

Grenade attack on Sf camp in south Kashmir, no injured reported

SRINAGAR, FEB 6: Militants attacked a security force camp with a hand grenade in south Kashmir district of Pulwama on Monday night, official source said.

They said militants hurled a hand grenade towards the camp of 50 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) at Kakpora in Pulwama last night. However, the grenade hit the outer-wall of the camp and exploded without causing any

CONTD ON P-2

Srinagar hospital firing: 2 policemen killed; Pak militant escapes

SRINAGAR, FEB 6: Two policemen were killed after a militant staged an attack outside a hospital in Srinagar to free a Pakistani militant from police custody.

Official sources said that a militant opened fire outside SHMS hospital at a police party accompanying a group of around six detainees for medical check-up. "Two policemen were injured in the attack. Both the police-



men, identified as Mushthaq Ahmad and Babar Ahmad, succumbed to his injuries," they said.

They said that one of the prisoners, identified as Naveed Jatt - a

CONTD ON P-2

Pakistani militant - managed to flee. One weapon of a policeman was also missing.

"Security forces have been rushed to the area and a search operation has been launched to nab the prisoner and the attacker," they added.

Meanwhile, National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah and Working President Omar Abdullah while strongly

120 cop, civilians killed in militancy-related incidents: Mehbooba

JAMMU, FEB 6: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday said that 120 police personnel and civilians were killed while 308 were injured in militancy-related incidents across the state in the past two years.

The Chief Minister, who is in-charge of Home department, said that in 2016, 20 civilians and 17 police personnel were killed while 66 civilians and 50 police personnel injured.

Meanwhile in 2017, 51

civilians and 32 police personnel were killed while 192 comprising 108 civilians and 84 police personnel were injured in violence-related incidents across the state, replied the government.

On compensation provided to the affected families and victims, the government said that in terms of order number 723-GR (GAD) of 1990 dated 10-7-1990, read with amendment time to time, ex-gratia is being given in respect of the affected persons, the reply said.

However, for death, Rs One Lakh, for permanent disability, Rs 75,000 and for partial disability, Rs 10,000 is provided, the Minister replied.

The Chief Minister, however, further replied that in the last three years, 63 police personnel of Jammu and Kashmir Police were martyred in the state.

In 2015, 11 police personnel, in 2016, 18 police personnel and in 2017, 32 police personnel were martyred.

CONTD ON P-2

Mehbooba, Omar pained over killing of two policemen in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, FEB 6: Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti Mehbooba Mufti and working president of main opposition National Conference (NC) Omar Abdullah have expressed pain and heartfelt condolence over the killing of two Jammu and Kashmir policemen by militants in a broad daylight at a hospital on Tuesday.

Militants also helped a top Lashker-e-Toiba (LeT) militant Naveed Jatt alias Hanzullah, arrested in 2014, to escape from the detention who was being taken to hospital for medical check up.

Taking to micro-blogging site Twitter Mehbooba said "Pained to hear that two more brave policemen lost their lives in an attack in Srinagar today.

CONTD ON P-2

Pak violated ceasefire 829 times in past 3 yrs in J&K: Mehbooba

JAMMU, FEB 6: Jammu and Kashmir Government on Tuesday said that Pakistan in past three years had violated ceasefire agreement for 829 times and during this period 41 civilians died and 55 security personnel attained martyrdom across the state.

The question raised by the MLC Naresh Kumar Gupta in the Upper House.

As per the break up, in 2015, 222 ceasefire viola-

tions reported in which 16 civilians were killed and 21 injured while nine security personnel got martyred and 14 sustained injuries.

In 2016, ceasefire agreement was violated by the Pakistan for 233 times in which 13 civilians were killed and 83 got injured whereas 16 security personnel died and 74 got injured, replied the Minister.

In-charge Mehbooba Mufti. She further replied that

in 2017 till December 28, 374 incidents of ceasefire violations were reported and 12 civilians killed while 79 got injured and 30 security personnel killed and 62 got injured.

In another reply, the Minister said that 38 civilian deaths were reported in five districts including Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Rajouri and Poonch during this period while 145 persons got injured and 153

CONTD ON P-2

CASO after suspicious movement in south Kashmir

SRINAGAR, FEB 6: Security forces on Tuesday night launched a Cordon and Search Operation (CASO) in south Kashmir after security forces opened fire when they noticed some suspicious movement, official sources said.

They said an alert sentry of police station Rajpora opened fire when he saw some suspicious movement near the police station tonight. However, a CASO operation was immediately launched in the area, they said adding so far nothing was found. Panic gripped in the area after the people heard the firing shots. Last night militants hurled a hand grenade towards a security force camp at Kakpora in Pulwama. However, no one was injured.

Over 27,725 kanals of land under Army's occupation in Chhamb: J&K Govt

JAMMU, FEB 6: Jammu and Kashmir Government on Tuesday said that 27,725 kanals and 17 marlas of land is under the occupation of the Army in the Chhamb Constituency.

In a written reply to the question raised by MLA Krishan Lal, Minister In-charge Home Mehbooba Mufti replied, "The land

CONTD ON P-2

Two killed in Kashmir highway accident

SRINAGAR, FEB 6: Two persons were killed when a vehicle in which they were travelling skidded off the road and fell into deep gorge on Srinagar-Jammu national highway on Monday evening, a police spokesman said here on Tuesday.

He said a car on way to Srinagar from Jammu skidded off the road and

CONTD ON P-2

Traffic on Kashmir highway disrupted due to landslides

SRINAGAR, FEB 6: Traffic on national highway, connecting Kashmir valley with the rest of the country, was disrupted following fresh landslides on Tuesday, official sources said.

We have suspended traffic on the highway following landslides at Magarkote area, where a portion of hill has caved in, they told UNI.

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO), responsible for the maintenance of the highway, has already put into service sophisticated machines and men to work to put through traffic.

It will take few hours to resume traffic on the highway, they said adding.

Hundreds of vehicles, including those carrying passengers, have been stopped at different places on both

CONTD ON P-2

No proposal to grant state subject status to West Pak Refugees: J&K Govt

JAMMU, FEB 6: Jammu and Kashmir Government on Tuesday said that so far there is no proposal to grant state subject status to the West Pakistani Refugees.

In a written reply to the question raised by the BJP MLA Gagan Bhagat seeking details of compensation paid to PoJK Refugees, families yet to be disbursed compensation and intent to settle West Pakistani Refugees

(WPRs), the Minister In-charge Disaster Management, Javed Mustafa Mir said, "Unlike the PoJK displaced persons of 1947 and Chhamb displaced persons of 1965 and 1971, West Pakistani Refugees have not been granted State Subject Status."

"However, there is no specific proposal as of now under the consideration of the Government," replied the Minister In-charge.

DB directives in PIL regarding Security & ors of Court

JAMMU, FEB. 06: In a Public Interest Litigation filed by Summit Naayyar seeking security of Court complex and cleaning and sanitation work for the entire High Court Complex as well as the District Court Complex.

A Division Bench of State High Court Comprising Chief Justice Badar Durrez Ahmed and Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur after hearing both the sides directed Registrar General to furnish a report with regard to the

Budgetary provision and also directed SSP Security, Jammu, the SSP Traffic, Jammu, the Chief Engineer R&B Department and the Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation to be present on next date of hearing.

Writ against CC bank is not maintainable: HC

JAMMU, FEB. 06: Justice Alok Aradhe of J&K High Court Jammu Wing in a petition filed by Harvinder Singh seeking quashment of notice dated 15.01.2018 for holding the 5th Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Citizens' Cooperative Bank Ltd. scheduled to be held on 31.01.2018, observed that it is axiomatic that nowhere in the writ petition the petitioner has not made any factual assertions in support of his submission that Citizen Cooperative Bank which is admittedly a Cooperative Society registered under the provisions of J&K Cooperative Societies Act, 1960 is an instrumentality of the State or an authority within the meaning of Section 11 of the J and K State Constitution. There is no averment in the writ petition to show that the State Government has either any shareholding or has any overall pervasive control over the affairs of the Citizen Cooperative Bank-Society. The Citizen Cooperative Bank also does not perform any public function inasmuch as it is being the Bank. Therefore, it does not fall within the expression 'instrumentality of the State' or authority as defined under Section 11 of the J and K State Constitution'. In view of law laid down by the Supreme Court in the aforementioned decisions and in the absence of necessary averments in the writ petition with regard to amenability of the Citizen Cooperative Bank to the jurisdiction of this Court, in the considered opinion of this Court, the writ petition filed qua Citizen Cooperative Bank is not maintainable. With these observations High Court dismissed the petition in limine.



Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

STOP SEX SELECTION, SAVE THE GIRL CHILD.

Pre-conception Sex Selection & Pre-natal Sex Determination is a Criminal Offence under the **Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act 1994**

Every offence under the PC&PNDT Act 1994 is
Cognizable, Non-Bailable & Non-Compoundable

Salient Features of the Act

- Prohibits sex selection before & after conception.
- Prohibits advertisement related to determination and selection of sex of foetus, even through internet.
- Mandatory registration for facilities providing diagnostic services capable of determination of sex.
- MAINTENANCE and PRESERVATION of records, including "Form F" is mandatory for all facilities.
- There is no punishment and fine for the women who are compelled to undergo sex selection.

Provision of imprisonment and financial penalties under the Act

- Up to 3 years of imprisonment with fine up to Rs. 10,000/- for doctors/owners of clinics for the first offence and cancellation of medical registration of doctor for 5 years for subsequent offence.
- Up to 3 years of imprisonment and up to Rs. 50,000/- fine for husband/family member or any other person abetting sex selections.
- Up to 3 years of imprisonment with fine up to Rs. 10,000/- for any advertisement regarding sex selection.



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Vibodh Walks Out of The State Legislature on PSC Issue

PSC Selection Process Should be Credible and Transparent: Vibodh
JAMMU, FEB. 06: BJP senior leader and MLC Vibodh Gupta today walked out of the upper house of state assembly as a mark of protest on various issues related to Public Service Commission. He very strongly raised the issues and said that the answers provided to him on his various questions on PSC were not satisfactory. He said that today common masses of the state specially the educated youth of our state must have full faith in the selection procedure being followed by PSC. On this issue, Vibodh wanted a discussion in the upper house of the state legislature. He also requested the chair to constitute a house committee which should look into this matter. Vibodh also said that late Mufti Mahomad Sayeed always wanted to bridge the gap between Jammu region and Kashmir region. For this, he said that trust must be restored among our younger generation. Speaking about the institutions like PSC he said that the selection process of PSC must be open and transparent so that our educated and meritorious youth must not feel cheated by such institution of high repute.

Later the walkout while addressing the media Vibodh stressed upon the fact that there should be complete transparency in the selection process by PSC and no one should lose faith on the credibility of such institutions. He said that for the posts of PSC whatever selections are made the data of the selected candidates must be provided district wise. All the youth who apply for a particular post and appear for various interviews must know clear facts about their non-inclusion in any selection list. This he said will build a strong trust among our youth and they will never feel betrayed or cheated. Since these matters were not discussed in the house today, Vibodh said that he will keep raising these issues in the house whenever he will get time for these in the near future as well. Transparency in the selection process will build the morale of our youth, whose energies need to be channelized for the development of our state and nation Vibodh added.

Budget Session 2018-19 - LC Proceedings
LC passes Bill for Protection, Conservation, Development of Fisheries

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 06: The Upper House today passed "A Bill to provide for the protection, conservation and development of fisheries in the state and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto (L.A. Bill No.4 of 2018)".

The Bill was moved by the Minister for Animal, Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries, Abdul Gani Kohli and passed with a voice vote.

Budget Session 2018-19 - LC Proceedings
LC passes Bill to Amend JK Land Revenue Act-1996

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 06: The Upper House today passed "A Bill to Amend the Jammu and Kashmir Land Revenue Act-Samvat 1996 (L.A. Bill No: 8 of 2018)".

Minister for Agriculture Gulam Nabi Hanjura moved the bill on behalf of Minister for Revenue, Hajj & Auqaf, Parliamentary Affairs, Abdul Rehman Veeri. The Bill was passed with a voice vote.

Budget Session 2018-19 - LC Proceedings
LA passes Bill to amend Salaries, Allowances of Members of JK Legislature Act-1960

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 06: The House today passed "A Bill to amend the Salaries and Allowances of Members of the Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature Act, 1960 (L.A. Bill No.3 of 2018)".

The Bill was moved by the Minister for Agriculture Gulam Nabi Hanjura on behalf of Minister for Revenue, Hajj & Auqaf, and Parliamentary Affairs, Abdul Rehman Veeri in the House.

Later, the Bill was passed with a voice vote.

Budget Session 2018-19 - LC Proceedings
Zulfkar tables Annual, Audit Reports of SFC in LC

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 06: Minister for Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Choudhary Zulfkar Ali, on behalf of the Minister for Finance Dr Haseeb A Drabu, today, tabled copies of the Annual Report and Audit Report of the State Financial Corporation for the years 2015-16 and 2016-17 in the Legislative Council.

Budget Session 2018-19 - LC Proceedings
Zulfkar tables SHRC Report in LC

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 06: Minister for Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Choudhary Zulfkar Ali, on behalf of the Minister for Law and Justice, Abdul Haq Khan, today, tabled a copy of the Annual Report of the State Human Rights Commissions for the year 2016-17 along with copy of Action Taken Report in Legislative Council.

Budget Session 2018-19 - LC Proceedings
Chairman presents IIInd report of BAC in LC

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 06: Chairman, Legislative Council today presented second report of the Business Advisory Committee for the 117th session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Council.

Earlier Muhammad Khurshid Alam informed the House about the same.

Sitting CE tears apart nexus of looting state exchequer in I&FC Deptt.

NSF supports campaign of officer to expose deep rooted corruption

JAMMU, FEB. 06: statement to the press against the top officers serving at the helms of affairs in the department, Control Department to muster courage and expose nexus operating amongst contractors-Babus-minister to swindle public money in crores on the pretext of desilting, canals annually, thus pointedly raising fingers on the functioning of PDP BJP government in the state.

This was stated by Dr. Vikas Sharma, Chief National Secular Forum (NSF) today while addressing a press conference and said that the startling revelations and serious allegations levelled by the Chief Engineer in a written

statement to the press against the top officers serving at the helms of affairs in the department, Control Department to muster courage and expose nexus operating amongst contractors-Babus-minister to swindle public money in crores on the pretext of desilting, canals annually, thus pointedly raising fingers on the functioning of PDP BJP government in the state.

Referring to only 20 percent utilization of funds out of 15 to 20 crores allocated for desilting of canals/khuls and their maintenance, Dr. Vikas was aghast to learn from leading newspaper story as revealed by P. N. Bali Chief Engineer, DIQC that I&FC ministry and its high profile babus are hand in glove with contractors for indulging into



open loot of money earmarked for the said purpose.

Slamming the centre BJP government which its votary of providing corruption free administration in the country, Dr.

Vikas expressed deep shock on the I&FC state ministry headed by none other than a BJP Mantri who has obliquely been targeted by a sitting senior officer of his department be leveling such alle-

gations after he (CE) was shifted from the chair of CE I&FC within four months of his posting, because he flatly declined to succumb to the unfair demand of top officers to be a party of the age old

system of swindling public money under the garb of cleaning canals/khuls. Dr Vikas said that these are very serious charges of corruption against the sitting top officers which is not possible without the involvement of concerned minister in the Department. He urged that Governor and the Chief Minister should hand over the case to CBI for independent probe for smashing the nexus of corrupt officers being slur on the functioning of state government so that culprits in the Department of Irrigation and Flood Control are booked under law of the land and to put a big deterrent for any further loot in the department, Dr. Vikas demanded.

Thakur K D Singh Inaugurated New Complex of NILM NGO

JAMMU, FEB. 06: Thakur K D Singh chairman National Incredible Literacy Mission Jammu & Kashmir inaugurated new complex at central head quarter ,RoopNagar in Jammu .Here large numbers of volunteers, workers and NILM officials has taken part .Function started with cutting of ribbon by chairman NILM along with Rakeshwar Singh Project Director NILM, Vidya Devi vice president, Raman Gupta Secretary NILM & Kavita Bali accounts officer NILM.

Speaking with media personals Th K D Singh chairman NILM highlighted the achievements of NILM (NGO) during



last 6 years. He added his time is committed for providing remarkable service to the society.

On the occasion Rakeshwar Singh Project Director NILM also interacted with media personals he congratulated general public for

opening of new complex in head office. He added that new complex will help in providing better opportunities to needy people. He also presented vote of thanks to all guest present during opening ceremony of new complex.

She further asked Bankers to publicize their schemes in schools/colleges and organize awareness programmes specifically targeting 'Educational Loans'. She added that immense boom in Housing sector in district must be tapped and any clarification regarding revenue matters must be taken up by Banks on priority.

Samba records highest CD ratio in Jammu Division

SAMBA FEBRUARY 06: District Development Commissioner, Sheetal Nanda today chaired the District Level Review and Consultative committee meeting to review the progress and performance of banks in key areas relating to Deposits, Advances and Priority sector lending for the quarter ending December 2017.

During the meeting, DC asked for deliberation on reasons for low credit utilization by Kissan Credit Card holders and said that cases of farmers not falling within purview of KCC loans should be submitted under 'Agricultural Term Loans' by sponsoring departments.

She further asked Bankers to publicize their schemes in schools/colleges and organize awareness programmes specifically targeting 'Educational Loans'. She added that immense boom in Housing sector in district must be tapped and any clarification regarding revenue matters must be taken up by Banks on priority.

The DLRCC asked Banks to pay more focus on Joint Liability and Self Help groups as they have proved that they are more secure and less prone to be 'Non performing Asset'.

Earlier Lead Bank Manager, Satish Sharma addressed participants that CD ratio of district was 57.55% which is highest in Jammu province and assured that it will touch 60 % in next quarter. The District Agriculture officer also informed that Samba has highest non-loanee farmers enrollment under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana in Jammu Division. DDM NABARD, Surinder Singh asked departments and Banks to take up more cases under 'Dairy Entrepreneur Development Scheme' and 'National Livestock Mission' for their continuation has been extended up to 28th Feb, 2018.

LDO RBI Abhilasha Diwakar, GM DIC Varinder Manyal and District Heads of Banks and Govt Departments were also present in the meeting.

DDC inspects progress of developmental works

SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 06: District Development Commissioner Shopian, Mohammad Aijaz today conducted an extensive tour of the district and reviewed the progress of various ongoing developmental works/projects being executed in the district.

During the tour, DDC visited Batapora Bridge and directed the executing agencies, to accelerate the pace of work and ensure timely completion of the project. It was given out that the estimated cost of Batapora Bridge is 6.50 Crore and 5.00 crore has

been spent so far. DDC was accompanied by Executive Engineer R&B, Assistant Executive Engineer R&B, Tehsilidar Shopian and other senior officers of concerned departments.

DDC also visited Sindoo Shirmal where Additional Block for Government High School Shirmal and 100 bedded capacity Gujjar & Bakerwal Hostel is being constructed. It was given out that the estimated cost for the construction of Additional Block for GHSS is 22.00 lacs and an amount of 15.00 lacs has been spent so far for the construction

of Gujjar & Bakerwal hostel. He took a detailed inspection of the buildings and directed the concerned to make every possible efforts to complete both projects in a time-bound manner so that people are benefitted at the earliest.

While inspecting the ongoing works at the sites, DDC gave special emphasis on the use of quality material. He also directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work and ensure that the project gets completed within a stipulated period of time. He said that hostel will prove benef-

icial to the students of Gujjar and Bakerwal. He further said that the hostel will come up with state of art infrastructure with all modern facilities like Reading rooms, recreation room, indoor games facility, computer lab, library and internet facility. Later on, DDC inspected the Mega Fruit Mandi Aglar Shopian and took review of the work of levelling and directed the concerned to complete the work with the stipulated time and also complete the macadamization so that the old fruit Mandi will be shifted without any delay.

Govts exempts toll on export of fruit, gypsum

Wheat bran included in exempted list

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 06: Giving relief to the Fruit and Gypsum Industry in the state, the government has exempted the toll on their export which was announced by the Finance Minister in Budget 2018-19. "In exercise of the powers conferred by section 5 of the Levy of Toll Act, Samvat 1995 (Act No. VIII of 1995), the Government hereby directs that export of the fresh fruit and gypsum produced within the State of Jammu and Kashmir shall be exempt from payment of toll leviable under the said Act," said SRO-66 issued by the Finance Department. This notification shall come in force w.e.f February 6, 2018.

Meanwhile, through a separate SRO issued Vide No: 65, the State Government has included Wheat bran in the list of exempted import items.

Non-commercial LMVs exempted from Toll

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 06: The Government has exempted the Non-Commercial Light Motor Vehicles entering and leaving the State from payment of Basic Toll. The Finance Department has issued SRO 67 in this regard. As per the notification, the government in exercise of the powers conferred by section 5 of the Levy of Toll Act, Samvat 1995 (Act No. VIII of 1995), directs that all Non-Commercial Light Motor Vehicles entering and leaving the State shall be exempted from payment of Basic Toll leviable under the said act. The notification shall come in force w.e.f February 6, 2018.

Commercial vehicles exempted from paying arrears of passenger tax: Govt

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 06: In exercise of the powers conferred by section 10 of the Jammu and Kashmir Passengers Taxation Act, 1963, the Government has exempted from payment of Passenger tax leviable under the said Act.

As per the SRO 69 issued by the Finance Department, all the past arrears of the passenger tax of the commercial vehicles in the state upto 31st December, 2017 are exempted.

Govt approves remission of stamp duty for SHGs, JLGs as loans advanced by NABARD

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 06: The Government has cancelled the stamp duty for an amount upto Rs 3.00 lakh in case of the loans advanced by the NABARD to Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Joint Liability Groups (JLGs).

"In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (a) of section 9 of the Stamps Act, Samvat 1977 (XL of 1977), the Government hereby directs that there shall be remission of stamp duty under the said Act for an amount upto Rs 3.00 lakhs (upto Three Lakhs only) in case of the loans advanced by the NABARD to Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Joint Liability Groups (JLGs)," reads SRO 71 issued by the Finance Department in this regard.

Saudi Arabia bans foreign workers in 12 sectors, many Indians to be affected

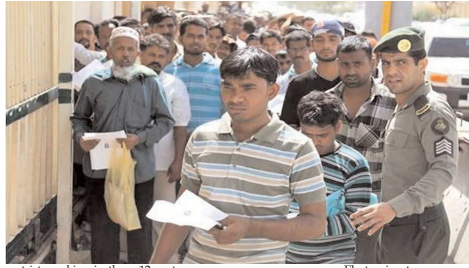
NEW DELHI: In a bid to pressure companies into hiring more Saudi citizens and reduce unemployment in the country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has imposed a restriction on the expatriates from working in 12 sectors.

The tighter policy has been approved by Labor Minister Ali bin Nasser al-Ghafis, a report in Prabhat Khabar said.

The new rule could potentially affect large numbers of people since about 12 million foreigners work in Saudi Arabia, doing many of the strenuous, dangerous and lower-paid jobs shunned by 20 million Saudi citizens.

The restriction is also likely to affect over 30 lakh Indians who live and work in Saudi Arabia.

Minister of Labour and Social Development will



restrict working in these 12 sectors in a phased manner.

The following sectors will be restricted for hiring of expatriates from September 11, 2018:

- Car and motorbike showrooms
- Readymade clothes

stores

- Home and office furniture stores

- Home appliances and kitchen utensils stores

The following sectors will be restricted for hiring of expatriates from November 9, 2018

- Electronics stores

- Watches and clocks stores

- Optics stores

The following sectors will be restricted for hiring of expatriates from January 7, 2019

- Medical equipment and

supplies stores

- Building material stores

- Auto spare parts stores

- Carpet selling stores

- Sweet shops

The jobs rule among Saudis aged 15 to 24 stood at 32.6 percent last year, according to the International Labour Organisation.

Saudi Arabia posted an economic contraction in 2017 for the first time in eight years due to severe austerity measures.

The new rule is a part of the ongoing economic reforms launched last year to ease joblessness among Saudis by 2020.

Saudi Arabia is India's fourth largest trade partner after China, the US and the UAE.

The country is a major source of India's energy requirement as it accounts for almost one-fifth of India's crude oil requirement.

Agni-I, short-range nuclear capable ballistic missile, test-fired off Odisha coast

BALASORE: India successfully test fired indigenously developed nuclear capable Agni-I (A) ballistic missile from Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha coast on Tuesday at 8.30 AM. The test was conducted by the Strategic Force Command of Indian Army.

It was 18th version of the 700 km range missile from launch pad-4 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Abdul Kalam Island in Balasore.

The 15-metre-long Agni-I weighing 12 tonne can carry payloads up to 1,000 kg. The last trial was successfully conducted on November 22, 2016, from the same base.

The missile was inducted into service in 2004. The surface-to-surface, single-stage missile, powered by solid propellants,



was launched as part of a regular training exercise by the armed forces.

The trial reaffirms the Army's readiness to fire it at short notice. The Agni-I missile has a specialised

navigation system which ensures it reaches the target with a high degree of accuracy and precision.

It has proved its excellent performance in terms of range and accuracy.

5-year-old Delhi boy rescued from kidnappers after 12 days



The crime branch of Delhi Police has been successful in rescuing a five-year-old boy, who was kidnapped from a school bus on January 25 in the national capital. According to reports, one of the kidnappers was killed by the police

while another got injured during the rescue operation. The injured accused has been admitted to GTB hospital in Delhi.

On January 25, when the boy was going to school along with his sister in the school bus, he was kid-

napped by two motorcycle-borne men in Dilshad Garden area of Delhi. The driver of the bus was also reportedly shot by the kidnappers. Three days later on January 28, the kidnappers made a ransom call to the family members of the child

and demanded Rs 60 lakh. With the help of the call details, the police managed to nab the kidnappers and rescue the child after making efforts for 12 days. The boy was rescued from a flat in an apartment in Sahibabad area. They reportedly reached the spot at 1 am on Monday. Police said that the kidnappers opened fire to attack them when they reached the spot. During the gunbattle, one of the accused, Ravi, got killed while another, Pankaj, suffered injuries.

One of the policemen was also hit by a bullet, but suffered no injuries as he was wearing a bullet proof jacket. However, they managed to rescue the kid safely and he was then handed over to the parents.

Bloodbath on Dalal Street: Sensex tanks 1,200 points, Nifty falls 300 points

NEW DELHI: The BSE Sensex dipped below the 34,000-level by plunging around 1200 points in opening trade on Tuesday on heavy losses in metal, realty, capital goods, banking and oil & gas stocks amid a gloom-out in equity markets.

Extending its falling streak for the sixth straight session, the 30-share index fell by 1,274.35 points, or 3.66 percent to 33,482.81 with all sector indices led by realty, consumer durables, metal and banking tradings in the negative zone.

The index had lost 1,526 points in the previous five sessions after its remarkable over 2,200-point gain in January month. Also, the broader NSE Nifty cracked below 10,300-mark by falling 390.25 points, or 3.65 percent to 10,276.30.

In yesterday's closing



Sensex plunged nearly 310 points to close at a three-week low of 34,757.16 and the NSE Nifty fell over 94 points to 10,667, dragged down concerns over certain budget proposals and sell-offs in global markets.

Investors also seemed cautious ahead of the RBI policy meet as they feel that repo rate might be increased amid inflation concerns, brokers said.

The last week's budget proposal of 10 percent long-

term capital gains (LTCG) tax on equities and under-shooting of fiscal deficit target also quashed investor optimism.

However, the government has tried to downplay the impact of budgetary proposals on domestic equities and attributed the current downturn to global market cues. Asian shares fell sharply on Tuesday after Wall Street suffered its biggest decline since 2011 as investors' faith in factors underpinning a

bull run in markets began to crumble. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan dropped 2.8 percent to one-month low, which would be its biggest fall in more than a year and a half, a day after it had fallen 1.6 percent. Japan's Nikkei dropped 4.6 percent. Australian shares dropped 3.0 percent to their lowest level since October while South Korean shares dropped 2.0 percent. All three broke below their 100-day moving average, a major support.

US stocks plunged in high-volatility trading on Monday, with the Dow industrials falling nearly 1,600 points during the session, its biggest intraday decline in history, as investors grappled with rising bond yields and potentially higher inflation.

On death row already, Kulbhusan Jadhav now faces another case in Pakistan

There seems to be no end to the woes of former Navy commander Kulbhusan Jadhav, who is on death row in Pakistan. Jadhav, who was in 2017, convicted and sentenced to death by a military tribunal in Pakistan on spying charges, is now facing trial for terrorism and sabotage.

Pakistan-based news organisation Dawn quoted a Pakistani official as saying that Jadhav has multiple cases against him wherein he has been indicted on charges on terror and sabotage. This comes even as the

International Court of Justice had last year restricting Pakistan from executing Jadhav till adjudication of the case. In its application, India had informed the ICJ that it learnt about the death sentence against Jadhav from a press release.

Meanwhile, the ICJ had in January mandated the time-limits for India and Pakistan to file the written pleadings in Kulbhusan Jadhav case. While India has been asked to submit the pleadings on April 17, 2018, Pakistan will have to submit the same on July 17, 2018.



Kulbhusan Jadhav, 47, who was arrested in March last year, was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court for alleged spying, an accusation that India has dismissed as concocted. Pakistan had claimed

that its security forces arrested Jadhav alias Hussein Mubarak Patel from restive Balochistan province on March 3, 2017, after he reportedly entered from Iran. India, however, said that Jadhav was kidnapped from Iran

where he had business interests after retiring from the Indian Navy. Earlier in January, Pakistan had released a video of the jailed Indian, wherein Jadhav thanked the country for its gesture of letting him meet his wife and mother.

In the video, Jadhav said that he felt that his mother and wife were scared during the meeting as an Indian diplomat was shouting at them. He also said that he was in good health. "My mother was very happy to see me in healthy condition," Jadhav said in the video. Reacting to it, India

slammed Islamabad saying that 'propagandistic exercises simply carry no credibility.' "This does not come as a surprise.

Pakistan is simply continuing its practice of putting out coerced statements on video. It is time for them to realise that such propagandistic exercises simply carry no credibility," the Ministry of External Affairs had said in a statement.

It added, "Absurdity of a captive under duress certifying his own welfare while mouthing allegations of his captors clearly merits no comment."

India says don't travel to Maldives in advisory as political crisis in island nation deepens

NEW DELHI: Amid a political crisis brewing in the Maldives, the Indian government on Monday asked all nationals to defer any non-essential travel to the Indian Ocean nation. Cautioning citizens, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) issued an advisory asking Indians in Maldives to stay alert and avoid public gatherings. "The prevailing political developments in Maldives and the resultant law and order situation is a matter of concern for the Government of India. Indian nationals are, therefore, advised to defer all non-essential travels to Male and other atolls until further notice," the External Affairs Ministry said in a statement.

"Indian expatriates in Maldives are also alerted to the need for heightened security awareness, and urged to exercise due caution in public and avoid public gatherings," it added.

The advisory came hours after Maldivian President Abdulla Yameen declared a 15-day state of emergency, amid a tense standoff between the Supreme Court and the government.

"All basic rights have been suspended. Security forces have sweeping powers to arrest and search," Member of Parliament, Eva Abdulla said.

The move gave sweeping powers to security forces to arrest and detain suspects.

Mughal Gardens of Rashtrapati Bhavan open for public from Tuesday. Here is why it is special this year

NEW DELHI: The gates of the iconic Mughal Gardens of the Rashtrapati Bhavan have been thrown open for public from Tuesday. The gardens will remain open for public from February 6 to March 9 between 9:30 AM and 4:00 PM. The gardens will be closed on Mondays for maintenance and on March 2, on account of Holi. Visitors will also be able to visit the Spiritual Garden, Herbal Garden, Bonsai Garden and Musical Garden.

What is special this year? The special feature of the 'Udyanotsav' this year will be the bulbs flowering plants. Ranunculus and Tulips which are in bloom since the first week of January 2018, have been

planted in phased manner and are expected to blossom till the final week of February 2018. About 10,000 programmed Tulip bulbs in 8 varieties of different colours - red, white, and yellow mixed with red, pink and purple - which were imported from the Netherlands and have been planted in the Mughal Gardens.

The several beds of roses, margined with dwarf trimmed hedge and numerous exotic flowers, including Tulips and other bulbous flowering plants, are the main attraction of the Long Garden - the middle terrace of Mughal Gardens.

Flower Carpets in magnificent designs will be on display at the Central Lawn. The dominant colour



scheme of this year's ornamental flowers is various shades of yellow, red, orange and white. As in previous years, a small cactus corner forms part of the Mughal Gardens display. Visitors and plant lovers

will also be able to see a Lotus pond - with a cascading waterfall - in the Spiritual Garden. Flowering and other house plants have been placed along a vertical wall in the Long Garden so that they are able to sustain

themselves with limited soil.

How to enter the gardens? The entry and exit for the general public will be from Gate No. 35 of the President's Estate. Dos and Don'ts

Water bottles, briefcases, handbags/ladies purses, cameras, radios/transistors, boxes, umbrellas, eatables etc are not allowed inside the gardens. Those carrying such articles will have to submit them at the entry point. Drinking water, toilets, first aid / medical facility, rest rooms for senior citizens, women and children are available at various places along the public route.

Special visit on March 9 The gardens will be open on March 9 exclusively for special category visitors - farmers, differently abled persons, defence/paramilitary forces and Delhi police personnel. On the same day, the Tactile Garden will be open exclusively for visually impaired people.

Budget Session 2018-19 - LC Proceedings - Calling Attention Notice

Police investigating SPO Dev Raj's case of drowning: Hanjura

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 06: Minister for Agriculture, Gulam Nabi Hanjura today informed the Legislative Council that the police are investigating into the circumstance that led to the death by drowning of SPO Dev Raj on July 24, 2017.

"The matter is being investigated by the Police, and once the final

report is received, further course of action shall be initiated in the case" he said.

The Minister was replying to a calling attention notice of MLC Sajjad Ahmad Kichloo moved in the House in this regard. The member also wanted to know the reasons for not granting the ex-gratia to next of kin of the deceased.

The Minister informed the House that the cause of the death of Dev Raj, while he was crossing Chenab River through Cradle Box, which is not covered under SDRF norms and the concerned SDPO/SHO has been directed to probe the case on merits.

The Minister further informed the house that the inquiry officer

recorded the statement of parents as well as the relatives of the said SPO who corroborated the facts of drowning report. "The dead body of the deceased has not been traced so far in spite of vigorous efforts. However, the death certificate in respect of the subject could not be furnished to his NOKs as the Section 108 of Evidence

Act, provides for the issuance of the death certificate of any missing person by the District Magistrate only after the completion of a period of 07 years of missing," Minister added.

Meanwhile, the Minister said that recommendation would be sent to the government for compensation to next of kin of the deceased.

Budget Session 2018-19 - LA Proceedings

Veeri informs House regarding burglary cases in Uri

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 06: Minister for Revenue, Hajj & Aqaf and Parliamentary Affairs, Abdul Rehman Veeri said that there have been 5 cases of burglary in Uri area, out of which 3 cases solved and 6 accused persons arrested, all of the stolen property in these cases has been recovered. He said Police has got also clues in 2 other cases and efforts are on to nab the culprits.

The Minister was replying to a point of information raised by the MLA Uri Mohammad Shafi Bhat in the Legislative Assembly today.

The Minister said that 4.45 lakh stolen property recovered by the Uri Police Station at Lagama, Salambad and Thajal Uri on 05-06-2017, 19-01-2018 and 27-01-2018 respectively against FIR Case No 28/2017, 04/2018 and

07/2018. He further said that under the Case FIR NO. 5 & 6/2018, Rs 1.10 stolen property on 19-01-2018 and 22-01-2018 at Uri and Garkot Uri respectively were not recovered so far by the Police Station Uri.

Veeri also informed the House said that the night patrolling has been intensified and Police machinery has been alerted to avoid such incidents.

Budget Session 2018-19 - LA Proceedings - Calling Attention Notice

171 Distribution Transformers repaired in Devsar constituency this year: Asiea Naqash

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 06: Minister of State for Power Asiea Naqash today said that the department has repaired and re-installed 171 distribution transformers in Devsar constituency during the current financial year.

She was responding to a calling attention notice by legislator Mohammad Amin Bhat. Minister said that about 178 distribution transformers were damaged in Devsar constituency during the current financial year out of which 178 transformers were repaired and re-installed. She said the balance 7 transformers were presently under repairs in

the Divisional Workshop and are expected to be re-installed back into the system within a week's time. She said owing to the increase in rate of transformer damages during winter, it takes more time for restoration.

The Minister further stated that the repairing time of the transformers depends on upon the extent of damage and the backlog in the departmental workshops. She said repairs of the damaged transformers are being carried out in the Divisional Workshops and central workshops at Pampore.

She said to facilitate

speedy repairs of damaged transformers, the department employs the service of registered private repairing agencies as well during the winters but the private firms have stopped repairing transformers which has further burdened the Divisional and the central Workshops.

She said now the matter has been solved with the private firms and they have again started to repair the damaged transformers and hence has given a breather to the department and that the damaged distribution transformers are now being replaced in a lesser time than earlier.

Budget Session 2018-19 - LC Proceedings - Question Hour

Steps afoot to ease traffic congestion in Jammu, Srinagar: Hanjura

Minister for Agriculture Gulam Nabi Lone Hanjura, replying on behalf of Minister for Home, today informed the House that the government has taken various steps to reduce traffic congestion in twin capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar including creation of parking space and proposed construction of two ring road projects worth Rs. 4000 crore.

Replying to a question of S Charanjeet Singh Khalsa, the Minister said the J&K Traffic Police have also taken various measures for effective traffic management in

Jammu and Srinagar including effective enforcement of Traffic Laws, effective action against wrong parking with special attention towards congested areas; installation of delineators, traffic cones to enforce lane driving; conducting awareness campaigns to educate the motorists; imposition of restrictions on the movement of HMVs, lifting the vehicles parked unauthorizedly on road sides, pasting of stickers on wrongly parked vehicles and recommending suspension of driving licences of traffic law violators to the

concerned RTOs/ARTOs.

He further informed that the Transport Department has initiated a joint exercise for identification of bus stands/stops with the participation of the RTO, SMC, SDA and R&B in Srinagar and Jammu.

He informed that sixty-two passenger sheds have been constructed under the jurisdiction of PIU-Jammu from Lakhampur to Ramban and forty-six sheds are being constructed on National Highway from Srinagar to Ramban.

The Minister said PWD(R&B) has

macadamized 6434.22 km of road length under cities and towns programme since 2015-16 in the state and blacktopped 2473.76 km PMGSY roads. The department has also constructed 2,300 parapets in Jammu to prevent fatal accidents in hilly areas, he added. He said that Motor Vehicles Department has notified 45 mini bus stops and 67 three-wheeler stops in Jammu city and 56 bus stops in Srinagar.

Legislators Ajatshatru Singh, Surinder Kumar Choudhary and Khursheed Alam raised supplementary questions on the main question.

Lower Munda, Borehallan Heerpur toll posts abolished

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 06: As a follow up to the budget announcement, the government has notified that Toll Posts established in Kashmir Division at Lower Munda in District Anantnag and Borehallan Heerpur in District Shopian have been abolished February 06, 2018. "In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (4) of the Jammu & Kashmir Levy of Tolls Act, Samvat 1995 (Act No. VIII of 1995), the Government of Jammu and Kashmir hereby directs that the Toll Posts established at Lower Munda in district Anantnag and Borehallan Heerpur in district Shopian under the provisions of the said Act, shall cease to operate from February 6th, 2018," said SRO issued by the Principal Secretary Finance, Mr Navin Kumar Choudhary.

Govt exempts toll on various export items

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 06: As announced by the Finance Minister Dr Haseeb A Drabu in the Budget 2018-19, the Government has exempted toll on various items which are being imported to the state.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by section 5 of the Jammu & Kashmir Levy of Toll Act, Samvat 1995 (Act No VIII of 1995), the Government hereby directs that import of following items including Sanitary items (Toilets seats-Indian, Western & Urinals, Washbasin, Pedestal, Bidet, Bathtub, Sink and accessories like soap holder, towel rod and toilet paper holder, Taps, showers, Faucets shall not include pipes to be used for bathroom fittings) shall be exempt from payment of Toll leviable under the said Act," said SRO-68 issued by the Finance Department.

Besides, Jaggery (Gur), Sugar, Medicines for human and animal consumption, Vegetables (leafy, Non-leafy including Onion, Potato, Garlic and Ginger etc.), Newspaper paper, Tea, Tree Spray Oil, Wheat seed, Salt (iodized), Soaps (Soaps used by humans for bathing, washing of clothes and utensils and Detergents (liquid, cakes and powder), Narial (Coconut with water) and Pulses have also been exempted from paying toll while their import to the state. This notification shall come in force w.e.f February 6, 2018.

Hanjura asks for producing quality seeds in departmental farms to enhance agri production

Terms awareness key to better implementation of government schemes

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 06: Minister for Agriculture, Gulam Nabi Lone Hanjura has stressed upon the Agriculture Department to produce quality seeds in the departmental farms to meet the needs of the farmers.

The Minister issued the directions during a meeting held to discuss various issues related to functioning of Chakrohi seed farm in Jammu.

The meeting was also attended Vice chancellor SKUAUST (J) PK S h a r m a , Commissioner/Secretary Agriculture Production Department,

Muhammad Afzal Bhat, Secretary Agriculture production department, Shokat Ahmad Beg, Director Agriculture Jammu, H.K. Razdan and other senior officers of the department.

Hanjura said that best quality seeds should be made available to the farmers at low rates so that more and more farmers would get benefited out of the schemes initiated by the agriculture department. He said that state government is making every effort to improve the living standards of the farming community through farmer friendly

initiatives.

Hanjura said that State Government has already announced several innovative schemes for farmers with the intention to uplift their income. He said the approach recommended by agriculture experts to double the income of farmers in a given time-frame should be adopted in true spirit. He said that awareness and sensitization of farmers holds key to better implementation of the welfare schemes and called upon the Agriculture department and concerned agencies to reach out to the farm-

ers by organizing regular awareness programmes. He stressed that with the changing times the focus should be on integrated and organic farming to fetch good economic returns. He said that implementation of the schemes like Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojana (PMFBY), National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC), Kissan Credit Cards (KCC) Scheme and focus on integrated farming will make the farming sector more lucrative.

Govt to reimburse State Taxes paid by Industrial Units under JKGST Act

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 06: To provide budgetary support to the eligible manufacturing units operating in Jammu and Kashmir, the State Government has notified the scheme for reimbursement of State Taxes paid under Jammu and Kashmir Goods and Services Tax Act 2017.

As per SRO-63 issued by the Principal Secretary Finance, Mr Navin Kumar Choudhary, the scheme shall be limited to the tax which accrues to the State government under the Jammu and Kashmir Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 after adjustment of the input tax credit paid by the manufacturing units. The scheme shall be called the Jammu and Kashmir Reimbursement of Taxes for Promotion of Small/Medium/Large Scale Industries in the State of Jammu and Kashmir and shall come into operation from 08.07.2017 for an eligible unit and shall remain in force till the last date of Industrial Policy, 2016. "In recognition of the hardships arising due to withdrawal of remission from payment of Value Added Tax the Government would provide budgetary support to the eligible units by way of part reimbursement of the Goods and Services Tax, paid by the unit after adjustment of Input Tax Credit on supply of finished goods manufactured by the Industrial Units located in the State of Jammu and Kashmir," the SRO states.

BUDGET SESSION 2018-19 - LA PROCEEDINGS - ZERO HOUR

Tackle intrusion of wild animals in residential areas: Speaker to Govt

LEGISLATORS RAISE ISSUES OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 06: The Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Kavinder Gupta asked the government to take appropriate action for minimizing the intrusion of wild animals in residential areas in both the divisions of the state.

The directions were passed after MLA Usman Majid raised the issue in the House during Zero Hour.

Majid asked the government to take steps for tackling monkey menace in Ayat Mullah and Amanah Sharief villages in district Bandipora.

He was later joined by other legislators who expressed concern over the rising attacks by monkeys and other animals on the local population and urged government to take appropriate measures to check the nuisances.

Meanwhile, several members today raised various public importance issues in Legislative Assembly during Zero Hour.

Hakeem Mohammad Yasin asked the government to fill the vacancies in the Doodhpathri Development Authority and also urged the government to expedite the pace of

work on all ongoing developmental works in his constituency.

Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami expressed concern over the mismanagement of centuries old elephant fossil which was discovered in Gallandar Pampore in 2002 and put in a shed for preservation and later the fossil was shifted to Jammu University in 2007 where it is reported that the same is missing.

Neelam Kumar Lengh demanded up-gradation of infrastructure of education institutions including Higher Secondary School in his Constituency.

Mohammad Shafi Uri asked the government for taking measures to stop theft cases in Uri Markets and also demanded for fulfilling of genuine demands including promotions and other issues of the employees of the Police Department.

Mumtaz Ahmad Khan urged the government for constitution of committees for settlement of Niabat in Gulabgarh constituency.

Mohammad Khalil Band while taking part in Zero Hour said that due to construction of National Highway and Railway Track in Pulwama district it affected the land

owners whose land was not acquired by the government as the railway track leads to water logging in field. He demanded compensation to such land owners for the loss due to continuous water logging in these areas.

Pawan Kumar Gupta urged the government to withdraw the cases of Jammu division on the pattern amnesty in Kashmir Valley.

Bashir Ahmad Dar demanded for filling vacant posts of higher rank officers in Kupwara district.

R S Pathania demanded for sanctioning of SRO 43 to the kins of victims of his Constituency killed outside the state and also asked for stern action against the culprits.

Syed Aga Ruhullah advocated for increasing in PG courses in the Colleges of the State.

Ajaz Ahmad Mir urged for providing sufficient medical and paramedical staff for District Hospital Shopian.

Gagan Bhagat asked the government for improvement in power and road infra in his Constituency.

Ali Mohammad Sagar urged the government to start dialogue process with all the stakeholders to ensure peace in the state and the region.

Haji Abdul Rashid Dar raised the issue of dog bite incident of a girl of Wadroo Sopore and demanded for immediate compensation to the family of the deceased.

Mohammad Abbas Wani demanded construction of additional accommodation at JK House Chandigarh for which land is available there.

Daleep Parihar asked the government to expedite pace of work on various ongoing development works in his Constituency.

Mohammad Akbar Lone urged the government to ensure adequate drinking water facilities in Nowgam, Hajin, Madwan and other areas of Sonawari Constituency.

Gulzar Ahmad Wani demanded for expediting pace of work on construction of all ongoing health buildings and other developmental works in his Constituency.

Shah Mohammad Tantray and Jeevan Lal also participated in Zero Hour and raised various public importance issues of their respective areas and sought immediate redressal.

Shaki Raj Parihar demanded for

early vacation of court stay and asked the government for early starting of construction work on the developmental projects in his Constituency.

Devender Sing Rana asked the government for constituting of House Committee to look into the plight of the people of border areas who are suffering because of recurrent cross-border firing. He also demanded for allowing 429 students already directed by the High Court to appear into KAS exams.

Choudhary Mohammad Akram and Davinder Manyal also participated in Zero Hour and raised the public importance issues of their respective areas and demanded the government for immediate redressal.

Noor Mohammad Sheikh asked the government for improvement in drainage system in Shalteng area and also urged for speeding up of construction work on the drains in the area.

Javad Ahmad Rana pleaded for framing of comprehensive plan for tapping the water resources.

Mohammad Amin Bhat advocated for providing of adequate drinking water facilities to the people of Mir Bazar, Kellar, Maskote and other villages in Devesar Constituency.

Syed Mohammad Farooq Andrabi also participated in Zero Hour and demanded for rehabilitation of the families affected due to construction of National Highway and Railway track because of the government to construct shops at gateway of Kashmir and also urged for accommodating of affected people with the allotment of shops.

Mubarak Gul urged the government for promotion of Kashmiri languages and also demanded for Kashmiri poets.

Vikar Rasool Wani said that due to the construction of National Highway and Railway Trake in Baniala area the drinking water resources affected and demanded for providing of adequate drinking water to the people of the area.

Raja Manzoor Ahmad demanded for four and four vehicle for Keran. Altaf Ahmad Wani also participated during the Zero Hour and asked the government for early tendering of construction of developmental works in his Constituency.

JINDRAH IMAGES

Take measures for border people's safety

It is surprising to note that India is yet to take measures for the safety of its people living along the IB and the LoC which continue to be the target of Pakistan since Independence. All know that Pakistan resorts to unprovoked shelling and firing every year before Republic Day and other such important occasions to infiltrate terrorists but, in the process, border residents suffer a lot. Some of them get killed, some get injured while the entire population becomes homeless in the wake of their migration to safer places. While the Pak firing is almost a routine affair now, the government is yet to take steps for providing border residents either 5 marla plots or make some other arrangements for them so that they shift there temporarily whenever there is Pak firing. Firing before the onset of winters is done by Islamabad with the specific purpose of infiltrating terrorists into the Indian territory. To keep the Kashmir pot boiling, Islamabad tries to infiltrate as much terrorists as possible before the mountain passes in Kashmir, Rajouri and Poonch get covered with snow. However, to foil any intrusion bid, border troops remain on high alert 24x7. The border residents too are asked to remain vigilant on the days of firing and tip forces about any suspicious movement. A few months back, some locals had alerted troops after picking up the movement of about three to four suspects in Samba Industrial Estate area, doing the duty of responsible citizens. Two days back also, a youth in Rajbagh area had alerted cops on seeing three suspected youth who carried bags on their shoulders. Taking the Basantar route in the area, militants used to enter Ramnagar woods of Udhampur via nullahs and other river bodies. Since Pakistan has been making all out efforts to infiltrate terrorists into J&K, it becomes all the more important for the border forces to maintain extra vigil all along the borders with Pakistan. Scores of terrorists are said to be waiting on the launch pads across the borders for an opportune moment to sneak into the Indian territory. To neutralise them on the borders itself, forces must activate all their resources and kill them as soon as they come to this side. Once the infiltrating terrorists skip the first killer bullet, it takes many bullets to eliminate them later. Hence a fool-proof system ought to evolve on the borders so that no infiltrator is able to enter India. As a first step towards it, the field officers must further strengthen the anti-infiltration and anti-militancy grids along the borders. The focus must remain on plugging all the infiltration routes and activate local sources, most of whom live in the border villages. It is these sources who play a formidable role in detecting infiltration attempts. Their role has all along remained commendable. So, it is the moral duty of the state and the central governments to not cause any further delay in ensuring their security. It is the lawful duty of the government to protect them.

Maharishi used catapults to let Beatles meditate

SAEED NAQVI

This February is the 50th anniversary of the Beatles' sojourn with Maharishi Mahesh Yogi at his ashram in Rishikesh. I may be forgiven a touch of nostalgia. I participated in that idyllic, transformational twist the Beatles gave to their image: "Holy singers from the Hermitage." In recent decades I have been puzzled by first-hand accounts of that visitation written by folks who either claim or at least create an illusion of having been there. The puzzle is that as far as I know, I was the only "journalist" who had the Maharishi's nod to stay in the ashram during that hallowed period.

The Beatles were not the only ones who sat cross-legged around the Maharishi as around an altar. There were others — the Beach Boys, Paul Horn the flutist, Donovan, writing a song a day, one of which I have kept as my exclusive possession: "When the sun is tucked away in bed/You worry about the life you led./There's only one thing to do./Let the Maharishi lead you."

The non-singing stars, who caught the limelight, were Mia Farrow and her sister Prudence. The galaxy of stars at the ashram may have placed Prudence in the category of less noticed meditators. But she grabbed everyone's attention when a sadhu looking after her hut rushed to Maharishi's cell with an unbelievable report — Prudence had slipped into a meditative trance which had lasted from dawn to dusk and was still continuing.

This gave Maharishi the sales pitch he was looking for after the setback at the hands of Beatles drummer Ringo Starr, who described the

ashram with supreme reverence as a "Butlin's holiday camp", and left Butlin was an inexpensive holiday camp chain in the England of the 1960s.

To encourage meditative marathons of the kind Prudence was in the thrall of, Maharishi would have to find some deterrence for the crowds which had multiplied in the ashram foraging on the frugal fare the meditators had carelessly dropped. The challenge for the Maharishi was to keep Chaurasi Kutiyas out of bounds for the noisy avians, but without resorting to violence.

The trick, suggested by ashram manager Suresh Babu, a close relative of the guru, was to am the sadhus with catapults. The ammunition would be nothing more lethal than paper balls which would scare the crows but not hurt them. White-robed sadhus with catapults on the ready became a comic sight the next day. I am not certain if the trick to deter crows actually worked, but establishing noiseless serenity around Prudence Farrow's hut became a high priority with the guru. It was this heightened concern which caused him to visit her hut frequently, giving rise to a rumour that Maharishi had made a pass at Prudence. In reality, of course, the rumour was a function of Prudence's fevered imagination. Mia Farrow was a problem for another reason — she was a compulsive smoker.

"Cigarettes only", Suresh Babu would wink. There appeared to be a tacit understanding among the ashramites that if someone was suspected of smoking marijuana, there would be no whistle-blowing. But Mia had created a particular problem for Suresh Babu, a meek man in all circumstances. She regu-

larly sat on a chair outside his cottage, wreathed in circles of smoke, causing raised eyebrows among the sadhus and the more earnest meditators.

Matters came to a head one day when Raghu Singh, my photographer, summoned up enough courage to photograph Mia Farrow either lighting a cigarette or making rings with the smoke. The frame would be perfect if Suresh Babu were also in it. Raghu did manage that photograph, but only at a price — Mia gave him chase, screaming "b****d", past the sleepy sadhu manning the gate. Raghu would not be allowed in the ashram any more, Suresh Babu announced afterwards.

This was easier said than done. The military alertness that the battalion of sadhus had displayed during the first week or so of the Beatles arrival had given way to a meditative serenity — except for the crowing of crows, as I mention elsewhere. The initial hurry burly was over once the reporters and photographers who had laid siege to the ashram had been successfully turned away. This opened the way for one or two parked outside the ashram, waiting and beating their breast that their wrecked lives could only be repaired by Maharishi. They did get in, armed with cameras, and their "wrecked" lives were placed on the fast lane of enormous financial success. They made a killing, hawking their Beatles experience in pictures and words.

Raghu Singh, on the other hand, never placed any value on the Beatles story. He didn't know who they were.

He precipitated the Mia Farrow incident, because he had decided, inside himself, that the story was over after the first burst of excitement.

Indeed, Raghu Singh's boss,

Raghu Rai, who later evolved as the country's greatest photographer, never went back to the ashram after the first day when he took a historic shot of the Beatles clustered around the Maharishi in the shadow of a large tree. It was a world scoop. Raghu Rai never returned to the ashram because, he said, he "had no interest in the Beatles".

The reluctance of the austere news editor, R.N. Sharma, to let me have office transport to drive to Rishikesh indicated the same mindset. It was only the encouragement I received from Desmond Doig who, along with his bevy of boys, edited a cult youth magazine, Junior Statesman, that the Beatles assignment was sustained for weeks. It is, of course, a pity that files of the JS with priceless pictorial coverage of happenings at the ashram appear to have been mysteriously lost. These include a picture of John Lennon virtually sitting on the Maharishi's lap in a cramped helicopter commandeered from Khambatta Airways for a joyride over the Himalayas. This trip led to some security issues that were raised with the Maharishi.

It is elementary that ideas and trends initiated in the West take time reaching the East. But the Beatles were the most prominent counter culture group seeking solace in Indian spiritualism, away from the soullessness of Western materialism.

They were a continuation of a trend inaugurated by the Beat generation in the 1950s. Remember Allen Ginsberg's extended sojourn in Varanasi, expressing despair: "America, I've given you all and now I'm nothing./Your machinery is too much for me./ You made me want to be a saint."

Mystic Mantra: Observe and awaken your intelligence

SWAMI CHAITANYA KEERTI

The journey of our life seems to be a very strange journey, which begins in deep unconsciousness as a new born child who does not know why the birth has happened. For his existence and his survival, the child is utterly dependent on the people who look after him and teach him to live their own particular way. The child himself does not know what is the right way. What is being taught to him, becomes the right way of living. Society around him does not allow his own intelligence to unfold or grow and he becomes fully burdened with a certain conditioning imposed by the people surrounding him. This becomes a long journey of social conditioning, an initiation and a borrowed life.

It is the role of an enlightened master, a Sadguru, if we are fortunate to come across in our life, to guide us to awaken our inner intelligence and remind us of our true self. With him it becomes a new journey of awakening, realising our potential on the path of meditation. Ordinarily, within us we have two currents — one is of thoughts, which is very dominant. The other current, which we rarely feel, is the current of watchfulness. The enlightened master Osho tells us the distinction. An ordinary man has one current of thought within him, the watcher is asleep; the meditator has two parallel currents within him, thought and watching. Within an enlightened person only one current remains, that is watching. Thinking has died. But because you have to learn watching from a state of thinking, you will have to meditate on thought and watching side by side. If we have to move from thought to watching, we will have to meditate on thought and watching simultaneously. Osho calls it right-observation or right-remembrance. Mahavira has called it "wakeful intelligence"; mindfulness and wakeful intelligence. The one who is watching the thoughts is your wakeful intelligence. It is very easy to find thinkers, but it is difficult to find someone whose intelligence is awake. Awaken your intelligence. I have told you how to awaken it — by watching your thoughts with awareness. If you watch the actions of the body, the body will disappear; if you watch your racing thoughts, the thought process, then the thoughts will disappear; and if you observe your emotions closely, then the emotions will disappear. I have said that for the purification of emotions, allow love to come in place of hatred and friendship in place of enmity. Now I tell you to also be aware of this truth: there is a dimension behind the one who is loving and the one who is hating, which is just awareness — which neither loves nor hates. It is simply a witness. It sometimes watches hatred and sometimes watches love happening, but it is simply watching.

Where are the poor in the Budget?

ASHWINI DESHPANDE

The most optimistic estimates set the proportion of the Indian population below the poverty line at 22 per cent. And serious researchers of poverty argue that the official poverty line is among the lowest in the world; by any reasonable definition of poverty, the proportion of the poor would be far higher. But even the 22 per cent translates into roughly 300 million individuals. What does the 2018 Budget offer to this massive population of the poorest Indians?

The basic and universal life needs - food, employment, housing and healthcare - are even more critical for those who sit just above and below the poverty line, as any negative shock on these fronts could push the former into poverty, and make the climb out of poverty harder for the latter. And for those in chronic and desperate poverty, a negative shock could mean a difference between life and death.

With a problem of this magnitude, one would expect the Budget, which is a crucial policy document, to provide for appropriate cushions for the chronically poor, and ladders for the marginally poor to help them climb out. Unfortunately, these are conspicuous by their absence.

Let's take employment first, as poverty can be eliminated by generating jobs, and not through redistribution. The Budget does not address this at all. There is now



increasing evidence to show how the ill-conceived demonetisation hit those using cash, and working in the informal economy, the hardest. This is the sector that the poor inhabit. In the backdrop of this massive negative hit, one would have expected the Budget to provide for ameliorating measures, but there are hardly any.

Research on the causes of poverty reveals that among the recurring triggers pushing people into poverty are negative health shocks. A highlight of this Budget is the National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS), which promises a cover of up to Rs 5 lakh for 10 crore families per year. This sounds impressive until one realises that the Budget does not indicate how this scheme is to be financed. The outlay is just about Rs 2,000 crore, whereas this scheme would need at

least 30 times as much, if not more. The absence of funding is the least of the problems with this scheme. For a country beset with poverty and poor access to healthcare, we need institutionalised universal healthcare like several European countries, not an insurance-based model, which might put money in the pockets of some hospitals and doctors, but may not assist every person deserving of treatment.

The evidence from the earlier Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) reveals urgent problems in the institutional architecture. Additionally, in any insurance-based system, the issue of whether "pre-existing conditions" would be covered for treatment is contentious: what happens to the disabled and chronically sick population? What the Budget needed to provide for was resources

to strengthen and revitalise primary healthcare, and also resources for the prevention of disease: clean water, efficient garbage and solid waste management, and sanitation. The Swachh Bharat Mission needed a clear-headed and hard rethink: to what extent has it moved beyond photo-ops and advertisements, and translated into cleaner neighbourhoods? What lessons can we learn from its failure?

A large section of the poor is rural and engaged in small agriculture. The Budget talks about the rural sector, but the focus is on infrastructure - rural haats, with electronic linkages - not as much on the causes of agrarian distress caused by high indebtedness and sudden loss of income due to crop failures. The "in principle" commitment, again not matched by any budgetary provision, to give minimum

support prices (MSP) to ensure 50 per cent returns over the cost of production addresses only one aspect of the mix of factors underlying rural distress.

To be fair, there are schemes in the Budget that might benefit the rural poor, which are actually backed by financial outlays, such as LPG connections to replace conventional chullahs; roads; electrification with a focus on bringing electricity to every home (and not just the village) and housing - i.e. pucca houses with toilets. Only time will tell if the government will actually seize the bull by the horns: would the monetary outlays on these schemes be adequate, whether these deliver on their promises, and how effective these prove to be in terms of making a dent in the spread and depth of rural poverty.

Groups that disproportionately bear the brunt of poverty, such as Dalits, Adivasis and Muslims, and a large proportion of women, have little to cheer either. The outlays on existing schemes have not been significantly enhanced; more disappointing is the lack of review of how the existing schemes have fared, and there are no new initiatives to ensure decent livelihoods to groups that are discriminated against and marginalised.

The government's insistence on ABHA (Aadhaar-based biometric authentication) to access any government scheme is already proving to be disastrous for the poor. First is the issue of seeding - linking the Aadhaar card to various service providers. Then come immense problems in accessing services. Connectivity issues, erosion of lines on the hands of those engaged in hard manual labour, the bureaucratic contempt for the poor has meant that those most in need are unable to access existing government provisions, even if we forget the new ones that have been promised. ABHA is not a part of the Budget, but it defines the delivery architecture for all government services.

For the poor, overall, things look bleak. The Budget does not promise any imaginative and bold new measures, and access to existing schemes is sinking deeper and deeper in the ABHA quicksand.

Viduyt Jammwal



Aamir Khan's 'Secret Superstar' to hit 100 million mark in China soon

NEW DELHI: Superstar Aamir Khan has a solid fanbase in China and the success of his latest production 'Secret Superstar' shows how much his followers adore him. 'Secret Superstar' is written and directed by Advait Chandan. The project is produced by Aamir Khan and wife Kiran Rao. The film features 'Dangal' girl Zaira Wasim in the lead while Meher Vij, Raj Arjun, and Aamir Khan play pivotal parts. The story revolves around a teenage girl played by Zaira, who aspires to be a singer but faces a tough time



convincing her father. The mother-daughter relationship has also been beautifully presented. 'Secret Superstar' continues to set the Chinese Box Office on fire. Although, Aamir is not playing the lead role in the film yet it has managed to amass this number. Noted film critic and trade analyst Taran Adarsh took to Twitter and shared the latest figures. Following its release in the Chinese market, the film has become 2017's second highest-grossing Indian film worldwide. It is the highest-grossing Hindi film overseas, as well as one of the highest-grossing Indian films of all times and the third highest-grossing Hindi film ever overseas. 'Secret Superstar' got ten nominations at the 63rd Filmfare Awards, including Best Film, Best Director for Chandan, Best Actress for Wasim, and Best Supporting Actor for Khan. It won three Filmfare Awards, including Best Actress (Critics) for Zaira Wasim, Best Supporting Actress for Meher Vij, and Best Playback Singer (Female) for Meghna Mishra.

Change in wedding date - 'Veerey Ki Wedding' gets a new date!



Those waiting for 'Veerey Ki Wedding' can now rejoice as the film will be releasing a week early. The Pulkit Samrat-starrer, which was scheduled for a March 9 release, will now hit the theatres on March 2. Jimmy Shergill and Kriti Kharbanda will also be seen in the pivotal roles. The 'Fukrey' actor will

be seen romancing Kriti, while Jimmy will essay Pulkit's bachelor brother. Shot in Delhi, the film will be an action-drama. The film will be helmed by Ashu Trikha of 'Aag', 'Koyelanchal', and 'Deewanapan' fame. Recently, the makers released the film's trailer and it has garnered positive response since then. The film has been confused with another mega-starrer 'Veerey Di Wedding', which has an ensemble cast of Kareena Kapoor Khan, Sonam Kapoor, and Swara Bhaskar among others. It is expected to hit the theatres on June 1.

Pad Man: Even Hollywood does not have a single film on menstrual hygiene, says Akshay Kumar

NEW DELHI: Akshay Kumar is proud of his coming film Pad Man – a film highlighting awareness on menstrual hygiene. The actor says he always wanted to support socially relevant cinema, but couldn't due to lack of funds. The actor also added that there isn't a single commercial film on sanitary pads, not even in Hollywood, as people shy away from discussing the topic in public. "I always wanted to work and make such films but I was not a producer during that time. I didn't have enough money, but now I can. My wife told me about A r u n a c h a l a m Muruganatham and then we met R. Balki. So we thought about making this movie," Akshay said while promoting Pad Man here on



Monday. "Even Hollywood does not have a single film on sanitary pads or menstrual hygiene. People always make documentaries but they don't want to make commercial films because they want to shy away from the issue. We have tried to do that," he added. Akshay's Pad Man – which marks his wife Twinkle Khanna's maiden production venture – tells

the story of a real-life superhero who invented a low-cost sanitary pad manufacturing machine to bring a menstrual hygiene revolution for women. The film is based on a short story from Twinkle's book The Legend Of Lakshmi Prasad. The story is inspired from the life of Muruganatham, a Tamil Nadu-based social activist who revolutionised the concept of menstrual hygiene in rural India by creating the low-cost sanitary napkins machine. "Its unique story, inspiring message and Akshay's portrayal – once again – as a common man's hero, has kept the anticipation level high for the R. Balki directorial, which also features Sonam Kapoor and Radhika Apte. Talking about the film, Akshay said: "People are talking about the issue. The other day I was sitting in my vanity van and I heard two-three guys discuss the film. Have you seen men discuss menstrual hygiene?" While many people, including Bollywood stars, are hailing the film, there are some who are criticising Akshay for talking about the issue in the open. "When I see social media, I see two-three people saying 'Akshay, khat kya kar rahi ho aap?' (what are you doing brother?)" or "You are holding a sanitary pad. It is a sin." Imagine some people think holding a sanitary pad is a sin. "But at least now they are discussing, and there will be a day when it will change and it is high time it should change. I would request everyone to write about it as a lot of things can change if you write about it. India needs this change." Were there any disagreements on the sets while working with Twinkle? "No, there were no disagreements. She didn't get upset on anything." Muruganatham, who was also a part of the press meet, expressed his views on the film made on his endeavour.

Will Priyanka be Meghan Markle's bridesmaid?

Everyone knows 'Desi girl' Priyanka Chopra and the newest member of the 'royal family' Meghan Markle are best friends. But will the 'Quantico' star serve as a bridesmaid in Markle and Prince Harry's upcoming wedding? In a new interview given to Harper's Bazaar Arabia, she addressed the question of whether she would be the bridesmaid at the royal wedding or not and said, "If you see me there, you'll know". Whether she's going to be there or not, the 'Bajirao Mastani' star still excited for Markle to tie the knots. "I don't think anybody else would be able to do it the way she will. She's just



right for it. She's an icon, truly, that girls can look up to, that women can look up to. She's normal, she's sweet, she's nice, she

do think Meghan being a part of the royal family is a big step in the direction of so many things; of women, of feminism, of diversity, of race, of the monarchy versus everyone else. It's a beautiful step in the right direction." The 33-year-old prince and his bride-to-be announced their engagement on November 27 last year. They are set to marry at St George's Chapel, Windsor, on May 19. Recently, it was announced that Lifetime has announced plans for a TV movie titled 'Harry & Meghan: The Royal Love Story', a film which will chronicle the couple's relationship from when they met through friends in 2016.

Here's a new glimpse of 'Raazi'!



A new glimpse of 'Raazi', starring Alia Bhatt and Vicky Kaushal has been released. The duo look enraptured with each other in the poster which states that there are just 100 days to go

for the film to hit the screens. Clad in off-white saree, Alia looks gorgeous with her hair tied in a bun. Vicky is sporting a white shirt, teamed with a pale ochre blazer. The picture was shared by official twitter

handle of Dharma Productions. Alia and Vicky will be seen opposite each other for the first time. The film is helmed by Meghna Gulzar. 'Raazi' is a period film where Alia will portray a Kashmiri girl who gets

married to a Pakistani army officer, essayed by Vicky. It will be a spy-romantic flick, based on the 'Calling Sehmat', a best-selling book by Harinder Sikka. The film is set to hit theatres on May 11, 2018.

Kamal Haasan keynote speaker at Harvard University!

Superstar and now a politician, Kamal Haasan has been invited by Harvard University to give a keynote on February 10th, 2018. This is the second time the legendary actor will be seen speaking at the prestigious B-School. He had earlier spoken at Harvard in 2016 on the topic of freedom of speech. This time Haasan will be speaking about Tamil Nadu and what are the issues plaguing the state at the annual Indian Conference of the University. "The topic is Tamil Nadu. I chose to speak on it out of sheer necessity. Our state has sunk to the lowest depth. It affecting my dignity as a man, even



more as a Tamilian." Few weeks away from announcing the name of his political party, Haasan is taking the issue to a bigger level so that people become aware of what is happening. "I yearn to see my state rise to the height it deserves. The rise of my state will translate into the rise of my nation. Harvard is a seat of learning like our Nalanda University. If only we had continued that tradition without any break, we would have been holding such seminars at least 200 years back. These platforms are important and can't be neglected. This is going to be an engagement with more fortunate minds who availed an opportunity to seek knowledge.

Shalini Thackeray and Pooja Pant Dance Company presents 'Rivaayat'

'Rivaayat' showcases the mesmerizing beautiful tradition of Kathak Classical music & dance have always been among the strongest expressions of our culture, and they hold a lot of importance in the field of art. On January 30th, 2018, the Founder of Kalki Foundation Shalini Thackeray and Pooja Pant Dance Company decided to delve into this expression of our culture and co-presented the 'Rivaayat' event at Nehru Centre, Worli. The event celebrated the completion of 10 years of Pooja Pant school of Kathak and was aimed at exploring the exquisite culture of Kathak and inspiring the youth to be a part of it, inducing their interests towards the dance



form. The performers at 'Rivaayat' were Kathak legends like Aditi Mangaldas and Pooja Pant. The legends-in-making aka students of Pooja Pant's academy also performed. Celebrities like Saroj Khan, Shilpa Shinde, Elli

AvrRam, Dr. Vihal Kamat and Kiran Shantaram, as well as classical maestros from various arts like Aditya Kalyanpur (tabla), Pt. Shailesh Bhagwat (shehnai), Vaibhav Areakar (dance), were seen attending the event. From appreciating the

performances to encouraging the performers, the guests were seen indulging actively at the event. "Achieving a full house and presenting Kathak on a big scale like this is commendable", added Vaibhav Areakar, owner of Sankhya Dance Creations. Commenting on the same, Shalini Thackeray stated "Rivaayat is our initiative to inspire and promote the culture of classical art among the youth. Somehow, we feel the future generation does not resonate with the classical forms of art in today's time. Hence, this initiative is to showcase the diversity that classical dance and music has to offer. We, at Kalki Foundation, are glad to have presented such a wonderful event".

Ibuprofen In Early Pregnancy May Harm Daughter's Fertility

NEW DELHI, FEB 2: Women who consume commonly used Ibuprofen even for just two days during the first 24 weeks of their pregnancy may reduce their daughter's number of eggs, potentially affecting their fertility in the future, new research has warned. The research carried out on human cells in the laboratory revealed that exposure to Ibuprofen during the crucial first three months of foetal development results in a "dramatic loss" of the germ cells that go into making the follicles from which female eggs develop. The germ cells would either die or fail to grow and multiply at the usual rate.

"We found that two to seven days of exposure to Ibuprofen dramatically

reduced the germ cell stockpile in human foetal ovaries during the first trimester of pregnancy and the ovaries did not recover fully from this damage," said Severine Mazaud-Guittot, a researcher at the National Institute for Health and Medical Research in France.

For the study, published in the journal *Human Reproduction*, the team exposed a part of the tissue from each of the 185 human foetuses between 7-12 weeks of development to Ibuprofen and kept the second part as the control.

They found that Ibuprofen crosses the placental barrier, with the foetus exposed to the same concentration of the drug as the mother.

Conversely, the tissue

exposed to the drug for a week had approximately half the number of ovarian germ cells.

The researchers observed significant effects after seven days of exposure to the drug, with cell death seen as early as two days after treatment.

"This is the first study to look at the effects of Ibuprofen on the ovarian tissue of baby girls, and the first to show that it can cross the placental barrier during the first trimester of pregnancy, exposing the foetus to the drug," Mazaud-Guittot said.

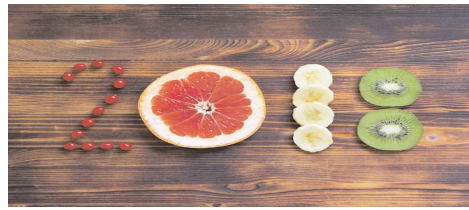
Just as with any drug, Ibuprofen use should be restricted to the shortest duration and at the lowest dose necessary to achieve pain or fever relief, especially during pregnancy, the researchers suggested.

From Water Therapy To Adequate Sleep: 6 Tips To Lead A Healthy Life Naturally

NEW DELHI, FEB 2: There is never a single tip or pill for achieving optimum health. It is important to drink lots of water and get adequate sleep to maintain your fitness and overall well-being, suggest experts. Celebrity nutritionist Pooja Makhija and Govindrajani R. Head, Research and Development, Sugar Free, list down some tips:

Ways for a healthy life

1. It is imperative to open your eyes to fads. Dieting does not mean deprivation, you need to eat right to be in shape. Weight loss is a journey, you must adopt a lifestyle approach towards it and that's the only way to achieve permanent fat loss.
2. In an attempt to keep up with the fast-paced life,



we tend to neglect our sleep cycle. Don't cut back on sleep in your zest to win each day. Your body is magical but needs rest to work its magic. Every individual needs a minimum of 7-8 hours of sleep each night to recharge your body, failing which you will 'burn out'. A healthy

sleeping pattern is necessary not only for the benefit of your physical health, but also to maintain your mental well-being.

3. Water is one of the most important elements required by our body. Hydration is the key to vitality, stamina, glowing skin and lesser health prob-

lems. And drinking water is the cheapest, simplest way to unlock these beautiful health benefits. So drink, drink and drink more water.

4. Excess of any food at one time whether it's protein-rich, fat-rich or carb-rich is stored in your body in only one form which is fat. Therefore, the best way

to avoid an increase in body fat is to eat small meals frequently and give due importance to a balanced plate.

5. Using plant extract sweeteners such as stevia to add guilt-free and natural sweetness to your day is another practice that will reap great benefits. Stevia is a natural sweetener and almost 200 to 300 times sweeter than sugar. The consumption of stevia cannot only assist you in maintaining a healthy lifestyle but can also help in addressing lifestyle related diseases like obesity and cardio vascular diseases.
6. Drink a glass of raw vegetable juice (3 different colours of vegetables) to stay forever young.

Ibuprofen in early pregnancy may harm daughter's fertility

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Just as with any drug, Ibuprofen use should be restricted to the shortest duration and at the lowest dose necessary to achieve pain or fever relief, especially during pregnancy, the researchers suggested.

Chemotherapy treatment for breast cancer may increase heart failure risk

NEW DELHI, FEB 2: The American Heart Association (AHA) has warned that breast cancer treatment which involves chemotherapy and radiation can increase the risk of developing cardiovascular diseases.

While the advances in treatment have witnessed a growth in survival rate among breast cancer patients, survivors crossing the age of 65, were more likely to die from heart disease than breast cancer, the new study showed.

HER-2 and other breast cancers use targeted therapies which could weaken the heart muscle – a condi-

tion known as heart failure, it said.

Other therapies could also affect the heart arteries and cause the development of coronary artery disease or blockages, the study added. Prompting attention to the fact that during treatment not only one's breast health but also general health, including that of the heart, should be considered, the researchers suggested. "Any patient who is going to undergo breast cancer treatment, whether they have heart disease at the beginning or not, should be aware of the potential effects of the treatments on their heart," said Indian-origin Laxmi

Mehta, Associate Professor at The Ohio State University in the US.

However, it should not deter or scare patients from undergoing the cancer treatment, instead, allow them to make informed decisions with their doctor on the best option available, Mehta added, in the statement published in the journal *Circulation*.

In some cases, post cessation of the treatment and/or the addition of heart medicines can improve heart function.

A d m i n i s t e r i n g Doxorubicin – a chemotherapy drug – used in breast cancer therapy

can also lead to the damage of heart cells, but, giving the drug slowly, rather than all at once, may lower the risk of heart failure.

Doctors were also developing more-targeted radiation to reduce risks, the statement said.

Adherence to a number of ideal heart health behaviours including being physically active, achieving and maintaining a healthy body weight could help.

Besides, eating a healthy diet, avoiding tobacco, maintaining healthy levels of blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar may help prevent or minimise the damage.

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Air India to get new owner by June, says aviation minister

NEW DELHI, FEB 6: Air India's new owner could be decided by June-end and the government aims to complete the "legal closing" of the transaction by December when the Maharaja's assets are transferred to the winning bidder. AI will be split into five parts, with four of them — AI-AI Express-AI SATS; ground handling unit; engineering units and Alliance Air — being offered for sale while the fifth will be a SPV that will remain with the government.

The SPV will have AI's unsustainable debt, Centaur hotels, land and the priceless art collection that the

airline has built over decades. AI's debt of Rs 50,000 crore, which may be as high as Rs 70,000 crore, will be spread over these five entities.

A day after the Budget, aviation minister Jayant Sinha gave the fine print of AI's divestment, which he termed as the "biggest ever" exercise of its kind in India terms of value and revenue. As per the time-frame set by department of investment and public asset management (DIPAM), the government expects to have the winning bidder by June-end. The process is expected to be complete by the year-end, soon after which the process for next

general election will begin if the same is not preponed.

He said AI's divestment will be a three-step process. "We will soon issue information memorandum for all the four entities being offered for divestment that will contain all their details. Then interested parties will bid for whichever unit or units they wish to, with the highest bidder getting the same. This is the biggest reform being initiated by the Modi government," Sinha said.

AI's valuation is currently underway by the transaction advisor (TA). "There are some ways of valuing an entity. It can be done on 'ongoing entity basis' where

it will be a some multiple of cash flow. Or on the basis of all the assets. For AI valuation, the ongoing entity basis may be followed. The TA will have a reserve price," Sinha said. The third method is "liquidation basis" where the valuation is done by considering that they unit is being shut down and applied for AI's valuation. FM Arun Jaitley-headed alternative mechanism (group of ministers) will decide how much stake, if any, should the government retain in AI. The decision of strategic divestment means minimum 51% will be sold off to the private bidders.

New 2018 Maruti Suzuki Swift price: Details here

NEW DELHI, FEB 6: The all-new 2018 Maruti Suzuki Swift, which is perhaps the most awaited car of the year, has already been unveiled and bookings opened last month. The new Swift's official launch is scheduled for the Auto Expo in Delhi next week, where they will reveal the prices.

TOI has learnt from sources that the new Swift is likely to be priced Rs 60,000 more than the existing range. Which means that the third generation version of one of Maruti Suzuki's best selling cars is pegged to be priced in the Rs 5.8 lakh to Rs 7.5 lakh range (base to



engines remain unchanged, the 1.2-litre K-series petrol and the 1.3-litre DDiS diesel are still at the heart of the new Swift. (Read about the full specs here)

The Swift first arrived in India in 2005 and has till date managed to sell a whopping 17 lakh units of the car. In terms of positioning within Maruti Suzuki's own product line, the latest Swift will be placed below the Baleno.

As far as competition is concerned, the car will take on the likes of the Ford Figo and the Hyundai Grand i10.

top model).
 Swift review: Old Soul Reincarnated
 The car is available in both petrol and diesel variants along with automatic transmission options. The

I-T will tax bitcoin trade; has issued few lakh notices: CBDT

NEW DELHI, FEB 6: The Income Tax Department has issued "few lakh" notices to those who have put their funds in bitcoins and it is working to obtain taxes that are due on these investments, the CBDT chief said.

CBDT Chairman Sushil Chandra told PTI that it has come to the notice of the taxman that while many such investors "did not pay advance tax" on the benefits which they have accrued, some others have not explained these investments in their tax returns in the past.

The department had conducted pan-India surveys at these exchanges in

December last year. "We have issued notices (to investors) and they (many of them) have agreed to pay taxes. We will definitely take taxes as far as the money is concerned which is invested (in bitcoins trade) and is unexplained," he said.

When asked about the number of such notices, the CBDT boss said that "they are in few lakhs."

Watch: Budget Natyam - A poll dance in nine rasas
 Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, in his Budget speech yesterday, had said that all types of crypto currencies, including bitcoins, are illegal and the government will take all measures

to eliminate their use.

In reply to a separate question, Chandra said he was confident that the department will not only meet but will surpass the direct taxes collection target for the current financial year.

"I think the economy is very buoyant. The last quarter of advance tax payment will be much better than the third. With this particular trend when the economy is going up, the GDP is going up in the last quarter and the economy is doing better and there are no negatives, we will definitely get much better advance tax."

"Therefore, I think the

growth should continue at the same pace. We will definitely beat the target (of direct tax collections)," the CBDT boss said.

The I-T Department has a target to collect Rs 9.8 lakh crore revenue from direct taxes by the end of this fiscal on March 31.

The survey operations conducted by the taxman on bitcoin exchanges, under section 133 A of the Income Tax Act, were undertaken to "gather evidence for establishing the identity of investors and traders, the transaction undertaken by them, identity of counter-parties, related bank accounts used, among others," sources had

LTCG tax impact : A day after budget, Sensex loses 840 points, Nifty almost 300

NEW DELHI, FEB 6: On Friday, the markets saw sharpest fall since August 2017 as it gave a cold shoulder to Budget 2018 with benchmark indices plummeting.

30-share BSE Sensex closed 839.91 points below previous closing point on 35,066.75 while the broader 50-share NSE Nifty tanked 256.30 points to finish on 10,760.60. Both the indices tanked 2.30 per cent.

The government in December cautioned investors to be wary of virtual currencies like bitcoin, saying they are like Ponzi schemes with no legal tender and protection.

A survey action under the I-T law pertains to tax officials making a surprise visit to the business premises of the affected party but not their residential ones.

Last year, Jaitley had informed Parliament that there are no regulations governing virtual currencies in India and the RBI has not given any licence to any entity/company to operate such currencies.

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otherwise been on a bull run ahead of the budget. "Near term volatilities could be possible as market readjusts itself to budget announcements and LTCG as well", said Lakshmi Iyer, CIO - Debt & Head - Products, Kotak Asset Management.

Market mood suffered another setback after Fitch Ratings today said high debt burden of the government constrains India's rating upgrade. The government in budget projected a fiscal deficit of 3.5 per cent of GDP for current fiscal against the earlier

target of 3.2 per cent which also accelerated pace of selling by participants.

When trading started, the BSE index lost 199 points and Nifty lost 79 points to start trading 10,938.20 as they slipped below respective psychological marks of 36,000 and 11,000.

Really stocks bled the most as the sectoral sub-index more than 6 per cent. Bank, financial service and auto sub-indices lost more than 3 per cent. IT scrips held forte with Nifty IT finishing in the green.

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Maldives police arrest chief justice, another judge under state of emergency

MALE: The Maldives opposition leader and two Supreme Court judges were arrested early Tuesday hours after the government declared a state of emergency in the Indian Ocean nation increasingly in turmoil in the days since the court ordered several jailed politicians to be freed.

The charges against opposition leader Maumoon Abdul Gayoom include bribery and attempting to overthrow the government, his lawyer, Maumoon Hameed, said on Twitter. Gayoom was president from 1978 to 2008, when Maldives became a multi-party democracy, and is the half brother of the current president, under whose rule the archipelago has lost many of its democratic gains.

Maldives declares state of emergency as Yameen tightens grip on power

The 15-day emergency decree issued late Monday gives the government sweeping powers to make arrests, search and seize property and restricts freedom of assembly, officials said.

Soon after the declaration, security forces stormed into the Supreme Court building, where Chief Justice Abdulla Saheed and judge Ali Hamid were arrested. The charges against them have not been specified. The whereabouts of the courts' other two judges were not known Tuesday morning.

Since the surprise, unanimous ruling last week ordering the release of imprisoned opposition leaders, President Yameen Abdul Gayoom has lashed

out at the court, opposition protests have spilled into the streets of the capital, Male, and soldiers in riot gear have stopped lawmakers from meeting in the parliament building.

In a statement issued after the state of emergency was announced on state television, Yameen said "though certain rights will be restricted, general movements, services and businesses will not be affected."

In a letter to the court released by the president's office, Yameen said the court's order to release prisoners had encroached on the powers of the state and was an "infringement of national security and public interest." He urged the court to "review the concerns" of the government.

The government has also

said the court has not properly responded to letters citing problems with implementing its order, including that the cases against the political prisoners are at different legal stages. A Supreme Court statement on Sunday said "there are no obstacles in implementing the ruling... and that this has been informed to the Prosecutor General's office."

The government did not comment on soldiers entering the Supreme Court building or on Gayoom's arrest, but the president's main rival, who lives in exile, urged people not to obey what he called an "unlawful order."

"This declaration is unconstitutional and illegal," former President Mohamed Nasheed, the country's first democrati-

cally elected leader, said in a statement.

Nasheed was one of the opposition leaders the Supreme Court had ordered freed, ruling that the guilty verdicts had been politically influenced.

The United Nations, United States and other foreign governments have urged the Maldives to respect the court order.

The U.S. also strongly criticized the emergency decree, which State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said also imposes travel restrictions.

Yameen has "systematically alienated his coalition, jailed or exiled every major opposition political figure" since his election in 2013, Nauert said.

She called on Yameen, the army, and police to

comply with the rule of law, and for the constitutional rights of Maldivians to be restored.

In addition to ordering the release of the political prisoners, the court also reinstated 12 lawmakers who had been ousted for switching allegiance to the opposition. When those lawmakers return, Yameen's Progressive Party of the Maldives will lose its majority in the 85-member parliament, which could result in the legislative body functioning as a rival power to the president.

Known for its luxury tourist resorts, the Maldives became a multi-party democracy 10 years ago after Maumoon Abdul Gayoom's rule, during which he was repeatedly the only candidate for the presidency.

No secret detention, torture camps in Lanka: President to Tamils

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena on Monday assured the minority Tamil community that his government was not running any secret detention and torture camps in the country.

Sirisena said he was concerned about the people who are still missing years after the end of nearly three-decade-long brutal civil war.

"I have several times met the relatives of the disappeared persons. I am concerned about the problem of their missing relatives," Sirisena said while campaigning in the Tamil-dominated Jaffna city for the February 10 local council election.

"They have told me that the missing people are being held by the government in secret detention camps. I made inquiries and I tell them on behalf of the government that there are no such camps run by the government," he said.

Sirisena said his government had addressed the concerns of the Tamils by returning to them their land that had been held for military purposes since the mid 1980s.

The Tamil and international rights groups had blamed the former Mahinda Rajapaksa government of running secret detention and torture camps.

The relatives of the missing persons have regularly held public demonstrations, demanding urgent government attention to their concerns.

The government has set up an Office of Missing Persons (OMP) which is yet to become operational.

The UN panel called for the establishment of independent international court to probe alleged war crimes committed by both the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the government troops during the last stages of the civil war which ended in 2009.

According to the government estimates, around 20,000 people are still missing due to various conflicts including the 30-year-long separatist war with Lankan Tamils in the north and east which claimed the lives of at least 100,000 people. The LTTE, which led the separatist war for a separate Tamil homeland, was finally crushed by the Lankan military in 2009 with the death of its supreme Velupillai Prabhakaran.

Maldives chief justice arrested: Police

MALE: Maldives Chief Justice Abdulla Saheed and another Supreme Court judge were arrested at dawn Tuesday, hours after President Abdulla Yameen declared a state of emergency, police said.

Justices Saheed and Ali Hameed were arrested along with the court's top administrator Hassan Saheed after security forces stormed the court complex in Male, with police citing complaints of corruption against them in a brief statement.

The high profile arrests followed the arrest Monday of ex-president Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, the estranged half brother of Yameen.

The declaration of a state of emergency for 15 days followed a tense stand off between Yameen and the Supreme Court which had ordered the release of nine political prisoners.

The top court had also ordered the reinstatement of 12 legislators who had been sacked for defecting to the opposition. The move had effectively given the opposition a majority in the 85-member parliament clearing the way for a possible impeachment of Yameen.

Gayoom had sided with the main opposition and was campaigning for the toppling of his half brother.

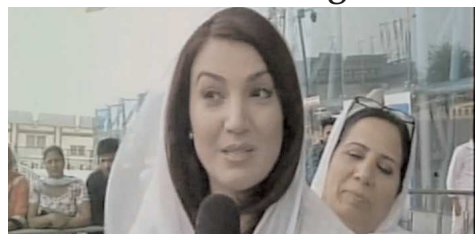
Gayoom was taken into custody along with his son in law, the family said. They were taken away by police who broke down the main door to their home in the capital, his daughter Yumna Maumoon said on Twitter.

Imran Khan's ex-wife Reham Khan leaves Pakistan after receiving threats

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan's former wife Reham Khan has left Pakistan reportedly after receiving threats. She left the country on Sunday night after her staff received several threat calls, and later confirmed the same to a television channel in Pakistan.

The British Pakistani journalist expressed her anguish over the development citing that she was forced to discontinue her daughter's schooling. She further said that none of the political parties in the country backed her over the issue. The 44-year-old TV journalist and Pakistani cricket legend-turned-politician Imran Khan had announced their decision to split and reports that Imran objected to her meddling in politics.

Imran's marriage to Reham



was his second after his first marriage with English heiress Jenima Goldsmith for nine years ended in divorce in June 2004.

The development comes ahead of the launch of Reham Khan's autobiography, which is slated to be released soon. It is widely speculated that the

book would carry details of her disturbed marriage with Imran Khan.

Speaking to Geo TV, she said that her book would carry all aspects of her life and hence, mention of her relationship with Imran Khan is a part of the same. She, however, added that she has made

sure that her book is not written in any anger or anguish. She further said, "Reports of my association with political parties are false. Fact is that no party wants me to speak. Across the board, I have no backing or support of any political party in Pakistan."

US begins reducing troops in Iraq after victory over ISIS

AL-ASAD AIRBASE: The US has started to reduce the number of its troops in Iraq following Baghdad's declaration of victory over the Islamic State group last year, an Iraqi government spokesman and Western contractors said Monday.

The move marks a shift in priorities for the US following the collapse of the extremists' so-called caliphate late last year. It also comes about three months ahead of Iraqi national elections in which paramilitary groups with close ties to Iran are set to play a decisive role.

Dozens of US soldiers have been transported from Iraq to Afghanistan on daily flights in the past week, along with weapons and equipment, the contractors said.

An Associated Press reporter at the Al-Asad base in western Iraq saw troop movements reflecting the account by contractors. The contractors spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations and declined to reveal the exact size of the drawdown.

"The battle against Daesh has ended, and so the level of the American presence will be reduced," said government spokesman Saad al-Hadithi, who used the Arabic language acronym for IS.

Al-Hadithi stressed that the drawdown — the first since the war against IS began more than three years ago — was still in its early stages and doesn't mark the beginning of a complete pullout of US forces.

"Continued coalition presence in Iraq will be conditions-based, proportional to the need and in coordination with the governments of Iraq," Army Col. Ryan Dillon, a coalition spokesman, told the AP.

One senior Iraqi official close to Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said 60 percent of all US troops still in Iraq will be withdrawn, according to the initial agreement reached with Washington. The plan would leave about 4,000 US troops to continue training the Iraqi military. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

As of late September, there were 8,892 US troops in Iraq, according to a Pentagon report released

in November.

The US first launched airstrikes against the Islamic State group in Iraq in August 2014. The intervention was described at the time as "limited," but as Iraq's military struggled to roll back the extremists, the coalition's footprint in the country grew steadily.

"We've had a recent change of mission, and soon we'll be supporting a different theater of operations in the coming month," US Army 1st Lt. William John Raymond told the AP at the Al-Asad base.

He spoke as he and a handful of soldiers from his unit conducted equipment inventory checks required before leaving Iraq. Raymond declined to specify where his unit was going because the informa-

tion has not yet been made public.

In the lead up to the Iraqi elections slated for May, the indefinite presence of US troops in the country continues to be a divisive issue.

Al-Abadi, who is seeking another term, has struggled to balance the often competing interests of Iran and the United States, both key allies who have backed him against IS.

While the US has closely supported key Iraqi military victories over IS in places like the city of Mosul, some of the Shiite-led paramilitary forces with close ties to Iran have called for the withdrawal of US forces. The prime minister has stated that Iraq's military will need US training for years to come.

"This is a message to those who doubt the government's decisions regarding the presence of American (forces in Iraq): There are rules and the promise of a withdrawal," al-Hadithi said.

Some in Iraq's Sunni minority community view the US presence in Iraq as a buffer against the country's Shiite-dominated central government.

"The (drawdown) is an abdication of responsibility by the coalition," said Fahad al-Rashed, a member of the provincial council in Anbar province, which has a Sunni majority. He said he recognized that the decision fell within the jurisdiction of the central government, but that local officials in Anbar would have asked the US to reconsider.

Pakistan actress Sumbul Khan shot dead for refusing to perform at private party

Popular Pakistani actress and singer Sumbul Khan was on Monday shot dead by some assailants for allegedly refusing to perform at a high-profile party. According to Dawn, she was shot dead by three armed men inside her house in Sheikh Maltoon town.

The report said that the assailants asked Sumbul Khan to accompany them and perform at a private high-profile party, but she refused to go for the same. Angered by this, they opened fire and fled her home after killing her. The search is on for the assailants.

A former policeman, Naeem Khattak, is one of the accused in the case. He was arrested soon after the investigations were launched into the killing.

The 25-year-old actress-singer was reportedly quite popular in Pakistan because of her roles in many television shows in the country. She was allegedly shot several times before she succumbed to her injuries.

This is not the first time that someone from the entertainment industry has been attacked in this manner in Pakistan. Almost a year ago, a popular actress and dancer, Kismat Baig, was shot dead in a similar manner in Lahore.

She was reportedly shot as many as 11 times in different parts of her body — legs, stomach and hands. While returning from an event in November 2016, she was shot dead by some motorcycle-borne assailants.

Sumbul Khan was born on August 30, 1992 in Karachi. She was a popular name in films in Pashto language. Some of her popular television shows are 'Mere Khabab Raiza Raiza', 'Buri Aurat', 'Dil-e-Abad' and 'Raju Rocket'.

As stocks plunge, White House says Trump focused on 'economic fundamentals'

WASHINGTON/NEW YORK: After US stocks plummeted on Monday, the White House sought to play down concerns, saying President Donald Trump was focused on "exceptionally strong" underlying fundamentals in the economy.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said the economy was experiencing "strengthening US economic growth, historically low unemployment, and increasing wages for American workers."

But Trump himself did not comment on the market, even as share prices sold off dramatically while he was touting the economy and last year's tax cuts in a speech in Ohio.

That was a contrast to

recent months when Trump has often talked about messaging out of the rally for the market enjoyed during 2017 and the first few weeks of this year.

It was a sign that Trump may be absorbing a tough message, underscored by former White House advisers, that American presidents traditionally have avoided commenting directly on Wall Street's fiscal trends.

Gene Sperling, a top economic adviser to Democratic former president Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, said Trump erred in recent months by focusing so heavily on the stock market.

"Even though the stock market tripled under Bill Clinton, his view was that

you should always focus your policies and your messages on... not bread-and-butter kitchen table issues... and that focusing on the stock market would take your eye off the real economy," Sperling said.

White House spokesman Raj Shah, in an adjustment to the administration's message on stocks, told reporters aboard Air Force One en route to Trump's speaking event in Ohio, "Look, markets do fluctuate in the short term. We all know that... But the fundamentals of this economy are very strong and they're headed in the right direction."

Throughout a speech at a factory in Blue Ash, Ohio, Trump made no mention of stock markets,

departing sharply from past practice.

In his State of the Union address last week, Trump said, "The stock market has smashed one record after another, gaining \$8 trillion and more in value in just this short period of time."

"TREMENDOUS BENEFITS"

On Jan. 7, he wrote on Twitter, "The Stock Market has been creating tremendous benefits for our country in the form of not only Record Setting Stock Prices, but present and future Jobs, Jobs, Jobs. Seven TRILLION dollars of value created since our big election win!"

Three days before that, he tweeted, "Dow just crashes through 25,000. Congrats! Big cuts in

unnecessary regulations continuing." He had sent similar tweets for months.

The Republican president told Reuters in a Jan. 17 interview he has been getting kudos from people grateful for increased 401(k) retirement plan values and he believed the rise would not have happened if his Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton had won the 2016 presidential election.

"If the Democrats won the election, the stock market would have gone down 50 percent from where it was, and now look at the percentage increase. It's a record increase," Trump said.

The benchmark S&P 500 has pulled back more than 6 percent from a Jan. 26 record high.

The "Trump rally," as some traders have dubbed it, has coincided with a sweeping tax code overhaul approved in December, which slashed corporate taxes, and a deregulation push.

The S&P 500 rose 34 percent from Trump's election to its recent high. But stock prices have

been climbing since March 2009, when Obama inherited a serious financial crisis and the worst economic recession since the Great Depression of the 1930s from the previous Republican administration of George W. Bush. At that time, the Dow was trading at around 6,500.

Trump has also criticized his predecessor Obama's effect on markets. In November 2012, Trump tweeted, "The stock market and US dollar are both plunging today. Welcome to @BarackObama's second term." The S&P 500 rose 126 percent from Obama's 2008 election to his final day in office in 2017. Former Obama press secretary Jay Carney on Monday tweeted, "Good time to recall that

in the previous administration, we NEVER boasted about the stock market — even though the Dow more than doubled on Obama's watch — because we knew two things: 1) the stock market is not the economy; and 2) if you claim the rise, you own the fall."

Doug Holtz-Eakin, president of the American Action Forum and a former economic adviser to 2008 Republican presidential nominee John McCain, said, "The president shouldn't comment about the stock market. Indeed if anyone is going to make major pronouncements about economic data, it should be the Treasury secretary or the agency releasing the data, so if they get it wrong you can get rid of them. You don't want the president owning those things."

Panchayat, local Bodies polls being deferred for political reasons: Harsh

MAJALTA, FEB. 06: Expressing concern over the repeated postponement of Panchayat and local Bodies elections in the state, Harsh Dev Singh, JKNNP Chairman and Former Minister today lambasted the BJP-PDP alliance for destroying the institutions of local self governance in the state for petty political motives. He said that the political expediencies of the ruling alliance being the main reason for avoiding the elections, the state govt was desperately looking for excuses and alibis including convening of All parties meets (APM) to evade the said polls. He said that plea of non-conducive atmosphere was totally unacceptable and untenable as the

state as well as central govt had been repeatedly claiming improvement in security scenario in the state. He regretted that while the uncertainty prevailed over Panchayat elections for the last around 20 months, the elections to Municipal bodies had been denied for the last eight years in view of their becoming due in the year 2010. He was addressing public meetings in Palnu, Jakhnu and Jagwal villages of Majalta in Rambargar constituency. Accusing the BJP of trying to sabotage the process of democratic decentralization, Harsh Dev Singh claimed that its representatives had made highly perverse and anti people suggestions in the All Party

meet with regard to the constitution of Panchayati Raj institutions in the state. He revealed that the BJP State Chief had proposed the grant of Block Chairman Posts to respective MLAs instead of the Panchayat representatives in circumvention of the provisions envisaged under the present Panchayati Raj system all over the country. He expressed his dismay that the BJP leader in his desperation "to empower the legislature" failed to appreciate that such kind of doles on the MLAs would only amount to a dactyony upon the rights and interests of the Panchayats and Gram Sabhas. He said that JKNNP had vociferously opposed in APM meet such an



conscious idea of empowering the MLAs by disempowering the Panchayats and would fight it out in the streets and courts if any such proposition was entertained by the govt. He further questioned the motive behind holding indirect elections for Sarpanchs posts and said that the party had strongly opposed the change of criteria for the said elections during the course of APM meet. Alleging a deep rooted conspiracy by the ruling alliance to thwart the system of local self governance in the state, Singh said that Ministers and MLAs were

extremely hesitating to part with the powers which they had usurped and enjoyed in the absence of local bodies. Plans of Panchayats and Blocks were being formulated by the legislators on their own to suit their political interests without addressing the local aspirations which had also created resentment amongst the rural masses, said Harsh. Flaying the dilly dally tactics of the state govt to hold elections to Rural and Urban Local Bodies, Harsh Dev Singh said the coalition govt to be blamed for poor delivery of basic civic services including electricity, water supply, sanitation, sewage and solid waste management, maintenance of community assets,

upkeep of roads, lanes, drains, footpaths, street lighting besides other facilities which were adversely affected due to blockage of funds by the centre in the absence of such institutions of local self governance. He regretted that since the BJP-PDP combine had failed on governance and delivery fronts, the non constitution of ULBs had enabled the govt to rule and administer the Panchayats and Municipalities by proxy in the absence of grass root democratic institutions. He called upon the Governor to intervene in his capacity as the constitutional head of the state and ensure early elections in the interest of rural and urban local development.

Barring Gurez, all roads to far flung villages, Kashmir highway through

SRINAGAR, FEB 6: Barring Razdan top, connecting dozens of far flung and remote villages, including those near the Line of Control (LoC) with district headquarters, Bandipora, all passes, including Sadhna, besides national highway, linking Kashmir valley with the rest of the country, are through for traffic. However, despite less snowfall this winter, the national highway, the only road linking Ladakh region with Kashmir and historic Mughal road remained closed due to slippery road conditions. The border town of Gurez, surrounded by Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) from three

sides and dozens of other far flung and remote villages, including Neeru and Dawar, remained cut off with district headquarter Bandipora due to closure of the Razdan top. We are not allowing any vehicle to ply on the road due to very slippery road conditions, a Police Control Room (PCR) official told UNI over phone from Bandipora on Tuesday. However, this winter the road remained open for majority period due to less snowfall, he said adding traffic on the road will be resumed only after receiving green signal from the authorities, he added. Meanwhile, the Sadhna pass, Phirkiyan and Z-Gali, connecting Machil,

Keran, Karnan, Tangdhar and dozens of other far flung and remote border villages with district headquarter Kupwara are through for traffic. We suspended traffic for some days due to fresh snowfall last week, officials said adding with the improvement in the weather condition, we allowed vehicles to ply, they said. However, every precaution is taken at Sadhna pass, where eleven persons, including a Border Roads Organisation (BRO), officer, were killed after they were swept away by a snow avalanche in January first week. Two way Light Motor Vehicle (LMV) has been allowed on Srinagar-

Jammu national highway on Tuesday, a traffic police official told UNI here. However, he said, Heavy Motor Vehicle (HMV) traffic will continue to ply one-way only to avoid any accident and traffic jam. Road widening and road repair works were going on at several places on the highway, where only one vehicle can pass freely, he added. Today LMV will ply from both sides while HMV traffic to ply from Jammu to Srinagar, he said adding no HMV, including security force, convoy, will be allowed from opposite direction. He said Jammu bound LMV will have to pass Qazigund between 0700

hrs 1400 hrs while Srinagar bound vehicles will have to cross Nagrota between 0600 hrs to 1000 hrs. Similarly Srinagar bound HMVs will have to cross Udhampur between 0500 hrs to 1000 hrs only. No vehicle will be allowed after the deadline from both sides, he said. The national highway, connecting Ladakh region with Kashmir, remained closed due to slippery road condition and accumulation of snow, particularly between Sonamarg-Zojila pass-Meenmarg. The historic 86-km-long historic Mughal road, linking Shopian in south Kashmir with Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu region also remained closed.

Monkey menace issue rocks J&K Assembly

JAMMU, FEB 6: The monkey menace issue on Tuesday rocked the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly here. MLA Bandipora Usman Majid during Zero Hour raised the issue of monkey troubles in his constituency. "Monkeys are creating problems in my Constituency. They are damaging property, biting children and have created havoc," said the MLA. He however, was also supported by NC MLA Devendra Singh Rana, BJP MLA Ranbir Pathania, Congress MLA Aijaz Khan and other members of the House, who requested the Speaker Kavinder Gupta to allow the resolution on this issue of concern. The members shouted in the House and asked the concerned department of wildlife to take immediate measures in this issue. However, the Speaker directed the Government that it is everybody's concern and the Government should take the matter into consideration for early redressal. Meanwhile MLA Jeewan Lal has also sought reply from the government on

tehsil-wise the area of agriculture land as have remained uncultivated due to monkey nuisance since few years in Kathua district. The government however, in a written reply said that in the year 2014-15, 2094 hectares of land remained uncultivated, in 2015-16, 3395 hectares of land and in 2016-17, 2826 hectares of land remained uncultivated due to monkey menace in Kathua district. The government further replied that there is no provision for any kind of compensation to the farmers under any scheme on account of loss of crops due to monkey nuisance. "It has been observed that the wild animals like monkeys are shifting to inhabited areas and cultivated lands due to human intervention in the forest areas," the Minister In-charge said, adding that to deal with the nuisance, Agriculture Department is educating the farmers to grow the crops which are not liked by monkeys such as fodder, okra, ginger, turmeric and chilies so that maximum possible cultivable area is sown and farmers do not suffer any losses.

Night chill to continue, day sunny in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, FEB 6: Weather woes will continue during the night as the minimum temperature remained several degree below freezing point though the mercury during the day further improved due to sunshine in Kashmir valley. However, Kargil was the coldest place in the region at minus 15 degree while the maximum temperature in the bordering town also remained below freezing point. A Met department spokesperson told UNI that the weather will remain dry during the next 48 hours. However, he said a fresh Western Disturbance (WD), which originated from the Arabian Sea and is approaching the region through Afghanistan and Pakistan, is expected to hit the state on Friday. "Under the influence of this WD, rain and snow could occur in the valley," he added.

Even though there was an improvement of about a degree from Monday in the night temperature, people continued to shiver at Kargil, where the mercury settled at minus 15 degree. The maximum temperature recorded in the border town was minus 1 degree on Monday. Against minus 8.7 degree recorded on Monday, the night temperature at neighbouring town of Leh was minus 8.5 degree. After witnessing below 3 degree night temperature, people woke up to a sunny Tuesday morning in the summer capital, Srinagar. Against minus 3.3 degree recorded on Monday, the night temperature at the summer capital was minus 3.5 degree. However, people are enjoying summer-like weather from last couple of days in Srinagar, where the maximum temperature was 5 degree above normal on Monday. The mercury at world famous ski resort of Gulmarg, about 55 km from here in north Kashmir, dipped and settled at minus 7.6 degree, against minus 7.5 degree recorded on Monday. The night temperature at the ski resort was about a degree below normal. The night temperature at Qazigund, gateway to the valley and Kupwara in north Kashmir improved marginally and settled minus 3 degree and minus 4.2 degree, respectively. World famous health resort of Pahalgam, about 100 km from here in south Kashmir, also witnessed an improvement of about a degree from Monday and settled above normal. Against minus 6.1 degree recorded on Monday, the night temperature at Pahalgam was minus 4.7 degree.

Fresh avalanche warning issued during next 24 hours in Kashmir, Ladakh

SRINAGAR, FEB 6: A fresh weather warning has been issued in avalanche prone areas in Kashmir valley and Ladakh region during the next 24 hours. The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir said that there is a danger of avalanches during the next 24 hours in avalanche prone areas of Bandipora, Baramulla, Kupwara in north Kashmir, Kalgam in south Kashmir, Ganderbal and central Kashmir, Leh and Kargil districts of Kashmir Division.

Oppn members, BJP legislator stage walkout from LC on recruitment issue

JAMMU, FEB 6: The members from the opposition National Conference and Congress on Tuesday staged a walkout from the Legislative Council on the issue of the recruitment in various state government departments. Replying to the question raised by the NC MLC Qaiser Jansheed Lone, Minister of State, Priya Sethi informed the House that during last two years around 215 thousand selectors have been made by the recruiting agencies to various government departments. The Minister further said that 132 selectors have been made in various autonomous bodies under administrative control of the departments. Besides, the interventions and subsequent clarifications by Minister Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura, the opposition members while expressing dissatisfaction over the reply, alleged that no proper procedure has been adopted by the government in the recruitment procedure. They further alleged that the State Public Service

Commission has been adopting discriminatory attitude towards the aspirants of Jammu region in selection to various posts. However, BJP MLC Vibodh Gupta also protested and staged walkout from the Upper House after he did not get satisfactory reply from the government on recruitment in a separate question as the member alleged discriminatory attitude being adopted by the government in recruitment process for Jammu region. Commission has been adopting discriminatory attitude towards the aspirants of Jammu region in selection to various posts. However, BJP MLC Vibodh Gupta also protested and staged walkout from the Upper House after he did not get satisfactory reply from the government on recruitment in a separate question as the member alleged discriminatory attitude being adopted by the government in recruitment process for Jammu region.

J&K police pays tribute to 2 policemen killed in hospital attack

SRINAGAR, FEB 6: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday paid floral tribute to two policemen, including a Head Constable, who were killed after a militant staged an attack outside a hospital in Srinagar to free a Pakistani militant from police custody. A police spokesperson said that a wreath laying ceremony of Head Constable Mushtaq Ahmad resident of Dildar Karnah and Constable Babar Ahmad Khan resident of Shangus Achabal was held at District Police Lines Srinagar. "Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Munir Ahmed Khan led the police officers in laying the floral wreaths on the mortal remains of the martyrs," he said. He said Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Central Kashmir Range (CCR) Ghulam Hassan Bahat, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Syed Abid Hussain, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar Intiaz Ismail, Faray and other officers of police CRPF and SSB were present during the ceremony.

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY, CHAK BHAWAL, JAMMU

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE NO. 37 OF 2017-2018 DATED: 03.02.2018

For and on behalf of Governor of J&K state, sealed Tenders affixed with a Revenue Stamp worth Rs 6/- are invited from Registered Firms/ Vendors for Supply of Stationery Items and Printing Certificates for 5th National Conference and Exhibition (NCEIET) as per particulars given below:-

S. No.	Name of the Items	Specification	Quantity	Earrest Money	Remarks
01	Stationery/Certificates	(i) Certificate with printing. (ii) Leather Folders with Printing (along with writing Pads and Pens) (iii) Folders with printing (along with writing Pads and Pens) (iv) Card and Strips with printing of different colours (100x50-50) (v) Badges (20 Large and 30 Medium)	250 100 200 200 50	Rs. 400/- (Rs. Four Hundred only) in shape of CDR/DR in favour of Principal, GCET, Jammu	The Quantity of the items may increase or decrease.

Date of Sale of Tenders: -03.02.2018 to 10.02.2018 (between 10.00 A.M. to 04.00 P.M.)
Date of Receipt of Tenders: -03.02.2018 to 10.02.2018 (between 10.00 A.M. to 04.00 P.M.)
Date of Opening of Tenders: -10.02.2018 at 02.00 P.M. or on any other convenient date.

The Tender should be addressed and sent to the Principal, GCET, Chak Bhalwal, Jammu, in sealed envelopes by registered post/speed post/courier service/hand and duly super scribed on the envelopes "Supply of Stationery Items and Certificates". The tender notice with detailed terms and conditions along with specification and sample of Printing of Certificates can be obtained from the office of the undersigned against G.R. Non-Refundable of Rs 1 00/- (Rs. One Hundred Only) as cost of Tender document after producing the below mentioned documents.

- Attested photocopy of Registration Certificate of Registered Vendors. (Attested through Gazetted Officer/Notary/Self Attested)
- Attested photocopy of PAN & GSTIN. (Attested through Gazetted Officer/Notary/Self Attested)

Further details can be had from the office of the College as well as College Website www.gcetjammu.org.in.

The tender of any firm not quoting the rates for complete brochure shall be declared invalid.

The undersigned reserves the rights to reject any or all tenders before or after opening them without assigning any reason therefor.

No.: GCET/Accts/1443
Dated:-03.02.2018
DIP/J-10628/17 Dt. 06.02.2018

Sd/-
Principal,
GCET, Jammu

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION, CANAL ROAD, JAMMU

Phone No.: 0191-2577745
Email: zenemidmu@gmail.com

ABSTRACT OF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS
E-NIT No. MID/J-13 of 2017-18 Dated:03-02-2018 Due On 17-02-2018

The Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Canal Road, Jammu, on behalf of Governor of J&K State, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from registered and reputed Firms/ Contractors for Fabrication, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Vertical Lift Gates to be installed at D-8A Canal, TFC and Satalwar Minor Channel for extension of Jammu Airport. The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover "I"-Pre-qualification Bid and Cover "II"-Financial Bid in the prescribed BQQ.

S. No.	Name of Work	Qty.	Earrest Money (In case)	Cost of tender document	Period of completion	Validity of Rates	Name of Division
1.	Fabrication, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Vertical Lift Gates at RD1000 mts. of TFC and D-8A, RD2305 mts. of D-9A and RD2013 mts of Satalwar Minor Channel for extension of Jammu Airport.	Complete job as per annexure	2% of the quoted value	Rs.500.00	30 Days	180 Days	Mechanical Irrigation Division, Jammu

Important Dates :-

- The tender documents can be downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.in with effect from 03-02-2018 (06:00 PM onwards)
- Pre bid meeting 08-02-2018 (01:00 PM)
- Submission of online bid 10-02-2018 (11:00 AM) to 17-02-2018 (04:00 PM)
- Submission of hard copies 17-02-2018 (Up to 02:00 PM)
- Opening of online bids 19-02-2018 (01:00 PM)

(Nareesh Kumar Khajuria)
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Irrigation Division
Jammu

DIP/J-10624/17
Dt. 06.02.2018