



Oppn set to corner PDP-BJP Govt in 'stormy' Budget session

NL CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR, DEC 30

The budget session of Jammu and Kashmir scheduled to commence from January 2, is all set to be stormy with the opposition aiming to corner the government over a host of issues.

valley. The opposition will also raise the issue of demonetization and recent judgement on SARFAESI Act. National Conference General Secretary Ali Mohammad Sagar, said they will raise all issues of public importance in the budget session.

the settlement of Kashmir issue". "We will also raise the issue of granting identity certificates to the WPR that is an attack on J&K's special position," he said.

ATM withdrawal limit increased to Rs 4,500

NL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC 30

In a relief to common man, the Reserve Bank tonight said cash withdrawal limit from ATMs will be increased to Rs 4,500 per day from the current Rs 2,500 from January 1.

Earlier in the day, the RBI had permitted White Label ATM Operators (WLAOs) to source cash from retail outlets.

Private Bill to insert word 'secular' in J&K Constitution

NL CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR, DEC 30

Senior leader of Communist Party of India Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami has submitted a Private Bill in Legislative Assembly seeking the amendment into the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir.

preamble to the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir, after the word "resolved" the words "to constitute the State of Jammu of Kashmir into a secular state" shall be inserted," reads the Private Bill submitted by Tarigami.

is full of diversities. It is multi-religious, multi-ethnic and multi-linguistic. The Constitution must clearly state its commitment to establish a secular state. The Supreme Court of India has also declared secularism as the basic feature of the Constitution.

Displaced and maimed in border villages need proper rehabilitation

JAMMU TAWI, DEC 30 (KIP)

Following the coalition Government's decision to properly rehabilitate all those who have been affected by violence during the last 30 years there is need for bring all those affected by border ceasefire violations by Pakistani troops under the umbrella of rehabilitation.

last over 30 years. It will be quite unfortunate if only those affected in the Kashmir valley are fully rehabilitated.

Rs.40,000 to widows and girls eligible for marriage. In this connection the Chief Minister needs to constitute a committee of prominent citizens who have reputation of being honest and the Government should suggest to the committee to enlist the names of all those who have been injured in violence.

CM launches School Management Info System

NL CORRESPONDENT JAMMU TAWI, DEC 30

Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti today launched a comprehensive IT-enabled School Management Information System (SMIS) developed by the Education Department in collaboration with several agencies like NIELIT, ISRO, Digital India and MHRD etc.



launched a Unified Data Information System for Education (U-DISE) which details the enrolments and pupil teacher ratios from school-to-school.

PM bats for Digi-currency, Aadhar-based payments

NEW DELHI, DEC 30

In significant push towards a less-cash economy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today announced starting a biometric payment system using Aadhar platform within two weeks even as he exhorted citizens to adopt digital currency from the new year.

organised to celebrate the success of digital currency push. Modi used wit and humour to take swipes at his political opponents for criticising demonetisation using the drive was aimed at catching the "mouse" that eats away the nation's wealth.

Identity Certificate Row:

Kashmir valley shuts amid protests, clashes

NL CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR, DEC 30

Valley witnesses shutdown, protests and clashes on Friday against issuance of "Identity certificates" to 1947-communal partition commonly referred as West Pakistani Refugees residing in Jammu areas, even as Valley's top separatist leaders threatened the government's move and threatened state-wide agitation "if it is not rolled back forthwith."



WPRs in Jammu and Kashmir through issuance of 'domicile' certificates, on Friday. The leaders had also called for a complete strike against the move that has come in from severe criticism from several quarters.

Army kills 109 militants in Kashmir in 2016

NL CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR, DEC 30

This year security forces have killed 144 militants out of 109 are those whose identity have not been ascertained yet. Last year also the number of unidentified militants killed in Valley has crossed 1000 mark.

district, Marsari village of Chowkibal border area in Kupwara district and inside the EDI Building at Saffron town Pampore in Pulwama district.

China blocks proposal at UN to list Masood Azhar as global terrorist

NL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC 30

China has once again blocked proposal to designate Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar a global terrorist by the United Nations.

scourge of terrorism." Asserting that its submission received the strong backing of all other members of the 15-member Sanctions Committee, External Affairs Ministry said, "We note with concern China's decision to block the proposal to list Masood Azhar..."

confirms prevalence of double standards in the fight against terrorism," New Delhi said. India had submitted an application seeking sanctions against Azhar, which was before the UN's Sanctions Committee which has 15 members, who are also in the Security Council.

Pak violates ceasefire in Poonch, one civilian killed

NL CORRESPONDENT POONCH, DEC 30



One civilian was killed on Friday as Pakistani Army indulged in heavy cross border firing targeting "Pakistani troops targeted

the Indian Army posts and civilian areas along the LoC in Poonch sector with small arms, automatic and mortars at 1655 hours," an army officer said. He said the army was retaliating strongly and effectively to the ceasefire violation.

Samajwadi Party splits Akhilesh, Ramgopal expelled for 6 years

NL CORRESPONDENT LUCKNOW, DEC 30

In a tough action, SP supreme Mulayam Singh Yadav today expelled his son and Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav as well as general secretary Ramgopal Yadav from the party for six

years for "gross indiscipline", a decision that will lead to a political crisis in Uttar Pradesh. Making the announcement at a press conference here, Mulayam said the new Chief Minister will be chosen by the Samajwadi Party. Flanked by brother Shivpal

Akhilesh may step down

LUCKNOW: With Samajwadi Party chief Mulayam Singh Yadav expelling Akhilesh Yadav from the party, the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister is set to tender his resignation, reports said on Friday.

"For us the party is the most important" have hurt party's interest, the loggerheads with the Chief Minister, Mulayam said he had taken the action against Akhilesh and Ramgopal to save the party w

blow to the concerted efforts to effectively counter all forms of terrorism, and Ram Gopal Yadav has weakened the party from within, he said. The SP patriarch also warned his son to stay away from his uncle Ram Gopal. Akhilesh is not understanding

Koul Commission submits report

NL CORRESPONDENT JAMMU TAWI, DEC 30

The Justice (ret'd) M. L. Koul Commission appointed by the then State Government to probe into the killings of 2010 in Kashmir submitted its report to the Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti here today.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR, FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

Subject:- Placement of Accounts Officers as IC Chief Accounts Officers.

Government Order No. 283-A of 2016 Dated: 28.12.2016.

Sanction is hereby accorded to the placement of the following Accounts Officers, in their own Pay Band and Grade Pay, with charge allowance as admissible under rules. Consequent upon their placement against higher posts, they are posted in the offices shown against:-

- 1. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
2. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
3. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
4. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
5. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
6. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
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8. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
9. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
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15. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
16. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
17. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
18. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
19. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
20. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.

Subject:- Placement of Assistant Accounts Officers as IC Accounts Officers.

Government Order No. 284-A of 2016 Dated: 28.12.2016.

Sanction is accorded to the placement of the following Assistant Accounts Officers as IC Accounts Officers, in their own pay band and grade pay, with charge allowance as admissible under rules. Consequent upon their placement against higher posts, they are posted in the offices shown against:-

- 1. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
2. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
3. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
4. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
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14. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
15. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
16. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
17. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
18. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
19. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
20. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.

Transfers / postings of the members of J&K Accounts (Gazetted) Service.

Government Order No.281-A of 2016 Dated: 28.12.2016.

In the interest of administration, the following transfers/postings of the members of the J&K Accounts (Gazetted) Service are hereby ordered with immediate effect:-

- 1. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
2. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
3. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
4. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
5. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
6. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
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8. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
9. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
10. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.

Transfers / postings of the members of J&K Accounts (Gazetted) Service.

Government Order No.282-A of 2016 Dated: 28.12.2016.

In the interest of administration, the following transfers/postings of the members of the J&K Accounts (Gazetted) Service are hereby ordered with immediate effect:-

- 1. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
2. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
3. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
4. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
5. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
6. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
7. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
8. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
9. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.
10. Mr. Anil Kumar, IAS, Additional Director, Jammu, Jammu.

FROM PAGE 1

Oppn set to corner PDP-BJP Govt in 'stormy' Budget session

there was already anger among people against the PDP-BJP government. We will also seek ban on pellet guns," Jora said.

The Congress leader said they will also raise the issue of WPR. "While in opposition, Mehbooba Mufti was opposed of granting citizenship rights to WPR and now her government has given them identity cards. Her party PDP should clear its stand on the issue," he said. "It was Congress party that made a package to give Rs 25 lakh to each family of WPR and now the BJP has reduced it to Rs 5 lakh."

He said the PDP-BJP government was missing on the ground and only existed on the newspapers. "No development took place in their tenure. Economy is completely shut due to demonetization. There are scores of issues on which we will expose the PDP-BJP government," he added.

Senior CPI (M) leader and legislator Muhammad Yousof Tarigami has also submitted three resolutions in Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on constitution of a Commission of Inquiry headed by retired Supreme Court judge to probe the recent civilian killings in Kashmir, urging upon the Government of India to initiate dialogue to find solution to Kashmir issue and also ban the use of pellet guns by security forces. Besides, the opposition legislators will also corner the government about the ongoing power crisis in Kashmir. While the BJP is likely to counter the opposition members, the party legislators have also decided to raise the issue of Rohingya refugees saying Rohingya refugees were "threat to the country".

PM bats for Digi-currency, Aadhar-based payments

political point, he said a new indigenously developed payment app 'BHIM' has been named after the main architect of Indian constitution, Bhim Rao Ambedkar. (AGENCIES)

ATM withdrawal limit increased to Rs 4,500

ATMs was last increased to Rs 2,500 from existing Rs 2,000 by Ministry of Finance on November 13. Government had earlier hinted that it was planning to relax restrictions on withdrawal limit once 80 percent of the new currency is re-channelised in bank deposits. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on November 8 announced junking of old Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes, and replaced by new Rs 2,000 and Rs 500 notes. Along with demonetisation, restrictions were placed on bank counter as well as ATM withdrawals. The withdrawal limit from banks presently is Rs 24,000 a week, including a maximum of Rs 2,500 from ATMs per day

CM launches School

Management Info System

schools are being taken up under GIS mapping in the State. The Chief Minister also launched an online portal - Vocational Monitoring Details - for monitoring the implementation of various vocational courses in the State. To address the critical infrastructure gap and ensure time management, the Chief Minister also formally launched e-Office for online routing of files in the School Education Department in the Civil Secretariat.

CM interacted and asked the students to use these applications for connecting with the outer world to know about the rapid changes taking place in education sector. She also urged them to use these applications for promoting sports and cultural activities among the students in schools. Minister for Education, Naem Akhtar, who was present on the occasion, said the aim of this initiative is to throw it open to alumni of these schools who may wish to contribute further in the development of their alma mater.

Kashmir valley shuts amid protests, clashes

mosque swooped on him as soon as he came out. Hurriyat Conference (M) chairman Mirwais Umar Farooq was placed under house arrest and was not allowed to lead Friday prayers at historic Jamia Masjid.

Protests and clashes were reported from Batamalo area also. Reports said that scores of youth clashed with police after Friday prayers. Police burst tear-smoke shells to disperse the agitating youth who hurled stones on forces personnel.

Protest was staged by Tehreek-e-Hurriyat in Hyderabad Srinagar. Syed Ali Geelani, the Hurriyat leader continued to be under house arrest at his Hyderabad residence. The protest was led by Pir Saifulah, Imtiyaz Hyder, Gazi Javid Baba, Abdul Hamid Magray. Reports said amid complete shutdown in Baramulla district, clashes between protesting youth and police were reported from Sopore area on Friday afternoon. Witnesses said that scores of youth assembled outside the Jamia Masjid area and started shouting pro-freedom slogans. Forces deployed in the area fired tear gas shells to disperse the protesters who were throwing stones.

China blocks proposal at UN to list Masood Azhar as global terrorist

others for plotting and executing the January 2 terror attack at an IAF base in Pathankot in Punjab. Azhar and others have been accused of setting up terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-administered Kashmir to carry out terror attacks on India.

Akhilesh, Ramgopal expelled for 6 years

that Ram Gopal Yadav is trying to ruin his future, the SP supremo said. How could Ram Gopal call for emergency national executive meet without my permission, asked Mulayam. Justifying his actions, Mulayam said, "For us party is the most important and our priority is to save the party." The SP supremo also made an appeal to all party workers not to attend the national executive meeting called by Ram

CHOUBARSI Four years have passed since you left us for your heavenly abode... Ankit Gupta (Anku) 07 Billion Bowl Road Near Old Age Home Lidhampur on 01/10/2017 (Sunday) at 11:00 AM DEEPLY REMEMBERED AND MISS YOU BY: Sh. Anjinder Gupta (PVE Dept.) - Father Smt Sushma Gupta - Mother Miss. Neha Gupta - Sister Mohit Gandotra - Brother

BARKHI 'It has been said' time heals all the wounds, I don't agree. The wound remains in time, the mind, protecting its sanity, covers with scars, tissue and pain lession, But it is never gone. Dear Mohit Gandotra one year has passed but we still feel your guidance force always with us because the man is not dead while his name is still spoken. Barkhi of Mohit Gandotra will be performed at our residence H.No. 298, Sector 5, Channi Himmat Jammu on Saturday 31st December 2016 at 12:00 Noon. DEEPLY MISSED BY:- Smt Chanchala Devi - Dadi Maa Sh Vinod Gandotra & Rama Gandotra - Papa & Mamma Mr Mohit Gandotra - Brother All Family Members No: 9419186705, 9419700329

REMEMBRANCE Dear Rahul Vinu, One month has passed since you left us in a pool of tears. There is not a single moment when we don't miss your presence. Every thing may change and move on but the void created by your absence can never be filled. IMMENSELY MISSED AND REMEMBERED BY: Anjinder Gupta (PVE Dept.) - Father Smt Sushma Gupta - Mother Miss. Neha Gupta - Sister Mohit Gandotra - Brother Rahu/ Vinu Ph: 9796221716

REMEMBRANCE Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us everyday, unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed, and very dear. DEEPLY MISSED BY: Mrs Harinder Johar -Wife Daughters & Sons-in-law Mala & Maj Gen D.S Jolly Neena & Mr J.P. Singh (IGP) Son & Daughter-in-law J.S Johar (SSP) & Dr Sharminder Kaur Grand Children Gagan, Guneeb, Angad, Abhima, Preeti, Bandana, Arnav & Urvi S. Narinder Singh Johar (1937-1991)

TENTH DAY KRIYA With profound grief and sorrow, the sad demise of our beloved Karam Yogi Sh Bansi Lal Bhat (Papa Ji) 5/6 Late Sh Parmarand Bhat of Villagam Kupwara at present, Ln.9, B.No.43, Flat No.5, Jagti Townshp, Jammu on 27-12-2016 (at present Community Hall, Ln.9 behind B.No.43 Jagti). Tenth Day will be performed on 05-01-2017 (Thursday) at Multi Club near Director School Education Office at 8.30 am. GRIEF STRICKEN Sh. P. Bhat & Smt Shanta - Brother & Sister-in-law Sons & Daughters-in-law Sh Sabir Bhat & Smt Sunita Bhat Sh Shamant Bhat & Smt Anshu Bhat Smt Babbar Bhat -Daughter Sons-in-law & Daughters Sh Ruk Tickoo & Smt Priyika Tickoo Sh Dileep Bhat & Smt Beena Bhat All Relatives Ph: 941972287, 9796075503, 988294044

REMEMBRANCE "No words were spoken, there was no time to say good bye" Our hearts are hollow, you are remembered with Love and Reverence ever since the day, two years ago you left us in tears. DEEPLY MISSED BY:- Vijay Kr Koushal Dr Perika And All 'Koushal' Family Members Mrs Veena Sharma (1968-2016)

Gopal, calling it unconstitutional

The SP patriarch had earlier issued notices to his cousin Ram Gopal Yadav and son Akhilesh over alleged anti-party activities.

The SP veteran took the move shortly after Ram Gopal Yadav hinted that there is little chance of a compromise between the warring factions of the party. After being sacked from the party, it is believed that Akhilesh Yadav will now most likely step down as the Chief Minister of UP. After the sudden turn of events, the Akhilesh camp is also expected to hold a press conference in a short while and decide on their future course of action. Ram Gopal, soon after being sacked from party, termed his sacking as totally unconstitutional. Talking to reporters, he said that within one hour of serving notice to him and Akhilesh, they were expelled from the party, without being heard.

He, however, warned that national executive meeting will be held as scheduled. Ram Gopal also highlighted the faulty distribution of tickets to those close to his estranged brother Shivpali, who is locked in a bitter power struggle with Akhilesh. Soon after the SP chief announced his decision to expel the two top members of the party, a large number of Akhilesh supporters took to streets shouting slogans against Mulayam and Shivpali. Many of them threatened to sit on an indefinite hunger strike until the decision is revoked.

Ram Gopal, who is a prominent member of the Akhilesh camp, had said, "Netaji (Mulayam) is being given wrong advice to take ill-thought decisions. It seems that there can be no agreement now."

The Rajya Sabha MP, who is Mulayam's cousin, was referring to the party patriarch decision to release a list of party candidates for the upcoming assembly elections without taking the CM into confidence.

"When everything was working fine and when everyone was saying that Akhilesh will return as Chief Minister, on the basis of his good work, Netaji removed him as party's state president on the advice of one man," Yadav said. Extending his full support to the CM, Ram Gopal Yadav said, "I will always be with Akhilesh, those who are his opponents are also my opponent." Talking to reporters, he further said that the people of Uttar Pradesh are behind Akhilesh and those who don't stand by him will face defeat in the polls. Asked about his view on what will happen next in the intense tussle going on within the party, he said, "Wait and watch."

"I am not an astrologer but I am hopeful that Akhilesh's people will contest the poll on Samajwadi Party's symbol cycle," he added. Ram Gopal's comments came amid strong indications that the party may be headed for a vertical split.

Mulayam had called a meeting tomorrow of the 325 candidates announced by him as party's candidates. The meeting, to be held tomorrow, at the party office in Lucknow may be countered by a parallel meeting of those given tickets by Akhilesh.

On the assertion by some sections within the party that Akhilesh must fall in line as Samajwadi Party is Mulayam's party, Ram Gopal said that while it's undeniable that Netaji formed the party but, given the changing times, Akhilesh can take it forward, and not in the reverse direction as being tried by some people.

The factional feud in the Samajwadi Party came out in the open again after Mulayam declared candidates for 325 of the 403 Assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh and ruled out projecting Akhilesh as the Chief Ministerial candidate.

Pak violates ceasefire in

Poonch, one civilian killed

LoC in Bakhote sector of the same district. The ceasefire violation had come after a lull of over three weeks after the Indian troops had launched a counter-offensive against Pakistan on November 23 against the killing of three soldiers in the Machhill sector of north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

In the cross-LoC attack by suspected Pakistani terrorists, three Indian soldiers were killed on November 22, with body of one of them being mutilated. Following the incident, Indian Army had vowed a heavy "retribution". The 2003 India-Pakistan ceasefire agreement has virtually become redundant with over 300 incidents of firing and shelling along the LoC and IB in Jammu and Kashmir by Pakistani troops.

Over 26 people, including 14 security personnel, have been killed in ceasefire violations since the surgical strike on terrorist launch pads in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Displaced and maimed in border villages need proper rehabilitation

strengthen their vote bank and prevent from any erosion. The Government should constitute a separate committee of officials in the state who would keep a watch on all those rehabilitated lest they incite people to violence and help militants directly or indirectly. The Government should immediately stop rehabilitation scheme for these people. (KIP)

Army kills 109 militants in Kashmir in 2016

area of frontier district Kupwara, Chek Dragmulla area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district, Sarabial area of Srinagar city, Naugam sector of Kupwara district. Sixteen unidentified militants were killed in June in Tangdhar sector of Kupwara, Dragmulla, Wadabala Handwara, Pampore and Uri. In July, nine unidentified militants were killed mostly in Kupwara district. Twelve unidentified militants were killed in August mostly in Tangdar sector of Kupwara. The number of unidentified militants killed in September was 12, in October it was 9 and the number touched to 15 in November this year. (CNS)

Akhilesh may step down

and our priority is to save the party," Mulayam Singh said. "How can he (Akhilesh) release the list when the party has declared its candidates? Both Akhilesh and Ramgopal want to finish the party. I will not let it happen. I have built this party through hard work," Mulayam said. "I had made Akhilesh the Chief Minister with much fanfare," he added. Asked who would be the new Chief Minister, Mulayam Singh said, "We will decide that." He was speaking to reporters after Ram Gopal Yadav called a national convention of the Samajwadi Party on January 1 following a rift over a list of candidates to fight assembly polls due next year. Mulayam Singh said "no one has the right to call national executive meeting" other than the party chief. He also accused Ram Gopal of damaging the future prospects of Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav.

Demonetisation biggest economical face-lift since independence: Sethi

NL Correspondent
Jammu Tawi, Dec 30

Termining demonetisation as the most significant and historical decision taken by any government post independence, State Bharatiya Janata Party Chief Spokesperson Sunil Sethi, in

a press statement that it has changed the perception of belongingness to Nation building. It has opened space for citizens who live life with honesty and has denounced materialistic progress at the cost of honesty and Nationalism. Eradication of corruption

and dishonesty had been subject of debates and claims in political circles and remained mere slogan under Congress regime. For the first time, nation is seeing an honest and effective effort by Govt of the day to take harsh step to get rid of menace of corruption, black money, fake currency and money laundering.

Sunil Sethi further said that though the decision on

demonetization caused some difficulties, which at places were made more because of greed of some people but the masses stood by the effort of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to move country on the path of honesty, mutual concern and progress. Such is faith of people in Prime Minister that personal inconveniences are ignored by them for larger public good.

Prime Minister has proved Himself to be Builder of Resurgent India, which will progress with integrity and honesty and where growth will be real. In new India, it will be of greater importance to be Honest and the approach of 'Chalta Hai' will not work anymore. Awaken India will be more concerned and proactive to check any effort to pollute society.

Power shutdown

NL Correspondent
Jammu Tawi, Dec 30

To carry out various development works under R-APDRP scheme, the power supply to Dhoutilly, Manda, Anphalla, Karan Nagar and adjoining areas fed from D-4 (LT Network) shall remain affected on December 31, 2016 to January 15, 2017 from 10 am to 03 pm (on alternate DTs).

Similarly, the power supply to Denis Gate, Prem Nagar, Christian Colony, Upper Gummat and Lower Gummat, Early Times and adjoining areas fed from DG-4 (LT Network) shall remain affected on

December 31, 2016 to January 15, 2017 from 10 am to 03 pm (on alternate DTs).

Meanwhile, the power supply to Janipur Colony, Lakkad Mandi and adjacent areas fed from J-3 (LT Network) shall remain affected on December 31, 2016 to January 15, 2017 from 10 am to 03 pm (on alternate DTs).

Meanwhile, the power supply to Denis Gate, Prem Nagar, Christian Colony, Upper Gummat and Lower Gummat fed from DG-2 (LT

Network) shall remain affected on December 31, 2016 to January 15, 2017 from 10 am to 03 pm (on alternate DTs).

Similarly, the power supply to Denis Gate, Prem Nagar, Christian Colony, Upper Gummat and Lower Gummat, Early Times and adjoining areas fed from DG-4 (LT Network) shall remain affected on

December 31, 2016 to January 15, 2017 from 10 am to 03 pm (on alternate DTs).

Meanwhile, the power supply to Janipur Colony, Lakkad Mandi and adjacent areas fed from J-3 (LT Network) shall remain affected on December 31, 2016 to January 15, 2017 from 09 am to 05 pm (power block on alternate DTs).

Gautam of SMVD Gurukul secures 1st position in Sampurnanand University

Katra, Dec 30

Master Gautam Sharma, student of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul, Charan Paduka, Katra has stood first in the university by securing the maximum marks in the class 8th examination conducted by the Sampurnanand Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi, in May-June, 2016. For his outstanding achievement, Master Gautam has been awarded prestigious Vakratund Gold Medal by the Sampurnanand Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya at its Convocation held on 26th December, at Varanasi. Master Gautam, son of Bishamber Dass, is a resident of Sainik Colony, Jammu.

Governor N. N. Vohra, Chairman of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board congratulated Master Gautam Sharma and the Senior Acharya, as well as the team of Acharyas and teachers, on the spectacular performance of the Gurukul in the 8th class annual examinations conducted by the Sampurnanand Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya from 2013 onwards.

Meanwhile, Pankaj Gupta, Administrator of the Gurukul informed that the award of Gold Medals for the toppers in Purva Madhyama (10th class) and Uttar Madhyama (12th class) examinations of the Sampurnanand Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, institutionalised by the Shrine Board on the directions of Governor N. N. Vohra, to encourage the outstanding students, were awarded, for the first time, at the 2016 Convocation of the University held on 26th of this month at Varanasi. These medals have been named 'Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Swarn Padak'. It is pertinent to mention that for meeting the cost of the two gold medals to be awarded every year, on the instructions of Governor N. N. Vohra, a corpus fund has been created with Sampurnanand Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya. The interest earned out of this corpus fund shall be utilised for preparing and awarding gold medals every year.

BBBP Exhibition van flagged off

Samba, Dec 30

Minister for Industries and Commerce, Chander Parkash Ganga today flagged off 'Mobile Exhibition Van' under Bani Bachao Bani Padhao campaign. The van equipped with LED screens and sound system will show movies, documentaries and promotional video clips on women empowerment to generate awareness on gender parity benefits. District Development Commissioner, Sheela Nanda, ASP, Raja Adil Hamid, CPO, J S Sambal, DSWO Mushtaq Choudhary and other officers were present on the occasion. The Minister highlighted the importance of the campaign as it envisages checking the declining child sex ratio in the district. He hoped that these sensitization and awareness programmes under BBBP will have a positive effect by empowering the female child and changing mindset of the society. The Minister directed DDC to propose formulation of district level contributory fund for benefiting needy people who are yet to be covered under existing government welfare schemes. Earlier, the DDC gave a brief background of activities being taken by the district administration like Mass communication campaigns, celebration of birth of girl child, strict implementation of PC&PNDT Act and monthly monitoring of sex ratio through Guddi Gudda Board. She informed that a schedule has been chalked out in this regard and accordingly the Van will be sent to both rural and urban parts of the district covering all the government schools. She also informed that the district administration is making special efforts for re-enrollment of school dropout girls by having regular counseling sessions with parents.

NPP holds protest, seeks ST status for 'Kolis'



NL Correspondent
Jammu Tawi, Dec 30

Enraged over the State government for neglecting the recommendation of according ST status to 'Kolis' along with the Pahari speaking people, scores of Panther Party workers including the members of Koli community spearheaded by Harsh Dev Singh Chairman JKNPP and Yash Paul Kundal State President Young Panthers held a massive demonstration at Exhibition

Ground Jammu today. Panthers activists raised slogans against the BJP and the State Govt. for ignoring the said community despite their legitimate claims for inclusion in the said category. Flaying the State government and BJP in Kishore, Pursholam Parihar, Singh, Narinder Khajoor Singh, Satvir, Ajeet Sharma, Rajinder Singh, Rameesh Singh, Satpal, discrimination administered to the divested Jammu Chaud, Madan Lal, Vishal region. Yash Paul Kundal Kumar, Yog Raj, Jagdish Chander, Ganesh Dass.

relent until the poor, downtrodden and deprived sections of society were bestowed with their rights. Prominent among those who spoke on the occasion included Rajesh Padgotra, Partap Singh, Nirmal Singh, Pursholam Udhayveer, Singh, Narinder Singh, Satvir, Ajeet Sharma, Rajinder Singh, Rameesh Singh, Satpal, discrimination administered to the divested Jammu Chaud, Madan Lal, Vishal region. Yash Paul Kundal Kumar, Yog Raj, Jagdish Chander, Ganesh Dass.

Workshop on creation of 'cashless society' organized

NL Correspondent
Jammu Tawi, Dec 30

A workshop on creation of 'cashless society' was organized at District Office BJP, Kachi Chawni Jammu by District President Baldev Singh Billawaria. A large number of BJP workers attended the workshop. Speaking on the occasion, Baldev Singh Billawaria stated that the creation of cashless society in India is the need of hour. There are large number of benefits of being a cashless. Besides ensuring safety, cashless transactions on the market provide a lot of incentives which have been announced by BJP Government. Billawaria stressed upon the workers to educate people in the field about the enumerable gains of being cashless. He said that all developed countries transact their businesses without cash by using E-commerce. He said that E-wallets, payment through debit/credit cards will eliminate corruption and black money and develop our economy. Jai dev Rajwal State IT cell Incharge of BJP also addressed the

workshop and said that all workers feel pride that Government at the center under the dynamic leadership of Narendra Bhai Modi has taken the best decision of demonetization and creation of cashless society in India. Rekha Mahajan BJP District Mahila Morcha President in her address felicitated Prime Minister and Finance Minister for initiation of steps for making India a cashless society which benefits womenfolk the most. Rekha choulhan Mandal President Gandhi Nagar Mahila Morcha in her address stressed all female workers of BJP in general and cross section of women in J&K in particular to go in far cashless purchases using debit/credit cards for their own benefits.

Notice

I, Raj Roop Singh S/o Sh. Yash Vir Singh R/o Udhaywala, Jammu, have lost R/C of my maruti 800 bearing reg. no. JK02AC: 6711. Now, I am applying for the duplicate of the same. Objection, if any, may be conveyed to concerned authorities within 7 days from the publication of this notice.

NSS unit organizes winter camp



NL Correspondent
Kathua, Dec 30

NSS unit of Govt. G.L.D.M. Degree College, Hirana organized special Winter Camp w.e.f. 30th December 2016 to 5th January 2017. On the First day i.e. 30th Dec. 2016 the camp was inaugurated by Dr. Naresh Kumar Gupta Principal of the college. He in his message to the volunteers urged to carry

forward the message of Digital India to every nook and corner of the society to bring about corruption free and transparent society. He also advised them to work for Drug free society. The camp was organized under the leadership of Prof. Vijay Kumar Chandan NSS Programme Officer of the college. Prof. Balbir Kumar, Prof. Arun Kumar and Prof. Virender Pal Singh were also present on the occasion.



PoJK hails PM's grant of Rs 2000 cr package

NL Correspondent
Jammu Tawi, Dec 30

Hailing Prime Minister Narendra Modi for sanctioning Rs 2,000 crore package for the people displaced in 1947, refugees of Pakistan-occupied-Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) today organised a programme to express their gratitude towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Khour area. The programme was organised by MLA Khour, Dr Krishan Lal Bhagat.

Refugees said, "We express our gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for sanctioning a package of Rs 2,000 crore for

the displaced people from the Pakistan occupied Kashmir (POK) of 1947."

During programme, PHE Minister, Sham Lal Choudhary was the chief guest. On the occasion PHE Minister said that the package of Rs 2,000 crore should not be seen as the final settlement as the total amount required to settle the displaced people of PoK was Rs 9,200 crore and added Minister Narendra Modi in Khour area. The Prime Minister while sanctioning Rs 2,000 crore had himself said that this was just a beginning and not the final settlement. Sham Lal said that displaced people had to wait for more than six decades to get this sanctioning a package of Rs 2,000 crore for relief package announced.

NCP grieved over loss of Padder accident

NL Correspondent
Jammu Tawi, Dec 30

State NCP expressed grief over the loss of human lives in a tragic road accident in Padder area of District Kishtwar where seven persons lost their lives including the driver of Tata sumo. Former Minister Thakur Randhir Singh NCP chief J&K state and other senior leaders of the party conveyed their heartfelt sympathies with the relatives of the deceased and prayed to Almighty God to rest the

departed souls in peace. State NCP demanded from the state government immediate financial relief to the families of the deceased and employment to next of kin of each deceased family. Singh said that thousands innocent people of this hilly area have died and many have become disabled in frequent road accidents because of bad roads and lack of latest transport facilities so far state government has not learnt any lesson from frequent fatal buses accidents resulting in the deaths of innocent people. Singh has already deputed Sanjay Rana President Nationalist Student Congress (NSC) who belongs to interior of Padder area to go on spot and report back to the party cause of the accident. Those who attended the meeting included Krishan Kumar Digra, R S Billowaria, Sandeep Manhas, Satpal Sharma, Dr Liaquat Ali Magray, R C Bani, Sanjay Rana, Er Rishi Kilam, T K Koul.

MILITARY ENGINEER SERVICES NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Garrison Engineer (I) 873 Engineer Works Section C/o 56 APO, PIN-913873 on behalf of President of India invites online item rate bids on Single Stage Two Cover Bid System for the following work:-

Sr/No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Period of competition	Tender id
1.	PROVISION OF SEPTIC TANK, SOAKAGE PIT ALONGWITH SEWAGE LINE AT ARNORA, RETAINING WALL AT SOHANDA AND RCC SEMI UNDERGROUND WATER SUMP OF 40,000 LTR WITH PUMPING SYSTEM AT SUIGARH UNDER GE(I) 873	26.00 Lakh	180 days	2016_MES_96996_1
2.	PROVN OF RO SYSTEM OF CAPACITY 500 LTR, SOLAR SECURITY LIGHTS AT JANGLAR AND LT PANNELS, LT UNDERGROUND CABLE AT KISHITWAR UNDER GE(I) 873 EWS.	26.00 Lakh	180 days	2016_MES_96997_1
3.	PROVN OF 6 X WC'S ALONGWITH SEPTIC TANK, SOAKAGE WELL, SEWAGE LINE, BATHROOM WC CONSISTING OF 4 CUBICALS EACH (4 BATH 4WC) KOTA STONE AT WASHING POINT AND PATH WAY WITH CHEQUERED TILES AT DHARMUND UNDER GE (I) 873 EWS.	35.00 Lakh	180 days	2016_MES_96999_1
4.	PROVN OF BATH ROOM BLOCK AND CHEQUERED TILE PATHWAY, SECURITY WALL, DRAINAGE SYSTEM, CHAIN LINK FENCING AT MAITRA CAMP AND DHARMUND UNDER GE(I) 873 EWS.	35.00 Lakh	180 days	2016_MES_97000_1
5.	PROVN OF WATER FILTRATION PLANT AND DINING HALL AND MEAT ROOM ALONGWITH ALLIED SERVICES AT DHARMUND UNDER GE(I) 873 EWS.	21.00 Lakh	180 days	2016_MES_97001_1
6.	PROVN OF ELECTRIC SUPPLY TO DUGGA CAMP OF BHALRA UNDER GE (I) 873 EWS.	29.00 Lakh	180 days	2016_MES_97002_1

For further detail refer website www.eprocuremes.gov.in / www.eprocure.gov.in

Notes:-

1. Notice Inviting Bid as published in newspapers shall not form part of Notice of Tender/Bid document.

2. Type of tender (lump sum/item rate etc) shall be as applicable and bid system shall be specifically mentioned as decided by Accepting Officer.

Sd/-
(Venkatesh Ramdurg)
Lt Col
Garrison Engineer
dayp 10102/11/3457/1617

DLRC meeting held R-Day arrangements reviewed

NL Correspondent
Rajouri, Dec 30

District Development Commissioner, Shabir Ahmed Bhat today chaired the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting of banks and concerned departments to review the progress under District Credit Plan (DCP) 2016-17.

Among others, ADDC, AS.Chib, Lead District Manager, DDM, NABARD, General Manager DIC, DSWO and Cluster Heads of banks attended the meeting.

The meeting was briefed about achievements made up to September of the current financial year under Annual Credit Plan (ACP) 2016-17 by banks and financial institutions operating in the district.

Lead Bank Manager gave a detailed account of the

performance of banks under agriculture advances, priority sectors, weaker sections and credit flow to women beneficiaries. It was informed that up to September 2016, deposits worth Rs.2802.55 crore have been recorded while Rs.767.82 crore have been released under advance sector.

District Development Commissioner also reviewed the progress of various departments like KVIB, KVIC, DIC, Employment, Agriculture and Animal/Sheep Husbandry under various schemes like PMJDY, PMSBY, APY, PMEGP, NRLM, NULM, PMAY and others.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC said that the Financial Literacy Centres (FLCs) have to play an important role in the financial inclusion and the demonetization process. He

stressed for concerted efforts of all the banks and government departments in organizing financial literacy and awareness camps for opening of bank accounts by the rural population including unorganized sector.

DDC directed the banks to take effective measures for ensuring loans in agriculture sector so that majority of the population would be facilitated under various schemes. He asked DDM NABARD to create more self help groups of women and youth for providing job opportunities to them.

Later, DDC convened another meeting to review the functioning of Jammu and Kashmir Bank Rural Self Employment Training Institute. It was informed in the meeting that up till September this year 58 candidates have been provided training by the institute.

NL Correspondent
Poonch, Dec 30

Deputy Commissioner, Mohammad Harun today reviewed the arrangements for Republic Day celebrations in the district.

It was informed in the meeting that the day will start with playing of Shehnai vadan by Information Department in the wee hours and the National Flag will be unfurled by the VIP at 10 a.m. It was further informed that 36 contingents from CRPF, District Police, JKAP, NCC and students from government/private schools will participate in the march past. Cultural programmes by school children will also be presented on the occasion.

Threadbare discussions regarding various arrangements like security, sanitation, water and power



supply, prize distribution, Police, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Assistant Commissioner Development, Executive officers of various Engineers of PWD, PDD, departments to put in IFC, PHE, officers from concerted efforts to ensure Police, representative from smooth celebrations of the army, CRPF and other district officers attended the Senior Superintendent of meeting.

Entrepreneurship Development Prog inaugurated

SAMBA, DEC 30

The Minister for Industries and Commerce, Chander Parkash Ganga today inaugurated a 3 week long Entrepreneurship Development Programme for 58 candidates under Sher-E-Kashmir Employment and Welfare Programme for Youth. The Manufacturing, Service and Agro based training programme is being organized by JK Entrepreneurship Development Institute. The Minister appreciated the high success rate achieved by EDI under Seed Capital Fund Scheme. He called upon participants to develop innovative ideas and give them shape with dedication. He emphasized on laying strong focus on customer satisfaction and product quality. The Minister cited various success stories at the state and national level and stressed on the need of developing new markets. The DDC Samba also appealed participants to avail various opportunities provided by EDI and Government agencies. Speaking on occasion, CPO JKEDI informed that there are 119 units who have availed benefits of Seed Capital Fund Scheme at Samba with total seed capital amounting to Rs 4.23 crores. DDC, Sheetal Nanda, CPO JKEDI, M.M.khan, Addl SP Raja Adil Hamid, District Officer Divya Sharma along with entrepreneurs were present on the occasion.

Cultural festival begins in Bhandarwah



MOHD MAJID MALIK
BHADERWAH, DEC 30

A two-day cultural festival on the eve of new year showcasing various tourist destinations in Bhandarwah town, a mountainous hill resort in Doda district, started at community hall, Bhandarwah. "We want to show case Bhandarwah and its various tourist destinations to attract foreign and domestic tourists," Chief Executive Officer Bhandarwah Development Authority Bal Krishan and Additional District Development Commissioner Doda Er

Narinder Singh Bali said while inaugurating the festival today. CEO BDA said that government is focussing on the development of Bhandarwah in a big way. The massive tourism development in the area will not only give boost to economy of the area and state but will also help immensely in transforming socio economic condition of the people of the region by creating job opportunities for the unemployed youth, he said. The Bhandarwah Development Authority (BDA) expects large number of tourists during

the two day festival, which is showcasing culture, heritage and tradition of the mountainous hill resort. A colourful cultural bonanza was also presented on the occasion. The folk dances like Dhiku dance, Bhandarwahi folk songs, Padderi, Pogali dance, Kashmiri and Dogri songs, and many other programmes kept the audience spell bound. SDPO Bhandarwah Sardar Sajjad Khan, Tehsildar Bhandarwah Masood Ahmed Rangraz, Xen PWD Er Madan Lal and other were also present on the occasion. It is notable to mention here that the whole town come alive with culture, folk performances, adventure activities, and more for the tourists and visitors. In the evening the 'Best of Bhandarwah Cultural Show' including various cultural and folk performances were organised.

Minister hands-over PMUY gas connections

NL Correspondent
Jammu Tawi, Dec 30

Extending the benefits of Government of India's flagship programme Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana (PMUY) to the deserving beneficiaries, Minister for Health & Medical Education, Bal Bhagat today distributed 100 LPG connections among poor women of Panchayati Hakkel in Rajpur-Domana area. Addressing an impressive gathering at a function organized at Chatha Mill locality near here today, the Minister said that the present Government is committed to uplift the living standards of the poor for which numerous welfare schemes have been launched. The PMUY is also one of the welfare in initiatives launched by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi to support the poor women by providing free gas connections to get rid from unhygienic traditional Chullahs. This special scheme is aimed at making the homes and

localities smoke-free, which were major source of many ailments to the women folk, said the Minister.

The Minister stressed the need for appropriate steps for ensuring cent percent coverage of BPL beneficiaries under the scheme to achieve the objective of the programme. It is endeavor of the Pradhan Mantri to provide 5 crore gas connections to the BPL families across the country in the first instance and the State Government will step up efforts to extend the benefits to the deserving lot, said the Minister.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included, Director Health Services, Dr Gurjeet Singh, Executive Engineer, R&B (Rural), BJP functionaries, Ved Prakash Sharma, Pambher Sharma, Jagtar Singh Jagga, Harbans Choudhary, Happy Singh, Ashok Sharma, Babbu Chanak and Anil Kumar.

Annual Drama Festival awards announced

NL Correspondent
Jammu Tawi, Dec 30

Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Dr. Aziz Hajini today announced the awards of Annual Drama Festival 2016-17 at cultural academy complex here.

The awards were given at a press conference after conclusion of 10-days long Annual Drama Festival 2016-17 at Abhinav Theatre.

Dr. Hajini congratulated the participant groups who have been recommended various awards in individuals and productions by the three adjudicators engaged by the Academy namely Ravinder Koul, Anoop Verma and Umesh Singh.

Dr. Hajini announced the awards of Best Production to Hamlet (Samooch Theatre), 2nd Best Production to Kirayedar (Chanderbha Sanskriti Manch), Best Set to Jagpal Singh, Executive Engineer, R&B (Rural), BJP functionaries, Ved Prakash Sharma, Pambher Sharma, Jagtar Singh Jagga, Harbans Choudhary, Happy Singh, Ashok Sharma, Babbu Chanak and Anil Kumar.

Hamlet (Hamlet - Samooch Theatre), Best Make-up to Shalini/Seema (Aathvan Sarg-Yamini Cultural Society), Best Costumes to Ravinder Sharma (Hamlet - Samooch Theatre), Best Music to Surinder Manhas (Hamlet - Samooch Theatre), Best Actress to Meera Tapasvi as Salma (Kirayedar Chanderbha Sanskriti Manch), Best Child Artist to Naman as Tanoo (Oh Jamya Hi Nai... Society for Environment Education and Modern Art), Best Make-up to Shammii (Chopayer Ye Gash - Vomedh Rangmanch), Best Direction to Meera Tapasvi & Rajneesh Kumar Gupta (Kirayedar - Chanderbha Sanskriti Manch), Best Certificate of Merit (acting) to Sunil Sharma as Pehavihan (Oh Jamya Hi Nai... Society for Environment Education and Modern Art), Best Director to Ravinder Prabhakar as Maulvi (Oh Jamya Hi Nai... Society for Environment Education and Modern Art), Best Actor to Sharmam (Hamlet - Samooch Theatre), Best Actress to Shalini/Seema (Aathvan Sarg-Yamini Cultural Society), Best Music to Ravinder Sharma (Hamlet - Samooch Theatre), Best Set to Jagpal Singh, Executive Engineer, R&B (Rural), BJP functionaries, Ved Prakash Sharma, Pambher Sharma, Jagtar Singh Jagga, Harbans Choudhary, Happy Singh, Ashok Sharma, Babbu Chanak and Anil Kumar.

Garment making course for women organized

NL Correspondent
Jammu Tawi, Dec 30

Army is conducting Garment Making Course for women of Thanamandi and nearby villages at ITI Rajouri under Sadhbhavana initiative. The course commenced in November and is being run for a duration of three months. Forty (40) women will be imparted basic knowledge of fancy cloth bag making, doll and soft toys making, stitching and tailoring. The course is being conducted as part of the Skill Development initiative of Army in coordination with



ITI Rajouri and will be certified by National Council of Vocational Training (NCVT). Army has taken measures to provide skill development to generate employment for youth and has also given emphasis to women empowerment in the area

with introduction of numerous certified skill development courses recognised by the government. With the success of these pilot projects, this model of skill development will be introduced in other parts of the state subsequently.

Army conducts mock drills



NL Correspondent
Jammu Tawi, Dec 30

To strengthen the existing security mechanisms at various important installations astride National Highway - 44 in Banihal in view of upcoming Republic Day next month and to carry out coordination between all security agencies in Banihal tehsil, Army conducted Mock Security Drills alongwith, JKP for further strengthening the already robust

security grid. The security drills were exhaustive in which all Security Force elements utilised the opportunity to enhance synergy and coordination. The Army officials stated that, such exercises organised in Ramban District by Army have played a big role in building the confidence of the residents of the District and will also act as a credible deterrent for the anti national elements by improving the synergy between various stake holders.

Police-Public meeting held

Katra, Dec 30

On the directions of SSP Reasi, a meeting of Chemists /Druggists was conducted by Inspector Kuldeep Krishan SHO P/S Reasi in Police Station Reasi. Dr Subash Gupta District president chemist and Druggist Association Reasi along with 17 members participated in the meeting. The participants have been impressed upon to avoid selling drugs without prescription especially to the minors. The association has been requested to share information about the drug abusers who frequently visit chemist shops for Capsules/tablets. So that such persons can be identified and counselled accordingly to save young precious lives.

MILITARY ENGINEER SERVICES
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

1. Chief Engineer Udhampur Zone, Post: Garhi, Udhampur-182121 on behalf of President of India invites e-tender in two covers from enlisted/unlicensed contractors meeting eligible criteria as per NIT for the under mentioned work:-

Name of Work	Tender ID	Estimated cost of work at par market (Rs in Lakhs)
PROVN OF UNDER GROUND SIGNAL CENTRE AT RAJOURI	2016_MES_98983_1	512.48

Notes: 1. For complete details please visit web site www.procuremes.gov.in and www.mes.gov.in
2. For submission of e-bids, bidders are required to get registered with web site procuremes.gov.in having a class-II or class-III DSC issued by CCA under IT act 2003.
3. In no case, subletting of tender is permitted.
4. Chief Engineer reserves the right to reject/cancel any or all the bids without assigning any reason.

By: Dir.(Contracts)
For Chief Engineer
davp 10102/11/3486/1/617

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PWD (R&B) DIVISION UDHAMPUR
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
E-NIT No. 128 Dated: 29-12-2016

For and on behalf of Governor of J&K State, Tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Udhampur, by e-tendering mode on item rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. /CPWD/ MES and Railways for the following work.

S. No.	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estimated Cost of Contract (Rs. In Lakhs)	Amount of Bid (Rs. In Lakhs)	Estimate Money (Rs. In Lakhs)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contract
1.	Const. of 1.0 mtrdia H.P.C in Km 1st RD 300-375 Apeuca Dmain Km 1st RD 25-125 & 150-300 on Link road Brawan Bridge to Family Qtr. SKPA Udhampur.	PWD (R&B) Division Udhampur	11.75	600-	23500-	02 Months	12-01-2017	A, B, C & D
2.	Improvement of road behind PWD Office Complex at Udhampur by way of const. of Edge walk & Nilish bed.	PWD (R&B) Division Udhampur	9.60	600-	19200-	45 Days	12-01-2017	A, C & D
3.	Const. of Thulora/Pinger road in Km 1st RD 10-20 by way of earth work cutting & filling.	PWD (R&B) Division Udhampur	5.75	600-	11500-01	01 Month	12-01-2017	A, C & D
4.	Providing & laying of 75 mm thick WBM (G-2) an approach road from Mahalakshya (Near Jail road) to Dist. Police Lines at Udhampur.	PWD (R&B) Division Udhampur	4.90	600-	9800-	01 Month	12-01-2017	A& D
5.	Const. of drain in Km 1st from take off to RD 500 of Km 1st (in stretch) of extension of Jail road to Chakhar road.	PWD (R&B) Division Udhampur	2.25	600-	4500-	01 Month	12-01-2017	A& D

RELEVANT INFORMATION

- Position of A.A Submitted
- Position of T.S U/P Available
- Position of funds Partly available
- Position of land Available

Date of publishing of Notice Inviting Bid: Date 30-12-2016
Period of downloading Tender Documents :- From Date 30-12-2016 : Time 900 Hrs To Date 11-01-2017 : Upto 1800 Hrs
Period of Receiving Bids: Date 30-12-2016 : Time 900 Hrs To Date 11-01-2017 : Upto 1800 Hrs
Time and date for opening Technical Bid/Bids: Date 12-01-2017 : Time 1200 Hours
Time and Date of opening Financial Bid: Opened after opening of technical bids in any convenient date & time
Place of opening Bids: Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur.
Time and Date of submission of original documents: On or before Date 12-01-2017: Upto 1200 Hrs
Bid valid by: 90 days
Officer Inviting Bids: Er. Mohd Abdullah
Designation: Executive Engineer
Address: Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Udhampur

No. 15336-07
Dt: 29-12-2016
DIP:1-7850
Dt: 30-12-2016

Sd/-
PWD (R&B) Division
Udhampur

Minister kick-starts road works

NL Correspondent
Kathua, Dec 30

Minister for Forests, Environment and Ecology Choudhary Lal Singh said that government has prioritized building of amenities like roads and healthcare assets in uncovered areas to ease out the lives of people. He stated while kick starting several development projects in Basohli today. The Minister kick started five PMGSY road work including 5.8 KM Jandrotia to Khirana road link to be completed with an estimated cost of Rs 4.25 cr, 3.5 KM Dhoura to Dhodla



road link having estimated cost Rs 2.85 Cr, 7 KM Tikri to Jamma road link having estimated cost of Rs 5.68 Cr, 4.5 KM Patra to Kashi with an estimated cost of Rs 4.56 Cr and 3.4 KM Road link from Pehri to Khaddi to be completed with estimated cost of Rs 2.12 Cr. The

Minister said Rs 3600 Cr PMGSY outlay for the state has been sanctioned for 10th stage which will improve rural connectivity by providing all weather motorable roads. He added that several roads and bridges were taken up under Central Road Funds (CRF) which will help to give connectivity to uncovered habitations. Director, S & W Conservation (CCF) Javed Iqbal Panjoo, Director Environment and Ecology O P Sharma, Director Forest Corporation S.C Gupta, Director PCB Ravi Kesar, MD State Forest Corporation S K Gupta, ACD Kathua Sunil Sharma, SDM Basohli Dhirendra Sharma, XEN PWD Suman Bhaskar, XEN R&W S.K Raina, Director Billawar, DFO Basohli, DFO Kathua, CHO Aji Sharma, CEO Balbir Singh, DYSO Subash Bhardwaj, DHO Dr Rajinder Kumar, AEE PMGSY were also present.

By CM for holistic dev of Shrines

NL Correspondent
Kathua, Dec 30

The Deputy Chief Minister Dr Nirmal Singh today directed the officers to come up with a comprehensive plan for developing infra as well as face-lifting of Mata Shri Bala Sundri Ji and Mata Shri Sukrala Devi Ji Shrines so that the devotees coming to pay obeisance get all the requisite facilities. The Deputy Chief Minister was speaking at a review meeting of Mata Shri Bala Sundri Ji and Mata Shri Sukrala Devi Ji Shrine Boards at Billawar in district Kathua today.



Divisional Commissioner, Jammu Dr Pawan Kotwal, Deputy Commissioner Kathua Ramesh Kumar, Director Tourism Jammu Sarita Chouhan, SSP Kathua Pawan Parihar, SDM Billawar and other senior officers were present in the meeting. Dr Singh directed the officers to come up with a comprehensive project report to that need-based and futuristic developmental The Deputy Chief Minister

activities are undertaken in the shrine complex. He said various departments should synergize their activities to come up with the developmental plan which would incorporate every sector including PHE, PDD, R&B, Boarding and Lodging facilities for the pilgrims. Deputy Chief Minister said the government is working on a comprehensive plan for bringing the state on the pilgrimage tourist circuit and in this regard several initiatives have been taken. He said the land should also be acquired near and around the shrines for constructing the facilities for the pilgrims and public conveniences should be constructed on the stretch on the Billawar to Sukarla.

Cong responsible for plight of DPs, refugees: BJP

Hiranagar: While addressing the massive Adhikar rally of Displaced Persons from PoJK at Hiranagar, Rajya Sabha MP Shamsheer Singh Manhas lambasted the Congress in particular for its step motherly treatment meted to the Displaced Persons (DPs) of PoJK and refugees from West Pakistan. The rally was organized to clear the mis-information campaign of Congress and NC related to rupees 2000 crores financial assistance for DPs from PoJK. Shamsheer Singh Manhas, while addressing the DPs at Kattal drawn from 41 colonies of Hiranagar, said that BJP has always stood

with the PoJK people as well as West Pak Refugees and never played politics like Congress did during all these years of Independence. He said that the leaders who are asking PM to apology for demonetization, should, infact, themselves seek apology from the nation for pushing the country towards scams and corruption during UPA-I and UPA-II and also for their earlier tenures of government. The BJP governments at the Centre and in the state have displayed honest and non-political approach towards them. The BJP has always been in forefront to seek justice for DPs and

refugees from West Pakistan. The three generations of DPs and West Pak Refugees have perished while fighting for their rights, which itself speaks of the total negative approach of the successive governments of Congress towards them. Vice-Chairman OBC Board Rashpal Verma, BJP MLAs Rajiv Jasrotia and Kuldeep Kumar said that the Congress is mother of all ills in the Country and PM Modi has taken a pledge to get India free of these evils. They further said that the BJP is committed for the resolution of all the problems and issues of DPs and West Pakistan Refugees.

In the court of Munsiff District Mobile Magistrate, Kathua

Present: Munish Kumar Manhas
Nishant Bhushan S/o Bharat bhushan and Smt. Anu Radha R/o Wno. 1, opposite Easy day Kathua, Tehsil and district Kathua.
V/s
Chief Executive Officer M/C Kathua
Petition U/s 13(3) of registration of Birth/Death Act, seeking direction to the Chief Executive Officer M/C Kathua to enter the Birth of petitioner namely Nishant Bhushan S/o Bharat Bhushan who was born on 21-02-1996 at home.

Proclamation
Whereas petitioner has filed the above titled petition in this court for issuing direction to respondent regarding registration of birth particulars petitioner namely Nishant Bhushan S/o Bharat bhushan who was born on 21-02-1996 at home. and through the medium of this proclamation general public is informed that any person's has/have to the same, in that event he/she/they shall file objection before this court on or before 10-01-2017, failing which appropriate order shall be passed. Take notice that in case the date fixed is declared holiday, the matter shall be taken in the next working day.
Munsiff (DJMM), Kathua.

In the court of Special Mobile Magistrate, Kathua

Present: Sunil Sangra
Alfat Begum, (age 1 years 10 months) D/o Maskeen Ali R/o Bagra (Dilwan) Tehsil and District Kathua, being minor through her father Maskeen Ali S/o Beg Din R/o Bagra (Dilwan) Tehsil and District Kathua
V/s
Chief Executive Officer, Kathua
Petition U/s 13(3) of registration of Birth/Death Act, seeking direction to the respondent to enter the Birth of petitioner's Daughter namely Alfat Begum D/o Maskeen Ali S/o Beg Din R/o Bagra (Dilwan) Tehsil and District Kathua.

Proclamation
Whereas petitioner has filed the above titled petition in this court for issuing direction to respondent regarding registration of birth particulars petitioner's Daughter namely Alfat Begum D/o Maskeen Ali & Smt. Shamsheeda Akhtar who was born on 25-11-2014 at home at village Bagra (Dilwan) Tehsil and District Kathua and through the medium of this proclamation, general public is informed that any person's has/have to the same, in that event he/she/they shall file objection before this court on or before 03-01-2017, failing which appropriate order shall be passed. Take notice that in case the date fixed is declared holiday, the matter shall be taken in the next working day.
Special Mobile Magistrate, Kathua.

In the court of Judicial Magistrate 1st Class (Addl. Munsiff), Samba

Present: Junaid I. Mir
Vijay Kumar S/o Sh. Dewan Chand r/o Tehra, Baletar, Tehsil & Distt. Samba.
V/S
S.H.O. Police Station Samba
In the matter of Application for Registration of birth/death of:- Pranchay Sharma (Female) D.O.B.30-10-2014 at Home
Father's Name: Sh. Vijay Kumar
Mother's Name : Smt. Pinky Sharma

NOTICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC
Whereas, an application stand filed in this court for registration of birth of Pranchay Sharma (F) D/O Sh. Vijay Kumar & Smt. Pinky Sharma r/o Tehra, Baletar, Tehsil & Distt. Samba in Police Station Samba and through the medium of this publication notice at large and any other interested person is/ are informed that in case anybody has any objection in respect of aforementioned application then he/she/they shall file their objections in this court within 5 days from the date of publication of notice, failing which appropriate order shall follow.
Given under my hand and seal of this court today 30th day of December 2016.
Addl. Munsiff, (Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Samba)

In the court of Munsiff District Mobile Magistrate, Kathua

Present: MUNISH.K.Manhas
Dinesh kumar sutthar S/o satyadev Sutthar R/o fingsalas bataran uttar tala, Raghupur District supaul (U.P), A/P shiva nagar.
V/s
Chief executive Officer, Municipal Council, Kathua.
Petition U/s 13(3) of registration of Birth/Death Act, seeking direction to enter the birth particulars of the petitioner namely Sourabh Kumar S/o dinesh kumar sutthar who was born on 26/07-2012 at home ward no.16 Kathua.

Proclamation
Whereas petitioner has filed the above titled petition in this court for issuing direction to enter the birth particulars Children of the petitioner namely Sourabh Kumar S/o dinesh kumar sutthar who was born on 26/07-2012 at home ward no.16 Kathua, and through the medium of this proclamation, general public is informed that any person's has/have to the same, in that event he/she/they shall file objection before this court on or before 12-01-2017, failing which appropriate order shall be passed. Take notice that in case the date fixed is declared holiday, the matter shall be taken in the next working day.
DJMM, Kathua.

In the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Samba

Present: Deepak Sethi
Panchoo S/o Bilakhee r/o 54, Khairoo, Gram, Tehsil & Distt. Chhatisgarh A/P Near ESI Hospital, Bari Brahmana Tehsil Bari Brahmana Distt. Samba.
V/S
S.H.O. Police Station Bari Brahmana
Application U/s 13 (3) of Registration of birth/death Act, seeking directions to S.H.O. Police Station, Bari Brahmana to enter the birth particular of applicant's children.

PROCLAMATION
Whereas applicant has filed the above titled application in this court for issuing direction to S.H.O. Police Station Bari Brahmana regarding registration of birth particulars of applicant's children namely Panchoo Kumar, Manisha Kumari & Nisha Kumari all children of Panchoo & Lalla Bhai R/o 54, Khairoo, Gram, Tehsil & Distt. Chhatisgarh A/P Near ESI Hospital, Bari Brahmana Tehsil Bari Brahmana Distt. Samba in Police Station Bari Brahmana who were born on 10-04-2005, 09-01-2011 & 28-03-2013 at home respectively and through the medium of this proclamation, general public is informed that any person's has/have objection to the same, in that event he/she/they shall file same before this court on or before 06-01-2017, failing which appropriate order shall be passed. Take notice that in case the date of fixed is declared holiday, the matter shall be taken in the next working day.
Given under my hand and seal of this court today 30th day of December 2016.
Chief Judicial Magistrate, Samba

In the court of Munsiff District Mobile Magistrate, Kathua

Present: MUNISH.K.Manhas
Shakshi D/o Sukhdev and Smt. Veena Devi W/o Visha Bamotra R/o Village Budhi Kathua, Tehsil and District Kathua.
V/s
Chief Medical Officer, Kathua.
Petition U/s 13(3) of registration of Birth/Death Act, seeking direction to enter the birth particulars of the petitioner namely Shakshi D/o Sukhdev W/o Vishal Bamotra who was born on 15-01-1987 at home.

Proclamation
Whereas petitioner has filed the above titled petition in this court for issuing direction to enter the birth particulars Children of the petitioner namely Shakshi D/o Sukhdev r/o Budhi Tehsil and District Kathua born on 15-01-1987 at home, and through the medium of this proclamation, general public is informed that any person's has/have to the same, in that event he/she/they shall file objection before this court on or before 12-01-2017, failing which appropriate order shall be passed. Take notice that in case the date fixed is declared holiday, the matter shall be taken in the next working day.
DJMM, Kathua.

In the court of Judicial Magistrate 1st Class (Addl. Munsiff), Samba

Present: Junaid I. Mir
Mohd Shaji S/o Mohd. Hussain r/o Sujwan Tehsil & Distt. Samba.
V/S
S.H.O. Police Station Samba
In the matter of Application for Registration of birth/death of:- Mohd. Irfan D.O.B.11-02-2007 at Home
Mohd. Ibrar D.O.B.23-03-2009 at Home
Mohd. Javed Ahmed D.O.B.21-11-2013 at Home
Anjum Choudhary D.O.B.07-02-2015 at Home
Father's Name: Sh. Mohd. Shaji
Mother's Name : Smt. Kuya Begum

NOTICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC
Whereas, an application stand filed in this court for registration of birth of Mohd. Irfan, Mohd. Ibrar, Mohd. Javed Ahmed & Anjum Choudhary all children of Sh. Mohd Shaji & Smt. Kuya Begum r/o Sujwan Tehsil & Distt. Samba in Police Station Samba and through the medium of this publication notice at large and any other interested person is/ are informed that in case anybody has any objection in respect of aforementioned application then he/she/they shall file their objections in this court within 5 days from the date of publication of notice, failing which appropriate order shall follow.
Given under my hand and seal of this court today 30th day of December 2016.
Addl. Munsiff, (Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Samba)

In the court of Munsiff District Mobile Magistrate, Kathua

Present: Munish Kumar Manhas
Kuldeep Singh S/o Parkash Singh R/o Village Maha Tehsil and district Kathua.
V/s
Chief Medical Officer, Kathua.
Petition U/s 13(3) of registration of Birth/Death Act, seeking direction to the Chief Medical Officer Kathua to enter the Birth of petitioner's child namely Tanish Katal S/o Kuldeep Singh who was born on 22-04-2012 at home.

Proclamation
Whereas petitioner has filed the above titled petition in this court for issuing direction to respondent regarding registration of birth particulars petitioner child namely Tanish Katal S/o Kuldeep Singh Tehsil and District Kathua born on 22-04-2012 at home, and through the medium of this proclamation, general public is informed that any person's has/have to the same, in that event he/she/they shall file objection before this court on or before 10-01-2017, failing which appropriate order shall be passed. Take notice that in case the date fixed is declared holiday, the matter shall be taken in the next working day.
Munsiff (DJMM), Kathua.

In the court of Judicial Magistrate 1st Class (Addl. Munsiff), Samba

Present: Junaid I. Mir
Omi Devi W/o Sh. Tilak Raj r/o MadanTehsil & Distt. Samba.
V/S
S.H.O. Police Station Purmandal
In the matter of Application for Registration of birth/death of:- Manshu Kumar (male) D.O.B.28-09-2008 at Home
Father's Name: Sh. Tilak Raj
Mother's Name : Smt. Omi Devi

NOTICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC
Whereas, an application stand filed in this court for registration of birth of Manshu Kumar (M) S/O Sh. Tilak Raj & Smt. Omi Devi r/o MadanTehsil & Distt. Samba in Police Station Purmandal and through the medium of this publication notice at large and any other interested person is/ are informed that in case anybody has any objection in respect of aforementioned application then he/she/they shall file their objections in this court within 5 days from the date of publication of notice, failing which appropriate order shall follow.
Given under my hand and seal of this court today 30th day of December 2016.
Addl. Munsiff, (Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Samba)

Office of the principal S.K Modern Academy Jagatpur (Lakhanpur) Ten members parents association Committee

S. NO	Name	Parentage	Address	Qualification	Occupation	Name of child	Class	Roll no
1.	Bharat Singh	Sh. Puran Singh	Village jagatpur	10+2	Govt. Service	Kanchan Singh	8th	1
2	Anant Singh	Sh.Thuru Singh	Vill.matandi	10th	Business	Laxman	6th	4
3	Hira Singh	Sh. Nasib Singh	Vill.jagatpur	8th	Business	Simran Rajput	4th	2
4	Om kumar	Late babu ram	Vill.matandi	10th	Pvt. job	Jandi sharma	4th	1
5	Isher Chand	Late Sh. Sai ram	Vill.matandi	12th	Pvt. job	Aditya sharma	2nd	4
6	Bali ram	Late sh. Puran Chand	Vill.matandi	10th	Govt. service	Kanika Sharma	2nd	8
7	Rachpal Singh	Sh. Dewan Chand	Vill.jagatpur	8th	Govt. service	Karan jeet	8th	9
8	Ashook Singh	Sh.Puran Singh	Vill.jagatpur	12th	Pvt. job	Sumit Singh	7th	2
9	Arun singh	Sh. Kamlesh Singh	Vill.jagatpur	12th	Pvt. job	Adarsh Singh	K.G	5
10	Goverdhan Singh	Sh. Babu Singh	Vill.jagatpur	10th	Pvt. job	Yogesh singh	5th	10

Office of the principal S.K Modern Academy Jagatpur (Lakhanpur) zone Lakhanpur List of management Committee

S. NO	Name with parentage and address	Qualification	Occupation	Designation
1.	Madan Gopal Sharma S/o Dulla ram Sharma ward no.2 kathua	M.A.B.ED	Teacher in School	President
2.	Indu Jasrotia w/f Sh. Joginder Singh r/o Lakhanpur	B.A	Teacher in School	Vice -president
3.	Isher Chand S/o sh. Sai ram R/o matandi	12th	Businessman	Member/parent
4.	Kamal singh S/o sh. Rashpal Singh R/o w.no.1e3 Tara nagar	B.SC	Principal of school	Sec/staff
5.	Thakur Singh S/o sh.puam Singh r/o jagatpur	12th	Ex-serviceman	member
6.	Goverdhan Singh s/o Sh. Babu ram R/o sh. Hans raj r/o matandi	10th	Pvt. job	Member/parent
7.	Pholi singh S/o sh. Hans raj singh r/o jagatpur	10th	Ex-serviceman	member

Headmaster Govt. High School Basantpur, (Lakhanpur)

the northlines

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Opposing I-Cards to WPRs speaks of communal mindset

Normal life was affected in Kashmir Valley today observed a shut-down on a call given by the separatists against the issuance of identity certificates to 1947-Partition Refugees commonly referred as West Pakistan Refugees (WPRs).

The separatist groups and semi-separatists political parties have shown complete solidarity over the issue of WPR issue. Strangely, they alleged that the decision on issuance of identity certificates to WPR was aimed at changing the demography of Jammu and Kashmir. But how it changes the demography of Jammu and Kashmir is not comprehensible by any argument.

The Divisional Commissioner's clarification was unambiguous and there left no scope for vested interests in Kashmir to misinterpret the decision taken purely on humanitarian grounds to mitigate some of the hardships faced by the refugees whose life was not one of political and economic aspirations but of toil and penury.

These Kashmiri leaders, both claimed 'mainstream' and separatist should have appreciated the spirit behind would have not raised any hue and cry considering their own no-holds-barred propaganda about the sanctity of human rights. But, they took no time to denounce the state government and the Union government for the otherwise humane approach to the 70-year-old human problem and in one voice said that an insidious influence was at work to change the Muslim-majority character and constitutional character of Jammu & Kashmir. They termed the decision a deep-rooted conspiracy. The atrocious statement, inter-alia, read like this: "Issuing domicile certificates to West Pakistan refugees, Supreme Court verdict on Jammu & Kashmir over Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (SARFAESI Act), are the challenges to the sovereignty of Jammu & Kashmir. Allowing outside banks to confiscate and hold properties in Jammu & Kashmir are the issues of life and death for our existence as Muslims and Kashmiris.

Not content with what the separatists of all hues said about the hapless refugees, the so called mainstream parties National Conference (NC) and the Jammu & Kashmir Congress Committee chief also took the plunge in a most shameful and insensitive manner.

The NC general secretary and former law minister Ali Mohammad Sagar also spoke the separatists' language and said the decision to grant citizenship rights was an attack on the state's special position.

It needs to be emphasised that all the refugees from Pakistan reside in some of districts of Jammu Province and not even a single one lives in Kashmir or Ladakh. One thing is absolutely clear: Kashmiri leaders, without any exception, are not just separatist and half-separatist, but they are also rabidly anti-Jammu and seem anti-Hindu too as all the WPRs are Hindus migrated in communal partition in 1947. New Delhi should understand this stark reality and take a final decision that frees Jammu and Ladakh from the 70-year-old such Kashmiri centric hangover.

Why should these two regions groan under the yoke of Kashmir-centric rule when they hate them and also long for forcing down their throat their pernicious solution based on the two-nation concept?

Does the Samajwadi Party need Akhilesh more than he needs it?

Sreejith Panicker



After visiting Akhilesh Yadav in February 2016 with an appeal to settle the Netaji mystery, I have been following the Uttar Pradesh politics with a keen interest. We had two specific requests for him - one, to construct a museum to store and display the belongings of one Gurnami Baba, who many thought was Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in hiding, and two, to declare an inquiry into the identity of this baba.

I must confess that the Netaji matter was not making much news in UP when I and my fellow researchers and Netaji family members visited him. But Akhilesh surprised us by starting the work of the museum in the week after our meeting.

A few months later, he also announced a state-sponsored inquiry into the identity of Gurnami Baba, by drafting in (retired) Justice Vishnu Sahai. We thanked him immensely at the realisation that we were witnessing the "politics of the new".

Akhilesh surprised us again when he gave the cold shoulder to a possible partnership with Qamri Ekta Dal. He looked to ascertain that the future of UP politics was bright. But what transpired in the months that followed - the months leading up to the state elections - has been rather disappointing. Akhilesh appeared like someone who had to make a lot of compromises to continue as the chief minister to complete the formalities till the elections.

In comparison, the inquiry commission he appointed also only existed on paper at this time, making a lot of compromises on how it should have functioned.

From the "politics of the new" that I thought of, Akhilesh appeared to be going back to the Stone Age with his ties with an already depleted Congress in the state. Both he and Rahul Gandhi exchanged pleasantries in public speeches and gave all impressions of a partnership taking shape in the background. He even met Priyanka Gandhi in an attempt to march towards the magic number of 300 seats through the SP-Congress combine.

But he was losing whatever little grip he had on the party as the "modern Netaji" Mulayam Singh Yadav made his virat appearance to make it clear which faction of his family he favours. Mulayam's announcement that the party would go solo to the polls was the hardest blow on Akhilesh's nose. Akhilesh had already lost the game before it even began. He was not involved in the allotment of party seats and his close aides were sure not to be on Mulayam's official list. In an attempt to save face, he quickly released his own list of 235 candidates who would face the polls.

While I appreciate Mulayam's courage to go solo to the polls, the fact of the matter is that his own party is not in one piece right now. Interestingly, it is also a clear indication that the state politics is totally unpredictable, even for seasoned politicians like Mulayam and Akhilesh - Mulayam thinks he can win solo whereas Akhilesh thinks a partnership with the Congress is the future!

Either way, the future the Samajwadi Party wants in the state is not the "politics of the new", but that of the tried-and-tested old schoolers. Yadav senior acts like a super

chief minister with the backing of his family and Yadav junior is trying to walk back in time with a possible alliance with the Congress and an open fight within his party.

Evidently, the SP leaders are playing right into the hands of the BJP and BSP through their infighting in public. Two of BJP's own decisions have all the potential to make or break its chances in the state, irrespective of what happens in SP. Through the surgical strikes, it gained considerable ground in the state, but the negativity around demonetisation might have invalidated some of that already. Therefore, the differences in SP that have now come out in the open, will only aid BJP's chances in the state.

The future looks bleak for Akhilesh in his own party. He has the option to force the party seniors to go to polls with a balanced list of candidates, or quit to avoid embarrassment and go to the polls in his own capacity, or suffer all the hardships and linger on the political scene as a supporting actor in a subdued role.

Perhaps it is too late for Akhilesh to think of the options outside his own party. But if he does think that way, he will be splitting the SP vote bank, thereby strengthening BJP's prospects even further. In a war to prove supremacy, Akhilesh would be the winner if that happens. Of all people, Mulayam would know that better.

Evidently, Akhilesh is one who has benefited from the nepotism that seems to be the cornerstone of his own party. Now the villain in his political life is also the same nepotism, which with its deep roots once favoured him. His future in the state is in a balance now, just like the fate of the inquiry commission he appointed at our request-searching in the dark for very strange reasons.

Modi, Indira Gandhi and bad economics

Shekhar Gupta

The most fascinating insight notebandi provides is to the Narendra Modi government's approach to exercise of State power, political and economic ideology.

Here is a proposition then: The Modi and the broadly shared Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh worldview is built on a strong repudiation of Jawaharlal Nehru and all he stood for. But an admiration, desperation, to replicate the method, style and politics -- especially political economy -- of Indira Gandhi.

Let us begin with the government's favourite economist, Professor Jagdish Bhagwati. In his belated defence of notebandi, he reminded us that he had also taught the Indian Constitution at Columbia University in the US for many years and could say for sure there was nothing illegal about the government denying the citizen rights over its legal tender.

One of the earliest Constitutional amendments, he pointed out, had empowered the State to seize citizens' property for 'social' purpose, of course after paying a compensation. Or, he said, abolition of privy purses would have been struck down by the Supreme Court.

We are not asking what compensation was given to the loser princes because that will be neither popular, nor relevant to the issue at hand. Which is, that one reputed to be, our most committed, pro-reform economist, uses a socialist amendment that bred some of the worst kind of povertarianism under the Congress, especially Indira Gandhi, in defence of another use of brute State power forcing the country and its economy in disarray.

What kind of pro-reform, 'less government-more governance' leadership displays such faith in the ability and intentions of the State, justify such sweeping use of its powers, or a State-mandated restructuring of monetary system so massive

it would be the equivalent of eight on the Richter scale.

A planned change so huge, even P C Mahalanobis, founder of the Indian Statistical Institute and member of the first Planning Commission, would not have imagined possible in the days of Soviet-style planned economy.

This is not personal, and this isn't about Professor Bhagwati either. We know the history, and human chemistry, enough to understand the need for a default position in counter one of the two greats, Professor Bhagwati and Amartya Sen has spoken on an issue.

The key point is how, from the prime minister who came to power on the promise of economic reform and growth -- with a track record in Gujarat -- and to his most admired global economist, we are now seeing an admiration for Indira Gandhi's style, methods, even her disastrous economics.

Put it another way: How does the prime minister whose first reformist act was

to abolish the Planning Commission, now railroad the most centralised transformation in the national economy since bank nationalisation?

If you explore the Narendra Modi politics, you can find parallels with her style, and also a grudging admiration. The ability to take institutions in your stride, as if these were no more than minor irritants.

Passing a most important income tax act amendment that restores the discretionary power of the taxman at the lowest level and thereby can potentially damage liberalisation of 25 years, without a line in discussion, by a voice vote (common, or holla as we prefer to say in our politics) in the Lok Sabha.

Or returning more than half of the high court judges' appointments proposed by the Supreme Court Collegium.

Using the Treasury benches to stall Parliament after cursing the Opposition for having done just that so far. Or reducing the stature of the governor of the Reserve Bank of India to the equivalent of an anonymous joint secretary in the ministry of finance, where its civil servants hold forth on daily changes in currency policy and where a junior finance minister announces that the government is going to cut tax and interest rates in the next Budget.

Most importantly, it reflects also in the view expressed by more than one powerful supporter and ideologue of this government that nothing works in India with persuasion.

The government has to enforce change, if it needs to use brute force to that end, so be it.

There is a wariness with procedure, institutions, whether these be apex committees of the Cabinet or the highest judiciary, irritation with paperwork (barring currency notifications which change at the pace of a T20 scoreboard) and a total rejection of the 'system'.

This is precisely what Indira Gandhi did to the system she inherited from her more 'proper' father and his unfortunately short-lived successor Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Spurred perhaps by the setbacks of the 1967 elections, she embarked on a project of dismantling that 'system,' reducing her Cabinet and party leadership into 'yes-men,' undermining other institutions, demanding a 'socially committed' judiciary and bureaucracy, fuelling a new



sense of hyper-nationalism, fronted both of these anti-West xenophobia, policies, was painted as a swadeshi, import-foreign (American)-inspired substitution pride and most fifth columnist in his core importantly, extreme, and equally insincere socialism.

The RSS has never really questioned most of these in principle as much as they detested Nehru's philosophy and policies.

His admiration for Indira Gandhi also came from the acknowledgement that in her tenure, especially 1969 to 1977, she dismantled much of the liberal is now a pejorative), democratic edifice Nehru had built.

Who better to destroy Nehru's legacy than his own daughter?

Indira Gandhi came up to those expectations fully by suspending citizens' rights and putting her opponents in jail, something Nehru would never have dreamed of.

The basic Modi-RSS proposition is also a tough government, willing to use the 'danda' where 'needed' and not distracted by pestilence like media, civil society or overzealous busybodies like experts, technocrats, judges.

Whether now, or in the pre-Modi era, the Bharatiya Janata Party-RSS criticism of Indira Gandhi has more or less been limited to her political actions, not her economics.

Even when the Janata Party came to power, defeating her in 1977, most of her liberal political laws and actions were set aside, but economic ones were retained.

Nobody wanted to question her fake socialist ideas. In the second half of his tenure, Atal Bihari Vajpayee made a much in developing new ideas as in escaping from old But it ran into immediate opposition from the RSS, as did his wary openings to a globalised economy and a style of politics, governance post-Cold War political and, most importantly, economics.

We can say the really bad old ones, like Indira Gandhi's

(Disclaimer: The views expressed here are personal opinions of the writers. The information, facts or opinions appearing in the articles do not reflect the views of The Northlines and it does not assume any responsibility or liability for the same)

Correcting Indus Waters Treaty can help India solve its water crisis

Brahma Chellaney

The inter-ministerial task force set up by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for correcting India's under-utilisation of its allocated share of waters under the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) has just held its first meeting.

The water-related issue facing India, however, is much larger: The continuing absence of institutionalised, integrated policy-making in India, which has prevented proper management of the country's increasingly scarce water resources.

Indeed, India stands out for its lack of a national action plan to build water security.

Scarcity When the Indian Republic was established, the framers of its Constitution did not visualise water scarcity in the decades ahead, given the relative abundance of water resources there. Therefore, they left water as a state-level subject, rather than making it a federal issue.

Similarly, the IWT, under which India bigheartedly agreed in 1960 to the exclusive reservation of the largest three of the six Indus system rivers for Pakistan, was negotiated in a period when water shortages were uncommon in most parts of India. This led India to sign an extraordinary treaty whose terms commit India to indefinitely reserve over four-fifths of the total waters of the Indus system for Pakistan.

The treaty uniquely parceled out entire rivers to Pakistan. It granted Pakistan virtually exclusive rights to use the waters of the Chenab, the Jhelum, and the main Indus stream - known together as the "western rivers".

The average replenishable flows of the three western rivers total 167.2 billion cubic metres (BCM) per year. As its own share, India settled for a mere 40.4 BCM, or the total yearly flows of the three so-called eastern rivers - the Sutlej, the Beas, and the Ravi.

Four of these six rivers originate in India (three of them in Himachal Pradesh), and two (the main Indus stream and the Sutlej) originate in Tibet.



Only the Jhelum originates in Jammu and Kashmir.

Today, the national water situation in India is far worse than in China. China's population is not even 10 per cent larger than India's but its internally renewable water resources (2,813 BCM) are almost twice as large as India's. In aggregate water availability, including external inflows (which are sizeable in India's case), China boasts virtually 50 per cent larger resources than India.

Yet India serves as a case study of how a disjointed policy approach and lack of vision on managing water resources can exact serious costs by creating water shortages across much of the country. In a sense, India's fragmented approach is exactly the opposite of China's highly centralised approach centred on mega-projects.

Accountability The startling fact is that the responsibility for water issues is so fragmented within India's central government that 12 different departments or ministries deal with different segments of water resources.

To promote clear responsibility and accountability in national water management and to facilitate integrated policy-making, India must end its present fragmented approach on water issues.

As for India's under-utilisation of its IWT allocated water share, the task facing the task-force is formidable. For example, the waters of the three eastern rivers not utilised by India aggregate to 10.37 BCM yearly according to Pakistan or, according to the UN, 11.1 BCM.

India has built no storage. And despite the treaty allowing India to build hydropower plants with no dam reservoir, India's total installed generating capacity in J&K currently does not equal the size of a single new dam in Pakistan, like the 4,500-megawatt Diamer-Bhasha, whose financing for construction was approved recently.

Against this background, the task force set up by Modi, with his principal secretary as its chairman, may be a step in the right direction. But constituting this committee is hardly an adequate response to fixing the anomaly in India's under-utilisation of its water share.

Made up of senior bureaucrats who are already busy attending to other tasks, the committee cannot by itself remove the bureaucratic hurdles in the proper utilisation of water resources.

India's political negligence on this issue has been so deep and extensive that it can be remedied only through hands-on political direction and in coordination with the state chief ministers.

More fundamentally, water scarcity is a looming challenge across India. The water wars between various Indian states are highlighting how the competition over shared water resources is sharpening in an alarming manner.

India must treat water as a strategic resource for its own well-being. If the current compartmentalised approach to managing water resources persists, water shortages are going to exact growing economic and social costs in India.

(Courtesy of Mail Today.)

Drug peddler arrested

Srinagar, Dec 30

Bandipora police arrested a drug peddler and recovered contraband substance from his possession. Acting on an information, a police party of Police Station Sumbal laid a naka at Sumbal bazaar. During naka checking a Scorpio vehicle bearing registration number JK01T-5079 driven by Irshad Hussain Parrey resident of Wangipora was intercepted. On search of the vehicle 12 bottles of cocaine phosphate and 18 strips of tablets was recovered. The driver of the vehicle was arrested and the vehicle was sized on spot. A case FIR number 168/16 under section 8/21 NDPS act was registered against him and investigation was taken up.

Pedestrian injured in road accident

Srinagar, Dec 30

A pedestrian was injured after he was hit by a vehicle at Herpora. Shopian. A Tavera vehicle bearing registration number JK13A-7851 hit and injured a pedestrian namely Bashir Ahmad Ganie resident of Herpora at Herpora market in the jurisdiction of Police Station Herpora, Shopian. The injured was shifted to District Hospital Shopian for treatment. Shopian police has registered a case in this regard.

2 houses damaged in fire

Srinagar, Dec 30

Two houses were damaged in two separate fire incidents in Kulgam and Srinagar. Fire broke out in the house of Mohammad Munawar Malik resident of Ahmadabad in the jurisdiction of D H Pora Kulgam, resulting in damage to the residential house. Fire was brought under control with the help of fire tenders. In another incident, fire broke out in the residential house of Mohammad Shafi Sheikh resident of Basant bagh in the jurisdiction of Police Station Kralkhud Srinagar, resulting in damage to the house. Fire was brought under control with the help of fire tenders. However, no loss of life or injury was reported in these incidents.

PCPG meeting held

Srinagar, Dec 30

In its efforts to strengthen the police public relations, a police public meeting was held in Achabal area of Anantnag, under the supervision of SSP Anantnag Shri Zubair Ahmad Khan. Large number of respectables of the area participated in the meeting. The participants highlighted various developmental issues and problems. They were ensured by the SSP that these issues will be taken with the concerned heads of concerned departments for speedy redressal. Speaking on the occasion, SSP Anantnag Shri Zubair Ahmad Khan said that the aim of conducting such meetings is to solicit the public support and suggesting for the better policing.

Lecture on HIV prevention held

Srinagar, Dec 30

To generate awareness about the causes and prevention of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), a lecture titled 'Hands Up for HIV Prevention' was today organized by Red Ribbon Club and NSS wing of Government Medical College Srinagar at SP College. Prof. Muneer A. Masoodi from GMC deliberated on various causes responsible for spreading the disease worldwide and also threw light on the Indian scenario. He stressed on the importance of ethical practices and religious teachings which act as defensive measures preventing the spread of HIV. The Principal SP College said that more such lectures on crucial issues would be organized at the Institution in near future for generating awareness among the people.

Progress of DCP reviewed

KUPWARA, DEC 30

District Development Commissioner Kupwara, G M Dar today chaired District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting to review the progress achieved by the financial institutions and sponsoring agencies under the District Credit Plan (DCP) in the district. The meeting discussed various issues pertaining to implementation of District Credit Plan. It was given out that Rs 152.13 crore have been disbursed among 7254 unit holders under priority and non-priority sectors. The DDC impressed upon the concerned authorities to work with added zeal and coordination in achieving set targets. He directed the concerned to organize awareness programmes in educational institutions besides in different villages of the district so that people particularly educated youth are made aware about the different welfare schemes of the government. He called for speedy disbursement of credit among the beneficiaries.

A year on:

Kashmiri man missing in Bihar still untraced

Srinagar, Dec 30

A family from Bandipora district alleged that despite knocking at the gates of police station, police didn't show any interest in tracing out one of the family members who went missing a year ago in Eastern Indian state of Bihar. "Manzoor Ahmed Teli a resident of Mirgund Pattan cajoled and coaxed my son Ghulam Mohiuddin last year and he took him to Bihar with a promise to provide him a job. Six months later Manzoor returned back to Valley and informed us that Mohiuddin went missing in Bihar. After waiting for a month, we lodged a complaint in police station Sumbal against Manzoor, however, police released him without investigating the case," the elderly mother of missing person who hails from Markundal Sonawari area told news agency CNS. "It has been a year and I have no information about my son," she added. When contacted SDPO Sumbal Rashid Akbar said that they are in touch with Bihar police and a missing report already stands registered in a police station in Bihar. "Investigation revealed that Mohiuddin got lost and Manzoor looked for him everywhere. After failing to trace he returned back to Valley," he said and added that they are in constant touch with Bihar police. (CNS)

LPG connections distributed under PMUY

NL Correspondent
Budgam, Dec 30

Member Legislative Council, Saif-u-din Bhat today distributed free LPG Connections under PMUY among the beneficiaries at Drung Khag.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLC said that government is working for overall development of the Khanshib area. He said welfare and prosperity of the people of the state is prime priority of the present



government. Later, the MLC inspected the ongoing construction work on Drung -Tosamaidan road. He was informed that Rs 3 crore has been expended

from Rs 11.50 crore earmarked for the road project and 5 kilometer road length has been completed so far. Meanwhile, the MLC accompanied by a team of district officers visited various areas of Khanshib during which several deputations apprised him on various issues. The MLC gave patient hearing to them and assured that their genuine demands will be looked into on priority.

Kichloo concerned over problems of common people

NL Correspondent
Kishtwar, Dec 30

Former minister and National Conference MLC Sajjad Ahmed Kichloo on Friday expressed concern over problems of common people multiplying with each passing day, saying it seems that the PDP-BJP coalition government is yet to take off despite over 22 months of being in office in Jammu and Kashmir. Kichloo said that the impact of the government is zero in rural and far-off areas with infrastructural development and utility services remaining in shambles. He said the woes of people speak volumes about the failure of government on all fronts. "The government has not

only failed on development front but it has also not been able to seek solution to political issues, as a result of which the state underwent a most traumatic phase this year", the former minister said, adding that the unprecedented crisis took toll of governance that left the people of the entire state to fend for themselves. While scarcity of rations at the CAPD sale outlets caused enormous hardships to the consumers, the erratic power and drinking water supply added to their miseries. He said that utility services are almost in shambles with coalition government just doing lip service. He said the internal roads taken up under Prime Minister's Gram Sadak

Yojna have not been completed, the electric transformers are not being upgraded to meet the requirements of people. Kichloo expressed anguish over shortage of staff in the new colleges in entire Chenab Valley region, especially in Thathri, Chattru, Gandoh etc. He said that scarcity of funds has hit the construction and upgradation of schools at Dachan, Sounder, Marwah, Warwan, Paddar, Nagsani, Zohatru and Thathri areas. The MLC assured the delegations that he will take up forcefully with the executing agencies and various departments the issues pertaining to functioning of utility services as per satisfaction of the people. (KNS)

'Ladakh students will get hostel facility in Jammu'

NL Correspondent
Jammu Tawi, Dec 30

While wishing the people of Ladakh on the Losar festival, Minister of State for Cooperatives and Ladakh Affairs Chering Dorje today said that Government will soon setup hostel facilities for students of Ladakh region in Jammu. "Government is going to construct a tribal hostel here at Jammu and students of Ladakh will be accommodated in the hostel.

In the meantime Government will try to setup a separate hostel for Ladakh boys studying in Jammu," he said. He was speaking during the interaction with students of Ladakh at the celebration event of Losar organized by the All Ladakh Student Association Jammu (ALSJA) here. The event was attended by Mr Skapje Khamtak Rinpoche, President ALSJA Sonam Pajlor and other members of the

association besides students of the Ladakh region. Extending warm greetings to the people of Ladakh and Kargil especially the Buddhist community on the auspicious occasion of Losar, the Minister hoped that the festival will prove harbinger of peace, progress and prosperity for the State and its people. The Minister also said that constitution of sports council at Leh has given

flip to the sports activities in the region. Government is encouraging the participation of youth in different sports. Earlier youth from Ladakh have climbed to Mount Everest likewise we should participate and perform well in Ice hockey, Marathon and other sports activities as well, Mr Dorje said. Earlier, the students enthralled the audience with different cultural programmes of the Leh.

MLA visits Wadder Payeen fire victims

NL Correspondent
Handwara, Dec 30

AIP Supremo and MLA Langate, Rashid Friday visited Wadder Payeen Handwara where more than a dozen houses were dashed to earth in a devastating fire and expressed solidarity with the fire victims. In a statement issued to KNS, Rashid released an amount of Rs. 10,000 per family on behalf of Joint Effort Trust (JET) and appealed government employees to donate one day salary to JET by depositing it in its account number SB/1130 in J&K Bank Branch Qalamabad for the rehabilitation of fire

victims. He appealed towards to discharge their collective duties towards society by helping each other in worst need. The MLA appealed Govt. to establish a fire extinguishing station at a convenient place in Rajwar and added it is horrible that in more than 50 villages of Rajwar there is no fire extinguishing station. He sought package for victims on the pattern Govt provided for fire victims of Kishtwar and Dalgate few weeks ago. He also asked Govt. to provide temporary shelter sheds to the victims as due to cold weather conditions it would not be possible to construct the new houses. (KNS)

House arrests:

SHRC issues notice to Div Com Kashmir

NL Correspondent
Srinagar, Dec 30

State Human Rights Commission has taken suo-moto cognizance of a newspaper report published in a local Daily regarding the house arrests of citizens and has directed the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir to apprise the Commission about the authority of law under which such detentions

are made. Shabir Ahmed Shah and Muhammad Ashraf Sehrai. Meanwhile, Chairman SHRC visited the District Jail Anantnag. While inspection of the said jail he took stock of living conditions and other facilities provided by the jail authorities to the prisoners. The recommendations according to the Commission will be submitted before the government. CNS

Annual Urs of Janbaz Wali (RA) concludes

NL Correspondent
Srinagar, Dec 30

The annual Urs of Syed Janbaz wali (RA) was Friday concluded at shrine in Khanpora Baramulla. Thousands of devotees including men, women and children from the adjoining areas of the district thronged the shrine to have glimpse of holy relic and offered Friday prayers there. The Urs commenced on December 13 during which various religious programmes were organized. On the occasion today, special prayers were organized during which Imams and other religious heads threw light on the life of the saint. The clerics said that the Syed Janbaz wali (RA) was a living example of humanity. According to the KNS correspondent, it was said that special arrangements were put into place by the authority for the devotees who had a glimpse of his sacred relics which were displaced at the venue. (KNS)

DAK announces elections; New body to take office in April

NL Correspondent
Srinagar, Dec 30

An important meeting of central executive of Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) was held in Srinagar which was chaired by its president, Dr G M Mir. Besides Dr Mir, the meeting was attended by founder president, Dr Khalid Parvaiz, founder vice president, Dr Sunallah Qureshi, General Secretary Dr AG Dar, and various executive members from across the Valley. The meeting was called to discuss various issues of doctors and organisational matters. According to a statement issued here, the President, Dr G M Mir in the meeting

proposed that fresh elections for DAK which are due from quite some time now should be held immediately according to its constitution. Accordingly it was unanimously resolved that the process for elections will be started soon and completed by end of March and new body will take office in April 2017. It was also decided that all the account details of DAK will be audited and will be made public. Since many doctors are now preferring to work in private sector and which is flourishing rapidly for which they have also

their genuine issues and demands, so it was decided they can also participate in the elections actively. Many issues which are pending with the government will also be taken up and followed accordingly. DAK will hold meetings in various district hospitals in the coming days for which dates will be announced after discussing with the doctors of those hospitals. Dr G M Mir personally thanked the members who had come from different areas of valley and attended the meeting despite their busy schedules.

Duksum Forest on fire from 3 days

'Unable to douse fire due to lack of facilities: DFO

NL Correspondent
Anantnag, Dec 30

The forest fire has engulfed the three compartments of Duksum Range of South Kashmir's Forest Division. Forest officials admitted that due to lack of manpower and sophisticated equipments they are unable to douse the fire. Reports said compartment number 27, 28 and 29 of Duksum forest caught fire three days back causing huge loss to green gold. Reports added that a couple

of forest and fire service teams have been deployed on the job to douse the fire, however, they have not succeeded in their endeavor. Reports said that the forest fire has also engulfed some nearby nurseries resulting in massive damage to them. Divisional Forest Officer Anantnag Syed Humayoun Qadri told CNS that they are unable to douse the fire due to lack of manpower and equipments. "We are on a job and in couple of days fire will be doused," he said. Reports added that a couple

1ST FLOOR, APSARA ROAD, GANDHI NAGAR

Easy ways to Allergy-proof Your home



Make sure the humidity within the home is set below 60 per cent. Mould thrives in warm, damp places. Use a dehumidifier.

Fridges:

If you find mould growing in areas of the fridge, remove all food and clean the inside with bicarbonate of soda and water and wipe with a cloth. Bicarbonate of soda is a natural fungicide.

DUST

Dust mites are most prevalent during hotter months of the year compared to winter time.

Use anti-allergen bedding:

Put these on your mattresses and pillows to prevent dust mite allergen penetrating bedding.

Store clothing in sealable bags to prevent dust and pet allergen from settling on them.

Vacuum:

Again, use a vacuum with a HEPA filter which will help remove allergen from carpets and home surfaces without redistributing into the air.

Washing duvets and pillows:

Aim to wash duvets and pillows every three months, to remove the millions of skin cells and sweat harboured in them whilst sleeping.

PETS

Pet allergens are found in their skin flakes (dander), saliva and urine.

Pets in the home:

Stop pets from exploring or settling in your bedroom. Pet allergen can cause allergic reactions and can be stubborn to remove from surfaces.

Dogs:

In order to prevent reactions from pet allergens, it's advised that dogs are groomed regularly, preferably outdoors, to prevent them from shedding their hair and dander, which can trigger a reaction.

Cats:

Bathing a cat twice a week can reduce cat allergens by as much as 90 per cent.

Where they sleep:

Don't let pets sleep in your bedroom or area where you sleep. This includes cats and dogs as well as rodents and birds, which are known to cause problems for asthma sufferers.

Wash their bedding:

Regularly wash your pets bedding area to remove pet hair, dander and bacteria that they harbour.

HAY FEVER/POLLEN A common allergic condition, its symptoms mimic that of chronic cold.

Vacuum:

Pollen easily sticks to your carpet fibres, so make sure you regularly use a vacuum. Don't just stick to floors, vacuum places like curtains, mattresses and lampshades where pollen can also settle.

Shut your windows: Keep windows shut during the day when the pollen count is at its highest and open them at night.

Dusting:

Damp dust your surfaces around the home to prevent pollen from becoming airborne.

want do, there are some simple measures we can take to not only clean, but allergy-proof our home.

MOULD

They flourish in damp, warm environments like bathrooms and cellars.

Cleaning:

Use a weak bleach solution or mould remover.

Surfaces:

Regularly clean surfaces, particularly in humid/moist areas such as bathrooms. This will prevent mould spores from having the opportunity to grow and spread.

Taps and pipes:

In places that harbour a lot of moisture, make sure taps and pipes are in working order and without leaks.

Humidity:

Pillows and duvets:

If prone to allergies, look out for bedding that's hypoallergenic. Feathers in bedding can trigger allergy for some sufferers and make sleeping very uncomfortable.

Bedding:

To kill dust mites and removing the allergen, make sure that bedding is washed on a hot setting.

Storing clothing:



The sun may be shining and the flowers may be in bloom, but for parents with kids at home, this is not necessarily a cause for celebration. It may look glorious outside, but it can be a minefield out there - most of us suffer from hay fever. Not to mention those that suffer from food, skin, drug and respiratory allergies. Now that spring-summer is upon us and we may, or may not be in a cleaning frenzy. Although it may seem like the last thing you

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Coming home...

Say no to gadgets

Homeowners sought spaces devoid of screens and larger lounge sofas became the norm - a perfect space for families who used it to connect without staying connected.

Mix it up

Our home was our canvas and our imagination was wild, as mismatched décor became a rage. We mixed and matched colours and textures - pairing a blue chair with yellow sofa or red tiles with white ceramics. The idea: to keep it quirky.

Spiritual spaces

We looked for a spiritual connect in our home design. The result: spiritual spaces in the house moved away from the main puja garh.

Begone bathtubs

Baths are now considered uncool. These days, people no longer seek to soak themselves in the baths, as they occupy lot of space and involve high

costs. We saw the rise of smart toilets with heated seats and automated flushes.

Style tiles

This was the year of geometric patterns. Cement and even wood was a hot pick.

• Seat of power

Chairs made a statement this year and the bolder, the better. People made sure their seats were sassed up with innovative fabrics, quirky prints and crazy colours to make sure chairs were conversation starters. Blue, orange and coral ruled the palette.

• One of a kind

People put on their walking shoes to hunt for unique 'one-of-its-kind' handmade items. DIY was a big buzz with crafts like patchwork, embroidery becoming cool again.

• Vintage charm

We mixed vintage finds with modern furniture to create an eclectic and unique look.



Simple ways to reduce waste

Most urban citizens in India are sitting on a pile of garbage. As conscious citizens, we can take action to reduce our carbon footprint and do our bit for nature. Here are small steps that you can take to reduce waste...

- Carry your own water bottle. That way, you won't buy and waste packaged water bottles
- Carry your own steel utensils on trips to avoid using thermocol, plastic and styrofoam
- Eat ice cream in a cone so that the only waste product is a styrofoam
- Say no to chewing gum as it is very difficult to degrade.
- Use cloth napkins instead of tissue paper for everyday use
- If you have to buy cold drinks, opt for those in glass bottles instead of plastic ones
- Instead of plastic gift wrappers, wrap gifts in newspapers
- Switch to e-reading platforms to save paper, and therefore trees
- Use menstrual cups instead of sanitary napkins and tampons
- Segregate garbage at home



tampons
- Segregate garbage at home

Simple tips to get your house in order at short notice

Expecting last-minute guests and find yourself panicking because your house is in a mess? Reached home after a long day at work only to realise

you have to entertain your spouse's friends? Here are some simple tips to help you tide over these unexpected occasions...

- If things are all over the place and putting them neatly back in their place is going to take ages, take a big basket or box and place things inside. Keep the box out of sight so that you can unpack it later.

- Do a quick vacuum of the living room. It won't take time and you'll at least be assured of a clean floor.

- Use disinfectant wipes to

clean the dining table top. Ask your partner to bring out the good China and order in instead of wondering what to whip up at

such short notice.

- Your bathroom is another place that needs to be clean, so ensure that you clear it of dirty laundry and tissues. Don't forget to place a room freshener near the door.

- Keep tissues handy at different places in the house beforehand so that guests can use them without worrying where to wipe their hands.

- Instead of panicking, take a deep breath and focus on the task at hand. You can't stop guests from coming but you can change your mindset. Tell yourself it is just for a few hours - surely you can get through that much. And don't hesitate to delegate work to family members.



Mine collapses in Jharkhand, 7 killed

New Delhi: At least seven people were killed and several others were feared trapped in an opencast coal mine at Rajmahal area of Eastern Rpt Eastern Coalfields Ltd after a cave-in on Thursday night.



A heap of mud caved in at the entry point of the Latma mines of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) in Godda district, police said. The collapse occurred at 8:30pm yesterday, the state disaster management department said. About 40 workers are suspected to be still trapped under the debris. Several vehicles were also trapped, according to police. Rescue work started after

midnight, the disaster management department said. Four workers have been rescued, and have been admitted in a hospital at Mahagama in Godda. The condition of one of the workers is reportedly

serious. Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das is closely monitoring the situation, and has asked concerned officials to intensify rescue operations. Expressing sorrow, the Jharkhand Chief Minister today announced assistance of Rs two lakh for the families of the miners who died in the accident. He also announced Rs 25,000 to the injured,

The Director General of Mines Safety (DGMS) has sent a team to the spot to investigate. According to a DGMS official, the safety measures were overlooked during mining. The locals said there was a crack in the heap of mud which collapsed and blocked the entry point of the mine. Mining operations were taking place about 200 feet beneath the ground.

official sources said. Coal India has been requested for a mining rescue station team with specialized equipment. At the time of the cave-in at the Rajmahal Open Cast Mines of Pahari Bhorya site, more than 70 vehicles were inside. Rescue operation could not begin due to night fog, the police said. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team reached around 11am from Patna. The local police and administration were also involved in the rescue operation.

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6 workers died in bakery fire

Pune: Six people suffocated to death when fire broke out in a Pune bakery, whose only exit was locked from outside, early Friday morning.

According to fire brigade officials, the workers were sleeping on mezzanine floor of the "bakes N cakes", a bakery shop located in Kondhwa area of the city. Police have detained three persons, who had recently started bakery in partnership at the ground floor of nine storey building.

Fire brigade officials suspect that the fire broke out in the wee hours at around 4:30 am due to a short circuit inside the bakery.

The workers were sleeping in the bakery when the fire broke out. (HTPhoto) When the fire brigade officials were trying to break the lock, the owner of the bakery reached the spot and opened the shutter. After the owner informed the officials that there were workers sleeping in the mezzanine floor, the fire brigade team climbed up the loft to recover the bodies.

According to Pune mayor Prashant Jagtap, while returning home on Thursday night, the bakery owner had locked the shop from outside due to which all the workers got trapped inside when the fire broke out.

The police have identified the deceased as Ishad Ansari (26), Juned Ansari (25), Shanu Ansari (20), Zakir Ansari (24), Faem Ansari (21) and Zishan Ansari (21). All the workers were natives of Uttar Pradesh. While a case has been registered at Kondhwa police station, the civic body has ordered inquiry into the incident to find out the exact cause of the fire.

In another incident a few hours later, a fire broke out at a carpet godown in Pune's Bibwevadi area. However, no casualties were reported in the incident though the cause of the fire was not known.

Demonetisation not politically motivated move: PM Modi

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the November 8 demonetisation was "not a politically motivated move", adding that he pitched a few of his opponents, especially in the Congress.

In an interview to India Today magazine, excerpts of which were telecast in text form on India Today TV, Modi took on his predecessor Manmohan Singh's reference to "organised loot" during the latter's speech on demonetisation in Parliament and said it must have been in the context of his own (UPA) government.

The Prime Minister said he would not have taken the decision to scrap old Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes if he was guided by short-term electoral politics. He said it was interesting that former Prime Minister

Manmohan Singh, a well-known economist, called demonetisation a "monumental mismanagement". Manmohan Singh, participating in a debate on



demonetisation in the Rajya Sabha, called demonetisation a "monumental management failure" and "a case of organised loot and legalised plunder". The debate in the upper house could not be concluded amid disruptions,

and the winter session was an almost washout. The Prime Minister said: "It was a tough decision taken to clean our economy and our society. If I were guided by short-term electoral politics, I would have never done so." In the interview, aired on the eve of expiry of the December 30 deadline to deposit demonetised currency in banks, the Prime Minister urged citizens not to regard digital transactions as a short-term substitute for cash payments. In the wake of demonetisation, the government announced a series of measures to promote digital payments to move towards an economy making less cash transactions. "Digital payment is a way of cleaning the economy in the long run," the Prime Minister said.

Sisodia's office burgled: Documents, computers allegedly stolen

New Delhi: Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's office in Vinod Nagar area of his Patparganj constituency in east Delhi has been burgled, with the thieves decamping with computers, documents, CCTV camera DVR among others, police said on



Friday. "Some materials have been stolen from the reception area of the office which is in the process of being shifted. The burglary is expected to have taken place late last night. The matter is being probed," said a senior police officer. Two computers, letter pad,

hard disk, documents, digital video recorder of CCTV camera among others were stolen by the burglars who entered the premises by breaking the lock of the office, sources said. Police said they received a burglary call at around 9:20 am on Friday following

which a team was sent to the spot. "The whole office was ransacked and we are trying to ascertain what other items are missing. The office was locked at 2:30 am Friday morning, officer-in-charge Upendra said. The matter is being probed, police added.

CBI: Norms flouted in selecting Satyendar Jain's OSD

New Delhi: Initiating a probe into another alleged irregularity in the Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi government, CBI has registered an FIR to look into the appointment of Nikunj Aggarwal as officer on special duty (OSD) to health minister Satyendar Jain. CBI claimed that Aggarwal, a senior resident at Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya, a hospital run by the Delhi government, was appointed OSD flouting all norms.

BJP leader Vijender Gupta had alleged in July that Aggarwal was a relative of Kejriwal and demanded a probe into the appointment.

Gupta had claimed that Aggarwal was the son-in-law of Kejriwal's sister-in-law. Najeed Jung, who recently resigned as lieutenant governor, had referred the matter to CBI in November. The agency has not named Jain in its FIR, registered under provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act, but it has mentioned "unknown officials of Delhi government".

This comes even as CBI is probing Kejriwal's former principal secretary Rajendra Kumar for corruption and also Okhla MLA Amanatullah Khan for misusing the post of Delhi Waqf Board chairman.

Note recall the best vaccine to prevent scams: Naidu

New Delhi: In the fight against black money, note withdrawal is an effective anti-scams vaccine and is one of the biggest achievements of the Modi government in the last two-and-a-half years, said I&B minister Venkaiah Naidu on Thursday. All union ministries and departments have been asked to submit a dossier of their achievements to the I&B ministry. These will be highlighted in UP and

Punjab that are set to have elections in the next few months. "The focus is heavily on social sector achievements," an official said. Speaking on demonetisation, Naidu said that the Government would not rest till the last rupee of black money was accounted for and removed from the system. "Some mischievous people who are trying to subvert the system.

ED registers case against Zakir for money laundering

Mumbai: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday registered a case against controversial Islamic preacher Zakir Naik under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. Senior ED officials said the case was registered by the Mumbai unit of the Directorate on Friday. "The offence has been registered based on the information shared by the National Investigation Agency regarding the funding and monetary transactions of Mr. Naik's Islamic Research Foundation. Further inquiries are underway," said an officer.

The ED's case is only the latest of Mr. Naik's troubles, who was booked by the NIA under the

Unlawful Activities Prevention Act earlier this year. Prior to that, the Maharashtra government had instructed the Mumbai Police to



conduct an inquiry into the content and nature of Mr. Naik's speeches, while the Central government had sanctioned an inquiry against him and the IRF.

HC notice to Tyagi on CBI plea against his bail

New Delhi: Delhi High Court today sought the response of ex-IAF chief P Tyagi, who is on bail after being arrested in the AgustaWestland chopper scam, on CBI's plea challenging his bail claiming its probe would be "hampered" if he remains out. Justice Vipin Sanghi issued notice to Tyagi, who was arrested on December 9 and granted bail on December 26, listed the matter for hearing on January 3 after CBI said the bail pleas of other accused in the case are likely to be heard by the trial court on January 4.

Justice Sanghi said the endeavour of the court would be to dispose of the matter on January 3 after hearing all the parties. CBI argued before the high court that each day Tyagi remained out on bail would lead to its line of investigation being "exposed" and "hampered" and the evidence could also be destroyed. The agency also said its probe was "multi-layered" as it was spread across several countries since various companies were allegedly used to "camouflage the bribe money".

The contention came in response to the high court's query as to why should the 72-year-old former Chief of Air Staff be retained in judicial custody at this stage when he was in the custody of the agency for a week prior to getting bail. CBI admitted before the high court that though the FIR was registered in 2013, "real core investigation started only a few months back" and hence it did not want Tyagi to be out on bail till the charge sheet is filed. It contended that if Tyagi remained out on bail, he could "alert other potential accused".

Stalin seeks probe by sitting HC judge over Jaya's death

Chennai: A day after a Madras High Court judge expressed doubts over the circumstances leading to the demise of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J



Jayalithaa, DMK on Friday sought a comprehensive probe by a sitting HC judge into the death. Against the backdrop of the court raising questions, he said it was imperative for the government to come out comprehensively on the medical treatment provided to the former AIADMK chief.

In a statement here, he said complete medical bulletins, video footage and photos of her getting treatment at the hospital should be released.

Citing Justice Vaidyanathan's observation yesterday that he may consider ordering

examination of the body of the departed leader, he said "it is imperative for the government to release comprehensive information". Stalin, who had earlier sought a white paper on the treatment given to Jayalithaa, said there was no statement from the government ever since she was admitted to the hospital on September 22.

He said the Centre and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister O Panneerselvam had a duty to answer questions related to the treatment provided for the late leader. Doctors from Delhi's AIIMS too had treated her, he said. If the ruling regime had explained the "true health status" of Jayalithaa and released pictures of her getting treatment, the issue could not have reached the doormats of court, he said. He recalled a statement of his party chief Karunanidhi seeking release of pictures of Jayalithaa being treated and said, "had the ruling side not viewed it from the prism of politics, the issue would not have come to such a pass".

Only such activities has cast a "cloud, giving room for suspicion," among the people, he said, adding it was the right of the people to know about the treatment given to her and the circumstances leading to her death.

SC rejects stay on Khehar's appointment as 44th Chief Justice

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a plea filed by a lawyers' body seeking a stay on the appointment of Jagdish Singh Khehar as the next Chief Justice of India. "No question of Justice Khehar usurping power through National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) judgment, or being ineligible for appointment as Chief Justice of India. There is no merit in the plea," observed the apex court.



The lawyers' body - National Lawyers' Campaign for Judicial Transparency and Reforms - had moved the apex

to Justice Khehar, be appointed as the 44th Chief Justice of India. The petition also argued that Justice Khehar is harsh on the smallest of mistakes by lawyers and openly favours high-profile lawyers. President Pranab Mukherjee earlier this month cleared the appointment of Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar as the next Chief Justice of India. Justice Khehar will succeed Chief Justice Tinch Singh Thakur on January 4. Justice Khehar, 64, will be sworn in by President Mukherjee on January 4 and will hold the post for seven months

Cong may project a CM face for 2017 polls in Gujarat

Ahmedabad: Gujarat Congress president Bhairatsinh Solanki has not ruled out the possibility of the party projecting a chief ministerial face in 2017 assembly polls to

take on BJP, which has been in power in the state for nearly two decades. Claiming that the Congress is well equipped to take on BJP in the Prime Minister's home state, Solanki dubbed Vijay Rupani as a "rubber stamp" Chief Minister and claimed the change of guard earlier this year did not help the ruling party which has been grappling with Patel quota and dalit stir. The Congress has not fought elections projecting a chief ministerial candidate in the last 20 years in Gujarat. With the exit of Modi from Gujarat political scene leaving a leadership vacuum in BJP, Congress is hoping to make a mark in the 2017 elections.

The Congress, after remaining in opposition for last 20 years, is hoping for a revival, as the BJP is facing tough challenges in the form of Patel quota agitation and Dalit protests after the Uja flogging incident. "Gujarat's political scenario has changed due to two agitations - Patel quota movement and Dalit agitation. Come what may, both the communities have decided to defeat BJP in the 2017 elections," Solanki claimed. Solanki is not worried about the Prime Minister's charisma and sounded confident that party will take on BJP in Modi's home state mustering all its strength as he claimed that the days factional fighting in Congress were over. Modi, who was chief minister of Gujarat for

four terms, had defeated Congress repeatedly in the state.

"Modi's charisma has been diminishing a fer he became Prime Minister of the country. He has not controlled price rise. His flip-flop on Pakistan policy, his alliance with Mehbooba Mufti (in Jammu and Kashmir) and his demonetisation decision has eroded his

image among the common people," Solanki claimed. Speaking about the Congress in the state, Solanki claimed the party is now free of groupism, which had been its bane in the past. "There is no groupism in the state Congress as our central leadership and our grass root workers are this time keen to put up a joint fight, which will not allow middle level leaders to indulge factious activities," he said. "We are strong in rural areas and we have launched several campaigns to win over youths and middle-class in urban areas. We have become a middle-class party now," he said, to a question on what is Congress doing to win over urban Gujarat.

Hockey J&K names team for Sub-Junior Nationals



JAMMU, Dec 30: Jammu and Kashmir today named 21-member squad, including three officials, for the upcoming 7th Hockey India Sub-Junior National Women's Championship to be held at Ramanathapuram in Tamil Nadu from January five to January 16.

5th Roller Athlete Skating Carnival RASC bags Sub-junior boys' title

JAMMU, Dec 30: Roller Athlete Skating Club (RASC) won the Sub-junior boys hockey title after they blanked Banyan International 3-0 in the final of the 5th Roller Athlete Skating Carnival underway at Shiva Roller Skating Institute, Peer Kho, here today.

The winning RASC played superb game throughout under the able guidance of skipper, Aaditya Malhotra.

Meanwhile, in Junior boys category, Shiva Roller Skating Club continued their winning spree and outplayed KC International in their today's league tie.

In senior men's group, RASC defeated Shiva Skating Club narrowly by one goal margin. In another match, Addiction Roller Skating Club defeated Hockey Club Classico 5-3.

As per the organizers, Roller Athlete Club Jandrah, the finals of remaining two categories of junior boys and senior men shall be played on the concluding day.

issued by the Association here today informed.

Placed in group-A, J&K shall be playing against Assam, Gujarat, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Coorg Hockey team in the league round.

The Team: Ishita Sharma, Anamika Bali, Shewani Sharma, Jasmeet Kour, Taniya Devi, Manpreet Kour, Kamini Devi, Manisha Das, Anuradha, Chanpreet Kour, Kavreen Kour, Priya Thakur, Tannu Angral, Garima Bhargav, Pratiksha Rani, Simranjeet Kour, Indu Bhau and Shahida Bhatti.

Dangal, a story on Geeta Phogat's wrestling family, now inspires a footballer

'Dangal', the tale of wrestlers Geeta Phogat and Babita Phogat, has not only inspired other female wrestlers but has had an impact on women's football too.

India player Sanju, who was awarded the 'AIFF Emerging Women's Player' this year, says she draws inspiration from the Phogats, whose journey has been captured in the recent Aamir Khan-starrer Bollywood flick Dangal.

"Yes, they have set a benchmark for every girl from Haryana. But the problems they have endured (and overcome) is nothing less than a fairytale," Sanju told www.the-aiff.com.

"I know them closely as we were from the same college. Back then, they didn't hog the limelight but their struggle, their zeal to scale heights has inspired me since then."

'Dangal' talks about how Mahavir Singh Phogat broke the image of wrestling as a male preserve in the country, particularly in patriarchal Haryana, by encouraging his daughters to take up the sport despite facing barbs from the community.

While Geeta was a gold medalist at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi, Babita went on to clinch gold at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games four years later.

Sanju, meanwhile, made her debut for India at the South Asian Games earlier this year. Since then, the 20-year-old midfielder has gone on to establish herself as an integral part of the national team.

In the ongoing SAFF Women's Championship, she came on as a substitute and scored in added time as India beat Afghanistan 5-1 in their opening encounter.

PIS organizes 'The Pathways Olympics 2K16-17'

KATHUA, Dec 30: The Pathways International School, Kathua organized The Pathways Olympics 2K16-17, the Second Annual Sports Meet of the School for the pre-primary and primary wing of the School, here today.



Kavinder Gupta, Speaker, State Legislative Assembly was the Chief Guest on the occasion, Sardar Amarjeet Singh, RTO Kathua, Ajay Kumar, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Kathua, S.C. Bhardwaj, District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Triok Singh Bist Principal, Jodhmal Public School, Jammu and Nirmal Mahna, Principal,

DPS, Kathua, were the Guest of Honour during the two events of the Pathways Olympics. Dr. Divij Suri, Chairman, The Pathways International School, Kunal Anand, Principal, The Pathways International School, Kathua, Dr. S.P. Suri, Former Head & Dean, Dept. of Education, University of Jammu, Dr. Pallvi Arom, Assistant Professor, I CccR & HRM, University of Jammu, KCS Mehta Principal Army Public School Akhnoor, Vivek Arora Principal Bhargav Public School were also present to grace the occasion.

The function started with the releasing of balloons by Kavinder Gupta and other dignitaries, who declared the "Pathways Olympics 2K16-17" open followed by unfurling of the School Flag by the School Head Boy, Robin Singh and Head Girl, Deepakshi Sharma. The parents were also made to participate in several events like 100 meters race, Tug of War, etc., later in the Programme, the medals for which were also awarded to the winners by the Chief Guest. While addressing the gathering, Kavinder Gupta, during the occasion said that he was delighted to find a truly International School of such a stature in Kathua which was a long pending demand of the people of Kathua, who otherwise had to send their wards to the nearby towns for better education. He highly appreciated the Management of the School for bringing a new era in the field of education. He congratulated the organizers of 'The Pathways Olympics 2K16-17' and was overwhelmed to be part of such a Programme. He congratulated all the winners and participants of the Pathways Olympics.

ANS Youth Festival gets underway



Udhampur, Dec 30

As a part of series of events in the ongoing Ans youth festival which has embraced the people of Ans Valley since the Christmas, the youth of villages of Chasana, Budhal, Kandi and Samote participated in cricket, volleyball and kabaddi. League stage cricket matches were played between Chasana vs Mallikote and Phalni vs Samote at Chasana and Samote respectively. The youth also showed their zeal and strength in volleyball and kabaddi matches played at Budhal and Kandi respectively. The day ended with congratulate and appreciation from the local populace and village elders who thanks to the Samote Rashtriya Rifles Battalion which is conducting the event under the aegis of Mahore based Sector Headquarters and Reasi based Counter Insurgency Force Headquarters.

J&K beat Uttarakhand in Santosh Trophy

JAMMU, Dec 30

After holding Haryana to 1-1 draw in the first outing previous day, Jammu and Kashmir today registered a solitary goal win against Uttarakhand to keep their hopes alive in the ongoing North Zone Senior National Football Championship for Santosh Trophy at different venues of neighbouring Himachal Pradesh states. As per the reports reaching here, J&K got a good number of chances in the second half of the play to improve their score but could not break the strong defense line of Uttarakhand. Earlier, J&K took an early lead when Hanan Mir successfully converted a penalty into goal in the 10th minute of the game. The forward line remained aggressive in rest of the first half too but without any more success. The side maintained the momentum, playing aggressively, after the drinks break, but result eluded them. Now, with a win and draw to their credit, J&K look forward to take on the mighty Punjab in the next league game. In fact, both J&K and Punjab will enter the field eyeing on a win to qualify for the knock-out stages.

Dipa Karmakar returns her gifted BMW



New Delhi: One of India's stars at the 2016 Olympics, Dipar Karmakar's wish of returning the BMW received following 4th place finish in Rio has been granted as the gymnast has given Rs. 25 lakh instead from Hyderabad Badminton Association president and businessman V. Chamundeswarinath. Karmakar, who rose to stardom after becoming the first Indian gymnast to qualify for the Olympic

finals, had expressed desire to return the luxury car following maintenance cost and the situation of roads in hometown of Agartala, which also didn't have a service center for her car. Dipa's coach Bisweshwar Nandi confirmed the news stating, "Considering her situation, Dipa was given cash amounting to Rs. 25 lakh. Her family bought a car recently, and it was a brand that has a service center in Agartala," as

quoted by Hindustan Times. The gymnast has reportedly bought a Hyundai Elantra and will be using the remaining part of the money received for her training purposes. Cricketing icon Sachin Tendulkar, also BMW's brand ambassador, was the one to hand over the keys to Karmakar and Rio medal winners shutler PV Sindhu and wrestler Sakshi Malik along with Badminton coach Pulella Gopichand. "It is beyond my dreams to return the gift as I received the key of the car from none other than India's cricketing icon Sachin Tendulkar. I know very well that a gift cannot be returned. Controversy over the issue is unexpected," Dipa had said as she was forced to return the car.

India will tour South Africa for four-Test series in late 2017: CSA

CSA announced part of their fixtures for the next season on Thursday, with trips by Bangladesh, India and Australia all confirmed. Bangladesh will play two Tests, three one-day internationals and two Twenty20 matches in September and October 2017.

Australia will be in South Africa in February and March 2018 for four Tests, with exact dates still to be worked out. India will likely tour in late 2017, although CSA didn't announce dates for India's Test, ODI and

T20 tour. South Africa normally hosts a Test series over the year-end holidays but there's been doubt as to whether India was willing to tour at that time.

India last toured South Africa in late 2013, to play two Tests and three ODIs. The Proteas won the Test series 1-0, by winning the second Test at Durban by 10 wickets, and won the ODI series 2-0. South Africa toured India in late 2015-16, and were thumped 3-0 in a four-match Test series, though they won the ODI series 3-2.

Anushka and Virat are not getting engaged



New Delhi: After days of fevered speculation that Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli will get engaged on January 1 in Uttarakhand's Narendranagar, the couple has come out and dismissed the rumours. Taking to Twitter, Virat wrote, "we aren't getting engaged & if we were going to, we wouldn't hide it. Simple 1/2) (2/2) Since news channels can resist selling false rumours & keeping you confused, we are just ending the confusion!" Anushka also retweeted Virat's statement.

The couple took off to a luxury resort in Uttarakhand after a successful year for both of them. While the couple shared pictures and videos of their stay there, soon rumours of engagement started doing the rounds. When they were seen visiting a local ashram, the buzz only got stronger.

When Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan and his wife Jaya Bachchan along with the Ambani family flew into Uttarakhand, speculations got stronger that they were there to attend Virat and Anushka's engagement. Accompanied by family friends industrialist Anil Ambani and his wife Tina, the Bachchans arrived at the Jolly Grant airport Friday afternoon and headed straight to Hotel Ananda in Narendranagar about 17 kms from Rishikesh where Virat and Anushka have been staying since last Saturday.

Indiainexpress.com on Friday tried to confirm the news from Yash Raj Film (YRF), under whose banner Anushka has given many hits, and they clearly rubbished the reports. "No, the reports of Anushka Sharma, Virat Kohli's engagement is just not true and there are no such plans of the duo to our knowledge," said a source.

And now that a confirmation has arrived from Virat himself, we hope that this much-in-love couple can now have a peaceful vacation. Though we love to see the duo together, we will be waiting to see more of them together during this New Year celebrations. We have already been getting a steady stream of photos and videos from their idyllic gateway, some courtesy the stars themselves.

When Geeta & Sakshi went head to head in 2015

New Delhi: Indian women wrestlers made the country proud both in 2010 Commonwealth Games and 2016 Rio Olympics, with Geeta Phogat and Sakshi

resurfaced showcasing a fight between Geeta Phogat and Sakshi Malik, with the latter turning out to be a comfortable winner in the end. Sakshi Malik and Geeta



Malik winning their bouts in the respective events. While Sakshi's heroics in Brazil are still active in the minds of fans, the movie Dangal helped people relive Geeta's masterclass which took place 6 years ago. Following the success of Dangal, a video has

Phogat, both hail from Haryana. While Sakshi won the first ever Olympic medal in women wrestling in 58kg Weight Category, is the first girl to be qualified for Olympics from India. The latter famously won the CWG Gold in 55kg category.

I don't mind if I have to start from scratch again: Saha

New Delhi: Wriddhiman Saha, who appeared to be doing well in Test cricket before his untimely injury, hopes to make a comeback on the strength of a good domestic performance, even if he is dropped for the time being.

That's the reason that the word "insecurity" is not there in his dictionary from his formative years as a cricketer. Wriddhiman missed out on the last three Tests against England suffering from tendonitis (high strain) and his replacement Parthiv Patel made full use of opportunities scoring two half-centuries.

"I have never let either success go into my head nor has failures affected me. I believe I have been able to maintain that balance till now," says Wriddhiman.

Pro Wrestling League:

Defending champions Mumbai take on Haryana in season opener

Defending champions Mumbai Maharathi will take on runners-up Haryana Hammers in the opening fixture of the second edition of Pro Wrestling League starting 2 January.

All the matches will be held at the KD Jadhav Indoor Stadium in New Delhi.

celebrate with the trophy after their victory over Haryana Hammers in the Pro Wrestling Finals last year.

This year the Delhi Sultans, Jaipur Ninjas, Mumbai Maharathi, UP Dangaal, NCR Punjab Royals and Haryana Hammers will



The event features six teams vying in a competition that offered a prize purse of Rs 15 crore, including a total prize purse of Rs three crore, in the inaugural year. Mumbai Ganuda celebrate with the trophy after their victory over Haryana Hammers in the Final. Mumbai Maharathi

battle it out for the coveted title. Commenting ahead of the start of the new season, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, president, Wrestling Federation Of India (WFI) said, "We are very excited to be back with season two of PWL, which is much bigger and better than the previous season."

Pak ignore Akmal and Hafeez for ODI's in Aus

Karachi: Pakistan ignored experienced cricketers Kamran Akmal and Mohammad Hafeez for the forthcoming ODI series in Australia while also axing leg-spinner Yasir Shah for the five-match rubber, starting next month.

The national selectors ignored Kamran despite the wicket-keeper batsman having a sizzling season with the bat in which he has scored seven centuries. Reliable sources close to the selectors told the media that while the national selection committee headed by Inzamam-ul-Haq wanted to include Kamran as a specialist batsman and Hafeez in the ODI squad, ODI captain Azhar Ali and head coach Mickey Arthur had strongly resisted their selection.

"There was lot of debate on the inclusion of Kamran who last played an ODI for

Pakistan in June 2013 but Azhar and Arthur told Inzamam they wanted to continue with Mohammad Rizwan as the reserve keeper and batsman in the squad," a source said.

He said after holding several discussions with Arthur, Inzamam gave away. Hafeez, 35, has also been out of favour with the selectors since returning from England midway through the ODI series in August due to a fitness issue.

But since then he has attained full fitness and started scoring runs in domestic cricket while also resuming bowling after clearing the ICC bowling assessment test in England last month.

Hafeez completed a 12-month ban from bowling in July.

"The ODI team has been selected keeping in mind the

conditions in Australia and the performances of players in the recent ODI series against West Indies and in the domestic cricket. The selectors have also dropped Yasir Shah for the ODI matches starting from January 13 in Brisbane after his listless performance in the two Tests in Australia. Also dropped from the team are pacers Sohail Khan and Inran Khan, who were part of the Test squad.

The first ODI of the five-match series will be played at Brisbane Cricket Ground on January 13.

Pakistan ODI squad: Azhar Ali (Captain), Sarfaraz Ahmed (vice-Captain), Shorjeel Khan, Babar Azam, Shoaib Malik, Asad Shafiq, Umar Akmal, Muhammad Rizwan, Inad Wasim, Muhammad Nawaz, Muhammad Aamir, Wahab Riaz, Hassan Ali, Rabat Ali and Muhammad Irfan.



Cyrus Mistry, the man who made the elephant dance

When a media consultant made a presentation to Cyrus Mistry, pitching how he could help create the brand Cyrus Mistry, the then chairman of Tata Sons asked him, "Do you know who is the chairman of 3M?", referring to the American conglomerate which is famous for Post-Its. He wanted to make the point that the company/group brand is more important than the personality, says a person close to Mistry who narrated the incident. Mistry and his family, the Shapoorji Pallonji, have always been reluctant when it comes to public interactions, or at least when it came to the media. His father Shapoorji Pallonji Mistry was known as the "Phantom of Bombay House", for his quiet yet powerful presence at the headquarters of the 148-year-old group. The Shapoorji Pallonji group owns a little

over 18% of Tata Sons and is the largest minority shareholder. "They guard their privacy zealously," says another top official at one of the Shapoorji Pallonji Group companies. This person, who has been associated with the firm for more than 25 years, says the family does not believe in "wearing their wealth on its sleeves". Cyrus Mistry himself didn't give a single interview in the nearly four years he was at the helm of the then \$103 billion salt-to-software conglomerate (Rs 7.02 trillion), barring a couple to an in-house website. In the two months since his abrupt ouster, he has probably had more media interactions than in all his 48 years till then. On 24 October, Mistry was replaced as the chairman of Tata Sons in a boardroom coup; a bland press statement from the Tata group holding company announced the change without offering any details. He was replaced by his predecessor Ratan Tata as interim chairman.

Rupee strengthens against US dollar for 2nd session in a row

Mumbai: The Indian rupee on Friday strengthened for the second consecutive session against the US dollar tracking the gains in domestic equity and Asian currencies markets. The home currency opened at 67.96 against the US dollar. At 2pm, the rupee was trading at 67.96 per US dollar, up 0.19% from its previous close of 68.10. So far this year, it has fallen 2.0%. India's benchmark Sensex index was trading at 26,638.29 points, up 1.03% or 272.14 points from its previous close. So far this year, it has risen 1.99%. Asian currencies were trading higher as dollar index continues to weaken against its major peers amid lower treasury bond yields. Philippines peso was up 0.33%, Thai Baht 0.201%,



foreign institutional investors have sold a combined of over \$10 billion in local equity and debt markets. So far this year, foreign institutional investors have bought \$3.10 billion in equities and sold \$6.57 billion in debt. The dollar index, which measures the US currency's strength against major currencies, was trading at 102.54, down 0.14% from its previous close of 102.68.

NSE Gainers (Nifty)

Company	Current Price	Previous Close	Change (%)	Volume (Nos.)
AUROBNDPH	669.95	647.20	3.52	2261348
GAIL	438.95	425.55	3.15	2550899
SUNPHRMD	630.00	614.70	2.49	3130753

NSE Losers (Nifty)

Company	Current Price	Previous Close	Change (%)	Volume (Nos.)
BAIAJ AUTO	2630.95	2651.45	-0.77	103681
BPCL	635.45	639.65	-0.66	1300610
TATA STEEL	390.75	392.35	-0.41	2681219

BSE Gainers (Sensex)

Company	Current Price	Previous Close	Change (%)	Volume (Nos.)
GAIL	437.80	424.90	3.04	325252
SUNPHRMD	629.80	613.85	2.60	303319
ITC LTD	241.30	235.50	2.46	659508

BSE Losers (Sensex)

Company	Current Price	Previous Close	Change (%)	Volume (Nos.)
BAIAJ AUTO	2636.30	2655.45	-0.72	9035
TATA STEEL	391.55	392.45	-0.23	443214

Govt extends tax dispute resolution scheme by one month

New Delhi: The government on Friday extended the tax dispute resolution scheme by one month to January 31, 2017. The scheme was due to close on December 31. After the scheme closes, the Income Tax Department will go ahead with tax demand and pursue legal course, including arbitration, sources said. The government had asked the I-T Department not to take any coercive action during the time the scheme is open. The government, in the Budget 2016-17, had announced a scheme to settle the retrospective tax

disputes by waiving interest and penalty if the companies paid up the principal tax amount. The Direct Tax Dispute Resolution Scheme, introduced on June 1, seeks to address the issue of pending litigation before the CIT (Appeals). According to the I-T department data, there were 73,402 appeals with tax effect above Rs 10 lakh and 1,85,858 appeals with tax effect below Rs 10 lakh which are pending before CIT (Appeals) as on February 29. Thus, 2,59,260 appellants are eligible for the benefit of this scheme.

Economy grew 7.2% in H1: Finance Ministry

New Delhi: Finance Ministry today said that the Indian economy grew 7.2 per cent in the first half of the current fiscal, retaining its position as one of the fastest growing major economies in the world. The Ministry, in its year-end review, said that inflation has remained in "comfort zone" during the year with retail and wholesale inflation averaging 5.2 per cent and 2.7 per cent, respectively, in the April-October period. It further said that during 2016-17, the economy has continued to consolidate the gains achieved in restoring macro-economic stability and despite the continuing global sluggishness and recent pick-up in petroleum prices, the economic growth has continued to be robust and inflation has remained "more or less stable" in the current year. The statement also said that the fiscal deficit and current account deficit as percentage of GDP have improved, and

the growth rate of the first half of the current fiscal is estimated at 7.2 per cent, which makes India one of the fastest growing major economies in the world. The growth rates for agriculture and allied sectors, industry and services sectors during the six-month period are estimated at 2.5 per cent, 5.6 per cent, and 9.2 per cent, respectively. CPI (Combined) inflation for 2015-16 declined to 4.9 per cent from 5.9 per cent in 2014-15. It averaged 5.2 per cent in 2016-17 April-October period. Food inflation, as measured by Consumer Food Price Index, declined to 4.9 per cent in 2015-16 from 6.4 per cent in 2014-15. It averaged 6.1 per cent in 2016-17 April-October period. WPI inflation declined to (-) 2.5 per cent in 2015-16 from 2 per cent in 2014-15. It averaged 2.7 per cent in 2016-17 April-October period. The government has notified

the monetary policy committee under which the RBI will target inflation of 4 per cent with tolerance level of (+/-) 2 per cent for the period between August 5, 2016 and March 31, 2021. During April-October period of the ongoing fiscal, trade deficit decreased to USD 53.2 billion from USD 78.2 billion a year ago. "There has been significant market diversification in India's trade from Europe and America to Asia and Africa in recent years - a process that has helped in coping up with the sluggish global demand," it added. Current Account Deficit (CAD) narrowed down to USD 0.3 billion (0.1 per cent of GDP) in April-June of current fiscal, from USD 6.1 billion (1.2 per cent of GDP) in corresponding period of the previous year. CAD had narrowed down to USD 22.2 billion (1.1 per cent of GDP) in 2015-16 as compared to USD 26.9 billion in 2014-15.

RBI seeks details of Rs 500/1,000 deposits from banks

New Delhi: RBI has asked banks to report details of deposits of old Rs 500/1,000 notes to it after the close of banking hours today, which is the last date to accept the invalid currency. All lenders, including public, private, rural and cooperative banks, have been asked to make arrangements to gather information on deposits of the Specified Bank Notes (SBNs). All bank branches other than those of DCCBs that have accumulated the SBNs as at the close of business today are required to deposit the same at any issue office of the

Reserve Bank or a currency chest by tomorrow itself. RBI further said the old-high denomination notes "cannot form part of banks' cash balances from the close of business as on December 31, 2016". However, District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) may retain the SBNs received on November 10-14 till receipt of further instructions. Further, banks maintaining currency chests have been asked to make necessary arrangements to facilitate the deposit of SBNs received through linked branches or other branches of banks and post offices. Reporting of the transactions in Integrated Computerised Currency Operations and Management System (ICCOMS) will be enabled beyond 9 till all the deposits are received and accounted for. "To facilitate storage of SBNs, banks maintaining currency chests may utilise additional space in their existing currency chest or additional storage space at the same centre with the proviso that it is as safe and secure as a currency chest," RBI added.

Gold price set to break three-year losing streak



Gold was set to log its first annual gain in four years, edging higher in the final trading session of the year on Friday as speculators created fresh positions taking positive cues from the global market. At Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold for delivery in February was trading Rs 28, or 0.10 per cent higher at Rs 27,590 per 10 grams. Analysts said, fresh positions created by participants following a better trend in global market as weakness in the dollar raised demand for the precious metal as a safe-haven assets, influenced gold prices at futures trade here. Gold in international

markets. Globally, spot gold was up 0.1 per cent at USD 1,159.36 an ounce, having earlier hit a more than two-week high of USD 1,163.14 an ounce. The metal rose over one per cent in the previous session, its biggest daily percentage gain since late September. Gold has internationally added more than 9 per cent so far this year despite a steep fall in November, following three successive years of losses. The safe haven asset was poised to register its best weekly gains since early June, having risen about 2.5 per cent this week. However, it is still down nearly one per cent in December, and about 12 per cent this quarter.

Exports growth cushions rupee's fall post note recall

Mumbai: Though foreign portfolio investors sold domestic securities with rising US Treasury yields post Donald Trump's election as US President, improving exports has seen the India rupee weather the demonetisation roll to outperform other emerging market currencies in a year-end fillip. Between November 8 and now, the rupee has gained significantly against top 20 emerging market currencies. Only three currencies - Russian Ruble, Peruvian Sol and Hong Kong dollar have done better than the rupee. Through the calendar year, the rupee was one of the worst performing currencies among the 23 EM currencies.

India's exports increased 2.3% to US\$ 20.01 billion in November. "Rupee has weakened to the dollar at a rate much less than what other EM currencies lost value to the greenback," said Anindya Banerjee, currency analyst, Kotak Securities. "This has reflected in the rupee's strength against other currencies. Rupee's fall to the dollar was not sharper during the period (2%)."

Between early November and mid-December RBI's forex reserves shrank by about \$7 billion suggesting it may have sold enough dollars to stem the local unit's loss to the greenback. "Importers' payments have been mostly delayed in the wake of demonetisation (that



demonetisation has been a success in all ways. Inflation will come down owing to the government's clean-up drive. Clarifying the Ordinance of demonetisation, Goyal said that there is no jail term, but penalty for hoarding old, banned currency. Coming to the UDAY scheme of power ministry for dealing with stressed assets, Goyal said 1-2 more big states are expected to join in by next week. After this, almost all states will come under UDAY. The Ministry is looking to bring down power tariff to below Rs 4 per unit as well reducing its thermal coal imports. The Ministry is also working on its auction for wind power, tenders for which will come out soon. Goyal further said that in the upcoming Budget, expectations are for renewable manufacturing and not primarily for power or coal ministry.

Demonetisation has impacted the informal industry, which was one of the aims of it, says Piyush Goyal, the Minister of State for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines. It is an "effort to give poor high dividends and better lifestyle," he says adding that

Fiscal deficit hits 86% of budget estimate in April-Nov

New Delhi: Fiscal deficit touched the Rs 4.58 lakh crore mark, or 85.8 per cent of the budget estimate (BE) for the whole financial year, at the end of April-November. The country is imported between April-November 2016 India imported gold worth \$15.72 billion, down 30.5% from \$22.62 billion in the same period a year ago. "A drop in gold imports has contributed..." said Saugata Bhattacharya, chief economist at Axis BankBSE

Rs 6.21 lakh crore, or 59 per cent of the full-year BE of Rs 10.54 lakh crore. Total receipts from revenue and non-debt capital of the government during the eight months read Rs 7.96 lakh crore, or 57.8 per cent of BE. The government's Plan expenditure during the period came in at Rs 3.64 lakh crore, 66.2 per cent of the full-year budget estimate. During the same period last entire fiscal, has been pegged at Rs 5.33 lakh crore, or 3.5 per cent of GDP, in 2016-17. As per data released by the Controller General of Accounts, tax revenue came in at Rs 6.21 lakh crore, or 59 per cent of the full-year BE of Rs 10.54 lakh crore. Total receipts from revenue and non-debt capital of the government during the eight months read Rs 7.96 lakh crore, or 57.8 per cent of BE. The government's Plan expenditure during the period came in at Rs 3.64 lakh crore, 66.2 per cent of the full-year budget estimate. During the same period last entire fiscal, has been pegged at Rs 5.33 lakh crore, or 3.5 per cent of GDP, in 2016-17. As per data released by the Controller General of Accounts, tax revenue came in at

PM Modi launches BHIM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today launched an Aadhaar based mobile payment application called BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) - a rebranded version of UPI (Unified Payment Interface) and USSD (Unstructured Supplementary Service Data), at the Digi Dhan Mela event in Talkatora stadium in New Delhi. PM also felicitated winners of f Lucky Ghatak Yojana. At the event, PM also made payment to Khadi using the Bhim mobile application. The app can be downloaded from Android app store. The new app expected to minimise the role of plastic cards and the point of sale machines once believed to be essential for a less cash society. The app would eliminate the fee payments for service providers like card companies such as Mastercard or Visa, which has been a stumbling block in merchants switching to digital payments making it affordable to even merchants in remote villages,

said people familiar with the development. All that it needs is an Android phone with the merchant. Merchants need to download the Aadhaar cashless merchant app on their smartphones connected to a biometric reader, which is currently available for Rs 2,000. The customer will then feed his or her Aadhaar number into the app, select the bank through which the transaction will take place, and the biometric scan will work as a password for the transaction to be authenticated. "This app can be used by a person to make payments without any phone," Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) CEO Ajay Bhushan Pandey had told ET. "Almost 40 crore Aadhaar numbers already stand linked to bank accounts - that is half the adults in India. The aim is to link all Aadhaar numbers with bank accounts by March, 2017.

Farmers can insure rabi crops till Jan 10

New Delhi: To provide relief to farmers hit by demonetisation, the government today extended the window for insuring 2016-17 rabi (winter) crops till January 10 from December 31. The deadline to take insurance policy for both loanee and non-loanee farmers from banks for rabi crops under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) expires tomorrow. "It has been brought to the notice of this department that stakeholders, including farmers and banks/financial institutions, are facing

difficulties... under PMFBY during 2016-17 rabi season due to demonetisation of old currency notes... it has been decided to extend up to January 10, 2017," the agriculture ministry said in a directive issued to banks, insurers and state governments. Now, the farmers who could not insure their crops due to demonetisation will get time till January 10. More time has been given to non-loanee farmers to submit the application and premium to the bank. Also, banks have been given additional time to debit the premium and send to

insurance companies, it said. The ministry said that the cut-off date has been extended considering the situation as a "special case." The state governments have been asked to take appropriate action regarding extension of cut-off date and inform all stakeholders, it added. "This may, however, be treated as a one-time extension only," the directive said. Around 167.47 lakh farmers had taken crop insurance in the rabi season of 2015-16. The government hopes that more farmers will enrol under the new PMFBY launched early this year with better features. In the kharif season of



2016-17, as many as 374.13 lakh farmers had insured their crops and the sum insured was Rs 1,41,487 crore. The cut-off date was extended even during the kharif season of this year. Under PMFBY, farmers pay very nominal premium and get full claim for their crop damage.

India, Egypt aim to boost ties in New Year after eventful 2016

CAIRO, DEC 30

India and Egypt had a fulfilling year in 2016 as the leadership of the two countries agreed to step up their defence and security cooperation to tackle the twin challenges of terrorism and radicalisation besides enhancing economic and people-to-people engagements.

This year also witnessed some of the high-level meetings between the two countries including the visit of President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi to India at the invitation of his Indian counterpart Pranab Mukherjee in September to discuss ways to develop bilateral cooperation in different fields.

A series of decisions to combat terrorism were taken in wide-ranging talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and al-Sisi as the two countries have been engaged in staying off the threat of extremism and radicalism. Identifying terrorism as one of the "gravest threats", they decided to have greater information and operational exchanges, apart from ramping up defence cooperation,



signalling a major shift in ties. Both sides also inked a pact on maritime transport which will facilitate maritime commerce and transit of naval vessels.

India's Ambassador to Cairo Sanjay Bhattacharya told PTI that his wishes for the coming year are to deepen and intensify the exchanges between India and Egypt in different fields and see the continuation of high-level engagements.

The ambassador also added that 2016 has witnessed a number of cooperation opportunities, which will be increased in the coming year. One of the key cooperation moments in 2016 is that the Vocational Training Centre

on Textiles in Shoubra El Khemia, Cairo, was formally inaugurated in August with the support of the Indian government.

The Vocational Centre is one of the largest training centres in Egypt offering several courses in printing, electrical, mechanical, energy, textile, upgraded to state-of-the-art technologies in the field of spinning, weaving, dyeing and printing.

In September, another key cooperation moment took place after the first Indian Chair in Egypt at the Ain Shams University was operationalised with the arrival of Indian professor Naidu Subbarao. The Chair, which is at the

Faculty of Information and Communication Technology, is not only the first Indian Chair in Egypt but also in the Arab world. Next year will see more cooperation opportunities in different areas, the Ambassador said. "On the defence side, I think the tempo has been very very strong and we would like to see more exchanges and more concrete collaborative work on the two sides," Bhattacharya said, adding he is very satisfied with the progress that has been made in the field of security during the last year. — PTI

Pakistan rejects new formula for NSG membership

ISLAMABAD, DEC 30

Pakistan's Foreign Office has rejected a new formula for evaluation of the candidature of non-NPT states for the Nuclear Suppliers Groups (NSG) membership as "discriminatory" and "unhelpful". At the weekly media briefing on Thursday, Foreign Office spokesman Nafees Zakaria said: "This would be clearly discriminatory and would contribute nothing in terms of furthering the non-proliferation objectives of the NSG." Dawn News reported.

Ambassador Rafael Mariano Gossit of Argentina had been appointed as a facilitator for discussions among the NSG members after Seoul plenary meeting of the 48-nation nuclear trade cartel ended in a stalemate over membership applications from India and Pakistan. The deadlock persisted at the extraordinary plenary held in Vienna last month. Ambassador Gossit this month submitted a two-page revised document to the NSG member countries containing a nine-point proposal on considering the applica-

tions of India and Pakistan, both of whom are non-NPT countries. The NSG members last week again met in Vienna for discussing the document called "revised version of a draft Exchange of Notes for Non-NPT applicants". Pakistan, Zakaria said, continues to emphasise the imperative for a non-discriminatory criteria-based approach for the NSG membership of non-NPT states in a non-discriminatory manner, Dawn News said. "Such a criteria-based approach will further the non-proliferation objective

of the NSG as well as the objective of strategic stability in South Asia," he said. The spokesman reminded the NSG members of "the heavy responsibility" they bore with respect to admission of non-NPT states. "It is important for the credibility of the NSG and the future of the non-proliferation regime that the NSG be seen as a rule-based organisation rather than a grouping which is driven by commercial and political considerations that trump its non-proliferation objectives," he maintained. — IANS

Magnitude 6.2 quake hits eastern part of Indonesia



TOLOTANGGA (INDONESIA), Dec 30

The US Geological Survey reports that a magnitude 6.2 earthquake has hit a region in the eastern part of

Indonesia. The agency says the earthquake hit about 6.30 am on Friday in the Sumbawa region. The epicenter was about 30 kilometers south of Tolotangga. The agency says the earthquake was about 72 kilometers deep. A resident tells The Associated Press that there are no reports of damage. The USGS says no tsunami warning has been issued. On December 7, Indonesia's Aceh province was hit by a magnitude 6.5 quake that killed more than 100 people. The world's largest archipelago, Indonesia is prone to earthquakes due to its location on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin. A 2004 quake and tsunami killed a total of 2,30,000 people in a dozen countries, most of them in Aceh. — AP

SC rejects plea challenging Justice Khehar's elevation as CJI

NEW DELHI, DEC 30

A plea by a group of lawyers challenging the elevation of Justice J S Khehar as the next Chief Justice of India (CJI) was dismissed on Friday by the Supreme Court which asserted that there was "no question" of him being considered ineligible for the post.

The apex court rejected the arguments that Justice Khehar, while heading a five-judge Constitution Bench that had struck down the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC), had benefited himself as the judgement had revived the collegium system for appointment of judges in the higher judiciary. While disapproving the grounds for entertaining the PIL, a Bench of Justices RK

Agrawal and DY Chandrachud noted that there were averments in the petition praising the "quality" of the judge who is to be sworn as CJI on January 4. "Since the petitioners have praised the quality of Justice J S Khehar, there is no question of him being considered ineligible for being appointed as the Chief Justice of India," the bench said. "So far as this allegation is concerned, it is sufficient to mention that collegium not only consist of the CJI but also four other senior-most judges of the Supreme Court," the Bench said. The apex court also said that as far as correctness of the NJAC case judgement is concerned, "we are of the opinion that petitioner has the right to apply for review or file curative petition". "We do not find any

merit in the petition and the same is dismissed," the Bench said while rejecting the plea filed by National Lawyers' Campaign for Judicial Transparency and Reforms. Advocate Mathews J Nandumpara, appearing for the lawyers' body, argued that the issue of judiciary's independence and appointment of judges was important and it was "painful" for them to approach the apex court with such a petition. He claimed that judges in the higher judiciary were coming from "a few families only" and "it cannot be the exclusive domain of some persons". "This court has to listen to the critics. Democracy is all about criticism," he said, adding that Justice Khehar should refuse to become the next CJI.

As Modi's 50-day period ends, verbal duel ensues between Cong, BJP

NEW DELHI, DEC 30

The end of the 50-day grace period sought by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ease problems that his government's move to discontinue use of old banknotes of Rs 500 and Rs 1000 had accused has sparked a fierce war of words between the Congress and the BJP.

Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi shot off a five-point questionnaire to the Prime Minister, which the ruling BJP, riding high on its success in Chhattisgarh and Gujarat local bodies elections, dismissed it as yet another "boring repetition of baseless allegations". "Modji 50 days are over," Gandhi tweeted, which Union Minister Piyush Goyal countered by saying that it proved the Congress vice-president had no knowledge of "the high level of economics".

Goyal called the central government's measure a "resounding success", the benefits of which were "beyond the comprehension of the Congress party". Meanwhile, retaliating against the Prime Minister's remark — "khoda pahad, nikli chuhiya" — former Finance Minister P

Chidambaram warned that it was a mistake to assume that "people who are patient are not angry". In a press briefing on Friday, Chidambaram hoped there would be no restrictions on withdrawing cash. "It is fair to expect that beginning Monday, January 2, 2017, all restrictions on money imposed on November 8, 2016, will be removed and the people will be able to withdraw the money in their bank account," he said, asking for a categorical announcement. "It is fair to expect that there will be no queues outside bank branches and ATMs. It is fair to expect that all ATMs will be open round the clock and fully stocked with currency notes."

In words that dripped with sarcasm, he added: "I could hold out assurances on these matters, but none of us in the Opposition can, because the government has dubbed all of us in the Opposition as supporters of black money hoarders and tax evaders." "Therefore, the only person who can assure the people on these matters is the Hon'ble Prime Minister and I would urge him to do so. When the Prime Minister addresses the nation tomorrow or on

any other day, the people expect that he will make a categorical announcement that all restrictions on money have been ended". He also asked the government and the RBI make public the agenda note and minutes of the meeting of RBI's Board of Directors of RBI and also the note placed before the Cabinet on November 8 — the day the Prime Minister announced the shakeup of the financial system. To Chidambaram's observation that increase in tax revenues had no direct correlation with the performance in GDP, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley retorted: "I would like to learn that economics where lower GDP leads to higher tax revenues...Normalcy had been restored to large extent". Meanwhile, recounting benefits of the scheme, Piyush Goyal said: "Besides the well-ascertained benefits, it will establish a trail of currency and avoid its misuse. It will widen tax base and help the government serve people better. There is enough cash in the market and the proof is the increasing deposits in the new currency".

Pakistan's former army chief may have a new job

ISLAMABAD, DEC 30

Pakistan's former army chief General (ret'd) Raheel Sharif is expected to be appointed defence adviser of a Saudi Arabia-led military alliance of 39 countries, according to a media report. Sharif, who arrived in Saudi Arabia as a royal guest in a special plane, will attend a grand reception being hosted in his honour in Riyadh, the capital of the kingdom. The News International reported.

The reception will also be attended by the members of the Royal family. Sharif, who retired as the army chief last month, is expected to be appointed defence adviser of Saudi Arabia-led military alliance, the paper said. The Joint Command Centre,

headquarters of the military alliance, is located in Riyadh. The Saudi-led coalition, involving several Arab nations, launched a military operation in Yemen in March 2015 after Houthi forces drove out the government led by President Abdu Rabbu Mansour Hadi, who is believed to be in exile in Saudi Arabia. According to Saudi Arabia, the alliance is formed to fight ISIS and other militant outfits. At the time of its constitution, there were 34 countries in the alliance which has risen to 39. The countries include Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Tunisia, Sudan, Malaysia, Egypt, Yemen and others. — PTI

Russia announces ceasefire in Syria

MOSCOW/ANKARA, DEC 30

Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a ceasefire between Syrian opposition groups and the Syrian government starting at midnight on Thursday. The Kremlin statement came after Moscow, Iran and Turkey said they were ready to broker a peace deal in the nearly six-year-old Syrian war.

The Syrian army announced but said Islamic State and Nusra Front militants and all groups linked to them would be excluded from the deal. It did not say which unnamed groups would be excluded. Several rebel officials told Reuters they had agreed to the ceasefire plan, but there was uncertainty over which groups were included in the deal, which was due to come into effect at 2200 GMT on Thursday. Talks on a ceasefire picked up momentum after Russia,

Iran and Turkey last week said they were ready to back a deal and adopted a declaration setting out principles that any agreement should adhere to. Putin said Syrian opposition groups and the Syrian government had signed a number of documents including the ceasefire that would take effect at midnight on the night of Dec 29-30. "The agreements reached are, of course, fragile, need a special attention and involvement... But after all, this is a notable result of our joint work, efforts by the defence and foreign ministries, our partners in the regions," Putin said. He also said that Russia had agreed to reduce its military deployment in Syria. Talks towards a ceasefire to end the conflict reflect the complexity of Syria's civil war, with an array of groups and foreign interests involved on all sides.

Centre suspends IOA for appointing Kalmadi, Chautala



NEW DELHI, DEC 30

The Union Sports Ministry has suspended the Indian Olympic Association until it reneges its decision to make politicians Suresh Kalmadi and Abhay Chautala — both suspected of having been involved in corruption scandals — life presidents.

The decision was taken after the IOA failed to meet its deadline for responding to a notice. The Olympic body had asked for 15 days' time to respond because its president, N Ramachandran, was not in the country, but the request was turned down.

"The government can't approve of wrong things. The notice issued to the IOA was a serious one but they didn't respond and instead sought 15 days time. So the government has decided to suspend IOA till the time they withdraw the appointments," Sports Minister Vijay Goel said.

The IOA will no longer enjoy its previous privileges as the country's National Olympic Committee. "The IOA now can't take any financial assistance, facilities and privileges from the government till the time they are suspended," said Goel, as he accused IOA of

trying to "buy time". "This is a serious violation of the norms of good governance by IOA which is the mother sports body and corrective action needs to be taken immediately as it is a matter of national prestige and public sentiments."

"Although the government has utmost respect for the Olympic Charter and is committed to protecting the autonomy of sports, it cannot remain a mute spectator to blatant violation of principles of ethic and good governance by IOA, thereby putting the image and prestige of the country at stake," the Minister said.

"By appointing charge-sheeted people, the IOA has flouted all rules and regulations mentioned in its own Constitution and that of International Olympic Committee."

"The government stands for good governance, principles of ethics and the implementation

of National Sports Code," Goel said. Former Congress Parliamentarian Suresh Kalmadi and senior INLD leader Abhay Singh Chautala had been given honorary positions as the IOA's life presidents at the body's Annual General Meeting in Chennai on December 27. Although Kalmadi has declined the offer, Chautala said he would give up the position only if the International Olympic Committee objected to it.

The appointments appeared to have caused upsets within the IOA itself, as the newly appointed International Hockey Federation (FIH) president Narinder Batra resigned from the committee on Friday.

Kalmadi was charged with having been involved in the scandal that hit the Commonwealth Games in 2010 and was even imprisoned for 10 months, but was eventually given bail.

Chautala had been president of Indian Amateur Boxing Federation, which was derecognised by the Amateur International Boxing Association (AIBA) for possible rigging of its elections.

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