

Congress fails to carry forward Vajpayee's peace initiative: Mehbooba

JAMMU, JAN 29: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on Monday slammed the Congress in failing to carry forward Atal Bihari Vajpayee's peace initiative during its rule.

"I am happy that now a days everyone is speaking of talks to solve crisis," Ms Mufti said while replying in the House on adjournment motion moved by the Opposition members on Shopian killings.

"It is unfortunate that the Congress party in its ten-year rule have failed to carry forward peace initiatives of Atal Bihari Vajpayee," said Ms Mufti.

She further said that during UPA regime, she did not see any progress on Confidence Building Measures, Working Group Implementation, Banking Facility, adding, "everything stopped thereafter."

She said that now in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

CONTD ON P-2

Probe in Shopian killings to be taken to logical conclusion: Mehbooba

**BUDGET SESSION 2018-19
LA PROCEEDINGS - DISCUSSION**

JAMMU, JANUARY 29: Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today assured the Legislative Assembly that the probe ordered into the killing of two civilians at Shopian two days ago would be taken to logical conclusion.

Winding up the discussion on an Adjournment Motion on these killings in the House, the Chief Minister said nobody

countenances such killings which only impairs and slow down the political process in the State. She said immediately after the incident took place an FIR was lodged against the guilty and the Deputy Commissioner, Shopian was ordered to conduct a magisterial probe and come up with its report within 15 days.

Mehbooba Mufti said

- FIR lodged immediately, spoke to Defence Minister, every civilian killing impairs political process
- Such incidents remind us that we cannot afford confrontation, no way ahead except dialogue

within moments of learning about the incident she rang up Defence Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi who, she said, shared her anguish and assured to take appropriate measures. She said Army as an institution has done a great job but the

grace of an institution only enhances once the black sheep within are identified and weeded out.

The Chief Minister said during her Unified Headquarters meetings she has been stressing

CONTD ON P-2



Security forces foil militant attack in south Kashmir

SRINAGAR, JAN 29: Security forces foiled a militant attack in south Kashmir district of Pulwama Sunday night, a senior police officer said.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of police south Kashmir region said militants resorted to indiscriminate firing on a joint party of state police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) near court complex at Pulwama.

CONTD ON P-2

BEATING RETREAT CEREMONY HELD Governor, First Lady, Chief Minister and citizenry witness Grand Finale



JAMMU, JANUARY 29: Ceremony, held at the Maulana Azad Stadium

BUDGET SESSION 2018-19 - LA PROCEEDINGS - DEMAND FOR GRANTS HOUSE PASSES GRANTS OF TOURISM DEPARTMENT Multipronged strategy in place for positioning JK among global tourist destinations: Tassaduq

- Integrated development of Hazratbal, Katra being taken up under 'PRASAD'
- Have to take care of environmental consequences while building tourism infrastructure

JAMMU, JANUARY 29: Minister for Tourism, Tassaduq Hussain Mufti today said the state government has adopted a multipronged strategy to harness the tourism potential and position

Jammu and Kashmir as the leading Global destination adding that the idea is to make the tourism sector as the principal engine of the State's economic growth. Winding up the discus-

sion on Demands for Grants of Tourism and allied Departments for the year 2018-19, the Minister, in his maiden speech in the Legislative Assembly, said government's endeavour would be to frame a tourism policy for not just creating jobs but to ensure better livelihood for the people.

"We should not ignore the environmental consequences while creating infrastructure and exploring new destinations," he said and mentioned the emerging situation around Pongong Lake, Ladakh and Sonamarg in Kashmir due to uncontrolled human activities. He stressed on the need on laying equal focus on the waste management in

the environmentally fragile destinations. "To achieve the set targets, the Tourism department is working in a mission mode to make JK a destination that is natural in its environs, global in standards, modern in outlook, traditional in its hospitality, mystical in standards

CONTD ON P-2

S Jaishankar retires; Vijay Gokhale takes charge as Foreign Secretary

NEW DELHI: Seasoned diplomat Vijay Gokhale, who played a key role in resolving the Doklam standoff with China, has taken charge as the new Foreign Secretary of India on Monday, succeeding S Jaishankar.

A 1981-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, Gokhale was Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) before becoming the country's top diplomat.

Gokhale, considered an

CONTD ON P-2

Police files chargesheet against LeT, 11 accused in Amaranth Yatra Bus attack

SRINAGAR, JAN 29: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday filed a chargesheet against Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and 11 accused, including a juvenile, in Amaranth Yatra Bus attack on Srinagar-Jammu national highway in July 2017.

Eight persons were killed in the attack by militants on a bus, which was carrying Amarnath yatries from the holy cave in the valley to Jammu, at Batengoo in south Kashmir district of Anantnag on July 10, 2017.

Four LeT militants of the 11 people named in the chargesheet have already been killed in two separate encounters with security forces in the valley last year.

"The Jammu and

Kashmir police has filed charge sheet of about 1500 pages in case pertaining to Yatra bus attack on July 10, 2017 against LeT and eight accused," a police spokesperson said.

He said a Special Investigation Team (SIT) was formed which filed a comprehensive chargesheet against the accused persons before Sessions Court Anantnag and Chief Judicial Magistrate (Juvenile Court) Anantnag.

He said the special investigation team was constituted by Police Headquarters (PHQ) J&K Srinagar on July 12, 2017 in which Superintendent of Police (SP) Tahir Ashraf Bhatti carried investigation.

During the course of investigation, he said it was established that Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) based LeT was involved in the attack.

Further, he said on the basis of evidences collected during the course of investigation complicity of eleven people was established, out of which four

persons, including one juvenile were arrested in the instant case.

"The people identified included Ajaz Ahmad Wagay a resident of Poshtkeri Srigufwara, Bilal Ahmad Reshi a resident of Iqbal Market Bijbehara, Zahoor Ahmad Sheikh, a resident of Sheikh Mohalla Khudwani, Kulgam, a juvenile (Name withheld), Khalid Muzaffar Dar, a resident of Rehpora Khudwani, Kulgam, Tanveer Ahmad Dar, a resident of Rehpora Khudwani, Kulgam, Sarjel Ahmad Sheikh, a resident of Khudwani, and Yawar Bashir Wani, a resident of Hablsh Devsar," he said.

He said three Pakistani national, Abu Ismail, Maaviya and Furqan, were also identified.

He said during the course of investigation evidences have been brought on record establishing complicity of above mentioned accused persons in the instant crime.

CONTD ON P-2

Life returns to normal after day-long strike in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, JAN 29: Life returned to normal after remaining crippled for a day due to a strike in Kashmir valley called by separatists against killing of three civilians in alleged security force firing in the less than a week.

However, normal life remained crippled in the twin districts of Shopian and Pulwama in south Kashmir against the civil-

ian killings. Meanwhile, curfew-like restrictions, imposed on Sunday in the Shehar-e-Khas (SeK), Down Town and parts of old city and civil lines in summer capital, Srinagar to prevent any law and order problem were also lifted on Monday.

Shops and business establishments reopened and traffic was plying on all routes normally in the

summer capital, Srinagar and adjoining areas since early this morning. Work in government offices and banks also returned to normal.

Business and other activities returned to normal in main business hubs of the city, including historic Lal Chowk, the nerve-centre of summer capital, Budshah Chowk, Regal Chowk, Maituma, Hari Singh High Street

(HSHS), Batmaloo, Moulana Azad Road, Residency Road and Dalgate.

Train service remained suspended on Monday for the second day for security reasons in south Kashmir though the trains will run normally on Srinagar-Badgam to Baramulla in north Kashmir. Situation was also normal as shops and

CONTD ON P-2

Court rejects bail of kingpin of job racket

JAMMU, JAN. 29: Sub-Judge Jammu Kusoom Pandita rejected the bail application Ajay Bali S/o Gopal Krishan R/o Sarika Vihar Roop Nagar Jammu alleged kingpin in fake job racket.

Sub-Judge Jammu Kusoom Pandita after hearing Senior PO Puja Nijhoh for the state observed that Report has been called from Police Station, Janipur, perusal of which brings to fore that accused has allegedly committed offences u/s 420, 467, 468, 471, 120-B RPC and he was arrested on 03.01.2018 and presently lodged in judicial custody. As per police report, the accused took hefty amount from different people including the complainant for providing employment to their wards and issued the orders in their favour i.e. in favour of daughter of the complainant Shankar Singh and son of Sulochna Devi i.e. Suresh Kumar and when they went for joining against their posts, they found that orders were fake and when they inquired from the accused/applicant and asked him to return their amount, he did not returned the same. SPO Puja Nijhoh has controverted the application inter alia on the grounds that offences allegedly committed by the accused are against the society and investigation of the case is at initial stage. Court after hearing both the sides observed that amount allegedly paid by different people to accused for employment has not been recovered yet.

CONTD ON P-2

Only 1 guest from PoK arrive, 4 Kashmiris cross over to other side of LoC

SRINAGAR, JAN 29: Only one guest from Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) arrived here while four Kashmiris crossed over to the other side of the Line of Control (LoC) in the weekly Karvan-e-Aman bus, operating between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad.

As many as 13 returnees also crossed sides at the Kaman Post, in Uri sector, official sources told UNI on Monday afternoon.

They said a resident of

PoK arrived at Kaman Post after crossing the Aman Setu, peace bridge, on foot to meet their relatives, separated in 1947 due to partition.

Meanwhile, 22 Kashmiris, including 10 woman and three children, who had gone to PoK in previous buses, also returned after completing their stay there.

The number of guests coming here from PoK goes down during winter months while it increases during summer when

weather is pleasant in Kashmir. On the contrary, the number of people going to PoK in the peace bus goes down in summer and increases in winter.

They said four Kashmiris, including a woman, crossed over to the other side of LoC in the weekly bus. "As many as four PoK, residents, including two women, who had arrived in previous buses to meet their relatives, returned to their homes after completing

CONTD ON P-2

3rd PSA slapped on ITEA chairman in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, JAN 29: Authorities have slapped third Public Safety Act (PSA) on chairman of Islamic Tanzeem-e-Azadi (ITEA) Abdul Samad Inquilabi/1 who was arrested for anti national activities in July last year.

He was arrested in July last year near the house of slain Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) commander Burhan Wani at Tral and later booked under PSA.

However, before the expiry of the PSA, Samad Inquilabi was again booked under PSA which has ended on January 27, 2018.

Now he has been again booked under third PSA, ITEA spokesman said.

He said Samad Inquilabi is lodged in Central Jail, Srinagar after he was shifted from Jammu jail on medical reasons.

CONTD ON P-2

HC recedes in petition challenging Govt order regarding reservation in Panchayat Election

JAMMU, JAN. 29: In a petition filed by inhabitants of Village Panchayat Meen Sarlag & Ors seeking quashment the order impugned Notification by Notice No.DRD/ Panch/ 2018/ 49506-49550 dated 11.01.2018, issued by the respondent No.2, whereby reservation of SC/ST and women of Panch Constituencies have been wrongly reserved contrary to population as per Census record 2011 and

CONTD ON P-2

FROM PAGE-1

Congress fails...

rule in the Centre, an atmosphere of peace has been created in Jammu and Kashmir with formation of PDP-BJP government.

Probe in...

upon all security agencies to exercise maximum restraint and ensure that no collateral damage takes place while operating.

Sharing the concern of the House over the civilian killings, the Chief Minister said the entire State is anguished over the killings, which she said, have the potential to impair the political process in the State. Mehbooba Mufti said incidents like Shopian remind us that we cannot afford confrontation at any level and there is an urgent need to engage in a meaningful dialogue at all levels. She said there is no alternative to dialogue within the State between India and Pakistan because it is the people of Jammu & Kashmir who are facing the brunt of this acrimony and paying in terms of human and material losses.

The Chief Minister said it was satisfying to note that the House was unanimous in advocating dialogue, reconciliation and peace means to sort out differences. She appealed all political parties to maintain consistency in this regard adding that the failures in dialogue in past are no reason not to undertake fresh peace initiatives.

Earlier, several members including Leader of Opposition, Omar Abdullah, Ali Mohammad Sagar, Mina Altaf Ahmad, M Y Tarigami, Hakeem Mohammad Yasin, Mohammad Yousof Bhat, R S Pathania, Gulzar Ahmad Wami, Rameez Ahmad Dar and Pawan Gupta participated in the discussion.

Security forces...

However, security forces immediately retaliated. There was no report of any loss of life or property, he added and said a massive search operation was launched to nab the militants. DIG also in a tweet said "Firing on the police/crpf near court complex Pulwama by terrorists was retaliated. Area under cordon. No loss of life and property".

Multipronged...

and entertaining in its experience" he added. The Minister said that a self-sustained tourism model has been envisioned and is being implemented in all three regions of the state for inclusive socio-economic development and ensuring emergence of each region as exclusive independent tourist destination.

He said that emphasis is being laid on creating durable assets in all the potential tourist spots of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh so that a good tourist influx is influenced towards the state.

The Minister informed the House that under PMDP funding, the department envisages consolidation/creation/strengthening of existing infrastructure across the state, bringing about quality facilities like amusement parks, golf courses, Light and Sounds shows, river cruises food streets, water side facilities to attract both domestic and high end tourists.

He said that PMDP funding would be utilized keeping in view various aspects including development of theme based Tourist Circuits on the principle of high tourist value competitiveness which further enhance employment opportunity to the general masses, developing economically favourable Tourism Infrastructure to improve the livelihood, community based development of projects coupled with training, capacity building measures and to un-tab the outdoor activities in adventure tourism.

Listing the achievements of Tourism department during 2017-18, the Minister informed that under centrally sponsored Swadesh Darshan Scheme, various projects were taken up, of which many have been completed and remaining are at advance stage of completion.

Giving details of the projects taken up under the Scheme, he said that development of Sound and Light Show with water fountains at SKICC Ghats at a cost of Rs 8 crore and Rs 1.53 crore Eco log Multipurpose hall at Apple Resort at Chinniwoder in Anantnag has been completed, while wildlife amenities in Dillwara at a cost of Rs 1.5 crore and development of Tourism infrastructure at Suchetgarh Border at a cost of Rs 4.92 crore is in progress.

Under Prime Minister Development Package (PMDP), the Minister said that various projects including development of Tourist facilities at Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu involving a cost of Rs 15.96 crore, development of Tourist facilities at SKICC Ghats, Jammu involving a cost of Rs 4.92 crore, development of water Sports at Manasbal Lakeworth Rs 5 crore, development of tourist facilities at Dal lake at a cost of Rs 4.5 crore and Eco log huts at Jammu Tawi Golf Course, involving cost of Rs 8 crore are in progress and shall be completed on fast track basis. He said projects under PMDP were taken up at an accumulated cost of Rs 32.7 crore, while works at Tourist Convention Centre, Srinagar taken up under State Plan at a cost of 12 crore are expected to be completed by June, 2018.

With regard to the status of Jammu Ropeway project, he said that project is at advanced stage of completion. He said the Section from Bahu to Mahanaya Park is expected to be completed by March, 2018 and that from Peerke to Mahanaya is expected to be completed by May 2018. He said that work on Patnitop Ropeway and tendering process for Shiv Khori Cable Car Project is also in progress adding that the department has envisaged promotion of Jammu as an independent tourist destination by way of developing a Heritage and Temple circuit at Mantalal.

"To promote pilgrim centres through a holistic infrastructure development approach, Ministry of Tourism, GoI has sanctioned Rs 42 crore for development of Hazratbal under Pilgrimage rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD). On the same lines, a project has been formulated for integrated development of Kutra" he added.

Tassaddaq further informed that to tap the tourist inflow from the adjoining States of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal, major tourist attraction projects including Water Sports Complex are being developed at Manasbal, Basohli and Pull Doda in the first instance, while facilities are being created as a part of Border Tourism at Keran-Teetwal-Chakan-da-Bagh-Novshera-Salamabad (Urj)-Karnah and Rawalakote.

He said that department is also focussing on promoting Adventure Tourism in the state by way of setting up of base camps, paragliding and water sports facilities at Nunskan, Kargil, Patnitop, Wullar, Naranag and Dhara Harwan.

Steps are also being taken to develop an unexplored areas of the state having huge Tourism potential like Bungus valley, Lolab Valley, Tosa Maidan, Thajwas,

Gurez and Tulail valley, Sinthan Top, area of Mughal road and others. The Minister informed the House that to increase the tourist influx, the department of Tourism has also sponsored International Tourism Events at London and Dubai besides, participated in various Travel Marts held at Kolkata, Mumbai, Amritsar, Chennai, Jaipur, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Surat, New Delhi, Lucknow and Pune.

He said the emphasis is being laid on encouraging foreign tourist flow and the short-distance market has been generating tourist to the State in general and to Kashmir Division in particular.

Religious Tourism being a major component of tourism activities in the state, focused attention is being given to develop all pilgrim places, he said.

"A major chunk of the domestic traffic consists of pilgrim tourists, keeping this factor in view, centre/state government is giving maximum thrust for development of pilgrim tourism", the Minister said.

He said that to restore the confidence of the tourism players in the state, the department had invited leading tour operators across the country with majority of participation from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. After their visit to the state and enjoying the experience they had in Kashmir, these operators are now selling tour packages to the people, he added.

Further, the Minister said that to dispel the negative perception and restore the confidence of the intending tourist, the department is inclined to embark upon a force full campaign under which, it has come up with videos giving message to the people to visit state to experience its beauty and hospitality.

"The video clip 'Kashmir the warmth place on earth' has become a social media sensation these days and has successfully spread the message across the globe inviting the tourists to J&K and feel its warmth", he said.

Regarding initiatives taken by the department to further boost tourism, he said that winter festival at Gulmarg is being organized every year in the month of January while, Golf Championship at Royal springs, Srinagar, Pahalgam & Jammu Tawi Golf Course has also been organized.

He said that steps have also been taken for promotion and publicity of the innumerable tourist spots and development of matching tourist infrastructure in order to attract and facilitate the tourists from across the country and worldwide.

To boost rural tourism and economy, the Minister said that series of events comprising local festivals, melas have been held across Jammu Province showcasing the local traditions and culture.

Giving details of tourist arrivals in the state, the Minister informed that during 2017, 1227764 (including foreign & domestic) tourists visited Kashmir, 922800 to Jammu and 230662 to Ladakh region. He further informed that 29581 pilgrim tourists visited Kashmir to pay obeisance at Shri Amarnathji and 817080 visited Vaishno Devi Ji shrine.

Later the House passed the Grants of Rs 55746.19 lakh for Tourism department with voice-vote. Earlier, several members participated in the discussion which included Nawang Rizgin Jora, Sat Pal Sharma, Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen, M Y Tarigami, Mohammad Akbar Lone, Choudhary Sukhmandan Kumar, Raja Manzoor Ahmad, Asgar Ali Karbala, Mubarak Gul, Kuldeep Raj, Vikar Rasool, Ravinder Raina and Deldan Namgyal.

Governor, First...

Central Armed Police Forces Officers and other dignitaries, and the citizenry of Jammu, Scintillating pipe drum and brass bands of the Army, BSF and J&K Police, on the Slow and Quick March, played enchanting tunes and received appreciative applause from the audience. The tunes played by the Brass Bands included Mahroon Silver and Gold, SCIPPIO, Veer-Sepoy, Vijay Bharat, Kadam Kadam Badaye Jaa and Sare Jahan Se Achha; and in the Pipe Band show, the smartly turned out contingents presented India Gate, Deshrot Ka Sartaj Bharat, Naurange, The Hundred Pipers, Loudon's Bonnie Woods and Braes, The Pipers of Drummond and Lahure Ko Ralimai.

The Governor gave away prizes to various Brass Band Pipes and Drum contingents for their outstanding display on the occasion. He also presented awards to Lord Shiv Day Baring School Ghou-Masana (girls), Govt. SRM, Higher Secondary School Jammu, (Boys) for the best march-past. Carmel Convent Kunjwani (Girls) and Sainik School Manasbal (Boys) for the best band contingent, Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School Canal Road, Jammu for the best cultural item and the "Save Water Save Water, Judicious Use of Water and Rain Water Harvesting", by Executive Director, CCDD, Department of PHE, Irrigation and Flood Control, Jammu for best tableaux at the State level Republic Day celebrations held at M. A. Stadium on 26th January 2018. The spectacular fireworks added colour at the closure of the Beating Retreat ceremony. The function concluded with Sare Jahan Se Achha Hindustan Hamara and National Anthem.

S Jaishankar...

expert on China, had played a key role in negotiations to resolve the 73-day-long Doklam standoff between Indian and Chinese armies last year.

He was India's Ambassador to China from January 20, 2016, to October 21, 2017, before moving back to the MEA headquarters here.

Gokhale will have a two-year tenure as the foreign secretary. He has also served as India's top envoy to Germany between October 2013 and January 2016. He has worked in Indian missions in Hong Kong, Hanoi and in New York.

He has held the posts of director (China and East Asia) and then joint secretary (East Asia) in the MEA.

Earlier this month, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the appointment of Gokhale to the post of foreign secretary. Jaishankar was appointed foreign secretary in January 2015, for two years, just a few days before his retirement, replacing Sujata Singh, whose term was abruptly curtailed by the government. A 1977-batch IFS officer, Jaishankar was given a one-year extension in January last year.

Police files...

"The man accused in the instant case - Abu Ismail was killed in an encounter at Arigan, Nowgam, Srinagar on September 14, 2017, and Yawar Bashir, Maaviya and Farqan were killed in an encounter at Qazigund on December 12, 2017," he said.

He said accused Khalid Muzafar Dar, Tanveer Ahmad Dar and Sarjeel Ahmad Sheikh are absconding. "The accused persons in the case, Aijaz, Bilal and Zahoor were

arrested and are presently in the judicial custody," he said.

Further, he said during the course of investigation, one of the accused person name withfield (juvenile) was also arrested and is presently on bail. "After obtaining sanction of the Government in the case, a chargesheet has been filed in the court against the accused persons. Further investigation going on," he added.

Life returns...

business establishments reopened and traffic was plying normally in this and other north Kashmir town and teshil headquarters, a report from Baramulla said.

Reports of normalcy were also received from central Kashmir districts of Budgam and Ganderbal. Barring Shopian and Pulwama, life also returned to normal in this and other south Kashmir towns and teshil headquarters, barring Shopian, a report from Anantnag said.

Business and other activities resumed this morning and traffic was plying on all routes normally in south Kashmir, where government offices and banks were also functioning normally.

Night temperature...

He said skies will be generally cloudy during the next 24 hours in Leh, where maximum and minimum temperatures will be around 2 degree and minus 11 degree, respectively. People in the summer capital, Srinagar witnessed major improvement in the night temperature, which surged and settled at minus 1.6 degree, against minus 4.8 degree recorded on Sunday. But, the night temperature was still slightly below normal. The maximum temperature in Srinagar recorded on Sunday was about 5 degree above normal due to sunshine.

The mercury at world famous ski resort of Gulmarg, about 55 km from here in north Kashmir, improved 3 degree from Sunday and settled at minus 5.6 degree, 2 degree above normal.

World famous health resort of Pahalgam, about 100 km from here in south Kashmir, also witnessed an improvement in the night temperature, which settled about 4 degree above normal. Against minus 5.6 degree recorded on Sunday, the night temperature at the health resort was minus 2.3 degree.

The night temperature at Qazigund, gateway to the valley and Kupwara in north Kashmir improved and settled at minus 3.8 degree and minus 3.4 degree, respectively.

Train service...

The incident and police has registered a case. All trains remained suspended for security reasons in south Kashmir, a senior railway official told UNI this morning. He said a fresh advisory was received from police last night to suspend train service in south Kashmir for security reasons. However, the advisory said to resume train service in north Kashmir, he said. We are acting on the advice of police and local administration, he said adding train service was resumed only yesterday after remaining suspended on Friday for similar reasons.

He said therefore no train will chug on Badgam-Srinagar to Anantnag-Qazigund in south Kashmir and Banihal in Jammu region. This was the eighth time, train service remained suspended in south Kashmir during this month.

However, train will run on Srinagar-Badgam to Baramulla in north Kashmir, he said adding this was the second time train service was suspended yesterday in north Kashmir in January this year.

Train service in the Kashmir valley has become very popular which is being considered very cheap, safe and fast against other mode of transport service available to people. Last year train service was fully or partially suspended for more than 50 times in the valley for security reasons.

Court rejects...

Moreover, the accused has allegedly acted in a manner which has caused mental agony to the complainant as well as other people who paid their hard earned money to the accused for getting employment for their wards. Keeping in view aforesaid discussion and for reasons that recoveries are yet to be affected and co-accused are yet to be arrested, therefore accused applicant does not deserve concession of bail at this stage. As such, the bail application is rejected.

Only 1 guest...

their stay houses, they added. The inter cross-LoC bus service was one of the major Confidence Building (CBM) taken by India and Pakistan after both the countries agreed for a ceasefire on LoC and International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir in 2003.

The peace bus service has been operating despite repeated attempts being made by militants to sneak into this side from PoK before the higher reaches close due to snowfall for winter months. The bus has since helped thousands of divided families to meet each other.

However, only state subjects from both the sides, are eligible to travel in the bus after their names are cleared by intelligence agencies from both sides.

3rd PSA...

ITdA chief has already filed at case against government in a Bandipora court seeking a compensation of Rs 10 crore for his illegal detention from time to time.

HC directives...

also seeking direction to respondents to strictly adhere to population record of census 2011 in conferring the benefits of reservation as per the provisions of J&K Panchayati Raj Act by reserving Ward No.1, 5, 7 & 9 for residents of ST Category, consequently accord reservation in favour of the ST category so far as the Panch Constituencies/ Ward No.1, 5, 7 & 9 is concerned.

Justice Alok Aradhe of J&K High Court Jammu Wing today after hearing Sr. At. Adv. C. Raina for the petitioners directed that in case the petitioners submit a representation to the respondent No.2- Director, Rural Development Department, Jammu, he shall decide the same within one week from the date of receipt of such a representation and pass a speaking order after affording an opportunity of hearing to the petitioners. Till this representation is decided, no further action in pursuance of the Notification dated 11.01.2018 shall be taken. Needless to state that in case the decision to be taken by the respondent No.2 goes against the petitioners, the petitioners would be at liberty to approach this Court.

HELPLINE

POLICE STATIONS	
Bagh-e-Bahu	2459777
Bakshi Nagar	2580102
Bus Stand	2575151
City	2543688
Gandhi Nagar	2430528
Gangyal	2482019
Nowbad	2571332
Pacca Danga	2548610
Railway Station	2472870
Sainik Colony	2462212
Satwari	2430364
Chanani Himmat	2465164
Transport Nagar	2475444
Trikuta Nagar	2475133
Gandhi Nagar	2459660
SSP City	2561578
SP City North	2547038
SP South	2433778
Public Utility Services	
INDIAN AIR LINES	
City Office	2542735
Air Port	2430449
Jet Air Ways	2453999
City Office	2573399
RAILWAYS	
Railway Enquiry	131, 132, 2476407
Booking	2470318
Reservation	2470315
Public Health Engineering Stations	
Bakshi Nagar	2543557
Gandhi Nagar	2430786
Company Bagh	2542582
New Plot	2573429
Panjitri	2547537
Telecommunication Department	
Directory Enquiry	197
Fault Repair	198
Trunk Booking	180
Billing Complaint	2543896
JAMMU MUNICIPALITY	
Jn. Lines	2578503
Administration Officer	2542192
Health Officer	2547440
POSTAL SERVICES	
Head Post Office City	2543606
Gandhi Nagar	2435863
FIRE SERVICES	
Control Room	101,132, 2476407
City	2544263
Gandhi Nagar	2457705
Canal	2554064
Gangyal	2480026
COOKING GAS DEALERS	
Chenab Gas	2547633
Gulmour Gas	2430835
JAKFED	2548297
HP Gas	2578456
Shivangi Gas	2577020
Tawi Gas	2548455
POWER HOUSES	
Gandhi Nagar	2430180
Canal Road	2545147
Janipur	2533828
Nanak Nagar	2430776
Parade	2542289
Satwari Cantt.	2542813
HOSPITALS	
GMC Hospital	2584290
S.M.G.S. Hospital	2547635
C.D. Hospital	2577064
Dental Hospital	2544670
Gandhi Nagar Hospital	2430041
Sarwal Hospital	2579402
G.B. Pant Cantt. Hospital	2433500
Ayurvedic College	2543661
C.R.P. Hospital	2591105
Acharya Shri Chander	2662536
Mental Hospital	2577444
Swami Vivekanand	2547418
Blood Bank	2547637
Ambulances	2584225, 2575364
Ambulances (Red Cross)	2543739
NURSING HOMES	
Maddan Hospital	2456727
Medicare	2435070
Triveni Nursing Home	2542664
Suvidha Nursing Home	2559625
Al. Firdous Nursing Home	2545500
Astha Nursing Home	2576707
Bee Enn Charitable Trust	2505310
Chopra Nursing Home	2573580
Harbans Singh Mem Hsp.	2541952
Jeevan Jyoti	2576985
Yudhvir Nursing Home	2547821
Medialid Nursing Home	2466744
Sita Nursing Home	2435007
Vibhuti Nursing Home	2547969
Rameshwar Nursing Home	2580601
Bee Enn Charitable	2555631
Maharishi Dayanand	2545225

Kids Planet Akhnoor donates for old age home
AKHNOOR, JANUARY 29: Senior citizens play a vital role in our society, no matter whether they live to our family or not. It's a matter of pride to seek the blessings of old people.

Kids Planet Public School Akhnoor in collaboration with HelpAge India donates for Old Age Home Akhnoor. Kids Planet inculcates these values among the students. Every year students have an interaction programme with the people of old age home. Students spend time with them and entertain them with their talents. It has been asked to them for their requirements and accordingly the school tries its best to fulfill them.

This year school has decided to donate 10 Racks, Admirals and Beds worth Rs 25,000/- to old age home Akhnoor. Chairperson Mr. Rohit Gupta along with Principal Mrs. Mona Gupta along with some students visited old age home Akhnoor and handed over the donated items to them.

English capacity building workshop by Pearson held at Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu

JAMMU, JAN. 29: As a tradition, we believe in giving plethora of experiences to our faculty wherein they get updated & more acknowledged about the recent trends in the teaching education field. With this intent, Jammu Sanskriti School in collaboration with Pearson has organised a workshop, the resource person Ms. Sapna Sukal well renowned personality, handling various workshops & teacher training program across the country.

She acquainted the teachers about the common errors, different interesting activities related to English, inclusive set up & IT, sustainable goals on which every school should work to eradicate the obstacles & make the world a better place.

She sensitized everybody how to integrate learning & work with a 'Growth Mindset' & as a teacher we need to energise ourselves first so as to develop learning enthusiasm among our children. All together it was eye opening & enriching experience which ignited the spark among teachers.

Divisional admin issues avalanche warning

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 29: Divisional Administration Kashmir Monday issued an avalanche warning for next 24-hours for hilly and avalanche prone areas of Kashmir Valley and Ladakh region. "Avalanche warning valid for next 24-hours from January 29 to January 30, 2018, exists for avalanche prone slopes of Kupwara, Bandipora, Baramulla, Anantnag, Kulgam, Budgam, Ganderbal, Kargil and Leh districts of Kashmir Division," a statement of the Divisional Administration said. Accordingly, all concerned Deputy Commissioners have been asked to take precautionary measures in their respective districts and advise people not to venture in avalanche prone areas during the aforementioned period and monitor the situation regularly to avert any untoward incident.

Lok Adalat in Bandipora on Feb 10

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 29: According to Secretary District Legal Services Authority Bandipora, a National Lok Adalat is being held in the district on February 10. Matters relating to the criminal compoundable offence, family disputes MACT cases, compensation cases, cases underpayment of wages Act, property disputes, labour disputes and NI Act shall be taken up in the said Lok Adalat.

Interested litigants who want to get their cases settled through the Lok Adalat have been asked to approach court authorities before the fixed date of the Lok Adalat.

Bakers, meat sellers asked to stick to regulations

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 29: Assistant Commissioner Food Safety Srinagar today asked the bakers, meat and chicken sellers to strictly adhere to set regulations and maintain good sanitary and hygienic conditions.

Bakers were advised to use sieve/hang for separating any foreign substances from atta or maida, restrict entry of rodents into their premises, install running water connections and use only stainless steel utensils. Whereas, butchers and chicken sellers were asked not to expose parts of meat to dust, smoke and flies. Use corrosion free knives, balance and other utensils. Install running water connections and put in place floor tiling and wall tiling up to at least 6 feet of walls.

"Wooden chopping boards should be free from cracks and crevices harbouring unsafe microbes detrimental to health." All food business operators have been asked to adhere to the norms within a period of 15 days. Assistant Commissioner Food Safety Srinagar said that any food business operator found deficient in any of the aforementioned requirements, shall be booked under relevant provisions of Food Standard and Safety Act.

DDC Anantnag chairs BOCA meet

ANANTNAG, JANUARY 29: The District Development Commissioner Anantnag, Mohammad Younis Malik chaired a meeting of Building Operations and Controlling Authority (BOCA) here at Pahalgam today. The purpose of the meeting was to consider granting of permission for repair and renovation of residential buildings within the jurisdiction of Pahalgam Development Authority (PDA) keeping in view the master plan of the PDA. After threadbare discussions, the meeting considered permission of 7 cases which were residential in nature. The permission was granted for repair and renovation subject to the production of NOCs.

Earlier, the DDC visited the places in order to check any violation of Pahalgam Development Authority master plan.

The meeting, among others, was attended by CEO PDA, Mushtaq Ahmad Sinnani who is the Member Secretary of the Committee, SE R&B, DFO, LIDDER Division, Tehsil-dars of Pahalgam and Sallar, Executive Officer, MC Pahalgam and other members of the Committee.

BSP demands special concession for Youths and Children's who are always disturbed due to Pak Firing

JAMMU, JAN. 29: Bahujan Samaj Party on Monday demanded Certificates for Border Migrants like Border Certificates who risk their life every moment while at their houses along IB and LoC in Jammu and Kashmir. While addressing Media at Press Club, Som Raj Majotra, President, Bahujan Samaj Party, Jammu said that Government is non-serious about the sufferings of Border Migrants and is only making political benefits out of it. He further said that if demands are not met in due time, BSP will launch a statewide agitation against State Government for rights of



these Border Migrants.

He further said that Party will contest upcoming Panchayat election for the betterment of Democratic Setup of the Country especially Jammu and Kashmir. He appealed

masses to extend their support to BSP Candidates.

While criticizing State Government, Majotra alleged that Surveys which are being done for identification of deserving

poors have never been conducted properly and the benefits of centre/state schemes are not reaching to deserving poor. He said that this was even brought in notice of Honorable Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti during

her Kathua visit but no action has been taken in this regard.

He also said that Social Security Scheme benefits like Widow and old age pensions and financial assistance schemes have not been allocated since

the coalition government taken over in the State.

Majotra also said that Old Age pension which State Government consider as one of its biggest achievements is nowhere on ground. He said that New enrollment for Old Age pension scheme has not been done for the last four years and Government has failed to take cognizance of this.

Along with Som Raj Majotra, State President BSP, Chairman Joint Vice-President, Jagdish Verma, R K Thappa, Ashok Bhagat, Pritam Chand, Badri Nath, Lakhbir Singh, Pawan Kundal, Varinder Bhagat, Sardar Raja Singh, Giridhari Lal and Hari Chand Thappa were also present during Press Conference.

Pakistan sponsored terrorism against many odds to restore peace, normalcy in J&K: Harinder

JAMMU, JAN. 29: State BJP spokesperson Prof. Virender Gupta while reacting to Shopian incident said that nothing should be done that demoralizes the forces who are fighting the Pakistan sponsored terrorism in the valley against many odds to restore peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir state and save the integrity of the nation. He said that the Indian army is considered as one of the most disciplined force in the world which played its unique role throughout the world on the UNO call.

Spokesperson added that the circumstances that were created by the stone pelters in Shopian while subjecting

army convoy to heavy pelting, hurting JCO and others and damaging its vehicles, left no other option for the army personnel to resort to firing in self defence. He said that it is unfortunate and disgusting that FIR has been lodged against a major and other personnel of 10 Garhwal unit on the charge of murder and attempt to murder by the state government in the Shopian incident whereas no FIR was lodged or enquiry ordered against the stone pelters.

Prof. Virender asked what business the so-called innocent mob had to attack the army convoy with stones and damage its vehicles. He said that the forces are facing great resistance from the people

SMVD Narayana Superspeciality hospital successfully treats skin cancers using radiation therapy

JAMMU, JAN. 29: Concerned by the rapid rise in the number of cancer patients in the state of Jammu and Kashmir - skin cancer being highly prevalent among other cancers including lung, stomach, ovarian and colon cancers - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital (SMVDNSH) has been providing treatment for skin cancer through its high precision radiation therapy.

As per international guidelines radiation therapy has been found to be highly effective in curing small basal or squamous cell skin cancers and have been, in fact, seen to delay the growth of more advanced cancers.

SMVDNSH treats several skin cancers using this radiation therapy through its exclusive facility meant for the same purpose. Skin can-

cer does not only refer to cancers that are on the skin, but also tumors like that of face, eyes and ear lobes. Dr. Vikas Koshan, a noted radiation oncologist of Jammu looks after this radiation therapy facility at SMVDNSH.

Dr. Vikas Koshan said, "Radiation treatment for skin cancer is a noninvasive therapy. The cancer cells are targeted by means of a beam of electrons called electron beam radiation. Since the beam doesn't go any deeper than skin, the side effects of the beam to other organs in the body are drastically limited. SMVDNSH provides radiation therapy with a state-of-the-art LINAC (Linear Accelerator).

The high-end treatment ensures that it destroy the cancer cells while sparing the surrounding normal tissue, thus improving patients

quality of outcomes. SMVDNSH is also setting up PET scan in next two months which will then make this unit a comprehensive cancer care hospital."

To provide a comprehensive care for the patients suffering from skin cancer and other skin related diseases SMVDNSH is backed up with department of dermatology, where early detection of same can be done with latest equipment's and world class diagnostic services also follow-up treatment and cosmetic reconstruction is available under one roof. The team at SMVDNSH have been working tirelessly to treat skin cancer patients that drop in from various parts of the region. The facility provides state-of-the-art treatment for cancer, helps prevent its spread and improves quality of life by relieving pain and other associated symptoms.

Vibodh honours International fencer Vansh Mahajan

VIBODH APPEALED TO YOUTH TO REFRAIN FROM DRUGS AND CHANNELISE THEIR ENERGY FOR CONSTRUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

JAMMU, JAN. 29: Today shri kailash jyotish avim vedic sansthan trust organised a program to honour Mr. Vansh Mahajan, the youngest fencer of j&k and he get rewarded from the chief guest, Member of legislative council I(MLC) Vibodh Gupta, at that moment many dignitaries were also present there to honor Vansh mahajan.

On occasion trust president Mahant Rohit shastri said, he get so many laurels for the state as Vansh mahajan, the youngest fencer in such age group he touches the heights of loerals not only in national level but also in an international level.



As Mahant Rohit shastri said, our trust honoree Vansh mahajan for getting sher-e- Kashmir

award which was announced by j&k govt on 26 Jan 2018 and in this moment chief guest,

MLC Vibodh Gupta said youth of J&k get motivations from him to get laurels for state as well

as for their family. He wished Vansh good luck in his future endeavours as well and hoped that more and more youth of our state will follow the passion which Vansh has for sports. He termed sports as good option for youth to improve their personality. He asked the youth to channelize their energies in a right direction rather than falling prey to drugs and other social evils which will take them towards self destruction.

He stressed upon parents and teachers to imbibe liking for sports among the youth so that they can grow into physically and mentally strong citizens and contribute in the develop-

ment of state and the nation. He also advised the local youth to actively participate in sports, adding that such activities would keep them physically and mentally fit.

He called upon the youth and students to follow the Khelo India mission of Hon'ble PM Sh. Narinder Modi as sports are necessary not only as a profession but also it is rightly said that there is a sound mind in a sound body.

Other who present included were Dr. Chander Mouli Raina, Goutam Shastri, Rajesh Sharma, Pt. Deepak Shastri, Ranjeet Tara, Sanjay Sharma and other.

Ziox Mobiles extends its product portfolio with the addition of the newest smartphone Astra Star priced at Rs. 5,899/-

5-INCH FWVGA DISPLAY WITH 2.5D CURVED GLASS, DUAL SIM MICRO + MICRO, 2350 LONG LASTING LI-ION BATTERY, 1GB RAM + 16GB ROM

JAMMU, JAN. 29: Ziox Mobiles, under the aegis of Sun Airvoice Pvt. Ltd. one of the fastest growing mobile handset brands in the country, rolls out the smartphone which instantly adds a point to your style quotient, 'Astra Star' with bigger screen, brighter display and super connectivity packed in one.

With the large FWVGA Bright display of 5-inches and 2.5D Curved glass turn each inch of your screen to reality. Watch movies, play games or relive your memories in the phone's amazing gallery, enjoy every single moment uninterrupted.

With the large FWVGA Bright display of 5-inches and 2.5D Curved glass turn each inch of your screen to reality. Watch movies, play games or relive your memories in the phone's amazing gallery, enjoy every single moment uninterrupted. With the large FWVGA Bright display of 5-inches and 2.5D Curved glass turn each inch of your screen to reality. Watch movies, play games or relive your memories in the phone's amazing gallery, enjoy every single moment uninterrupted.



7.0 Nougat, richly unparalleled experience teamed up with large storage space of 16GB ROM which is expandable upto 32GB to store all your data.

Housed in 2350mAh Li-ion Battery lets the phone to work at its optimum capacity. This newest phone allows you to share your internet thanks to the Hotspot facility. Also, the

Wi-Fi technology allows you to connect to high-speed data internet connections. So now explore the things around you and stay connected to all the elements of the world.

The Dual Sim, Ziox Astra Star portrays your life easier with new destinations with its inbuilt 21 Indian language support. In sync with its predecessors, the phone stands out of the crowd because of its starting camera quality of 5MP to the back and 2MP to the front; which captures every picture, life-like and vibrant. The sharp focus with flash on both the turns of this sleek phone makes every capture astoundingly attractive.

Sharing his outlook, CEO-Ziox Mobiles, Mr. Deepak Kabu says, "Bringing high-

end and front-line technology in our smartphones at affordable prices defines our signature Astra range of Smartphones. We are thrilled with 'Astra Star' which will power pack the best of features, with optimum performance, the rising star of smartphones."

Supported with 4G VoLTE, enjoy voice call facility over the 4G network and not just voice-calling but the superfast 4G network allows the users to experience high-speed browsing, downloading and streaming, its high-on wow factor. Loaded with enhanced processor and operating systems, this phone is already available in the leading retail stores across India.

Let us know if you need anything else!

Leaders of PDP Kissan Wing visit Bishnah

Interacts with members of farmer community

JAMMU, JAN. 29: To look into the issues of farmers, State President, PDP Kissan Wing, Sat Pal Singh Charak and District President, KK Sharma today visited at Bishnah and interacted with the members of the area.

Both the leaders listened to the grievances of farmer community and assured that their issue should be sorted out with the intervention of the concerned minister.

"We also assured the people that if need arises then their issues would also be raised with the CM Mehbooba Mufti, as she is very concerned about the issues of farmer community," said Satpal Singh Charak, State President, PDP Kissan Wing.

Speaking on the occasion, KK Sharma, District President, PDP Kissan Wing, said that the farmer community is struggling badly and it is their duty to listen and address their grievances. In this regard we today visited the area and listened to the grievances. "The main motive behind our visit was to meet the party workers and to discuss the forthcoming panchayati elections, and the contestants. Such more meeting should be organized at various levels in which the grievances of every community should be addressed and will be raised with the concerned ministers," said KK Sharma. They further urged upon the people to come forward and raise their issues, which they are facing.

Arun Jaitley's last full Budget to be different this year

NEW DELHI: The Union Budget for 2018-19 is scheduled to be presented on February 1. It is a significant event because it is the last full budget ahead of the 2019 general election.

The last full Budget to be presented by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in the forthcoming session of Parliament beginning on Monday will be unlike his previous four such exercises because of the complete overhaul of the indirect tax regime effected by implementing the Goods and Services Tax (GST) last year.

The Budget usually has two main components - the first part deals with new schemes and outlays for various existing schemes and sectors for the coming fiscal, while the second contains announcements on direct and indirect taxes.

With GST realising the



dreams of the pre-independence nationalist bourgeoisie of a unified market through a single tax regime, replacing the earlier system of multiple central and state taxes, this year's budget will take into account only those items like petroleum products that still remain outside the

purview of GST. The 2018-19 Budget could thus contain changes in customs and excise duties on these remaining products, which for most others have been subsumed under GST. In light of the election and amid ongoing farm distress, there are concerns of an overly populist budget. "In our view, the government will present a 'good' budget one that attests to the rural distress and 'common man' issues without jeopardising fiscal consolidation," a Nomura report had said. In the area of direct taxes like income tax and corporate tax, Jaitley hinted at

some relief for taxpayers as he made a case for rationalisation of the direct tax structure considering the fact that "the tax base has expanded". With the general elections due in 2019, the government will present next year, instead of a full Budget, a vote-on-account, which only deals with the expenditure. Besides, new schemes and changes to taxation are not presented in a vote-on-account.

Moreover, with major states bound for polls this year, observers expect the budget to be weighed in favour of the farm sector at a time when data shows a dip in agriculture growth and the sector under stress.

The government is expected to continue its fiscal consolidation at a slower pace in the ensuing budget with a fiscal deficit target of 3.2 percent of GDP for 2018-19.

Supreme Court asks Subramanian Swamy to prove maintainability of SIT probe plea in Sunanda Pushkar case



NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has directed BJP leader Subramanian Swamy to argue the maintainability of his petition, news agency ANI has reported. The SC bench was hearing Swamy's petition pressing for an SIT probe into death of Sunanda Pushkar.

The Supreme Court bench of Justices Amitava Roy and Arun Mishra posted the matter for further

hearing in three weeks. Swamy had gone to the Supreme Court against an order of the Delhi High Court that dismissed his plea for the Special Investigation Team probe into the case. The Delhi HC, while passing its orders had censured Swamy, saying his plea was a textbook case of 'political interest litigation'. The court's scathing observation had come after

the Central government and Delhi Police told the court that they disagreed with Swamy's allegation that the probe in the case has been influenced by Shashi Tharoor, former Union Minister and Pushkar's husband.

The court had also observed that Swamy appeared to have concealed data or information which he should have disclosed earlier.

Congress insulted 'poor Indians': BJP on Chidambaram's pakoda jibe

NEW DELHI: The Congress has insulted 'poor Indians', the BJP has said, in response to former Finance Minister P Chidambaram's jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for saying a selling 'pakodas' should be considered employment.

"Prime Minister Modi respects poor people who work hard to earn their livelihood. Congress and P Chidambaram make fun of them," said Union Minister Prakash Javadekar, returning the barb. He further said the Congress only treated poor people as a 'voting bloc', and claimed that the BJP was focussed on generating employment for them.

Chidambaram's comment on the matter had come as part a storm of



about 12 tweets arguing that there is a difference between 'employment' and 'self-employment'. "Even selling pakodas is a 'job' said PM. By that logic, even begging is a job. Let's count poor or disabled persons who are forced to beg for a living as 'employed' people."

Chidambaram's jibe had come after PM Modi, in an interview with Zee Media, said, "If someone is selling pakodas and making 200 rupees a day, does he not have a livelihood? Do you not consider that employment?"

Chidambaram's tweet storm accompanied a column he had written for a newspaper, which was a

takedown of a news report which carried the government's claim of having created 70 lakh jobs in 2017-18 alone. "In the debate on jobs, it is important to keep the distinction between 'job' and 'self employment'. A 'job' is certain, regular and reasonably secure. We want to know how many such jobs have been created," read one of his tweets.

In the debate on jobs, it is important to keep the distinction between 'job' and 'self employment'. A 'job' is certain, regular and reasonably secure. We want to know how many such jobs have been created.

Hours later, he softened his language, saying while selling pakodas can be considered 'honourable self-employment', it cannot be counted as a job.

Why it's possible to cut petrol, diesel prices in India

NEW DELHI: India's daily consumption of crude oil is 45 million barrels (1 barrel about 159 litres), the third highest globally. Only the US and China consume more than us. We however have way smaller domestic oil reserves and are dependent on imports for about 80% of our total oil consumption.

The government got involved in regulating oil prices from 1948, and decided that international prices alone could not be the determinant as indigenous production and refining capacity was increasing. From the 70s to the early 2000s, the oil prices committee recommended an administered pricing mechanism based on domestic cost of production. In 2010, petrol prices were

deregulated, while diesel was freed up in 2014. The government got involved in regulating oil prices from 1948, and decided that international prices alone could not be the determinant as indigenous production and refining capacity was increasing. From the 70s to the early 2000s, the oil prices committee recommended an administered pricing mechanism based on domestic cost of production. In 2010, petrol prices were



the oil prices committee recommended an administered pricing mechanism based on domestic cost of production. In 2010, petrol prices were deregulated, while diesel was freed up in 2014.

Data for the past four years shows both Centre and states make large sums from petroleum

products. For instance, in 2013-14, the Centre collected Rs 1.1 lakh crore as taxes from petroleum of which Rs 0.8 lakh crore was spent in payouts including subsidies. This translated into a net gain of Rs 0.3 lakh crore for the Centre. This gain increased to Rs 2.5 lakh crore in 2016-17.

its success rate in litigation is low and declining. The survey, tabled by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, said that 2017-18, will grow on the back of major reforms which would be strengthened further in the next financial year.

"A series of major reforms undertaken over the past year will allow real GDP growth to reach 6.75 percent this fiscal and will rise to 7 to 7.5 percent in 2018-19, thereby re-instating India as the world's fastest growing major economy," said the Economic Survey.

Gross Value Added (GVA) is expected to grow by 6.1 percent in 2017-18 as compared to 6.6 percent in 2016-17. Economy accelerated in second half of current fiscal due to GST, bank recapitalisation, liberalisation of FDI and higher exports.

The survey points out that India can be rated as among the best performing economies in the world as the average growth during last three years is around 4 percentage points higher than global growth and nearly 3 percentage points higher than that of emerging market and developing economies.

Economic Survey 2017-18: 5 new facts on Indian economy

The Narendra Modi government on Monday tabled in Parliament, the Economic Survey 2018, which has pegged 2018-19 GDP growth at 7-7.5 per cent. The Economic Survey further raised concerns on high oil prices.

However, the government also used the opportunity to highlight some new facts on the Indian Economy. For instance, the government highlighted that there has been huge increase in registered indirect and direct taxpayers, and that the correlation is stronger between prosperity of a state and international

trade. Here are 5 new facts on Indian economy released by the government:

1. There has been a large increase in registered indirect and direct taxpayers:

According to the data released by government, the implementation of Goods and Services Tax has been a boon for tax collection. There has been 50 per cent increase in unique indirect taxpayers under the GST compared with the pre-GST system.

2. Formal non-agricultural payroll is much greater than believed: This talks about non-

agricultural payroll in connection with social security and GST implementation.

3. States' prosperity is correlated with their international and inter-state trade:

Data released by the government suggests that states that export more and indulge in more trade with other states get richer.

4. India's firm export structure is substantially more egalitarian than in other large countries:

The government has also made an attempt to drive across a point that the business environment in India is based on the principle of



equality. It says that top 1 per cent of Indian firms account for just 38 per cent of exports, which is relatively high in other countries.

5. There is substantial avoidable litigation in the tax arena which government action could reduce. The data released by

Economic Survey also enshrines some steps that the government needs to take. The tax department's petition rate is high, even though

Techie dies after falling off Chennai airport flyover

CHENNAI: A 32-year-old techie, who hailed from Andhra Pradesh and employed at an IT company in Bengaluru, died after falling off a flyover at Chennai airport around 6.30am on Monday.

Witnesses told police that Chaitanya had been sitting on the railing of the flyover and had fallen off from there. Footages from the CCTV cameras showed that the man was either trying to take a selfie or talking to someone sitting on the railing. The flyover is used for dropping passengers at the domestic and international departure terminals.

Police were checking if it was a case of suicide or an



accidental fall from the flyover. Police said Chaitanya had suffered multiple fractures on his skull.

Police recovered an identity card from him and contacted his father, Janardhana Rao. "Rao and his family members are rushing to Chennai from Vijayawada. We don't know why Chaitanya came to Chennai."

the fall from 10-foot high flyover," a police officer said.

"Get the warrant from the court registry," the judge said to the police personnel present in the court.

This apart, the court also ordered seizure of a cellphone used by one of the disciples of the godman, who was found passing messages about the pro-

Madras HC orders arrest of self-styled godman Nithyananda

CHENNAI: The Madras high court on Monday directed the jurisdictional police to arrest self-styled godman Nithyananda and produce him before the court on Wednesday. Justice R Mahadevan passed the interim order as the godman had made misleading and false statements in the court and failed to rectify them even after repeated warnings.

"He is not above all, only law prevails over anything in this court," said an infuriated Justice Mahadevan.

"Get the warrant from the court registry," the judge said to the police personnel present in the court.

This apart, the court also ordered seizure of a cellphone used by one of the disciples of the godman, who was found passing messages about the pro-



ceedings from the court.

"Who permitted you to record court proceedings? To whom were you sending message about the proceedings? Don't think that this court is a playground. I will see that your ashram is vanishes. Hundreds of complaints are pending against the ashram," Justice

Mahadevan said. The judge then directed police to secure the person and verify whether he had passed any information about the proceedings or recorded. The cellphone used by the disciple was directed to be kept in the custody of the court registry until further orders.

The issue pertains to a plea moved by M Jagathalpradhapan of Madurai seeking a direction to the government to take suitable and appropriate action against Nithyananda and protect the Madurai mutt. He also wanted the court to permanently

prevent the godman from interfering in the affairs of the mutt. In December 2017, the court passed interim orders restraining the godman and his disciples from entering the Madurai Aadheenam till further orders.

Noting that he would suo motu initiate criminal contempt against Nithyananda, the court posted the plea to Wednesday for further hearing.

the issue pertains to a plea moved by M Jagathalpradhapan of Madurai seeking a direction to the government to take suitable and appropriate action against Nithyananda and protect the Madurai mutt. He also wanted the court to permanently

prevent the godman from interfering in the affairs of the mutt. In December 2017, the court passed interim orders restraining the godman and his disciples from entering the Madurai Aadheenam till further orders.

Noting that he would suo motu initiate criminal contempt against Nithyananda, the court posted the plea to Wednesday for further hearing.

Budget Session 2018-19 - LC Proceedings - Demand for Grants
HOUSE PASSES GRANTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE, ARI & TRAININGS DEPTTS

Concerted efforts on for social inclusion, empowerment of marginalized: Sajad

Rs 113.79 cr disbursed to 5.73 lakh pensioners, 1.91 lakh students provided scholarships, 7.62 lakh beneficiaries covered under ICDS, 5000 beneficiaries covered under SMSA

JAMMU, JANUARY 29: Minister for Social Welfare and ARI & Trainings Sajad Gani Lone today said that as part of the efforts to establish a comprehensive and responsive social welfare program in the state, various proposals have been formulated for amelioration of underprivileged and downtrodden, backward and vulnerable sections of the society.

The Minister was replying on Demand for Grants of the departments under his charge in the Legislative Assembly, today.

"Several proposals have been formulated to ensure social inclusion, empowerment of marginalized sections by way of stimulating the potential of these people," he said adding that adequate measures are in place besides being constantly upgraded to ensure that benefits of welfare schemes reach

genuine beneficiaries. Elaborating on various schemes under the ambit of the department, the Minister informed the house that under the pension schemes NSAP and ISS, Rs 113.79 crore has been disbursed among 5.73 Lakh beneficiaries of the State, during current fiscal up to ending December, 2017.

Sajad said that education is paramount for development of any society and therefore several schemes are under implementation in the State to promote education among the students of weaker sections like SCs, OBCs & Physically Challenged Persons, DNTs and EBCs. He said that under these schemes scholarships amounting Rs 26 crore has been provided to 1.91 lakh students during current fiscal.

The Minister informed that Integrated Child

Development Services (ICDS) is being systematically implemented in the state through its 28926 Anganwari Centres currently functional in the State. He informed about 10 lakh beneficiaries, comprising children from 6 months to 6 years of age, pregnant & lactating mothers and adolescent girls are being provided supplementary nutrition. Further, these Anganwadis are being repositioned as health and nutrition centres, semi-formal hospitals and centres of early childhood learning, he added.

He elaborated that during 2017-18 up to ending December, 7.62 lakh beneficiaries were covered under ICDS with funds amounting Rs 213 crore.

Under Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMVMY), the Minister said that registration of Adolescent Girls



scheme has been started w.e.f 20th January, 2018. Detailing the progress under implementation of the scheme, the Minister said that data compilation has been completed for 14 districts while the master data for 9 districts has been reported to MWC&D.

Under Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls

under the scheme SABLA, Rs 77.66 lakh have been utilized during 2017-18 up to ending December.

Under State Marriage Assistance Scheme (SMAS), the Minister said 5000 unmarried girls were provided financial assistance amounting Rs 20 lakh during 2017-18.

Further, he informed that State Rehabilitation Council for Militancy Victims is providing assistance to the affected victims under its various schemes, besides, this it has also undertaken various projects including Providing of Motorized Tricycles to the Handicapped People and 'Watan Ko Jano' Youth Exchange Programme.

"Under these schemes of State Rehabilitation Council, 7245 beneficiaries were covered, and an amount of Rs 4.80 crore was utilized during 2017-

18 up to ending December 2017", he added.

Elaborating on activities of the Women's Development Corporation, the Minister said that WDC is working consistently for upliftment of Socio-economic condition of women with a special focus on BPL families and for qualified women entrepreneurs by way of forming self help groups, finance for income generating activities and providing skill upgradation training, awareness camps. Rs 10.73 crore were utilized under Bank Tie-up & Direct Financing Schemes of WDC during 2017-18, upto ending December 2017, he added.

The Minister informed that a state sponsored scheme is in place under which Prosthetic Aids viz; artificial limbs, hearing aids, wheelchairs, were provided to 71 beneficiaries amounting to Rs 30.91

lakh during current fiscal up to ending December 2017.

Later, the House passed the grants of Social Welfare, ARI & Trainings Departments for the year 2018-19 amounting Rs 185346.57 lakh.

Several members participated in the discussion on the Demand for Grants including Javid Hassan Beigh, Mian Altaf Ahmad, Pawan Gupta, Deena Nath Bhagat, G M Saroori, Abdul Rahim Rather, Mohammad Akbar Lone, Rajesh Gupta, Aijaz Ahmad Khan, Bashir Ahmad Dar, Chowdhary Qamar Hussain, Ali Mohammad Sagar, Krishen Lal, Vikar Rasool, Shah Mohammad Tantray, Abdul Majid Larmi, Davinder Kumar Maniyal, Mohammad Ashraf Mir, Mohammad Amin, Syed Farooq Andrabi and Mubarak Gul.

BUDGET SESSION 2018-19 - LC PROCEEDINGS - DEMAND FOR GRANTS
House passes grants of Science & Technology Deptt

Efforts on to make renewal energy accessible for all: Sajad Lone

WORK ON 111.5 MW 13-SHP TO COMMENCE BY MARCH 2018; 4000 SOLAR HOME SYSTEMS PROVIDED TO 41 VILLAGES, 263 HAMLETS; 3000 SOLAR STREET LIGHTS INSTALLED

JAMMU, JANUARY 29: Minister for Science & Technology Department Sajad Ahmed Lone said that government's endeavour is to harness the potential of science and technology as an instrument of socio-economic change

and to shift dependence for our energy needs to renewable energy sources.

The department aims to, through its endeavors increase reach, use of renewable means by making it accessible, efficient so as to integrate its use in every household. For this, the department is working on multiple fronts viz, providing subsidized products consuming renewable energy including solar cooker, stoves, lamps, geyzers and promotion of these gadgets by way of creating awareness among people.

Winding up the discussion in the Legislative Assembly on Demand for Grants of the departments under his charge, the Minister said that Science and Technology department has two important

verticals, the Jammu & Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA) and Science & Technology Innovation Council (ST&IC) having separate mandates.

Listing major achievements in JAKEDA, the Minister informed the House that earlier the agency was mandated to execute hydel projects upto 2 MW only but with the government intervention, it is now enhanced from 2 MW to 10 MW for implementation in EPC & IPP mode.

With a view to provide more technical hands to JAKEDA and to make it a purely skilled manpower driven organization, organizational restructuring has been done in the year 2017, he said adding that the new structure which is relevant and robust shall be in place shortly.

The Minister further informed the House that department is in the process of creating Renewable Energy Corporation which would catalyze the development

of renewable energy resources besides providing easy access to capital which is the fundamental requirement for Project development.

Giving details of scheme wise achievements, the Minister said that Under Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP), an amount of Rs1000crores has been earmarked for development of SHP sector through JAKEDA. In phase-I, 13SHP potential sites having an aggregate capacity of 111.5 MW are being developed; work on phase-I projects is likely to commence by March 2018.

He said that for Mini Hydel Projects (upto 2 MW capacity), JAKEDA has prepared DPRs for 156 mini hydel power project sites envisaging cumulative capacity of 253 MW and has awarded 35 Mini Hydel Project (MHPs) sites having aggregate capacity of about 60 MW to Independent Power Producers (IPPs) for development. Out of these 35 sites

the work on five solar power plants in the

MHP sites is in progress.

Elaborating on the development of Solar Sector in the State, the Minister informed that JAKEDA has been allocated a collective target of 1150 MW of Solar Power by the MNRE, to be achieved by the end of year 2022.

He said that for Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Power, JAKEDA is offering a subsidy of 70% and 60% to set-up grid connected power plants for domestic/institutions and government building respectively. About 5 MW aggregate capacity is expected to be achieved during the current financial year.

He informed that the Department proposes to install about 50MWs Solar Rooftop on Government building during the next financial year for which the Finance Department has agreed to provide Beneficiary Share through a solar fund dedicated for the purpose.

He informed that in order to develop mega size solar power plants in the

state, JAKEDA is in the process of identifying parcels of land adding that meanwhile the agency is inviting tariff based bidding for development of the mega plant on land either identified by the department or by the developer as per the laws existing in the State.

Further, the Agency has installed Off-Grid SPSS of 125 kW capacity under Border Area Development Programme.

The Minister informed that JAKEDA has provided approximately 44000 nos. of Solar Home Systems under decentralized off-grid solar application programme of the MNRE to remote un-electrified 41 villages and 263 hamlets of the State and about 3000 Solar street Lights during the last two years. It is also promoting use of solar water heating systems and solar cookers and providing them on subsidized rates.

Further, the Department proposes to provide solar home lighting systems with 300w module to un-

electrified villages/hamlets of the State SOHB-HAYA scheme, which is funded by Ministry of Power through Rural Electrification Corporation, he added.

To promote the use of Bio Energy in the state, about 20,000 family Size Biomass Cook Stoves have been distributed in the remote villages and 65 Biogas Plants were set up by the Agency during the last two years in the Jammu province.

While informing the House about the achievements in Science Technology & Innovation Council (ST&IC), the Minister said that Rs 84.62 crore has been approved by the Ministry of S&I, GoI for establishment of 2 Industrial Biotechnology Parks to be established one each in Kashmir and Jammu.

"These 2 Biotechnology Projects will be fully established and made operational in 'Two Years' time period", he informed. For establishment of Sub-Regional Science

Centre, he informed that expert team from GoI has recommended site at Lalmandi in Srinagar and under the revised guidelines, a fresh DPR at a cost of Rs 30 crore has been submitted to the Ministry of Culture, GoI for approval. It is also proposed to establish Science Centre at Jammu as well for which land is being identified, he added.

The Minister said that during 2017, the department has launched an innovative project of Demonstration Farms of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in which 2 districts namely Kupwara and Kathua have been identified in Phase I.

Giving further details, he said that the project will be implemented in 3 years and demonstrate the benefits of biotechnology cultivation and thereby help in developing the culture of agro-entrepreneurship through the cultivation of the MAPS.

3 Distillation Plants have been established in the State for the processing

and value addition of the produce from these farms under the project and by the end of March 2018, 2000 kanals of land shall be brought under the cultivation of aromatic and medicinal plants.

Later, the House passed the grants of Science and Technology Departments, for the year 2018-19, amounting to Rs 79980.83 lakh which were moved by the Minister.

Several members participated in the discussion on the Demand for Grants including Javid Hassan Beigh, Mian Altaf Ahmad, Pawan Gupta, Deena Nath Bhagat, G M Saroori, Abdul Rahim Rather, Mohammad Akbar Lone, Rajesh Gupta, Aijaz Ahmad Khan, Bashir Ahmad Dar, Chowdhary Qamar Hussain, Ali Mohammad Sagar, Krishen Lal, Vikar Rasool, Shah Mohammad Tantray, Abdul Majid Larmi, Davinder Kumar Maniyal, Mohammad Ashraf Mir, Mohammad Amin, Syed Farooq Andrabi and Mubarak Gul.

Maha Shivratri

arrangements discussed

JAMMU, JANUARY 29: Additional Deputy Commissioner, Arun Manhas convened a meeting to discuss the arrangements for Maha Shivratri festival. The ADC directed the concerned officers to ensure that all necessary arrangements are put in place well in time for Shivratri. He stressed that there should be no shortage of essential commodities and amenities for the festival.

Health department was asked to provide ambulances to accompany the Jhankis/procession. PDD was asked to provide uninterrupted power supply while JMC was directed to ensure proper sanitation around temples likely to be thronged by the devotees.

Arrangements with regard to traffic, security, barricading and along the procession route were also reviewed. Concerned officers and representatives of various religious organizations attended the meeting.


Distt admin Reasi starts modalities for new bus stand

REASI, JANUARY 29: The district administration Reasi has taken over possession of more than 400 kanal of land and handed it over to Housing and Urban Development Department (H&UDD) for establishment of new bus stand.

Pertinently, the operation was launched by the district administration after the petitions were disposed off by the J&K High Court.

Deputy Commissioner Prasanna Ramaswamy G had constituted a committee led by collector land acquisition (ACR) Harbans Lal to look into various issues pertaining the project.

The district administration today after leveling and marking of the land raised boundary wall around the acquired land. Among other SDM Neelam Khajuria, Chief Executive Officer Jagdish Mehra, XEN PWD Hem Raj Langeh, Tehsildar Katra Mohit Raina, ASP Nareesh and SHO Katra Arvind Sambyal were present on the occasion.




Together, Let us knock-out malpractices from our system!


If you see anyone indulging in illegal activity at railway stations or railway premises
PLEASE CALL RAILWAY VIGILANCE

Helpline No.
☎ 09717638892 | ☎ 09868175631 | ☎ 155210

- Come forward to report incidences of corruption that come to your notice.
- By ignoring it, you are only encouraging it.
- Each one of us, individually & collectively, is responsible to bring it to the notice of the concerned authority.



NORTHERN RAILWAY
Always at your service...
Visit us at: www.northernrailways.gov.in
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



Public Relations-Northern Railway

JINDRAH IMAGES

Pak responds with terror attacks to India's CBMs

Pakistan has been betraying India from the very beginning. Be it peace talks on borders or parleys for strengthening the ties, Pakistan hardly misses any opportunity to ditch India. If we look at the 27 years of history of terrorism in J&K and CBMs initiated by New Delhi from time to time to normalise relations with it, we will find that Pakistan has been responding to India's friendship offers with terror attacks. Given its track record, it is most likely to continue sending terrorists into the Indian territory in future too. Home Minister Rajnath Singh too has showed his concern in this regard when he said India 'has always wanted to have friendly relations with all its neighbours but Pakistan has betrayed India and returned peace initiatives with terrorist attacks'. The invitation extended to heads of SAARC countries, including Nawaz Sharif, for the oath-taking ceremony of Narendra Modi was a step taken by New Delhi to have cordial relations with neighbouring countries and establish peace in South Asia. Despite Pakistan promising to mend ties with India, it continues to fire at the borders and infiltrating terrorists. India tried her best to live in peace with Pakistan, but it did not let it happen. It takes pleasure in promoting terrorism and disturbing peace. Pakistan is a country that has been found harbouring and funding terrorists. The agencies here have captured Pak terrorists from time to time and shown them to the world, but the international community is yet to announce any serious action against Islamabad, though it has now started condemning its terror acts. Abdul Qayoom, an LeT

fund raiser in Pakistan, was caught by BSF from the border Pargwal area of Akhnoor in September this year. He is a resident of Pul Bajuan in Sialkote, Pakistan. There are several Pak militants in the jails of J&K and other Indian states. Another Pak militant Mohammad Naved of Ghulam Mustafabad, Faisalabad, was caught from Udhampur on August 5, 2015 soon after he and his accomplice had ambushed a BSF convoy on the national highway near Udhampur. Bahadur Ali, also a Pakistani, was apprehended by forces from the valley during an encounter a few months back. While Pakistan has been denying its hand in terror acts on the Indian soil, the arrest of these Pak terrorists in India is the biggest proof of its being a liar. The continued Pak support to terrorists is contrary to the assurances given by it at the highest level. Qayoom, Naved and Burhan had provided vital information about the anti-India activities in Pak terror camps. The surgical strikes on terror camps and launch pads of terrorists across the Line of Control in PoJK also belies the Pak claim that there exist no terror camps in its territory and that it is 'not a supporter of terrorists'. India should show all these Pak terrorists, who are languishing in different jails here, to the world community through print and visual media to expose it further. India must continue with its policy of exposing Islamabad at international forums.

Wealth and Hindutva: For the BJP, one is for rich and the other is for poor

It is Budget season and there is the usual chatter in the well-heeled circles of Mumbai and Delhi about the possibility of "draconian" measures such as a long-term capital gains tax on shares, an inheritance tax or a wealth tax. Ironically as this comes at a time when an Oxfam report has just told us that the richest 1 per cent of Indians accounted for 73 per cent of the total gain in national wealth last year. Yet, the rich want more. And they cannot bear the thought of the government claiming an extra portion of their fortunes, however tiny.

Ordinary hard-working, salaried folk part with over a third of their annual income, in the highest tax bracket. Income from bank fixed deposits, where most of Indian savings lie, is taxed at the same rate. But when you make a killing in the stock market, as most investors have over the last few years, you pay nothing, long-term capital gains tax being zero. Apparently, this is to encourage financialisation of savings. In a country where the poor go hungry, is this conscionable? Yet, the government cannot bring itself to take this step as it may break the breathtaking flight of the Sensex, which conveys to the world India's great economic success. Inequality is just a leftist lament, the things which matter are GDP growth and the Sensex, correct?

The Oxfam report says we now have 101 billionaires. We should be proud of them. Thirty-seven per cent of these billionaires are inheritors of family wealth. For years, there has been background noise on

an inheritance tax but the government has not had the guts to implement it. Meanwhile, most inheritors have protected their acquired wealth through the creation of trusts in a way that even an inheritance tax may not be able to reach. The Maharajas may have disappeared from the scene but economic feudalism lives on, and thrives. Oxfam says that the wealth of the richest 1 per cent of Indians grew by Rs 21 lakh crore last year, roughly the size of India's annual budget. Would it not be fair to tap a very small portion of this obscene number, as wealth tax? Just a drop in this enormous bounty for Indians who are less fortunate? Unimaginable. The finance minister has already soothed the anxieties of billionaires by promising that there won't be any such tax.

years of falling short, the BJP knows that it cannot go back to the larger, non-urban electorate with economic decline as its election plank. For this section, 'achhe din' still remains a mirage and any mention of it may actually rile sentiments. We saw glimpses of it during the recent Gujarat elections. Much more prudent, then, to fall back on good old Hindutva to win votes of the crucial Hindi heartland. The choice of Yogi Adityanath as the chief of India's most populous state is the biggest proof of Modi's conviction that Hindutva trumps economics any day, in the villages of north India.

Not just individuals, corporate India wants its share too. Lobbyists of CII and FICCI are working overtime to ensure that the rate of corporate tax is slashed in the budget, in line with an earlier commitment. Apparently, this is necessary to unleash "animal spirits" in our best companies, and of course to further fuel the Sensex. All lofty objectives. In essence, the portion of our country which has the most - wealthy citizens and profitable corporations - should get the biggest benefits from economic policy, that is the pitch. It is logical to be baffled. At a time when economic growth has slowed, unemployment and inequality have jumped and the government is struggling to find budgetary resources, surely the onus must fall on the haves to help out the have nots? Equally, for a government preparing for a national election, one would have thought its priorities would be directed at the larger population - the ones who did not see their wealth bubble last year. Yes, but there is a flaw in that line of reasoning. The premise that economics is the key determinant for a voting choice across all sections of society is seen as a bogus one by the government.

Economics matters, for urban India. The BJP understands the economic pulse of the urban Indian voter better than any other party. A sharp fall in the Sensex can spell the mood. Any claim on the growing wealth of the rich can affect the feel good factor. This cannot be disturbed. Modi hails from Gujarat, he understands it.

But what about rural India? Our farmers, small businessmen, wage labour-

ers, the jobless? For them, there is the opium of the masses - religion. After four years of falling short, the BJP knows that it cannot go back to the larger, non-urban electorate with economic decline as its election plank. For this section, 'achhe din' still remains a mirage and any mention of it may actually rile sentiments. We saw glimpses of it during the recent Gujarat elections. Much more prudent, then, to fall back on good old Hindutva to win votes in the crucial Hindi heartland. The choice of Yogi Adityanath as the chief of India's most populous state is the biggest proof of Modi's conviction that Hindutva trumps economics any day, in the villages of north India.

This is why, while there may be some overtures to farmers and the rural population, analysts should not fear a hugely populist budget from Arun Jaitley. Some additional outlays here and there but nothing game-changing. And stock investors should breathe easy, nothing will be done to rock their boat. Villagers and farmers, on the other hand, should not expect any great turnaround in their fortunes. Rather, they should expect more instigation to emerge more patriotic and more Hindu, and cement their "rightful" domination of this great nation. What is money, after all, compared to these far loftier ideals?

Next year there will be another survey to show how the gap between the rich and poor has grown even wider. Yet, nothing will be done about it. Because our prime minister has cracked the winning formula. Horses for courses. More wealth for the rich, Hindutva for the poor.

Plan expenditures brook little change and have to be provided for. Direct and indirect taxes also offer scope for little change, specially when you see how beholden the government is to the members of CII, FICCI and Assocam, particularly in a pre-election year. A back of the envelope calculation shows that over 95 per cent of the Budget is chiselled on stone. Besides, most of the tax increases and revenue enhancement steps like raising or reducing oil subsidies and prices are taken well before the Budget announcements. Then what's all the hoopla over the Budget after all?

The challenges India needs to cope up with starting now was made explicit by the World Economic Forum in its Inclusive Development Index. It makes sad reading, India, with a score of only 3.38, ranks 62nd among 79 developing economies on the ICI, despite the fact that its growth in GDP per capita is among the top 10 and labour productivity growth has been

Mystic Mantra: Whatever you do, you do it to yourself

AMRIT SADHANA

"It is better to do nothing than to do what is wrong. For whatever you do, you do to yourself."

This maxim could be a guiding star for everyone who is eager to do something in the world, change the world or create a revolution. The "do-gooders" are the people who disturb the equilibrium of life because they don't know what is good, what is to be done to change the undesirable situation in the world but they are compelled to do something because they cannot sit quietly.

There are two critical insights in this sutra. First, stop acting unconsciously and second, whatever you do is going to fall back on you. So become acutely aware of your actions.

It needs another enlightened person like Osho to dive into the deeper meaning of Buddha's words. What does it mean to do nothing? Is it idleness? Osho explains it is very difficult to do really nothing. It is not merely a physical inactivity, to do nothing means to be so still, so silent, that there is no action within or without, no thought even, no desire. And one will have to be very conscious if one wants to do really "nothing" at all levels. It is incredible, the wrong can be done only when you are unconscious. The definition of the wrong and the right is not moralistic. There are no fixed principles like "This is right, and that is wrong". You need an inner criterion so that you can judge what is right, what is wrong. It can't be predetermined because life goes on changing. What is wrong one day may be right another day; what is wrong in this moment may be right another moment. So you cannot label actions as right or wrong. Situations change, you change, people change. This is why the inner light of awareness and clarity is needed. You don't have to go to anyone else to ask for their opinion.

If you are conscious and not doing anything, that is far better than doing something wrong, because doing something wrong means you are unconscious. And there is a deeper reason why unconscious action should be avoided. If you destroy others, you cannot remain happy. For the existence is a circle. Every action has a reaction which is equal and opposite. If you harm people, the harm will come back to you. If you love people, the love will come back to you. The world goes on echoing back, reflecting back. The world gives you only that which you have given in the first place to the world. Following this existential law, always remember, whatever you do, you do to yourself. If everyone lives with this awareness and responsibility the world will be a paradise to live in.

FM's Budget options are severely limited

MOHAN GURUSWAMY

Quite clearly a Budget is an imperative; otherwise a government will drift along aimlessly, though it often seems to be the case even with the most minutely-specified Budget. (Representational image)

The presentation of the Union Budget is more of a media event than a realistic statement of objectives and goals, and ways and means. The Budget is the basic blueprint that specifies what the government intends to do in the financial year to come, and how it intends to spend and raise the resources to do it. It doesn't use the occasion to tell us what it did with the announced Budget the previous year.

Quite clearly a Budget is an imperative; otherwise a government will drift along aimlessly, though it often seems to be the case even with the most minutely-specified Budget. Having said that, one must wonder why there is such a fuss each year when India's finance minister is about to present the Budget.

If one analyses each of the 65-odd Budgets that finance ministers have presented over the years, little seems to be changing in how they propose to raise and spend each year. This is not to say that the first Budget raised and spent revenues in the same way as this week's Budget will. The first Budget presented by R.K. Shanmukham in 1947 was one that stayed within the means that were available, and did not rely very much on borrowings. The pattern of taxing and borrowing changed hugely over the years. The incidence of taxes has come down and the extent of borrowing has risen. So much so that the national debt has burgeoned and the interest burden become heavy-



lakh crores. This doesn't include military and railway salaries and pensions. In fact, salaries at the Centre and states account for 104 per cent of the GDP of about Rs 150 lakh crores, or about Rs 16 lakh crores. Two big items follow - subsidies and defence take 10 per cent and nine per cent respectively. They are untouchables. With an election year looming, subsidies will only increase, and considering the combined challenges posed by China and Pakistan, the provision for defence and security will increase not just in absolute terms but in proportion too.

Effectively, this Budget too will have around 11 per cent to allocate for development and capital expenditures. Which simply means that the government, from every Rs 100, has Rs 11 to give to the people in terms of benefits, and it consumes Rs 89 by itself. Usually, this figure too drops as historically the revenue and other collections are far below target. This year GST collections are showing a declining trend from its inco-

strong. Poverty has also been falling, albeit from a high level. On the other hand, its debt-to-GDP ratio is high, raising some questions about the sustainability of government spending.

The WEF IDI also states that "framework indicators such as educational enrolment rates are relatively low across all levels, and quality varies greatly, leading to notable differences in performance among students from different socioeconomic backgrounds. While unemployment is not as high as in some other countries, the labour force participation rate is low, the informal economy is large, and many workers are in vulnerable employment situations with little room for social mobility".

More than budgetary announcements, which are quite full of empty promises, the Budget presentation gives the government a rare opportunity to announce policy changes. Dr Manmohan Singh, as finance minister in his first term, was persuaded by the then Prime Minister to announce the junking of the pernicious Industrial Licensing Policy and its prime rent collecting agency, the Directorate General of Technical Development (DGT). This earned him lasting glory as a reformer, though he never really showed any interest in liberating society from the straitjacket of government regulation. He even rested on this laurel for 10 long years as Prime Minister. What then can Arun Jaitley do? Will Prime Minister Narendra Modi direct him to announce a universal basic income (UBI)? Or the transfer of a basic income in place of the many misdirected subsidies, most of which gets stolen on the way down?

Yami feels nostalgic after one year of Kaabil!



Yami Gautam who delivered a power packed performance in Kaabil gives a special shout out to the film as it completes 1 year.

The film starred Yami Gautam and Hrithik Roshan as a visually impaired couple. Their pairing had set the screen ablaze and had garnered immense love and appreciation from across the quarters.

The actress feels strongly for the visually challenged, so much so that years ago she along with her family had pledged to donate her eyes to the visually impaired.

Her role in Kaabil, years after Yami made the noble move of organ donation, further drew her close to the challenges faced by the visually disabled.

Yami Gautam will next be seen in Batti Gul Meter Chalu alongside Shahid Kapoor and Shraddha Kapoor.

Deepika Padukone wouldn't invite this Bollywood star to her wedding

MUMBAI: Deepika Padukone may not be contemplating marriage now but she is very clear about the guest list. Whenever the dimpled beauty decides to tie the nuptial knot, this Bollywood star wouldn't be invited to her wedding. And no prize for guessing who it would be, because it is pretty oblivious.

Still guessing? Well, here's a clue. The Bollywood star dated her ex-boyfriend Ranbir Kapoor!

Wondering who it is? The answer is Katrina Kaif.

Deepika recently made her presence felt on Neha Dhupia's show Vogue BFFs along with her younger sister Anisha



Padukone. And that's when she revealed who she wouldn't invite to her wedding ceremony.

Here's what happened according to a report in Mid-Day.

with a firm 'No'.

For the unversed, Katrina started dating Ranbir Kapoor after he broke up with Deepika. However, he remained friends with her even post breakup. Rumours were rife that Katrina wasn't pleased with their friendship.

Nonetheless, Deepika has moved on and so has Ranbir. The Piku star is seeing her Padmaavat co-star Ranveer Singh. The two have been together for over 4 years now but haven't yet openly admitted to being in love. They have verbally remained tight-lipped about the relationship but have made it pretty obvious by walking hand-in-hand at various social dos.

Sushmita Sen to be Kotwara's showstopper at Lakme Fashion Week

MUMBAI: Former beauty queen Sushmita Sen will add panache to the Lakme Fashion Week (LFW) Summer/Resort 2018 ramp as the showstopper for brand Kotwara by Meera and Muzaffar Ali.

The veteran designers, known for their elegance personified creations inspired by the traditions of Awadh, will present Samanzar - A Garden of Flowers at LFW, read a statement.

Chikankari has seen a sea change with Kotwara innovations with the addition of zardozi, aari and muqqaish to this craft, and the creation of memorable silhouettes blending the old with the new under the eclectic design sensibilities of Sama Ali, daughter of the two designers.

In the forthcoming season, Kotwara will present a range of exotic occasion wear gently textured with soft-coloured pearls and sequins on arabesque forms. From flowing capes and shrugs to the shara and sari, the silhouettes are in the classic Kotwara style reminiscent of the glory of Awadh. Fine muslin and sheer chiffons blended with velvet and brocade embellished with zardozi and chikankari techniques create an intriguing collage of textures. The palate is stark - with whites contrasted against black with a touch of vintage rose and gold.

Sunny Leone's 'Ready to conquer' avatar is jaw-dropping

NEW DELHI: Bollywood actress Sunny Leone recently took to Twitter and shared a photograph in a 'Ready to Conquer' avatar. The actress looks like a bohemian beauty in the shared photograph.

Sunny was last seen onscreen in 2017 musical romantic film Tera Intezaar alongside Arbaaz Khan. She made her Bollywood debut in the year 2012 with Jism 2. The actress adopted baby girl Nisha with husband Daniel Weber

in July last year.

Moreover, Sunny's wax figure will be placed at the Madame Tussauds museum in New Delhi. It will be displayed alongside statues of other leading celebrities in a yet to be announced theme, read a statement.

A team of expert artists flew in from London to meet Sunny for the sitting in Mumbai, where they took over 200 specific measurements and images were taken to create an authentic figure.

Talking about how it feels like to have her statue placed, Sunny said- "I am thrilled and grateful to Madame Tussauds for creating my figure. Having my own wax figure is completely overwhelming. This is the first time I have undergone a sitting and I must thank the entire team for making it a unique and memorable experience. I am equally excited to see me at the attraction and can't wait for the fans reaction it will be finally displayed later this year."



Age is just a number: Shruti Haasan

NEW DELHI: Shruti Haasan turned 32 on Sunday, and she is not fretting over her age. The actress finds the number concept 'silly'.

"Age is just a number. I have always wondered why, be it any artiste anywhere in the world like Tom Cruise, there will be a bracket and then their age will be there, or it will read so and so 23-year-old. I have always wondered why do people do that," Shruti told IANS over the phone from Los Angeles.

"It is really odd because the number concept, beyond a point for me, is really silly," she added.

As for her 32nd birthday celebration, the daughter of stars Kamal Haasan and Sarika, says there is no big party planned.

"I am in LA and I am going for dinner with all my friends from here, so I am really



excited about it. About having a warm cosy evening with my friends," she said.

Looking back at all those growing up years, Shruti, who sings and acts in films in multiple languages like Hindi and Tamil, said: "It has been wonderful. I have always been big on birthdays. My parents have been so wonderful to me during my birthdays, my sister, my friends everyone. So, there are fond memories.

learnt a lot over all these years, with the art of remaining patient, being the most important thing.

"It has really been about patience. I have learnt a lot of patience and still I am not that patient which I like to be. But yes, it has been better than it was before... I have learnt to be more empathetic," Shruti wants to continue on the same path of growing and learning.

"The challenge is to make something new in the path of growing and maintaining balance."

After the release of 'Behen Hogi Teri' and 'Katamarayudu' last year, Shruti decided to take a step back to re-assess her career. The actress says the process turned out to be a 'great realisation'.

"I have never done it before. It was (all about

learning as I go, and by God's grace, once you get successful, then doing this and that and next thing and next thing...I felt like I really wanted to take a step back and I really wanted to balance music in my life as well. I felt I needed a neutralising experience."

"It is difficult to change your point of view when you are in the same situation constantly. I took a step away and went to London which was a completely new environment, new me and there was no baggage of the past. There were no expectations and I met some lovely artistes. For me, it was a great realisation and a great re-assessing when I wanted."

On the work front, the actress says there will be announcements soon, and promised she will "do lots of music this year."

Shoe hurled at Baahubali actress Tamannaah Bhatia

MUMBAI: A 31-year-old man was detained by the Hyderabad police for hurling a shoe at Baahubali actress Tamannaah Bhatia at Himyathnagar where she had gone to inaugurate a jewellery store.

The footwear was aimed at the actress but it ended up hitting an employee of the store.

Karimullah, a B.Tech graduate, and a resident of Musheerabad reportedly threw a footwear while the actress was coming out of the store, Narayangauda Police Station Inspector B Ravindar told PTL.

"The footwear missed its target, while it hit an employee of the jewellery store," the officer said.

"Karimullah was immediately detained and during questioning revealed that



he was apparently frustrated over the roles played by the actress in her recent movies," the inspector said.

However, following a complaint by the employee, who was hit by the footwear, the police registered a case under relevant IPC sections against Karimullah.

Bhatia rose to fame in Bollywood following her role in SS Rajamouli's two-part magnum opus

Baahubali with Prabhas as the protagonist. She played Avantika, the love interest of Shivudu aka Mahendra Baahubali in the first half of the film in 2015. But even before Baahubali had happened to her, she had worked with some of the big names in Bollywood. She had done Himmatwala with Ajay Devgn, Entertainment with Akshay Kumar and Hunshakals with Saif Ali Khan.

Want to have new, great experiences: Sushant Singh Rajput

MUMBAI: Actor Sushant Singh Rajput, who has turned 32, says he wants to pursue his quest of new and great experiences without harbouring a fear of failure.

Excerpts from the interview: Q. What does turning 32 mean to you?

A. That I should live in the present and make the best of the opportunities that come and not worry about what I would be doing when I turn 33.

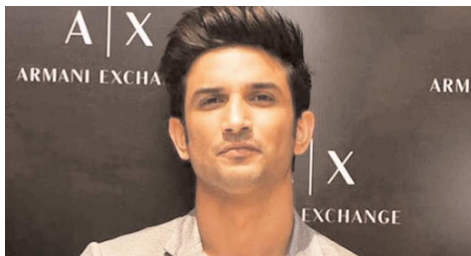
Q. You are in Chambal. How is the shooting progressing? Are you roughing it out in the rugged terrain?

A. Shooting for Abhishek Chaubey's film is on full swing. I came here in Chambal early to

do a bit of warm up for the film. Visiting ravines, talking to locals, working on dialect and inflection and a bit of cut-off from everything before the right things in perspective.

Q. In the meanwhile, so many conflicting reports in your absence about the films that you are doing and not doing. Please tell which are the projects you actually have on your plate?

A. At this point of time, films that I'm allowed to discuss are 'Tarun Mansukhani's 'Drive', which is releasing on Holi, 'Kedarnath', Abhishek Chaubey's next that presently I'm shooting for, Karan Johar-produced remake of 'Fault In Our



Stars' and Sanjay Chauhan's 'Chanda Mana Door Ka'.

Q. Oh, so Chauhan's astronaut film is not shelved?

A. Not at all. I really like acting irrespective of the medium and if presently

I'm able to choose projects that I want to be a part of then there are no complaints whatsoever. I'm really very excited and want to give everything I have to all these wonderful films that I'm part of.

Q. You seem to pick the unexpected roles. Is 'Drive' going to be your first full on masala film?

A. I really don't have an understanding of what commercial or masala films are and I hardly think from someone else's perspective of what films I

should select. I want to have new and hence great experiences, so these films that I'm doing are not deliberate attempts to pick unexpected projects but most logical decisions from my point of view.

Q. What should we, your watchers, expect from you in the coming year?

A. More number of films and I would without the fear of failing, choose films and perform in a way where you would be pleasantly surprised and entertained.

Q. There is plenty of variety and churning in Indian cinema right now. Do you enjoy being part of this creative chaos?

A. Fortunately, when I started doing films, the

film industry was already creating some great content and was open to hire talents without any prejudices. So, I've been lucky that way. In the coming years, I would expect a lot more original content and a bit more courage as very soon cinema per se will be fighting exponential technologies like VR to survive.

Q. Coming to 'Kedarnath', how is the experience of re-uniting with your 'Kai Po Che' director Abhishek Kapoor?

A. I have a real special relationship with him. I've fond memories of 'Kai Po Che' and I will always be extremely grateful to him for my first film and 'Kedarnath'. It is a great

story and we are giving our best to do absolute justice to this very special film.

Q. Any ill will about you refusing Abhishek's previous film 'Fitoor'?

A. I never refused 'Fitoor'. Unfortunately, our dates didn't match. I know there were a lot of stories about some tiff, but as I and Abhishek both know what it was so there is not even an iota of misunderstanding related to that.

Q. Why are you so taciturn about your love life? Do you claim to be single? Or is it that you are not ready to talk about your relationship?

A. I'm never taciturn about my relationship. I'm single.

Sensex jumps over 150 points, Nifty above 11,100



NEW DELHI: Stock market continued its bull run in opening trade ahead of the Economic Survey 2017-18 which will be released in the Parliament on Monday.

Around 9.30 a.m., the wider Nifty50 of the National Stock Exchange, which opened at 11,079.35

points or 0.72 per cent from its previous close.

All major markets were closed on Friday on account of 'Republic Day' holiday.

Stock market on Thursday took a breather after a six-session dizzying rally, with benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty skidding from their closing peaks after emergence of sell-off in recent high-flying counters.

The BSE Sensex fell over 111 points, or 0.31 per cent, to close at 36,050.44; and the NSE Nifty concluded the session with a loss of over 16 points, or 0.15

Housing for all likely to get a push in Union Budget

NEW DELHI: To give a push to the National Mission for Urban Housing 2022, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley may announce some sops under the scheme in the upcoming Union Budget 2018.

According to sources, an increase in interest subsidy for houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana may be announced in the Budget. The government is also planning to increase the size of houses by adding an additional 60 meters for houses available to people under Rs 6 lakh income group. Size for houses available for higher income group can also go up by 10-15 meters.

Currently, due to smaller houses available under



PMAY, the scheme has found not many takers.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana or Housing for All scheme was launched in June 2015 with an aim to provide a roof to 20 million urban poor by 2022. In order to do so, the Ministry of Housing and

flexibility in deploying this slum rehabilitation grant to any slum rehabilitation project taken for development using land as a resource for providing houses to slum dwellers.

Under the Credit-Linked Interest Subsidy component, interest subsidy of 6.5 per cent on housing loans availed up to a tenure of 15 years will be provided to EWS/LIG categories, wherein the subsidy pay-out on NPV basis would be about Rs.2.3 lakh per house for both the categories. Central assistance at the rate of Rs.1.5 lakh per house for EWS category will be provided under the Affordable Housing in Partnership and Beneficiary-led individual house construction or enhancement.

Central grant of one lakh rupees per house, on an average, will be available under the slum rehabilitation programme. A State Government would have

President Ram Nath Kovind kicks off Budget Session of Parliament; says target is to ensure housing for all by 2022

NEW DELHI: President Ram Nath Kovind's address to a joint sitting of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on Monday marked the beginning of the Budget Session 2018.

President Kovind exuded confidence that the government will be able to provide a house to every poor and homeless household by the year 2022.

Delivering his maiden address to the joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament, he said, "With a sensitive approach towards providing housing with availability of water-

electricity-toilet facility to all, my government is targeting to provide a house to every poor and homeless household by the year 2022."

Kovind also made it clear that the Narendra Modi government will do everything for to empower the minorities but not appease them. He said that the law to ban instant triple talaq will soon become a law and the Muslim women can live a life free of fear and dignity.

"My government tabled a bill on Triple Talaq in Parliament and I hope it will become a law soon. After the law



comes into force, the Muslim daughter and

sister can live a life free of fear and dignity," he said.

He also spoke about

the introduction of Goods and Services Tax to bring in transparency and make tax system easier.

The President also pitched for simultaneous elections to Parliament and state assemblies, saying there was a need to discuss and build a consensus among all parties on the possibility of holding simultaneous polls.

"There is need to discuss and build consensus among parties on the possibility of holding simultaneous elections for Parliament and the state assemblies," he said.

Kovind further added that the Central government is committed towards doubling the farmers' income by 2022.

"My government is committed to double the farmers' income by 2022," the President said in his address to a joint sitting of parliament on the first day of the Budget Session.

He said that farmer markets across the country are being connected online and so far, farm products worth more than Rs 36,000 crore have been sold through eNAM - the digital National

Agriculture Market.

"It is the result of the hard work of farmers, there has been a record production of more than 275 million tonnes food grains and over 300 million tonnes of fruits and vegetables," he said.

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan, union ministers, BJP President Amit Shah, Congress President Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi were among others present in the Central Hall when Kovind delivered his first speech.

3 Pairs of Ladies Footwear @ 1200

3 Pairs of Gents Footwear @ 2500

SALE

BUY

GET

FREE

Shoes9

Make a statement in every step!

Ladies | Gents | Kids Footwear

Gurdwara Road, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. Ph: 0191-2450909

A TATA PRODUCT

HDFC BANK EXTRA 5% CASHBACK

Shop here on www.tanishq.com/tanishq or visit our stores. Validity: 4th Jan - 30th Jan '18. T&C apply.

THE GREAT DIAMOND SALE

UP TO 20% off

ON DIAMOND JEWELLERY

TANISHQ

JAMMU - CITY PLAZA, MAHARAJA GULAB SINGH ROAD, NEXT TO HOTEL FORTUNE RIVERIA. TEL: 0191-2560255 | SRINAGAR - 36 DR ALL JAIN SHOPPING PLAZA, MAULANA AZAD ROAD, TEL: 0191-2491891. For store location information visit tanishq.com/stores | Call: 1800-258-2598

Digital India

NPS National Pension System Trust

Regulated by PFRDA

Sit Back & Enjoy a Secure Future

Click for pension benefits with **eNPS**

www.enps.nsdl.com
www.enps.karvy.com

Open NPS account online in just two ways:

- Using your Aadhaar number for instant account opening
- Using your PAN with your bank account details

REGISTRATION UNDER eNPS

Now you can open your NPS account online using Aadhaar number and OTP received from UIDAI. In this case, you will instantly get your PRAN generated and can contribute online.*

Option of e-Sign is also available. It makes the registration process paperless.

You can also open your NPS account online using PAN and net banking of the selected bank. In this case KYC verification will be done by the selected bank. The PRAN gets activated only after KYC verification by the bank.*

*For systematic investment, please contact your POP for giving Standing Instructions/ ECS mandate. Non-POP charges will be applicable.

Net Banking of many more banks are now available under eNPS

For details, check the eNPS tab on www.nps-trust.org.in

*You need to submit the physical form within 90 days from the date of allotment of PRAN to CRA.

Save Right Retire Bright

To know more about eNPS, Call 1800 110 708 | SMS NPS to 56677

Visit www.nps-trust.org.in

Attack on military academy in Kabul: 4 terrorists killed, 1 arrested; 5 soldiers dead, 10 injured

Terrorists launched an early morning attack on a military academy in Kabul. A gunbattle continues close to the gae of the premises. Security forces have killed three terrorists and arrested one so far. The battle continues against what appears to be one remaining attacker. Afghanistan's Ministry of Defence has said 10 personnel of the Afghan National Army have been injured in the attack. Afghan media have reported that the attack may have begun with a rocket attack. Eyewitness accounts suggest that the gunbattle between the terrorists and the security forces remains limited to



The facility is in Kabul's District 5, in the western part of the city. Marshal Fahim National Defence University houses three important military educational and training facilities - the National Military Academy of Afghanistan (NMAA), Afghan National Army Officer Academy (ANAOA), and the Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Academy.

The attack comes close on the heels of the rocket attack on the Indian embassy on January 15. The rocket had landed inside the premises of the embassy, and had clipped a portion of the barracks where security personnel of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) are housed. However, the government said no personnel had been injured in the attack. The recent uptick on terrorist strikes is not limited to Kabul alone. Terrorists have also struck in Jalalabad, close to the Pakistan border, and in Ghazni province.

Indian-origin UK principal attacked as 'Hitler' over hijab ban

LONDON: An Indian-origin principal at one of the UK's leading state-funded schools has been branded as "Hitler" on social media over her efforts to ban the 'hijab' for very young students. Neena Lal, head teacher of St Stephen's School in Newham, east London, was forced to reverse the decision to impose a ban on the hijab for girls aged under eight earlier this month after widespread criticism. But a video, circulating on social media this weekend, portrays her as the German dictator Adolf Hitler and the school's former chairman of governors as Russian dictator Stalin, with other management team shown as Hitler's acolytes. "It is a very good school. Neena is a very good head teacher," one of the school's governors told the Sunday Times in defence of the head teacher. At a meeting of the parents and the school management on Monday attended by local Labour Party, MP Stephen Timms Lal was forced to apologise as she confirmed the reversal of the governing body's previously approved ban on hijabs for very young pupils. "The school's uniform policy is based on the health, safety and welfare of our children. The school has taken the decision to make changes to this policy with immediate effect and this follows on from conversations with our school community," the school said in a statement. "We will work with our school community to continue to review this policy going forward in the best interests of our children," it added.

The school, with a majority of pupils from Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi backgrounds, had earlier urged the UK government to issue clear guidelines on the issue of hijab-wearing and religious fasting relating to very young pupils to prevent a backlash from parents.

Arif Qawi, the chair of governors, had resigned from his post last week following offensive messages posted on social media against him and Lal. The Sunday Times indicated he is prepared to return as chairman if ministers give a clear signal that they will support the school's right to set policy, including a uniform code. Campaigners believe that making very young girls wear the hijab is wrong because it is traditionally not worn until puberty.

Under the UK's Department for Education guidelines, uniform policy is a matter for individual head teachers and their governing bodies. But it did express concerns over intimidation via social media. "Intimidation or bullying towards school staff or pupils is unacceptable. Anyone who feels they are facing either should report it to police," a spokesperson said. In November 2017, St Stephen's School had topped a prestigious primary schools league table published by the Sunday Times annually. It was listed as the best school in England in the 'Schools Guide 2018' for a strong teaching record.

ELN Guerrillas Claim Responsibility For Police Station Bombing In Colombia

The Urban Warfare Front of Colombia's National Liberation Army (ELN) guerrillas on Sunday claimed responsibility for the bombing of a police station that killed five police officers and wounded 41. "The ELN, in legitimate exercise of the right to rebellion, carried out the military action... Police forces at the San Jose station, in southern Barranquilla, were attacked," said the group in a communique, the authenticity of which has not yet been verified.

The group added that it carried out the Saturday attack in the city of Barranquilla because it feels that the government "is refusing to give answers to the needs of the people, is inventing excuses for not guaranteeing their rights and is using the public (security) forces to repress the people", ELN reported. The government and the ELN last year launched peace talks in Quito, but the dialogue has been suspended since January 10 due to a wave of attacks by the rebel group after a bilateral ceasefire that had been in effect for 100 days ended.

A 31-year-old man identified as Cristian Camilo Bellon Galindo was arrested in Barranquilla in connection with the attack and will be charged with five counts of homicide, along with 42 counts of attempted murder, aggravated terrorism and the use of explosives, according to Attorney General Nestor Humberto Martinez.

Two other attacks were perpetrated on Sunday in Colombia's Caribbean zone, the first in the Barranquilla metro area town of Soledad against an Immediate Action Command post joining four police officers and a passerby and the second against a police station in Santa Rosa, in Bolivar province, in which two police officers were killed and two others wounded.

Chinese Authorities Order Major Social Media Platform To Curb 'Harmful Content'

Chinese authorities have ordered a major social media platform to curb "harmful content" more effectively as they intensify oversight of online expression. The campaign is intended not just to stamp out dissent, but to ensure that all media "serves the direction of socialism". The continuing crackdown targets not only explicit depictions of sex and violence, but even rap music, crude cartoons, dirty jokes, celebrity gossip and tattoos. Sina Weibo has failed to comply, Beijing's Cyberspace Administration said Saturday on its official WeChat social media account, berating the site for letting users post "content of wrong public opinion orientation, obscenity, low taste and ethnic discrimination". China has some of the world's tightest controls over web content, protected by what is called "The Great Firewall". A controversial cybersecurity law, which took effect last June, has given authorities even more leeway to regulate a wide variety of information.

Turkey intensifies Syria campaign against Kurdish militia

HASSA: Turkey on Sunday seized a strategic outpost from Kurdish militia in Syria, pressing ahead with a campaign that has strained relations with the United States. After several days of poor visibility because of heavy rain and fog, Turkish warplanes and artillery took advantage of the clear skies and seized Mount Barsaya near the Kurdish town of Afrin in northwestern Syria, the military command said in a statement. The hill is significant because it overlooks the towns of Kilis and Azaz, either side of the Turkish-Syrian border. Turkey launched operation "Olive Branch" on January 20 against the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) in Afrin, supporting Syrian opposition fighters



with ground troops and air strikes. While Turkey brands the YPG a "terror" group, the militia has received support from the US, its fighters spearheading the battle against the Islamic State group across the swaths of Syria. Despite souring relations with NATO ally Washington, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has threatened to expand the offensive against the YPG to Manbij, east of Afrin. In a sign the Turkish campaign has rendered prospects for peace in Syria even fainter, authorities in the war-torn country's Kurdish autonomous region said they will not attend peace talks in Russia. "We said before that if the situation remained the same in

Afrin we could not attend," regional official Fawza al-Yussef said. Rebel backer Turkey is one of the sponsors of the talks in the Black Sea resort of Sochi on Monday and Tuesday, along with Damascus allies Russia and Iran. Turkey's air and artillery strikes on Sunday were even fiercer than previous days, said an AFP correspondent on the Syrian-Turkish border who saw towers of smoke rising into the sky. Turkish channel NTV broadcast live footage Sunday showing rocket fire targeting Mount Barsaya, located to the north of Afrin. Turkish troops and their Syrian opposition allies said last Monday they had captured the hill, before losing it again a few hours later.

European Union 'very unfair' on trade with US, problems may become 'very big', says Donald Trump

The European Union's trade policy with America is "very unfair", President Donald Trump said in an interview to be aired Sunday, warning that his "many problems" with Brussels "may morph into something very big". "We cannot get our product in. It's very, very tough. And yet, they send their product to us - no taxes, very little taxes. It's very unfair," Trump told ITV News in the interview conducted Thursday. "I've had a lot of problems with (the) European Union, and it may morph into something very big from that standpoint - from a trade standpoint." Trump delivered the warning during a wide-ranging interview on the sidelines of the World

Economic Forum in Davos, where he took his "America First" agenda to the global business elite. In a speech Friday he told the forum that his mantra "does not mean America alone" and hinted that the US could rejoin the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a deal he withdrew from a year ago. But earlier this month the Trump Administration imposed steep tariffs on imported washing machines and solar panels, and his comments in the interview to air Sunday may cause alarm in European capitals over future trade with the US. The Trump Administration last year vowed to impose nearly 300 percent punitive tariffs on airplanes manufactured by Canada's Bombardier.



A bipartisan US trade panel blocked that decision on Friday but the dispute, which has inflamed relations with Ottawa - and to a lesser degree Britain, where Bombardier has a large workforce - could be a harbinger for the EU. In other remarks released ahead of the interview's airing, Trump appeared to slight British Prime Minister Theresa May's handling of fraught Brexit negotiations, declaring that he would have "negotiated it differently". "I would have had a different attitude," he said of the talks, which have followed Britain's June 2016 referendum vote to leave the EU, and will continue through to its planned departure in March 2019. "I think I would have said that the European Union is not cracked up to what it's supposed to be. And I would have taken a tougher stand in getting

out," Trump added. In excerpts of the discussion screened in Britain Friday, the US president apologised for the first time for reweeting a British far-right group's videos apparently showing Islamist violence. "If you're telling me they're horrible racist people, I would certainly apologise if you'd like me to do that," the president said. "Trump confirmed he will visit Britain later this year, where he believes he is "very popular", according to the interviewer Piers Morgan, who wrote an account of the sit-down in the Mail on Sunday newspaper. The president said he does not care about those opposed to his British visit, who include London mayor Sadiq Khan and the opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, amid predictions of large protests. "I think a lot of people in your country like what I stand for, they respect what I stand for," he told Morgan, according to the presenter. Asked if he had received an invitation to the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle later this year, Trump replied "not that I know of". "I really want them to be happy. They look like a lovely couple," he added when pressed if he would like to attend the ceremony. During the interview - billed as the first of his presidency with a non-US international broadcaster - Trump was asked if he identifies as a feminist.

4 Killed In Shooting At Car Wash In US



Four people were killed during a shooting at a car wash in Pennsylvania, US, police said. The shooting took place at Ed's Car Wash in a small town in Melcroft, about 80 km southeast of Pittsburgh, police said. A police initially said five people were killed but later clarified that the suspect who was gravely injured is on life support at a local hospital, Xinhua reported. Another woman hiding behind a pickup truck at the scene suffered only minor injuries. The shooter, 28, was reportedly armed with an AK-15 semi-automatic rifle, a 9mm handgun, and a 308 rifle, and had several magazines for those weapons. The shooting was the result of a domestic dispute.

Opposition leader Alexei Navalny arrested as thousands rally against Vladimir Putin and 'pseudo-polls'

MOSCOW: Russian police on Sunday detained opposition leader Alexei Navalny in Moscow as thousands rallied across the country against a March election expected to extend Vladimir Putin's Kremlin term. Heading a call by Putin's bete noire, thousands braved freezing temperatures to stage rallies in dozens of cities to protest upcoming "pseudo-elections", as Navalny and his supporters refer to them. In Moscow, Navalny chanted "Swindlers and thieves" at a rally in the city centre before several police officers pounced on the 41-year-old opposition politician, knocking him to the ground and dragging him on to a bus. Authorities said Navalny would be charged with organising an unpermitted protest, adding he had been taken to a police station. The opposition leader urged Moscowites not to give up. "You are not rallying for me, but for yourselves and your future," he tweeted. About 4,000 people turned up for the unsanctioned rally in Moscow, with many chanting "Down with the czar" and brandishing placards saying "Voters' strike". Authorities beefed up security, dispatching police vans and passenger buses to the city centre, but police largely refrained from arresting protesters. A crowd of protesters was later allowed to walk down to Red Square. One group of protesters walked several kilometres and reached the government headquarters as police watched on. Authorities estimated the Moscow turnout at around 1,000 people.



Ahead of the Moscow rally police broke into Navalny's headquarters using a power saw, interrupting a live broadcast covering protests in the east of the country. Police also detained several members of Navalny's team. More than 230 people were detained across the country, according to OVD-Info, an organising and unauthorised protest last year. But many protesters said Sunday authorities would not intimidate them. "These are not elections because we already know the result," Elena Ruzhik, 62, told AFP in Moscow. "I'm not scared to protest," added the former culture ministry worker. Protester Alexandra Fedorova, who wore a fur coat, said it was wrong not to let Navalny take part in the vote. "I don't see a future. There is nobody to vote for," the 27-year-old said. Protesters expressed similar sentiments in the second city of Saint Petersburg where around 1,500 people rallied, some chanting "Russia without Putin" and "Putin is a thief." "I want change," Andrei Petrov, 20, told AFP in the former imperial capital. "We are tired of living in this quagmire." Earlier in the day opposition supporters protested in far eastern Russia and Siberia,

including in the northern city of Yakutsk where people rallied despite temperatures around minus 45 Celsius (minus 49 Fahrenheit). In the Urals city of Yekaterinburg, around 1,000 people turned up, with the city's mayor joining the crowd. "What we are being offered now is not an election," the outspoken mayor, Yevgeny Roizman, told the gathering. Navalny - seen as the only politician with enough stamina to take on Putin - has built a robust protest movement, tapping into the anger of a younger generation yearning for change. He says the upcoming election will be little more than a coronation of Putin who is expected to win a fourth presidential term, becoming the longest-serving Russian leader since Stalin.

Virat Kohli will learn like Sir Viv Richards did, says Michael Holding



JOHANNESBURG: Virat Kohli can come across as intimidating but he is still learning and would become calmer as he grows on the job, feels West Indies' pace legend Michael Holding, who finds an uncanny similarity between the Indian skipper and Sir Vivian Richards. "At the moment, he is a young captain, who is just learning and understanding what it takes to be a captain. He is a bit exuberant and very emotional. Sometimes he gets so emotional that it is intimidating not only for the opposition but for his players as well. When I compare Virat to Vivian Richards, it is not just in the batting but captaincy as well," Holding told PTI.

"It was similar with Viv. When he took over the captaincy, it was similar. And then he grew in the job. He learnt to be a little bit calmer and then his team got calmer as well. And then the results came. I think it should be a similar learning situation with Virat," he added.

India clinched the third Test by 63 runs at Wanderers but lost the three-match series against South Africa after losing the opening two Tests.

Kohli's selection decision came under the scanner in the Test series and Holding too was critical of his chop-and-change policy which saw him play a different XI in each of the 35 Tests.

"You are playing in so many different conditions, in so many foreign countries, that you think that this pitch now suits this person or doesn't suit someone else. Also, in the modern game, there is so much cricket that you tend to rotate players especially bowlers and give them a bit of rest. If that is a reason why he is doing it, you can understand that. But it is unhealthy making so many changes," said Holding.

"When you go back to the great Test matches, they would change now and again, not every Test match, because then even the players are unsettled and they are not sure if they are going to play the next game or not. They might be worried that if I don't perform today, I might be out tomorrow."

"And you need settled players. You need them to think positively about their game. You need them to think I will go out there and even if I fail, I am good enough and they will give me another chance. It doesn't happen with rotation constantly, which again is unhealthy," he said.

India vs Pakistan Under-19 World Cup semi-final: Rahul Dravid excited but knows Pakistan are going to take some beating

India-Pakistan cricket games at all levels garner attention. No long ago, Virat Kohli's men had failed terribly against Pakistan to hand them the ICC Champions Trophy in England. They haven't had any opportunity to settle the score since, but India's Under-19 stars can salvage some of the country's wounded pride when they take on Pakistan's Under-19s in the semi-finals of the World Cup in New Zealand on Tuesday.

The tendency to keep thinking about "revenge" can often bring disastrous results. Luckily for the Indian Under-19 team, they have coach Rahul "Composure" Dravid to ensure that the revenge talk doesn't completely

blow them over. While the entire country is working itself up over the encounter against the arch-rivals, Dravid is keeping his wits about him.

"Our preparation and our planning doesn't change at all. We don't approach this game any differently from how we would any other game; we still approach it to play good cricket, try and execute our skills and hopefully the result will fall our way. But from an experience perspective, I'm excited about it, the fact that, irrespective of the results, we get our Under 19 boys to understand what it's like to play an India-Pakistan game. At this level, all it is about is

about experiences," Dravid told icc-cricket.com ahead of the showdown at Hagley Oval in Christchurch.

"We talk about this level and Under 19 cricket being about learning and experiences and experiencing different things, whether it's conditions, whether it's playing in an ICC tournament. It's great that we've been able to, in a way, set up to have an India-Pakistan game as well. There is a different buzz about it in the sense that we know that the game is followed probably a little bit more closely than some of the other games we have."

"For the last couple of years, we haven't played Pakistan at this level, so

it's really nice for our boys to have that experience of actually playing against Pakistan." Shedding light on what he himself went through in his cricketing days ahead of games against Pakistan, Dravid said: "Every game was important, but it's just that you knew it was one of the most followed games in the world."

"For people it meant a lot more. As players, it doesn't really change things, it doesn't change how you practice and prepare. From my perspective, I really enjoyed playing Pakistan, they had a really good team in my time and had some great cricketers. It was always a privilege to play against them. We got on quite well with a lot

of the Pakistani boys. It was always great to play them, we won sometimes, we lost sometimes, but we always came away with great experiences."

India's Under-19s are in complete control in the ongoing tournament, having convincingly beaten Australia, Papua New Guinea, Zimbabwe and Bangladesh on their way into the last 4. However, the challenge they face this time in Pakistan is definitely of much superior level. Dravid is completely aware of what his charges are up against.

"They bowled very well in this tournament, their strength is their bowling and they've shown that. We've battled well in our tournament so it's going to

be a good contest and we're looking forward to it, looking forward to competing against a good bowling attack."

"I thought the Bangladeshi attack was really disciplined. Australia had a couple of decent quicks, so we've played some good bowlers in this tournament. But we do recognise that this Pakistani bowling attack is a good one, we respect that, and hopefully we'll be well prepared and we'll execute our skills well tomorrow," he said.

The match starts 3 am IST and the winner of the match will go on to play Australia in the final on February 3 at Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui.

Leander Paes back in doubles top-50 after Newport Beach title win

NEW DELHI: Veteran star Leander Paes on Monday regained his place in the top-50, courtesy Challenger title win at the Newport Beach event, as he jumped 14 places to 47 in the latest rankings.

Paes had partnered American James Cerretani for the Newport Beach tournament, which fetched him 125 ranking points. This week he is playing at the \$125,000 Dallas event, for which he has partnered Briton Joe Salisbury.

Rohan Bopanna is India's top-ranked doubles player at number 20 after losing a place and is followed by left-hander Divij Sharan, who has gained three places to



118. Bhamri is followed by Rameshvaran (140, +1), Sumit Nagal (218, -1), Prajesh Gunneswaran (244, +3) and N Sriram Balaji (391, +2).

to a career-best 45. In the singles, Yuki Bhambri, who qualified for main draw of the just-concluded Australian Open and lost in first round, gained eight places to rank

Australian Open 2018: Roger Federer beats Marin Cilic for 20th Grand Slam trophy

Roger Federer powered home to beat Marin Cilic in five sets to win his sixth Australian Open and 20th Grand Slam title in a riveting final on Sunday. The Swiss defending champion dropped his only sets of the tournament before completing a 6-2, 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 win over the sixth-seeded Croatian in 3hr 3min.

Federer, playing in his 30th Grand Slam final, joined Novak Djokovic and Australian great Roy Emerson as joint top for the most Australian Open men's titles.

He added to his already imposing win-loss record in Melbourne and is now 94-13. His overall his Grand Slam mark stands at 332-52.

The roof was closed over Rod Laver Arena as the tournament's heat policy was implemented amid evening temperatures of 38 Celsius (100 Fahrenheit).

Cilic's serve came under immediate pressure with a whipping backhand return winner for break point which the Croatian followed with a smash into the net for a break in the opening game.

The Croat was finding it difficult to settle and changed racquets in his second service game, but it had no obvious benefit as he dropped serve again after three break points to trail 0-3.

He finally held serve to get on to the board and trail 4-1 with Federer hitting the ball cleanly. The Swiss star served out the first set in just 24 minutes after a double break and a shaky Cilic open-



ing. Federer fought off two break points in his opening service in the second set with pinpoint serves, while Cilic had a tussle before holding in the third game.

Cilic worked his way back into the match as both players traded furious forehands to stay on serve.

Cilic was break point down in the ninth, but crucially got out of it with a second serve ace down the middle followed by a forehand winner.

The Croat had a big moment in the 10th game when two Federer double faults gave him set point but a tentative backhand into the net and a wild backhand cost him his chance.

In the tiebreaker, Cilic got to two set points when his forehand clipped the line before a winning smash levelled the match after 84 minutes as Federer dropped his first set of the tournament.

But Cilic lost serve on the back of a couple of ground stroke errors and Federer raced 4-2 up in the third set.

The defending champion shifted gears with a

stunning forehand off his toes and confidently held serve to lead 5-2.

Federer closed the door, serving out clinically for the third set in 29 minutes.

Cilic was then broken in the opening game of the fourth set with a poor backhand dropshot into the net as Federer closed for the kill. But the Croat broke back in the sixth game with three break points when Federer netted and fought off a break point in the next game to put his nose in front. Cilic was now more in the flow and broke Federer again with his big forehands starting to find their mark. He served it out to take the absorbing final into a fifth set.

Federer was under pressure to keep his opening service but produced quality backhands to hold on amid mounting tension. The world No.2 crucially broke to 2-0 when Cilic netted a forehand and held the net service game under pressure to lead 3-0.

Federer got the vital double break when Cilic netted a forehand, leaving the Swiss to serve out for the championship.

FA Cup: Manchester City's quadruple dream alive, Chelsea also through

Kevin De Bruyne starred as Manchester City stayed on course for an unprecedented quadruple as a 2-0 win at Cardiff on Sunday put the runaway English Premier League leaders into the last 16 of the FA Cup. City, 12 points clear at the summit of English football, are bidding to bring the Premier League, FA Cup, League Cup and Champions League titles to the Etihad.



They made short work of second-tier Cardiff, with Belgian star De Bruyne putting them ahead in just eight minutes when he deceived the home side with a brilliant free-kick that he struck under, rather than over, the defensive wall.

Bernardo Silva appeared to have doubled the visitors' lead with a thunderous 26th-minute shot but

his goal was ruled out because the officials deemed Leroy Sané to be off-side and interfering with play. It appeared a harsh call but, with the controversial video assistant referee system that is being trialled in some English cup ties this season not in use for this match, there was no way of reviewing the decision.

But the second goal Pep Guardiola's men had threatened arrived in the 37th minute when Silva's superb curling cross from

the left was glanced in by Raheem Sterling. Sané was the victim of a bad tackle by Joe Bennett in first-half stoppage time and was replaced at the break by Sergio Aguero. Cardiff defender Bennett was sent off in injury time at the end of the match when he received a second yellow card for another poor challenge, on Brahim Diaz.

De Bruyne said there had been nothing complicated regarding his goal, telling the BBC: "The wall was not nine metres away

from me and so they were very close and it was easy to put it under."

But he was slightly bemused by the tactics employed by a Cardiff side pushing for promotion to the Premier League. "They played man against man all over the pitch - it was a little bit weird," De Bruyne said. "It left a lot of space."

Earlier, Michy Batshuayi scored twice as Chelsea beat Premier League rivals Newcastle 3-0 to also advance into the fifth round.

Batshuayi's goals in the 31st and 44th minutes and a Marcos Alonso free-kick 18 minutes from time were enough for Premier League champions Chelsea to see off Rafael Benitez's struggling side.

The Belgian's striker's first was the result of a

neat team move, Pedro's superb through ball splitting the Newcastle defence and leading to Eden Hazard slipping, a pass inside to Alonso, who set up Batshuayi for a finish from eight yards out.

The Belgian forward scored his second goal shortly before half-time when his shot took a huge deflection off Newcastle's Jamaal Lascelles.

Alonso sealed victory with a well-struck free-kick. "When I have a chance I take the chance and I work every day to be here," Batshuayi, who has been linked with a move away from Chelsea during the transfer window, told BT Sport. Following their League Cup semi-final loss to Arsenal, the FA Cup offers Chelsea their best chance of a domestic trophy this season.

The Chelsea striker's first was the result of a

Chahal's 60-fold increase, and an unsold XI with 613 IPL games between them

Who went for how much? How do the squads stack up? Who were the big winners? Which big names couldn't find a single buyer? Here's the comprehensive lowdown from the 2018 IPL auction.

581 players put their hat into the auction ring, for a maximum of 182 spots in the eight franchises. Only four franchises filled their full quota of 25 players, while Kolkata Knight Riders will go into the tournament with the thinnest squad, comprising just 19 players.

One-twenty-five of the players sold were Indian, while the rest came from as many as nine countries, including Nepal, which had its first representative

in Sandeep Lamichhane, the 17-year-old legspinner. While Lamichhane is the sole representative from a current Associate nation, Afghanistan had their richest haul at the auction, with as many as four players sold.

Seven of the eight franchises ended up spending more than INR 78 crores (USD 12.2 million) out of their allocated 80, while Chennai Super Kings rounded up their squad of 25 players with INR 6.55 Crore (\$1.02 million) left in the bank.

Across the board, franchises were willing to break the bank for uncapped players - both Indian and those who have made a mark in overseas leagues. With

their relatively lower base prices, the top five players who went for the highest multiples of their starting prices came from this category.

Big-hitting Karnataka allrounder K Gowtham went for INR 6.2 crore (USD 0.97 million), 31 times his base price for the auction, while the likes of D'Arcy Short and Jofra Archer - both on hot streaks in the ongoing Big Bash League - fetched hefty sums too. Mumbai Indians using the right-to-match card for Krunal Pandya was along expected lines, and his buying price of INR 8.8 crore (USD 1.38 million) made him the highest paid uncapped player in the tournament's history.

Call it recency bias, call it a willingness to invest in tried-and-tested talent, the big gainers from previous auctions were players who have set recent editions of the IPL - most particularly 2017 - alight at some point. Yuzvendra Chahal,

Royal Challengers Bangalore's legspinner, got a 60-fold increase from his previous auction, all the way back in 2014. Likewise, Jaydev Unadkat, who went for his base price of INR 30 lakhs (USD 45,000) last year, saw fierce bidding from franchises hungry for Indian pacers. Eventually, his price skyrocketed to INR 11.5 crore (USD 1.8 million), making him the highest earning Indian player at this

year's auction, all thanks to his exploits during the 2017 season and the death of Indian left-arm quicks in the market.

Except Knight Riders, who ended up with the thinnest squad, team compositions were largely similar among franchises. Keeping in line with T20 set-ups around the world, a number of franchises went with a horses-for-courses approach to building their squads. For instance, Super Kings ended up with as many as eight genuine spin-bowling options, while Sunrisers Hyderabad ended up with as many quicks in the squad. The preference for allrounders was evident across the board, and specialist

overseas pacers like Morne Morkel and Dale Steyn found themselves without a buyer as a result.

Knight Riders' aggressive bidding approach early on meant they ended up with as many as six US dollar millionaires in their squad, pushing their average price paid per player to INR 4.2 crore (USD 0.66 million), comfortably higher than any other franchise. While the spend per player at the auction stayed within a smaller range due to the equal purse allotted to all franchises, the median wages - the middle price when they are arranged in ascending/descending order - offer a truer indication of how franchises

went about their business. Rajasthan Royals ended up with the lowest median wage in the field at less than \$0.1 million, after snapping up as many as 12 uncapped players, while - no prizes for guessing - the Knight Riders' splurge put them top of the tree, at \$0.5 million.

While Super Kings' numbers and squad composition indicate that they were effective in picking up proven talent for cheap, they would look back at the auction wondering if they could have snaffled another marquee player instead of lesser known ones.

The players in our unsold XI have played between them a total of 613 IPL

matches, and feature among them the tournament's highest wicket-taker (Lasith Malinga) and one of contemporary T20 format's best strike bowlers in Mitchell McClenaghan, who went unsold despite a base price of INR 1 Crore (\$0.16 million). McClenaghan gave up his national contract to become a T20 globetrotter, and his non-sale was among the inexplicable events in an auction that largely played out to expectation. Hashim Amla, who scored two hundreds last IPL, also curiously did not find a buyer. Another New Zealander, Martin Gupitli, who has now become something of a veteran in this category, went unsold after coming up for bidding twice in the auction.

Budget Session 2018-19 - LA Proceedings - Demand for Grants

Members seek workable roadmap for tapping JK's full tourism potential

JAMMU, JANUARY 29: Several members today took part in the discussion on Demand of Grants for Tourism Department in the Legislative Assembly and gave their valuable suggestions for the development and promotion of unexplored tourist destinations in the State including border tourism.

They also demanded enhancement in budget proposals for 2018-2019 under Tourism Sector.

Nawn Rigin Jora said Tourism is an important sector of the state as it creates huge number of jobs directly and indirectly. He expressed concern over fall in the tourism flow and held negative projection of Jammu and Kashmir by a section of media responsible for it. He said the state has a unique potential of tourism in every corner of the state, be it Kashmir, Jammu, Ladakh or border.

He said idea of creating Development authorities was to develop and attract tourists to the virgin destinations. He urged the government to develop all virgin areas starting from Jammu upto the Leh to prolong the stay of the tourists in the state. He said the state doesn't need marketing but peace for development of tourism sector.

Sat Paul Sharma said after Katra was connected with the train the flow of Vaishno Devi pilgrim tourists increased many folds. He urged the government to develop adequate infrastructure to

accommodate the huge flow of tourists. He said the pilgrim tourists can be attracted to nearby places by developing required infrastructure. He also urged the government to develop the approach routes to the tourist destinations for the convenience of the tourists. He also called for promotion of border tourism.

Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen urged the government to develop eco friendly infrastructure in Doodpathri and Tosa Maidan for the convenience of the tourists. He said these places have great potential to attract tourists in large numbers and can provide jobs to hundreds of locals.

Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami stressed on 100 percent utilization of funds sanctioned under PMDP for execution of various developmental works. He asked the government to approach Centre Government for taking initiatives for peaceful dialogue in the state, which he said was imperative for promotion of tourism in the State. He also demanded development of various tourist places including Ladakh.

He further suggested providing incentives to the rural youth to establish small guest houses at the existing tourist destinations like Aharbal, Verinag, Kokernag, Achabal and Daksum. He also advocated for developing Aharbal area for snow skiing and rafting to promote and persuade

tourist inflow to the area. He also urged for up gradation of Aharbal Water Fall.

Mohammad Akbar Lone demanded for early establishment of Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) in Manasbal area. He further called for expediting the construction of infrastructure taken up by Manasbal and Wullar Development Authority. He suggested for shifting the local Park to Wullar Development Authority, promotion of water sports and immediate repair and renovation of Huts at Manasbal.

Choudhry Sukhnadan Kumar demanded for bringing Baba Chutu Dev on the tourism map and urged the government to develop the religious place on the pattern of Shiv Khouri.

Raja Manzoor Ahmad sought development of tourism infrastructure in the Bangus Valley adding that it has huge potential. He also demanded promotion of border tourism.

Asgar Ali Karbalai said there is a huge potential of tourism in Kargil district and urged the government to build infrastructure to promote tourism in the area. He urged to open Drass-Gurez road adding that it would give boost to the tourism sector in the area. He also urged the government to promote adventure tourism especially aero adventure at Nunkun peak and winter sports in Drass and Suru valley.

Bashir Ahmad Dar urged the government to

promote the tourism in Kupwara district and bring it on the world tourism map especially Lolab and Bangus valleys. He urged the government to work on perception management and change the perception of the people shaped by a section of media, who is portraying the state as an unsafe place.

Neelam Langhe appreciated the government for taking steps to promote tourists spots of his constituency by holding carnivals and festivals in the area including at Patnitop and Nathatop. He also urged the government to focus on holding winter sports in his constituency especially at Dam site and urged government to improve connectivity to these areas for convenience of the tourists.

Syed Feroqz Andrabi urged the Minister for Tourism to follow the footprints of his father and former Chief Minister who was keen to bring the state back on the international tourism map. He called for bringing in more professionalism in the department. He said there are many tourist spots in his constituency that need to be developed including Verinag and Kabamarg shrine.

Pawan Kumar Gupta urged the government to work on a plan to attract the pilgrim tourists coming to Mata Vaishno Devi to other nearby attractive places. He called upon the government to develop infrastructure and also

increase connectivity to these areas.

Altaf Ahmad Wani said restoration of peace is imperative for sustaining tourism sector and urged the government to ensure that this summer more tourists come to the state. He also urged the government to enforce accountability in the working of the department, use the funds judiciously and ensure that funds for marketing and publicity are utilized in right way.

G M Saroori urged for creation of Inderwal Development Authority and development of tourist destinations at Flamber Meadow in Chatroo area and construction of road from Z. Morh to Flamber already approved in 2015 DDB meeting Doda. He called for construction of Vaaloo and other tunnels to connect the area with Kashmir valley, which he said will help in expanding tourism activities in the state. He also pleaded for brining Marwah and Warwan areas on tourism map.

Jeevan Lal asked the government to explore more tourist destinations of Jammu province especially far-flung and hilly areas. He said there is huge potential to develop tourist spots in Bani constituency. He urged the government to frame road map for the development of tourist destinations of his constituency. He also demanded for up gradation of existing Tourist Reception Centre

(TRC) in his area.

Mohammad Ashraf Mir said the tourism is backbone of the state's economy and stressed on the need for creation of infrastructure to attract high end tourists. He also urged the government to include more villages of Srinagar in the tourist circuit including Faagirgojri, Dara and Syedpora.

Abdul Majeed Padder urged the government to improve the infrastructure at tourist spots of his constituency, lay focus on preservation of Aharbal waterfall by renovating and developing Aharbal stream, initiate development of Kounsar Nag, Badi Behak etc. He also urged the government to complete the ongoing projects in his constituency.

Kuldeep Raj urged the government to improve the tourism facilities in Baderwah constituency as the area witnesses a huge flow of tourists. He said four lakh tourists visited Baderwah valley this year and complained that insufficient funds are being provided to develop infrastructure in the area. He urged for liberal funding to develop adequate infrastructure to facilitate more tourist influx and their comfortable stay.

Mubarak Gul urged the government to identify and develop new tourist spots which he said will go a long way in economic growth of the State. He also called for improving

the facilities being available in the hotels and huts for the tourists at all tourist destinations.

Vikar Rasool Wani said that JK has a rich potential of tourism and stressed on the need to explore all the virgin spots of the state. He expressed concern over the negative portrayal of state by a section of Media that has taken heavy toll on the tourism influx. He urged the government to work for putting an end to such portrayal.

Ravinder Raina urged the government to improve the tourism infrastructure at Nowshera and Sunderbani. He said the area has witnessed a huge rush with the opening of Mughal road as it acts as a base for the tourists and travellers. He identified some important tourist destinations of the constituency and urged government for the development of these spots. He also called for developing shrines and other religious places in the area. Deldan Namgyal, while highlighting the huge tourism potential of his constituency, urged the government to create new posts for the newly notified Tourism Development Authorities in the state and also urged the government to develop Tourism Cafeteria at Nobra and open Turtuk-Khaplup road to boost border tourism and trade.

Normal life remains crippled in parts of south Kashmir

SRINAGAR, JAN 29: Normal life remained crippled in the twin districts of Shopian and Pulwama in south Kashmir against killing of three civilians in alleged security force firing in less than a week.

Meanwhile, mobile internet remained suspended for the sixth successive day in the twin districts while train service remained suspended on Monday for the second day for security reasons in south Kashmir.

Shops and business establishments remained closed and traffic was off the roads in Shopian for the sixth day on Monday against killing of a civilian in security force firing near an encounter site on Wednesday. Two militants were killed in the encounter with security forces in Shopian.

Two youth were killed and eight others were wounded when security forces allegedly opened fire to disperse demonstrators in Shopian on Saturday.

Meanwhile, massive clashes erupted amid complete shutdown in Pulwama, where life remained affected for the third successive day on Monday, when shop and business establishment remained closed and traffic was off the roads.

DIPR ORGANIZES MEGA CULTURAL SHOW TO MARK REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS

Lal Singh lauds deptt for promoting, preserving state's heritage

JAMMU, JANUARY 29: Minister for Forests, Ecology and Environment Choudhary Lal Singh has appreciated the efforts of Department of Information and Public Relations in showcasing and promoting state's rich cultural heritage and legacy through a variety of cultural events.

The Minister was speaking at a programme organized by the department to mark the 69th Republic Day Celebrations at Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar.

The Minister, while

speaking on the occasion, asked DIPR to organise more such programmes to acquaint the youth with the cultural treasure trove of the state and also exhorted upon the youth to help in preservation and promotion of our local art and culture.

Choudhary Lal Singh also threw light on the importance of the Republic Day and highlighted the sacrifices of great freedom fighters like Mahatma Gandhi, Bhagat Singh, Chander Shekhar Azad, Subash Chandrabose, Rajguru, Sukhdev in attaining freedom for the country.

He said Constitution of India has provisioned equal opportunities for every section of the society with special focus on emancipation of down-trodden and deprived classes.

The Minister hailed the students and artists of DIPR for showing such a great spirit of participation. He asked the students to showcase the local folk, art and culture at every platform to keep it alive for coming generation. He said students can play a vital role in reviving the glorious heritage and culture of their respective areas.

Choudhary Lal Singh



Impressive show. Musical and dance performances based on folk and patriotic themes by the students of GCW Gandhi Nagar, artists of DIPR, GCW Parade, Model Institute of

Education and Research Jammu, Doom Public School, Udhampur and Guru Hari Krishan Public School, Nanak Nagar were highly appreciated by audience.

The dance and musical performances were composed and choreographed by Anjna, Narendar Bhardwaj and Yash Pal Yash.

Later, the Minister presented mementos and commendation certificates to the participating students and artists.

Commissioner/Secretary Forest Department, Sourabh Bhagat, Director Information Muneer-Ul-Islam, Chairman State

Pollution Control Board B Sidhartha, Chief Wildlife Warden Manoj Panth, Joint Director Information Manisha Sarin, Principal GCW Kausam Samotra, Deputy Directors Information Atul Gupta, Rakesh Dubey, Field Publicity Officer Priya Lakshmi, Cultural Officer Raman Joshi besides other senior officers and staff of the DIPR, Forests, Cultural Academy, faculty members of GCW Gandhi Nagar, prominent citizens, members of civil society and students of different educational institutions were present on the occasion.

Small fire breaks out in Srinagar airport, flights delayed

SRINAGAR, JAN 29: A small fire broke out inside Srinagar international airport causing panic among passengers and airport staff,

official sources said. They said fire broke out in a heap of dry grass inside the airport, triggering panic among passengers and airport

staff. "Flights were also delayed because of smoke created due to the fire for some time," he said. However, fire tenders were rushed

and the fire was brought under control, they said, adding no one was injured in the incident. They said the cause of the fire was not immediately clear, adding air traffic from the airport was resumed after the fire was brought under control.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE MECHANICAL DIVISION, KATHUA

SHORT TERM NIT

For and on behalf of the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir state, The Executive Engineer, PHE Mechanical Division, Kathua hereby invites sealed tenders affixed with Rs. 6/- Revenue stamps valid for 90 days from the approved contractors/Registered Firms/Authorized dealers/Workshop owners registered with Small Scale Industries having experience in similar Hydro -Mechanical/Electrical works for the below mentioned jobs. The tenders should reach the office of the Undersigned on or before due date up to 1400 hours by speed post/registered post/courier service or by hand.

NIT No. & Date.	Name of Work.	Earnest Money.	Time of completion.	Last date for sale of tender documents.	Due on.
166 Dated: 27-01-2018	Installation, testing & commissioning of Submersible pump sets including other allied works KV Janglote.	2% of the quoted amount in shape of CDR/PDR pledged to the Undersigned. (SSI/DIC registered units will have to pay as per Govt. rules)	10 days	06-02-2018	07-02-2018

Tender documents containing details of job, terms and conditions can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours against payment of Rs. 200/- in cash (Non refundable) for each set of tender document (SSI/DIC registered Units will have to pay as per Govt. rules).

The firms have to submit the following certificates at the time of purchasing of tender document.

- SSI Registration Certificate issued by the concerned.
- DIC/SSI Registration Certificate issued by the competent authority.
- Copy of the PAN Card.

No: PHEMK4891-95
Dated: 27-01-2018
DIP/J-10387/17 Dt. 29.01.2018

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PHE Mech. Division
Kathua

विकास की राह पर
हमारा भारत...

THE MEGA EXHIBITION
Vision Jammu & Kashmir 2018
Nand Palace, Dhar Road

FREE ENTRY

Inauguration Ceremony Today
Chief Guest Dr. Jatender Singh
Hon'ble Minister for
DONER, PMO, Department
of Atomic Energy & Space
&
Shri Samsher Singh Manhas
MP Rajya Sabha J&K

Date- 29th,
30th & 31st
January

Visiting Hours
10:00 am
to
5:30 pm