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THOUGHT OF THE DAY

The army will hear nothing of politics from me, and in return, I expect to hear nothing of politics from the army.

— HH Asquith

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Two civilians killed, **Army jawan martyred** in Pak firing

JAMMU, JAN 20: Two civilians were killed and an Army jawan attained martyrdom as Pakistan troops shelled forward border outposts and targeted civilian areas along International Border and the Line of Control across Tammu region on

"Pakistan Army on Saturday morning at around 0820 hrs initiated unprovoked and indiscriminate firing of small arms and automatics in Krishna Ghati sector and succumbed to his along the Line of Control," a defence

spokesman here said.

He said that Indian Army retaliated strongly and effectively, adding, "in the exchange of fire, Sepoy Mandeep Singh was grievously injured

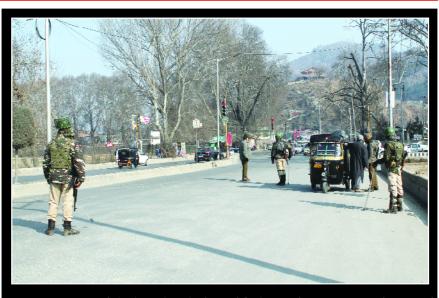
CONTD ON P-2

Schools along IB, LoC shut in Jammu region as Pak continues shelling

JAMMU, JAN 20: The Government has ordered closure of all schools located along the International Border and the Line of Control in view of heavy shelling by Pakistan.

Pakistan continued heavy mortar shelling throughout the night along almost entire International Border (IB) in Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts and Line of Control (LoC) in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch. Four people, including an Army jawan, a BSF Head-Constable were martyred, two civilians killed and 50 others, including two BSF jawans and civilians, injured, some of them seriously while over 100 cattle had died in last 24 hours. "Army and BSF troops have been giving a befitting reply to Pak shelling," said an official.

CONTD ON P-2



Security personnel checking the vehicles and frisking pedestrians at Moulana Azad Road as security has been intensified ahead of Republic Day celebrations, in Srinagar on Saturday.

KATHUA GIRL MURDER CASE

CJM sent accused to Juvenile Home

JAMMU, JAN. 20: In a much publicized murder of minor girl at Hiranagar, Chief Judicial Magistrate Kathua Amarjeet Singh Langeh today sent the accused Shubham Sangra S/o Om Parkash Sangra R/o ward no.10, Hiranagar at present Rassana Tehsil Hiranagar to Juvenile Home RS Pura for 10 days.

Today Shubham Sangra produced in the Court of CIM by SI Anand Dutta of Police Station, Hiranagar and party in connection with F.I.R. No. 10 of 2018 for offences under sections 363, 343 and 302 of RPC alongwith Case Diary with the prayer for grant of ten days remand to Juvenile Home in respect of

delinquent/juvenile.

CJM Kathua Amarjeet Singh Langeh after perusal of the Case Dairy observed that Juvenile / delinquent is allegedly involved in an F.I.R. No. 10 of 2018 for offences under sections 363, 343 and 302 of RPC. He seems to have been apprehended on 19-01-2018. As per school record, date of birth of delinquent is stated to be 23-10-2003. Prima facie therefore he is juvenile within the meaning of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection)

CIM Kathua further observed that offences under sections 302 and 363 of RPC in which involvement of juvenile is CONTD ON P-2

Ceasefire violation issue rocks J&K Assembly JAMMU, JAN 20: Entire

opposition members from National Conference and Congress on Saturday rocked Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on the issue of ceasefire violation along international border and the Line of Control blaming BJP for its "failure" in safeguarding lives of the civilians while BIP members also raised anti-Pakistan slogans in the House.

The opposition members later staged walkout from the House.



As soon as the House assembled for day proceedings, Opposition members from National Conference and Congress criticised PDP-BJP gov-

ernment over casualties on borders in Pakistan shelling.

Amid slogans, the opposition benches accused BJP of "drama" and "failing" in safeguarding border dwellers.

The NC members also targeted the MoS PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh for his Friday remarks wherein he had said that those leaders speaking on Pakistan's behalf cannot

be pardoned. NC working president Omar Abdullah on Friday had batted for Indo-Pak talks to normalise situa-

tion along the border. "What has Dr Jitendra Singh said? This is condemnable," NC MLA Ali CONTD ON P-2

A soldier dies due to cardiac arrest in

Gulmarg

BARAMULLA, JAN **20**: A soldier of 8 Maratha died due to cardiac arrest in world famous ski resort of Gulmarg in this north Kashmir district, official said sources

They said Havaldar D A Jabra of 8 Maratha fell unconscious after he suffered a massive cardiac CONTD ON P-2

Omar questions demand of MPs for business class in flights

SRINAGAR, JAN 20: Questioning Members of Parliament demand for upgradation of their seats to business class in flights that are vacant in the premium cabin, former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah said that the MPs already get a quota of Business Class seats in addition to Club Class tickets in a year.

An MP gets 34 free air journeys in a year, can be accompanied by a companion, and can travel business class. If a member doesn't utilise all 34 tickets, the remaining ones are carried over to the next year.

"Incidentally Hon'ble CONTD ON P-2

Weather woes to continue as night chill intensified, day temp above normal

will continue as night chill intensified from January 22. Though there was minor improve-

ment in the minimum temperature in Leh and Kargil but it was still below freezing point while famed health resort of Pahglam was coldest at minus 6.3 degree, a notch colder than yesterday though it was still above normal.

The weather will remain dry and cold in the Jammu and Kashmir during the past 24 hours, a Met department spokesman UNI on Saturday afternoon.

The weather woes will continue in the Kashmir valley due to dry and cold conditions. However, the day will remain relatively warmer due to above normal maximum temperature though icy cold winds also continued.

Due to recent fresh snowfall on upper heights, the minimum temperature witnessed a drop at Pahalgam, a famed

SRINAGAR, JAN 20: Weather woes health centre in south Kashmir, about 100 km from here. Against yesterdays though the day temperature was above minus 5.7 degree minimum temperanormal in the Kashmir valley, while a ture, it was minus 6.3 degree, still about fresh Western Disturbance (WD) is like- a notch above normal. Snow on upper Lly to cause isolated rain in the region heights, main source of water bodies. including river Lidder passing through Pahalgam, remained frozen. The water level in these water bodies was less as compared to summer when snow melts due to bright sunshine.

Famed ski resort of Gulmarg, where a Sweden skier was killed another was i rescued in an injured condition recently, due to snow avalanche, was second coldest place in the valley though minimum temperature recorded about three degree surge. Against yesterdays minimum temperature of 8.6 degree, it was minus 5.5 degree, two notches above normal. The ski slopes remained flooded with skiers and other adventure lovers since early morning till late in the night at Gulmarg, where Treacherous snow car rally started today (Saturday). Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister in a 1 CONTD ON P-2

CONTD ON P-2

Border Shelling: Dy CM thanks Gol for enhancing relief,

compensation JAMMU, JANUARY

Deputy Chief Singh today thanked the Union Government for increasing the quantum of ex-gratia and other reliefs especially for the cross-border firing victims.

Pertinently, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, has recently approved that relief and compensation for house damages, crop/livestock losses, relief for stay at relief camps and displacement etc will be payable at the rates equal to NDRF that are fixed from time to time.

Minor girl's death: J&K Govt suspends SHO after Oppn creates pandemonium in LA JAMMU, JAN 20: Jammu and Kashmir ing to "hush-up" the matter.

Government on Saturday suspended the Station House Officer after opposition members created pandemonium in the Legislative Assembly over minor girl's slogans. death, who was found "murdered" after a week of her missing in Hiranagar tehsil of Kathua district.

Congress MLA from Bandipora, Usman Majid raised the issue of brutal killing of a minor girl alleging that she was kept in illegal confinement for seven days in a cow shed where she was also raped. The member told the House that the

police claimed to have arrested 15-yearold boy in the incident and added, "how a teenager boy can keep the girl in illegal confinement, rape her for seven days and then murder her.'

"Police is trying to shield the real culprits," said the member adding that why the police during investigation, did not visit to the cow shed, which was within the jurisdiction.

"The SHO and the Deputy Superintendent of Police should have been immediately suspended," he demanded and said that the police is try-

The member was also supported by the opposition National Conference members, who stood on their seats shouting

MLA Kathua Rajiv Jasrotia said, "we (opposition) trying to communalise/ regionalise it."

On BJP MLA's remarks, entire opposition created ruckus in the House shouting, "Qatil Ko Fansi Do", "Laadli Beti Ko Insaaf Do", "Criminal Sarkar Hai Hai".

NC MLA Mian Altaf said that they are communalising the issue but the BJP instead should condemned it.

Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Rehman Veeri while replying in the House on behalf of the Government said, "we have already ordered the magisterial enquiry and it is a humanitarian issue. There should be no politicisation". National Conference member Ali Mohammad Sagar said that if you (government) had suspended the officer earlier, a clear and strong message

would have gone to the department. CÔNTD ON P-2

25 students from Kashmir selected for various courses by Aryan Group

SRINAGAR, JAN 20: As many as 25 students of Jammu and Kashmir have been selected for various courses by the Aryan Group of Colleges, Chandigarh here on Saturday.

An official of the Aryan Group said that 25 meritorious and deserving students of J&K have been selected for various courses on the 1st day of Aryans JK Scholarship Mela organized by Aryans Group of Colleges, Chandigarh at Peace Academy in the uptown

He said on the demand of the students, the scholarship mela would be extended for 2 more days also and interested students can apply on Aryans website www.arvans.edu.in. Amanpreet Singh, Head Admissions, J&K said that

over 100 students from the region visited the mela wherein they were given on the spot counseling & scope of various courses, on the spot scholarship, on the spot admission.

Amanpreet while congratulating the students said that Aryans has taken the initiative and has started a series in which those students who are deprived of pursuing higher education would be benefitted from max-

Gagan, Admission Counsellor, Aryans Group said CONTD ON P-2

Fresh landslides disrupt traffic on Kashmir highway SRINAGAR, JAN 20

Fresh overnight land-slides disrupted traffic on the national highway, connecting Kashmir val-ley with the rest of the country on Saturday morning while there is no possibility of reopening of Srinagar-Leh, historic Mughal road and Badipora-Gurez road before April due to accumulation of snow and slippery road conditions.

There were fresh landslides at Magarkote Ramsu, on Srinagar-Jammu national highway due to which traffic from both sides was suspended, a traffic police official told UNI this morning. However, he said, the Roads Organisation (BRO), CONTD ON P-2



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POLICE STATIONS

FROM PAGE-1

Two civilians...

The spokesman said that Mandeep Singh, 23, belonged to village Alampur, District Sangroor, Punjab and is survived by his father Gurnaam Singh. The martyred soldier was a brave and sincere soldier. The nation will always remain indebted to him for his supreme sacrifice and devotion to duty, he said.

Meanwhile, Pakistani Rangers also targeted civilian areas in RS Pura, Arnia and Kanhachak sector along international border in Jammu.

Two persons identified as Gharu Ram, 15, and an elderly man have died in the cross-border firing.

Some of the injured were identified as Sheetla Devi, Sonia Devi, Billu Gujjar, BSF SI Jarnal Singh and they have been hospitalised at Government Medical College and Hospital

The Government has ordered closure of all the schools located along the international border and the Line of Control in view of heavy shelling by the Pakistan.

Pakistan continued heavy mortar shelling throughout the night along almost entire International Border (IB) in Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts and Line of Control (LoC) in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch.

Four people, including an Army jawan, a BSF Head Constable have been martyred, two civilians killed and 50 others including two BSF jawans and civilians, injured, some of them seriously while over 100 cattle had died in last 24 hours.

"Army and BSF troops have been giving a befitting reply to Pak shelling," said an official. He said that heavy mortar shelling and firing is still continuing at most of the areas along the International border in Jammu, while exchange of fire has stopped along the

Panic triggered among the people as entire IB and LoC in Jammu region is virtually facing war-like situation. The border dwellers in RS Pura, Arnia, Ramgarh, Hiranagar, Kanachak and Pargwal sectors left their houses for safer locations including the relief camps set up by the administration.

Schools along...

"All the schools near bordering areas falling in the range of shelling and firing have been ordered for closure till further orders," said an official.

He said that heavy mortar shelling and firing is still continuing at most of the areas along the International border in Jammu, while exchange of fire has stopped along the LoC.

Panic triggered among the people as entire IB and LoC in Jammu region is virtually facing the war-like situa-

The border dwellers in RS Pura, Arnia, Ramgarh, Hiranagar, Kanachak and Pargwal sectors left their houses for safer locations including the relief camps set up by the administration.

CJM sent...

alleged are grave, heinous and non-bailable in nature. Investigation is going on. Juvenile therefore is directed to be kept in Juvenile Home at R.S.Pura, Jammu for a period of ten days from today till 29-01-2018. On the expiry of said period, he be produced before the competent court of law for further orders. Medical examination report of juvenile is also seen. SIT shall take all requisite measures that are required to be taken under law in respect of juvenile. Special Investigating Team shall be at liberty to take appropriate procedural steps should it sense necessity of interrogation of juvenile in the case in order to disinter any useful information.

Ceasefire violation...

Mohammad Sagar Sagar told the House. He shouted, 'Are we anti-nationals? BJP has failed in safeguarding the lives of people."

The NC and Congress members however, raised anti-BJP slogans asking them, "where is your 56-inch chest," in apparent reference to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Meanwhile the BJP MLAs raised anti-Pakistan slogans following which the opposition resorted them saying,

'you only know slogans.' Jammu and Kashmir Minister for law and Parliamentary Affairs, Abdul Rehman Veeri, in a reply to the House said that the government will put forth its

Amid ruckus, the opposition staged walkout from the

A soldier dies...

arrest at Botapathri camp in Gulmarg yesterday, when the minimum temperature was minus 8.6 degree and maximum temperature 2.4 degree. The soldier, resident of Maharashtra was immediately rushed to hospital where he was declared brought dead.

However, police has registered a case and initiated proceedings, they added.

Omar questions ...

MPs get a quota of Business Class seats in addition to Club Class tickets for sessions & meetings so why the need for an upgrade?" Mr Abdullah, who is the working president of National Conference (NC), wrote on microblogging site twitter.

'Here's an idea - pay for a business class seat. It's an idea who's time has come." he added.

According to reports, Members of a House panel on consumer affairs want domestic airlines to automatically upgrade members of Parliament to business class on flights that have vacant seats in the premium cabin.

2470318

2470315

E-Mail id

Weather woes...

NEWS

tweet said "Best wishes to Dr Sharmeen Mushtaq, the 1st Kashmiri woman to participate in the treacherous snow car rally in Gulmarg starting today".

The parts of world famous Dal Lake in the heart of summer capital, Srinagar, were again frozen Saturday morning after minimum temperature recorded further drop and settled at minus 43 degree against yesterdays minus 3.1 degree. However, the maximum temperature remained several notches above normal though icy cold winds also continued. The sky would be mainly clear with haze during the next 24 hours in Srinagar, where the maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 13 degree and minus 3 degree respectively.

There was slight improvement in the minimum temperature at Leh and Kargil in Ladakh region, where water bodies remained frozen. Against yesterdays minus 20 degree, the minimum temperature at border town of Kargil was minus 19.6 degree. At Leh the minimum temperature was minus 13.5 degree against yesterdays minus 13.8 degree. The sky would be mainly clear and the maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 6 degree and minus 15 degree respectively at Leh during the next 24 hours.

Border Shelling...

Dr Singh said the ex-gratia relief in case of death has been increased to Rs 5 lakh whereas Rs 75000 would be provided in case of permanent disability and Rs 5000 for minor injury. Similarly, in case of house damage, the limit has been fixed at Rs 1 lakh or 50% of assessment of actual damage. He said Rs 30000 will be given in case of death of cattle (cow/buffalo) Rs 25000 for death of horses and Rs 3000 for goat and sheep.

Minor girl's...

He said that they (opposition) would not allow the House proceedings unless action is taken following which Mr Veeri said that the SHO has been suspended. "We have placed the SHO Hiranagar under suspension till the enquiry is completed," said Mr Veeri.

25 students...

that Aryans has already started admissions for its 12th academic session for various courses like B.Tech, LEET, LL.B, BA-LL.B, MBA, BBA, BCA, B.Com, GNM, ANM, B.Sc (Agri), B.Ed, MA(Edu), Diploma and BA.

Gagan further said that Aryans has always tried to give best to the society and the students. He said that in today's world when higher education is out of reach of a common man then private institutions should come forward and identify such students who have marks but no means so that their dreams shouldn't go dry due to their financial problem.

Ishfaq, Faculty Aryans said that Aryans JK students have achieved many milestones in the field of academics, sports, cultural, innovations etc. In Academics, these students have won laurels for the Group by securing top positions in PTU Merit list.

Fresh landslides...

responsible for the maintainance of the highway put into service sophisticated machines and men and cleared the road. He said initially only one-way traffic was allowed in the area where landslides had occurred.

He said now Light Motor Vehicle (LMV) traffic has been allowed from both sides with some restrictions while Heavy Motor Vehicles (HMV) will continue to ply one-way only. The Kashmir bound light motor vehicles will have to cross Nagrota between 0600 hrs to 1000 hrs, he said similarly Jammu bound LMV have to cross cross Qazigund between 0700 hrs to 1400 hrs. He said HMV traffic will ply from Srinagar to Jammu on Saturday and no heavy vehicle, including security force convoy, will be allowed to ply from opposite direction. Jammu bound HMV traffic will be allowed to cross Qazigund by 0700 hrs and Jawahat tunnel before 1230 hrs.

The road from Bandipora to border town of Gurez remained closed due to accumulation of about two feet snow on Razdan top. There is very less chance of allowing traffic on the road before April.

HELPLINE

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SP City North	2547038					
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Trikuta Nagar	2475133					
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Pacca Danga	2548610					
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Gangyal	2482019					
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City	2543688					
Bus Stand	2575151					
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Bagh-e-Bahu	2459777					
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Air Port	2430449			
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RAILWAYS				

131, 132, 2476407 Railway Enquiry l Bookina 2470318 Reservation 2470315

Public Health Engineering Stations 2543557 Bakshi Nagar Gandhi Nagar 2430786 2542582 Company Bagh 2573429 New Plot Panjtirthi 2547537

Telecommunication Department Directory Enquiry 197 Fault Repair 198

Trunk Booking 180 Billing Complaint 2543896 JAMMU MUNICIPALITY Jn. Lines 2578503 Administration Officer 2542192 Health Officer 2547440

POSTAL SERVICES Head Post Office City 2543606 2435863 Gandhi Nagar FIRE SERVICES

2480026

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Control Room 101,132, 2476407 2544263 Gandhi Nagar 2457705 Canal 2554064

Gangyal COOKING GAS DEALERS Chenab Gas

Canal Road

Gulmour Gas 2430835 JAKFED 2548297 **HP** Gas 2578456 2577020 Shivangi Gas 2548455 Tawi Gas POWER HOUSES Gandhi Nagar 2430180

Janipur 2533828 2430776 Nanak Nagar Parade 2542289 Satwari Cantt. 2452813 HOSPITALS GMC Hospital 2584290

S.M.G.S. Hospital 2547635 C.D. Hospital 2577064 Dental Hospital 2544670 2430041 Gandhi Nagar Hospital Sarwal Hospital 2579402

G.B. Pant Cantt. Hospital 2433500 Ayurvedic College 2543661 C.R.P. Hospital 2591105 Acharya Shri Chander 2662536 Mental Hospital 2577444

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

NURSING HOMES Maddan Hospital 2456727 Medicare 2435070 Triveni Nursing Home 2452664 Suvidha Nursing Home 2555965 Al. Firdous Nursing Home

2545050 Astha Nursing Home 2576707 Bee Enn Charitable Trust 2505310 Chopra Nursing Home 2573580 Harbans Singh Mem Hsp. 2541952

Jeevan Jyoti 2576985 Yudhvir Nursing Home 2547821 Mediaid Nursing Home 2466744 Sita Nursing Home 2435007 Vibhuti Nursing Home 2547969 Rameshwar Nursing Home 2580601

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NOTICE

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I, Mandeep Singh S/o Harbans Singh Mother's Name Bimla Devi have lost my 10th Class mark sheet under Roll No. 921013301747 of (National Institute of Open Schooling). Now, I am applying for the duplicate of the

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Jhelum Express	11077	9.20 AM	Daily	Jhelum Express	11078	09.45 PM	Daily	
Swaraj Express	12471	2.45 PM	(Tues, Fri, Sat, Mon)				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Sarvodya Express	12473	2.45 PM	Sun	Swaraj Express	12472	11.15 AM	(Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat,)	
Happa Express	12477	2.40 PM	THUR	Sarvodya Express	12474	11.15 AM	Thur	
Lohit Express	15651	12.15 PM	(Wed)	Happa Express	12476	11.15 AM	Mon	
Himsagar Express	16317	1.45 PM	(Mon)	Lonit Excress	15652	- 10.45 PM	Wed	
Himgiri Express	12331	12.20 PM	(Mon, Thurs, Sun)	Himsagar Express	16318	11.45 PM	(Moni	
Gorakhpur Express	12587	12.15 PM	(Tuesday)	Himg ri Express	12332	10.45 PM	(Mon, Thurs, Sun)	
Baroni Express	15097	12.15 PM	(SAT)	Gorakhpur Express	12588	10.45 PM	Sat	
Pooja Express	12413	07.55 AM	Daily				- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Malwa Express	12919	3, 55 PM	Daily	Barcni Excress	15098	10.45 PM	TUE	
Rajdhani Express	12425	05.40 AM	Daily	Pooja Express	12414	06.15 PM	Daily	
Hemkunt Exp	14609	04.30 AM	Daily	Malwa Express	2920	09.00 AM	Daily	
BTI-JA T Exp	19225 403-A	06.15 AM	DAILY	Rajdhani Express	12426	07.45 PM -	Daily	
AC Special Uttar Samparak Kranti	124 4 5	11.20 AM 06.35 PM	Daily except SAT Daily	Hemkunt Exp	14610	-, 06.40 PM :-	Daily	
DMU Passenger	12445 2JU	08.35 AM	Mon Tue Wed Thu, Fri	BTI-JAT Exp	9226	09 25	DALY	
DMU Passenger	1 PJU	07.35 AM	Daily	AC Special	404-A	11.25 PM	Daily except SAT	
Kolkata-JAT EXP	3151	08.30 AM	Daily	Uttar Samparak Kranti	12446	03. 25 PM	Daily Steept 5.1	
Archana Exp	12355	10 .25 AM	Sun				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
DMU Passenger	4JU	12.35 PM	Daily	DMU Passenger	3JL	05.20 PM	Daily Except Sat, Sun	
Sonepur-JAT Exp	2491	11.50 AM	Daily	DMU Passenger	2⊃JJ	. 05.10 PM .:	Daily	
Guwhati Exp	15653	12.15 PM	Fri	Kolksta-JAT EXP	3151	9.30	Daily	
Tata Mori Exp	8101	01.10 PM	Daily	Archana Exp	12356	08.15 PM	Sur	
Nauyog Exp	16687	01.35 PM	Thu	Madras Janta Exp	6032 D	11.45 PM	Tue, Fri, Sat	
Chennai Janta Exp	16031	01.45 PM	Sat, Tue, Fri			<u> </u>	Annual An	
Jamnagar Exp	2477	02.45 PM	Wed	RAILWA		'ENOUIRY		
UHP-PKT DMU Passenger	2PJU	05.00 PM	Daily	Doilway Enguire		121	122 2476407	
JUC-JAT-UHP-DMU	Spl. DMU	17.40	Sun only	Railway Enquiry		131, 132, 2476407		

07.35 PM

Daily

11.05 PM Daily Expect. Saturday

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Apollo Hospitals, MobileODT

SUNDAY | JANUARY 21, 2018

tie-up to Improves Cervical Cancer Detection Rates

JAMMU, JAN 20: Apollo Hospitals and Mobile ODT partnered to improve the higher detection rate of suspected Cervical Cancer in both urban and rural areas. With expertise from Apollo, Mobile ODT, a medical devices company, deploys the Enhanced Visual Assessment (EVA) System at primary cervical cancer screenings which leads to higher detection rate of suspected precancerous and cancerous lesions for

As per studies, cervical cancer has been a major disease burden for women in India. The cancer accounts for 17 percent of all cancer deaths in women between 30-69 years. Wide-ranging studies suggest that timely screening is the strongest tool to combat this growing

Dr. Mallika Samuel, Senior Consultant Gynecologist Apollo Hospitals Chennai and Lead Investigator of the study said, "The Indian healthcare landscape presents significant challenges related to patient volumes access and affordability. Traditional healthcare delivery models necessarily need to be disrupted by converging technology with healthcare. The deployment of the EVA screening technology has been one such disruptive technology, which shall facilitate taking cervical screening to the people of India. It will enable early screening and hence early treatment thus slowing down incidences of cervical cancer.

Further, it maximizes the chances of making cervical cancer screening programme successful and reduces the time to follow up with the patients especially in rural and remote areas."

Anti polythene drive held in Kupwara

KUPWARA, JANUARY 20: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara Khalid Jahangir, an anti-polythene drive was carried out across the district today during which scores of erring traders were

Several teams were constituted for carrying out the drive which were led by concerned Tehsildars/BDOs. During the course of the drive, the designated teams seized 55.5 kilograms of polythene besides recovering Rs.17100 fine from erring traders who were found involved in keeping selling and using the illegal polythene carry bags. Local trade union leaders, shopkeepers, street vendors, civil society members, NGOs, media fraternity has been urged to extend necessary cooperation to make Kupwara polythene free district.

5-Days self-defense training programme concludes at Udhampur

UDHAMPUR, JANUARY-20: Five Day Secondary Level self-defense training programme under RMSA for Girls organized by the Education Department concluded here today. Chief Education Officer J.R Bharadwaj was the chief guest on the occasion.

CEO Udhampur informed that near about 40 teachers from eleven educational zones have been trained by the experts in martial arts. The trained participants will further impart training to the girls students in their respective zones on self defense. He stressed upon the participants to impart the various techniques on self defense to the girl's students with full dedication so as to increase confidence among the girl's students. District Education Planning Officer, Udhampur J.M Thermatt DY, CEO M.M Wani, staff members, students, parents and guardian were present on the occasion.

DDC Reviews Physical and Financial progress of RDD

DODA, JANUARY 20: District Development Commissioner Doda, Bhawani Rakwal today chaired a meeting to review the physical and financial progress of various development works taken up under Rural Development schemes.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Doda Yoginder Katoch, Assistant Commissioner Development Doda Akhter Oazi, Project Officer IWMP Doda, All BDOs of the District, AEEs/ [Es besides VLWs and IRS of the rural development department. While reviewing the block wise progress, the DDC expressed displeasure over the slow pace of work under MGNREGA, PMAY and IAY, SBM, FC 13th/14th, CD Panchayat, Watershed, SAGY, MPLADS and CDF.

DDC directed all BDOs to accelerate the pace of work in their respective areas and stressed on adoption of more innovative methods in various schemes and involvement of common masses in the development process. He directed the officials to convene regular meetings at Panchayat level for the preparation of plan and asked the department to create assets of common interests for the rural areas.

Aijaz Khan chairs public meeting, launches work on roads

Distributes sewing machines, old age pension cards REASI, JANUARY 20: Member Legislative Assembly Gool-Arnas Aijaz Ahmed Khan today chaired a public meeting at Dharmari and distributed sewing machines and old age pension cards among the poor beneficiaries. He also gave a patient hearing to the issues of the local people. In the meeting, SDM Yaseen Chowdhary, BDO Thuroo, senior officers from the concerned departments and prominent peo-

While addressing, the MLA asked the SDM to clear the cases of land compensation and BDO was also instructed to ensure the payment of liabilities to MGNREGA workers. He emphasized on the punctuality and regularity of teachers in the far-flung areas.

Later, the MLA also toured in Thuroo Village and lunched the work of Sulkh to Kharog road and laid the foundation of Pattian to Dadar road.

BJP holds Booth Sammelans at Chingus, Bhamag

JAMMU, JAN. 20: BJP held "Booth Sammelan" of Mandal Dhangri and Chingus at Chingus comprising of 40 booths, which was chaired by BJP State General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Kaul along with VC Pahari Board Kuldeep Raj Gupta, MLC Adv. Vibodh Gupta, Prabhari & State Incharge All Cells S. Variderjit Singh and other senior leaders of the party and attended by all the District, Mandal, Ward, Booth activists and Morcha Presidents residing in the

Sammelan at Booth Mandal Bhamag comprising 32 Polling Booths was also addressed by MoS Ajay Nanda, Prabhari & State Secretary Rajinder Sharma and other senior leaders of

Posing faith in the policies of the party, Retd. CEO Nigesh Sharma also joined BJP and said that only BJP can really address the issues of the public that have been left unattended by the previous governments for near about 70 years who was whole heartedly welcomed by Ashok Kaul and other senior leaders present in the sammelan.

"Booth Sammelan", Ashok Kaul emphasized on the importance of effective working by booth activists for the growth and extension of party by working in direct contact with every single voter of region. He said that the booth activists hold key to the hearts of the public as they are the face of party in every moment of joy and grief of common

While addressing the



masses. He also focussed on the organisational matters and shared important tips of constructive working

within the community. Ajay Nanda said that the Prime Minister Narendra led. Centre Government as well as the BJP-PDP coalition government has been working on the development of the Nation since day one of the formation of the govern-

Kuldeep Raj Gupta said that BJP is the only party with cadre based structure

the judiciary and future of

which works for the welfare of all the neglected sections of the society while keeping the aim of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas" in mind.

Adv. Vibodh Gupta enumerated various public welfare schemes initiated by the Modi Government to uplift

the status of the masses and said that it is the moral duty of every party activist to take these schemes to pub-

Rajinder Sharma prompted leaders to work with more energy and never ending enthusiasm for party and threw light on the working system of booth level committees on ground level while sharing the slogan of "Booth Jeeta, Chunav Teeta".

Seh-Prabhari Rajinder, District President Dinesh Sharma, Atam, Adv. Vinod, Mahendra Singh, Koushal Sharma and others were present at Chingus, whereas, Naresh Soodan, Sat Pal Sharma, Chain Singh, Pawan Kumar, Rattan Singh, Sansar Chand and others were present at

NPP Supremo calls on CM Chandrababu Naidu

URGES TO CONVENE A MEETING OF LIKEMINDED POLITICAL PARTIES

JAMMU, JAN. 20: Prof. Bhim Singh, Chief Patron of National Panthers Party, Sr. Advocate of Supreme Court of India & a noted human rights activist met Shri Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh at his newly established Secretariat Office in Amravati this afternoon presenting him a bouquet of red roses. Prof.Bhim Singh urged Telugu Desam Party Supremo and Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to initiate an urgent dialogue/discussion with all the like-minded and secular political parties in India mainly the State parties to work out a common agenda to work together to ensure strengthening the of National Integration, secular unity and international understanding for global peace

assured Shri Chandrababu Naidu that the Panthers Party shall act with its full commitment in this mission as the nation needs to unite entire country from Kanyakumari to Kashmir with one Flag, one Constitution and access of the Constitution of India and its Fundamental Rights to the Indian citizens in Jammu and Kashmir who have been remained denied of the Fundamental Rights right since 1950 till date.

TDP Supremo & Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh assured that he shall weigh and consider every aspect of the proposition. Earlier in the morning Prof.Bhim Singh addressed a conference organized by All India Lawyers' Union in Andhra Pradesh at Guntur District. The AILU had organized a and harmony. Prof.Bhim seminar on the administra-

tive justice and present situation of Supreme Court of India. Besides, Prof.Bhim Singh others who addressed this conference included former Judge of the High Court of A.P. Justice K.G. Shankar, S.S. Narasrivasasa Rao, General Secretary of AILU, Prof. N. Rangaiah, D.M. Vara Prasad, MLC, Rajendra Prasad, President, AILU, A.P. Unit and K.S. Lakshmanana Rao.

Prof. Bhim Singh strongly pleaded that what happened in the Supreme Court following a press conference by the angry senior judges should be forgotten and ignored by the media and the legal fraternity. He made a strong appeal to all particularly the judges of Apex Court to sit in a close door meeting inside the premises of the Supreme Court and resolve the issues in the interest of credibility of

democracy in India. Prof. Bhim Singh also advised the lawyers fraternity to cover this incident gently and politely so that the credibility of the judiciary shall remain intact. He reminded the lawyers fraternity about the legal role which was played by the prominent judges of the Supreme Court namely, Justice Mohammad Hidayatullah, Justice Krishna Aiyer, Justice P.N. Bhagwati, Justice Chennappa Reddy even Justice Adarsh Sein Anand. He said that judges can deliver a judgment and those who do not agree can record their dissenting judgment. There is no justification for the Hon'ble Judges to address a press conference. The address of Prof.Bhim Singh was welcomed by lawyers fraternity.

LAWDA holds 5th Scientific Advisory Committee meeting on preservation of lakes

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 20: The 5th Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting of J&K Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) on the preservation of lakes in J&K was held today at SKICC.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of SAC chairman, Dr A.R Yousuf and was attended by members of SAC which includes VC LAWDA, Dr A.H Masoodi, Mohammad Shafi Bacha, Dr Farooq Ahmad Lone and Dr Manzoor Ahmad Shah. Besides, the meeting was also attended by officials of LAWDA, Scientists and experts from LAWDA, officers of Forest Department and other concerned officials.

During the meeting, a review of the decisions taken during the 4th SAC meeting held in October 2017 was taken and the agenda for the 5th SAC was also discussed. On the occasion, Dr A.H Masoodi highlighted the ongoing conservation works in and around the Dal and Nigeen lakes. He said that a special drive for removal of lily pads, both manually and mechanically, has been started from August 2017 and so far 3 sq kmhas been cleared of the lily infestation. This process has also resulted in providing livelihood to around 1300 persons. He further said that the department is working on strengthening of the research and monitoring division, procurement of latest equipments, removal of Azolla and other pesticides in the lake waters and other preventive measures are being taken to save native fish species in the lake that are being carved out in a result-

72 -Year lady from Jammu gets new lease of life with advance surgery at BLK Super Speciality Hospital

TAVR A BOON FOR HIGH RISK PATIENT SUFFERING WITH CARDIAC AILMENT

Jammu was diagnosed with a life threatening disease called Aortic Valve Stenosis (degenerative) and was experiencing multiple syncopal episodes (loss of consciousness). She was also suffering from other ailments like diabetes, hypertension and severe obstructive sleep apnea (OSA), hence, couldn't be treated for Aortic Valve Stenosis through conventional procedures. On the advice of a family friend, she visited BLK Super Speciality

JAMMU, JAN. 20: Transcatheter Aortic (CAG) which revealed Finally, we decided to go gery which is associated multi-speciality medical Pritpal Kaur Chadha, a Valve Replacement that she had a double with minimally invasive with less pain, a shorter care in regions like

> Aortic Valve Stenosis is a serious problem of Valves wherein the valve gets narrow obstructs the flow of blood to heart. Considering the age and fragile health of the patient, TAVR came as a boon for the lady. TAVR is a well-proven surgical procedure for Aortic Valve Replacement in people who are considered as high risk patients for Open Heart Surgery.

On admission, the lady underwent several Hospital in New Delhi investigative tests like underwent Coronary Angiography

(TAVR) surgical proce- vessel disease. A preanaesthetic evaluation clearly indicated that she was unfit for Open Heart Surgery and Valve Replacement. Experts took up the challenge and opted for TAVR.

According to Dr. Ajay Kaul, Chairman & HOD, Cardio Thoracic and Surgery (CTVS), BLK Heart said, "Mrs. Chadha from Jammu came to us with a severe heart condition and other co-morbidities. It was a challenge for us to take a decision about the cutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) which is a non-surgical method used to open narrowed arteries. We replaced her diseased Aortic Valve percutaneously (through small incision in the groin without any surgical cut) through the femoral route and MY VAL 23mm was deployed without the open heart surgery," he added.

With all experts' opinion the patient was optimized for surgery. "The decision was taken to procedure as Open Heart remove the AVS with Operation was ruled out. minimal invasive sur-

strategy and did the per- hospital stay and fewer complications and early mobility. The patient was kept in ICU after surgery for one day. She was discharged after two days and is now living a much healthier life." Dr. Dheeraj said Gandotra, Consultant, Cardiology, BLK Heart In Jammu and nearby

areas, there may be many people like Pritpal Kaur Chadha who are suffering from life threatening diseases and need quality treatment and care. Recognizing the ever rising need to have high quality and SDDM Hospital, Jammu.

Speciality Hospital extends its regular services in the cities of Jammu and Srinagar. This is in continuation of the Hospital's commitment to take advanced healthcare facilities in several cities at the doorsteps of people who cannot avail high quality and affordable treatment in Delhi. To address the healthcare needs of the local residents, the experts of BLK Super Speciality Hospital will be travelling to Jammu on January 20 & 21, 2018 to provide multispeciality OPD services at

BJP intensifies Panchayat election campaign at Jammu rural

JAMMU, JAN. Intensifying the working for ensuring smooth win in the upcoming Panchayat elections in the State, BIP led by State Vice-President Parmod Kapahi, State General Secretary Harinder Gupta, State Secretary Aseem Gupta and other senior leaders held a marathon meeting in the Jammu Rural area to discuss the threadbare all the points related to the strategy regarding formation Panchayat Elections in the State as well as other organizational and developmental matters.

While addressing the meeting, Harinder Gupta focussed on the organizational matters and emphasized that the leaders and the activists of BJP must imbibe within themselves the quali-



ties of utmost discipline and dedication while working in the public life. He stressed that the common mass believes BJP to be their own party and so it is our duty to deliver according to their expectations. He said that the BJP under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken numerous steps for addressing the core issues and the genuine concerns of the public which felt so neglected during the past black regime given by Congress led governments. Harinder said that the win

of BJP supported candidates in the upcoming Panchayat elections will ensure the good governance to the door steps of every person. He prompted the senior leaders of the party to chose the candidates wisely with high moral values and character for the Panchayat elections who can serve the general public without self interest

Gupta also spoke on the plight of the victims due unprovoked shelling and firing by Pakistani Army and said that the Pakistan has crossed all limits. He said that every BJP activist must contribute in every possible way to help and aid those are affected.

Gupta also said that all the money utilized in the party management must be in black and white setting the example of clean financial political system.

Parmod Kapahi and Gupta Aseem addressed the meeting.

District President Omi Khajuria, Nand Kishore, Vikas Choudhary and others were among the prominent leaders present in the meeting.

DC finalizes arrangements for Dangal



UDHAMPUR, JANUARY 20: District Development Commissioner, Udhampur Ravinder Kumar today visited Subash Stadium Udhampur to finalize the arrangements for upcoming Dangal on 24th January.

DDC said that that this is the first time ever an exclusive women wrestling in Udhampur district is going to be held under 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' Abhiyan, in order to celebrate the strength within the women. DC directed the officers to ensure adequate arrangements for the event.

Among others, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Subash Dogra, Chief Planning Officer Ashok Khajuria, Additional Sp Udhampur besides Xen, PWD, PDD, PHE Nodal Officer, 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' (BBBP) Rachna Sharma, DYSSO Udhampur and other officers of various departments and representative of Sports council were present on the occasion.

Benjamin

'I'm a common man, don't know protocols': PM Narendra Modi on 'hugplomacy'

NATONAL

he was ridiculed by the Congress over his habit of giving warm hugs to international leaders with whom he shares good relations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that he is a common man and not aware of laid proto-

The Prime Minister said this in an interview to Zee News. He said that had he been "trained", he too would have followed the laid down protocols of shaking hands and "looking left and right" with world leaders.

"Had I been trained like others...I too would have followed those protocols of looking right and left, had shaken hands. But I am an ordinary person...I only try to ensure that no

NEW DELHI: Days after harm ever happens to my country (due to this)," the PM told Zee News.

> The PM, however, said that this has become his strength, as his openness was liked by the world leaders

PM Modi also said that his basic nature has been "to convert adversity into opportunity". He made these remarks days after he was mocked by the Congress over his warm hugs, which the party dubbed PM Modi's 'hugplomacy'.

A few days ago, the Congress had posted a tweet mocking Modi for hugging world leaders, evoking a sharp reaction from the BJP that slammed it as "immature" and demanded an apology.

The Rahul Gandhi-led



Minister Narendra Modi's

Congress made fun of video which was released what it called Prime on Twitter, which evoked an equally sharp response

Janata Party (BJP). The Congress posted the video on its official 'hugplomacy' in a meme from the ruling Bharatiya Twitter handle with a

hashtag `#hugplomacy`. The video was posted shortly after PM Modi received his Israeli coun-

Netanyahu upon his arrival at the Delhi airport. In the video, the Congress apparently ridiculed Prime Minister Modi's ways of hugging with several world leaders

by describing them with comic tags along with gifs. Reacting to it, the BJP said sarcastically that the video showed the "new" thinking of the grand old party under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi.

"The video is absolutely despicable. It is making fun of the Prime Minister of India that too with the other global leaders of the countries with whom we have good relations. This is a new thinking of the Congress Party under the supervision of Rahul Gandhi. It must be con-

demned in every possible manner," senior BJP leader Nalin Kohli said.

Reacting to it, PM Modi said, "When I became the Prime Minister, there was criticism that Modineither knows nor understands anything which is outside Gujarat."

"Everybody used to ask me how will I conduct my foreign policy. And in a way, this criticism was right because I did not have any experience. I got the benefit of not having experience. I did not have any baggage," he said.

Asked how he feels when he stands next to world leaders, he said, "My only feeling is that it is not Narendra Modi who is standing there but the representative of 1.25 billion people."

Kumar Vishwas takes shot at Arvind Kejriwal, as AAP's factional feud resurfaces over disqualification of 20 MLAs

impending disqualification of 20 AAP MLAs for violation of holding offices of profit has become the ground for the infighting within the party to surface ye again. AAP leader Kumar Vishwas, who stands sidelined within the party, used the opportunity to take a shot at CM Arvind Kejriwal.

"It is very unfortunate and sad, the action against 20 AAP MLAs," Vishwas told news agency ANI. "I had given certain suggestions earlier, but I was told it is the CM's prerogative to appoint people. So, I kept quiet," he added.

Vishwas is in a strained relationship with the AAP leadership at the moment. He had told the media that he was being targeted,



after the party refused to back his nomination to the Rajya Sabha.

The impending disqualifications will not affect the stability of the AAP government in Delhi. The party has 66 MLAs at present, and would have 46

members if the disqualifications come through. This is comfortably over the 35-

seat halfway mark. However, the byelections to the 20 seats would offer an opportunity to the Congress and the BJP. The BJP could look to expand

the moment. The response to the office of profit accusation has left

its footprint. And, the Congress can look to enter present Assembly, where it doesn't have a single member at

the AAP in a bind. When

the case had been filed in the Delhi High Court against the appointment of MLAs as parliamentary secretaries, the AAP had tried to use its brute majority to amend provisions to make the appointments legal. The amendment was not approved by the President.

But both the appointments and the amendment had been made without the consent of the Lieutenant-Governor, who in a different case had been confirmed by the courts as the true holder of executive authority in the city-state.

Despite its earlier scramble to legitimise the thenincorrect appointments, the AAP accused the Election Commission of being a "letterbox of the

Rashtrapati Bhavan lights up before Republic Day



NEW DELHI: With a week to go for Republic Day, the entire Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi lit up on Friday night. President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the dynamic facade lighting of Rashtrapati Bhavan.

In 2018, the following 10 heads of ASEAN states will be the chief guests of Republic Day:

India came in to effect. This day is cele- Chakra on that day.

Ex-Gujarat CM Anandiben Patel

brated as the Republic Day. A grand Republic Day parade is held

every from the gates of the Rashtrapati Bhavan to Rajpath. Regiments of the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force bands participate in the march. The parade also showcases defence capability, cultural and social heritage.

The President of India also bestows On 26 January, 1950, the Constitution of awards like the Ashok Chakra, Kirti

Medical negligence? Four-month-old baby dies after doctors give him pain killer

NEW DELHI: In a case of alleged medical negligence, a four-month-old baby died at a city hospital on Friday, after being administered a pain killer injection to provide temporary relief from the pain caused by a stitch in the upper lip.

According to the family, the baby was taken to Delhi`s Rohini-located Jaipur Golden Hospital on January 17 after the baby had suffered a cut in the upper lip.

They were informed that the doctors were planning to put a stitch to treat the cut, and the family agreed. Accordingly, a minor surgery was performed ly silent and without any and the baby was given



crying for about half an doctors informed.

"The doctors took the baby away and administered some pain killer following which he became completely silent. We got afraid to see him completemotion," Manish Kumar, back to the mother. uncle of the deceased said.

However, as the baby kept When family informed the doctor again, they came and checked the baby.

"After checking, they immediately rushed him to the ICU where he was kept for nearly one hour. After one hour, the doctors came out and informed that the baby had died due to medicine reaction," said

appointed Madhya Pradesh Governor

Gujarat Chiet Minister Anandiben Patel was on Friday appointed as the new Governor of Madhya Pradesh.

"The President of India is pleased to appoint Anandiben Patel to be the Governor of Madhya Pradesh, with effect from the date she assumes charge of her office," the Rashtrapati Bhavan said in a tweet.

76-year-old Patel was the chief minister of Gujarat from 2014, when Narendra incumbent Modi became the Prime Minister, to August, 2016, when she resigned the

Gujarat Governor O P Kohli was given the additional charge as the Governor of Madhya Pradesh in September 2016, when the tenure of incumbent Ram Naresh Yadav ended.

Gujarat BJP spokesper-Bharat Pandya son described the appointment "as a matter of pride for Gujarat" and said that Patel was the first woman Governor from thje state.

"She is the daughter of a farmer, who went on to become the first woman Chief Minister of Gujarat Governor from the state. vacant and



This indeed is a moment of pride for Gujarat," Pandya tweeted.

The post of Madhya and now the first woman Pradesh Governor was

Governor O.P. Kohli was assigned the charge till

Anandiben Patel had stepped down as Chief had refused to contest, and it was believed the BJP would assign her a larger role in politics. She will be the second Gujarat Minister from the BJP to have been made a

son. During the 2017 state

assembly elections, she

Governor. Earlier, Vajubhai Vala, a former BJP MLA from Gujarat, was made Governor of Karnataka. Madhya Pradesh will

see state assembly elections this year and Patel might have been assigned the role by the party high command keeping the Minister in August 2016 forthcoming polls in mind.

Dense fog shrouds Delhi, several trains delayed due to low visibility

NEW DELHI: A dense layer of fog engulfed the national capital and its neighbourhood regions -Noida and Gurgaon - on Wednesday morning. The visibility dropped to below 50 metres affecting train and flight services.

Nearly 21 trains were running late while four were rescheduled and 13 cancelled due to low visibility and operational reasons. In addition, three trains were rescheduled by Indian Railways. Severe cold conditions are expected to continue over the next few days, said the Indian Metereological Department.

The minimum and maximum temperature hover around 6 degrees and 23 degrees respectively. As north India continues to reel under cold waves,



there were reports of train and flight services disruption in the Capital. Cold waves have been sweeping parts of north India. Punjab and Haryana were reeling

under an intense cold wave and high-altitude areas of Jammu region are also experiencing snowfall over

the last few week. Also, Leh in Ladakh

region of Jammu and Kashmir recorded a low of minus 15.6 degrees Celsius, earlier this month. Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of minus 1.2

degrees Celsius while Gulmarg recorded a low of

minus 9.4 degrees Celsius. In high-altitude areas of the Himachal Pradesh, the mercury stayed between

minus 15 and minus 22 degrees Celsius Saturday while lakes, springs and rivulets were frozen.

In Haryana, Ambala braved the bone-chilling weather at 5.6 degrees Celsius, while Hisar registered a low of 2.6 degrees Celsius, four notches below normal. Uttar Pradesh too witnessed dense to very dense fog at many places as cold waves swept some parts of the state, with Fursatganj in Rae Bareli recording the lowest minimum temperature of 2.6 degrees Celsius. Cold wave conditions also prevailed in northern parts of Rajasthan with Sriganganagar being the coldest recorded place at 1.9 degrees Celsius while dense to very dense fog occurred at isolated parts of

5.2 magnitude earthquake jolts Assam's Kokrajhar

NEW DELHI: An earthquake on Saturday his Kokrajhar in the northeast state of Assam. The quake has been measured 5.2 on the Richter scale.

The quake stroke the area at around 6.44 am. Earthquake of magnitude 5.2 occurred in Assam's

Kokrajhar at 06:44 am. Tremors were also felt across in Bhutan. No report of casualty or damage has come from anywhere so far.

The earthquake reportedly originated in Gauripur at In August 2017, a moderate intensity earthquake of 3.4

magnitude shook Guwahati in Assam.



Several measures taken to

boost agri production in **Poonch: Hanjura**

'Govt proposing development of Garlic, Potato villages in potential areas'

IAMMU, JANUARY 20: Minister for Agriculture, Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura today informed the Legislative Assembly that the Government has taken several concrete steps under central and State Sponsored schemes to make Poonch-Haveli Constituency self-sufficient in food grain production and boost the yield in traditionally rich villages for potato and garlic cultivation. Replying to a Question of Shah Mohammad Tantray in Legislative Assembly, the Minister said that the Department has provided subsidized high yielding and hybrid variety seeds of maize, paddy and wheat besides, other non-food grain crops like mustard, vegetables and fodder as per the local area specific acclimatization. The department also organizes farmers' awareness programmes impart trainings, hold demonstrations about adoption of improved cultivation, post harvesting management practices and promotion of mechanized farming system available under different CSS/State Schemes, said the Minister.

The Minister informed that the department has prepared a DPR of Rs 7 crore to boost the production and quality in the garlic rich areas of the district, which is under consideration for sanction. He further said that during the year 2017-18, 10 qtls of garlic seed was provided to the farmers of Mandi, Loran, Swajian and Upper Shahpur among 330 farmers for quality production and seed multiplication. These areas are also under consideration for being developed as Garlic villages, said the Minister, Further rolling out the development plan, the Minister for the boosting potato production, traditionally grown in villages Jhullas, Mandi, Loran and Poonch, the Government has taken appropriate steps to make them economically viable Potato villages. "The farmers are being pursued and motivated to adopt potato crop on a larger scale through formation of potato farmer groups in these clusters/villages" he informed. He said 90 qtls of certified potato seed has been distributed in Mandi and Loran areas and 40 qtls of seed in Jullahs and Poonch areas among 557 farmers during 2017. Giving further details, the Minister said the Department has taken several other important steps for the welfare of farmers in the area which include implementation of Fasal Bhima yojana, distribution of multicut fodder seeds to boost the production of fodder for milch and other livestock. During Kharif 2017, around 4970 farmers have been extended coverage of Bima Yojna, said the Minister.

Work in progress on 3 bridge projects at Nobra: Naeem Akhtar

Minister for Works (R&B), Naeem Akhtar informed the Legislative Assembly that the work on the three

Budget Session 2018-19 - LA Proceedings - Question Hour

NEWS

bridges in Nobra constituency, sanctioned under NABARD RIDF XV, is in progress.

Replying to a question by Deldan Namgail, the Minister said that said that during last three financial vears Rs 7.98 crore has been released against the sanctioned project cost of Rs 34.73 crore.

Responding to supplementary part, the Minister said the proposal for considering these bridges under RIDF XVIII in view of cost escalation is not possible as according to the Finance Department tranche XV has been closed on June 30, 2017 and now no further funding is admissible from NABARD under the said tranche.

The Minister also gave details of projects submitted to Planning Development & Monitoring Department for NABARD funding under RIDF-XXIII (2017-18) which included construction of L/R from Familia to Ursi-Hinju (Leh), construction of L/R from Lingshed to Dipling Kilometre 1st to 7th in Phases, construction of road from Diskit to Shatse-Takna Nobra Phase-II, improvement of road from Koyak-Thang to Rongdo Village and construction of link road to Fadathang

Rs 1.88 cr compensation released for 283 man-animal conflict victims: Lal Singh



The Minister for Forests, Lal Singh informed the House that government has paid Rs 1.88 crore as compensation to the victims of man-animal conflict incidents in last two years. Replying to a question by Mubarak Gul, he said 283 man-animal conflict incidents were reported during 2 years in which 30 persons died and 253 were injured. He said Rs 1.05 crore was released to pay compensation to the injured and Rs 83.70 lakh to the NoK of those killed in these incidents.

Listing the measures taken to minimize the incidents, he said control rooms have been constituted at strategic points which work round the clock, equipped with tranquilizing guns, medicines, capture nets, etc. He further said that cages are installed at vulnerable points to capture wild animals which pose threat to life and property. He said do's and don'ts are circulated among the public through control rooms, religious places, electronic and print media. The Minister further informed that

communication channel and networks have been strengthened strengthening liaison with police, sarpanchs, Namberdars and local villagers. "A network of Informers has been established in more susceptible/vulnerable villages, close coordination is maintained with Forest Department and its sister wings to combat man-animal conflict promptly and effectively, besides awareness programmes are organized to sensitize people on wild animal attacks" he added. The Minister elaborated that as per latest census conducted in March 2017 the number of Hangul in Dachigam landscape stand at 182 \pm 39.39 with an upper and lowest limit of 214 and 138. Responding to supplementary parts, he said during the last two years no major fire incident has been reported in protected areas in Jammu. In Kashmir division, he said 49 Forest fire incidents were reported in 2015-16 and 71 in 2016-17.

Work underway on 47 bridges, 82 road projects in Rajouri: Naeem Akhtar

Minister for Works (R&B), Naeem Akhtar informed the House that under Special Bridge Programme, 47 bridges involving a cost of Rs 81.15 crore are under execution in district Rajouri for which Rs.3.11 crore have been released and Rs.2.19 crore spent till ending 12/2017. Replying to a question by Ch. Qamar Hussain, the Minister further informed that 82 road projects costing Rs 287.28 crore have been taken up in Rajouri constituency, under Phase I-X of PMGSY. "It involves the construction of 506 kms of road length to strengthen the road network in the area, of which 194 kms stand completed. Other projects are at different stages of completion, " he added. The Minister further informed that 11 road projects at an estimated cost of Rs 39.21 crore with 65 km road length have also been sanctioned by the Union Ministry of Rural Development and work on these is in progress. Giving details of other on-going projects in the constituency, the Minister said that Saaj-Bakhaan road was taken up under district plan at a cost of Rs 1.20 crore, against which an amount Rs. 7.60 lakh has been incurred by ending, 2017. Similarly, the link road Thandikassi to Chapper Dhara has been taken up at a cost of Rs. 70.25 lakh under BADP, against which Rs. 10 lakh stands incurred by ending 12/2017.

Similarly, Pathan Mohra-Mubarak Pura road was taken up for execution under State Sector at a cost of Rs 1.54 crore, against which an expenditure to the tune of Rs 80.28 lakh stands incurred. Likewise, Mubarakpura-Sohana road has been sanctioned under PMGSY at a cost of Rs 2 crore, against which an amount of Rs. 1.13 crore stands incurred. For Dassal-Dassal Seeran road, taken up under State Sector for Rs. 1.94 crore, an amount of Rs 58 lakh stand incurred and the major portion of the road has been made functional as fair weather road. The up-gradation of important Rajouri-Thanamandi-Surankote road involving 53.015 kms length has been proposed for improvement to double lane standards by Project Sampark. The tendering process of survey and preparation of DPR for the project will be completed by August, 2018, said the Minister. Replying to a

clubbed Question by Abid Hussain Ansari, the Minister informed that 38.10 kms of road length has been macadamized in Zadibal constituency under various programmes involving an expenditure of Rs. 1.66 crore till ending 11/2017. He informed that tenders were floated for upper and lower Gulshan Bagh road, but due to fall in the temperature, the macadamizing could not be taken up. He said the remaining portion of the road in Zadibal constituency will be taken up during next financial year.

Govt taking tangible steps to meet staff dearth in schools: Altaf Bukhari 'Over 2150 teacher vacancies being filled on fast track basis'

Minister for Education, Syed Mohammad Altaf Ahmad Bukhari informed the House that government is abreast with problem of staff strength dearth in the government schools and to overcome the problem 2150 teacher vacancies have been referred to the recruiting agencies for filling up these on fast track basis.

Replying to a specific question of Mohammad Shafi, the Education Minister said that of 22 High Schools in Uri constituency only High School Bimyar and High School Nowshera are presently without Headmasters. He said that 32 posts of masters are presently vacant in various schools of Uri constituency. However, he said the services of senior-most Masters have been provided to the headless High Schools falling in Uri constituency as an interim arrangement. He said nine more Masters have been posted in Middle Schools against available vacancies of the said constituency.

The Minister informed the House that the Administrative Department is constrained by the General Administration Department's advisory issued in light of Supreme Court directions pursuant to which instructions have been conveyed to keep the slots meant for reserved category employees vacant/unfilled till the matter is finally heard and disposed of by the Supreme Court. He said because of this advisory, the department is unable to fill up vacancies at different levels including 100 posts of Headmasters in Kashmir division. However, he said the posts of Headmasters will be filled up by way of internal arrangement

He further said that efforts are afoot to fill up all these vacancies by holding of DPCs for which instructions have been conveyed to Director School Education Kashmir. As many as 622 Masters have been recently cleared for confirmation by DPC and the vacant position of Masters including Uri constituency shall be filled up shortly.

No Model Village project taken up in last 3 yrs: Abdul Haq

In reply to a question by Haji Abdul Rashid, the Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Abdul Haq Khan informed the House that during the last three years the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj has not developed any village as the model village.

DDC Hears Public Issues and Demands at Village Makote

In continuation of massive Katarmal, Kakora, Kurliyan at panjgaraien, dug well at outreach programme initiat- Tudwaal, Thandi Kassi, Makote and 63kv transed by the district administra- Mubarakpura and other former at Kurliyan upper. tion a public meeting was adjoining areas participated. The concerned officers convened by the District Development Commissioner Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary in border village of Makote to hear the public grievances and demands.

Dr. Shahid was accompanied by ACD Noor Alam, CEO RDA Dr. Tahir Firdous, ExEn Munshi Khan, Sadeeq Wani, Sunil Koul and Nisar Khan, DSWO Dr Abdul Khabir, Dy Registrar cooperatives Waqar Talib, ALC Rabia Mir, Chief Horticulture Officer Mohd Younus, BDO Abid Hussain and other senior officers of the administra-

People from Makote, schools, electric poles in

in the meeting and apprised about the developmental issues of the border villages. Issues ranging from construction of roads and link roads, provision of drinking water, electrification of left out villages and up-gradation of schools to repair of irrigation canals to inclusion of villages under Reserved Backward Area and Actual

People demanded construction of artificial lake near Tourism Park, community hall at Shivparivar cave facilitate devotes, Veterinary Center at Tunditrar, hand pumps in

Line of Control were raised

in the meeting.

RAJOURI JANUARY 20: Tunditrar, Banni, Dherra, Linganaar, residential school

responded to the issues raised by the public and informed them about latest status of various development projects in the area.

Speaking on the occasion

the DDC said that comprehensive plan has been finalized for augmentation of power supply in border areas and water supply projects are also initiated for coverage of all hamlets. He added that many community driven projects such as bunkers and community shelters, individual bunkers and community halls are undertaken by the government to facilitate the population during ceasefire violation and social functions.

DIPR organizes admission seminar for FTII, SRFTII SRINAGAR, JANUARY Department Information & Public

Relation (DIPR) in collaboration with Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) Pune and Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI) Kolkata today organized a seminar at Srinagar.

FTII representatives senior faculty members, FTII Pune Pankaj Saxsena, and Lalit Tiwari held an interactive session with a large number of students from different Universities and colleges of the valley.

Joint Director Information Kashmir, Zahoor Ahmad, while addressing the participants that DIPR in collaboration with FTII has organized this admission seminar in Srinagar to acquaint the the students with the admission procedures and options in the field.

While elaborating the courses of the FTII and SRFTII, India's two most reputed centres of film and television education, Saxsena and Tiwari detailed about the different courses and also how to apply.

Saxsena said that FTII Pune and SRFTI Kolkata both Institutions under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India have announced Ioint Entrance Test (JET) for 2018 admissions. The all-India test will be on 18th February in 26 centres across the country which includes Jammu and Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir. He said this is the first time both institutes have come together for a common entrance test, FTII is conducting Admission Seminars in various locations across the country.

He added that FTII aims to



attract maximum participants to these Seminars so that a large number of prospective candidates from J&K get an opportunity to take the IET exams this year. This year FTII is making special efforts to increase entrance test enrolment in

Director School Education

regions such as Jammu & Kashmir where the candidate turn out is traditionally low", He said.

The faculty members said that candidates applying for admission to FTII and SRFTI need to go through a multistage selection process. The first stage in this selection process is an All India level written examination called as the Joint Entrance Test, 2018

JET 2018 is a written test of three hours duration consisting of objective type and subjective questions and will be conducted in 26 centers across India. Based on the JET 2018 score of the candidates, FTII and SRFTI will send call letters to the candidates for the Second stage of the selection process and thereafter, on successful accomplishment of all the requisites, finally admit students in their full time regular programmes for the academic year 2018.

While interacting with FTII faculty students requested establishment of film institute like FTII in the state, besides regular seminars regarding career orientation.

Saraswati Sangeet Kala Mandir organizes a musical evening

JAMMU, JANUARY 20: Saraswati Sangeet Kala Mandir organized a musical evening at K.L Saigal Hall, Abhinav Theatre to promote the talent of budding artists here today. Additional Secretary J&K Academy for Art, Culture and Languages, Arvinder Singh Amn was the chief guest on the

Appreciating the efforts of music institute Saraswati Sangeet kala Mandir, Arvinder Singh Amn said that our state is blessed with enormous talent which needs platform to show their capability. He congratulated the Chairperson of music institute Ravi Sharma for organizing such kind of events.

Suchika Jamwal, Harshit Sharma, Navjot Singh, Sunandini Jamwal, Sanvi Anand, Swarnjot Singh and Pardeep Singh enthralled the audiences with their breathtaking performances along with Neeraj Verma and Manmohan as supporting musicians.

Among others Kamal Sharma, Vijay Sharma, Vinod Sharma, Naresh Bali, Sushil Jamwal, Jeevan Sharma and a large gathering was there to grace the function.

DSEK orders posting of 117 Headmasters shall be under taken soon.

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 20: To ensure smooth functioning of the educational institutions in Kashmir division, the Director School Education Kashmir, Dr G N Itoo today ordered posting of 117 Headmasters.

The Director Education as an interim arrangement also entrusted the responsibility of care-taker Headmasters to 128 Senior Masters of the concerned schools.

According to Dr Itoo, the care-taker Headmasters shall be fully responsible for administration and academics of the concerned schools, "though it shall not confer upon them any special rights of seniority or promotion."

He said the absence of Headmasters has been identified as the key factor in low performance of the schools. The Government has decided that all reasons for nonperformance must be elimi-



dents

In yet another important decision, the Director School Education issued orders of In-Situ promotion to higher grades in favour of 509 General Line Teachers and RRT teachers.

Meanwhile, Director School Education Kashmir chaired an important meeting of the department in which all the Chief Education Officers, Joint Directors, Principal SIE and Chief Education Officers were present. Director took stock

works in the department and directed the Chief Education Officers to send the latest status reports regarding the same. The meeting focused on the functioning of the DIETs and to make them vibrant training institutions. Director advised Principal SIE to notify a uniform training schedule for February 2018 very soon, so that no training is conducted from March when academics shall be resumed in schools. He also said that rationalization of the staff in DIETs and SIE

Kashmir also directed the Chief Education Officers to start remedial classes immediately in schools where more than 15 students have failed in 10th class BOSE examination this year. Chief Education Officers were asked to monitor the remedial classes through cluster heads in their respective districts. Moreover, Director RMSA also chaired an important meeting in the Conference Hall of Directorate of School Education Kashmir in which all Joint Directors, Chief Education Officers and DIET Principals were present. It was decided that after26.01.2018 training shall be started for field investigators so that National Achievement Survey (NAS) for class 10th is conducted in a better way on the scheduled date of February 5,

Business Establishments booked, fine realized by LMD

REASI, JANUARY 20: Acting on a complaint by consumers, Department of Legal Metrology, Reasi booked a dealer of Hindustan Petroleum Gas Corporation Limited for overcharging on domestic LPG cylinders from the consumers at Pouni (Reasi).

During the inspection Inspector Legal Metrology Vicky Sharma under the supervision of Assistant Controller Legal Metrology Reasi Kuldeep Raj found that the dealer is selling the LPG (14.2kg) domestic cylinders to the consumers at the rate of Rs. 840 against the MRP of 809.50 fixed by the oil companies for District

Inspector Legal Metrology booked sales officer of HPCL and Proprietor of the Gas Agency for violation of J&K Weights and Measures Enforcement Act and Rules. Further, it was found that dealer was selling LPG cylinders whose re-testing date was expired. Inspector Legal Metrology seized two such expired LPG domestic cylinders. The team also conducted checking of other business establishments at Pouni and Bhambla area. During inspection Inspector Legal Metrology, Reasi also booked M/s Ganpati Floor Mills for supplying underweight Flour bags to the consumers. The Assistant Controller Legal Metrology also imposed a fine of Rs. 5000 on a sweet shop owner for supplying less sweets to the consumers and Rs. 6000 (Rupees Six thousand only) on a wine shop for overcharging.

JINDRAH IMAGES

Still no Eye Bank in J&K!

espite the urgent need of setting up an Eye Bank in J&K and the demand in this regard raised by different social and political outfits from time to time, the J&K government is yet to take a decision to set it up. It sounds quite surprising that when most of the states in the country have Eye Banks, J&K, which boasts of providing best healthcare facilities to its citizens at their doorsteps, doesn't have it Neither of the state's twin capital cities has an Eye Bank even as these have super-speciality hospitals and AIIMS. When people's repeated representations to the government in this regard evoked no response, a Jammuite had moved the state high court, seeking a direction to the government to set up an Eye Bank in the state. Hearing the petition, a high court division bench had some time back directed the state to file status report on the follow up action taken by it in this regard. It is pertinent to mention here that J&K earlier had an Eye Bank, but it was closed by the government in 1994 without citing any reason thereof. Since then no eye bank or eye donation centre is functional in J&K even as the state has many blind people. It has been observed that the eyes of most of the people, who die in road mishaps or otherwise, remain intact Since there is no eye bank, there are also no donors. If case an eye bank is opened in the state without any further delay, the families of those who die in road mishaps or other incidents can be persuaded to donate the eyes of their dead to bring light in the lives of blind people. The first eye bank in the world was set up in 1944 and the first eye bank in India was too established during the same time in Madras, but J&K still doesn't have one. How can the state boast of providing best medicare facilities to its people without having an eye bank facility? And, that too when it is required the most. The government must set up at least one eye bank in the state. Once an Eye Bank is established here, there would also be donors. 34,589 eyes were collected and 13,887 eye transplants were performed successfully in India in 2008 with no such activity in J&K for the past 18 years. One fails to understand why the government is not interested in establishing an eye bank in the state even when it has ample funds at its disposal to set up and operate at least one eye bank in each capital of the state. Medical grant worth crores of rupees is being provided to the state annually, but the figures show that less than 5 pc of it is being utilised. This is surprising that instead of utilising these funds on the projects for which these have been sanctioned, the government is allegedly 'surrendering' them. Let these funds be utilised on the setting up of the eye banks in the twin capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar.

'Biz-friendly' Bengal: Is Didi coming of age?

OPINION

West Bengal has been a tantalising destination for big-ticket investors ever since the posse of foreign investors launched the first age of globalisation in the 16th century, establishing trading posts in the Bay of Bengal, starting with the Portuguese in Chittagong. Before that, it was a flourishing trading and manufacturing centre, producing textiles

In its current avatar, the challenge for every ruling party since economic reforms and liberalisation 2.0 was launched in the 1990s is to reinvent the state's economy and surpass the legacy of its past glory and relegate its turbulent past of labour versus capital clashes to the dustbin or ash heap of history. Officialspeak has declared that the West Bengal government headed by Mamata Banerjee is all set to achieve this transformation, as the epitome of the ease of doing business, confirming the enthusiastic scoring by industry leaders like Mukesh Ambani's "Best Bengal" and Niranjan Hiranandani's

"super ke upper". Remove the froth, and the fourth edition of the Bengal Global Business Summit netted promises of Rs 2.19 lakh crores in investments after 110 memoranda of understandings (MoUs) were inked and a thousand-plus B2B and 40 B2G conversations.

As a number, Rs 2.19 lakh crores is a modest promise of investment; whereas Vibrant Gujarat 2017 signed up a total of 25,578 intentions to invest, of which 3,000 were MoUs that committed to pouring in Rs 30 lakh crores into Gujarat. With eight country partners, West Bengal was pleased as punch, whereas Gujarat



bagged 12 partners, including the United States, and proclaimed that it was "connecting India to the world". Limited in its ambitions, West Bengal declared it was a hub for business with India's Northeast states and the Asean countries of Southeast Asia.

Commonsense says that all the promises made at Global Business Summits do not translate into projects under implementation. Sceptics in Kolkata have questioned what exactly was offered as intention to invest by India's biggest like the Ambanis, Adanis or Mittals, who despite parachuting into Kolkata en route to Italy, offered to consider supporting a project from the family foundation's kitty.

Stripped of the hype, the Bengal Global Business Summit was not a failure. It may, far more intriguingly, signal the success of Mamata Banerjee's political stature at the national level. The lineup of tycoons, all on the Forbes 100 richest Indians' list, which the state's finance minister Amit Mitra repeated several times, is an indication that Mamata Banerjee is emerging as a heavyweight politician on the side of the vet-to-be-formed alternative to the Narendra Modi-led BJP government in New

Whether there's any need to hedge against the as yet unlikely possibility of a change at the Centre is not the point; the need to visibly

have a toe inside the other door is how the glowing endorsements could well be read, and Mamata Banerjee fits the bill admirably.

Her politically slanted assertions that West Bengal loves tolerance and makes no distinctions, along with her iteration that the state government loves industry and "industry is an asset" indicates that business and politics are prepared to combine to create a new story.

And possibly also help Mamata Banerjee in ways that she needs most.

The simple act of being on stage with Mamata Banerjee is perhaps an investment by India's business leaders in the possibility of the 2019 general election producing unexpected results.

In being there, business has helped her signal to the masses of West Bengal that the future is going to rapidly get better for the jobless who are being forced to migrate out of the state. The promise of 20 lakh new jobs, to be created as an outcome of the summit, is exactly what the hard-pressed West Bengal government needs to stop its credibility from eroding dan-

In the aftermath of the brutal killing of a youth from Malda, Afzarul, in Rajasthan - that went viral on the

social media — and the second killing of another youth from Malda a day after the summit's end, Mamata Banerjee may be under growing pressure to make

the flow of migrant labour out of West Bengal and create new employment opportunities for them in the state. And even if she can't make good in real terms, she does need to sell the hope of a turnaround to keep her popularity from sliding among younger voters and their families, who make up the overwhelming majority of decision-makers in the coming panchayat elections and the 2019 mega-battle.

Politically, demolishing the perception that the BJP is working feverishly to create, that it is the only alternative to the Trinamul Congress in West Bengal and so a likely winner in 2019, and going forward in 2021, is Mamata Banerjee's biggest headache on home turf. While the BJP is not nearly as strong as it would like to project and its chances as an immediate alternative are almost laughable, the need to counter the campaign is imperative for the Trinamul Congress.

The endorsement of the Trinamul Congress as the ruling party of West Bengal is perfectly timed to quash the growing discontent among voters living in constant fear of the party's propensity to settle slights and scores with unparalleled violence. Investors cannot be unaware that location-specific political entanglements can obstruct business and even government projects, seemingly forever, as the examples of the holdup on completing the East-West Metro Corridor or the Bhangor power grid project reveal. Therefore, the praise may be because the ease of doing business in West Bengal is limited to the ease of interaction with officialdom and the reality that Mamata Banerjee is the single clearance window for access to markets in

Bring out the mops

THE noun 'moppet' (17th century English) from the now obsolete 'moppe' (indicative of a baby or a rag doll) refers to an endearingly sweet child. The silver screen has also introduced us to child stars, little boys and girls who were described as moppets with adorable heads of curly,

The noun 'mop', an implement made of a bundle of thick, loose strings or rags tied together to a handle or a long stick, in existence since the 15th century, has apparently evolved from the Latin 'mappa' (napkin).

Currently, working as both noun and verb, mop prorides an exchange of meaning and contexts.

Fictional narratives have introduced us to adorable little children, sometimes charming and sometimes naughty, described as having curly hair or tousled heads.

The word mop also characterises essential cleaning equipment for homes, offices and schools. It is invariably made up of rags or thick strings twisted together. Mopping floors with water and mops is an efficient way to retain clean surfaces in dusty climes.

The verb 'to mop' means to wipe and has been part of cleaning activities undertaken since the time of the 'mop fairs', autumnal fairs held as long back as the 17th century wherein farmhands and servants were hired and invariably featured maids carrying mops. In restaurants soups or main dishes are served along with a thick slice of bread with which customers 'mop up' (consume) the last of the soup or the gravy.

A 'mop up' or 'mopping up' refers to the final act of touching up or cleaning up. Young adults must learn to mop up after themselves in order to ensure swachch living habits. A 'mopping up operation' is amilitary strategy of killing or flushing out of enemy combatants during

The acronym 'MoP' is an expansion of the phrase Memorandum of Procedure'. An MoP has been the bone of contention between the Central government and the judicial collegium. TheMoP outlines protocol followed in the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court. The Prime Minister, the President, the CJI and a Bench of senior judges participate in the selection and appointment process. The press conference held by four SC judges has made public the fact that MoPs ensuring transparency and equity need to be urgently stationed in the apex court. A famous lawyer's utterance that "absolute power corrupts absolutely" remains timely.

'The bar can never be set too high' (exacting standards) for the highest judicial office in the land. In times long gone by, Sita's banishment by Rama and Pompeia's repudiation by Caesar was meant to show public engagement with propriety. The expression 'Caesar's wife must be above suspicion' highlightsthe self-righteousnessof rulers who subject wives to punitive measures, thereby freeing themselves from all obligation.

Procedures curtailing the functioning ofsenior judges are tantamount to the continued punishment of Caesar's wives and remain repugnant. In a modern democracy, Caesar alone must be accountable for what Caesar does. Mops and MoPs are designed to streamline and sort out

No shades of grey in Hindi films

FARRUKH DHONDY

Britain's screens today small and big, are replete with British history. The Crown, the story of the Windsor dynasty, has the approval of the critics and a huge audience. The film Dunkirk, about Britain's bleakest cliff-hanger episode of the Second World War, is a prize-winning hit.

And now Darkest Hour — a film which tells the Winston Churchill's defiant and heroic stand against the threat of invasion by the Nazis and his wrestle with the Tory advocates of pacification. I won't give the plot away but will limit my remarks to telling you, gentle reader, that it is about Churchill as the isolated decision-maker of defiance.

The film covers the early years of the war, before the attack on Pearl Harbour by the Japanese, which brought the United States' ocean-moated powerhouse into the alliance against the Axis powers.

Britain is the last bastion, after France and Belgium have followed Poland, erstwhile Czechoslovakia and Holland in surrendering to the Nazi invaders. The dissension within the Tory Party as to who is to lead and how to deal with Hitler is the dramatic fulcrum of the film. Gary Oldman plays Churchill and will undoubtedly get an Oscar nomination for his performance, so we shall be hearing about this film and Churchill for some time.

Yes, Churchill is the film's hero. As some biographical films classically do, it isolates a particular phase in his career and

concentrates on the dramatic dilemma inherent in that narrative. He is not, however, a superperson who can do no wrong. His Tory opponents allude to the fact that he switched allegiance from the Tory to the Liberal Party and then

returned. There is a verbal mention, not an expository argument, alluding to his responsibility for the slaughter of the British imperial armies Gallipoli in the First World War. In that brief exchange, there is no mention of the Australian and Indian troops who died in thousands there.

opportunistically

Only in the brief captions, at the end of the film, are we told the outcome of the Second World War and Churchill's role and subsequent electoral defeat. The film wasn't conceived as covering Churchill's life and pronouncements outside the dramatic arena of that parYet, in the chronicles of

the Indian history of that period, Winston is cast as the villain of many a piece. Which Indian doesn't know that he referred contemptuously to Mahatma Gandhi as a naked fakir? In Gurinder Chadha's last film The Viceroy's House, she propounds the theory that Churchill connived, before the Attlee governsent ment Lord Mountbatten out to settle Indian Independence, to partition the country. The plot of the film alleges that Churchill wanted to create Pakistan as a buffer in South Asia against the Soviet Union.

In another script, of a film which is in the making, Churchill is squarely blamed for bringing about the Bengal famine.

Whatever the truth of these allegations and how deep or shallowChurchill's culpability was in either case, to Indians he will, justifiably, remain

non-benign-if-not-villainous figure.

British films Dunkirk and Darkest Hour and some American films like Lincoln or Apocalypse Now deal with classical or more contemporary historical people and phenomena and tell the stories, warts and all. Lincoln is not portrayed as a saint. He is capable of guile and guilty of it. The Vietnam War, as portrayed in Apocalypse Now, is a tragic betrayal of the common American soldier and acknowledges the brutality of the unwarranted invasion of a foreign land.

In Darkest Hour, there is no attempt to draw a veil over Churchill's persistent smoking and drinking habit. It seems to define him. The film even makes a joke out of it. King George IV, lunching with Winston, asks him how he can drink constantly and midday. even "Practice," Churchill

replies. And he addresses Parliament saying that even if Britain is invaded and subjugated the colonies, he is sure, will

> continue the fight and The Western public wants shades-of-grey realism injected into films that deal with reality. That's not to say that there aren't Western myths. There's Harry Potter and James Bond on the British side Superman, Wonderwoman and box office smash Hitman in the

> Commercial Indian films, and even "art" ones, subscribe to the myth of absolute good and evil. Nuance is a Western luxury. We want our historical characters mythologised. Hence, the fuss over

> Padmaavat. The film I wrote called The Rising: Mangal Pande (directed by Ketan Mehta with Aamir as Pande) was sued by some gentleman in court

Pande was more human than devta. There are no excep-

tions. Figures from the past have to pass the immortal test. Even though the Oscar-Winning Gandhi was made Dickie Attenborough, it followed the mythologising bent of Indian cinema. This is not a consequence of some diktat of nationalism. It is rather the inheritance India has distilled from the Ramayan and the Mahabharat during its nationalist phase, epics which have been ethical guides to Indians for thousands of genera-Any reading of these

epics will prove that the characters are not portrayed as faultless: Ram shoots Bali in the back and kills him. He manifests jealousy and forces Sita to voluntarily take the test of fire. Kunti is not blameless and her guilty secret causes the tragedy of brother killing brother. Arjun's vanity demands the cruel selfmutilation of Eklavya... and a myriad other ambivalent characteristics in the nature of Gods and humans alike.

One doesn't expect an Indian filmmaker to idealise any British colonial character. It's improba-

Today, one should not be surprised, however, if a Hindutva-inspired film portrays a Muslim or Mughal Indian as an outand-out genocidal maniac. And, of course, there'll be protests from the opposing side but they won't be demands for nuance or the subtler

Dhadak: New poster of Janhvi Kapoor and Ishaan Khatter starrer unveiled, film release postponed

Kapoor and Ishaan Khatter's debut film Dhadak was initially slated to release on July 6, 2018. However, the latest poster shows a new release date which is July 20, 2018.

"The lovebirds #Dhadak... Janhvi and Ishaan... An adaptation of Marathi blockbuster Directed by #Sairat... Shashank Khaitan... 20 July 2018 release."

lovebirds The #Dhadak... Janhvi and Ishaan... An adaptation of Marathi blockbuster #Sairat... Directed by Shashank Khaitan... 20 July 2018 release

For the uninitiated, Janhvi is veteran actress Sridevi and Boney Kapoor's elder daughter while Ishaan Khatter is Shahid Kapoor's



half-brother. Both these youngsters hail from film families and have acting in their genes. Ishaan had already made headlines soon after he was roped in internationally acclaimed Iranian filmmaker Majid Majidi for a film

titled Beyond the Clouds. Johar surprised fans by

making an unexpected announcement about the film on November 15. Though there were reports suggesting that Janhvi and Ishaan were on board Sairat remake, Johar remained

Badrinath Ki Dulhania and Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania. What's the name of the film? Let me just give you a hint - my heart is beating faster! Watch this space." Coming back to Ishaan's Bollywood debut, Dhadak is an official remake of Nagraj Manule's Marathi blockbuster Sairat featuring newcomers Rinku Rajguru and Akash Thosar.

the movie industry. Today,

we are about to extend our

family. We are about to

present two new actors,

Details will be out at 5PM. It's from the director of

ENTERTAINMENT

The film has been jointly produced by Zee Studious and Dharma Productions.

audience.

The film created waves at

the Box Office and struck an

emotional chord with the



'Star Wars' producer Allison Shearmur passes away



WASHINGTON DC: Allison Shearmur, who produced films like The Hunger Games, Rogue One: A Star Wars Story and the upcoming Solo: A Star Wars Story, died today at a Hospital in Los Angeles. She was 53. However, the cause of her death was not known immediately, reports the Hollywood Reporter.

Before becoming a producer in 2011, Shearmur worked as an executive at The Walt Disney, Universal, Paramount and Lionsgate. She has produced Pride, Prejudice and Zombies, Cinderella, Nerve and the upcoming The One and Only Ivan.

Shearmur was also an executive producer of Science fiction film Power Rangers, What to Expect When You're Expecting and Abduction. She was an executive producer of the 2017 movie Dirty Dancing.

In 2008, she joined the entertainment company Lionsgate as its production president. Shearmur is survived by her husband Ed Shearmur, a daughter and a son.

Shraddha Kapoor who

is currently shooting for her horror comedy 'Stree

has flown down from

Bhopal to attend a brand

Busy with commit-

ments, Shraddha Kapoor

is quite loaded with work

these days. While the

actress' first multilingual

project 'Sahoo' along with

Prabhas is on the floors,

Shraddha Kapoor has also

begun the shooting for her

horror comedy Stree'

opposite Rajkummar Rao.

Post which the actress will

start shooting for the

Saina Nehwal biopic.

Shraddha Kapoor will

also be seen in 'Batti Gul

Meter Chalu' along with

Shahid Kapoor and Yami

Amidst all the buzzing

work, Shraddha Kapoor

has taken out time for a

Soha Ali Khan gets worried when Taimur is alone with Inaaya

NEW DELHI: Little munchkin Taimur Ali Khan has been internet's favourite baby the moment he was born. Time and again, pictures of the star kid surface on the internet and his fans can't help but admire his adorable blue eyes and chubby cheeks! Taimur's cousin sister, Inaaya is also adorable and is even called as Taimur's lookalike. Indeed, the similarity between these two is uncanny!

tight-lipped about it.

producer-director

took to Twitter to share a

video ahead of the launch of

the first look posters of the

film. He said, "Five years

ago, Siddharth, Varun and

Alia joined the Dharma

family and as we speak,

However, Inaaya's mother, Soha Ali Khan and Taimur's daddy, Saif Ali Khan gets worried when Taimur is left alone with Inaaya. Why? Read on to find out!

"Taimur is at an age



where he wants to explore everything. He is and so we are constantly now able to hold things, scared to have them too his grip is getting stronger. He is also into snatching things and gets really worried

Inaaya is too small now close to each other. Especially Bhai (Saif)

get closer to where Inaaya is.'

The actress-turnedauthor further said, "Taimur and Inaaya are both kids, just a few throwing them away. whenever Taimur tries to months apart from each protective about her."

observe Taimur, follow his growth, the changes and milestones in his life and be more aware and prepared while raising Inaaya. Bhai and Kareena both help Kunal and me with handy tips from time to time, which is a blessing when you are a new, first time parent."

The report further quotes Soha as, "Bhai and I have an 8-year age difference. But Taimur and Inaaya will only have a year's. I hope they grow fond of each other as they grow up, become best friends. Of course, Taimur is a little older so he will always be the elder brother to Inaaya,

Kim Kardashian names new baby girl Chicago



Kim Kardashian's new baby daughter with rapper husband Kanye West has been named Chicago, the reality star announced on her app on Friday. The baby girl was born to a surrogate on Monday, a

third child for the celebrity couple. Kardashian revealed the name, without explanation,

in a simple update to the birth announcement she made earlier this week. West, 40, was born in Atlanta and raised in Chicago.

Kardashian, 37, and West are already parents to North, 4, and Saint, 2.

The "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" reality and social media star has said she decided to use a surrogate after doctors warned of serious health risks if she became pregnant again.

Shraddha Kapoor's commitment to work!



brand event which she had committed prior. The actress took to

Instagram to share a picture depicting her two-

Shraddha Kapoor day break from the film's shared an Instagram story

saying, For two nights & then back to Chanderi."

The actress began the

year with the announcement of her first horror comedy alongside actor Rajkummar Rao. Within just a few days of the for 'Stree' commenced in Bhopal

Shraddha Kapoor is also currently working on 'Sahoo', the shoot for which will be resumed by the actress after the schedule of 'Stree'

The versatility of the actress is yet again at the display as the films she has to offer to differ from each other's genre. While 'Sahoo' is a high octane action film, 'Stree' is a horror comedy. Shraddha Kapoor will also be seen in the Saina Nehwal biopic and 'Batti Gul Meter Chalu' which is a film dealing with a social

"Yes," said Mohan. "It will

suffer and that is really

unfortunate because 'Ayaari'

first revealed their release

date and then 'Pad Man'

came. Though I see no rea-

son not to announce the date

in advance, because the

whole marketing and pro-

motion of the film work

around it, one should be very

careful about choosing a

"Also, after the release of

release date."

Misha Kapoor stepping in daddy Shahid Kapoor's shoes is the cutest thing you will see today



NEW DELHI: Shahid Kapoor and Mira Rajput's daughter Misha Kapoor is one of the most popular celebrity kids. She is often photographed during her public outings and Shahid keeps sharing his What's so cute about that? baby girl's photographs Well, the shoes belong to

on social media which make our hearts melt.

Instagram to share yet another adorable picture of the star kid in which she is wearing shoes.

er Daddy Shahid Kapoor and the xpression on the hild's face is price-

Shahid captioned he pic as- "Guess she nas decided to take

Shahid and Mira welcomed their first bundle of joy – a daughter – on August 26, 2016. The little one

who they named Misha (Misha has been named after both her parents - Mi from Mira and Sha from Shahid) is a one-and-ahalf-year-old toddler now. She has an infectious smile and looks a lot

like her father Shahid.

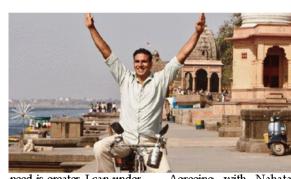
Bollywood trend analysts hail decision to defer 'Pad Man' release MUMBAI: been the first choice of any with "Pad Man" and "Sonu Ki Titu Ki Sweety"? exhibitor and not 'Pad Man'. superstar

Bollywood Akshay Kumar rescheduled the release of his upcoming film "Pad Man" to avoid its clash with the much-awaited magnum opus of Sanjay Bhansali "Padmaavat", trend analysts

said the decision will help both movies in terms of box office numbers. On Friday evening, Akshay, along with Bhansali,

announced at a press conference the decision to shift the release date of his film from January 25 to February 9, "so that Padmaavat can get a solo release".

Akshay said: "At the stakes moment, Padmaavat are very high. SLB is a dear friend. We can come out together but their



need is greater. I can understand what he is going through."

Asked if such changes would affect the box office prospects, trend analyst Komal Nahata told IANS: "The shift of release date helps optimise the numbers at the box office. Since there is a window of two weeks. the films will not cut into each other's business."

Agreeing with Nahata, another trend analyst Atul Mohan said: "Clash of two big films is never welcome, because both films suffer at the box office. So yes, it is a

good decision, a wise one." Nahata added: "If we look at the whole issue from the viewpoint of exhibitors, they are better placed now. Comparing two films, Padmaavat would have

"So, I see the decision of rescheduling the release as a positive change for Pad Man' from the box office col-

lection point of view." On the other hand, the release date of Neeraj Pandey's "Aiyaari", starring Siddharth Malhotra and Manoj Vajpayee, which was earlier scheduled to reach the public on January 25, had been shifted to February 9, to avoid the clash with 'Pad

But now, "Aiyaari" will not only clash with "Pad Man" but also with "Sonu Ki Titu Ki Sweety" releasing the

same day. Now that "Pad Man' is releasing on February 9, will it not suffer due to the clash

the trailer of a film, one cannot delay the release more than a month because of two reasons - firstly, the audience loses interest in watching it unless it is a 'Khan' film, and secondly, it loses the freshness and relevance," he explained.

HEALTH

Friday Fertility Fundas: What Are The Common Causes Of Infertility In Men?

Fertility is a topic that most people shy away from talking about. But when it comes to burning questions that you are just too shy to ask someone face to face, we have the answers for you; answered by our expert Dr Anagha Karkhanis, Co-Founder, Cocoon Fertility

What are the day to day causes of infertility in men? Common male infertility problems can either be abnor-

malities of the sperm or a

physical problem. Some of the common day to day causes of male infertil-

ity are · Smoking - leads to a decrease in sperm function Binge drinking and long

affects sperm quality ·Injuries and physical trauma to the testes - can affect

term alcohol intake also



sperm production ·Obesity – is a growing epidemic which leads to hormonal imbalance and

Poor nutrition and stress affects general health and fer-

Chronic illnesses like diabetes and some infections can and sperm counts.

also lower sperm counts ·Some medicines taken for high blood pressure or depression can affect libido

· Men working in certain occupations like pesticide and chemical manufacturing and handling units get exposed to these toxins which can adversely affect the sperm

It is a good idea to get a simple semen analysis done as a primary evaluation. Minor abnormalities are seen in about 30% men. These can be very easily treated with lifestyle modification and correcting specific deficiencies, in the form of vitamins, minerals and amino acids. Other factors are dealt with, on an individual basis. Only a small percent of men need more investigations like blood tests for hormones and ultrasonography.

In a large number of cases the causes may remain

Toothpaste Ingredient Can Combat Malaria, Finds Robot Scientist

Anti-Fungal Agent Commonly Found In Toothpaste, Soaps And Detergents Can Be Used As A Drug Against Strains Of Malaria Parasite That Have Grown Resistant

An anti-bacterial and antifungal agent commonly found in toothpaste, soaps and detergents can be used as a drug against strains of malaria parasite that have grown resistant, a study led by an artificially-intelligent "robot scientist" revealed. The study aided by the robot scientist "Eve" discovered that the ingredient "triclosan" affects parasite growth by specifically inhibiting an enzyme of the malaria parasite, called "DHFR".

Toothpaste ingredient can combat malaria, finds robot scientist "DHFR" is the target of a well-established antimalarial of Campinas in Brazil. pyrimethamine. However, "We know it is a safe compound, and its ability to tarresistance to the drug among get two points in the malaria malaria parasites is common, particularly in Africa. parasite's lifecycle means the parasite will find it difficult The researchers showed that "triclosan" was able to target to evolve resistance," Bilsland added in a paper and act on this enzyme, even

in pyrimethamine-resistant

parasites. "The discovery by

our robot "colleague" Eve

that 'triclosan' is effective

against malaria targets offers

hope that we may be able to

use it to develop a new

drug," said lead author

Elizabeth Bilsland, Assistant

Professor at the University

Scientific Reports. When used in toothpaste, "triclosan" prevents the build-up of plaque bacteria by inhibiting the action of an enzyme known as enoyl reductase (ENR), which is involved in the production of fatty acids in liver.

published in the journal

Tata Mumbai Marathon: How You Can Prevent An Injury During The Event

Marathon is around the corner, and if you are planning to participate in any part of the run, you probably already understand that there are a number of risks involved in taking part in this endurance event. We spoke to Santosh Kumar Dora, Cardiac Electro Physiologist, Asian Heart Institute who told us about the common ailments that could hinder a person's performance and even ability to run in the marathon; Here's what

he had to say What are the medical conditions that prevent a person from running a marathon?

athletic activity. To run 21 or 42 km at a stretch needs a lot of physical training and endurance. One should be absolutely fit health wise to run a marathon. However fit one may be, he should undergo a routine medical test before deciding to participate in the training

A lot of medical conditions may make a person ineligible for a marathon. Preexisting heart and lung diseases are of primary importance. Heart diseases include blockages in the heart arteries, reduced heart pumping, valve diseases,

program for a

marathon.

restrictive heart muscle diseases, various kind of heart rhythm disorders, uncontrolled hypertension etc. After the heart condition is fully treated, however one may participate in marathon training once the treating doctor is satisfied with the cardiac condition. Similarly, some of the untreated or poorly treated bronchial asthma, restrictive lung disease, interstitial lung diseases also make a person unfit for running. Medical conditions like diabetes, thyroid diseases, anaemia and many other metabolic and hormonal problems need to be



well controlled before marathon training. What medical tests should be done before running the marathon?

A routine health check-up is mandatory before deciding to start practising for a marathon. The tests

will include blood count, lipid profile, renal function test, blood sugar evaluation, thyroid evaluation,

electrocardiogram, chest X-ray, echocardiogram and stress test. Further additional tests may be needed depending on a given person's medical profile. All the test reports should be analyzed by a qualified physician.

Is there a way to run even with one of the risk factors?

Marathon running is pretty popular these days. Last year alone close to 40000 people were a part of the dreamrun, half and full marathon. This is a massive number. The worry is whether all these people have had proper training. Absence of proper training makes a person very prone to

issues like muscle injury, dehydration, vertigo, stomach upset etc. Very rarely it can also lead to serious conditions like sudden cardiac arrest. The good thing is many marathon events including the Mumbai Marathon has a strict criteria for inclusion i.e. one must have run marathon before with a satisfactory timing. That makes the marathon population a safe running population. One also should remember that having run a marathon a year ago, does not make a person fully fit for the next marathon. There has to be rigorous training process before every marathon.



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Wipro total headcount falls, focuses on local hiring

BENGALURU: Wipro's total headcount at the end of December dipped, just like other Indian IT companies, as they go slow on hiring in large numbers due to the impact of automation which makes basic jobs redundant.

The company had 162,553 employees on December 31, compared to 163,759 on September 30. Voluntary quarterly annualized attrition was 16.2% compared to 16.7 in the second quarter.

We are going to campuses but are focused in the space of analytics, AI and IoT.



We have stepped hiring in the NITs (National Institute of Technology) and IITs. But is the overall volume the same. The

answer is no," presi-

dent and chief human resources officer

Saurabh Govil said. Govil explained the criteria to hire in the current age is a candidate's aptitude to learn and learning agility. The concept of hiring has now changed to reskilling."

Wipro said it has also stepped out hiring in its overseas markets with 55% of its US employees being local, up from 36% twenty months ago. The number is as high as 95% in Latin America and 66% in continental Europe. "In the markets we

operate we need to get more and more local. We are hiring talent at entrylevel, grooming them and then aiming to create local leadership. The endeavor is to be attractive to local Americans," he added.

Singapore Airlines to pull out A-380 from Mumbai route for two months

world's largest passenger aircraft - Airbus A-380 may have got a new lease of life with Dubai-based Emirates ordering 36 of these double deckers, the double decker's flights to India are declining. Delhi and Mumbai are the only two airports where this aircraft flies to. And airlines are pulling out this plane from Mumbai for deployed them on other routes, some temporarily and others not saying for how long.

Threeairlines Singapore Airlines (SIA), Emirates and Etihad had started flying this plane to Mumbai. Etihad pulled out the A-380 from this route last July and replaced it with Airbus A-

NEW DELHI: The 340. Now SIA will also not those two months) it will operate the plane on Mumbai route this July and August as it will use the aircraft on Singapore-London route. Emirates, however, is continuing with the service to Mumbai on this plane.

"SIA operates a daily A-

380 service to Mumbai and Delhi. In total we have 14 weekly flights on the Airbus A-380 to India. We do not have any plans to increase or decrease the number of A-380 services to India. However, on the Mumbai route we will be operating the Boeing 777-300 ER (extended range) during the months of July and August, as the A-380 is being utilised on a different route due to operational requirements. (In be deployed to London," said a SIA spokesperson.

Etihad, which now has no A-380 service to India. said "travellers from India flying to Abu Dhabi can experience the A-380 from Abu Dhabi to New York (twice daily), Paris (daily), London (three times daily) and Sydney (twice daily)."

Delhi gets the A-380 of two airlines, SIA and Lufthansa, and both are continuing. "Lufthansa operates the Airbus A-380 on the Delhi-Frankfurt route flight. The schedule will remain the same and there are no plans to reduce or augment the frequency / number of cities of its flights to and from India on the Airbus A-380," Lufthansa said in a

statement

The A-380 was facing an uncertain future with Airbus getting few orders for this mega plane. This ended on Thursday when Emirates Airline signed a MoU to acquire up to 36 additional A-380 aircraft. This deal is for 20 A-380s and an option for 16 more with deliveries to start in 2020, valued at US\$16 bil-

lion at list prices. This order, said Airbus COO (customers, commercial aircraft) John Leahy. "underscores Airbus' commitment to produce the A-380 at least for another ten years. I'm personally convinced more orders will follow and that this great aircraft will be built well into the

RIL posts record profit on margins boost; Reliance Jio turns profitable

BUSINESS

telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries on Friday reported its highest quarterly net profit of Rs 9,423 crore on record earnings from petrochemical business and telecom unit Jio logging its first ever profit.

Consolidated net profit of Rs 9,423 crore, or Rs 16 per share, in October-December was 25.1 per cent higher than Rs 7,533 crore, or Rs 12.8 a share, in the same quarter of last fiscal, the company said in a statement.

Jio, which with 160.1 million subscribers is the world's largest and fastest growing mobile data network, turned positive "in only the second quarter of commercial operations", 504 crore, it said.

Reliance Iio Infocomm Ltd, or Jio, disrupted the telecom industry with free voice and cut-price data in September 2016.

Jio, which started commercial operations in second quarter with a loss of Rs 271 crore, has been blamed for falling profits of industry peers. Bharti Airtel, the country's largest telecom operator, yesterday reported its seventh straight quarterly decline in net profit.

Reliance said pre-tax profit from petrochemical business, where all expansion projects have been completed, was at record high of Rs 5,753 crore in the third quarter of the current fiscal.

largest refining complex earned \$11.6 on turning every barrel of crude oil into fuel in October-December as against a gross refining margin (GRM) of \$10.8 in the same period last year.

The GRM was, however, lower than \$12 recorded in the July-September quarter of the current fiscal.

Profit from the refining and marketing business was marginally down at Rs 6,165 crore as compared to Rs 6,194 crore in Q3 of last fiscal. In comparison to the previous quarter (July-September), the segment profit was

down 7 per cent. While its oil and gas business logged a loss of



Rs 291 crore, Reliance said its retail business was the fastest growing in the country, with revenue and pre-tax earnings more

than doubling to Rs 18,798 net profit. crore and Rs 487 crore,

respectively. Retail business is however yet to make its first

company's The Chairman Mukesh Ambani said record-setting consolidated quarterly earnings marks the culmination of petrochemical expansion projects and the first positive net profit contribution from newest business line -- digital services under the Jio

"Our refining business has delivered 12 consecutive quarter of doubledigit refining margins, demonstrating operating excellence and healthy industry fundamentals," he said.

Also, benefits of the large investments in petrochemical business are beginning to show with the segment reporting its highest ever earnings, he said.

"Jio's strong financial result reflects the fundamental strength of the the previous fiscal.

ciencies and right strategic initiatives," he said.

The company's debt was marginally lower at Rs 213,206 crore December 31, 2017 as compared to Rs 214,145 crore at the end of previous year. Outstanding debt as on March 31, 2017 was Rs 196,601 crore.

Cash in hand was also marginally higher at Rs 78,617 crore as compared to Rs 77,014 crore on September 30, 2017.

The quarter also saw Reliance post record consolidated pre-tax profit of Rs 13,789 crore, up 44.8 per cent from last year, and highest ever standalone profit of Rs 8,454 crore, up 5 per cent over







British MPs to vote on landmark Brexit bill today

LONDON: British MPs will vote Wednesday on a key Brexit bill whose turbulent passage through Parliament has dealt damaging defeats to Prime Minister Theresa May, and which still faces stiff opposition in the upper

The House of Commons is expected to pass the bill, which will incorporate thousands of pieces of EU legislation into the British statute books and repeal the legislation enshrining Britain`s EU membership.

Eleven members of May's Conservative party joined with opposition lawmakers last month to approve an amendment making sure that parliament will have a "meaningful vote" on the final

Fearful of another loss, the government also com-

promised on an amendment setting the date and time for Brexit as March 29, 2019, at 2300 GMT. May agreed to give MPs the "power to amend the definition of 'exit day' to a later date" if it appeared that negotiations would overrun.

The flagship (Withdrawal) Bill, if approved, will pass to the upper House of Lords, where it will undergo further scrutiny from the largely pro-EU chamber before being put to another vote.

Veteran Tory MP Kenneth Clarke, a strident europhile. said on Tuesday that the House of Lords could make alterations to the bill.

"The idea that the bill... is going to have an untroubled passage through the House of



Lords is an illusion," he

"I hope that the other place (Lords) will make an enormous number of changes".During the first of two days of Commons on Tuesday, Conservative MP and leader of the rebellion, Dominic Grieve, raised concerns over plans not to bring the EU charter of fundamental rights into British law post-Brexit.

'It does seem to me that

Meanwhile, Scotland's devolved government has repeatedly called for May to accept amendments tabled to prevent devolved powers being removed from its parlia-

issue away and saying

`don`t worry, it`s all going

to be perfectly all right`...

we're sending out a really

very strange message

about our attitude," he

again rejected on Tuesday proposed the bill, evening changes to Michael Russell, minister for UK negotiations on Scotland`s place in Europe, vowed to press ahead with legislation at Holyrood "if that's what it takes to defend devolution". and the Britain

INTERNATIONAL

European Union reached a preliminary agreement before Christmas on Britain's financial settlement after Brexit, EU expatriate rights and the future of the Irish border, opening the door to the second phase of talks.

However, May faces a potentially volatile task in establishing what Britain's future relationship with the EU should look like, with some members of her cabinet want-

After her government ing to stay as close as possible to the single market while others favour a clean break.

> European Union leaders on Tuesday even held the door open for Britain to change its mind about ending its four-decade membership.

> The comments by EU President Donald Tusk, European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker and others weighed into a debate in Britain about holding a second Brexit referendum.

> Leading Brexit campaigner Nigel Farage surprisingly pushed the issue back onto the agenda last week when he said he was increasingly open to the idea of a new vote.

"We on the Continent haven't had a change of heart. Our hearts are still open to you," Tusk said.

Nawaz Sharif's daughter to contest next Pakistan polls?

ISLAMABAD: Maryam Nawaz, the media-savvy daughter of ousted Pakistani PM Nawaz Sharif, has decided to contest in the next General Election, a prominent newspaper reported on Friday, citing a source in the ruling party.

Maryam, 44, was being groomed as the second generation leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) led by Sharif. The 68-year-old three-time PM had to resign last year after the Supreme Court disqualified him in the Panama Papers case.

She is set to contest the election from the NA-120 constituency in Lahore, where her father was elected in the 2013 polls, the Dawn reported. She may also campaign for the provincial assembly from the PP-140 seat, it quoted the source. Maryam is yet to confirm or deny the

General elections are scheduled to be held in Pakistan in mid-2018. Maryam, born in Lahore in 1973 has taken an interest in politics since the 1999 coup that sent her family into exile. However, in interviews since then, she has claimed to be more interested in the world of politics and power that lies beyond the assemblies, the paper noted. Maryam has also been in the spotlight for graft charges against her since Panama Papers were

US weighs designating embassy in Jerusalem as early as 2019



WASHINGTON: The Trump administration is considering a plan to move the US embassy in Israel to Jerusalem as early as next year, rather than waiting for several years.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has said previously that planning is underway for a new facility in Jerusalem that will take at least three years.

In the meantime, three US officials say Tillerson may designate an existing US con-

sular building in West Jerusalem as the interim embassy. The officials say Tillerson hasn't made a decision. The officials weren't authorised to discuss the situation by name and demanded anonymity. Two of the officials say Vice President Mike Pence is pushing the State Department to accept the proposal quickly so Pence can announce it while in Israel. Pence departs Friday for the

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu calls Taj Mahal 'a place of serenity, love and infinite beauty



AGRA: Israeli Prime Minister by UP Chief Minister Yogi Benjamin Netanyahu along with his wife Sara visited the Taj Mahal on Tuesday

Later he tweeted calling the iconic monument 'a place of serenity, love and infinite beautv!. "This is a moment of relaxation on a very intensive visit. I would like to thank Indian PM Modi for allowing us this momentaswell.InIndiawemet much love, love for Israel, and here we are in the temple of love." Netanyahu was received Adityanath at the Kheria Airport He was accorded a traditional welcome by Braj folk

artists on his arrival at the airport. Grand traditional welcome of Honble Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu by Braj folk artists on his arrival at Agra Airport, Uttar Pradesh. The dignitaries spentsome time at Hotel Amar Vilas before leaving for the monument in golf carts. In view of the Israeli PM's visit, the Taj Mahal remained closed for

conservationists

increasingly concerned

about rampant illegal gold

mining and logging that

tiff arrived in Peru, the sec-

over two hours for tourists. The route from the Kheria Airport to the Tai Mahal was sealed and extra security arrangements were made. Later, on Tuesday, while addressing the inaugural session of the Raisina Dialogue in the national capital, Netanyahu hailed India as Israels "natural friend and partner".

He said closer ties between democracies was essential to secure the common future of humanity at a time "our way of life and the quest for modernity and innovation" are being challenged. Netanyahu, who arrived in New Delhi on a sixday visit on January 14, 2018, said PM Narendra Modi's July 2017 visit to Israel "broke ground". "You were the first leader of India to come to Israel in 3,000 years. It will not take long for your next visit, I know

Catalan ex-president to risk arrest, travel to Denmark

MADRID: Catalonia's former president, a fugitive sought by Spain over a foiled secession bid, will travel to Denmark next week for a university debate despite the possible risk of arrest, officials said Friday.

Carles Puigdemont plans to make the trip to Copenhagen as he tries to get his old job back and step up the pressure on Spanish authorities, which have said a fugitive abroad can't be the Catalan regional president.

The University of Copenhagen announced a debate for Monday in the Danish capital on "Catalonia and Europe at a Crossroads for Democracy." Janni Brixen, a media official with the university's Faculty of Social Science, said Puigdemont would attend it "in person."

A spokeswoman for Puigdemont's party also confirmed that he was planning to travel to Copenhagen and attend the debate "representing the legitimate government of Catalonia."

Puigdemont is being investigated by Spain for possible rebellion, sedition and embezzlement linked to a unilateral declaration of independence last fall in the northeastern Spanish region of Catalonia.

A Spanish Supreme Court judge dropped an extradition request to Belgium in December after it became clear that authorities in Brussels would probably agree to send him back but would restricted the crimes that he could be judged for in Spain.

The separatist politician still faces detention if he returns to Spain, but is free to travel elsewhere unless the judge re-activates the European and international arrest warrants against him. There was no sign of that being in the works on Friday.

Lawyer Paul Bekaert, who has represented Puigdemont in earlier extradition hearings in Belgium, declined to discuss his assessment of the risk that the trip posed. The Danish Ministry of Justice also refused to comment.

Puigdemont is seeking to be back in charge of affairs in Catalonia even if it is from self-imposed exile in

"If I have to choose between being an inmate or a president, I'd rather be a president, even from afar," he told Catalonia's public radio Friday.

"At least now I can do things that I wouldn't be able to do in prison," he said, referring to the help that "new technologies" could provide.

The October secession attempt led Spanish central authorities to take direct control of Catalonia, disband its regional cabinet and call an early regional election.

The Catalan vote in December failed to break the political deadlock, granting separatists a slim parliamentary majority that in theory would allow them to form a gov-

But with ousted Catalan Cabinet members under investigation, jailed or in Belgium and facing arrest if they return home, the regional parliament must decide by the end of January whether to permit Puigdemont's re-election.

Pope hits out at 'endless violence' against women on visit to Amazon

Pope Francis hit out against "endless violence" against women and a culture of machismo on a visit

in this land, which is under the protection of the Mother of God, so many women are devalued, denigrated and exposed to endless violence," Francis said in a meeting with members of indigenous communities in Peru. "Violence

against women cannot be treated as 'normal', maintaining a culture of machismo blind to the leading role that women play in our communities."

In a speech to thousands of tribe members on the edge of the rainforest in Peru, he said the Amazon and its peoples bore "deep wounds.'

Francis lamented "the pressure being exerted by great business interests that want to lay hands on to the Amazon on Friday. its petroleum, gas, lumber, "It is painful to see how gold and forms of agroindustrial monocultivation." He later highlighted the

> "endless violence" endured by the region's women. Bare-chested tribesmen, their bodies painted and their heads crowned with colorful feathers, danced and sang for the pope when he arrived in the Peruvian city of Puerto Maldonado. Thousands of indige-

> nous people had traveled to meet the pontiff from throughout the Amazon basin region of Peru, Brazil and Bolivia. Members of one of the tribes presented the leader of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics with a



bolic gesture aimed at urging him to defend land rights they say they have been stripped of. "The native Amazonian

peoples have probably never been so threatened on their own lands as they are at present," said the pope, who appeared visibly moved by the reception. "Amazonia is being disputed on various fronts," he said.

"The problems strangle

her peoples and provoke the migration of the young due to the lack of local

alternatives.

"We have to break with the historical paradigm that views Amazonia as an inexhaustible source of supplies for other countries without concern for its inhabitants." The Amazon region will be the focal point of a world bishops meeting, or synod, to take place in October 2019. Local tribal leaders and

ond and last leg of a weeklong South American visit, on Thursday afternoon. He was preeted at Lima airport by President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski and his American wife Nancy Lange. During the first part of

his visit, in Chile, Francis highlighted the plight of vulnerable immigrants, offered an apology to victims of sexual abuse by Catholic priests, prayed with survivors of Augusto Pinochet's brutal dictatorship, and called for protection of Chile's persecuted indigenous communities.

Before his visit to Chile.

the US-based NGO Bishop Accountability said that almost 80 members of the Roman Catholic clergy have devastated ancestral had been accused of sexulands. The 81-year-old pon- ally abusing children in Chile since 2000. At the pope's first public

mass in Santiago on Tuesday, he faced protests over the church's handling of decades of sexual abuse by the clergy. Scuffles broke out

between riot police and demonstrators O'Higgins Park, and police used water cannons on protesters. More than 50 people were arrested, authorities said. At the end of his visit, he robustly defended a Chilean bishop accused of covering up sexual abuse, saying he would only fail to do so if he was given proof against

Mattis warns of 'growing threats' from Russia, China

WASHINGTON: tive edge has eroded in Defence Secretary Jim Mattis today said that America is facing "growing threats" from China and Russia, and warned that the US military's advantages have eroded in recent years.

Mattis's assessment came as he unveiled the Pentagon's vision for the future detailed in a document called the national defence strategy.

"We face growing threats from revisionist powers as different as China and Russia, nations that seek to create a world consistent with their authoritarian models," Mattis said as he unveiled the unclassified section of the document.

strong, yet our competi- and Asia.

every domain of warfare -- air, land, sea, space and cyberspace -- and is continually eroding," he added. President Donald

Trump and his administration worry that the vast US military force is feeling the effects of years of budget shortfalls and atrophy, and needs a full reboot to restore it to an idealized strength.

Part wish list, part blueprint for the coming vears, the Pentagon's national defense strategy seeks to increase the size of the military, improve its readiness and work with allies -- all while operating across multiple theaters including in "Our military is still Europe, the Middle East

"This strategy establishes my intent to pursue urgent change at significant scale," Mattis wrote in the introduction to the strategy. "We must use creative

approaches, make sustained investment and be disciplined in execution to field a Joint Force fit for our time, one that competes, deters and wins in this increasingly complex security environment."

Elbridge Colby, deputy assistant secretary of defense for strategy and force development, told reporters that Mattis's strategy seeks to deal with the "erosion" of America's military advan-

"What it is recognizing is that China and Russia in particular have been



assiduously working over a number of years to develop their military capabilities to challenge our military advantages," he said.

The new defense strategy follows on from Trump's national security

strategy that he released last month which, similarly, highlights the role of China and Russia in the global security environment.

"China is a strategic competitor using predatory economics to intimi-

date its neighbors while militarizing features in the South China Sea," Mattis wrote.

"Russia has violated the borders of nearby nations and pursues veto power over the economic, diplomatic and security decisions of its neighbors," he added, while also pointing a finger at Iran and North Korea for their threats to peace.

The two countries reacted furiously to Trump's security strategy, with Beijing accusing Washington of having a "Cold War mentality" while Moscow denounced its "imperialist character."

Trump's security strategy contrasts with the friendly nature of his first state visit to Beijing in November, when he received a lavish welcome and repeatedly praised President Xi Jinping. One of the biggest criti-

cisms inside the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill is that the US military is suffering from a lack of readiness, where troops and gear are not getting the training or maintenance they need. Mattis said the United States must be ready to fight a war. "The surest way to prevent war is to be prepared to win one," he said. "Doing so requires a

competitive approach to force development and a consistent, multiyear investment to restore war fighting readiness and field a lethal force." Mattis's strategy also calls for greater coordination with allies, who Trump Paris.

on the campaign trail lambasted for not doing enough to share the burden of defending the post-World War II order.

"We expect European allies to fulfill their commitments to increase defense and modernization spending to bolster the alliance in the face of our shared security concerns," Mattis said, in reference to NATO countries paying more into their defense budgets.

The document makes no mention of climate change, which under former president Barack Obama was recognized as a national security threat. Trump has claimed climate change is a hoax and pulled the US out of the historic climate accords in

Mohammed Shami is good enough to fit into South Africa's bowling unit: Fanie de Villiers

Former South African fast bowler Fanie De Villiers has praised Mohammed Shami as India's best Test bowler and added that the Proteas could easily fit him in their highly-competitive pace attack.

He also talked about how the Indian batsmen have not conserved their wickets in accordance with conditions here, conceding an unassailable 2-0 series' lead. "Shami is a good bowler. He could play for South Africa and fit into their pace attack very well," de Villiers told PTI after Shami took 4-49 in the second innings at Centurion.

"He has a beautiful outswinger, runs in hard, bowls at 140s, and most importantly, he consistently bowls that line to first slip. He bowls the line Glenn McGrath did. Shaun Pollick did, Ian Botham did, Dale Steyn

does, and so, he is India's best Test bowler." Overall, Shami is the second-highest wicket-taker in the Test series so far after Vernon Philander, with 9 wickets in

"When you are bowling in

South Africa, it is important to have that away-swinging line. Shami has that Hardik Pandya has that too, but he doesn't have too much pace. Until he gets that pace he will not be a big wickettaker. "He will fit into India's overseas plans very well though, because he bowls that away-swinging line. Bhuvneshwar Kumar also has that, but he didn't play in Centurion," he said.

India's team selection has been a point of sharp debate with skipper Virat Kohli even losing his cool in the post- Centurion press conference when asked about his tendency to change the playing eleven in every match. For the second Test, Kohli had made three changes, with Kumar making way for Ishant Sharma while KL Rahul came in for Shikhar Dhawan. Parthiv Patel was a forced inclusion as Wriddhiman Saha was ruled out of the remainder of the tour with a hamstring injury. Ajinkya Rahane was sidelined again.

"I am genuinely surprised that Kumar didn't play. He should be playing all overseas Test matches for India. He is someone who can take the ball away from righthanders and then bring it back into left-handers as well. "That is the future of world cricket on quicker wickets and this has been the past. Jasprit Bumrah bowled well, but he primarily bowls into the right-hander, or bowls into the stumps. Even flat wickets like



Centurion, Kumar can average 4 wickets per match. It was a big mistake not picking him," said de Villiers.

"Ishant Sharma bowls into the stumps. Bumrah bowls into the stumps too. In South Africa, you cannot have two pacers bowling into the batsmen on a wicket like this. Bumrah bowled well in patches yes, but is he going to take 8-9 wickets in a Test? How many times has Ishant picked 8-9 wickets in a Test? "He cannot, because he bowls an incoming delivery

into the bat. Kumar can do it Shami can do it, and they have done it before if I am not mistaken, because they have the away going delivery. So, Shami is your future, Kumar is your future, and they bowl quick enough to be in that category. Even Pandya is your future (if he adds a little pace)." De Villiers, who toured India in 1996-97 under THE late Hansie Cronje when South Africa lost 1-2 in Tests, wasn't too pleased with the team management's decision to

skip practice match or even arrive early to get accustomed to the conditions.

Whilst full of praise for Kohli's 21st Test hundred, he said the other Indian batsmen have shown a complete lack of perseverance to bat in South African conditions. "No traveling team is doing well nowadays. Even one match is not enough. You need to play 3, 4 or even 5 practice matches, like during old English tours when you played different counties, and then play the first Test.

"It doesn't happen these days with packed calendars. If you play one practice match, are you really going to pick up everything in 2-3 days? It is very difficult so you need to spend a good 2-3 weeks in South Africa, or wherever else you go, especially if you are a sub-continental team traveling overseas. That might make a difference later," he said. The former pacer feels switching from one-day mode to Tests is the biggest challenge for the Indian team.

"The biggest problem with Indian batsmen is how much ODI and T20 cricket they play, not conditions. They need to detox from limited-overs cricket and start getting into Test mode. "You need to be conservative for that. You want to play your shots, fine, but a little extra bounce will get you out. Look at how Faf du Plessis batted at Centurion.

"He started off with 40-50 strike-rate, and then as he batted longer, he reduced it to 30-35 strike-rate. He becomes conservative on such pitches because one ball can get you out. No Indian batsman, except Virat, did that," he added. India now stand on the brink of a 3-0 whitewash with the third Test starting at the Wanderers (Johannesburg) on January 24. When asked if the No.1 Test side in world cricket could avoid this fate, de Villiers replied, "They had their chance at Centurion. It was a wicket tailor-made for India, not South Africa, I don't think Wanderers will be a friendlier wicket than that "The conditions will once again be different and the only chance is if Indian batsmen reel themselves in and play more conservatively to stay-in at the crease. In India, once you get in, you become flamboyant and play lots of shots. "In these conditions, you will get out playing too many shots. In India you don't get out, and the way they are playing now, if they play 10 Tests overseas, they will lose 9 out of 10. I expect better from the World no.1 Test side," he signed off.

India see off New Zealand to **Belgium final in Four Nations hockey** set up

TAURANGA: A structured defence and clinical attack saw the Indian men's hockey team beat hosts New Zealand 3-1 in the final round robin match in the double-leg Four Nations Invitational Tournament here at Blake Park on Saturday.

It was India's young Harmanpreet Singh (2'), Dilpreet Singh (12`) and Mandeep Singh (47) who scored in the win after the team had suffered a 0-2 loss against Belgium in their previous match.

India's first breakthrough came as early as in the second minute of the match when a circle entry fetched them a

Harmanpreet Singh who stepped up for the drag flick and he was impeccable and fierce as he improvised the injection to flick the ball past New Zealand goal keeper Richard Joyce and earn India a 1-0 lead.

The early goal undoubtedly put the Black Sticks on the back foot. The next few minutes saw India hold their defence with Rupinder Pal Singh, who was rested for the match against Belgium, leading the charge of defenders as their man-to-man marking was spot on, not allowing New Zealand to make easy forays into India's cir-

India colt Dilpreet Singh, who had scored two goals penalty corner created by in his first outing for the Mandeep Singh.It was national side, was impres-



sive when he picked up the assist to put the ball past the New Zealand goal post in the 21st minute taking the lead to 2-0.

India held on to the lead with well-rounded performance. Though India conceded a penalty corner in the 42nd minute which

New Zealand's Kane Russell, they didn't drop their momentum and continued their attack swiftly and tactically.

In the 47th minute, Mandeep Singh was excellent in the circle to score India a winning score-line of 3-1.

"We started the match much better today and I saw individual improvement. It's important for the players to keep pushing themselves. I am particularly happy about today's win because the team did

the match and their keenness to improve was evident in today's match," expressed chief coach Sjoerd Marijne after the

a lot of analyzing ahead of

On his thoughts about playing Belgium in the final, the 43-year-old Dutchman said, "This tournament is about improving our play and we already played a good match against a fullstrength Belgium side so the final will be challenging too. But every match, this team has shown progress and have got better with performance, so in the final too we can

expect a close contest." India will be up against Belgium, who beat Japan 4-1, in the final on Sunday.

EPL: Arsene Wenger vows to stick with troubled Arsenal

Arsene Wenger insists Arsenal's turbulent January hasn't affected his desire to remain in charge of the troubled Premier League club beyond this season. Wenger's side head into Saturday's clash with Crystal Palace in crisis with their star forward Alexis Sanchez preparing to join Manchester United. Since beating Palace on December 28, Arsenal have taken just two points from their three league games to leave them trailing eight points behind fourth-placed Chelsea in the fight to qualify for the Champions League. Adding insult to injury, the Gunners suffered an embarrassing FA Cup defeat at Championship side Nottingham Forest earlier this month. Wenger's problems have once again thrust his future into the spotlight, with fans once again calling for the Frenchman to resign after 14 years without a league title. But the 68-year-old has vowed to revive Arsenal's fortunes and, asked this week if this could be his final season, Wenger said: "No, that's not the way I respond.

"I agree completely that 2018 until now has not been very positive but I am long enough in the job to know that what is important is how we respond to it and to focus on the performance. "My personal situation is a bit secondary to all of that, what is important is how the team responds and what we make of 2018. "We have many challenges, it is difficult at the moment, but as well very exciting because we have many challenges in front of us and we can come back in the Champions

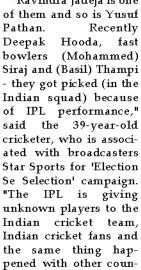
IPL manna from heaven for young players, believes Virender Sehwag

ples of all-rounders Pathan. Ravindra Jadeja and Deepak Hooda, fast pacer Mohammed Siraj and Australian David Warner and Glenn Indian squad) because Maxwell to buttress his view.

did to the Indian cricket is that it gave unknown players to the Indian cricket team. If they play for their first-class team, they will take at least five to six years to come and play for India. "But through the IPL, those players, who have talent and who did well - they just did well in one season and next year they were part of Team India. that is what IPL did." Sehwag told PTI.

opener cited the exam- of them and so is Yusuf Yusuf Pathan, rookie bowlers (Mohammed) Siraj and (Basil) Thampi of IPL performance," "I think what the IPL cricketer, who is associated with broadcasters Star Sports for 'Election "The IPL is giving unknown players to the Indian cricket team, Indian cricket fans and the same thing happened with other coun-

"If you look at David Warner, he played IPL first and then he played for Australia, similarly Maxwell. It is a great



platform for players to

of 90 not out against

Zimbabwe in their

final Group B game



showcase their talent," he explained.

Sehwag said the IPL benefited him financially while pointing out that whenever a player gets dropped from the Indian team, it affects his price in the T20

League. For this, he gave the

examples of seasoned campaigners Yuvraj Singh, Harbhajan Singh and Gautam Gambhir. "(The IPL) benefited me financially, because when I played for India,

it was Rs 2 lakh per game, Test matches Rs 5 lakh a game and then suddenly in the IPL you get Rs 10- crore or Rs 12crore contract and then you are financially secure and you can work more on fitness

and India.

dropped from India (the of the IPL is so big that sised. national squad), prices even an uncapped play. On the channel's camdrop which we have seen in a lot of players. Yuvraj Singh, Gautam Gambhir, Harbhajan Singh? (since) they are not playing for India, they did not get (Rs) 10 or 12 crore," he added.

The former righthanded batsman also spoke about how the IPL has emerged as the biggest cricket league in the world. "The IPL is the biggest league in the world and one of the favourites (among various leagues) in the world, because a single player, who is playing cricket, anywhere in the world, wants to play in

"The moment you get credibility and publicity the world," he emphaer, who is a player of some other country, wants to play in the IPL." Almost all cricketplaying nations find representation in the IPL which is not the case with other T20 leagues, the 104-Test veteran

> said. "The IPL is the biggest because all nations' players are playing in the IPL, which you would not find in any other (cricket) league such as Big Bash, CPL or BPL, where Indian players are not there. "That's why those leagues are not as big. Only in the IPL all world class play-

"So that shows that the is why IPL is the best in

paign he said, "Through the Election Se Selection campaign, for the first time Star Sports has given an opportunity to fans (to pick) the players who can play for their favourite team. "It's like Yuvraj Singh can play for Punjab, if so many people vote for Yuvraj Singh to play in Kings XI Punjab. It is the first time they are getting the opportunity and the number will be shown on TV during the (players') auction.

The IPL players' auction is scheduled in Bengaluru this month-

Under-19 hero Shubman Gill recreates Virat Kohli's short-arm jab

Not long ago in the ongoing Under-19 World Cup, Prithvi Shaw had played a drive off the front foot that reminded former West Indies fast bowler Ian Bishop of Sachin Tendulkar. Reacting to the Indian captain's drive during a commentary stint, Bishop had blurted out, "That's Tendulkar". Now it's another Under-19 player's turn to draw some parallels with a senior player, and it's Shubman Gill whose short-arm jab for a six put many in mind of Virat Kohli.



off a short arm jab off medium pacer Nkosilathi Nungu,

the trademark shortarm jab often used by Kohli was unmistak-

The International Cricket Council (ICC) posted a video of the shot on Twitter on Saturday. Watch it here.

However, it was the BCCI that had first drawn parallels shortly after the match on Friday.

India have reached the quarterfinals with three straight wins in their group and will now expect Gill to continue his great touch with the bat that has seen him get two fifties in the two matches he has got the opportunity to

Roger Federer eases past Richard Gasquet into fourth round of Australian Open



Roger Federer eased into the second week of the Australian Open with a 6-2 7-5 6-4 win over Richard Gasquet on Saturday evening that kept the Swiss on course for a 20th grand slam title.

The 36-year-old defending champion reached the fourth round of the Melbourne Park tournament for the 16th time by shifting up the gears when required to see off his French opponent in just under two hours on

match, studded with his trademark occasional moments of shot-making brilliance, but that was never enough to overcome one of the best players of all time. Watched from the stands by 11-times grand slam champion Laver, second seed Federer sealed the victory with a backhand winner to set up a first career meeting with Hungarian Marton Fucsovics for a place in the quarter-finals.

Members unanimously call for conservation, expansion of JK's forest cover

JAMMU, JANUARY 20: Several members took part in the Discussion on Demand for Grants of Forest, Environment, and Ecology Department in Legislative Assembly today.

Initiating the discussion, Usman Abdul Majid said JK is bestowed with rich forest wealth and there is need to conserve, preserve and protect this green gold. He said the forests have been contributing to the state's development by providing various resources including timber, firewood, food, medicines etc besides giving revenue to the state by way of selling timber and other products.

He urged the government to focus on increasing the forest cover in the state. He said afforestration and deforestration is a continuous process and the government needs to revive the forests where the forests are used for commercial purposes or for other developmental purposes. He, however, said the deforested areas are encroached and government is unable to retrieve the land. He asked the government to rope in the people living near forest land and provide them required awareness and livelihood so that they assist the government is preserving and protecting the forests.

He cautioned the government against environmental disaster in case immediate efforts were not taken to save Wullar Lake, the only freshwater lake in Asia, from further degradation.

He stressed for having a plan to remove willow trees and prevent their re-growth in the periphery of the lake and said if we lose Wullar, it will lead to an ecological imbalance and stated that it was important to save the lake as water from across Kashmir flows into the lake through Jhelum river, before it pours out of the Valley.

Ravinder Rana hailed the Forest Minister and the Department employees for massive plantation drive along National Highway and other places. He also appreciated the Forest Department for developing various closures. He Forest Minister for his dedication thanked the Minister for fixing targets including establishment of Pahalgam Zoo. He urged the government for retrieving the encroachments of forest land and appreciated the government for being able to retrieve various wetlands from encroachments in Iammu. He asked the government for releasing of allocation of funds under 14th Financial Commission. He also demanded conservation of forest cover and wildlife in the state to ensure a clean environ-

SUNDAY | JANUARY 21, 2018

Mohammad Khalil Bandh said

in streamlining the working of the Forest department and its allied departments besides taking various steps in protecting and preserving forest wealth of the State. He asked the government to release early compensation to the man-animal conflict cases of his Constituency. The legislator asked the government for stopping felling of trees to ensure pollution free Jammu and Kashmir.

Pawan Kumar Gupta identified some of the short comings in the distribution of timber in his constituency and urged the govern-

timber to the people living near to ment to take extra interest in preforest land on concessional rates as was given to them in past.

Abdul Majid Padder appreciated the government for various initiatives for bringing further improvement in the forest and its allied departments. He, however, underscored the need to work in tandem to save the green wealth. He asked the government for developing Environment Park in his Constituency and also urged for construction of Forest Hut at Aharbal. The legislator also pleaded for strengthening of Forest Protection Force.

serving and conserving the forests besides taking steps to bring more land under forest cover. He suggested having provision in statutes for CDF wherein the legislator may use a certain amount of CDF in conservation of Forests.

Altaf Ahmad Wani hailed the Forest Minister for streamlining the functioning of Forest and its allied Departments. He demanded for opening of new sale depots in Pahalgam Constituency. He asked the government for ensuring of Fire fighting equipments in the Department. He also urged the

government to provide fire wood

to Masjids in Kashmir Valley dur-

ing winters and also raised issue of

issuance of NOC for setting up of a

Saw Mill in residential area at

He also urged the government to

preserve the water bodies and

urged the government to take

steps to minimize the Man-Animal

Conflict besides providing com-

pensation to the victims of Man-

Animal Conflict. He also urged the

department to retrieve the forest

land from illegal occupation of

Syed Farooq Andrabi appreciat-

ed the working of the Forest

Department especially taking a

massive aforestation drive and

recruiting professional staff under

'Rehber-e-Janglat'. He also urged

the department to start a special

plantation drive along the newly

constructed Four-Lane Highway

from Qazigund to Baramulla. He

urged the government to focus on

the welfare of Gujjar community as

they are the best defenders of

forests and the government should

He also urged the government to

ensure transparency in various

allied departments including State

Pollution Control Board besides

take care of this community

Sheer Hamadan.

influential people.

bution work to JKSFC but he demanded for opening of more timber depots in Inderwal Constituency. He asked the government to upgrade the damaged infrastructure of forest and its allied Department's assets under CAMPA in his Constituency.

He also pleaded for enhancing of compensation being given to mananimal conflict cases. He appreciated the government's decision for engagement of Rehber-e-Janglat policy. He pointed out that the Forest Department has not issued No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for clearance of eight sanctioned PMGSY roads in his Constituency and urged the government for early issuance of the same so that the construction works on these prestigious road projects to be taken up at an earliest.

Shakti Raj Parihar urged the government to put an end to unabated deforestation while appreciating the massive plantation drive launched by the department. He, however, appealed the government to start the plantation drive in Poonch district also so that the forest cover can be increased and degradation can be compensated

He also urged government to expedite the process of issuing Forest Clearance NOCs for various developmental projects including construction of roads so that projects can be started at earliest.

Abdul Majid Larmi appreciated the minister for reviving the State Forest Corporation in the stateand urged him to take care of the Forest department also. He urged the government to provide sufficient stock of timber especially Gail (Kairo) in his constituency and also urged the government to establish Timber Sale Depots at Wanpoh, LArm Bazar, Uranhall, Batingoo, Redwana, Kujer and feasible areas other Homshalibugh constituency.

He also urged the government to provide 100 feet timber each to the flood victims of 2014 as per the cabinet approval and government commitment.

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

the forests ensure the overall development of the state as every sector in Kashmir is related to the Forests. He said tourism sector in I&K is just because of the presence of forests in the state while the agriculture, irrigation, forests and other major contributors of GDP are directly or indirectly dependent on forests.

Mohammad Akbar Lone seconded the views presented by legislator Usman Majeed regarding conservation of Wullar Lake and appreciated the JK State Forest Corporation (JKSFC) for providing timber to the consumers well in

He called for making temporary Timber Sale Depots functional in his Constituency on permanent basis. He asked the government for early rehabilitation of fishermen affected due to developmental works taken by the Wullar Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA) and stressed for retrieving encroachments on forest lands.

The legislator pleaded for streamlining of Social Forestry works in his Constituency. He asked the government to give wages to the genuine casual labours and daily rated workers in time bound manner. He proposed for establishment of Range Officer at Sumbal in his Constituency.

Bashir Ahmad Dar hailed the

ment to streamline the sale mechanism of the timber.

He said several Forest Clearance Cases are pending in the department with regard to the construction of roads in Udhampur constituency particularly the cases for which funds have already been released out of CDF and various other schemes so that work can be started at earliest.

He also said that work on the construction of City Forest Park at Gangera Hills despite its inauguration in 2016 and urged the government to start the work on project immediately so that the park can be dedicated to the nation at earli-

He also stressed the need to check the population of Monkeys in his constituency by way of sterilization and said that the attacks by Monkeys on local population have increased many folds in past few years.

Jeevan Lal appreciated the government for various initiatives taken to make the functioning of the forest and its allied wings smooth and pro-people. He urged the government for early sanctioning of compensation of man-animal conflict cases. He also hailed the Forest Minister for opening of timber Depots at various places which, he said, have helped in minimizing the timber smuggling. He urged the government to issue

Sheikh Ishfaq Jabbar called for massive plantation drive in his constituency and also asked the government for development and preservation of Shalbug Rakh. He demanded for issuance of Deodar timber for construction of boats to Fishermen of his Constituency. He also demanded for timely release of wages to all casual labours working in forest and its allied wings. The legislator asked the government for focusing on Wildlife Protection Department and suggested for separate Divisional Forest Officer,

Sonamarg. Gulzar Ahmad Wani also took part in the discussion and asked the government to prepare comprehensive policy for the people living nearer to the forest areas of the State. He welcomed the Forest Minister's decision for giving responsibility to the Jammu and Kashmir State Forest Corporation (JKSFC) for distribution of timber to the consumers. He demanded enhancing in compensation being given to man-animal conflict cases.

Shah Mohammad Tantray appreciated the efforts of the Forest Minister for streamlining the functioning of the department besides working to increase the forest cover in the state.

He expressed concern over the degradation of forests in past few decades and urged the govern-

General Secretary JKNPP

ensuring strict ban on the use of polythene in the state. G M Saroori hailed the Minister for handing over of timber distri-

and neglect of Jammu

youth in govt jobs and

The JKNPP leaders

expressed gratitude to Sri

Amar Kshatriya Rajput

Sabha and CTF (Chamber

Hunger strike and assured

their all out support for

the movement launched

by the party. The gather-

ing was addressed by

Neeraj Anand President

Chamber of Trader

Federation (CTF) and

employment avenues.

PCC Condemns Pak for continuous ceasefire violations

JAMMU, JAN. 20: Senior Congress leaders today Strongly condemned Pakistan for heavy shelling in R.S. Pura-Arnia sector and several other border areas of the State and paid rich tributes to martyred Jawans

In a joint statement, the senior Congress leaders Shri Sham Lal Sharma (Senior Vice President PCC), Raman Bhalla (Vice President), Ravinder Sharma (Chief Spokesperson) Sdr. Manjit Singh, Vikram Malhotra, Manmohan Singh & Namrata Sharma (General Secretaries) G.L. Chalotra, Prof. Gharu Ram, Shashi Sharma and S. Sobha Singh have strongly condemned fresh heavy shelling by the Pakistan since yesterday in various parts of R.S. Pura and Arnia sector resulting into BSF two BSF Jawans attained martyrdom and death of two civilians besides injuries to several others.

Congress leaders asked the authorities to ensure the safety of border residents and make all contingency arrangements to deal with the situations. They demanded befitting response to the Pakistan for unprovoked firing especially in civilian areas. They reiterated the demands for allotment of plots in safer zones to border residents besides bunkers for them at appropriate places in border areas and monetary help to each family be provided for construction of shel-

They expressed sympathies with the family of the deceased and prayed for early recovery of the injured persons. They also asked the Govt. to immediately provide adequate relief to the family of the deceased and the injured persons.

Jammu region goes un-represented in Assembly despite 25 BJP legislators: Harsh

JAMMU, JAN. 20: With the state Education Minister re-iterating in the Assembly the decision of the Education Deptt to fill up, on fast track basis, 2154 posts of teachers, the district wise breakup of which had already been given earlier, Harsh Dev Singh IKNPP Chairman and Former Minister lampooned the stoic silence of the Jammu based legislators in the face of perpetuation of such bias against Jammu region. He said that only last month the advertisement notification advertising 2154 posts of teachers comprising 1864 posts for Kashmir region and 290 for Jammu region had been issued which had sparked massive outrage among Jammu youth. He said that several Ministers had assured at that time that anomalous situation would be immediately rectified by announcing additional posts for various districts of Jammu region several of whom had been completely ignored with not a



He regretted that while the Education Minister repeated the same figure in the Assembly without making any mention about the additional posts for Jammu region, the BJP legislators preferred to remain tight-lipped and failed to assert despite the heat in Jammu region turning into a furnace. He was addressing the party workers on the 6th day of 24x7 relay hunger strike launched by JKNPP near the statute of Maharaja Hari Singh. The hunger strike was today joined by 50 odd female members of the party besides party

District.

Addressing the media, Harsh Dev Singh said that while concerns of Kashmir region were being aggressively agitated and appropriately addressed including its power woes, Health and Education issues, the Jammu region had gone un-represented in the Assembly with 25 BJP legislators preferring to ignore the woes of their electorates so as to keep the Kashmir Ministers in good humour. Expressing grave concern over the war like situation on borders resulting in loss of precious lives and large

migration, regretted ` the response of the mandated leaders and their flip flop over the promise to provide 5 Marla plots to border dwellers besides construction of bunkers.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Anita Thakur Senior leader women power JKNPP, strongly condemned the brutal lathi-charge on female NHM and Anganwari workers and that too by male police. She said that the gender bias and cruelty against women were the most conspicuous features of the present govt. Mrs. Manju Singh, State

strongly condemned the Hira Nagar episode in which an 8 year old girl was kidnapped and tortured to death after her modesty was outraged. She said that with crime of Trader Federation) who agamst women having increased manifold, the present govt had made the most contemptuous mockery of the slogan of "Beti Bachao-Beti Padao" in the state. Deploring the pathetic plight of contractual lecturers, with several females amongst them agitating on roads for more than 11 months, she called upon the conscience of the Civil Society to support their Sisters and daughters who were the victims of an incompetent regime. Others who spoke on the occasion included Kesar Parveen Advocate, Mrs. Neelam Gupta, Paramjit Kour and Singh Sewa Bali. Meanwhile the chain hunger strike of JKNPP continued for sixth consecutive day today against the BJP-PDP Govt's policies of bias against Jammu

Narayan Singh President Rajput Sabha. Prominent among those who sat on hunger strike today included Sunita Devi, Swarna Devi, Dolly Devi, Samitri Devi, Renu Devi, Sushma, Ayodhya Devi, Seema Devi, Ranjeel Singh, Parkash Singh, Mohd Ali, Shakeel Ahmed, Mangal Singh Katoch, Pawan Singh, Iftaq Ahmed, Ashraf Ahmed, Mohd Yousaf, Mohd Ismail, Mahboob Ali, Vicky Singh, Biju Singh, Ronak Singh, Jagjeet Singh Manhas, Amarjeet Singh, Sachin

Sambyal besides others.

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE MECH. DIVISION NORTH, JAMMU NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (SHORT TERM)

For and on behalf of Governor of Jammu & Kashmir State Sealed tenders affixed with Rs. 5/- Revenue Stamps valid for 90 days are invited from reputed / registered firms having TIN & PAN No. for below mentioned works so as to reach the office of undersigned on or before due date upto 2:00 p.m through registered post/speed post only.

S.No.	Particulars	N.I.T. No. & date	Due on	Last date of sale of tender Document	Earnest money	Tender Receiving Authority
1.	Replacement of 630 mm sq. single care armored aluminum cable and allied works installed at CPS Company Bogh.	383 18-01-18	02-02-18	01-02-18	2%	Executive Engineer PHE Mech. Division North Jammu
2.	Major repair to departmental vehicle No. JK02&T-5600.	384 18-01-18	02-02-18	01-02-18	2%	-do-

The tenders document containing scope of work, terms and conditions and technical specifications can be had from the office of the undersigned against cash payment of Rs. 100/-(Non-refundable) for each set of tender documents.

No.: 5034-37 Dt.: 18.01.2018 DIP/J-10017/17 Dt.: 20.01.2018

Executive Engineer PHE Mech. Division North

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