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News Brief

Students' suicide a serious matter: Congress MP

Congress Rajya Sabha member Viplove Thakur on Thursday raised the issue of sui-cide by students due to pressure to excel in competitive studies and urged the government to take note of the "serious matter"

She said in the upper house that students were pressured by private coaching centres to such an extent that many ended up taking their own lives."Private coaching centres across the country put pressure on students. Parents are also involved, she said, urging the government to investigate the matter.

Will soon fill vacancies in educational institutions: Centre

New Delhi,

The central government said on Thursday said vacancies of teachers in educational institutions across the country will soon be filled.

Responding members' concerns in the Rajya Sabha, Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar said the government was aware of the situation and the process was on to fill the vacant posts as early as possible."We believe there should be no vacancies. It's a government policy and we nave decided to fill up teachers' vacancies according to the rules soon," the minister told the house.

Court to consider chargesheet against Rajendra Kumar

New Delhi,

A court here on Thursday set February 18 to consider the chargesheet against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's former Principal Secretary Rajendra Kumar in a cor-ruption case. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Special Judge listed the matter for February 18 after the probe agency sought more time to file additional documents in the case.Rajendra Kumar, a 1989 batch Indian Administrative Service officer, was accused of abusing his official position in awarding Delhi government contracts totalling Rs 9.5 crore to private firm Endeavour Systems Pvt Ltd.

Mentally challenged son kills parents in Jammu and Kashmir

Jammu,

A mentally chal-lenged youth allegedly killed his parents on Thursday and injured three other persons in the hilly Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Firdous Ahmed, 25, stabbed his father and mother to death and injured three other persons in the Thathri area of Doda district of Jammu region on Thursday morning, police said."The accused has been arrested and investigations started in this incident," police here said.

Aircel-Maxis case: Court discharges all accused

New Delhi: of the 2G licences it accourt on quired in 2006. On 6 Janu-A Special court on Thursday discharged all accused in Aircel Maxis deal cases lodged by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) involving extelecom minister Dayanidhi Maran and others.

Earlier, a consortium of banks led by the State Bank of India (SBI) moved the Supreme Court on 24 January seeking to be heard before the court decides to cancel Aircel's use

India has signed a

\$201.50 million financing

agreement with the World

Bank to improve the quality

of technical education in the

country.

"Financing agreement for credit of \$201.50 million

for the 'Third Technical Edu-

cation Quality Improvement

Programme (TEQIP III)' was

signed with the World Bank

here on Tuesday," the Fi-

nance Ministry said in a

ary, the apex court had restrained Aircel Ltd from selling and trading 2G spectrum allotted to it in 2006 and said it would consider cancellation of the licences if the Maxis Group owner T. Ananda Krishnan failed to respond to the court's summons. Maxis Group has a 74% stake in Aircel.

The Aircel-Maxis case relates to irregularities in allotment of 2G spectrum li-

India signs pact with WB to improve education

The project aims at im-

proving quality and equity

in engineering institutes in

the states and take initia-

tives to strengthen sector

governance and perfor-

programme is to enhance

quality and equity in par-

ticipating engineering edu-

cation institutes and im-

prove the efficiency of the

engineering education sys-

"The objective of the

mance, it said.

New Delhi, statement.

gress-led United Progressive Alliance rule.

Maxis had acquired the 74% stake in 2006 from owner Aircel Sivasankaran. The CBI has alleged that Sivasankaran sold the stake under duress from the then telecom minister Dayanidhi Maran, who stalled approvals it needed, and that Maxis, in return, invested in his brother Kalanithi Maran's Sun Direct, the direct-to-home TV arm of his Sun TV Network Ltd.

Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya

Pradesh, Chhattisgarh,

Rajasthan, the eight north-

eastern states and

Andaman and Nicobar Is-

lands," the statement said.

designed as a disburse-

ment-linked one, that is, the

World Bank loan will be dis-

bursed on achievement of

specific outcomes," it added.

The project has been

Congress moves EC, demands stern action against BJP

New Delhi, The Congress on Thursday moved the Election Commission (EC) alleging that BJP leaders Keshav Prasad Maurya and Subramanian Swamy had made remarks amounting to soliciting votes in the name of religion and demanded "stern action" against the party.

In a complaint to the poll panel K.C. Mittal, Secretary, Legal and Human Rights Department of Congress, said that Uttar Pradesh BJP chief Keshav Prasad Maurya and BJP MP Subraminan Swamy had violated the model code of conduct ahead of elections in the five states.

The party alleged that Maurya raked up the "con-tentious issue" of Ram temple last month and talked about its construction after assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh. It said that after Maurya's remarks, BJP MP Subramanian Swamy had made remarks "welcoming the statement of Shri Maurya"

'The statements made by Shri Maurya as well as Dr. Subramanian Swamy are in utter defiance of the instructions issued by the Commission and amount to solicit-ing votes in the name of religion," the party said.

It said the statements were also in violation of the observations made by the Supreme Court and the BJP or its leaders cannot place any reliance on its 2014 mánifesto "nor under the garb of manifesto rake up religious card to solicit votes in the name of religion".

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati on

Thursday trashed the sur-

veys ahead of the Uttar

Prádesh assembly polls and

said these are "sponsored"

and hence not to be taken

Addressing an election rally here, the Dalit leader

said these poll surveys were conducted at the behest of

political parties and warned

her supporters not to be

swayed. "When the election

results are out, all these polls

and projections will fall flat

government and said law

and order was at its worst

under Chief Minister

Akhilesh Yadav and prom-

ised to bring back normalcy

She slammed the state

on their face," she said.

seriously.



Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting, Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore visiting the exhibition, at the "BES Expo 2017" - 23rd International Conference & Exhibition on Terrestrial & Satellite Broadcasting, organised by the Broadcast Engineering Society (India), in Delhi o.

BJP ups ante on poor UP law and order, slams SP regime Lucknow, men, and criminals, land Arms Act and 1,400 robber-

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday upped the ante on law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh and charged the Akhilesh Yadav government for "completely failing to protect its people".

Addressing a press conference here, BJP National General Secretary Bhupendra Yadav said crimes against women have gone through the roof during the Samajwadi Party (SP) regime and in most cases no FIRs are registered by the police.

"In the past five years, over a thousand attacks have taken place on police-

if her party was voted back

ister tore into the Bharativa

Janata Party and said its claims of bringing back the

rule of law in Uttar Pradesh

were an eyewash. "Whenever the BJP has come to

power (in the state), there is

similar anarchy," she said

while accusing the BJP of

trying to end reservation

and also harbouring ill-will

ter Narendra Modi, she ac-

cused him of not fulfilling

promises made during the

for the poor and this (cen-

tral) government does ev-

erything for the rich and the

industrialists," she claimed.

Taking on Prime Minis-

"Nothing has been done

towards the Muslims.

2014 Lok Sabha polls.

The four-time Chief Min-

mafias, boot loggers and goons rule the roost," he said and promised a complete reversal of the situation if the BJP came to power in the state post assembly elections.

Referring to the underconstruction apartment building crash in Kanpur on Wednesday, which killed seven persons, Yadav said this is a proof how illegal practices are being promoted by the ruling party leaders and the officials concerned are forced to look the other way.

In the last one year, more than 25,000 cases have been lodged under the

ies and dacoities have taken place, the BJP leader said citing police statistics.

'Under the watch of the present Samajwadi Party government, senior police officials have been killed, mafias are having a free run and women are being victimised," Yadav added.

Even journalists, he added, are not safe in the SP regime and exhorted the people to stand up against the government and ensure that the BJP came to power after the state assembly polls.Uttar Pradesh goes to polls spread over seven phases between February 11 and March 8.

Varun Gandhi included in BJP's UP star campaigners' list

Lucknow,

After initially dropping Varun Gandhi from the list of "star campaigners" in Uttar Pradesh, the BJP on Thursday included his name for the third and fourth phases of polling in the state, a party official said.

The parliamentarian from Sultanpur was named as the 39th star campaigner in a list of 40.

late Sanjay Gandhi and Singh, Mukhtaar Abbas Chauhan will also pitch in.

Union Minister Maneka Gandhi, was sidelined by Amit Shah after he took over the reins of the party. The star campaigners

list for Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) includes Prime Minister Narendra Modi, party President Amit Shah, Kanpur MP and veteran party leader Murli Manohar Joshi. Also included are Union ministers Rajnath Singh, Uma Bharati, Arun Naqvi and Nitin Gadkari. Senior party functionaries Om Mathur, Vinay Katiyar,

Swamy Prasad Maurya, and others would campaign for party candidates in the third and fourth phase also, the party leader said. Veteran actress and poli-

tician Hema Malini, Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari, comedian Raju Srivastav, Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje Scindia Initially presented as a firebrand youth leader, Varun Gandhi, son of the Smriti Irani, Piyush Goel, V.K. Vasundhara Raje Scindia and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh

A team of archaeolists busy in fixing the atatue of Lord Ganesha on the Dholkal hilltop in Dantewada district in Bastar devision in Chhattisgarh.

'Budget failed to address transparency of political parties'

The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) on Thursday said the union budget failed to address the issues of transparency, dis-closure and penalties of political parties.

It also claimed the proposals on political funding reforms fell short of the recommendations by the Election Commission and the Law Commission.

Commenting on the budget presented by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, the ADR also found flaws in the proposal of lowering the limit for anonymous cash donations from Rs 20,000 to Rs 2,000.

"The budget, while promising transparency and accountability in political funding, does not answer questions on how it would be implemented at the ground level nor has it promised implementation of related reforms proposed by the Election Commission and the Law Commission of India," said the ADR.

union budget to raise the issue of transparency in political funding, it is unfortunate to note that complete transparency in the finances of political parties has still not been adopted in the budget of 2017-18 and the proposed reforms are inconsequential as the politi-

It said the proposal to limit cash donations to Rs 2,000 was flawed on three counts of accountability, disclosure and political will.

cal funding will continue to

remain opaque," it said.

"Unless scrutiny of accounts of political parties is taken up by a body approved by Comptroller and Auditor General or the Election Commission, the parties' declared income is unlikely to reflect their true income," the ADR said, pointing to the budget not promising scrutiny of income de-clared by political parties from various sources.

"The budget does not propose that the details of all donors who donate

'While this is the first above Rs 2,000 be made available to the Income Tax department and/or an external body auditing the accounts of political parties," it

"Unless complete information is available for audit scrutiny, the sources of donations below Rs 20,000 to political parties will continue to stay hidden," it contended.

Referring to the budget proposals of political parties entitled to receive donations in cheque or digital mode as also the mandate to file their return of income within the prescribed time, the ADR said legal provision to the effect, were already in place. "The legal provisions were already in place, re-iterating an already existing rule of law does not add anything new to the proposed electoral reforms.

"This only shows a lack of political will," said the organisation which aims at bringing transparency and accountability in Indian

Jairam Ramesh expresses shock over water seepage question in RS

Mayawati rubbishes poll

surveys, calls them sponsored

to power.

Bulandshahr,

New Delhi, Congress leader Jairam

Ramesh was "amazed" to hear a question in the Rajya Sabha relating to water seepage in an MP's official residence on Thursday.

The former union minister, after hearing Anil Kumar Sahani of Janata Dal-United, who raised the issue of water seepage in his government accommodation during the Question Hour, expressed shock and said: "How can such a question be asked in the Rajya Sabha?"

Sahani said that his government accommodation has a problem of water seepage.Rao Inderjit Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Planning, Urban Development Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, then informed the House that problem is due to collection of tree leaves and it has been fixed.

'Sarpanch' publicly beats up woman in Andhra Vijayawada, she raised an objection to

In a shocking incident, a 'sarpanch' or village head publicly thrashed a woman in Andhra Pradesh.The assault took place in Jallipalli

village in Anantapur district three days ago but came to light after its video footage surfaced on Thursday. The video footage shows Nagaraju publicly beating up the woman, Sudha, and repeatedly kick-

ing her. He was angry after

construction of a water tank in front of her house.

Sudha, a widow, had requested the village head to build the water tank at some other place. As he went ahead with the work, there was an argument. Nagaraju, belonging to ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP), thrashed the woman and continued kicking her even after she fell to the ground.

Mamata raises concerns over H-1B visas

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday raised concerns over the issue of H-1B US visas and called for a protection to IT companies and professionals. "News about H-1B visas

is concerning. We must protect our IT companies and professionals and give them full support," she tweeted. Banerjee also said "India

is proud of the world-class talent of its IT techies. It is our duty to secure their interests.' The central government had already conveyed its

concern to the US over a bill being introduced in the US Congress to change rules on H-1B visas which is likely to impact the Indian IT industry and Indian techies working in the US.

The High-Skilled Integrity and Fairness Act of 2017, introduced in House of Representatives by California Congressman Zoe Lofgren, proposes for doubling the minimum salary of H-1B visa holders to \$130,000 from the current minimum wage of \$60,000 - a move that could impact Indian techies.

The bill would make it difficult for companies to

use the programme to re-place American employees with foreign workers, including from India, with

lower wages.
"India's interests and concerns have been conveyed both to the US administration and the US Congress at senior levels," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Vikas Swarup had said.

Aircel-Maxis: Court discharges Maran brothers, others

New Delhi,

A court here on Thursday discharged all accused in the Aircel-Maxis deal case, including former Communications Minister Dayanidhi Maran.Special Judge O.P. Saini discharged Maran, his brother Kalanithi Maran, Kalanithi's wife Kavery Kalanithi, South Asia FM Ltd (SAFL) Managing Director K. Shanmugam and two companies -- SAFL and Sun Di-rect TV Pvt Ltd (SDTPL) in two different cases. The court was hearing two different matters related to Aircel-Maxis deal lodged by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED).



Bharatiya Janata Party national general secretary Bhupendra Yadav addressing a press conference in Lucknow

Rant of the discredited

It is ironical that Manmohan Singh and P Chidambaram, the two politicians primarily responsible for the near destruction of the country's economy during their concurrent tenures as Prime Minister and Minister for Finance respectively, should be alleging that the economy is on a downturn since the Modi-led Government assumed power. It requires a certain amount of brazen shamelessness to do so, but they have done it! On Monday, ahead of the presentation of the Economic Survey of India, the Congress stalwarts released a nearly 80-page document to contend that the Union Government was "hiding" behind numbers and that employment creation was abysmally low. Singh cited the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) projection of 6.6 per cent GDP growth in the current fiscal, as against the Government's claim of 7.6 percent. The former Prime Minister has been saying it earlier too that the demonetization decision had set back GDP growth. The Government has had no problem in accepting that growth will temporarily slide but said it would pick up again -- and with renewed vigour -- once the side effects of demonetization get addressed over the next few months. Singh and his colleagues must remember that international agencies such as the IMF have also welcomed the demonetization move for its intent and expressed hope that the fallouts would be effectively addressed by the Government. Indeed, several experts across the world have interpreted the decision as bold and necessary step by prime Minister Modi, but obviously neither Manmohan Singh nor his then Finance Minister would want to refer to those statements. In any case, the Economic Survey has said that GDP growth for the next fiscal will be in the range of 6.75 per cent to 7.5 per cent. If this holds true -- and there's no reason to doubt the numbers -- then clearly grounds for a rebound are being laid. The Economic Survey 2016-17 does admit that GDP growth in the current fiscal will be 6.5 per cent, something again that the Modi Government need not f'ret over. It is strange that Chidambaram should be rate the Centre for being dazzled by GDP growth figures, given that Manmohan Singh has been relying on this very parameter to condemn the Modi Government.

Chidambaram has posed two questions: Where are the jobs? Where is the new capital investment? There are no straight answers to them, and the former Finance Minister knows well that employment generation and capital investment take time to realize, particularly after the economy has gone through a nightmarish phase. The two Congress veterans must answer why they allowed the situation to spiral out of control to such an extent that it has become so challenging today to reverse the sentiment.

Despite demonetization (which the Economic Survey says will impact GDP growth by 0.25 per cent to 0.5 per cent in the sort term), the survey is confident that the farm sector will grow robustly (to 4.1 per cent, up to 1.2 per last year). This is contrary to the phobia the Congress has been spreading over the last three months or so of demonetization. Besides, the positive impact of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, once it is rolled out, will happen too.

By Durga Chakravarty

Designer

Lakme Fashion Week (LFW)

Summer/Resort 2017 here,

considers Bollywood stars as

an important influence in

setting fashion trends across

the country. "Bollywood is one of the few things that

run the major chunk of en-

tertainment business in our

country. It also has a huge

potential of educating

people regarding new social

concepts. This makes it an

important influencing factor

for the minds of a huge

population of a country like

Índia," Aggarwal told IANS in

an interview. The designer

feels if a Bollywood celebrity

flaunts oné's creation, it

helps give the label a push.

"Engaging with Bollywood

for a fashion label like ours is

always an interesting affair. A

celebrity in our clothes is a

role model for a whole lot of

women who wish to dress

new and fresh," he added.

Overall, Aggarwal feels there

has been a great change in

the fashion scene in India. He

believes the fashion frater-

nity has taken forward the

legacy of Indian bridal cou-

ture by amalgamating it with

ers has taken forward the

legacy of Indian bridal cou-

ture with new techniques

and silhouettes every sea-

"A generation of design-

fresh techniques and cuts.

Mumbai,

Bollywood an important influencing

ences fresh options to wear

Aggarwal, who will show-sions."On the other hand, we ettes developed according

also see this wave of contem-

porary designers who are

conscious of sustainable de-

sign practices that range

from using organically culti-

vated textiles, recycling ma-

terials, zero waste design

implementations," Aggarwal

told IANS. At the same time,

he finds that the involve-

ment of Indian crafts by de-

signers at a global level has

kept the country on the

world map in the interna-

tional fashion scene. "It's an interesting setting for a di-

verse country like India with

so many possibilities for de-

signers to take inspirations

from." At LFW, which got un-

derway here on Wednesday,

the designer has collabo-

lon collection to be show-

cased at LFW S/R 2017, de-

rives inspiration from mil-

lions of unusable, unclaimed

tion, he said: "There will be a

series of 25 to 30 ensembles.

The colours of the collection

are that of a traditional Patola

like wine, rust, teal, olive,

khaki, mustard and ink blue

and similar metallic tones to

Talking about the collec-

pieces of heritage," he said.

'The AM.IT X Lakme Sa-

rated with Lakme Salon.

factor: Designer Aggarwal

Chakravarty

son, inspired from a sari or and at the same time recre-

lehenga to give their audi- ate new looks? "Our collec-

Amit for different wedding occa- tion of our signature silhou-



College students taking selfie in fornt of the Commerce College on the occasion of Saraswati puja in Guwahati.

Pakistan snubs India's 'credible crackdown' demand Islamabad, government were carried free, independent and trans

Pakistan on Wednesday

snubbed India's demand for a "credible crackdown" against militant groups following the detention of Jamaat-ud-Dawa chief Hafiz Saeed, saying it does not need New Delhi's endorsement for its actions.

"Pakistan does not need anv certification or endorsement from India over the recent actions it has taken in relation to Hafiz Saeed," a spokesperson for the federal Interior Ministry said in a statement in response to Tuesday's statement by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs.

The spokesperson said the actions taken by the

Scalia as a "lion of the law"

while accepting Trump's

While sitting on the bench of the 10th Circuit, Gorsuch sided with groups that successfully challenged

the Obama administration's

requirements for employers

to provide health insurance

that includes contraception

described

changes.

nomination.

Gorsuch

out as per "obligations visà-vis listing of JuD under UN Security Council Resolution 1267 in December, 2008". He, however, said various actions that needed to be taken under the relevant resolution i.e. arms embargo, travel ban and asset freeze were not taken for some reasons by the previ-

ous regime. "India has constantly been using Hafiz Saeed's political activities as a tool to malign Pakistan," the spokesperson said, adding that the international community should take note and understand that Pakistan is a democratic country. "In Pakistan judiciary takes

pressed concern about "ex-

ecutive overreach", a criti-

cism that was often directed

administration's use of

presidential orders to over-

His nomination met im-

mediate resistance from

Democrats, including Nancy

Pelosi, the House minority

congressional

the

come

gridlock.

Pakistan or for that matter anywhere in the world," the statement said. The ministry warned New Delhi against "casting aspersions and levelling allegations without any cor-

parent decisions."

allegations.

The Interior Ministry

urged New Delhi to comé

up with undeniable evi-

dence against the JuD chief if it were serious about the

with concrete evidence

against Hafiz Saeed which is

sustainable in court of law in

Índia should come up

roborating evidence", saying it would not help the cause of peace in the region. The firebrand leader, who has a \$10 million bounty on his head, was taken away by police on Monday and escorted to a house where he is now under house arrest. Four other

in the same operation. India said JuD was a front for the militant Lashkar-e-Taiba group, which it accuses of carrying out the attacks on India's fi-nancial capital Mumbai in November 2008 which killed 166 people. Islamabad briefly detained Saeed in the aftermath of the attacks but he was later released on

JuD followers were detained



Priests of tossing Gulal on devotess as a ritual of symbolic start of Holi festival on the occasion of Basant Panchami at Lord Bankey Bihari temple in

Trump's SC pick Neil Gorsuch, an echo of Scalia in philosophy and style Washington, Obama, to the federal and hunt and he is also an interpretation as society Gorsuch has also ex-

adjunct law professor at the

University of Colorado. If his

appointment is confirmed,

he would become the only

Protestant on the current

bench. The other justices are

nected in Republican estab-

Burford, was the first woman

to head the Environmental

Protection Agency, serving

during the Reagan adminis-

vatives, though, and ruled in

favour of religious liberty

arguments in two high pro-

file cases dealing with ac-

cess to contraception. He

has also been highly critical

of liberals for turning to the

courts rather than the legis-

lature to forward their social

agendas on issues like gay

He is revered by conser-

His family is well-con-

Gorsuch's mother, Anne

Jewish and Catholic.

lishment politics.

Neil Gorsuch, a federal appellate judge from Colorado, nominated by US President Donald Trump as the new Supreme Court Justice, has a solidly conservative pedigree that has earned him comparison to the combative justice he would replace, Antonin Scalia.

If confirmed by the Senate,49-year-old Gorsuch will be the youngest justice to join America's highest court since William Rehnquist in

Known for a florid pen, a sense of humour and unimpeachable conservative positions on religious liberty, guns, business regulation and administrative power, Gorsuch may be the perfect candidate to emulate the operatic flamboyance and preference for legal textualism and originalism of Justice Scalia, who died nearly a year ago.

Gorsuch currently serves as a judge on the 10th US Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver, the city where he was born. He was appointed to that post in 2006 by Republican President Géorge W. Bush.

He has a reputation as a brilliant writer of legal opinions, and has followed the well worn path from Harvard Law school, graduating the same year as former President Barack

tions are always a combina-

to the ethos for the particu-

lar season and a number of

fresh looks that are newly

developed according to the

collection's theme." This bal-

ance is vital for the economic

and creative growth of the

label, added the designer,

who has catered to

Bollywood clients like Huma

Qureshi, Dia Mirza, Karisma

Kapoor and Nargis Fakhri.

bench. Gorsuch attended Columbia University as an undergraduate, and received his doctorate in legal philosophy as a Marshall Scholar at Oxford University.

He spent several years in private practice and worked in George W. Bush's Justice Department. He clerked for not one but two Supreme Court justices, first Byron White and later Anthony Kennedy, currently the high court's "swing justice"

Gorsuch likes to fly-fish

Facebook, Oculus to pay \$500 mn in **VR** lawsuit

New York, A US court has ordered

Facebook's virtual reality subsidiary Oculus and its executives to pay game developer ZeniMax Media \$500 million in damages over copyright infringement and violation of nondisclosure agreement. The Dallas court order comes weeks after Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg denied the allegations of stealing the ZeniMax technology and said that it used its own technology to create the Oculus VR headset.

marriage and assisted sui-He argued against eu-thanasia in his 2006 book The Future of Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia.

There are many parallels between Gorsuch and the Scalia. Both subscribe to originalist interpretations of the constitution, meaning they view the document as stable and not subject to re-

Happy to see youth taking interest in classical music: Pandit Jasraj By Nivedita who have a keen interest in feels "classical music will find newer admirers not just sing for more films, he sing for more films, he told

Vrindavan near Mathura.

New Delhi,

Eminent musician Pandit Jasraj says he finds the audience composition at classical music concerts astonishing -- and he feels heartened that the country's youth is willing to take the legacy of such music forward. "There is a large audience that has an interest in classical music and attends concerts... What's astonishing to see is the age demography of the audience who attend these events," Jasraj, a recipient of the Padma Vibhushan, the country's second-highest civilian award, told IANS in an interview here.

"I have seen teenagers

classical music and have started doing riyaaz pretty early to master the art. So, yes, there is a decent number of young people in the crowd that understands the legacy of classical music and is keen to take it ahead," added the maestro, who

turned 87 last week. As a mentor and guru, Pandit Jasraj has presented number of illustrious disciples whom he has nurtured. Today, his best disciples too are carrying the flag of Indian music to every corner of the world.

The octogenarian, who performed at a concert here that launched the Navrasa Duende production house,

keep evolving with changing times". "Even today, we see there are young artistes who have chosen classical music as their area of interest and are adapting it to the current scenario. I am glad to see the acceptance of classical music among the younger generation and how they are taking the art form ahead," he said.

He also feels technology has impacted classical music in a positive way.

"Technology has helped people to come closer than ever before and made the world a global village. Similarly, it has impacted Indian classical music in a positive manner. (It also helps) to introduce this rich genre and

in India but globally, and that's the reason you find larger audiences all over the world," said Pandit Jasraj. Also a proud recipient of

the Sangeet Natak Akademi and Sangeet Award Martand, he said the "one thing that I wish the music industry does is to promote Indian classical music in India and abroad and carry on the legacy of our rich heritage and culture".

Apart from performing at concerts and events both in India and on foreign shores, Pandit Jasraj has also lent vocals to films like "1920" and "Life of Pi".

Asked if he ever felt like exploiting his potential in commercial cinema and

tractions at this point in time." His message to aspiring classical singers? "My message to them is to believe in themselves and

IANS: "There are no such at-

keep doing riyaaz to better themselves. It takes years of practice and dedication to excel in the art of classical singing. Many schools across the country already have classical music as par of the curriculum, I don't think making it mandatory will be effective.

"One needs to have a passion and interest to take up classical music as a profession. There is also a dire need of knowledgeable gurus to teach classical music in India," he said.

US travel ban 'not best way to protect' America: UN

United Nations,

Antonio Guterres said here on Wednesday that the US travel ban imposed on refugees and immigrants from seven Middle East and North African countries "is not the way to best protect the US or any other country," voicing his hope that 'this measure should be removed sooner rather than

The secretary-general

made the remarks in re-

sponse to a question as he accentuate them.' was briefing reporters here Aggarwal is known for on his travel to Ethiopia, his style of 3D structure with where he attended an Afridrapes. How does he balance can Union summit, Xinhua between his signature look

In the Ethiopian capital **UN Secretary-General** of Addis Ababa on Monday, Guterres commended African countries for opening their borders to refugees and people fleeing violence while other parts of the world, including the developed West, close boundaries and build walls. "In my opinion, this is

not the way to best protect the US or any other country in relation to the serious concerns that existed about the possibility of terrorist infiltration," he said. "I don't think this is the effective way to do so."

"What was lacking was a capacity to have a comprehensive approach to the problem," he said of the US ban, adding that it is very important to review "the very dramatic situations the refugees are facing when they have no chance to reach protection."

'And I think this measure should be removed sooner, rather than later,' the UN chief said.

On Tuesday, the secretary-general issued a statement via his spokesman, saying that refugees fleeing conflict and persecution are entitled to protection, and he expressed concern at decisions around the world that have undermined the integrity of the international refugeé protection regime.

'Refugees fleeing conflict and persecution are finding more and more borders closed and increasingly restricted access to the protection they need and are entitled to receive, according to international refugee law," the statement said.

Under the executive order signed by President Donald Trump last Friday, refugees from all over the world will be denied US entry for 120 days while all immigration from so-called "countries with terrorism concerns" will be suspended for 90 days. The countries included in the ban are Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and

Malaria superbug lineage spreading fast in Asia: Study Bangkok, trol and eradication efforts. "We hope this evidence "We now see this very will be used to reemphasize

A lineage of multidrug resistant P. falciparum malaria superbugs has widely spread and is now established in parts of Thailand, Laos and Cambodia, a study has warned.

Noting that the further spread of these multidrug resistant parasites through India to sub-Saharan Africa would be a global public health disaster, the authors of the study called for accelerated efforts in the Greater Mekong Sub-region and closer collaboration to monitor any further spread in neighbouring regions.

The malaria superbug lineage is causing high treatment failure rates for the main falciparum malaria medicines, artemisinin combination therapies (ACTs), according to the study published today in the journal The Lancet Infectious Dis-

The emergence and spread of artemisinin drug resistant P falciparum lineage represents a serious threat to global malaria con-

"We now see this very successful resistant parasite lineage emerging. outcompeting its peers, and spreading over a wide area." said study lead author Arjen Dondorp from Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Re-search Unit (MORU) in

Bangkok, Thailand.

The authors warned that malaria parasites resistant to both artemisinin and its widely used partner drug piperaquine are now spreading quickly throughout Cambodia, with fitter multidrug resistant parasites spreading throughout western Cambodia, southem Laos and northeastern Thailand. "It has also picked up resistance to the partner drug piperaquine, causing high failure rates of the widely used artemisinin combination therapy DHApiperaquine" Dondorp

will be used to reemphasize the urgency of malaria elimination in the Asia-region before falciparum malaria becomes close to untreatable," Dondorp added.

After examining blood spot samples from patients uncomplicated falciparum malaria from sites in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar, the study team found that PfKelch13 C580Y, a single mutant parasite lineage, has spread across three countries, replacing parasites containing other, less ACTresistant mutations.

"The consequences of resistance spreading further into India and Africa could be grave if drug resistance is not tackled from a global public health emergency perspective," said Mahidol University Professor Nicholas White.

Meteorite in Africa offers clues to volcanic activity on Mars

Examining a Martian meteorite found in Africa, scientists have uncovered evidence of at least two billion years of volcanic activity on Mars. The findings, published in the journal Science Advances, offer new clues to how the planet evolved and insight into the history of volcanic activity on Mars, said lead author of the study Tom Lapen, Professor at University of Houston in the US. Much of what we know about the composition of rocks from volcanoes on Mars comes from meteorites found on Earth. The meteorite, known as Northwest Africa 7635 and discovered in 2012, was found to be a type of volcanic rock called a shergottite. Eleven of these Martian meteorites, with similar chemical composition and ejection time, have been found. "We see that they came from a similar volcanic source," Lapen said. "Given that they also have the same ejection time, we can conclude that these come from the same location on Mars," Lapen noted



Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has announced in his budget speech to install Bio-Toilets for all Train coaches by 2019 and Rail safety fund with corpus of Rupees 100,000 Crore, in New Delhi.

British MPs vote in favour of triggering Brexit London. and against the measure. was called after the Su-

Politicians in House of Commons gave overwhelming backing to the Brexit bill, paving the way for Prime Minister Theresa May to trigger the Article 50

mechanism for Britain to

leave the European Union. The vote on Wednesday night, came after two days of intensive debating when around 180 members of parliament (MPs) spoke for

The final figures stood at 498 'yes' against 114 'no', which gave the government a clear and comfortable maiority of 384, Xinhua news agency reported. The vote was the most critical in a process that will lead to more detailed discussions before peers in the House of Lords vote, ahead of Queen Elizabeth II giving the bill

preme Court ruled last month that parliament had to vote on triggering Article 50, the mechanism for any country wanting to leave the EU. The final speaker in the debate, government minister David Jones, urging MPs to "trust the people" and saying the government was clear that the referendum outcome would apply her Royal assent. The debate to the whole of Britain.

Environment gets more funds, but cut on Project Tiger New Delhi, crore for the current financial substance management (Rs

The Environment Ministry is proposed to be allocated Rs 2.675.42 crore in the 2017-18 Union Budget, an increase of Rs 399.42 crore over the last fiscal. In 2016-17, the ministry had got a hike of over Rs 600 crore, about 39 per cent over the previous year and a budget of Rs 2327.51 crore (revised estimate). The 2017-18 budget proposals seem less promising vis-a-vis the ministry, as a crucial department like the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau received Rs 10.04 crore, the

ceived even less. Project Tiger, National Green Tribunal, Central Pollution Control Board, Animal Welfare Board and Climate Change Action Plan also saw reductions in their allocations.

same as last fiscal, while some

projects and departments re-

Funds proposed to be allocated to Project Tiger dropped from Rs 365 crore (budgetary allocation of Rs 375 crore) last fiscal to Rs 345

year. However, the hike in 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat' for the next fiscal shows the aim is to improve the green corridors and overall conservation efforts.

Reflecting government's commitment to international goals, the ministry will get extra funds for pollution abatement (Rs 11.6 crore hike), hazardous 18.82 crore hike), new and renewable energy (Rs 155.56 crore hike) and the National Conservation

Programme. However, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, who presented the budget proposals in the Lok Sabha, focused more on clean economy and better working environment but missed specific mention.

Archbishop apologises for reporting 'child abuser' were groomed for abuse,

Western Times

The Archbishop of Canterbury has issued an "unreserved and unequivocal" apology on behalf of the

Church of England for not reporting a child abuser to the police in the 1970s, a media report said.

Archbishop Reverend Justin Welby apologised after admitting that he had worked at the holiday camps where teenage boy's

Abhishek Jawkar, Sonali Barthwal to do a web series together

Filmmaker Abhishek Jawkar and model Sonali Barthwal, who are rumoured to be dating each other, will play the lead couple in a travel web series "Travelove".

"Travelove" will be the first of its kind to showcase a couple's take and will feature several offbeat locations.

"A lot of travel based web shows are scorching the internet.however 'Travelove'

will be the first of its kind to showcase a couple's love and enthusiasm for travel.

"We have added the element of love to the travel diary," Mayur Goswami, content and production head, said in a statement. While Sonali Barthwal is a super model with several brands to her credit, Jawkar debuted as a director with Hindi feature

film "Missing on a Weekend". "I have directed several

Research professor Christopher Whittier captured the unusual sight whilst taking a break from veteri-

nary work in the Central African Republic to visit the famed Dzanga Bai forest clearing. The golden elephant

was one of around 150 endangered African forest elephants that came to visit the clearing. Mr Whittier, who

lives in Grafton, Massachusetts in the United States, said that the elephants had made a 'nice mud bath' in a

travel documentaries in my early days but had never thought of facing the camera. Considering that I have always been hit by the travel bug, this was an opportunity I didn't want to let go," said the filmmaker.

Talking about the destinations which are mapped, Goswami says that they are covering exotic locations, national parks and destinations unheard of.

the Telegraph reported. Welby said on Wednesday the Church had "failed terribly" by not reporting John Śmyth QC to the po-

Smyth, the head of a Christian charity that ran summer camps, was ac-cused of carrying out a string of "horrific" sadomasochistic attacks in the late Seventies.

The report also said that the Channel 4 News will on Thursday broadcast allegations of Smyth's use of the

The boys from some of Britain's leading public schools attended these camps. Smyth used them to gain access to teenagers, whom he forced to strip naked before subjecting them to savage beatings.

Alternative mechanism to FIPB will be far simpler: Jaitley New Delhi, Announcing the aboli Speech, said that with the speech, said that with the speech, said that with the speech.

tion of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) during his budget speech, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Wednesday said that the alternative mechanism will be far sim-

"If there is an Information & Broadcasting Ministry or any other ministry related proposal, the ministry concerned can look into it. It is one of the possible mechanisms that can be considered," Jaitley told media persons at a post-budget press

conference. "It could be the ministry concerned's mechanism that can be considered. The alternative mechanism will be far simpler," he added.

government undertaking substantive reforms in the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy, more than 90 per cent of the total inflows are now through the auto-

matic route. "The Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has successfully implemented e-filing and online processing of FDI applications. We have now reached a stage where FIPB can be phased

out," he said. "We have, therefore, decided to abolish the FIPB in 2017-18. A roadmap for the same will be announced in the next few months," he

added. In the meantime, further liberalisation of the FDI

nouncements will be made in due course, the Finance

Minister said. India Inc lauded the government's move to phase out FIPB and added that it would lead to further

ease of doing business. Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (Assocham) President Sunil Kanoria said: "Abolition of the FIPB is a great signal to the foreign investors about furthering of reforms and ease of doing business in India."

Naushad Forbes, President, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), said: "The economic réforms agenda continues at a rapid pace with the abolition of FIPB.'

Health budget 'unclear' and 'under funded', say experts

Even as Finance Minister Arun Jaitley allocated Rs 48,853 crore to the health sector, and assured of adding 5,000 post graduate medical seats every year, health experts and hospital owners on Wednesday called the health budget "unclear" and "under funded". Although the experts hailed the announcement to set up All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Jharkhand and Gujarat, they said there is a need for the government to announce more for screening and preventive measures to check the growing tuberculosis (TB) burden.

We were hopeful that health care would be accorded a national priority sector status," said Prathap C. Reddy, Chairman, Apollo Hospitals Group.

The budget allocation for the health sector for

for the health sector for 2017-18 is Rs 48,853 crore, 23 per cent higher than last year, which stood at Rs

Stating that he is satisfied with the structural re-

forms in medical education, in particular the increase in the number of post graduate medical seats, Reddy said: "I do hope that the health policies will address the large unmet need for quality health care infrastructure and in particular the need to wage a war against non-communicable diseases which the health sector has been focusing on." Jaitley in his budget speech announced 5,000 new post graduate medical seats every year in the medical colleges of India. He also said that the government will take steps to roll out Diplomate of National Budget (DNB) courses in big district hospitals.

Commenting on the budget, S.P. Yadav, Urologist and MD of Gurugram's Pushpanjali Hospital, said: "The budget 2017-18 did not discuss the health care sector in detail because of which there is no clarity as to what structural reforms the government proposes to bring in health care and medical practice.

The government also

Drugs and Cosmetics Rules to ensure availability of drugs at reasonable prices and promote use of generic

medicines. Yadav said: "The prices of various drugs and health care devices are totally dependent on the formation of GST Bill. However, the government has taken a wise step by turning 1.5 lakh health sub centres to health wellness centres, which is necessary in view of the fact that health care in India will become expensive in days to come." According to the government, it has announced an action plan to eliminate Kala-Azar and Filariasis by 2017, Leprosy by 2018 and Measles by 2020. Elimination of TB by 2025 is

also targeted. Rajit Mehta, MD and CEO, Max Health care, said the announcement of the goal of eradicating TB from Índia by 2025 is welcome.

"However, I am disappointed to note that the health care outlay in the budget hasn't been properly touched upon and it remains largely under-funded There is no announcement regarding granting health care industry the status of infrastructure industry, a long standing demand of the sector," Mehta said.

"There is still a greater need to invest in screening and preventive measures for addressing the growing TB burden. Non-Communicable Diseases that account for 53 per cent of the disease burden should have been prioritised," said Varun Khanna, Chairman of AdvaMed India Working Group. AdvaMed is a medi-

cal device company.
Anjan Bose, Secretary
General, NATHEALTH -- a forum for advocating better healthcare -- said: "The budget clearly focuses on improving health care access for the less privileged and 'preventive and wellness', both of which are very encouraging. "The target of transform-

ing 1.5 lakh health sub-centres into health wellness centres is in line with the need of the hour for the Indian citizens.'



particularly yellow patch of soil.



બચ્ચા મોટર્સ સામે, હોટલ વિશાલાની બાજુમાં, સરખેજ-નારોલ હાઈવે, એપીએમસી માર્કેટની બાજુમાં વાસણા, અમદાવાદ M.9979881382



અમદાવાદ : Ph No 26587922/23 M.94267559409, 9408777333 "હાઈટેક બિલ્ડીંગ" મ્યુઝીયમની સામે, દિવાન બલ્લુભાઈ સ્કુલની બાજુમાં પાલડી ગાજરનાં હલવાં માણેક્યોક, ફોનઃ- ૨૨૧૪૦७૧૪ શિવાલીક પ્લાઝા, IIM રોડ, આંબાવાડી. ફોન:- ૨૬૩૦૯૩૯૩ સ્ટેડીયમરોડ, નવરંગપુરા, ajon:- saxacaca સ્વીટ્સ બોપલ ફોન નં. (૦૨७૧७)-૨૩७૪७૪ પ્યોર વેજ્વટેરીયન કેક / પેસ્ટ્રી

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'કે.એન. હાઉસ' નોબલ્સ, નહેરૂબ્રીજ સામે, આશ્રમરોડ, અમદાવાદ. ફોન : 26580050/51

ળોમ્બેવાલા

Missing boy: Police probe love angle Ahmedabad,

Nikol police investigating disappearance of a 17year-old youth since January 29, are now probing whether a love affair led to the incident. The youth's scooter was found from near Narmada canal on Dehgam Road on Monday, According to police, parents of Dinesh (name changed), a class XII student of Saraswati High School in Nikol, had reported his disappearance to Nikol police. Questioning in the incident revealed that he had tried to force a girl of the same age into marriage recently for which a complaint was also filed against him for abduction. He had taken the girl to Naroda after which the girl had informed her family. Dinesh had left the home saying that he was going to tuition class. Sources said that his mobile phone was found switched off on January 29 in Bapunagar. While the parents have asked the police to probe whether the girl's family is behind the incident, police suspect that Dinesh might have committed suicide.

Disturbed by wife's affair, man hangs self

Ahmedabad.

A 37-year-old man hanged himself at his home in Chandkheda on January 11. Members of his family have accused his wife of abetting his suicide. Chandkheda police have started investigations on the basis of call records. The family of the deceased say that the accused woman, a lab technician, had a relationship with a doctor from B J Medical College.

Chandkheda police said Ramila Shrimali, 60, a resi dent of Keshavkunj Society, lives with her two sons in Chandkheda. A third son lives at IOC Road. While she lives with her son Manish's family on the ground floor, her second son Nilesh and with his wife Preeti lived on the first floor. Nilesh and Preeti have a nineyear-old daughter. "She mentioned in her complaint that Nilesh, an electrical engineer, worked for the water supply department at Gyaspur for seven years. He was recuperating from an accident at work for the last four months as he had suffered fractures. Preeti works as a lab technician," said an investigator.

LTV holders must register online

Ahmedabad,

Pakistani nationals living in India on long-term visas (LTV) have been asked to register themselves on the Indian FRRO website to apply for visa extensions. In connection with the move, special branch of the city police has issued a notification asking LTV holders to take the online route. According to the notification on Tuesday, police officials have mentioned that until now applications for extending visas were taken at police stations. "With a view to cut the delay and streamline the procedure, those staying in India on LTV before August 15, 2015, have been asked to register themselves on the website and submit copies of their applications to respective police stations, the notification reads. LTV holders in Gujarat believe that the system will duplicate the process. "We are anyway expected to visit the police station to register. It will not reduce the effort. The process will just duplicate efforts. Not all LTV holders, especially the elderly, are digitally literate it will be an uphill task," said an LTV holder. He also pointed out that the system rejects expired passports and this may create an issue for many. According to an estimate, Gujarat has around 20,000 Pakistani nationals living with LTVs.

Jan gold imports down nearly 70%

Ahmedabad,

The gold business is showing scant signs of revival after being severely hit by demonetization. This is evident as gold imports have only marginally increased from last month. According to data provided by Ahmedabad Air Cargo Complex, gold imports in January were nearly 70% lower than in the same period last year. Imports stood at 2.8 metric tonnes (MT) till Jan 30 this year, against 9.42 MT in January 2016.

Estimates by city-based bullion traders and stockiest indicate that cash crunch earlier in January and limited sales has led to a decline in imports. Normally, sales from November to February are buoyant due to the festive and wedding season. However, people are overly judicious in making gold purchases now. "People are prioritizing purchases because of limited cash supply. Moreover the Government action against frenzied gold buyers soon after demonetization has led to reluctance among consumers to make large investments in gold," said Piyush Bhansali, president, Manek Chowk Bullion Trader's Association.

Cops on drive against heavy vehicles Ahmedabad,

City traffic police on Tuesday conducted drive againsť heavy vehicles on Tuesdaý night. Officials said that their efforts will aim primarily at reducing fatal accidents and mishaps on city roads. The focus of the drive will be major roads including SP Ring Road SG Road and other roads frequented by heavy vehicles. In a notification dated January 31, the office of additional commissioner of police (traffic) asked all police stations and senior officials to participate in a drive with the traffic branch to keep an eye on heavy vehicles between 6pm and 9pm in their respective areas. The notification asked the teams to report the maximum possible rule violations. The traffic police issued notifications in the past prohibiting heavy vehicle traffic between specific times and on specific stretches. "The focus will be on catching errant drivers and reporting cases to the RTO. The effort is to reduce road fatalities, as it has been found that the accidents involving heavy vehicles increase chances of fatal or serious accidents. The rules are already in place but the drive is to ensure that the rules are followed," said an official;.



Students of Magadh Mahila College in a celebtating mood during the Saraswati puja, in Patna.

Gujarati-origin woman sells £250,000 UK home for £2 to dodge eviction London, A 43-year-old Indian-origin woman sells £250,000 the owner so I decided to embroiled in a dispute with her next door neighbour her next door neighbour over some roof stones that

gin teacher in the UK has sold her home, which has a market value of 250,000 pounds, for a token of more 2 pounds to ensure that she cannot be evicted from the Rekha Patel has been

locked in a feud with her neighbour over some building work dating back six years on the home. She spent 200,000 pounds buying the dilapidated twobedroom cottage in 2010 in Simmondley village in Glossop and turning it into her dream home.

A court order had directed that the home be sold to recover legal fees and costs of around 76,000 pounds. "I realized I will have more rights as a tenant than

house in order to live in peace in my own home," she told. She told the home, built in the early 18th century, to two private companies recently and has signed a 10year tenancy agreement with them to carry on living

in the property for a monthly rent of 50 pounds. "I had tried everything possible and had no other choice. There are proper agreements in place with the two private companies and these are people I trust. The people of this village have been absolutely lovely. Many have taken days off work to come out and sup-

port me," she said. Patel, who was born in the UK to an Indian family from Navsari in Gujarat, got over some roof stones that got damaged during renovation work on the two bedrooms house, which has a market value of 250,000 pounds.

The dispute landed in court, which ordered Patel to pay damages and legal costs to her neighbour. While she paid part of the amount, Patel disputes the remaining bill imposed on

She was evicted from her home in June last year over non-payment but reentered a month later and has since been fighting against a court order for her home to be sold. She applied for the legal bill to be quashed by Manchester County Court last week.

Mega job fair planned at 11 places from Feb 11 to 17 Gandhinagar, Outlining the final shape of the employment portal and employment minister

Gandhinagar, A high-level meeting of labour and employment department was held here on Tuesday. Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani chaired the meeting which was also attended by deputy chief minister Nitin Patel.

It was decided at the meeting that a mega job fair will be organized at 11 places across the state from February 11 to 17 in order to provide jobs to unemployed youth through a campaign.

The state government will provide employment opportunities in industrial clusters and also in GIDC to youth through the job fairs.

The learning-impaired

rape survivor, found from

outside the Civil Hospital on

December 30, would finally

start her homeward journey

on Wednesday. She was dis-

charged from the VS Hospi-

tal on Tuesday after which

she got united with her fam-

ily numbers. The family is

yet to decide on future

was determined at around

23 years by the ossification

test at the hospital. It was

earlier believed that she is

VS Hospital, said that the

woman was discharged af-

ter her recuperation. "She is

Kuldeep Joshi, RMO, the

around 14 years of age.

The rape survivor's age

course of action.

the mega job fair, Rupani said that state cabinet min-isters and higher authorities will be present at the job fathers. The state government plans to ensure placement of local youth through a transparent system.

During the meeting it was said that help of training institutions of various government departments, industry department, GIDC and education institutions will also be taken in the mega job fair. The effort will be to ensure that such units get required manpower and 85% of the local youth desirous of employment are covered.

Rupani suggested that

Rape survivor discharged from VS

Ahmedabad, responding very well to the to the situation.

treatment. Her situation has

got improved and she now

has no issues with which

she was admitted," he said.

She was admitted to the

hospital on January 14 by a

Gandhinagar-based organi-

zation where she was sent

due to her mental and

from outside the Civil Hos-

pital on December 30 after

which she shuttled between

various agencies.; She was

not accepted almost every-

where as she had no control

over her excreta. Medical

examination on January 14

finally revealed that she was

raped and her rectum was

badly damaged, leading her

The woman was found

health conditions.

should be used for registration of youth keen to have a job. The CM also suggested that Gujarat can set a model for the entire country by providing employment to youth by integrating data of private, semi-government, PSUs and also employment

exchanges. It also planned to recruit as many as 2,500 apprentices in this mega job fair. A target of recruiting more than 25,000 people through such job fairs has also been fixed. The state Government claims that between January and December 2016, 2.40 lakh youths had got employment through 1,307

recruitment fairs. Labour

Police investigators had

tracked her family on the

basis of her statement in

rested one person for the

rape. Police are working on

the theory that she might have been raped multiple

times. Police had shown the

woman multiple photo-

graphs of the suspects out

of which she had identified

the man. Panna Momaya,

ACP (woman crime), said

that police have assured the

family of all support and fair

touch with the family. They

would decide on the future

course of action on Wednes-

"A team will remain in

investigation.

day," she said.

north Gujarat and also ar-

and employment minister Dilipkumar Thakor, chief principal secretary to CM K Kailashnathan and chief secretary of labour and employment department Rajiv Gupta were among those who attended the meeting.

GU organizes campus placements Gujarat University (GU) on Monday organized a cam-

pus placement drive for Infosys aimed at hiring students of BCA and BSc courses. As many as 775 students from 19 affiliated colelges took part in campus placement, out of which 473 who gave on-line test on Monday were found eligible, said a statement issued by the GU registrar. The result of the test will be conveyed to students and qualifying candidates will appear for personal interviews and document verification process, it said.

IMA-Gujarat will protest today against mandatory test for licence to practise Ahmedabad, test for a licence to practice with hands on experience to

The Gujarat chapter of Indian Medical Association (IMA) on Tuesday stated that making the National Exit Test (NEXT) mandatory for medicos to practice as doctors will be gross injustice to the medical students. Gujarat-IMA plans a statewide protest on Wednesday in which more than 15,000 students of 22 medical colleges will take part. The Gujarat-IMA claimed that the proposed exam will ruin the career of medical students as they will be back to square one if they are not be able to clear the common test in three attempts.

Dr Yogendra Modi, president of Gujarat-IMA, said on Tuesday that the new provisions of National Medical Council (NMC) proposed by Niti Aayog require a medical graduate in India to clear an exam to qualify as a practising doctor. But one of the provisions of the NMC says that the students who get medical degrees from foreign countries will not need to appears in the screening

Apart from this, students from Ayurvedic and homeopathic faculties will just need to go through abridge course to register themselves as 'allophanic' doctors, said Modi. Protest marches and sit-in agitations will be held outside the 22 medical colleges between 10 am and 1 pm, he said.

Students will also form a human chain and submit a memorandum to the collector of their respective districts to press for their demand to scrap the proposal for a test, Modi said.

'The proposed exam will put additional burden on the students who already have to qualify for the course through various competitive examinations and who put in five-and-ahalf years to obtain an MBBS degree," Modi said.

"We do not see any justification for the proposed exam," he said. "Students who complete their MBBS go through clinical internship, which provides them qualify as practising doc-

Modi further said that they will oppose the bill by holding protests across the country on November 16. The Centre had promised to look into our demands but nothing happened. This is why we have decided to hold another round of protest," he said. The Bill seeks to replace the Medical Council of India with National Medical Commission in order to improve regulation of medical education in the country.
Monil Patel, who com-

pleted MBBS this year, said that any medico spends 4.5 vears and appears in 16 theoretical and practical tests. "Those exams are conducted by colleges governed by a Government-run university. It seems the Government does not believe in the exams conducted by its own universities," Patel said. He further said that if a student fails to succeed in NEXT then he will have qualification of only class 12.

Foresters nab poacher, rescue 3 endangered birds Ahmedabad, and some poachers trap This is the second

Forest department on Tuesday arrested a man with three endangered mibirds gratory Nalsarovar lake in Sanand taluka in Ahmedabad district. The three rescued birds were a common coot, common pochard and a Garhwal, said forest officials.

R G Prajapati, deputy conservator of forests at Nalsarovar, said they found the three migratory birds from the house of Premji Pagi at Rajval village near the lake. "On the basis of tipoff, a team of the forest department raided the house of Pagi early in the morning and found the migratory birds in his possession. The team also found nets by which Pagi used to trap the birds from the lake area," Prajapati said.

These bird migrate here in the winter season

them for sale in the local market," he said.

Prajapati said an offence has been registered against Pagi under the Wildlife Protection Act and he will be produced before court on Wednesday. "We have been questioning Pagi about the incident and to know whether he has been involved in other such activities,"Prajapati said.

This is the second incident in a fortnight in which migratory birds were rescued by the forest department. On January 18, the forest department had rescued 63 endangered birds including common coots, common pochards, ferruginous pochard, Garhwal and wigeons from a boat on Nalsarovar Lake, the only Ramsar wetland site in

State-cops catch cricket fever

Cops used to wielding lathis will now try their hands at swinging cricket bats for a month starting February 10. State in-charge DGP, P P Pandey, formally inaugurated the 23rd edition of the 50-over one-day format and 9th edition of Twenty20 format cricket tournaments for the state police on Tuesday at Gujarat College. The organizers said that there would be 16 teams-nine police ranges, four police commissionerates and one team each from the DGP office, railways and State Reserve Police (SRP). The teams would be divided into four groups for league rounds. While the tournament would take place across the state, the semifinals and final matches would be played in Ahmedabad.RV Asari, member of organizing committees, said that the state police had emerged winner in all India police cricket meet last year beating Maharashtra. "A number of players from Gujarat police have also represented the state. We believe that it would be the platform to show players their talent.

BOLLYWOOD ACTOR SHAHRUKH KHAN PERFORMS LUNGI DANCEWITH NGO LADIES IN AHMEDABAD.

Edu dept to hold chintan shibir on Feb 4 Ahmedabad, pate. sponsibility in primary.

The state education department will hold a 'Chintan Shibir' or brainstorming camp at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar on February 4. This is the second edition of the Chintan Shibir where teachers of primary schools, principals of B.Ed colleges along with bureaucrats of education department will partici-

pate.
Though the government is holding the annual brainstorming camp for the second time, the results of the first camp are yet unclear.

The theme of this year's session is 'Quality Primary Education - a collective responsibility', where in discussions will be held on subjects like 'Teacher's re-

sponsibility in primary education', 'Innovative experiments of primary education, 'Use of technology for skilled teachers' and 'Responsibility of society towards primary education'.

Religious figures like Dharmbandhu Maharaj, Brahmvihari Swami of BAPS and chief minister Vijay Rupani will also attend the

Dogs lovers save eleven beagles from euthanasia

Eleven beagles, kept in a laboratory in Vadodara from the time they were 45 days old and used in clinical trials to test drugs, were slated for euthanization after they outgrew their usefulness to the laboratory owners. However, five dog lovers from Ahmedabad stepped in and took custody of the dogs, each of which is 6-7 years old. Now, the beagles have been put up in a shelter in Sanand, while the volunteers --- Richa Singh Choudhary, Himani Mod, Swati Verma, Chirag Sharma and Devesh Trivedi -- are working hard to find families to adopt the dogs.

"I was asked to pick up these pedigree dogs on Monday, else they would have been euthanized," said Choudhary. "Since I've previously adopted a laboratory-released beagle from

Bengaluru, I was first contacted by an animal welfare organization called CUPA (Compassion Unlimited Plus Action), and later by Union minister, Maneka Gandhi, on Friday, last week, "she added.

"Therefore, along with a few friends who are into rescuing and getting stray dogs adopted, I went to Vadodara to pick them up,:" said Choudhary, who added, "Records indicate that they were in the laboratory since they were about 45 days old, and were kept there for about 6-7 years before being released."

The dogs will soon be examined medically.

"These pups haven't seen the outside world or perhaps even sunshine in all these years," said Chirag Sharma, one of the rescuers. "Some of them have sores on their skin as they have been staying in cage for

years.""While it was a joy to bring them to the shelter, the work is still half done, as we need to get their blood reports and medical examination done," he added.

Many of the dogs are traumatized. No visitors are currently allowed to play with them because they are scared and tend to run away and hide in their cage. They have never had human interaction before except to be exposed to drugs and injections. The team of dog lovers are attempting to make them familiar with the environment, with human touch and even one another. They feel that even after due medical care, getting them adopted is a chal-

lenge.
"The family which will adopt these pets will; have to be prepared to spend time training them and taking care of them because of

do so after due counselling with the future pet parents," said Himani Mod, yet another dog rescuer based in

Ahmedabad. "It will take them close to a year to be toilet trained.

their condition. We would It is really different from adopting a pedigree dog straight from a litter or even after it is abandoned. When adopting a laboratory-released dog, one must be prepared to take necessary care," added Richa.

Parents say girl molested by teacher

Ahmedabad, The parents of a 10-year-old girl have accused a teacher

at a Bapunagar school of molesting her. The school authorities denied these allegations and said that the girl was slapped for not doing her homework. Senior school board authorities ordered a probe into the incident. The incident took place at Hindi Municipal School No.2 at Thakkarngar in Bapunagar four days ago. The class V student reported the incident to her parents, accusing the teacher of molesting her. Her parents and parents of the other students approached the school the next day but the teacher was not found. The group then made a representation to the principal. "We learned that the teacher had slapped the girl when she did not bring her homework. She was not molested," said Arun Tiwari, school principal. The parents however alleged that the teacher concerned was embroiled in controversies earlier as well. The municipal school board has taken cognizance of the incident, as corporal punishment is an offence anyway.



As a step towards quest for skill and knowledge, L J Group of Institutions has signed an MoU with National Stock Exchange (NSE), the leading stock exchange of India, on 1st Feburary; 2017. Owing this MoU, the students will be able to enroll for all courses of NSE on Financial Markets that consists of 48 modules in the areas of Mutual funds, Derivatives, Commodity, Options, Banking, Insurance and many more. The student can choose any of the module as per their interest and online exam will be conducted by NSE for the same. The Vice President of L J group Manishbhai Shah has talked to the students regarding the benefits they can receive and the placement opportunities for the future. The chief manager and Assistant manager from NSE has come to the event for MOU signing. The Vice president and the Chief manager has signed the MOU on the day of Vasant Panchmi when the saraswati puja happens.

Senate approves Jeff Sessions as US Attorney General Washington, has had a difficult time durbe a vote to allow

Washington,

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved the nomination of Senator Jeff Sessions as US Attorney General after several delays forced by Democrats following President Donald Trump's controversial firing of acting Attorney General Sally Yates.

In an 11-9 vote on Wednesday, Sessions finally made it through the committee process and now his nomination will pass to the full Senate, where it is expected that his confirmation will be simpler given that only a simple majority is neéded and Repúblicans hold 52 of the body's 100

seats, Efe news reported. The Alabama lawmaker

Washington,

Welcome to

The White House has

restored its Twitter account

in Spanish and will soon

have an official website in

that language, an adminis-

Twitter account and website

were deleted when Donald

Trump was sworn in as US

president, Efe news re-

@LaCasaBlanca! Follow us to

keep updated on the latest

news about @POTUS Trump

and his administration!" the

first post said on Wednesday."La Casa Blanca" is Spanish for the White House and @POTUS is the Twitter handle for the President of the United States On

dent of the United States.On

Wednesday morning, the

White House Spanish-lan-

guage Twitter account,

which currently has about

122,000 followers, posted

another message reporting

Trump's nomination of Neil

Gorsuch to fill the vacant s

Court.The page in Spanish, a language spoken by more than 50 million people in the US and roughly 700 mil-

lion around the world, van-ished from the White House

website after Trump was

sworn in as the 45th presi-

dent on January 20.

The previous Spanish

tration official said.

White House

account

ported.

"Hello!

restores Spanish-

language Twitter

ing the confirmation process so far given his extreme views on immigration and women's issues.

Matters became even more controversial on Tuesday when Trump fired Yates for insubordination after she ordered Justice Department attorneys not to defend his executive order temporarily barring US entry refugées and citizens from seven Muslim-majority

Democrats praised Yates' decision during the confirmation debate over Sessions and accused him of helping Trump draft the or-

Democrats claimed that any vote for Sessions would

After over a week US President Donald Trump

took office, First Lady Mela-

nia Trump has hired her

White House announced

that Melania hired Lindsay

Reynolds as her chief of staff,

who had previously served

under former President

George W. Bush as an asso-

ciate director of the White

House Visitors Office, The

Washington Post reported.

14 years of experience in po-

litical fundraising, event

management, and logistical

expertise" to her new role,

professional and highly-ex-

perienced team which will

take time to do properly,

Melania Trump said in the

organising and bringing to-gether such a dynamic and

forward thinking group of

individuals who will work

together to make our coun-

working to fill out the First

Lady's staff as well as the

White House visitor's office

and to open the White

House to the public follow-

Reynolds said she is

try better for everyone."

"I am excited to be

"I am putting together a

the White House said.

statement.

Reynolds "brings over

Late Wednesday, the

chief of staff.

Melania Trump

hires chief of staff

be a vote to allow Trump to eliminate the separation of the executive and judicial branches.

A 20-year Senate veteran, Sessions was one of Trump's more loyal advisers, agreeing with him in many areas, including taking a hard line against crime and the massive deportation of undocumented migrants living in the US.

Meanwhile, the Senate Finance Committee on Wednesday approved Trump's nominees to head approved the Department of Health and Human Services and the US Treasury, Tom Price and Steven Mnuchin, respectively, despite Democrats' boycott of the committee votes.

closure during the transition period", The Hill magazine

opportunity to serve as the First Lady's Chief of Staff,"

Reynolds said in the White

volved with the First Lady's hiring process, Natalie Jones,

a former deputy chief of

protocol appointed by

former President Barack

Obama, is a leading candi-

date to be the White House's

new social secretary. d in a

report." I look forward to the

opportunity to serve as the

First Lady's Chief of Staff," Reynolds said in the White

Trump has also hired Stephanie Winston Wolkoff,

a New York party planner

known for organising the

celebrity-laden annual Met

Gala, as a senior adviser, The

Washington Post reported.

sion to remain in New York

for at least the next six

months to look after her 10-

year-old son, Barron, creates

a novel situation for her staff.

While Wolkoff will remain in

New York, Reynolds and pre-

sumably Jones will work in

Washington, the sources

Melania Trump's deci-

release.Melania

According to sources in-

"I look forward to the

said in a report.

House release.

House



Western Times

Protesters against the travel ban imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump's executive order march to the U.S. Consulate in Hong Kong, China.

Protests over corruption decree grow in Romania Bucharest, ruption needs to be adto dismiss the rule of law

Massive anti-government protests broke out here on the streets in Romania after a decree was passed by Prime Minister Sorin Grindeanu-led government that could free dozens of officials jailed for graft, a media report said on Thursday.

In what is being said as one of its largest ever antigovernment protests, a crowd of at least 150,000 gathered here outside government offices late on Wednesday, as rallies were also taken out in other towns and cities, the BBC reported.

The protesters threw firecrackers and smoke bombs at police who responded with tear gas.

The leftist government, led by Grindeanu of the Social Democratic Party (PSD), passed the decree late on Tuesday, saying it was needed to ease overcrowding in prisons.

But Grindeanu's critics say he was trying to release allies convicted of corrup-

Wednesday's protests came hours after the EU warned Romania against "backtracking" in its efforts to beat corruption.

"The fight against cor-

vanced, not undone," said **European Commission head** Jean-Claude Juncker. "We are following the latest developments in Romania

Protesters in Bucharest chanted "Resign" and "Thieves, thieves". 'Our chances are small

with great concern."

but it is important to fight," said architect Gabriela Constantin.

Another protester, Nicolae Stancu, said: "We came to protect our country against criminals who tried

Romania; to protect our rights and interests, not their obscure interests."

The emergency decree

decriminalises several offences and makes abuse of power punishable by incarceration only if the sums involved are more than \$48,000.

One immediate beneficiary would be PSD leader Liviu Dragnea, who faces charges of defrauding the state of \$26,000. Others due for release include elected officials and magistrates.

American Airlines opens ticket office in Cuba

Havana,

Amid diplomatic uncertainties, American Airlines, one of the world's biggest carriers, has inaugurated a ticket office in Havana, a media report

said.
"This is very prominent because we are the first American company licensed by the Cuban Chamber of Commerce which has allowed us to have this facility," Galo Beltran, the airline representative told Xinhua

news agency. American

which opened the ticket office in Miramar on Wednesday, will operate its own office with its own airline employees, he said. The airline has been

one of the leaders in direct regular commercial flights from the

US to Cuba after the administration of former US President Barack Obama loosened restrictions on travel to the Caribbean nation.

A WOMAN WALKS THROUGH A SNOWY PARK IN MINSK, BELARUS.

Trump blasts Australian PM, abruptly ends phone call Washington, At one point, Turnbull Trump assured him the US

Donald Trump blasted Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull over a refu-gee agreement which led to the US President abruptly end an hour-long phone call only after 25 minutes into speaking.
Senior US officials said

on Wednesday that during the call on January 28, Trump also boasted about the magnitude of his electoral college win and informed Turnbull that he had spoken with four other world leaders that day - including Russian President Vladi-mir Putin - and that "this was the worst call by far", The Washington Post reported. "This is the worst deal

ever," Trump fumed as Turnbull attempted to confirm that the US would honour its pledge to take in 1,250 refugees from an Australian detention centre off the country's coast at Nauru and Manus Island in Papua New Guinea.

Deplorable conditions at those sites prompted intervention from the UN and a pledge from the US to accept about half of those refugees, provided they passed American security screening.

During the call, Trump was joined by chief strate-gist Steve Bannon, National Security Adviser Michael Flynn and White House press secretary Sean Spicer.

leaders move on from their impasse over refugees to discuss the conflict in Syria and other pressing foreign

But, Trump kept his focus on the issue and said: "I don't want these people".

He also repeatedly misstated the number of refugees called for in the agreement as 2,000 rather than 1,250, according to the offi-

Finally, Trump ended the call, making it far shorter than his conversations with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, German Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany and French President Francois Hollande.

Trump, who on January 27 signed an executive order temporarily barring the admissions of refugees and citizens from seven Muslim majority countries, complained that he was "going to get killed" politically and accused Australia of seeking to export the "next Boston

bombers". Trump returned to the topic late Wednesday night, writing in a message on Twitter, "Do you believe it? The (former President Barack) Obama administration agreed to take thousands of illegal immigrants from Australia. Why? I will

study this dumb deal!" However, Turnbull told the media on Thursday that would take the refugees, CNN reported. "Look, I'm not going to

comment on a conversation between myself and the President of the United States other than what we have said publicly, and you can surely understand the reasons for that," he said.

US Fed leaves rates unchanged in January meeting

Washington, US Federal Reserve on

Wednesday left the benchmark intérest rates unchanged and offered no hint on when it might move.

The central bank painted a relatively upbeat picture for the economy. Labour market continued to strengthen and... economic activity has continued to expand at a moderate pace," Xinhua news agency cited a central bank statement after concluding its two-day policy meeting. It aprove consumér and business sentiment following the election of Donald Trump as the US President.The upbeat economic assessment suggested that the central bank should be on track to raise interest rates in the future. In

last December, the Fed

raised benchmark interest

rates by 25 basis points, the

first and only time in 2016.

travelling, protests escalate Islamabad, Qazi Kashif Niaz, in Lahore. fixed. The effigy and a b fixed. The effigy and a ban-On Wednesday, pro-JuD Two days after Pakistan

Pakistan bans Saeed from

placed UN sanctioned militant leader, Hafiz Saeed, under house arrest in Lahore. the Interior Ministry on Wednesday banned the JuD chief from travelling out of the country.

The ministry has for-

warded a letter to all provincial governments and the Investigation Agency, which included Saeed among 38 others placed on the Exit Control

All of them were said to be affiliated with the Jamaat-ud-Dawah Lashkar-e-Taiba, which he is

said to have founded. On Monday, authorities had placed Saeed under house arrest along with four other individuals, namely Abdullah Ubaid, Zafar Iqbal, Abdur Rehman Abid and

protests escalated demanding the release of Saeed. Hizb-ul Mujhadeen chief

Syed Salahuddin also called upon Islamabad to reverse its detention order, which he termed "painful and cow-Salahuddin, chairman of

United Jihad Council (UJC), said in a statement: "Hafiz Mohammad Saeed has not only been urging the international community to break its criminal silence on Kashmir, but he has also been exposing the atrocities of India's imperialistic re-

Demonstrators Lahore also held an effigy, on which portraits of US President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and flags of the US and India were af-

ner with portraits of the duo and flags of both countries were torched afterwards. Protesters also carried

banners and placards, inscribed with slogans in favour of the Jamaat-ud-Dawa chief.

"House arrest of Hafiz Saeed to please India is unacceptable," read a big ban-

The JuD leaders also warned the government of launch of a protest movement if Saeed was not released immediately.

They said the responsibility would lie with the Nawaz Sharif government if the Kashmir movement suffered any disruption or weakness as result of Saeed's arrest. The protesters promised to take out a nationwide rally on February 5 on the instruction of

Háfiz Saeed. On Tuesday, Pakistan Army spokesperson Major General Asif Ghafoor stated that putting restrictions on the JuD chief was a policy decision.

"This was a policy decision taken by the state in the national interest and several institutions will have to play their role. This news came yesterday and in the coming days more details will be

tional interest.

We're all afraid of death: Pope

Vatican City,

Pope Francis on Wednesday urged Christians to stand by their faith and believe in resurrection and etemal life, admitting that we all fear death.

"We are all a bit afraid of dying," Francis told pil-grims gathered at the Vatican for his weekly general audience."Before the mystery of death, and the loss of our loved ones, we Christians are challenged to hope more firmly in the Lord's promise of eternal life," Francis said. The first Christian communities also "had some difficulty" with death, Francis said, citing the "still relevant" teaching of Saint Paul in his First Letter to the Thessalonians. Francis noted how Saint Paul told the early Christian community to believe in the afterlife and to "wear its faith like a helmet".

Top Islamic State leader killed in Afghanistan

Kabul,

A senior leader of the Islamic State jihadist group was killed in a drone strike in Afghanistan's Nangarhar province, a media report said on Wednesday.

Shahid Omar was killed early on Wednesday in a drone strike conducted by foreign forces in Afghanistan, Khaama Press news agency reported, quoting Nangarhar government officials.

Omar commanded a group of at least 40 IS fighters in Nangarhar, the governor's spokesman Ataullah Khogyani was cited as saying.

The drone strike that killed Omar took place in

Nangarhar's restive Achin district. Omar is believed to hail from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of northwest

Ex-rail boss urged to guit after disaster conviction

Former Italian rail chief Mauro Moretti and other defendants jailed over the 2009 Viareggio rail disaster that killed 32 people should resign, families of the victims said on Wednesday.
"It is morally unacceptable that after a conviction

of first instance, Mauro Moretti continues to lead a state company," the families said through their spokesman Marco Piagentini.

"We request his resignation and that he be stripped of his Order of Merit for Labour," the families stated. The families were referring to former Italian railways chief Mauro Moretti, who is currently head of state-controlled defence and aeropspace giant Leonardo. A court in the Tuscan city of Lucca on Tuesday jailed Moretti and another top Ítalian manager to seven years and two others to six and a half years in prison for their roles in the train derailment which caused a massive gas explosion.

Indian American realtor to run for Virigina assembly

Subba Rao Kolla, an Indian American Republican from Washington DC, announced he will run against incumbent Democrat John Bell for the Virginia House of Delegates 87th District seat, the media reported. Kolla, a real estate businessman and a community

activist, if elected, will become the first Indian-origin member of the Virginia House of Delegates, American Bazaar reported. Kolla immigrated to the US in the 1990s and became an American citizen in 2008. In a statement, Kolla said: "Whether helping new citizens navigate the area and become citizens or volunteering as I have for the past three years on the Loudoun County Board of Equalization, I understand the importance of having accessible, hands-on help from our elected officials." My top priorities as a member of the State House will be education, transportation and working with small businesses and taxpayers to reduce government interference and regulation. As a conservative Republican, I believe the government that governs least, governs best," he added.Kolla is a realtor in Loudoun County, having worked in real estate for over 10 years, and is well-known among the local Telugu community.

UAE says Trump's travel ban sovereign decision

The Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates said that the decision of the US President to ban the entry of citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries is a sovereign decision and not directed against

Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan made his remarks on Donald Trump's ban in a press conference on Wednesday held with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov, who is on a visit to the UAE, Efe news reported.

Al Nahyan emphasized that every state has the right to take sovereign decision, and the US made one on Friday.He pointed out that the decision did not include the vast majority of Muslims, and stressed that it is a provisional decision and will be rectified.

Indian charged with money laundering for drug dealer in US

New York,

been convicted of laundering money for a marijuana

A. Talbert said on Wednesday that Iyer, who lived in Fresno, had admitted his guilt.

insurance businesses, made a deal with a marijuana dealer to have money from selling the narcotics transferred to one of his companies, Health Shield.

He then returned the money to the dealer after taking a commission and disguising the payments as salaries, the prosecution said. He filed tax documents showing a payment of \$111,952 in 2013 and \$164,000 in 2014 even though the dealer had not worked for him.The marijuana dealer was identified only as "S.V." in the court documents. Iyer is to be sentenced by Judge Dale A. Drozd in April and faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in jail and a \$500,000 fine.



goddess of education Saraswati will help them excel in education.

US prison standoff continues

A 12-hour long US

prison standoff continues in Delaware with four out of five employees still remaining hostage with the inmates, a media report said on Thursday. The single hostage re-

leased was sent to a hospital, a police spokesperson said, Xinhua news agency reported. The FBI and Delaware

state police continued negotiations with inmates inside a building of the Level 5 James T. Vaughn Correctional Center (JVTCC) in Smyrna, some 149 km from here, said Sergent Richard Bratz, the state police spokesman.

The incident began around 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday when a guard radioed for immediate assistance from inside the build-ing housing more than 100 inmates, said Bratz.

He did not reveal whether the authorities had received any demands from prisoners."We are doing everything we can to ensure the safety of everyone involved and using all of our available resources," Bratz said. Citing the officers asso-

Washington, ciation, CNN said four guards and one counsellor were taken hostage by inmates, while one guard was released.

"It's a very scary situa-tion right now," Geoff Klopp, president of the Correctional Officers Association of Delaware said.

A large number of local emergency responders, including policemen from Delaware and neighbouring Pennsylvania, were seen rushing to the prison around midday.

All Level 5 Delaware pris-

ons, the state's maximum security facilities, were placed on lockdown in the day as a result, though a cor-rections department spokeswoman said it was an isolated incident.He did not reveal whether the authorities had received any demands from prisoners.

Opened in 1971, the JVTCC has been Delaware's largest correctional facility for men, housing about 2,500 minimum, medium and maximum security prisoners as well as the state's death row inmates.

It also housed facilities for executions, said the State Bureau of Prisons.--IANS

aváilable," he said. Ghafoor emphasised that there was no foreign pressure behind the decision and it was taken in na-

A California businessman, Krishen Sauble Iyer, has The federal prosecutor for Eastern California Phillip According to documents, Iyer, who owned several

Devotees offer butter lamp to celebrate Shreepanchami festival at Saraswati temple in Kathmandu, Nepal February 1, 2017. Children are given their first writing and reading lessons at the temple during this festival in the belief that the

Coal India production grows 5.5% in

Coal India Ltd (CIL) on Thursday reported that its production grew by 5.5 per cent to 55.99 million tonnes (mt) in January as compared to 52.86 mt in the corresponding month last fiscal, but the production during April 2016 to January 2017 remained flat.

According to provisional data, the production stood at 433.76 mt, up by a meagre 1.7 per cent during the first ten months of the current fiscal (2016-17). It achieved 91 per cent of the target which was set at 478.57 mt for the period.

It also reported that its off-take during this period as up by a marginal 1.3 per cent at 443.13 mt as against a target of 489.71 mt. Its off-take for January stood at 51.35 mt achieving 92 per cent of the target. In 2015-16, the state miner produced 538.75 mt of coal against a target of 550 mt and its off-take was at 534.5 mt.During the current fiscal, the coal production target has been pegged at 598.61 mt is expected to be 660.7 mt in 2017-18. The company envisaged production of 908.10 mt in 2019-20 with a CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate) of 12.98 per cent with respect to 2014-15. In its latest annual report, the coal-mining behemoth said it would invest Rs 7,765 crore as capital expenditure and Rs 5,069 crore in various other projects in 2016-

Trinamool walks out of RS, alleges political vendetta

Trinamool Congress members walked out of the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, alleging that the central government was indulging in "politics of vendetta"

Soon after the house met for the day at 11 a.m., Trinamool member Derek O'Brien alleged that the government was harassing his party's members for opposing demonetistion."Government is indulging in politics of vendetta against the opposition. This is a very serious issue. We may have political differences on issues but this is not done," O'Brien said.In his reply, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Mukhtar Ábbas Naqvi said the agencies were investigating a chit fund scam and there was no political vendetta against anybody. Dissatisfied with the government's response the Trinamool members walked out of the house.

Public Cloud market to hit \$1.8 bn in India in 2017: Gartner

Driven by Infrastructure-as-a-Service (laaS), the public cloud services market in India is projected to

grow 38 per cent in 2017 to reach \$1.81 billion, market research firm Gartner predicted on Thursday. The highest growth will continue to be driven by

laaS which is projected to grow at 49.2 per cent in 2017, followed by 33 per cent in software-as-a-service (SaaS) and 32.1 per cent in platform-as-a-service (PaaS),

The increase of SaaS and PaaS indicates that the migration of application and workloads from on-premises data centres to the cloud, as well as the development of cloud ready and cloud native applications, are fuelling the growth in the cloud space."We see increased cloud growth in the infrastructure compute services space as adoption becomes increasingly mainstream," Sid Nag, Research Director at Gartner, said in a statement. "This has been predicted for a while, and the momentum continues to sustain in 2017 eventually plateauing through 2020 as the market further matures,

Decision on Parrikar's future brief after polls: Amit Shah

The BJP's central leadership will decide whether Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar will continue in the central government or will be sent back to state politics, party President Amit Shah said on Wednesday.

"I get a lot of calls and letters requesting for Parrikar to be sent back. Parrikar is doing a great job for the country as Defence Minister. The party has decided to keep all its options open. We will decide after elections. But whether he is in Goa or there (in Delhi) Parrikar thinks about Goa 24x7," he said. Imploring voters to cast ballot in favour of the BJP in the February 4 polls, Shah said: "Press the lotus button so hard, that the button will be pressed here and the current will go to Italy."

Rahul doesn't know about our response to cross-border terror: BJP chief

Congress Vice-President Rahul Gandhi doesn't realise the difference between the response of the Indian armed forces to cross-border terrorism during the earlier UPA rule and that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he wears Italian spectacles, BJP President Amit Shah said on Wednesday.

"Now Rahul baba asks Modi ji, there is cross-border firing during your government. It used to happen in our government too. So what is the difference? You will not know Rahul baba, you are wearing Italian spectacles, Shah told a rally in Bicholim town in north Goa.

"(The difference is) when your government was in power, the cross-border firing was started by Pakistan and ended by them. Now, there is a BJP government and Narendra Modi is its Prime Minister and Manohar Parrikar its Defence Minister. Now the firing is still started by the Pakistan Army, but it is now ended by the Indian Army," Shah said. They fire a bullet and we respond with a cannon... no one has the courage to severe our soldier's head," the BJP President said

EC imposes 'prohibition' in Punjab from Thursday evening

Chandigarh,

Ahead of polling to be held in Punjab on February 4, the Election Commission has issued prohibition orders for the entire state from Thursday evening.

The prohibition will be effective from 5 p.m. on Thursday evening and will end on the conclusion of the voting process on Saturday. Punjab Chief Electoral Officer V.K. Singh said that the guidelines have been issued in accordance with the provisions enacted in Section 126 of Representation of Peoples' Act. As per the guidelines, the ongoing campaigning in all the 117 assembly constituencies and Amritsar Lok Sabha byeelection would come to an end 48 hours prior to the polling date.

EC notice to Parrikar over voter-bribe

The Election Commission (EC) on Wednesday issued a show-cause notice to Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar following a complaint of violation of the Model Code of Conduct, filed by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and a regional party in Goa.

The complainants have alleged that Parrikar encouraged voters to accept money from rival candidates during his election campaign here. Sumit Mukherjee, Secretary to the Commission, has directed the central minister to respond to the show-cause notice by 1 p.m on February 3, a day before the state goes to polls."Whereas, the Commission is prima facie of the opinion that by making the aforesaid statement, you have violated the above said provision of the Model Code of Conduct," Mukherjee said in his notice.



AIJASS NATIONAL PRESIDENT YASHPAL MALIK AGITATING JAT PROTESTERS AT JASSIA VILLAGE IN ROHTAK.

Thousands attend last rites of ex-minister Ahamed Kannur (Kerala) ousands of people where he named at the Ram his ancestral home late at night. The funeral service

Thousands of people took part in the funeral service of senior Kerala parliamentarian E. Ahamed at a mosque here on Thursday.

A' sitting Lok Sabha member, Ahamed passed away early on Wednesday morning in a Delhi hospital, and was laid to rest with full state honours.

The former Union Minister from Malappuram fell unconscious in the Central Hall of Parliament during the President's address that marked the start of then Budget session.

Āhamed was put on life

where he passed away at 2.15 a.m.

Ahamed's last rites were conducted at his native Kannur City Juma Masjid, very close to his ancestral home.His political activities were centred mostly around Malappuram district and at Delhi.Besides the national and state political leaders from various parties, people from every walk of life attended the last rites.

Ahamed's remains were first brought to Kozhikode from Delhi on Wednesday evening and were taken to

was led by Indian Union Muslim Ĺeague chief Pankkad Sayyid Hyderali Shihab Thangal. Ahamed was a leading member of

The 78-year-old former UPA minister was regularly elected to the Lok Sabha since 1991. The IUML is the second biggest constituent of the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) in Kerala.A law graduate, Ahamed joined politics as a student, and was first elected to the Kerala assem-

If voted to power, will jail corrupt politicians: Elvis Gomes Panaji, the people for decades that during door-to-door

Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) chief ministerial candidate Elvis Gomes on Thursday said that if voted to power, he will send to jail the corrupt political leaders who tricked the public.

Addressing a press conference here, Gomes said that on February 4 (the polling day), peoplé of Goa will script "doom and the end of the road for the corrupt politicians."All who tricked

through the mining scam, innumerable land grab scams and amassed huge amount of unaccounted wealth will be prosecuted and jailed once my govern-ment takes office," Gomes told reporters.

Goa will elect its new 40seat assembly on February

He also promised to ensure "fish for all" at affordable prices in Goa.He said interactions with people, he realised that fish which was staple part of food for almost every Goan has become unaffordable for the average family in Goa.

"It will be done with a scheme delivered through fishermen's cooperatives supported with state-ofthe-art supply chain of cold dry storages in neighbourhoods across

Sonia condoles Ahamed's death

Congress President Sonia Gandhi on Wednesday condoled the death of senior Kerala MP E. Ahamed, calling him a "fine human being" and a "committed

"In his death India has lost an outstanding parliamentarian. He was a committed democrat and beloved leader of Kerala, whose simple lifestyle and commitment to cause ... was an example for an entire generation," Gandhi said.

She conveyed her solidarity with the family and supporters of Ahamed "in this hour of grief".

In a condolence letter to Ahmed's son Ahamed Rayees, Gandhi said she was deeply grieved over the

loved father".

"E. Ahamed was widely respected and admired for the complete sincerity and dedication with which he undertook every task, his warm human qualities, his diplomatic skills which made him strike a warm rapport with leaders of several countries and his outstanding qualities as a parliamen-

"At this time of grief, you much take consolation from the fact that he was active and engaged in public service until the very end and that he did not suffer a long and painful illness," she

Gandhi also said she personally mourned the "loss of a warm and loyal

passing away of his "be-friend, a man with a simple, modest way of life who cared deeply for the underprivileged and vulnerable and always put their interests first, and a leader of broad vision, humanity and

integrity. "Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gnadhi also held him in high esteem. His many admirers and supporters, not iust in Kerala but in the whole country and in the Muslim world, will always honour his memory and be grateful for his rich contribution to our national life," she

Ahamed died here early on Wednesday, a day after suffering cardiac arrest in Parliament during the President's address to a joint

Widespread protests across Kerala over placing of liquor outlets

Thiruvananthapuram,

Following the recent di-rective of the Supreme Court that there should be no liquor outlets on national and state highways, the new locations decided for these shops in the state has come under fire from civil society.

Girl students of the Holy Angels Convent in the heart of the city here took to the streets Thursday after learning that there would be a new retail outlet of the state-owned Beverages Corporation (Bevco) near their

school.
"We won't allow this to open and we will protest against the opening of it near our school," said a group of protesting school

Similar protests have begun across the state by locals at more than two dozen proposed Bevco out-

On Wednesday, trouble broke out near Kozhikode after an angry lady doused herself in Kerosene and was pulled back from lighting herself.

In December last year, the Supreme Court banned the sale of liquor within 500 metres on either side of national and state highways across the country, forcing around 300 such outlets comprising beer and wine parlours, five star hotels and

state-owned liquor retail outlets to look for new places, as they have to move out latest by the beginning of the new fiscal.

In Kerala, liquor is currently served only in about 30 five star hótels and around 600 beer and wine parlours; it is sold through 334 state-owned retail out-

lets.
H. Venkatesh, Managing
Director of Bevco, told reporters that the corporation has decided to move its affected outlets to new locations and when it does, it will follow all the rules and regu-

"We are only following the guidelines as per the law of the land. The police can look into everything," said Venkatesh.

The profile of liquor users reveal that around 32.9 lakh people out of the 3.34 crore population in the state consume liquor, which includes 29.8 lakh men and 3.1 lakh women. Around five lakh people

consume liquor on a daily basis. Of this, around 83,851 people including 1,043 women are addicted to alcohol.

Now the ball is in the court of the Kerala government as revenue earned through sales of liquor accounts for a major chunk of revenue and the state govtake the call on how to stop these protests.

ernment will soon have to

VRS plea of food protester constable cancelled: BSF

New Delhi,

The Border Security Force (BSF) on Thursday said that it has cancelled the voluntary retirement plea of constable Tej Bahadur Yadav, who had uploaded a video in social media over poor food for soldiers.

The voluntary retirement plea of constable Tej Bahadur Yadav has been cancelled owing to the pending court of inquiry," BSF spokesperson Subhendu Bhardwaj told

Bhardwaj said that Yadav has currently been kept in his battalion headquarters in Jammu and Kashmir."Cancellation of his plea to opt for VRS (Voluntary Retirement Scheme) was communicated to Constable Tej Bahadur on January 30, 2017, evening," said Bhardwai.BSF trooper Tej Bahadur Yadav had com-plained about the quality of food being served to security personnel, and accused unnamed officers of illegally selling off the food supplies meant for the troopers.

More wasted children, anaemic adults than before in once-robust Punjab fallen from 19.7 per cent in ing at Rs 647 per year, acby health insurance or 2005 to 7.6 per cent in 2015. cording to the 2013-14 data health scheme is 22.1 per

By Oommen C. Kurian

relatively-rich people made that way by hearty eating and energetic living. The reality today: Wasting (low weight-for-height) among children has increased from 9.2 per cent in 2005 to 15.6 per cent in 2015, and one in four is still stunted (low height for age). As Punjab, at one time among India's fastest-growing and richest states, prepares for assembly elections, it is now often termed as a "once-rich" agrarian state, its economy declining and ill-health plaguing people of all ages.

Punjab faces a double burden of obesity and poor nutrition. Obesity among men (27.8 per cent) and women (31.3 per cent) increased by 5.6 and 1.4 percentage points, respectively, in the decade to 2015. Simultaneously, the proportion of anaemic men doubled between 2005 (13.6 per cent) and 2015 (25.9 per cent), and anaemic women went up from 38 per cent to 53.5 per cent.

There is some good news too. Though drug-use is surging, only 34 per cent of Punjabi men now consume alcohol, down from 43.4 per cent in 2005, according to National Family Health Survey-4 (NFHS-4). The proportion of underage marriages among girls has

all-India ratio: 906 in 2014). The state had -- and has much going for it, but it does not show in its health

Punjab is ranked 16th by population among states but 15th by Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) per capita, according to NITI Aayog. Studies have shown that, historically, free rural electricity linked to the green revolution has not only led to overexploitation of groundwater, but also a fiscal crunch. This has affected public spending on education and health, and there has been little real growth in Punjab's social spending.Punjab has India's highest proportion of households with improved sources of drinking water, among the lowest proportion of households that practice open defecation, and the fourth-lowest proportion of children younger than five who aré underweight. Yet, the health indicators lag its economic standing and there are wide inequities within the state, with under-provisioning and over-provisioning existing in parallel, driven by a unregulated healthcare sector.Among the battleground states of the 2017 elections, Punjab

has the second-lowest per

capita public health spend-

MODELS DISPLAYS THE CREATION OF DESIGNER PALLAVI SINGH DURING

AT LAKME FASHION WEEK SUMMER RESORT 2017 IN MUMBAI.

The popular caricature of Punjabis is of a robust, proved from 746 to 860 (the That has led to infrastruc-Manipur's 3.7 per cent, Goa's ture gaps: For instance, the average population size served by each government-run hospital bed is 2,420 in Punjab, comparable to poorer states such as Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Assam.Also, dependence on private healthcare facilities is high -- 83 per cent for outpatient and 66 per cent for inpatient -- leading to Punjab having the highest average medical expenditure per episode of

hospital admission in India. Among India's larger states, Punjab had the second-highest proportion of households (18.5 per cent) that reported "catastrophic" healthcare expenditure, after Kerala, according to research from Brookings India, a think tank, based on the latest National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) data.

Often, patients from travel neighbouring states seeking medical care. The average expenditure per overnight trip for health and medical purposes was the highest in Punjab among all states and Union territories -- at Rs 31,512, Punjab's average was about double the India average of Rs 15,336, according to a 2016 NSSO report. The proportion of rural households in Punjab with any member covered

Uttarakhand's 19.8 per cent, according to NFHS 4 data released in 2016. However, district-level disparities in insurance coverage remain: From districts like Patiala, where only 10.5 per cent households are covered by health insurance, to Rupnagar where 45.4 per cent households are cov-



Swaraj Abhiyan leader Yogendra Yadav addressing Farmers'Parliament at Jantar Mantar in

41st raising day of Indian Coast Guard celebrated at HQ North West region in Gandhinagar

Ahmedabad,

The Indian Coast Guard celebrated its 41th Raising Day on 01 Feb 17. With a modest beginning of just 7 ships in 1978 the service has grown into a formidable force with 126 ships, 62 aircraft and 42 stations. By the turn of the present decade, the Coast Guard is likely to have an inventory of 150 ships and 100 aircraft.

As the fourth largest Coast Guard in the world, the Indian Coast Guard has played a significant role in securing the Indian Coast and enforcing the regulations within the Maritime Zones of India. True to its motto "Vayam Rakshamah" meaning We Protect, the service has to its credit-saving 7539 lives. Keeping a hawk's vigil on the Indian Coast, the service has provided a robust and impregnable coastal security mechanism.

In consonance with the Government policy of empowering women, the ICG has employed Lady Officers in combat with the successful all women Dornier flight. Soon lady officers will also be inducted in a float platform that is ACV (Air Cushion Vehicle), for which they are presently undergoing training.
The President, Vice Presi-

dent, Prime Minister, Defence Minister, Governor and the Chief Minister of Gujarat in their messages congratulated the Indian Coast Guard on completion of 40 glorious years of service to the nation and appreciated the pivotal role

played by the service in ensuring the nation's interests in the Maritime Zones.

A traditional CG Reception ceremony held on the Coast Guard Day was graced by Shri OP Kohli, Honorable Governor of Gujarat. In line with the tradition, the

Hob'ble Governor cut the Coast Guard Anniversary cake with Inspector General Rakesh Pal TM Commander Coast Guard Region (North West). Senior officials from the Government, Defence and other armed forces also graced the occasion.

Odisha blast toll rises to 8

Bhubaneswar, With the recovery of

another body on Thursday the death toll in a landmine blast triggered by suspected Maoists in Odisha's Koraput district has risen to eight, a police officer said.

The incident took place on National Highway 26 at Mungabhumi village on Odisha-Andhra Pradesh border, when the personnel were travelling in a van to Cuttack for training on Wednesday

The body of Odisha State Armed Police (OSAP) official Tulasiram Majhi, who went missing after the blast, was found on Thurs-

day morning.
Six of the other seven

deceased identified so far are Arun Kumar Nayak, Ganesh Prasad Saha, Somanath Sisa, Sanjay Kumar Dash, Subarna Kumar Raj and Pradipta Kumar Rout. 'Even though nobody

has claimed the incident so far, we strongly suspect this blast was triggered by the red rebels as it is a Maoist area," said Director General of Police K.B. Singh.He said the other five injured were shifted to hospital

Visakhapatanam Pradesh.Meanwhile, full state honours were given to the deceased jawans, in the presence of top senior officials at Koraput Parade

ground on Thursday.

Indians ready for low pay if work allows travel: survey

A new research reveals that 43 per cent of business travellers in India would accept a lower paying job if it meant they could travel more for work as compared to 30 per cent globally.

Commissioned by Booking.com for Business, the global leader in connecting business travellers with the widest choice of places to stay, the research shows that company bosses are potentially under-valuing business travel as a staff remuneration "bargaining chip" as well as a workforce motivation and retention

tool, said a statement. The findings also reflect a broader trend identified by Booking.com for Business which reveals that employees are increasingly smudging the line between business and leisure. Achalf of Indian business travellers(67 per cent) have extended their business trips, to a different city or country in the past 12 months.

The statistics indicate that this trend in India is higher as compared to the global findings (49 per cent). Where nearly one third

of Indian business travellers (48 per cent) are claiming that they intend to do the same in 2017, only 27 per cent claim the same glo-

bally.
Additionally, 69 per cent of Indian travellers surveyed, believe that they will travel more for business in 2017 than they did in 2016, as versus a global finding of 46 per cent.Ripsy Bandourian, Director of Product Development, Booking.com for Business said: "No longer seen as lost time or a career incon-

cording to data, more than venience, business travel is increasingly seen as an opportunity to expand horizons, find inspiration and progress in a career."

Today's laptop and latte breed of employee is increasingly mobile and fluid with their travel plans, looking to strike a balance between business and leisure travel," Bandourian said.

"As such, they expect employers to keep pace with their need for greater fluidity and flexibility and are even prepared to negotiate on salary to do so."

"It's why Booking.com for Business is focused on providing a diverse range of accommodation choices for business travellers as well as ensuring they can find, manage and enjoy company stays in the simplest, smartest and most rewarding way," Bandourian added.

The BMW Art Car by Sandro Chia celebrates its 25th anniversary in India New Delhi, world have created Art Cars partnerships we be partnerships we build

BMW Group India presents the 13th BMW Art Car created by Italy's most renowned contemporary artist Sandro Chia

His creation will be exclusively exhibited from 2-5 February 2017 at the India Art Fair in New Delhi. Sandro Chia created the 13th Art Car for BMW in 1992 with the BMW M3 GTR which is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2017.

The BMW Art Cars or the 'Rolling Sculptures' are original masterpieces of art that demonstrate an individual synthesis of artistic expression and automobile design. Since 1975, eighteen prominent artists from across the

on the basis of contemporary BMW automobiles of their times, all offering a wide range of artistic inter-



pretations

Mr. Frank Schloeder, President (act), BMW Group India said, "Cultural communication has been one of the long-standing commit-ments of BMW Group. The

percent (Year-on-Year), compared to 17 percent last

quarter. Another major growth engine for the social

media giant was mobile.

Over 1 billion of Facebook's

daily users access the site

primarily on their phones or

tablets and that number

grew by 23 per cent in the

latest quarter. Mobile ad rev-

enue made up about 84 per

cent of the company's total

ad revenue.Facebook also

said it earned \$12.4 billion in

income from operations last

year, nearly double the total

from 2015 (\$6.2 billion)."During the earnings

call, CEO Mark Zuckerberg

strengthen intercultural dialoque and create platforms for multidisciplinary ex-change. The BMW Art Cars collection spans the work of prominent artists across continents. Together they cover the design and cre-ative process of the 13th BMW Group's cultural engagement. They are unique creations combining automobiles, technology, design

form a mirror of contemporary culture, as exemplary as it is unique. Through the exclusive showcase of the BMW Art Car by Sandro Chia at the India Art Fair, we bring yet another coveted masterpiece of art closer to connoisseurs and patrons of art. Visitors will be able to dis-BMW Art Car at the India Art Fair 2017." BMW Art Cars are

an indispensable compo-nent and a core platform of nological base with some ultrahigh speed machines

leled growth. To speed up our processes and remain at the cutting edge of technology is of paramount importance to take the company to the highest peaks of achievement and to make in India but yet remain a global power. Our venture with Tongtai opens up

Bajaj Auto's January sales decline by 18% Mumbai, of last year.Besides, the

stood at 241,917 units from 293,939 units during the corresponding month of

sold during the like month

overall exports during the last month fell by 19 per cent to 106,729 units from 132,069 units shipped out during the corresponding

The company's total motorcycle sales during the month under review decreased by 16 per cent to 211,824 units from 252,988 units sold in the like month of last year.In addition, the overall commercial vehicle sales edged down by 27 per cent to 30,093 units from 40,951 units sold during January 2016.

Regd.Office: 604,GIDC Estate, V.U.Nagar-388121, Anand, Gujarat CIN: L29210GJ1992PLC017845 TELE: 02692-236705 Fax:02692-236704 Wbsite:www.adarshplant.com Mail: info@adarshplant.com

ADARSH PLANT PROTECT LIMITED

NOTICE

Pursuant to Regulation 47 of SEBI (LODR) Regulation, 2015 Notice is hereby given that the 4th meeting of The Board of Directors ,in F.Y.: 2016-17, of the company will be held on Saturday, 11th February, 2017 at 04:30 P.M. at the Registered Office of The Company to approve the unaudited Financial results for the Quarter ended on 31st December, 2016

equivalent Semi Govt. approved Contractors as detailed below

For & on behalf of Limited

Date: 03.02.2016 Place: V.U.Nagar

Name of work

Ankodiya T.P.-1

Nimeta T.P.-1

Village

Date: 30.01.2017

with any other business (if any).

Date: 2nd February, 2017

BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com).

exchange i.e www.bseindia.com

Place: Ahmedabad

Date: 02.02.2017

Reinviting tender offer for

Gorva-Ankodiya T.P.-1

Tender Notice No. 12/1

Reinviting tender offer for

Tender Notice No. 12/2

Reinviting tender offer for

Tender Notice No. 12/3

Tender Notice No. 12/4

Construction of Carpet Road

Construction of Carpet Road

Construction of carpet Road

(D.P.) from Bhayali Smashan

T.P.-3 and D.P. Road near Bill

to Garden plot near Bhayali

Construction of Carpet Road

Sallin.

Sr.

No

2.

3.

Adarsh Plant Protect

Devangi Rajanikant Zinzuvadiya COMPANY SECRETARY

ON LINE TENDERING

VADODARA URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

'VUDA BHAVAN', Karelibaug, Vadodara-390 018

Telephone No: (0265) 2466710, 15, 17

TENDER NOTICE No. 12 of 2016-17

Estimated

Rs. Crore

Cost in

23.92

15.13

7.02

4.93

The details of offer for e-tendering of above works are available on website www.nprocurement.com.

The last date of online submission date 13.02.2017 upto 17.00 hrs. This tender notice is also

(INF/BRD/1408/2016-2017)

For Archit Organosys Limited Sd/- Kandarp Amin Whole - Time Director - (DIN: 00038972)

available on information Department's Website www.statetenders.com.

ARCHIT ORGANOSYS LIMITED

Regd. Off.: Plot No. 25/9/A & B, Phase-III, GIDC Naroda, Ahmedabad-382330. Ph. 079-2656303

E-Mail: share@architorg.com Website: www.architorg.com CIN: L24110GJ1993PLC019941

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to the provisions of Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 a

meeting of Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Monday, 13th Feb., 2017 at the registered office of the Company to consider and approve the Un-audited Financial Results

Provisional) of the Company for the quarter and nine-months ended on 31st Dec., 2016 along

This information is available on the website of the Company i.e. www.architorg.com are

INDO CREDIT CAPITAL LIMITED

Regd.Office: 304, Kaling, B/h. Bata Show Room,

Nr. Mt. Carmel School, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad 380009

Web: www.indocreditcapital.com CIN: L65910GJ1993PLC020651

email:indocredit@rediffmail.com Telefax: 079-26580366

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Pursuant to Regulation 29 read

with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and

Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that the Meeting

of the Board of Directors of INDO CREDIT CAPITAL LTD is

scheduled to be held on Thursday, 9th February, 2017 at 11.00

A.M. At the registered office of the company, inter alia, to

consider and take on record the Unaudited Financial Result

of the company for the quarter and nine months ended 31st

The Said Notice can be accessed on the Company's website

at www.indocreditcapital.com and at the website of the stock

For INDO CREDIT CAPITAL LIMITED

Sd/-

(Hardik H. Joshi)

Company Secretary

The Chief Executive Authority of VUDA invites sealed tender offers from the GOG approved or

Category

Deptt.

Deptt.

Deptt.

AA Class, Sp. Road Category-

1 of Gujarat State or Equilant

of other Govt. of Semi. Govt.

AA Class, Sp. Road Category-

1 of Gujarat State or Equilant

AA Class, Sp. Road Category-

1 of Gujarat State or Equilant

of other Govt. of Semi. Govt.

A Class, Sp. Road Category-2

of Gujarat State or Equilant of

other Govt. of Semi. Govt.

of other Govt. of Semi

CHANGE OF NAME

have changed my old name from SHARIFKHAN KALUBHAI to New Name ZAKIRBHAI KALUBHAI PATHAN Add.: 70/2226, Shaheri Garib Awas Yojna, awaharlal Nehru Slum Court Vatva, Ahmedabad

CHANGE OF NAME

have changed my old name from **ANAND** NARENDRABHAI MASIYATA to New Name ANAND NARENDRABHAI MASIYAVA Add.: 11, Narmadanagar Society, Part-2, Ranip

Ahmedabad

CHANGE OF NAME

I have changed my old name from MOHAMMAD AVESH HASANALI MALEK to New Name MOHAMMAD UVESH **HASANALI MALIK**

Add.: Santoshnagar, Behrampura, Ahmedabad

CHANGE OF NAME I have changed my old name

from KHESKANI PRITI **MOHANLAL** to New Name **KESWANI SHILPA** Add.: C-802, Asawari Tower,

Satellite

CHANGE OF NAME

I have changed my old name from MURTUZA ABDEALI CHARNIWALA to New Name **MURTUZA ABDEALI** TINWALA Add.: 766, Zakariya Pole, Kalupur Ahmedabad

CHANGE OF NAME

I have changed my old name from MUNAVAR JAFARBHAI BHATI to New Name
MUNAVARBHAI JAFARBHAI **SHAIKH** Add.: 752/1. Elahibag Society, Vatva

CHANGE OF NAME

Ahmedabad

have changed my old name from MAHMMEDSAKIB FARIDMIYA SHEKH to New Name **SAKIB FARIDMIYA** SHAIKH Add.: 4903. Mastar Mahollo, Dariyapur,

Ahmedabad

AMARNATH SECURITIES LIMITED

CIN: L67120GJ1994PLC023254 Email: amarnathsecurities@gmail.com 1/104, Sarthak, Opp. C.T. Centre, B/h. Swastik Cross Road, C G Road, A'bad-9

NOTICE

Pursuant to Regulation 29 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and

Disclosure Requirement) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that

a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on

Monday, February 13, 2017 to consider, approve and take on record

Jn-Audited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarterended

MINAXI TEXTILES LIMITED

Regd. Office: Plot No. 3311, Phase-IV, GIDC Industrial Estate,

Village: Chhatral, Taluka: Kalol, District: Gandhinagar (N.G.)

CIN: L 17119GJ1995PLCO25007

NOTICE OF BOARD MEETING

Notice, pursuant to Regulation 29 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations

and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015, is hereby

given that a meeting of Board of Directors of the Company will

be held on Saturday, 11th day of February, 2017, at 11:00 a.m.

at Registered Office of the Company inter - alia to take note of

and approval of the Unaudited Standalone Financial Results of

the Company for the quarter ended on 31st December, 2016.

Pursuant to Regulation 47 the said Notice may be accessed on

the website of the company www.minaxitextiles.com and may

also be accessed on the website of the Stock Exchange on

which the shares of the company are listed i.e. www.bseindia.com

FOR AMARNATH SECURITIES LIMITED
Sd/- Omkar P. Herlekar - Director DIN-01587154

For, MINAXI TEXTILES LIMITED

Bharatbhai P. Patel

Managing Director

DIN: 00161825

Chief Executive Authority Urban Development Authority Vadodara

December 31, 2016.

Place: Chhatral

Date: 01/02/2017

Date: February 1,2017 Place: Ahemdabad

Sd/-

Facebook logs impressive growth despite fake news scandal company's net income for the year more than doubled lion last quarter and up 18 form content to start", and

Defying the massive fake news scandal that hit the social networking giant during the US presidential election as well as analysts, Facebook has registered strong growth in its mobile advertising business, with total revenue reaching \$8.8 billion from \$5.84 billion last year. It means \$1.41 profit per share instead of the \$1.31 that Wall Street was expecting. The quarterly profit was \$3.57 billion more than double (\$1.56 billion) the company reported last year, Fortune reported onThursday.For the full year, Facebook's revenue climbed by \$10 billion or 54 per cent to just over \$27.5 billion compared with \$17.9 billion in 2015 and the

to \$10 billion. Mired in controversies

like "fake news" and inaccurate advertising, Facebook itself expected a slowdown in the growth rate of its advertising revenue.

The one way by which the Menlo Park, Californiabased company registered the growth was by adding more than 265 million new monthly active users in 2016 -- almost as many users as the micro-blogging website Twitter has in total.

Facebook now has more than 1.8 billion users who log on every month and more than 1.2 billion users

who do so every day. Daily active users hit 1.23 billion, up from 1.18 bil-

CHANGE OF NAME

I have changed my old name from **KAUSHALYA**

NARAYANDAS to New Name

REKHABEN KISHANBHAI

WADHWANI

Add.: 257, Santramnagar,

Jawaharnagar, Nadiad

was repeatedly asked about Facebook's video content strategy. He explained that

CHANGE OF NAME

"we're focusing on shorter

I have changed my old name from SAIYADKHALID SAIYADKHALIL SAIYAD to New Name KHALID SAIYADKHALIL SAIYAD Add.: 70/242, Gujarat Housing Bourd, Bapunagar Ahmedabad

that the company needs to build a sustainable ad revenue sharing business model to pay professional creators to bring that content to Facebook, Tech Crunch reported.

WESTERN RAILWAY - AHMEDABAD DIVISION

HIRING OF ONE AC VEHICLE E-Tender No. DRM/MD/ADI/4(2016 7), Name of work: Hiring of one AC vehicle-make TATA Indigo, Marut Esteem, Maruti SX4 (VXi) or similar fo the use of Additional Chief Medica Superintendent, Sabarmati hmedabad for the period of two years Estimated Cost of work: ₹ 6,33,264/-EMD: ₹ 12,700/-, Date & Time o Submission of Tender and Opening of Tender: Submission up to 15:00 hrs 06-03-2017 opening same day at 15:30 hrs. **Website details:** www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

CHANGE OF NAME we have changed our minor son's name from SEYANKHAN RAISKHAN PATHAN to New Name

Add.: 96, GHB Block No 95 to

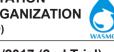
102, Bapunagar, Ahmedabad

SHEZAN RAISKHAN

JINDAL WORLDWIDE LIMITED

Regd. Office: "Jindal House", Opp D-Mart, I.O.C. Petrol Pump Lane,
Shivranjani Shyamal 132 F Ring Road, Satellite, Ahmedabad, Gujarat 380015
CIN: L17110GJ1986PLC008942 Ph: 079-71001500 Website: www.jindaltextiles.c

WATER SANITATION MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION (WASMO)



TENDER NOTICE NO. 01/2017 (2nd Trial)

Unit Manager, District Water and Sanitation Unit, Tapi, On behalf of chairman, village water & sanitation committee of taluka: Songadh, District - Tapi invites online e-tenders for Designing and Constructing R.C.C. ESR of 40,000 Litre capacity and 12 meters heights amounting to estimated coast of Rs.9.36 Lacs from appropriate class of contractors registered in R&B or irrigation department for following works.

Tender ID No. 244803 - Otta (Nishal, Deval, Amba Faliya) Ta. Songadh (2nd Trial)

Last Date & Time for online submission of Bids: 15.02.2017 up to 18.00 Hrs Last Date & Time for Physical submission of Documents 23.02.2017 up to 18:10 Hrs.

Note: Price bid not be accepted in physical form.

Further information is available at web site www.gwssb.org & www.nprocure.com.

No.: Mahiti/Surat/1361/2017

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Share Holders of IDEAL TEXBUILD LIMITED,

> Notice be and is hereby given that company will conduct business through postal ballot & which includes voting by electronic means also.

Date of completion of Dispatch of Notice: 27.01.2017 Date of Commencement of voting period: 03.02.2017
Date of End of Voting period: 04.03.2017

E-voting will be available from: 03.02.2017 from 02:00 p.m. to 04.03.2017 till 05.00 p.m.

Any ballot received from the member(s) after 04.03.2017 will not be considered valid Members who have not received postal ballot forms may inform to the company to obtain its duplicate thereof. Contact person for the postal ballot Grievances: Mr. Kirankumar Parmar (Director)

Date: 02.02.2017 Kiran Parmar

GUJCHEM DISTILLERS INDIA LIMITED CIN: L24230GJ1939PLC002480 Registered Office: Office No.6, 2nd Floor, National Chambers,

Nr. City Gold, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad-380009. Ph: 079-26580893 Email: gujchemdistillers@gmail.com Website: www.gujchemdistillers.com

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to the provisions of Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 a meeting of Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Friday, 10th February, 2017 at the Registered Office of the Company to consider and approve the Un-audited Financial Results (Provisional) of the Company for the quarter and nine -months ended on 31st December, 2016 along with any other business (if any). This information is available on the website of the Company i.e.

www. gujchemdistillers.com, and BSE Limited dia.com).

Place: Ahmedabad Date: 02-02-2017

FOR GUJCHEM DISTILLERS INDIA LTD **Hem Manish** (MANAGING DIRECTOR) (DIN-01428688)

GOPAL IRON AND STEELS COMPANY (GUJARAT) LIMITED 1401/2, Gidc Kerala Industrial Estate, Taluka-Bavla, Ahmedabad-382220. Www.gopaliron.in

CIN: L27101GJ1994PLC022876 NOTICE OF BOARD MEETING

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that the meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled to be held on 9th February, 2017 to consider and approve the unaudited (provisional) Financial Results for the quarter and 9 month ended on 31st December, 2016. FOR, GOPAL IRON & STEELS CO (GUJARAT) LTD

MR. BHAVÉSH PATEL

PLACE: Ahmedabad MANAGING DIRECTOR DATE: 30-01-2017 (DIN: 00287559)

tomers with the help of this program."

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Wednesday proposed to infuse an additional equity of Rs 1,800 crore in the cash-strapped national passenger carrier Air India for 2017-18 fiscal.

The budgetary support has been provided to the airline on account of a turnaround and financial restructuring plan worth more than Rs 30,000 crore

made for government investment in Air India to meet the equity shortfall to discharge its liabilities related to loans, NCD (non-convertible debentures) etc. which are government guaranteed," the document on 'Notes on Demands for Grants' for the Ministry of Civil Aviation read. According to the expenditure budget document 217-18, a total outlay of Rs 2,308 crore has been proposed to be provided to the state-run airline. The government had allocated Rs 1,713 crore to the flag carrier as budgetary support for 2016-17 with a total outlay of Rs 2,065 crore. However, the revised estimates for 2016-17, showed that the staterun airline's budgetary support reached Rs 2,465.21

Indian equities

Mumbai,

rupee and hopes of positive quarterly corporate earnings buoyed the Indian equities markets during the mid-afternoon trade session on Thursday.

Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) monetary policy slated for next week, and the Bank of England's (BoE) interest rate decision later in the day. The key indices traded in the green -- on a flat-to-positive note, as healthy buying was witnessed in consumer durables, healthcare and IT stocks. The wider 51-scrip Nifty of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) was up by 13.85

ASUS ROG unveils new gaming notebook at Rs 94,990

New Delhi,

starting price of Rs 94,990.

The 15.6-inch GL553 offers a gamer-friendly keyboard powered by ASUS Aura with four distinct lighting areas for good gaming experiences in the dark. 'The product is aimed at young professionals who

enjoy regular-through-heavy gaming sessions and premium entertainment on the go," Peter Chang, Regional Head-South Asia and Country Manager-System Business Group- ASUS India, said in a statement.

Lokesh Machines Limited has signed a landmark agreement with Tongtai Machine & Tool Co Ltd., Taiwan to manufacture the most popular Hi-Speed Vertical Machining Center Model EZ5 for the Indian market. The company has made this strategic announcement during the ongoing machine tool fair IMTEX 2017. Lokesh Machines Limited is ranked as one of the

 $top\,five\,Machine Tool\,Manufacturers\,in\,India. The\,com-$

pany takes pride in a worldwide client base and is a

noted machine tool Manufacturer in India with a

Business Brief III

Lokesh Machines Signs Strategic Alliance

with World Leader Tongtai of Taiwan

record of exports to Japan, Germany, Italy, Russia and other European Countries. With a successful portfolio of products under its belt and with sound credentials of supplying several critical machines to the Indian Automobile, Energy, Aerospace Industries & also exporting machines to Japan, Germany, Italy, Russia, China & other European Countries, the company wishes to leapfrog its tech-

for new age metals and products. Speaking about the tie up the Director Mr. M. Sri Krishna said "We are in an era of change and unparalanexciting new chapter in our progress and poten-

India's Sona group exits Sona Koyo **Steering Systems**

Chennai,

Indian auto-component group Sona will exit Sona Koyo Steering Systems Ltd (SKSSL) by selling its stake to JTEKT Corp Japan, the group said on Wednesday.

In a statement, the group said that Sona Autocomp Holding Ltd, led by Sunjay J. Kapur, had entered into an agreement with JTEKT Corp to sell its entire holding in SKSSL for Rs 419.28 crore at Rs 84 Sona Autocomp holds 25.12 per cent stake in SKSSL while JTEKT Corp holds 20.10 per cent.The JTEKT Corp has also issued an open offer to acquire

the 26 per cent stake held by public.On completion of all the transactions-acquisition of stakes from Sona Autocomp and the public in full, JTEKT Corp holding The SKSSL makes steering systems for passenger

ars and utility vehicles in India. The transaction is subject to regulatory clearances by the Competition Commission of India and certain other conditions mentioned in the agreement, the statement added without specifying the other conditions. Subject to receipt of approvals and completion of conditions mentioned in the agreement, the transaction is expected to close by the first quarter of financial year 2017-18.

exclusive Rewards Program

V-Mart Retail Ltd., one of the fastest growing fashion chain in North India announced the launch of its Rewards Program 1st February 2017. Staying true to its promise of constantly striving to provide a better shopping experience to over 60000 customers walk-

ing into V-Mart stores daily.

Value Club, a one-of-its-kind Rewards Program, aims to make shopping more rewarding for Consumers while also consciously trying to customize the offerings as per customer needs. The program rewards and incentivize customers basis on their shopping

Speaking on the launch of the Value Club, Mr. Lalit Agarwal (CMD-V-Mart Retail Ltd.) said, "Value Club is a means of expressing our gratitude towards our loyal customers. While our competition is busy in rat race of mass-discounts, we have consciously decided to provide customized offerings to our customers basis their past shopping trends, purchase pattern etc. Also the program will help us identify V-Mart loyalists and enable us to provide these set of privileged customers with benefits like-free-parking, Exclusive preview to our EOSS and New Collection launch, free carry bags etc. We are very excited to introduce Value Club and hope to create a stronger connect with our cus-

Air India to get Rs 1,800 crore of fresh equity in 2017-18

New Delhi,

which was passed in April, 2012. "The provision (turnaround plan of Air India) is

crore with a total outlay of Rs 2,900.21 crore. Short covering, strong rupee buoy

Short covering, coupled with a marginally strong

However, investors were cautious ahead of the

points or 0.16 per cent, to 8,730.25 points.

Under its Republic of Gamers (ROG) series, Taiwanese company ASUS on Thursday launched ROG Strix

GL553 compact ultralight gaming laptop in India at a

Ahmedabad, Page 7

Two- and three-wheeler major Bajaj Auto on Thursday reported a decline of 18

per cent in its total sales, including exports, for January. According to the company, its total sales during the month under review

The two- and threewheeler major's total domestic sales in January were down 16 per cent to 135,188 units from 161,870 units

month of 2016.

in SKSSL will go up to 71.22 per cent.

V-Mart launches Value-Club- An

Ahmedabad,

News in a Nutshell

Vinod Rai & Co meet BCCI officials on IPL 2017

Mumbai,

The Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA) met Indian cricket board BCCI officials on Wednesday to take stock of the urgent and important matters mainly concerning the successful conduct of the Indian Premier League (IPL). "The CoA has issued directions that the existing processes for availing the services and the appointment of the vendors for IPL will continue for this season," BCCI said in a statement. The CoA, comprising former Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Vinod Rai, Ramachandra Guha, Vikram Limaye and Diana Edulji, assured the franchisees and all the stakeholders that all the IPL preparations will be promptly dealt with under the supervision and directions of the CoA by the BCCI/IPL management team, according to the release.

The IPL operational timelines for the 2017 season will be communicated shortly by the BCCI/IPL management team. The IPL 2017Twenty 20 tournament will commence from April 5. The Supreme Court on Monday appointed a four-member CoA to run the affairs of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

England's batting was possibly worst in last two years: Morgan

Terming it as the "worst performance" in the last two years, England skipper Eoin Morgan reckoned that his and Joe Root's quick wickets was the turning point for India's 75-run win in the third and final T20 International here on Wednesday. "We made a fatal error in losing two in (set) batsmen when we were going so well. Our batting performance was possibly the worst in the last two years, but we won't necessarily dwell too much into that," Morgan said in the post-match presentation after India clinched the T20I series 2-1 at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here. Crediting young leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, who masterminded England's collapse with figures of 6/25, Morgan said: "Outstanding bowling from Chahal, and India put in a performance worthy of winning the series. We could have done with myself or Joe getting 70 or 80 but it wasn't meant to be tonight." Morgan, however, did not find any devils in the wicket and said the target was very much gettable had

they batted to their potential. "It was a beautiful wicket

to bat on, very small boundary, and altitude as well. We would have taken 190 at the start of the game," he said.

Sao Paulo eye move for **Juventus midfielder Hernanes**

Rio de Janeiro, Juventus midfielder Hernanes could return to his former football club Brazil's Sao Paulo as he attempts

to jumpstart his career, according to media reports. The 31-year-old has fallen out of favour under Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri, managing just 10 matches across all competitions this season, reports Xinhua. Speculation about the Brazilian's future mounted after he was left out of the Italian outfit's Champions League squad on Wednesday. The Uol news portal said Sao Paulo were considering an offer for the former Brazil international, adding that clubs in China had also shown interest. Hernanes, who began his career at Sao Paulo before being sold to Lazio in 2010, has been capped 27 times for Brazil's national team.



JONNY SINGER IN LIBREVILLE: It had to be him. Essam El-Hadary is the Africa Cup of Nations' oldest ever player. Its most successful ever player. And now he is going to yet another final thanks to penalty heroics. The 44-year-old twice guessed correctly, denying first opposite number Kouakou Koffi, and then Bertrand Traore - up to that point, two of Burkina Faso's best players. It was enough to get the Pharoahs through. As ever the big moments, in the big games, bring out the best in the big men. El-Hadary was one such man, as were the two who scored in normal time.

HIL: Sunil stars in Punjab's 7-0 win over Ranchi Rays Ranchi, Punjab's speedy for34th minute, Sunil scored while Kalinga Lancers are

Indian forward S.V.Sunil scored twice as defending champions Jaypee Punjab Warriors handed Ranchi Rays a 7-0 thrashing to mark their first win of the Coal India Hockey India League (HIL) 2017 at the AstroTurf Hockey Stadium here on Wednesday.

Sunil successfully finished two brilliant counterattacks in the 26th and 34th minute after Mink van der Weerden's penalty corner conversion in the 25th minute had given the visitors a lead at a venue where they have never won against the hosts.

Jake Whetton swept home in the 43rd goal to make it 7-0 as Punjab bounced back in style from their ignominious 4-10 opening match defeat to Dabang Mumbai last Friday.

Ranchi missed the speed and guile of \$75,000 German forward Christopher Ruhr, who was ruled out for the match due to inwards made a huge difference in the match, producing quality counter-attacking hockey.

After a dull first quarter, the match saw several intense moments in the second quarter. It was Ranchi who seemed to take the initiative by getting two penalty corners after Manpreet Singh was brought down by Satbir Singh.But with British set-piece specialist Ashley Jackson in the sidelines, Trent Mitton couldn't convert. Punjab too got two penalty corners and in the second one, Dutchman van der Weerden rocketed one to the right corner to mark his debut goal in HIL.

Punjab soon made it 3-0 when a counter-attack saw Jake Whetton set the ball on the path of Sunil and the latter ran for around 25 yards before driving the ball past an onrushing goal-

keeper Tyler Lovell. After the change of ends, Punjab continued to dominate Ranchi and in the

second of the night to make second with 15 points from it 5-0. Sardar Singh's backfive games. Uttar Pradesh hand cross from the right at Wizards, with six points from the goal was given a halftwo matches, are fourth. hearted touch by Sunil be-Delhi Waveriders are sixth fore breaching an inactive with four points from three home defence. There was no matches. Mumbai meet stopping Punjab as they Ranchi here on Thursday. found another field goal in the 43rd minute, with an unmarked Australian forward Whetton sweeping home a Satbir cross from the right. Trailing by seven goals, Ranchi did their best getting two penalty corners in the final quarter but Jackson

Despite being 7-0 up and all the damage done, Punjab didn't relent and continued to pile the pressure on Ranchi, who had a harrowing outing.

was unable to beat visiting

Tristian

goalkeepe

With this win, Punjab jumped to the fifth spot with five points, while Ranchi remained third with 10 points from five games.

Mumbai are on top with 17 points from five matches,

ICC agrees to consider allowing

Aizawl win, Minerva-Churchill draw Barasat (West ion. In the second half, there

Bengal), East Bengal extended their unbeaten streak to six games as they got past a hapless Mumbai FC 2-0, while Aizawl FC beat DSK Shivajians and Minerva Punjab FC played a draw against Churchill Brothers FC Goa in the I-League football

matches on Wednesday. Trinidad and Tobago forward Willis Plaza stamped his class with a brilliant first half display in which he scored two goals (10th and 17th) in a span of seven minutes to leave the visitors in a daze at the Barasat Stadium here.

Goa in the I-League football

In the other matches of the day, Minerva shared the spoils with Churchill in Ludhiana, while Aizawl FC came back to their winning ways by defeating DSK Shivajians 1-0 in Aizawl.

East Bengal are now on 16 points from six matches, having played one more than arch-rivals Mohun Bagan who are on 13 from five games. Aizawl are third with 13 points from six games. It took East Bengal just 10 minutes to break the deadlock. Plaza let loose a rasping left-footer after Rahul Bheke swept in a cross from the right. The red and gold brigade were 2-0 up seven minutes later, this time Plaza taking Pires for a ride and hammering home another beautiful left footer.

East Bengal entered the break with a two-goal cushwas not much to talk about save substitute Victorino Fernandes colliding with Narayan Das and picking up a head injury. He was replaced by India veteran Steven Dias. Coming to the Churchill-Minerva game, the Goan side opted to bank on their winning formula playing the same eleven and same formation 4-1-4-1 against Minerva.

The game saw a lot of end-to-end action, with Minerva having most of the opportunities. Both teams got chances to score in the first half but Minerva failed to convert. In the second half, the game began to build up as Minerva and Churchill Brothers started using the width of the field and putting pressure in the opposition halves but neither of them managed to break the deadlock till the end.

At Aizawl, Brandon Vanlalremdika, who came on from the bench at the stroke of the hour mark, scored for the hosts to clinch the match.

Both teams started the match on a good note. In the fifth minute, DSK Shivajians were awarded a free kick from 40 yards out, but they failed to utilise the opportunity. Many shots from both the teams failed to find the back of the net. In spite of the moves made by both sides to change the score-line in their favour, the first half ended goalless.



CRICKETER AJINKYA RAHANE IS HONOURED BY YOUNG CRICKETERS VISITS

ATLETICO MADRID 1-2 BARCELONA - PETE JENSON AT VICENTE CALDERON Luis Suarez and Lionel Messi were up to their old tricks as Barcelona beat Atletico Madrid in the first leg of the Copa del Rey semi-final.

Fan pressure ends Zorzulya's brief stay at Rayo Vallecano Madrid, "not a place for Nazis". not linked to any pa

Pressure from the fans

has forced Ukranian striker Roman Zozulya to abandon second division Spanish side Ravo Vallecano, less than 24 hours after joining on loan from Real Betis. Zozulya joined Madridbased Rayo, a club well-

known for the left wing sentiments of the majority of its fans on Tuesday, just ahead of the closing of the January transfer window, reports Xinhua. However, he has returned to Betis after fans accused him of links to the far right, with some even turning up for his first training session on Wednesday with a banner saying Rayo was

The striker, who had made only six brief appearances for Betis before his loan, tried to explain his positon in an open letter in which he said his arrival in Spain was "accompanied by a misunderstanding by a journalist who knows very little about the reality of my country and my own career". "I arrived at Seville airport wearing a shirt with the badge of Ukraine. This journalist reported that I was wearing a shirt from a paramilitary group, whose badge is distinguished from the badge of my country."

"As I stated at my presentation with Real Betis, I'm

not linked to any paramilitary or neo-Nazi group."

However, supporters at Rayo did not believe this explanation and Betis Director of Sport Miguel Torrecilla said the Seville-based club believed it was "in the best interests of the player to return", to the La Liga club.
Unfortunately for

Zozulya he will not be able to play again this campaign as rules state he cannot be registered as a player three times in the same season and after being registered with Betis in the summer and also with Rayo, he cannot register with Betis again, no matter how short his stay in Madrid.

Amicus Curiae told the court that an email was sent Amicus curiáe Gopal on Wednesday at 9 a.m. and ICC has said that it would

Council (ICC) has agreed to consider allowing three nominees from the Indian cricket board BCCI to participate in its crucial meeting at Dubai on February 2. Subramanium told the

The Supreme Court on

Wednesday was told that the International Cricket

Dipak Misra that IĆC was informed about the participation of three nominees -- appointed by the apex court Chairman rangements have been made for them.

Lawyer seeks to have Kenyan officials charged over Rio 2016 scandal Nairobi, 2016) appeared in court to

A Kenyan lawyer is seeking to have officials from the country's sports ministry charged over the Rio 2016 Olympics scandal that saw money and kit belonging to their team stolen or misappropriated.

Edward Rombo, who is representing one of the four National Olympic Committee-Kenya (NOCK) officials facing charges over the fiasco, said late Tuesday it would be an "awkward situation" if the Sports Cabinet Secretary Hassan Wario and his senior officers at the ministry are also brought to

court, reports Xinhua. The lawyer was speaking outside a Nairobi court on Wednesday where his client Pius Ochieng (Second Vice-chairman) and his co-accused, Ben Ekumbo (First Vice-chairman), Francis Kinyili Paul (Secretary) and Stephen arap Soi (Chef-de-Mission, Team Kenya for Rio take plea after their cases were consolidated by the State. The NOCK bossés denied seven charges related to conspiracy to steal, stealing by agent, stealing and fraudulent appropriation of games kit before Chief Magistrate Francis Andayi. Andayi rejected the plea

Ekumbo's lawyer Sílvester Nyamberi, who opposed the consolidation of his case with those of his colleagues at the under fire national Olympics body ruling there was no breach of law. "We are very curious to know who the complainant (s) in this case was or were. We are aware that the Cabinet Secretary is allegedly the one who instigated the investigations and the arrest of the accused by complaining to the Directorate of Criminal Investigations to deal with matters of administration of sports in Rio," Rombo said.

three nominees from BCCI, SC told bench headed by Justice consider our request.

Subramanium told the court that the BCCI communication was sent to ICC Shashank on January 30 -- and all ar- Manohar who is also a law-"It must be communicated to ICC that all the

three enjoyed the same status," Justice Misra said after Subramanium sought to put at rest the controversy that only Vikram Limay was being permitted to attend the ICC meeting and not the other two -- Amitabh Choudhary and Anirudh Chaudhry.

The bench of Justice

Dipak Misra, Justice A.M.Khanwilkar and Justice D.Y.Chandrachud had on January 30 appointed BCCI Joint Secretary Amitabh Choudhary, Treasurer Choudhary, Treasurer Anirudh Chaudhry and Limaye to represent the BCCI at the three-day ICC meet in Dubai.

Limay is the managing director & CEO of Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC).

The court hearing on the issue took place after senior counsel Kapil Sibal and Shyam Divan in a mentioning in the morning had told the court that only Limaye was being permitted to attend the meeting by the ICC. The senior counsel had appeared for the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA).

I have a lot of faith in Chahal: Kohli

Heaping praises on leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, whose six wickets helped England by 75 runs, India skipper Virat Kohli on Wednesday said he has a "lot of faith" in the youngster's abilities.

Chahal returned with figures of 6/25, to trigger England's collapse which saw eight wickets going down for eight runs as the visitors' innings folded for a meagre 127 in response to India's mammoth 202/6.

Justifying the inclusion of two leg-spinners (Chahal and Amit Mishra) in the playing XI, Kohli indicated that the strategy worked as it exploited England's weakness against spin.

"Having two leg-spin-ners on a dry wicket, we always knew we would get a few chances. Mishy (Mishra) started it, and then Chahal took five wickets in two overs -- he knows these conditions, he knows how to bowl here," Kohli said in the post-match presentation.

"I have a lot of faith in him, and he plays with a lot of confidence. He has a lot of skill and he has the character as well," the Delhi batsman further said.

The 28-year-old also lauded the efforts of the seniors in the side, specially his predecessor Mahendra India clinch the third and fi-Singh Dhoni, Punjab southnalT20 International against paw Yuvraj Singh and pacer Ashish Nehra.

"It's not a bad thing when you have MS Dhoni behind the stumps and experienced guys like Ashu (Nehra) bhai and Yuvi (Yuvraj) pa. I'm taking advice from them whenever possible, they're so intelligent, a lot of credit goes to them."

"Mishra's two overs, and that one over from Jordan to Yuvi, that changed the momentum. It pushed us past 200, and that gave us the psychological advantage," he added.

On Dhoni getting his maiden half century in the shortest version, Kohli said: "I wanted to send (Dhoni) up the order, he's the one who says he'll come in later, that will give the team better balance." "Come the big game, even in the one-day series, series decider, he stepped up, and he stepped up again today. It's a memorable series win for us, the whole tour. It's been a brilliant couple of months for the Indian team, going forward we know exactly what to do in each format," the captain added.

Olympics, focussed on comeback: Sharapova suspension term from 24 to and other tournaments," she "I do not think that I will Haven't thought about 2020 this issue with anyone yet."

Moscow,

Russian tennis star Maria Sharapova has said it was still too early to think about taking part the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

Russian Tennis Federation (RTF) President Shamil Tarpishchev earlier said Sharapova was capable of winning at the 2020 Olympics, reports Tass.

"I have no such longterm plans yet as I was simply not thinking about it," Sharapova said on Wednes-

day.
"As of now I am focused on the tournament in Stuttgart and on my comeback. It is a big question of what will be in Tokyo and whether I will be playing there. I have not discussed

Sharapova is set to make her comeback following a doping suspension this year on April 26 at a tennis tournament in Stuttgart.

"I would really love to play (at the 2020 Ólympics) if my physical condition permits it. However, I do not know how my body would react and what is coming next in my life. This is why it is still early for raising the issue of whether I would be playing for the national team." She has been serving a two-year suspension for the violation of anti-doping regulations since January 26 last year. However, the Swissbased Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) ruled on October 4, 2016, to reduce her 15 months. Sharapova is officially eligible to make her comeback on April 26 this

Last March, Sharapova announced that her doping tests revealed the presence of banned performance enhancing drug meldonium in the body system. Following the announcement, the former World No.1 was provisionally suspended from all tennis-related activities, including from the 2016 Rio Olympics.

"It was very difficult for me to see everyone competing at the Olympics, while I was unable to be playing there. I did not pay much attention to the fact that I was skipping Grand Slam series

added.

Asked whether she was thinking of wrapping up with her sports career, the 29-year-old tennis star said:"I used to think about it."

"Last year I had a sore wrist, I was constantly consulting with doctors and I was even unable to play for the national team, although I arrived in Moscow. It was difficult from the psychological stance and I faced the moment when I began asking myself questions about how long my body would endure.'

Sharapova also said that she had no plans getting involved in coaching work after she wraps up with her sports career.

be working as a coach. As you may well know, I run my own business and it skyrocketed over the recent years. I am greatly interested in it (business), but I simply had

no time for it in the past," the

29-year-added. 'I will have no problems with finding time after I wrap up my with my (tennis) career." Sharapova is Russia's most decorated tennis player having won five Grand Slam tournaments, the Australian Open in 2008, French Open in 2012 and 2014, Wimbledon in 2004

> She is also a silver medal winner of the 2012 London Olympics and the 2008 Federátion Cup champion.

and US Open in 2006.



as Arsenal and England legend Martin Keown took in his son Niall's first home match for Partick Thistle. At the final whistle, though, the VIP with the widest smile in Maryhill was St Johnstone manager Tommy Wright after his away-day specialists pulled off a precious smash-and-grab win. Having lost only three league games on the road since last April — at Inverness, Dundee and Celtic — Steven MacLean's goal against the run of play secured another fine result on Saints' travels.