member squad for the coming Commonwealth Games to be held in Gold Coast, Australia.

The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) announced the full quota of 27 shooters (15 men and 12 women) after the Organising Committee of the Games reduced the country quotas across sports.

India had fielded 30 shooters in the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games and bagged 17 medals (4 Gold, 9 Silver, 4 Bronze). Though most of the disciplines will be held in Gold Coast, shooting will be held at the Belmont Shooting Centre in Brisbane from April 8 to 14. There will be nine men's and eight women's events in the three disciplines of rifle, pistol and shotgun.

Besides Rai and Narang, other top shooters among men include Sanjeev Rajput, Manjit Singh Sandhu and Mohammed Asab. In the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games, Rai had won a gold in the men's 50m pistol event while Narang had bagged a silver and a bronze in the 50m rifle prone and 50m rifle 3 position events.

Among women, experienced Heena Sidhu, promising youngsters Mehuli Ghosh and Manu Bhakar have also been named along with Chandela.

Chandela had won a gold in women's 10m Air Rifle event in Glasgow.

"We have gone strictly by performance and merit as usual. For the Commonwealth Games, given the reduced quotas, it was tough to have to leave out a few shooters who had shot consistently well over the considered period and we went for consistent top ranks across multiple events," NRAI President Raninder Singh said.

"We believe we have a quality squad to match up and even better our performances of yesteryears. There are some exciting and extremely talented youngsters who will rub shoulders with established seniors and I am sure they will come out better with the experience," he said. The NRAI also named squads for the six International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup stages of this year. The junior shooters who have made it to the Commonwealth Games squad have not been selected for the Junior World Cups in view of the importance attached to the CWG.

English Premier League: Arsenal shocked by Swansea City, Liverpool cruise to win

Petr Cech's howler rocked Arsenal as they crashed to a shock 3-1 defeat at Swansea, while Liverpool cruised to victory over Huddersfield on Tuesday.

Arsenal goalkeeper Cech's miscued attempt to clear allowed Jordan Ayew to slot home Swansea's second goal at the Liberty Stadium. It was the killer blow for Arsenal, who had already seen Sam Clucas equalise just one minute after Nacho Monreal put the visitors ahead from Mesut Ozil's pass in the 33rd minute.

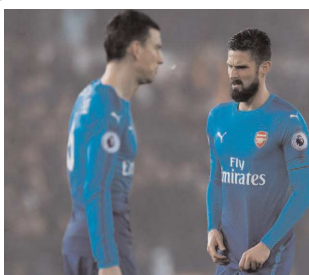
Clucas claimed his second four minutes from time to finish off Arsenal, who have now won just once in their last five league games.

The result leaves Gunners' manager Arsene Wenger still searching for his first away win of 2018, despite a second-half debut for substitute Henrikh Mkhitaryan following his move from Manchester United.

The Gunners are in sixth place, trailing eighth-placed Liverpool in the race to qualify for the Champions League via a top-four finish.

The arrival of Borussia Dortmund striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang to sign on Wednesday's transfer deadline day, can't come soon enough for Wenger.

"We will know more about that tomorrow



morning," Wenger said of the Aubameyang move.

"I felt defensively we were very poor and made big mistakes. It's better not to talk about the second or third goals.

"Swansea were sharp, disciplined and hungry. Unfortunately, I believe we were not good enough, we were not disciplined enough."

The result also completes remarkable back-to-back victories for Swansea over Liverpool and now Arsenal.

They are out of the relegation zone and have transformed their season with three wins in five league games under new boss Carlos Carvalhal.

At the John Smith's

Stadium, Liverpool got back on track in emphatic fashion thanks to goals from Emre Can, Roberto Firmino and Mohamed Salah in a 3-0 win.

The Reds had endured frustrating defeats against Swansea in the league and West Brom in the FA Cup.

"Mature performance" But Jurgen Klopp's men dominated possession and from the moment Emre Can rocketed home a long-range opener in the 26th minute the result was never in doubt.

Firmino evaded Liverpool's lead on the stroke of half-time when he somehow squeezed the ball home from the byline after being played

in by a clever Sadio Mane back-heel.

Klopp had left Dutch defender Virgil van Dijk on the bench and the absence of the club-record signing was hardly noticed as the Reds continued in cruise control.

Salah completed the scoring from the penalty spot in the 78th minute after Can was tripped up in the box.

"We had to keep the ball and score at the right moments. Overall it was absolutely deserved," Klopp said.

"It was exactly what we needed. It was not a brilliant performance, but it was very mature and exactly what we needed at the right moment."

A Mark Noble penalty helped West Ham shrug off the disappointment of their embarrassing FA Cup fourth-round defeat at Wigan with a hard-fought 1-1 draw against Crystal Palace.

Roy Hodgson's much-improved Eagles grabbed the lead in the 24th minute when Christian Benteke rose to steer an Andros Townsend cross home from close range.

But the Hammers were level just before the break after Javier Hernandez was brought down by James Tomkins in the box.

Hernandez came closest to a winner when his 51st-minute effort was brilliantly saved by Wayne Hennessey.

BOOTH LEVEL WORKERS ARE BJP'S BACKBONE IIM, IIT will change socio-economic profile of Nagrota: Priya Sethi

JAMMU, JAN 31: Senior BJP leader and Minister of State for Education, Technical Education, Culture, Tourism, Horticulture, Floriculture and Parks, Priya Sethi today said that booth level workers are vital link between organisation and the government. They, in fact, are footsoldiers of BJP who take party's programmes and policies amongst masses.

Priya Sethi was speaking at well attended gathering of booth level workers of Nagrota assembly constituency where she encouraged them to strengthen party, counter negative

propaganda of opposition and prepare for Panchayat elections. She said that each and every success of party during past is the end result of tireless efforts and campaigning by booth level workers.

Referring to establishment of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in the state, Priya Sethi said that these two prestigious institutes are biggest contributions of NDA government towards state and by choosing Nagrota as location for these two business and engineering institutes, the BJP-PDP



government has widened the scope of socio-economic development of this Constituency.

These two premier institutions in Nagrota are being developed on most modern lines to facilitate students and help faculty reap all benefits of being in a prosperous state of Jammu and Kashmir, Priya Sethi said adding that their campuses will not only help students but also add to economy of this Constituency.

Lauding the role of booth level workers, the senior BJP leader and Minister Priya Sethi said

It is because of this force that BJP is scaling new heights and winning over hearts of masses in entire country including Jammu and Kashmir State. Their efforts which they are putting in most hostile conditions are keeping the spirit of commoners live. Its their patriotic zeal and a commitment towards people that is keeping them go on the right path, she asserted.

Priya Sethi said that be it party's identified six programmes, elections, organising mass contact programmes or implementing state as well as centrally sponsored programmes booth level

workers always stay on forefront which is why BJP is able to reach its targets in every state of the country.

Appreciating their work, the BJP leader asked them to keep this momentum so that party is able to reach out to masses in a bigger way.

Among others who were present on the occasion Om Khajuria BJP District President Rural, Hem Raj Verma, Subash chander sharma, Ajay kumar sharma, Nasib Singh, Bodi Raj, Talib hussain, Kaka Ram, Renu Jamwal, Awa Jamwal, Ganesh Dutt, Girdhar Lal, kaka ram and Som Dutt.

Thousands pay rich tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on martyrdom day GGF holds mega event, highlights importance of peace in growth, development

JAMMU, JANUARY 31: Thousands of people including students of government and private institutions of Jammu today thronged Dewana-Aam Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his martyrdom day. Gandhi Global Family J&K organized a mega event in this connection to commemorate the death anniversary of Father of Nation. Legislators M. Y. Tangani, Rajesh Gupta and Naresh Gupta, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Hemant Kumar Sharma attended the event and paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and recalled his contribution towards the Nation. They highlighted the significance of philosophy of Gandhiji, which inspires to follow the path of truthfulness and righteousness, to create a better world to live in. Divisional Commissioner who presided over the function emphasized the need of following the principles and ideology of Gandhiji to steer today's world of chaos and confusion towards a peaceful and contented place. "Such ethical teachings have more relevance in present times when the mankind is destructively leading towards attaining materialistic accomplishments forgetting the real purpose of their lives on earth", he maintained. He impressed upon the students to imbibe the 'Gandhian Philosophy' in their day to day lives to lead a peaceful life.

MODI GOVT. FAILED TO DEAL WITH BORDER SITUATION

Congress demands CM should Chair the All Party Meet on Panchayat Elections

JAMMU, JAN. 31: Addressing a largely attended Congress Rally at Poonch PCC Chief said that during UPA regime headed by Dr. Manmohan Singh there were comparatively calm on the LOC and because of experienced and mature leadership which is evident from the fact that during the past 10 years there were less number of ceasefire violations. However Prime Minister Narindar Modi had exploited the countrymen describing the UPA Govt. as weak but now when situation on the border has worsened a lot as also in Kashmir, he questioned the Modi Govt. of its strong policy. He said there does not appear to be any policy of BJP Govt. towards Pakistan and on Kashmir. He said this has become a routine affair and the people all along borders are paying the price besides large number of civilians and Jawans martyred, he should explain BJP govt.'s strong policy and road Map to deal with the situa-

tion. Lauding the people of Poonch - Rajouri who have always given a befitting reply to the communal and divisive forces and maintained their tradition of harmony besides defeating the designs of Pakistan, Mir said that the innocent people were made to believe the falsehood spread by PJP-PDP as per their tactical strategy to rouse the emotions of the people. The unholy alliance by the two ideologically opposite coalition partners have made the people to be cheated and betrayal, asked the party workers to gear up their activities in order to strengthen the party and play the role of a responsible and vibrant opposition as assigned to the party by the people. He said that Congress has always played a historical and vital role in cementing the relationship of peace and brotherhood and unity and integrity of the State.

Mir said that if Govt. is sincere about the discus-

sion regarding holding of Panchayat elections, we propose all party meeting which should be chaired by Chief Minister, as she is having the charge of Home Minister as well as Election Deptt.

The Convention was organized by District Congress Committee Poonch and addressed amongst others by Sr. Vice President Sham Lal Sharma, Vice President Raman Balla, General Secretary Shah Nawaj Choudhary, President NSUI Neeraj Kundan, S.Gurudhar Singh, Ch. Abdul Gani and others senior leaders.

Sham Lal Sharma in his address lashed out at the PDP-BJP government in the state for its failure on all fronts and vitiating the atmosphere of peace and harmony in the state due to their wrong policies. He said that the Modi led government at the centre has failed to fulfill a single commitment with the people and has brought miseries for the common man



due to unprecedented price hike in the country. He described the coalition government as total failure on all fronts and causing

unrest and untold miseries to each and every section of the society due to its wrong policies and assured the people that Congress would continue to play its role of a responsible and vibrant opposition to highlight the failures of the government and make it accountable to the people of the state.

Vice President Raman Bhalla said that Congress is the only unifying force in view of its secular and progressive approach representing all three regions of the state. He lashed out at double standards of the BJP and PDP and described the present coalition as a combination of opportunism for the sake of power only. He said that present coalition suffers from inherent contradictions on basic ideologies and issues and both the parties have put their respective poll commit-

ments aside for the sake of power and betrayed their electorate.

Several local leaders including District President Rajinder Singh Kaka, Choudhary Abdul Gani, Murtaza Khan, Taj Hussain Mir, Praveen Sarwar Khan, Janak Singh, Imran Zaffar, Sarpaich Amir Hussain Shah, Ch. Khan Mohd, Bagh Hussain, Ch. Yaseen, Jahangir Malik, Capt. Sadiq Choudhry, Gulzar Jait, Nayeem Husain Mir, Ch. Talib, Master Abdul Ghani apprised the PCC leadership of the total failure of the Govt. to address to the genuine problems of common people and lack of basic governance. They highlighted the plight of common people due to

unprecedented price inflation and failures of the state govt. to provide basic amenities of life.

On this occasion Ghulam Hussain, Nazir Bajrom, Shamas Din, Mohd Bazir Bajran, Ch. Shamas Din, Master Abdul Qyoom (all Sarpanches), Master Abdul Qayoom, Haji Faqar Din Khan, Liaqat Hussain Khan, Bashaar Khan, Madam Noor Jahan, Madam Parveen, Muneer Hussain, Hav. Mohd. Sadiq, Ch. M. Farooq Paswal and Aijaz Qureshi joined the Congress party after resigning from their respective parties (BJP, PDP & NC). They welcomed in the party fold by PCC President G.A. Mir and other senior leaders of the party.

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