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NEARBY



Mamata urges Shah
to ensure peace

BHUBANESWAR/KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday urged Home Minister Amit Shah to maintain peace in the country in the wake of the violence in Delhi. In her first face-to-face meeting with Mr. Shah following the clashes in the national capital, Ms. Banerjee brought up the issue of riots in the presence of Bihar CM Nitish Kumar and Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 12

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Curfew, no Internet in Meghalaya after clashes

GUWAHATI

Curfew has been imposed in East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya and Internet services were suspended across six districts from 10 p.m. on Friday following the death of a Khasi Students' Union leader in a clash with non-tribal people over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and introduction of the inner-line permit system restricting the entry and stay of non-locals in the State.

NATION ▶ PAGE 9

Coronavirus infects global markets, investors dump equities

Sensex sinks by 1,448.37 points, rupee hits a six-month low against the dollar

RAGHUVEER SRINIVASAN
CHENNAI

Global markets went into a tailspin on Friday as investors stampeded out of stocks and commodities and flocked to the relative safety of government bonds, prompted by fears of a global recession due to the spread of the coronavirus.

After Wall Street experienced its worst rout since 2011 on Thursday, when the Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged by 1,190.95 points – its largest single-day drop in history – global markets took their cue on Friday. Indices across the world, beginning with Tokyo's Nikkei, Seoul's Kospi and European indices such as the FTSE 100 in London and Frankfurt's DAX, were all bathed in red as investors rushed to dump shares.

Uncertain impact
Markets were spooked by the uncertain impact of the virus on global economic health.

The BSE Sensex sank by 1,448.37 points, or 3.64%, to close at 38,297.29. This is its sixth straight session of loss, and the index is now 3,976 points lower than its high of 42,273.87 points registered on January 20 this year.

Reflecting the turmoil in the stock markets, the rupee

Free fall on Friday

The rising number of new COVID-19 cases outside China spooked investors across the world, resulting in many major stocks tumbling to new lows. On Friday, BSE benchmark Sensex recorded its second-worst drop in absolute terms

The 30-share BSE Sensex lost over 1,448 points on Friday*

The Dow Jones Industrial average was down 870.06 points on Friday*

*THE GRAPHS SHOW DROPS IN ABSOLUTE TERMS



Brent Crude fell 1.9% to trade at \$51.19 per barrel

The ₹ plunged by 63 paise to settle at 72.21 against \$

EXCHANGE RATE

FEB. 11

FEB. 28

hit a six-month low against the dollar, at ₹72.27, before recovering marginally to close at ₹72.21.

U.S. markets appeared set to experience their worst week since the 2008 global financial crisis. The broad-based S&P 500 index was down 4% in early trade on Friday and is now down almost 15% since its all-time high set just six trading sessions back. It was down by 1.7% at 11 p.m. Indian time.

Yields on U.S. Treasury bills fell sharply as investors embraced its relative safety over stocks. The bond markets displayed an inverted yield curve where short-term bills yield more than long-term ones, signifying nervousness over economic prospects.

Yields on the 10-year Treasury bills fell to 1.17%, even as that on the 3-month bill remained at 1.43%. General economic wisdom holds that an inverted yield curve is the harbinger of a recession.

Oil prices experienced their worst week since 2016, with the prices of the benchmark Brent crude falling to

as low as \$50.51 a barrel. Elsewhere in the commodity markets, metal prices fell by up to 6%.

Global borrowings benchmark Libor experienced its worst single-day drop in a decade, falling to 1.46275%, as the markets raised their bets on accelerated rate cuts in the U.S. as a response to the economic turmoil.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

WHO RAISES GLOBAL RISK ALERT
TO 'VERY HIGH' ▶ PAGE 14

RBI INTERVENES AS RUPEE SLIPS
TO SIX-MONTH LOW ▶ PAGE 15

It calls into question police's claim that situation in the city was 'under control'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A 60-year-old ragpicker, Ayub Shabbir on Friday became the latest victim of the violence that has gripped the city since Sunday, taking the death toll in the clashes to 42.

Three other persons succumbed at the Guru Tegh Bahadur (GTB) Hospital to injuries sustained during the clashes.

Senior IPS officer S.N. Shrivastava has been given additional charge of Commissioner of Police, Delhi, from March 1 until "further orders," an order issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said. Present Commissioner of Police Amulya Patnaik is set to retire on February 29. Mr. Shrivastava, a 1985-batch IPS officer, was recalled from the CRPF last

week following the riots in north-east Delhi.

Friday's death calls into question the Delhi police spokesman's claims that the situation in the northeastern part of the city was "under control".

Ayub Shabbir went to collect scrap early in the morning only to be brought back home with serious head injuries. He later succumbed

while being taken to a hospital, his son said.

"I had cautioned my father against going out today [Friday] but he said the situation is normal now and we cannot stay inside for long and not earn anything," a grief-stricken Mr. Salman, who is differently-abled, said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

MORE REPORTS ▶ PAGES 2, 3 & 4

One killed in fresh attack in north-east Delhi; toll touches 42



Keeping faith: Muslims arriving at a mosque in Delhi for Friday prayers as policemen keep vigil. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

NIA makes first arrest in Pulwama case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is said to have made a breakthrough in the Pulwama terror attack case, with the arrest of a 22-year-old furniture shop owner in south Kashmir.

Forty CRPF jawans were killed in the suicide attack on February 14, 2019.

The NIA said Shakti Bashir Magrey, a resident of Kakapora in Pulwama, is an underground worker of the Pakistan-based terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM).

Magrey provided shelter and other assistance to suicide-bomber Adil Ahmad Dar. He was introduced to Dar in mid-2018 by Pakistani terrorist Mohammad Umar Farooq, and he became a full-time overground worker of the JeM. During his interrogation, he disclosed that on several occasions, he had collected and delivered arms and ammunition, cash and explosives to JeM terrorists, including those involved in the Pulwama attack," the NIA said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Nirbhaya case convict files curative plea in apex court

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Pawan Gupta, one of the four Nirbhaya gang-rape convicts, on Friday filed a curative petition in the Supreme Court against his death sentence, even as the date of execution, March 3, is looming close.

His lawyer A.P. Singh told journalists that Pawan was a juvenile at the time of the crime. He was not at all present at the place of the crime

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Grim picture: Security personnel pacifying residents of Bhagirathi Vihar who gathered on the streets after rumours of possible violence started doing the rounds; families vacate their homes in riot-affected north-east Delhi while a CRPF man stands guard on Friday; civic body workers clear the debris from Chand Bagh after days of violence. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA/ BIBEK CHETTRI

Friday prayers not conducted at Ashok Vihar mosque after 40 yrs

Walls, broken furniture of Masjid Maula Baksh stand testimony to violence

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

For the first time in over 40 years, Friday prayers were not held at Masjid Maula Baksh in north-east Delhi's Ashok Vihar. The mosque was vandalised and saffron flag was hoisted on top of it during the violence on February 25.

A video recorded on Tuesday showed three persons climbing atop the minaret and sticking a saffron flag. The video, a grim representation of the riots, went viral.

On Friday afternoon, groups of people belonging to Hindu community stood outside the mosque as Central Industrial Security Force officials guarded it. A man wearing *teeka* on his forehead approached this reporter and asked for her identity and why she was there. The person then said, "Yahan sab theek hai, aap jaiye. Apko sirf Masjid hi dikhi hai, koi mandir nahin dikhta apko [Everything is fine here, you leave. You only want to show mosques and not any temples]," he said.

When asked why the groups were standing, a resident who identified himself as Sandeep said: "Aisa sunne main aaraha ki jumme ki namaz ke baad ye kuch karnege [We have heard that they'll do something after the Friday prayers]."

Right behind the mosque, on a street, what reminded of a few houses were broken



People offering namaz on the roof of a mosque in the city on Friday. ■ AP

C About 10-15 of them stood outside. They were outsiders. There were no policemen

NADEEM
A first year B.A. student

out of the house for three days.

"My friends from the Hindu community are staying with me at night. On Wednesday night, four-five men wearing helmets and carrying sticks knocked on our door. My friends went outside and told them that it's their house after which they left. My friends are only taking care of my food," he said.

Nadeem said that on Thursday, members of about 35 Muslim families who reside in the locality had come to the mosque to take stock of the damage and how to rebuild it. But men wearing black masks came and stood outside, creating fear.

"About 10-15 of them stood

outside. They were outsiders. There were no policemen. We then went to Jyoti Nagar police station and reported the matter after which they sent security officials," he said. "It was earlier decided that we'll hold the Friday prayers but after yesterday's [Thursday] situation, it was decided by the elders and Imam sahab that it should not be held."

Traces of vandalism
Inside the mosque, what's left is blackened walls with smoke and pieces of broken furniture lying around. The Municipal Corporation officials cleared the debris from outside on Friday afternoon. As the reporter went inside, a group of locals followed and threatened her to delete the pictures and leave the premises. The CISF officials who were stationed right outside entered the scene five minutes later after the argument ended; the group was then asked to disperse.

Talking about the day, Nadeem said that a person identified as Jitender, whom he called *bhaiya*, tried to stop the men who were vandalising and burning the mosque but the rioters pelted stones at Jitender's house instead.

As the clock struck 1.35 p.m., Nadeem looked at the watch and said: "Nazam to masjid main hogi nahin, main ghar pe hi padhunga [Namaz won't happen in the mosque, I'll pray at home]."

Ashamed of alumnus Kapil Mishra: DSSW

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Students' Union of the Delhi School of Social Work on Tuesday issued a statement saying that the DSSW fraternity was against the hatred, violence and communalism allegedly spread by BJP leader Kapil Mishra, who is an alumnus of the School, and called him a "blot" on the alumni network.

"We are ashamed of Kapil Mishra and also that he studied social work in our college. The image of our department and social work profession has been tarnished due to his provocative acts and communal statements. The DSSW fraternity is against hatred, violence and communalism spread by Kapil Mishra, who has also maligned our profession," the students' union said in a statement.

The statement added that Delhi School of Social Work, University of Delhi played an eminent role in addressing the situations which occurred during 1947 partition riots and 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

"In one way, we have a glorious past and on the other hand we also have 'blot' such as our alumnus, BJP leader Kapil Mishra, who has organised the recent Delhi riots and incited mob to disturb communal harmony of the city," it said.

The students demanded the Delhi Police to arrest him and take strict action.



APPEAL TO ALL

Whereas incidents of clashes have taken place in the North East District, Delhi since 23.02.2020. All those who are witnesses to the incidents, especially media persons, or have any information about the incidents or have captured any activity on their mobile phones or camera, are hereby requested to come forward and give their statements /footage/ picture in their possession at DCP Office, North East District, Seelampur, Delhi, during office hours, on any working day within 7 days of publication of this notice or contact on mobile numbers 8750871221 or 8750871227. Identity of the witness will be kept secret. For Police help, dial 22829334 and 22829335 apart from 112.

Sh. B K Singh, IPS
Addl.CP/Crime (HQ) Delhi Police

For Immediate Help Call 112 To Share Information Call 1090

DP/9/23/2020

Ragpicker ventures out for work only to return injured; dies later

Victim survived an attack on Thursday, claims his son

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Salman claimed his father had survived an attack on Thursday when he had ventured out.

"He was saved by some elderly men on Thursday morning. Today, he left very early when I was sleeping. Around 6 a.m., two men brought him home on a scooter. He had serious head injuries. The two men said they found him lying in an area between Shiv Vihar and Karwan Nagar," he said.

'Asked name, hit him'

Salman claimed his father told him that some people asked him his name and religion and then hit him. However, his father did not

mention about how many people were there or who hit him.

"I offered him tea but he didn't have it. When I called police, they arrived but did not help me in taking my father to the nearby dispensary. I had to take him on a cart to a nearby nursing home where he was given first aid and stitches. But I was told that they were not equipped to treat him further as the injuries were severe," Salman said.

He then shifted Ayub to GTB Hospital in an autorickshaw. "He was not saying anything during the autorickshaw ride and I think he was dead by then," he said.

Activists write to CM seeking his intervention to help riot victims

Families are being harassed for not producing documents'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

With four more fatalities reported at city hospitals on Friday morning, the death toll in Delhi's communal violence has gone up to 42 from 38 on Thursday. Lok Nayak Jai Prakash hospital recorded three deaths and Jag Pravesh Chandra Hospital has reported one.

"The total death in our hospital stands at 38 [28 were brought dead and 10 people died here during treatment]. Patients have come in with burns, stab injuries, blunt assault and gun wound. We have received 215 patients from February 24 onwards," said a senior health official at GTB hospital.

Meanwhile, human rights activists have written to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Health Minister Satyendar Jain seeking their urgent intervention to help the victims of violence.

"Families are facing problems in accessing treatment with hospitals not providing MLC numbers and records of treatment. We came to know of instances where hospitals are denying admission to injured persons whose MLCs were done in a different hospital," read a letter signed by groups including Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA), Alliance of Doctors for Ethical Healthcare (ADEH) and All India Drug Action Network (AIDAN) among others.

"We are ashamed of Kapil Mishra and also that he studied social work in our college. The image of our department and social work profession has been tarnished due to his provocative acts and communal statements. The DSSW fraternity is against hatred, violence and communalism spread by Kapil Mishra, who has also maligned our profession," the students' union said in a statement.

"In one way, we have a glorious past and on the other hand we also have 'blot' such as our alumnus, BJP leader Kapil Mishra, who has organised the recent Delhi riots and incited mob to disturb communal harmony of the city," it said.

The statement added that Delhi School of Social Work, University of Delhi played an eminent role in addressing the situations which occurred during 1947 partition riots and 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

"They went to visit their maternal grand mother's home in Sundar Nagar. Amir had called around 8.30 p.m. and said that they

List of demands



- Ensure prompt and appropriate treatment is provided free of cost to all injured persons
- Issue instructions to all hospitals under your jurisdiction to provide treatment records and MLC papers and details to each and every injured person
- Direct all hospitals under your jurisdiction to ensure that care is not denied to

any injured individual for want of documentation, or any other reason

- Direct all hospitals to prepare a list every 12 hours of people injured and publish it in the public domain, so that families can identify missing persons
- Direct all hospitals to ensure an environment that is supportive and respectful of families and patients

made available and families are running from pillar to post to identify their missing relatives. Multiple individuals who have been victims of violence have reported instances of being subjected to discriminatory language by staff at hospitals. A few people have even expressed fear of going to government hospitals and instead chose to access critical care at local clinics," said the letter.

They have added that this amounts to gross violation of the rights of patients and weakens people's faith in the public health system.

SNIPPETS

Distraught father awaits son's return

NEW DELHI
Yunus, 38, has been making frantic rounds of hospitals and mortuaries for the last five days, hoping to find his 16-year-old son Yusuf. A Class XI student, Yusuf left his home in Chand Bagh on Sunday to go to an eatery and hasn't returned since. "Around 5 pm on Sunday, I was working in lane number 15 when Yusuf came to me and asked for ₹100. I gave him the money and he left saying he was going to an eatery. When I reached home at night, I found that my son hadn't returned," Yunus, who works as a plumbbersaid on Friday. PTI

Youth's 6-month stay in city ends in tragedy

NEW DELHI
The family of 20-year-old Dilbar Singh Negi waited with hope for two days to get news of his well-being, but all that was dashed when his decapitated and charred body was found in a building of a sweetshop owner in Shiv Vihar for whom he had worked. Negi had come to Delhi from Uttarakhand only six months ago. On February 24, he had gone to a building, which served as a rest room for a nap, Negi's colleague Shyam Singh said. As a mob gathered near the shop, others managed to sneak out. But luck didn't favour Negi. PTI

Missing Class 8 girl reunites with family

NEW DELHI
A 13-year-old girl, who had gone missing after school on Monday amid violence in north-east Delhi, was reunited with her parents on Friday, police officials said. The girl, a Class 8 student, had gone to take an exam at her school in Khajuri Khas, some 4.5 km from her residence, on Monday. "The girl was found today. She is safe and is being produced in a magistrate's court for her statement," a police official privy to the probe said. PTI

Prayers peaceful, says peace panel members

New Delhi
Friday prayers at mosques in the riot-hit areas passed off peacefully and no untoward incident was reported, local peace committee members said. Local mosques had earlier in the day appealed for maintaining peace and harmony in the areas affected by clashes. After the Friday prayers, a delegation of peace committee members met senior police officers, including SP (Law and Order), in Seelampur. PTI

Bodies of brothers fished out of drain in Gokalpuri

Two of them were returning home when they were allegedly murdered

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

Two of his daughters had the opportunity to grow up before their father's eyes but their third sibling will not be able to. Mohammad Aamir was on his way back with his 16-year-old brother Hashim, when they were allegedly murdered and their bodies dumped into a drain in Gokalpuri during the communal clash on Tuesday night.

On Thursday, two bodies were pulled out of the drain in Ganga Vihar. Later, the deceased were identified as Mohammad Aamir (24) and his younger brother Hashim.



Relatives gather outside the house of the victims in north-east Delhi on Friday. ■ SAURABH TRIVEDI

reachable," said Ballu Khan, his father.

He added that Aamir was a cab driver and was the only source of income for the family of eight. "Now who is to take care of Aamir's family. His daughters are unaware of his death and I do not have the courage to face their [daughters] questions," said the father.

Nasgiri, mother of deceased, said that she just want to make an appeal for peace because she doesn't want any other family to suffer like them. "I request Hindus and Muslims not to fall into the trap of politicians."

Muslim women take refuge in Chaman Park warehouses

Hundreds of them who have their husbands and teenaged sons missing since Sunday recall how they survived violence

SIDHARTH RAVI
JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI

Hundreds of Muslim women, whose husbands and teenaged sons are allegedly missing since Sunday, have taken refuge at nearly half-a-dozen warehouses in Chaman Park to escape the horror that engulfed their houses in Shiv Vihar – an area that witnessed some of the worst incidents of violence and arson – as clashes wreaked havoc across north-east Delhi.

Those displaced, mostly women and young children, continued to arrive at the makeshift camps till as late as Friday morning, slipping across a large drain, in the dead of night, via multiple small bridges from Hindu-dominated areas, skirting around the charred remains of vehicles and push carts then and now manned by paramilitary personnel.

They not only kept asking about their husbands and sons, but also if the locality, which many of them have called home for three decades before being forced to relocate, "now only belonged only to the Hindus". When, how, and if at all they would be returning to the ruins of their houses was so-

mething they chose to leave to fate.

Only one bridge remained open between the two sides by Friday and residents were not of the same opinion regarding who started the violence and who was responsible for stray incidents that continued unabated.

"My entire house was on fire, I was about to die," claimed Bilkis Bano who has been at the camp since the last three days. "People came out of nowhere and started pelting stones and set everything on fire," she narrated. With mob allegedly attempting to break into her house and a fire raging, she and the other members of her family tried to hide in the corner of her house when, she recalled, "someone, I did not know, pulled us out and took us to a safe place".

Arshi Ansari claimed that hundreds of people, mostly "outsiders", some of whom were "dressed as policemen" took advantage of the fact that most male members of their families had gone to a religious congregation or *jamaat* on Sunday.

Dressed as policemen'
"They barged into the area because they knew the men were away. One of the first



Women and children from Shiv Vihar at one of the shelters on Friday. ■ SIDHARTH RAVI

things they did was damaging the CCTV cameras installed in the area. They were all outsiders... some of them were wearing police uniforms but did not look or behave like policemen. They ransacked and defiled the local mosque. They tried to provoke us for hours and threatened to forcibly get us converted," she claimed.

Farzaa, another resident of the area, informed that four floors of her building were burnt down. "We could not take anything with us when we left the house. We had never imagined that something like that could happen. We just thought there would be some scuffle and things would settle down," she said. At the gate of her

building, which stands next to a household "bearing a saffron flag", tens of bikes lay burnt to a crisp on ramp and the entire construction had turned black from the fire. The buildings next to it were untouched.

Noor Jahan (47) lived in a house rented out by a Hindu landlord in Shiv Vihar, but decided to escape when the violence started. "I was not sure if our door would hold up," she said. As violence in the area escalated, she said, her nine-year-old son asked her if they were safe. "I told him we had a strong gate and nothing would happen. But they broke that [gate] too and in ways I cannot even explain," she said.

Gas cylinders were used to

trigger explosions and smoke from fires engulfed the room she was seeking shelter in along with others. "I covered my child's face with a wet cloth and we somehow survived," Mr. Jahan said. Around 3 on Tuesday night when the violence had subsided, Ms. Jahan and her family escaped. "We just ran for our lives and managed to make our way to Chaman Park," she said.

Debris of stones that were pelted, shattered glass, broken doors, charred remains of vehicles and gutted stores and houses line at least three streets surrounding the Madina mosque in Shiv Vihar, where a large number of people from the Muslim community resided until recently.

The mosque had been vandalised, with the grills to its doors and windows mangled, windows shattered, debris covering the lanes to its entrance and the insides gutted with the burnt carpet sticking to the floor. Miscreants had also hoisted the Tricolour atop the building, next to loudspeakers set up for calls to prayer.

'Outsiders'
"It was all people from outside. We do not know where

they came from," said Rahul, another resident of the area. Others, such as Manoj Rohilla, said that the violence erupted after Muslim mobs set fire houses and shops, such as that of Bhetem Singh Bhagel who ran a Kirana store near the mosque. Mr. Bhagel's store had been looted and burnt down as well, while his family which lived in a house inside, remained trapped, he said.

Farhad Ansari [name changed], a resident who was in the area when the violence broke out, said: "We tried to stop them as much as we could."

Muslim residents here had reportedly put up makeshift barricades and even took to stone-pelting from the terraces of buildings in the area to protect themselves, the residents said.

"However, after a point, the Maulana at our mosque told us to take the women and children and leave the area to save ourselves," Mr. Ansari added.

Some of the women at the refugee centre, however, contested the claim that people from outside incited and engaged in violence stating: "How did they identify which houses to burn down then?"

Amul

daCunha/AB/687

DCW seeks details of crimes against women

Commission issues notice to police

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) on Friday issued notice to Delhi Police over the violence in north-east Delhi and sought details pertaining to crimes against women which took place when the violence erupted.

Directing the force to respond by March 4, the women's panel said that during its field visits it had found that several injured women were being brought to hospitals.

'Inquiry set up'
"The Commission has set up an inquiry in the matter and shall monitor each complaint of women and girls and provide them proper support. The Commission has specifically enquired about the death of women in the riots and whether any sexual crimes were perpetrated upon any woman," the DCW said in a statement.

DCW chief Swati Maliwal said, "The cases that the Commission has learnt about so far through the helpline number are horrific. We intend to monitor these cases and provide support to the victims."

STATEMENT BY THE DELHI COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

sexual crimes were perpetrated upon any woman," the DCW said in a statement.

DCW chief Swati Maliwal said, "The cases that the Commission has learnt about so far through the helpline number are horrific. We intend to monitor these cases and provide support to the victims."

JNUSU protests outside Chief Minister's Office

It demands relief for victims of violence

AISHWARYA TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI

Following the communal tensions in Delhi, JNUSU office-bearers, including president Aishe Ghosh, vice-president Saket Moon and joint secretary Mohammed Danish, along with other 25-30 students held a protest outside the Chief Minister's office on Friday evening.

Meanwhile, in compliance with the L-G's directions in this regard, the Coordination Committee headed by Special CP (Vigilance), Sudar Nanda, on Friday met the families of the injured as well as the deceased persons and ensured that steps are taken to provide all possible assistance to them.

"We are demanding immediate measures to de-escalate the situation, provide service for relief and pass resolution against the CAA-NPR in the Delhi Assembly," said Gautam, a student.

The students' delegation was called in by the Chief Minister's Office to have a dialogue with Secretary Prashant Kumar. After an hour-long meeting, the memorandum of demands raised was acknowledged by the CM's Office and a discussion on the same was assured to the JNUSU representatives.

"I had volunteered on ground in association with NGO Karwan-e-Mohabbat and witnessed that no relief was received in Mustafabad. The CM's Office has connected us with local MLAs to ensure the required assistance is given," said Mr. Moon.

"We have also been assured that a discussion on the rejection of the CAA-NPR will be held," he added.

Forensic team visits Chand Bagh to collect evidence

Officials visit Tahir Hussain's factory in the area

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A team of Forensic Science Laboratory officials, accompanied by Crime Branch officers visited north-east Delhi's Chand Bagh on Friday to collect evidence related to the recent incidents of violence in the area. The teams also visited AAP councillor Tahir Hussain's factory.

Sources said that Mr. Hussain is absconding.

Two Special Investigation Teams (SIT), headed by DCPs Joy Tirkey and Rajesh Deowere, were formed to investigate into the matter. Mr. Tirkey is also heading an SIT which was formed to probe the violence which erupted inside and outside Jamia Millia Islamia on December 15 last. No arrests have been made in the JNU violence case. A total of 18 people were arrested in the Jamia case and a charsheet was also filed.

Mr. Deo was barred by the Election Commission from the election duty during the



FSL officials investigate the premises of AAP councillor Tahir Hussain's house; (below) scene outside Mr. Hussain's residence in north-east Delhi on Friday. ■ PTI, SANDEEP SAXENA

Assembly polls after publicly speaking about the alleged link between AAP and the man who had fired at the protesters at Shaheen Bagh. Mr. Deo had told the media that Kapil Gujjar, the man apprehended for firing in Shaheen Bagh, and his father had joined AAP last year.

"The Commission is of the considered view that the statements referring to a political party at this stage, even as the investigation is still on, can adversely impact the elections," the EC had said. He was directed to be issued a warning as well.



L-G meets locals, assures all necessary assistance to them

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor [L-G] Anil Baijal on Friday visited violence-affected areas in north-east Delhi to take stock of the ground situation.

Mr. Baijal, Raj Niwas said in a statement, visited areas such as Seelampur, Maujpur, Jaffrabad, Brahampuri along with Special Commissioner of Police (Law & Order), S.N. Shrivastava, senior officers of the Delhi Fire Service, East Delhi Municipal Corporation and the Health Department, among others.

The L-G met and interacted with locals and assured all necessary assistance to them. During the visit, he directed the Delhi Police in regard to continued patrolling and area domination, prevention of any untoward incident, swift and effective response to any situation. Visible police presence with outreach will build confidence of locals to restore normalcy. He also instructed Delhi Police to strict vigil and closely severe vital installations," Raj Niwas

said in a statement.

"The L-G further directed the EDMC to clean the areas extensively to remove debris/garbage. He also ordered proper sanitation, removal of burn cars, mala [debris], etc. in the affected areas. He further directed Health Department for proper deployment and availability of doctors, para-medical personnel/medicines etc. for proper health-care of victims," the statement said further.

Mr. Baijal, according to Raj Niwas, also met members of Aman Committees of affected areas and ensured that steps are taken to provide all possible assistance to them.

activities to build up confidence measures to restore peace.

During the visit, the L-G appealed to all to maintain peace and order. He also requested people to cooperate with the police and the administration.

Meanwhile, in compliance with the L-G's directions in this regard, the Coordination Committee headed by Special CP (Vigilance), Sudar Nanda, on Friday met the families of the injured as well as the deceased persons and ensured that steps are taken to provide all possible assistance to them.

"We are demanding immediate measures to de-escalate the situation, provide service for relief and pass resolution against the CAA-NPR in the Delhi Assembly," said Gautam, a student.

Government to start distributing ₹25,000 to victims of violence

Chief Minister says State government has set up nine shelters in the city for displaced people from north-east Delhi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said that the government will immediately start distributing ₹25,000 in cash, as part of compensation, to those whose houses have been burnt during the violence in north-east Delhi.

The rest of the compensation that was announced, he said, would be released after assessment in the next two-three days by the PWD department.

The verification, he promised, would be quick to immediately disperse the sum, but added that a proper procedure would be put

in place by 12 p.m. on February 29 to avoid any misuse of the immediate compensation that is being offered, by making false claims.

The Chief Minister said that the government set up nine shelters for the people who had fallen prey to the violence and would also provide tents if the numbers grew.

Local community centres have also been opened up so that people who do not have anywhere to go can stay there. He said that the distribution of food and other relief materials have already been started with the help of RWAs and NGOs.

Mr. Kejriwal asked NGOs and others, who want to send any kind of help, to contact the office of North-East DM.

He said that the government has appointed 18 magistrates and four night magistrates for providing assistance to the victims of violence.

He also said that the people of Capital could come up with suggestions so that the relief work could be carried out smoothly.

He asked NGOs to help with identifying areas where relief materials are required to be sent if the government has not reached out yet.

Air Quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi 198 Gurugram 154

Ghaziabad 248 Faridabad 144

Noida 218 Greater Noida 220

Good 0-50 Satisfactory 51-100 Moderate 101-200

Poor 201-300 Very Poor 301-400 Severe >400

Air Quality Index at 4 p.m. yesterday (Average of past 24 hours) | Source: CPCB

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT

Mr. N SELVA KUMAR

PH: 9820350726

selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

Mr. MANOJ KUMAR KUSHWAHA

PH: 9994940055

manoj.kushwaha@thehindu.co.in

THE HINDU

India's National Newspaper

Govt. schools in violence-hit areas to open today for staff to assess situation

A school management panel meeting will be held: DoE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi
Delhi government schools which were closed owing to the violence that broke out in north-east Delhi and parts of east Delhi will open on Saturday for principals and staff to assess the current situation, officials of the Directorate of Education (DoE) said on Friday.

It was earlier announced that the schools would remain closed till February 29.

The schools will open tomorrow [Saturday] for heads and staff. A meeting of school management committee will be convened at which the present situation will be assessed comprehensively to explore the possibility of creating a conducive atmosphere for conducting board examinations as well as annual school examinations," a senior DoE official said.

Heads of schools have

been asked to prepare comprehensive reports with details about the present state of preparedness and the earliest time frame for conducting the exams and the prospect of opening schools for students," the official added.

Schools in north-east Delhi and east Delhi have been closed for four consecutive days. The Central Board of Secondary Examination has postponed board exams till February 29.

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• JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
• NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
• LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

S.N. Shrivastava named acting Delhi Police chief

The 1985-batch IPS officer will take charge from March 1

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Senior IPS officer S.N. Shrivastava has been given additional charge of Delhi Police Commissioner with effect from March 1 and until "further orders", an order issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) read.

Mr. Shrivastava, a 1985-batch IPS officer of Arunachal-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre, was recalled from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) last week when several parts of north-east Delhi witnessed violence that has so far left 42 people dead. He was on Central deputation



Senior IPS officer S.N. Shrivastava

Commission in the run-up to the Delhi Assembly polls on February 8.

It was not clear why the MHA did not make a full-time appointment to the top police post even though it was known that Mr. Patnaik would retire on Saturday.

As Delhi is a Union Territory with a Legislative Assembly, Delhi Police works and functions under the MHA.

Led Special Cell in past

Mr. Shrivastava led the Special Cell of Delhi Police in the past when several members of the terrorist outfit Indian Mujahideen were arrested.

to CRPF. Amulya Patnaik, the present Delhi Police Commissioner, is set to retire on February 29. He was given a month's extension in January by the Election

DU women's hostel residents demand removal of 'curfew'

Students complain of lack of better facilities

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Manish Sisodia on a petition challenging his election from the Patparganj constituency in the State Assembly polls. Justice V.K. Rao also sought response from the Election Commission's Media Certification and Monitoring Committee and the Returning Officer on the petition moved by Bharatiya Janata Party candidate Ravinder Singh Negi, who lost against the Aam Aadmi Party leader. The petition has urged the High Court to set aside Mr. Sisodia's election as void.

fines", lack of various basic facilities and other issues.

The students have come out with a charter of demands that include the implementation of certain UGC guidelines that recommend better conditions.

Residents of at least five hostels started an indefinite sit-in and called upon residents of participating hostels to break the locks of their gates. The students complained of moral policing, "over monitoring", tight curfews, "irrational

On Friday, some students continued demonstrations as no specific timeline has been established as to the redressal of their concerns, said Asmit Nanda, a student of Campus Law Faculty.

Patnaik's tenure comes to an end under a cloud

Police chief demits office the week Delhi witnessed its worst-ever communal violence since 1984

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Amulya Patnaik's tenure as Delhi Police Commissioner since January 2017 ends under a cloud as he demits office on Saturday. More than 40 persons have been killed in the north-east Delhi violence under his watch since Sunday.

It was in June 2019 that videos showing two police constables beating up a Sikh tempo driver in Mukherjee Nagar had gone viral, leading to angry protests. The policemen were suspended and then dismissed from service the next month.

Another crisis befell the force on November 2 last when a tiff over parking issue snowballed into a major clash between policemen and la-



Amulya Patnaik • PTI

November 5, 2019. The protesting men in khaki demanded action against those involved. Mr. Patnaik had to come out of his office to address the policemen and assuage their anger.

Just when things seemed to have gone back to normal, days later, the police were faced with protests by Jawaharlal Nehru University students over their demand for complete rollback of fee hikes. Alleging use of force by the police, the students held a protest at the Delhi Police Headquarters on November 20, 2019.

The Central government's decision to bring in the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, which was passed by both Houses of the Parliament on December 11 last year, initiat-

ed huge protests across the country. On December 15, violence erupted during the anti-CAA and anti-NRC protests in south Delhi's Jamia. Amid incidents of stone-pelting, the police resorted to tear-gas shelling and lathi-charge. Chasing the protesters, the security personnel entered Jamia Millia Islamia campus and allegedly beat up the students in its library.

The same day, a group comprising mainly women organised a sit-in in Shaheen Bagh. The protest continues to this day.

Amid anti-CAA protests, on January 5, the JNU campus was once again gripped by violence when about 50 masked men sneaked in and attacked the students and teachers, injuring about 40

persons. The police were accused of not taking any action against the assailants and allowing them to leave the campus after the incident.

Anti-CAA protests

While the anti-CAA protests were under way in Jamia, in the presence of security personnel, a juvenile opened fire injuring a student on January 30. The delinquent was then overpowered. Days later, another young man fired in the air close to the Shaheen Bagh protest side. Mr. Patnaik, a 1985-batch AGMUT-cadre IPS officer, succeeded Alok Kumar Verma to become the Police Commissioner. After his tenure ended in January, he was given a one-month extension in view of the State Assembly elections.

Airline to pay passenger for not issuing boarding pass

Complainant told flight was overbooked

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A District Consumer Disputes Redressal forum here has directed Air India to compensate a passenger by paying over ₹20,000 for not issuing a boarding pass to the complainant despite her having a valid ticket and reaching the airport on time.

Holding the airline deficient in services, the panel said: "The undisputed facts are that the complainant was denied boarding and despite having a confirmed ticket... It is also not disputed by the airline that the boarding was denied due to overbooking... In view of the facts we are of the considered view that the airline was deficient in service."

The directions came when the forum was hearing a petition moved by city resident Deepa Rai who contended that she could not board her flight from Delhi to Bagdogra as the airline cited that the flight was overbooked.

The complainant claimed that despite reaching the airport at 10.30 a.m., it was only two hours later that the manager informed that the flight was overbooked. "The complainant and many other passengers requested at the counter to refund the fare but was refused. The complainant was advised to approach the customer care with a written complaint and the refund would be made after 15 days," the complaint read.

Man kills wife, two children

He was found dead in Ghaziabad: police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

GHAZIABAD

A 27-year-old man allegedly murdered his wife and children before killing self in Ghaziabad, the police said on Friday.

bout, said Superintendent of Police, Maneesh Mishra.

The bodies of his 25-year-old wife, 4-year-old daughter and 2-year-old son were found on the bed.

The note blamed his wife for having "an affair".

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, Telephone: 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.

SC to hear plea for shifting rape case against Chinmayanand

Victim, a law student, fears for her life in U.P., says advocate

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to urgently list a petition by a woman, who had complained of sexual exploitation against former Minister Swami Chinmayanand, to transfer the case from Uttar Pradesh to Delhi.

Bench led by Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde said the petition would be heard on March 2.

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves told the court that his client, a law student,

feared for her life in Uttar Pradesh.

The court advised him to approach the police for security.

Gunman assigned: police

Mr. Colin then replied that the police had assigned her a gunman.

The Allahabad High Court granted Chinmayanand bail on February 3. He is accused of sexually exploiting the complainant at a college run by his trust at Shahjahanpur in Uttar Pradesh. He was ar-

rested on September 20 last for allegedly misusing his authority to "induce or seduce" a woman into sexual intercourse.

The Shahjahanpur police in August last filed an FIR against Chinmayanand after the student went missing following her allegation made in a video clip. Her father had lodged a complaint with the police accusing Chinmayanand of sexually harassing her. But Chinmayanand's lawyer said it was a "conspiracy" to blackmail him.

Clinching evidence against Asthana, ex-IO tells court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court was informed on Friday that there were "clinching evidence" against former CBI special director Rakesh Asthana in a bribery case in which he was recently given a clean chit by the

agency.

Special CBI Judge Sanjeev Aggarwal was told by Ajay Kumar Bassi, the former investigating officer (IO) in the case, that the current IO, Satish Dagar, was trying to "save" Asthana and other public servants. Mr. Dagar hit

back saying it was Mr. Bassi who had been removed from the case due to "biased investigation".

As Mr. Bassi and Mr. Dagar got into a verbal spat, the judge, who was scheduled to take cognizance of the chargesheet in the CBI bribery

case, adjourned the matter. The court asked both the officers to "not wash dirty linen in public" as they "both work in the same organisation".

Mr. Bassi had been summoned by the court to answer its query on the initial investigation into the case.

Ramani harmed my reputation, says Akbar

She had accused him of sexual misconduct

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Former Union Minister M.J. Akbar told a Delhi court on Friday that journalist Priya Ramani had defamed him by calling him with adjectives such as 'media's biggest predator' in the wake of #MeToo movement in 2018 that harmed his reputation.

Mr. Akbar made the allegations before Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Vishal Pahuja through his lawyer during the final hearing of a private criminal defamation complaint filed by him against Ramani after his name cropped up on social media as the #MeToo campaign raged on in India. Mr. Akbar resigned as Union minister on October 17, 2018. Ms. Ramani in 2018 had accused Mr. Akbar of sexual misconduct around 20 years ago when he was a journalist. She worked at

कानपुर यात्रियोंजना प्रबन्धक सूची-18 कन्स्ट्रक्शन एवं डिजाइन सर्विसेज उत्तर प्रदेश जल नियंत्रण (ज़ो ५० सरकार का उपक्रम) शी-२०, दीप्तिकृष्ण सिटी, सीलगढ़पुरा वर्कर स्कूल के पास, रामगंगा बिहार, मुमुक्षुवाद-२44001 प्रधान कानपुर गंगा: दीप्ती-३८ी-३८ी, विष्वासी खाली, गोदान नगर, लखनऊ-२२६०१० निवासी सूचना संख्या २५८ /एम-१८/२७ दिनांक 22.02.2020 ई-निवासी सूचना

उत्तर प्रदेश जल नियंत्रण की ओर से जलप्रदेश समिति में "Construction of Police chowki at Ganwa, Rajpura, Distric-UP." अंगूष्ठा लगाया रखा गया है। अप्रैल 2018 के बारे में उत्तर प्रदेश जल नियंत्रण की जाती है। उक्त कानपुर हैंड-ई-निवासी प्रबन्ध दिनांक 05.03.2020 से दिनांक 23.03.2020 के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e-procurement वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> से आवाजानलोड किये जा सकते हैं तथा ई-निवासी दिनांक 24.03.2020 को पूर्ण २० बजे ई-२०, दीप्ती-३८ी-३८ी सिटी, सीलगढ़पुरा वर्कर स्कूल के पास, रामगंगा बिहार, मुमुक्षुवाद-२44001 में खाली जायेगी। ई-निवासी प्रबन्ध का मूल्य ₹ 5,000.00+ ₹ 900 (18% GST) अतिरिक्त देवघांग।

निवासी प्रबन्ध वेबसाइट www.cdsupjn.org एवं प्रबन्ध का वर्कर स्कूल के पास लगाया गया है।

प्रबन्ध का वर्कर स्कूल के पास लगाया गया है।

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प्रबन्ध का वर्कर स्कूल के पास लगाया गया है।

Timings
DELHI

SATURDAY, FEB. 29
RISE 06:47 SET 18:21
RISE 10:01 SET 23:17
SUNDAY, MAR. 01
RISE 06:46 SET 18:21
RISE 10:35 SET 00:00
MONDAY, MAR. 02
RISE 06:45 SET 18:22
RISE 11:13 SET 00:12

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	27	17
Safdarjung	27	17
Palam	28	17

Delhi Palam Today
26°C Rain and thundershower at many places with isolated hail storm.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
25°C Moderate fog/mist during cool morning. Day will be cloudy and comfortable. Later spell of rain/thundershower is likely.

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What was the urgency in bringing CAA: Kamal

Is there an ongoing war or an influx of refugees, asks M.P. CM

SIDHARTH YADAV
Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath on Friday assailed the BJP government at the Centre for the recent clashes in Delhi and questioned it on the urgency to bring in the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, over which protests have raged across the country.

Speaking to reporters in Indore after launching works worth ₹900 crore, Mr. Nath asked, "Is there an ongoing war or an influx of refugees that the Modi government had to enact the CAA? What was its need? Has any disaster hit us?"

He added that though surveys had been conducted in



Kamal Nath. ■ FILE PHOTO

the past too, "misconceptions" were being spread now causing fear among people about losing their citizenship.

On Tuesday, four ASHA workers carrying questionnaires to identify tuberculosis patients were threatened

and driven away from a slum in Indore when locals suspected them to be undertaking the National Population Register update exercise.

Mr. Nath said the clashes were "a matter of grief and concern" as the country's culture promoted "connection of hearts".

JD(U) is right
As for the Bihar Vidhan Sabha passing a resolution against the proposed National Register of Citizens, Mr. Nath said, "Those in the government there are with the BJP, and they're openly making such statements on citizenship. For the BJP, the JD (U) is right, but we are wrong."

Tax-free budget in Punjab

Proposals include slashing retirement age to 58, increasing DA

VIKAS VASUDEVIA
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal on Friday presented tax-free budget proposals for the year 2020-21 with a total outlay of ₹1.54 lakh crore.

Presenting the budget in the ongoing Assembly session, he said the retirement age of government employees will be reduced to 58 years from 60 years at present to enhance employment opportunities for the youth.

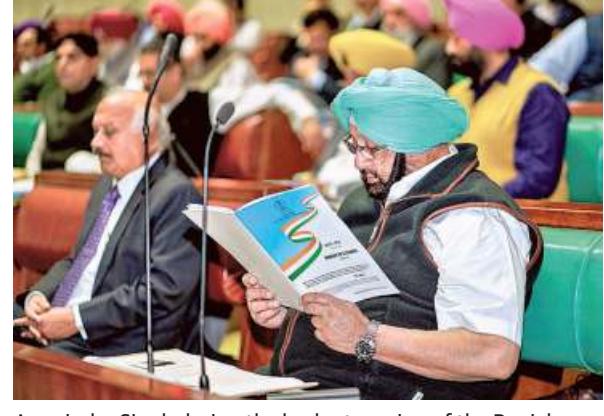
"..The fiscal situation is now under control with the indicators going up. Punjab's economy is better than before. The next two years will witness a substantial improvement in the lives of Punjabis," he said.

Outstanding debt

Mr. Badal said the outstanding debt of the State in 2020-21 is likely to be ₹2,48,236 crore, as against the 2019-20 revised estimates of ₹2,28,906 crore.

"We are all aware of the economic slowdown in the country. However, given the composition of the State's economy, our advanced estimates indicate that during 2019-20, the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of the State has increased from ₹5,21,861 crore in 2018-19 to ₹5,74,760 crore at current prices...the State's GSDP during the year 2020-21 would further rise to ₹6,44,326 crore. The per capita income of the State has also increased from ₹1,54,996 in 2018-19 to ₹1,66,830 in 2019-20 and is 23.53% higher than the national average of ₹1,35,050," said Mr. Badal.

Mr. Badal said as a result of



Amarinder Singh during the budget session of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha in Chandigarh on Friday. ■ PTI

the fiscal recovery, this year the government has estimated that the State's Total Revenue Receipts (TRR) are expected to rise from ₹73,975 crore in 2019-20 (RE) to ₹88,004 crore in 2020-21 (BE) – an increase of 18.96%.

During the same period, the Own Tax Revenue (OTR) is pegged to grow from ₹33,739 crore in 2019-20 (RE) to ₹35,824 crore in 2020-21 (BE)," he said.

"..The State's total expenditure is projected to be at ₹1,54,805 crore in 2020-21 (BE). A breakdown of the total expenditure shows that the State's revenue expenditure is expected to grow from ₹86,602 crore in 2019-20 (RE) to ₹95,716 crore in 2020-21 (BE), an increase of 10.52%," added Mr. Badal.

The Minister said under the next phase of the Crop Loan Waiver scheme, a total allocation of ₹2,000 crore, including ₹520 crore specifically for waiving off the loans of landless and farm workers has been made. He announced that provision of free electricity to farmers

will continue, for which ₹8,275 crore have been allocated.

Mr. Badal said in view of the stabilising fiscal consolidation of the State, he proposes to increase the Dearness Allowance (DA) by 6% to all the employees and pensioners.

"The 6th Punjab Pay Commission was set up in 2016 and is expected to submit its recommendation in near future. Aware of this, I have made a suitable provision in the budget estimates for 2020-21," he added.

Education sector

An amount of ₹13,092 crore have been earmarked for the education sector and ₹4,675 crore for the health sector in the budget.

Mr. Badal added that the government has decided to grant free education in government schools to all students up to Class XII. Currently, the government provides free education to students up to Class VIII and to girl students up to Class XII.

Akali Dal stages protest outside State Finance Minister's house

Congress govt. moves privilege motion in the Assembly

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Several members of families of farm suicide victims and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) MLAs on Friday staged a protest outside Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal's residence here. They were demanding that the Congress include in the State budget its poll promise of giving a government job to one member from each victim's family as well as a compensation of ₹10 lakh.

The police detained several protesters, including former Minister and Akali leader Bikram Singh Majithia, after they blocked the entrance of the residence of Mr. Badal.

Former Chief Minister and Akali Dal patron Parkash Singh Badal said the farm suicide victim families wanted a personal audience with the Finance Minister so that they could request him



to include the Congress government's 'promise' in the State budget.

"The Finance Minister could have come out and taken their representation. Instead, he let loose the police force on them," alleged Mr. Badal. Condemning the police behaviour, Mr. Badal said the action was unprecedented and against all principles of democracy.

He also hit out at the Congress government for mov-

ing a privilege motion in the Assembly against SAD legislators who had accompanied the farm suicide victim families. He said the legislators were only assisting the victim families and had taken on a just public cause.

"Such actions cannot thwart the SAD from fighting against injustice," he said. He also lashed out at the Aam Aadmi Party for supporting the privilege motion.

Aligarh limps to normalcy with peaceful Friday

Six AMU students mentioned in FIR on February 23 violence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GAZIABAD

Friday passed off peacefully in Aligarh, after one person was hit by a bullet and several others were injured during clashes between anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act protesters and police last Sunday. However, Internet services remained suspended.

Senior Superintendent of Police Muni Raj G. told *The Hindu* that a Special Investigation Team has been constituted to look into the February 23 violence. "All 12 FIRs registered in different police stations in the city, including the firing incident in the Kotwali area near Jama Masjid,

will be investigated by the SIT," he said, adding CCTV footage is being looked into. "A ballistic team will soon come up with the details of the gunshot injury," he said.

Two protests on

Two anti-CAA protests are currently on in Aligarh. "One in the Shahjamal area has been allowed by the district administration but the one in Jeevangarh area near Anoopshahr road is illegal as it is blocking the Bulandshahr road. We are in talks with the protesters," the SSP said.

Six AMU students have also been mentioned in the FIR for instigating the protesters. "Our local intelligence has confirmed the involvement of some AMU students. I will write a formal letter to the university on Saturday," he said.

₹1.42 lakh cr. budget for Haryana

Former CM Hooda says it will push the State into 'debt trap'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday presented a tax-free budget for the year 2020-21 with a total outlay of ₹1.42 lakh crore, up by 7.70% over the previous year.

Mr. Khattar, who holds the finance portfolio, said the budget reflects the government's commitment to substantially boost investment in agriculture, rural development, health, education and social justice for comprehensive socio-economic growth of the State. "This is substantiated by the increase in allocation to these departments," he said.

Presenting the ₹1,42,343.78-crore budget, Mr. Khattar said the government has allocated ₹19,343 crore to education and sports, ₹6,294 crore to rural development and panchayat, ₹6,533 crore to health, ₹349 crore to industries, ₹9,000 crore to pensions and ₹5,474 crore to agriculture. The State debt is projected at nearly ₹1.98 lakh crore, which in 2019-20

was ₹1.76 lakh crore.

Mr. Khattar said the State's revenue receipts are anticipated to increase by 15.96% in 2020-21 to ₹8,9,964.14 crore from ₹7,7,580.73 crore in 2019-20. The expenditure will increase to ₹1,42,343 crore, a rise of 7.7%.

"We have decided to set up a new department – 'Housing for All' so as to bring all housing schemes being implemented by different departments, boards and corporations under one roof," he said. To make Haryana a preferred global investment destination, the

State has initiated major regulatory reforms through simplification of procedures. "An amount of ₹349.30 crore for industry and commerce, ₹173.07 crore for civil aviation department and ₹1,522.35 crore for revenue and disaster management department has been proposed," he said.

Former Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda said the budget would push the State further into 'debt trap'.

"The BJP has suppressed the State under debt of ₹1,98,700 crore," he said.

Three men beat Mohan with lathis and rods, and he died while being taken to hospital by family, said Mr. Singh. The post-

mortem report has revealed death due to excessive bleeding caused by injuries inflicted by hard and blunt objects, he said.

The accused told the police that Mohan assaulted them first. "There are no witnesses to support this," said Mr. Singh.

Kashmiri students seek evacuation from Iran

They have appealed to MEA for help

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Kashmiri students studying in Iran have urged India to arrange for their evacuation from the novel coronavirus-affected country, after facing quarantine in their campuses.

Officials in Srinagar said that around 250 students from J&K study in Iran. The parents have urged the Centre to intervene. "In the wake of cancellation of flights, the Centre should evacuate the students in special flights. They are in distress there," said Abdul Rashid, whose son studies medicine at a Tehran varsity.

NC MP Nasim Masoodi on Friday called up External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and urged him to take steps to bring back the Kashmiri students.

Two held for thrashing farmer to death in M.P.

Row over water led to dispute: police

STAFF REPORTER
BHOPAL

The Chhatarpur police have arrested two persons for allegedly thrashing to death a farmer on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday over a water dispute in the Bundelkhand region.

Hareram Mishra and Jagprasad Mishra along with their father allegedly thrashed to death Mohan Patel in Mahiguan village over drawing water for irrigation from a well, said the police station in charge.

"Five years ago, the victim bought part of their field, and a well separates their properties. They agreed to use its water alternatively," said Jaswant Singh, the Bamitha police station in charge. "The accused had been drawing water for three days when the victim wanted to take his turn. This led to a dispute."

The three men beat Mohan with lathis and rods, and he died while being taken to hospital by family, said Mr. Singh. The post-

mortem report has revealed death due to excessive bleeding caused by injuries inflicted by hard and blunt objects, he said.

The accused told the police that Mohan assaulted them first. "There are no witnesses to support this," said Mr. Singh.

Search on
The police have registered a case under Section 302 [punishment for murder] of the Indian Penal Code, and are searching for the third accused.

Ruling out scarcity of water in the area, Mr. Singh said, "The dispute ensued following a breach of agreement. There is the Ken river nearby, and the water level is good too. Still farmers draw water from wells in the absence of canals."

Meanwhile, Mahiguan village secretary Beniram Pal said there had been several conflicts over water in the village earlier, but this was the first one this time ahead of the summer.

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IDCO invites Request For Proposal (RFP) from the eligible bidders to participate in the tendering process for rendering Consultancy Service for development of Online Land Management System and Automated Building Plan Approval System in IDCO. The interested bidders can download the RFP documents from IDCO website www.idco.in from 03.03.2020 to 08.04.2020 up to 5.00 P.M. Response to RFP should be sent by Registered Post / Speed Post only so as to reach the Dy. General Manager (MIS), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Janpath, Bhubaneswar-22 on or before 15.04.2020 up to 5.00 P.M.

Sl.	Name of the Work	Cost of Tender Paper	EMD	Pre-Bid Meeting
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OIPR-14003/11/0072/1920

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Branch Manager

East Patel Nagar, New Delhi

If any one has any objection to the registration of Navlok Samaj Party they may send their objection to the concerned election commission of India, Navachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

President - Daulat Ram

General Secretary - R.L. Kashyap

Treasurer - Sunjeev Kumar

If any one has any objection to the registration of Navlok Samaj Party they may send their objection to the concerned election commission of India, Navachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

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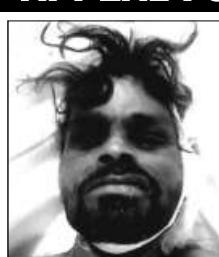
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APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person Namely : Shiva S/o : Laxman, R/o: Unknown, Age : about 35 years, Height : 5'6", Complexion : Dark, Face : Long, Built : Thin, Identification : Black beard and moustache has been admitted in LNJP Hospital, Delhi on 03.02.2020 due to Jaundice, where during treatment he died on 21.02.2020. In this regard a case vide DD No. 11A Dated 21.02.2020 has been lodged at P.S Darya Ganj, Delhi. The Dead Body has been preserved at LNJP Hospital Mortuary for 72 hrs.

Any person having any information or clue about this dead found person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO :

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Tel. No. 011-23274683, 23279331

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4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993)

In the matter of O.A. No. 503/2019
State Bank of India VERSUS Sh. Narendra Pal & Anr. Defendants

To,
D1. Sh. Narendra Pal, S/o Sh Rambir Singh Pal H.no. 12/56, Sector-09, Raj Nagar, Near Isckon Temple, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201002
Also at: 1457, GTB Enclave, Delhi-110093

D2. Sh. Manoj Singh Kawat, S/o Sh. Anand Singh Rawat, As Senior Digital Cartographer, Employee Code No. 8548, M/s Infotech Enterprises Ltd., B-11, Sector-63, Noida, U.P.-201307

Corporate Office of : M/s Infotech Enterprises Ltd., 4th Floor, A Wing, Plot No. 11, Software Units Layout, Infantry Madhapur, Hyderabad-500081.

Also at : R/o: 2/A22, Jai Maa Durga Apartment, Ghaziabad, U.P.

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal on 17.03.2020 at 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned date before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 26.12.2019.

By Order of the Tribunal, Assistant Registrar, DRT-III, New Delhi

Office of the Executive Engineer
Provincial Division, P.W.D. Bageshwar
Phone/Fax: No.: 05963-220006 Email ID: pdpwdbgr@gmail.com
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The Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, Public Works Department Bageshwar invites Online Short Term Tender for the following works on behalf of hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand. All information regarding tender will be available on <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> from 03.03.2020

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1	Fabrication, Erection, Bearing fixing, Riveting and painting work in 30m span bridge on Lohur River rear Jakh Khari under District Sector in District Bageshwar	2000.00 + 18% G.S.T.	0.60	120 Days	9 Months	Category "D" & Above of Bridge works in any State Govt./Central Govt./any Govt. Undertaking

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in the presence of the tenderers or

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The Managing Director, ANIICO

reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the

IN BRIEF



Minister blames Cong. for Delhi violence

MUMBAI Union minister Ramdas Athawale on Friday alleged that provocative speeches by Congress leaders were responsible for the violence in Delhi, which has so far claimed 42 lives. He was talking to reporters at the press room in the Vidhan Bhavan here, where the Budget session of Maharashtra Legislature is currently on. The Minister of State for Social Justice also alleged that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which is in power in Delhi, was involved in the riots. He also accused the Congress of provoking Muslims to protest against the CAA. PTI

Charge sheet filed in Hinganghat case

MUMBAI The police have filed a charge sheet in the local court in connection with the burning of a woman college teacher in Wardha district, Home Minister Anil Deshmukh said on Friday. Ankita Pisudde (25) was set on fire allegedly by Vikes Nagale, who had been stalking her for some time, at Hinganghat town on February 3. While Mr. Nagale was arrested within hours of the incident, the woman died at a hospital in Nagpur on February 10. The incident caused huge public outrage. "The charge sheet has been filed within 23 days...we will ensure speedy trial and stern action against the accused," Mr. Deshmukh told reporters. PTI

Decision soon on 5% reservation for Muslims in educational institutions

The government is positive, even Shiv Sena MLAs are positive, says Nawab Malik

TANVI DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

The State government will take a decision on bringing 5% reservation for Muslims in educational institutions soon, Minority Affairs Minister Nawab Malik said in the Legislative Council on Friday. However, the Bharatiya Janata Party demanded to know whether Shiv Sena had agreed to this as a "setting" during government formation with Congress and Nationalist Congress Party.

Mr. Malik was responding to a question by Sharad Rane (Congress) who wanted to know, "On July 9, 2014, the then government had come out with an ordinance allowing 5% reservation for Muslims in jobs and educational institutions and had issued orders to implement it. The High Court had approved of reservation for Muslims in government jobs and educational institutions and given such directions to the government. What is the status of this reservation and when will it be implemented?"

In his written response, Mr. Malik mentioned a 2014 interim high court order that allowed reservation in government and aided educational institutions but stayed a decision on private unaided institutions and government jobs. The ordinance did not become a law in six months and had therefore lapsed. The matter is still sub-judice, he said.

In 2018 as well as in 2019, the Sena-BJP government had ruled out reservations for Muslims citing various court



Contentious issue: In 2018 and 2019, the former Shiv Sena-BJP government had ruled out reservations for Muslims citing various court orders. ■ FILE PHOTO

orders.

During Friday's discussion, Bhai Girkar said, "Andhra Pradesh gave reservation to Muslims but it was rejected by Supreme Court. Then how will you do it? When reservation was given to Marathas, a commission was appointed to prove backwardness."

Vinayak Mete (BJP) said, "The State Backward Class Commission cannot recommend reservation based on religion. In order to give a legally valid reservation, what steps will be taken?"

During the debate, Mr. Malik said, "While giving reservation to Maratha community, a lot of legal measures were taken. Similarly, a decision to give reservation to Muslims will be taken soon. The government is positive, even Shiv Sena MLAs are positive. Government will take a decision to bring it by May before admissions as soon as possible."

Council chairman Ramraje Nimbalkar instructed that "Sustainable reservation for

Muslims should be given, do whatever that is needed to do it."

Leader of Opposition Pravin Darekar sought to know the Chief Minister's stand in the matter. In a statement issued later, Mr. Darekar said, "The Maha Vikas Aghadi's stand has now become clear related to Muslim reservation. Now, the CM needs to make Shiv Sena's stand clear. In the house, Aaditya Thackeray also nodded when the Minister said Shiv Sena supports this. Shiv Sena's stand has become clear today. The minister is doing this for Muslim votes but this reservation will not stand in court. This is just an attempt to please Muslims. We are not against giving reservation to any deprived community but the CM needs to make his stand clear."

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly and former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis told reporters outside the House that, "According to the Constitution, reservation

cannot be given on religious basis. Modiji has given 10% reservation to economically backward classes and Muslims and other communities get it. But there is no such provision in Constitution (about today's announcement). This announcement is a revelation. We want to know there was 'setting' on which other issues during government formation, which other things has Sena agreed to by leaving its ideology and during that discussion, is it true that Sena agreed to this reservation? The Minister represents the government. We are clear that there is no such provision in Constitution. We need an explanation regarding this."

'No decision yet'

Meanwhile, shortly after Mr. Malik's statement, senior Sena leader and Urban Development Minister Eknath Shinde said no such decision had been taken.

Leaders of the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi will take a call on the issue after discussions, Mr. Shinde said.

Mr. Shinde told reporters outside the legislature complex that he was not aware of Mr. Malik's announcement on 5% reservation for Muslims.

"Leaders of the MVA will together take a call on policy decisions about giving reservation to any community. Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray will take appropriate decisions at the appropriate time. No decision has been taken yet," he said.

(With PTI inputs)

Caste-based census: all-party delegation to meet PM, Shah

Centre rejects Assembly resolution seeking listing of OBCs: Speaker

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

An all-party delegation from Maharashtra will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to seek enumeration of OBCs in the 2021 census.

This was announced by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar in Assembly on Friday after the Speaker Nana Patole asked him to make a statement on the issue.

The matter came up in Assembly after question hour when Vikas Thakre (Congress) sought to know the Union government's reply to a resolution passed by the Assembly on January 8 urging the Centre to hold caste-based Census in 2021. Mr. Patole said the Centre has rejected the unanimous resolution passed by the House.

He read out the reply from Vivek Joshi, Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India, which said, "collection of data of OBCs, SEBCs, other castes etc. will adversely affect integrity of census exercise. Hence the enumeration of OBCs, SEBCs, other castes has not been taken up in 2021 Census which has been notified in Gazette of India on March 28, 2019." The Census exercise would begin from April 1 and therefore the government needs to resolve the issue at the earliest, the letter said.

Leaders of the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi will take a call on the issue after discussions, Mr. Shinde said.

Mr. Shinde told reporters outside the legislature complex that he was not aware of Mr. Malik's announcement on 5% reservation for Muslims.

"Leaders of the MVA will together take a call on policy decisions about giving reservation to any community. Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray will take appropriate decisions at the appropriate time. No decision has been taken yet," he said.

With PTI inputs



The Census exercise begins from April 1 and the government needs to resolve the issue at the earliest. ■ FILE PHOTO

number of OBCs in the country is nearly 6,285 including sub-castes, sub-groups, synonyms etc. whereas the corresponding number of OBCs as per lists of States and UTs is 7,200. "In case, a question on OBCs is canvassed, it will return names of hundreds of thousands of castes, sub-castes as the people use their clan/gotra, sub-caste, caste interchangeably," it said. The letter added that unlike Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes, there is no such constitutional mandate to provide census numbers of OBCs.

Senior minister and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Chhagan Bhujbal said the Centre's excuse of "too many" caste is not valid as equal number of castes were existing in 1931 where caste-based Census was carried out. "Today we have technology, human resource which we can use to do this. I suggest that a delegation of CM, Deputy CM, LoP and senior leaders should meet PM Narendra Modi for the same," he said.

The letter said that total

Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnavis said a policy decision at the Centre needs to be taken. "BJP too is positive on this demand and I am sure that we can find out a way if we decide to meet the PM together," he said.

Senior NCP leader and Housing Minister Jitendra Awhad said that the Assembly need not wait for Centre's order. "The staff conducting the Census will be of State government. Let this Assembly pass a resolution asking them to include an OBC column. Let this be the guiding light for rest of the country. Let's do OBC census of Maharashtra," said Mr. Awhad.

Congress leader and minister Vijay Vadettiwar, and independent MLA Ashish Jaiswal seconded the demand to hold State census of OBCs, while BJP MLA Yogesh Sagar said it would not be appropriate to do so.

It was then that Mr. Patole asked Mr. Pawar to make a statement regarding the same.

Nine accused in Elgar Parishad case produced in Mumbai before NIA court

+ This was their first appearance after case was transferred from Pune

SONAM SAIGAL

MUMBAI

Days after the NIA took over probe into the matter, all the nine accused in the Elgar Parishad cases following the violence in Bhima Koregaon in 2018 were produced in Mumbai before a special National Investigation Agency court on Friday.

The NIA counsel briefed special judge D.E. Kothalikar about the case and said a charge sheet has been filed and interim applications of some of the accused were pending. One of the accused, Arun Ferreira told the court that Arthur Road jail authorities are saying there is no space inside and are not allowing them to keep their books and charge sheets of the case.

The judge said he will pass an appropriate order and March 13 and adjourned the matter. The court also said that the accused will hereby be produced via video conferencing.

Advocates Surendra Gadling and Sudha Bharadwaj, writer Sudhir Dhawale, three of the nine people accused in the Bhima-Koregaon violence case, to a NIA court in Mumbai on Friday. ■ PTI



Police escorting Vernon Gonsalves and (top) P. Varavara Rao and Sudhir Dhawale, three of the nine people accused in the Bhima-Koregaon violence case, to a NIA court in Mumbai on Friday. ■ PTI

Advocates Surendra Gadling, Sudha Bharadwaj, writer Sudhir Dhawale; Mahesh Raut works for tribals; professor Shoma Sen; activists Rona Wilson, Arun Ferreira, Vernon Gonsalves; and poet Varavara Rao. Five of them have

been arrested on June 6, 2018, and the others on August 28, 2018.

The nine accused in the case are Advocates Surendra Gadling and Sudha Bharadwaj; writer Sudhir Dhawale; Mahesh Raut who works with tribals; professor Shoma Sen; activists Rona Wilson, Arun Ferreira, Vernon Gonsalves; and poet Varavara Rao. Five of them were arrested on June 6, 2018, the others on August 28, 2018.

So far the court proceedings were held in Pune. On February 14, the case was transferred to the NIA court in Mumbai. The accused who were lodged at the Yerwada central jail in Pune were transferred to Mumbai on Wednesday. While the men have been lodged at Arthur Road jail, the women are in Byculla prison.

On January 8, 2018, a FIR was lodged with the Pune police against the organisers of the Elgar Parishad for making provocative speeches that led to riots at Bhima-Koregaon on January 1, 2018.

Condemning violence



Congress workers staging a silent protest at Mumbai Pradesh Congress office on Friday against the violence in Delhi. They also demanded the resignation of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

Kolhapur varsity scraps controversial Marathi kirtankar's talk

Decision follows objections by rationalist outfits



Nirvatu Maharaj Indurikar

(MANS) opposed Mr. Indurikar's event, warning that they would disrupt his programme if it took place on the varsity premises.

'Only postponed'

However, the organisers denied that the event was 'cancelled' owing to any external pressure and said Mr. Indurikar's programme was merely being deferred to a later date.

"We are only postponing this event, which had been scheduled several months ago. But this is not due to any pressure from any organisation. The preacher was short of time and he had another engagement this evening. The new schedule for Indurikar Maharaj's programme will be announced soon," said Praveen Kodolikar, one of

the organisers.

Mr. Indurikar has been at the centre of controversy following his alleged remarks during a sermon in Ahmednagar earlier this month that intercourse by a couple on an even date would beget a male child.

The preacher's statements have drawn the ire of several activists and rationalist outfits like the MANS, who have been clamouring for a police case to be lodged against Mr. Indurikar on grounds that his comments violated provisions of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act.

MANS activists claimed that it did not behove of the varsity to invite Mr. Indurikar who was known for his "derogatory remarks" on women and for his "un-

scientific claims", especially on the occasion of National Science Day.

In response, right-wing outfits including the Yuva Sena (the youth wing of the Shiv Sena) backed Mr. Indurikar and said the preacher was invited to address a sermon on the occasion of Marathi language day and there were no grounds for opposing his talk.

Heated exchange

A war of words transpired between MANS activists and Yuva Sena leaders prior to the event after which both contending parties held a meeting with Dr. Devanand Shinde, the Vice-Chancellor of Shivaji University.

After the meeting, they announced that Mr. Indurikar's programme had been

postponed to a later date.

Gender rights activist and Bhumata Brigade leader Trupti Desai too, has demanded a police case be lodged against the Marathi kirtankar despite Mr. Indurikar already issuing an apology for his remarks.

The preacher, who has a massive following in State among both men and women, has claimed that his remarks during his Ahmednagar sermon had been taken out of context.

Minister of State for Women and Child Welfare Bachchu Kadu had earlier made clear that the State government would not file a case against Mr. Indurikar as the latter was working towards enlightening people, indicating that too much fuss was being made over the preacher's remarks.

MNS asks people to give information on infiltrators

₹5,000 reward for correct tip-off

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AURANGABAD

The Maharashtra Navnirman Sena has opened a counter in Aurangabad for people to give information about 'infiltrators' and those whose tip-offs prove correct would be given a reward of ₹5,000, a functionary of the Raj Thackeray-led party said on Friday.

The MNS has started one counter in Akashwani area, manned by party workers, and five more are in the pipeline, MNS Aurangabad unit president Sumit Khambekar said.

The MNS' move comes after Mr. Thackeray, in a rally in Mumbai on February 9, signalled a turn towards hardline Hindutva by claiming his party would work towards evicting illegal Pakistani and Bangladeshi migrants staying in Maharashtra.

verification finds the information to be correct, we will give the person who gave us the tip-off a reward of ₹5,000," said Mr. Khambekar.

When contacted, Aurangabad police commissioner Chiranjeev Prasad refused to comment saying the news (of MNS setting up 'infiltrator information' counter) was being verified.

The MNS' move comes after Mr. Thackeray, in a rally in Mumbai on February 9, signalled a turn towards hardline Hindutva by claiming his party would work towards evicting illegal Pakistani and Bangladeshi migrants staying in Maharashtra.

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

PUNE

A programme at Shivaji University in Kolhapur district which was to feature Marathi kirtankar (preacher) Nirvatu Maharaj Indurikar was cancelled on Friday after the event turned into a flashpoint between progressive outfits who opposed the event and right-wing outfits that supported it.

The varsity had invited Mr. Indurikar, known for addressing social issues through his kirtans (devotional songs) and sermons, and use of witty though hard-edged satire, as part of

IN BRIEF

**Historian S. Settar passes away**

BENGALURU
S. Settar, 85, historian, breathed his last on Friday in Bengaluru. He was suffering from respiratory problems and was hospitalised for over a week. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

SC returns Kerala's plea on airport to HC

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Friday left it to the Kerala High Court to decide the merits of the Airport Authority of India's (AAI)'Request for Proposal' to grant the right of operation, management and development of the Thiruvananthapuram Airport to Adani Enterprises Limited. "We are sending it back," a three-judge Bench observed.

Probe ordered into Kerala medical college scam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOCHI
The Kerala High Court has ordered a Crime Branch probe into complaints that the management of the Dr. Somerville Memorial CSI Medical College, Karakkonam, cheated several people and collected huge sums by offering admissions.

It was on a batch of petitions from the parents of some students that the court ordered the probe.

Though the police had registered cases against college director Bennett Abraham and CSI moderator Bishop A. Dharmmaraj Rajaram in three police stations, the investigation did not progress as the accused

Karnataka to allocate funds for Kalasa-Banduri project in Budget

Irrigation Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi seeks an allocation of ₹200 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

A day after the Centre's notification of the Mahadayi inter-State water dispute tribunal award, Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa said on Friday that the State government would expedite the Kalasa-Banduri drinking water and hydro power projects in the region.

Mr. Yediyurappa, who also holds the Finance portfolio, said funds would be allocated in the 2020-21 Budget to resume the project on Mahadayi river's Kalasa-Banduri tributaries in the northern districts of the State.

Major and Medium Irrigation Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi has sought ₹200 crore in the Budget for the projects. However, speaking at Hubballi, Union Minister for Par-

**Happy moment:** Members of Kannada outfits celebrating the notification of the Mahadayi verdict. ■ KIRAN BAKALE

liamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines Pralhad Joshi said he had requested Mr. Yediyurappa to allocate "at least ₹500 crore".

Drinking water supply
The Chief Minister said the notification of the Union Water Resources Ministry would enable the State to

complete the project for supplying drinking water to four drought-prone districts. "We will resume the project work, halted after Goa challenged it, as we are confident of getting our share of water for drinking and irrigation," Mr. Yediyurappa said.

In Goa, Union Minister of State for Railways Suresh An-

gadi said all the States concerned would have to obey the order of the Supreme Court on the Mahadayi river water sharing issue.

Tribunal award

The Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal, on August 14, 2018, allocated 13.42 tmcft of river water to Karnataka for irrigation and drinking water supply in towns and villages across Bagalkot, Belagavi, Dharwad and Gadag districts.

Of the 13.42 tmcft water, 5.4 tmcft will be used in the river basin and for diversion into the depleted Malaprabha reservoir, while the rest will be used for hydro power generation, instead of being allowed to flow into the Arabian Sea on the State's west coast through Goa.

Unlike on Monday, when members of the Dharwad Bar Association objected to advocates from Bengaluru and other places appearing on behalf of the students

booked for sedition, on Friday it was a smooth affair, with the police taking every precautionary step to allow the advocates to file the applications.

Following the High Court rap, the members of Dharwad Bar Association acted in accordance with the submission of not preventing any advocate from filing the bail applications.

A small group outside the court premises raised 'Go Back' slogans against the advocates.

Missing Kerala girl's body recovered from river

STAFF REPORTER

KOLLAM

The body of Devananda (Ponnus), who went missing from Elavur on Thursday, was recovered by divers from Ithikara river, which flows near her home.

The body of the seven-year-old was found floating near the bushes when the search party resumed operations in the morning. The preliminary autopsy report said the girl died of drowning and the inquest found no injuries or marks of assault on the body.

She was wearing the same clothes she was last seen in and the primary assumption of the police is that she must have fallen into the water when she ventured out on her own.

Probe sought
Many residents expressed suspicion over the death, and Leader of the Opposition Ramesh Chennithala demanded a probe.

Devananda, daughter of Pradeep Kumar and Dhanya, went missing on Thursday when her mother was washing clothes outside their house.

According to Ms. Dhanya, Devananda was instructed to stay indoors and keep a watch on her three-month-old brother. When the mother returned after finishing her work, she found the girl missing.

NSD seeks explanation over nudity in play

Bhaskara Pattelarum Thommiyude Jeevithavum was staged earlier this month

**Caught in a row:** A scene from *Bhaskara Pattelarum Thommiyude Jeevithavum*, staged at Auroville in Puducherry.

tions to the scene, which they communicated verbally" to the registrar.

In his letter to the NSD, he said he was amazed by the letter as the NSD has a rich legacy of promoting experi-

mental plays. "I am reminded of an incident while I was a student in NSD. One of my plays was hailed by NSD faculty though an actor was presented nude, and I was given the highest score for

the play. There were many plays from the West showcased by NSD itself, in which nudity was shown. But no incident of banning such plays or they being a topic of much discussion has been reported," it said.

"The protagonist of the play is a slave, who is almost always naked. He is clad in a torn dhoti. At times, the torn cloth slips from his hands and exposes his nudity for a while. This culminates in the final scene, in which he runs away totally naked. It is a pity that all these things need to be explained to an institution like the NSD, which is the cradle of theatre experimentation in India," Mr. Suveeran said.

3 children of a family die in wall collapse in Hyderabad

Construction was relatively new but weak, say police

STAFF REPORTER

HYDERABAD

Three children, including a four-month-old toddler, of the same family were killed late on Thursday when a wall of their house in Afzal Sagar in Mangar Basthi of Hyderabad collapsed while they were asleep.

The victims were Roshini, 6, Sarika, 3, and four-month-old Pavani. Geeta, a toddler, was injured in the incident.

All the victims were children of one Meetalal. According to reports, Meetalal, his wife Seema, and his brother's family had put their children to bed and stepped out to talk when the wall collapsed.

The children were first rushed to Niloufer Hospital

**Grief stricken:** Parents and relatives breaking down at the loss of three children in a wall collapse. ■ G. RAMAKRISHNA

where Sarika, Roshini and Pavani were declared dead. One of the victims was said to have died on the spot. Geeta was moved to Osmania General Hospital.

Apart from a posse of policemen, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation officials and Disaster Response Force personnel reached the

spot. Locals said there were some issues with the structural stability of the house. The wall was recently raised inside the house.

Habibnagar Inspector P. Shiva Chandra said the wall which collapsed was relatively new, but weak.

A cupboard installed fell on the wall, leading to its collapse.

IICT ready to help develop COVID-19 drug

V. GEETANATH

HYDERABAD
The CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) is ready to start preparing the basic molecule which goes into the making of the active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) for finally coming out with a drug to tackle coronavirus or COVID-19.

Director S. Chandrasekhar said on Friday that a leading pharmaceutical firm had enquired whether the institute would be able to prepare the molecule when a requisition was made for the API so that the firm could go for mass production of the drug.

"We have not received any indent as such, but we are going to start the process by proactively procuring the raw material required for making the molecule," he explained.

Summer season

While he expected the rapid spread of coronavirus to abate in view of the coming summer season, he pointed out that efforts were on globally to find a drug quickly for treating it.

In fact, a leading global pharma major based in the United States had already announced that it would be conducting trials to test anti-viral medication 'remdesivir', a therapy previously tested against Ebola virus.

Dr. Chandrasekhar said that if the COVID-19 turned out to be a pandemic and spread to more nations, there was a possibility of drug firms dispensing with trials and straight away administering the medicine to control fatalities. For now, the late-stage trials could be to check the drug's efficacy rather than just safety. He reckoned it could take anywhere from three to six months for the drug intermediary to be made ready for usage once preparations begin.

Dispelling darkness**Holy fire:** The Matrimandir at Auroville in Tamil Nadu's Villupuram district was illuminated by a bonfire as Aurovillians and visitors gathered on the occasion of Auroville's Founding Day on Friday. ■ S.S. KUMAR**Kerala HC ex-judge prepares inventory of 'Thiruvabharanam'**

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PATHANAMTHITTA

Former judge of the Kerala High Court C.N. Ramachandran Nair, along with a team of jewellery appraisers and assistants, inspected the sacred jewellery (Thiruvabharanam) of the presiding deity of the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple at the Pandalam Palace on Friday.

The Supreme Court had directed him to prepare an inventory of the ornaments and submit a report in four weeks.

The Supreme Court's directive followed an alleged dispute between two branches of the erstwhile Pandalam royal family, which is the custodian of the sacred ornaments.

Mr. Nair reached the pa-

**Study visit:** Former Kerala High Court judge C.N. Ramachandran Nair at the Pandalam Palace on Friday.

lace in the forenoon. Palace managing committee members P.G. Sasikumar Varma, P.N. Narayana Varma, and Deepa Varma received him and handed over the jewel boxes for verification.

The team ascertained the quality, quantity and purity

of the jewellery using electronic equipment.

Mr. Nair later informed the media that his job was over. "Now, I will submit my report in a sealed cover to the Supreme Court," said Mr. Nair.

(With inputs from IANS)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

VIJAYAWADA

Engineers, officials and contractors were asked to complete the spillway of the Polavaram project "under any circumstances" by June to manage the flood water in the Godavari.

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy visited the project site and made an aerial survey on Friday.

Interacting with experts and contractors, he said the flood waters could be diverted via the spillway and the approach channel so that work could continue on the earth-cum-rock-filled dam through a major part of the rainy season.

After the aerial survey, he inspected the spillway and the dam.

It is proposed to name the

**Getting the details:** A.P. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy looking at a photo exhibition at Polavaram project site.

bridge to be constructed over the spillway as 'YSR Gateaway'. The bridge would be linked with a four-lane road to the earth-cum-rock-filled dam.

Mr. Reddy laid stress on the need for preparing an action plan for completing the project by June 2021 to pro-

vide water for the agricultural season.

Asking officials to focus on hurdles, Mr. Reddy said work on the dam should be taken up between June and October. He said adequate funds would be allocated.

The Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) works

should be planned in such a manner that residents of the project area were relocated even before the completion of the works. An official should be exclusively entrusted with the work of liaising with the Central government for getting clearance for the designs and follow-up action in the execution, he said.

Mr. Reddy was told that siltage during last season's floods had caused for the delay in restarting works.

When he asked about the progress of work on the right and left canals, the officials said the right canal would be completed by June and the left canal work was being taken up in two packages. Care should be taken to ensure that there were no breaches, Mr. Reddy said.

IN BRIEF



CBI books Rotomac owner Vikram Kothari

NEW DELHI
The CBI has booked Kanpur-based Rotomac Exim (P) Limited, its owner Vikram Kothari, son Rahul and others for allegedly cheating Allahabad Bank of ₹36.84 crore. The bank lodged a complaint against the accused persons after it failed to recover dues.

Doctors have no right to go on strike: Madras HC

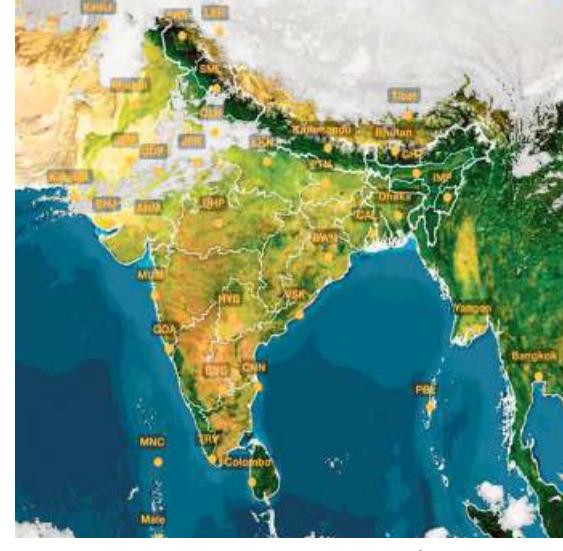
CHENNAI
The Madras High Court on Friday said no government employee, including doctors, had a right to go on strike and the law had been settled well in T.K. Rangarajan vs. Government of Tamil Nadu (2003) case. However, the court quashed the memos and transfer orders issued to select government doctors who led a strike last year, and said the Tamil Nadu government's action smacked of "mala fide" intention.

CGST official booked for disproportionate wealth

NEW DELHI
The CBI has booked Assistant Commissioner of CGST and Central Excise, Deepak Pandit, his wife and sons for amassing wealth disproportionate to their known sources of income. He is currently posted in Mumbai and is a relative of filmmaker Ashok Pandit, said an official.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



Forecast for Saturday: Thunderstorm accompanied by lightning and gusts likely at a few places over Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, west Uttar Pradesh, northeast Rajasthan, west Madhya Pradesh, west Vidarbha, south interior Karnataka and Kerala. Heavy rainfall/snowfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan and Himachal Pradesh.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	30.0	14.0	Kozhikode	36.0	26.0
Ahmedabad	35.0	19.0	19.0	Kurnool	35.0	24.0
Aizawl	22.0	7.0	Lucknow	28.0	15.0
Allahabad	29.0	14.0	14.0	Madurai	36.0	23.0
Bengaluru	31.0	18.0	18.0	Mangalore	35.0	25.0
Bhopal	31.0	17.0	17.0	Mumbai	32.0	17.0
Bhubaneswar	31.0	16.0	16.0	Mysuru	34.0	21.0
Chandigarh	25.0	17.0	17.0	New Delhi	27.0	17.0
Chennai	33.0	25.0	25.0	Patna	27.0	15.0
Coimbatore	34.0	23.0	23.0	Port Blair	31.0	24.0
Dehradun	24.0	11.0	11.0	Puducherry	32.0	23.0
Gangtok	16.0	8.0	8.0	Pune	34.0	13.0
Goa	36.0	24.0	24.0	Raipur	29.0	16.0
Guwahati	27.0	13.0	13.0	Ranchi	27.0	13.0
Hubballi	33.0	22.0	22.0	Shillong	18.0	8.0
Hyderabad	31.0	17.0	17.0	Shimla	17.0	7.0
Imphal	19.0	10.0	10.0	Srinagar	10.0	6.0
Jaipur	29.0	18.0	18.0	Thiruvananthapuram	35.0	24.0
Kochi	3.8	33.0	26.0	Tiruchi	35.0	23.0
Kohima	22.0	8.0	8.0	Vijayawada	33.0	22.0
Kolkata	28.0	18.0	18.0	Visakhapatnam	31.0	23.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	13	115	27	192	154
Bengaluru	13	68	84	113
Chennai	40	23	100	74
Delhi	19	46	39	251	191
Hyderabad	13	30	26	70	106
Kolkata	15	69	14	218	143
Lucknow	65	57	170	150
Mumbai	29	89	34	228	241
Pune	78	32	92	166	119
Visakhapatnam	9	54	45	70	102

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m. Panipat, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 282 indicating a severe level of pollution contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 23.

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_x: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease.

सी.एस.आई.आर - केन्द्रीय वित्तसंबंधी अनुसंधान संस्थान	
CSIR - CENTRAL ELECTROCHEMICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE	
काराकुड़ी / Karakkudi-630 003.	
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW	
NOTIFICATION No. PS-02/2020	
Position & Stipend	Essential qualification
Project Assistant-I ₹.15,000/-pm (consolidated) (01 Position)	Diploma in Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE) with 55% marks (50% marks for SC/ST)
Project Assistant-II ₹.14,000/-pm + HRA (01 Position)	B.Sc. in Physics/Chemistry/Biotechnology/Energy Studies with 55% marks (50% marks for SC/ST)
Senior Research Fellow (P) ₹.31,000/-pm + HRA (1 Position)	M.Sc. in Chemistry with 55% marks and should have valid NET qualification and 2 years of research experience.
For further details, please visit www.cecri.res.in	
प्रशासन विभागीय / Administrative Officer	

Delhi water fails to clear ISO norms

BIS files report on samples collected randomly



KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

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Summer to be hotter than usual, says IMD

Above normal heat wave conditions likely in some areas

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The summer months from March to May are poised to be hotter than normal, a forecast by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Friday.

The forecast indicates that the MAM (March-May) season averaged temperatures are likely to be at least half a degree hotter than normal over northwest, west and central India and some parts of south India.

The season averaged maximum temperature is likely to be warmer than normal in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Rajasthan and Arunachal Pradesh.

It is likely to be warmer than normal by over 0.5C to <1C over Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, west Uttar Pradesh, east Rajasthan, east and west Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, sub Himalayan West Bengal, Gujarat, Saurashtra and Kutch, Konkan and Goa, central Maharashtra, Marathawada, Vidarbha, north interior Karnataka, coastal Karnataka, and Kerala.



Rising mercury: The forecast indicates that the March-May season is likely to be hotter. ■ FILE PHOTO

Above normal heat wave conditions are also likely in the core heat wave zone during the season (March-May), the weather department said.

Key to timely monsoon

The core heat wave zone covers the States of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Telangana and parts of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.

The southwest monsoon in 2019 (June to September) delivered rainfall 10% above average in the country – the highest in 25 years. In 1994, the rainfall was 110% during the June-September period.

Before that, over 10 % above average rainfall was witnessed in 1990 (119%).

A hot summer, experts say, is a key factor to a timely monsoon. However, the impact of a warming ocean and its impact on the monsoon is likely to be more apparent around April when the IMD issues its first forecast for the monsoon.

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The southwest mon



Minimum government

The Centre faces a trust deficit as it seeks to restore public order in riot-hit Delhi

The communal violence that has claimed 42 lives since Sunday has been subdued but tensions continue to simmer in Delhi. Stories of human courage and camaraderie that shone through amid orchestrated mayhem offer hope, but what rankles is the complete breakdown of governance from top to bottom in the national capital. Several credible accounts of horrendous acts of omission and commission by the Delhi police have emerged. Instead of taking the police to task and wringing them into action, the Central government and the Delhi Lieutenant-Governor have fielded the Solicitor General to shield them from judicial scrutiny. The Centre's position in the court that action cannot be taken against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders who made incendiary speeches until the police had perused all such speeches is analogous to arguing that one criminal cannot be probed unless all others are also probed – a bizarre logic. The Delhi High Court, which took up the matter with the urgency that the situation demands on Wednesday, incapacitated itself a day later as a different bench headed by the Chief Justice D.N. Patel put the case off to April 13. Meanwhile, Kapil Mishra, one of the BJP leaders against whom police action was sought, called for a rally on Saturday, purportedly for peace but clearly intended to stoke the fire. The arguments of the country's law officer were a public admission of the government's refusal to act against members of the BJP. With such blatant partisanship and abdication of responsibility, the government cannot be expected to stop violence and restore communal peace.

Meanwhile, the Delhi police have acted swiftly against Tahir Hussain, an Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Councillor accused of involvement in murder and keeping sticks, stones and petrol mobs on the terrace of his house that was surrounded by a mob. The AAP has since suspended him from membership, and endorsed the police action against him. While the protests against the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act took a communal turn in several places, a counter-mobilisation also on communal lines has pushed the city to the brink in recent weeks. Right to assemble and protest is a fundamental right, but its exercise has to be in accordance with requirements of public order. It is the duty of the police to ensure that constitutional guarantees are upheld on the one hand, while, on the other, life and work goes on normally for the general population. The Central and Delhi governments, the police, and the judiciary have come up short against these markers of the rule of law. They are all facing a severe deficit of trust among the citizens. Peace and normalcy can be achieved only through restoration of the majesty and impartiality of the government. Unfortunately, there is no effort visible in that direction.

Regional bonding

India needs to engage with its neighbours for the realisation of its global ambitions

At a time when India has more or less shut down all conversations on the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and walked away from the ASEAN-led Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), former Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's push for regional economic integration and for India-Pakistan dialogue should be studied carefully by New Delhi. Speaking at *The Hindu's* Huddle conclave last week, Mr. Wickremesinghe set out a number of suggestions. He blamed India-Pakistan tensions for bringing economic integration within the SAARC region to a "standstill", explaining that the original purpose of the South Asian group was to build a platform where bilateral issues could be set aside in the interest of regional growth. Decrying the lack of economic integration in South Asia, and the failure of SAARC, as well as BIMSTEC (which includes Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand), to engender more intra-regional trade, Mr. Wickremesinghe suggested an even smaller sub-grouping of four countries with complementary economies: India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Thailand, to begin the process of reducing tariffs and demolishing non-tariff barrier regimes. When it comes to the intra-regional share of total trade, SAARC and BIMSTEC languish behind groupings such as ASEAN, EU and MERCOSUR. The Sri Lankan leader also suggested that with India's leadership, a more integrated South Asian region would be better equipped to negotiate for better terms with RCEP so as not to be cut out of the "productivity network" in Asia, and envisioned an Economic Integration Road Map to speed up the process.

Given the current policy trajectory of the Modi government, it is unlikely that any of the suggestions will be welcomed. The government has made it clear that talks with Pakistan are strictly off the table, and that a SAARC summit, which has not been held since 2014, is unlikely to be convened anytime soon. Second, the government, which has taken a protectionist turn on multilateral trade pacts, is relying more on direct bilateral deals with countries rather than overarching ones that might expose Indian markets to flooding by Chinese goods. For any regional sub-grouping in South Asia to flourish, it is India that will have to make the most concessions given the vast trade deficits India's neighbours have at present, which it may not wish to do. However, the overall projection that India's global reach will be severely constrained unless it is integrated with its neighbours, and tensions with Pakistan are resolved, cannot be refuted. India needs to be more accommodative for the realisation of its ambitions.

Scripting an audacity of hope, the Sanders way

The rise of the Vermont Senator as a frontrunner has upended many myths, and opened up several possibilities



VIVEK CHIBBER

The emergence of Bernie Sanders as the frontrunner in the Democratic Party primaries has stunned the world. But it shouldn't have. The U.S. is merely joining in the wave of electoral insurrections that are upending the political order across the world. Underneath it are two fundamental drivers. First, the phenomenal growth in inequality, both of income and wealth. After a period of four decades, from the 1930s through the 1970s, in which the gap between the rich and poor actually narrowed, economic inequality today is back to the levels not seen for 100 years.

But it isn't just that the rich have got richer. It is also that the standard of working class living has actually declined in many ways. Wages have stagnated for 40 years, and to maintain their income, families have had to work longer and longer hours. As a result, health indicators among the poor have declined as overwork, exhaustion, and anxiety have become epidemic. Several recent studies report not only dramatic increases in psychological stress among Americans, but also that its main cause is job insecurity and overwork – economic factors. All this while the U.S. is the only industrial country without a national healthcare plan. Hence, the physical and psychological breakdown goes untreated – and we have the hitherto unimaginable fact that life expectancy among adult males has actually decreased in recent years, for the first time in over a century – and that too, among white males, the section of the population pilloried by the left as "privileged". In the richest country in the world, the lifespan of working-class men is now getting shorter.

This collapse in living standards has been overseen by both political parties in the U.S.'s two-party system. This is the second driver. The Democratic Party was once seen as the party of the working class. And while this description was always a bit of an exaggeration, the unions and advocacy groups representing working Americans did have some influence within it. Because of that, the Democratic Party was behind the two waves of expansion of the welfare state – first the New Deal under Franklin D. Roosevelt, and then Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society programmes in the late 1960s. But, by the 1980s, this connection was severed. Under Bill Clinton, the Democrats became Republican-lite – committed to the same neoliberal economic principles. As Gore Vidal brilliantly described it: "There is only one Party in the United States, the Property Party... and it has two right wings: Republican and Democrat."

Rebellion against the elites
What is unfolding now is something akin to a rebellion against this order, with Mr. Sanders at its helm. The Vermont Senator has never been a Democrat. He has always run as an Independent, eschewing any connection with either Party. But once he decided to run for President, he knew that it would be suicide to try it outside the Democratic Party. This was Ralph Nader's great error in 2000, because in a winner-takes-all system, small third-party campaigns are inevitably viewed as spoilers. They not only lose, but end up draining votes from their closest ideological competitor – in this case, it would be the Democrats. Mr. Nader lost, and then was vilified for supposedly draining votes away from Mr. Gore. So, Mr. Sanders registered in the Party and ran under its umbrella, first in 2016 and then again in this cycle.

But make no mistake, Mr. Sanders is also running against the Democratic Party. And the Party's leadership understands that, which is why it is trying its best to



defeat him. The last time anyone ran on a platform as progressive as Mr. Sanders's was in 1984, when Jesse Jackson took on the emerging right wing in the Party with his 'Rainbow Coalition'. Mr. Jackson's campaign was in many ways very similar to Mr. Sanders's. It proposed national healthcare, a raise in the minimum wage, extending the social safety net and also a shift in foreign policy. Nobody expected it to succeed, and yet he made a serious run for the Party nomination – so much so, that a panicked Party had to take desperate measures to prevent its success, including shutting down polling booths in many cities where Mr. Jackson was gaining momentum. But Mr. Sanders's campaign is more radical, if only because the forces it is taking on are so much more entrenched after 40 years of neoliberal turn. Mr. Jackson ran when unions and civic organisations still had some weight inside the Party, and he could garner some support from them. Mr. Sanders stands virtually alone, having only the forces he built up, or has helped build up since 2016, as his support base.

Mr. Sanders's success has upended several myths about the American electorate, which the two parties have used to justify their neoliberal policies. The first is that the reason America does not have a robust welfare state is that the public is uniquely suspicious of "big government". In other words, when politicians refuse to even consider social insurance policies, they are merely reflecting American values. But in fact, public opinion polls have shown for decades that, when the question is posed appropriately, Americans

have expressed the same desire for social insurance as publics everywhere else. It is not that they are suspicious of big government, but that they have given up hoping that the state will ever do anything for them. Mr. Sanders is the first political figure in almost two generations to break through the embargo, and it has caught fire.

The second myth is that the only way to win is by veering toward the 'centre', which makes a Sanders platform suicidal because centrist voters are hostile to the policies it espouses. This has been the most common justification for eschewing progressive policies for decades, and it is a variant of the first myth. Once again, politicians are supposedly just following what the public wants. But what is not mentioned is that only about half of the American electorate participates in presidential elections – and it is the wealthier half. Poorer voters have given up on the system precisely because the system is not only indifferent, but hostile to them. They choose not to vote. So the 'centre' of the voting population is much to the left of the part that typically votes. It is to this section, shunted aside and ignored, to which Mr. Sanders is making his appeals, and it is working.

Welfare of minorities

The final myth is that Mr. Sanders is proposing "white" policies that ignore issues of race and ethnicity. This is the most toxic of the shibboleths. It supposes that economic issues – of wages, healthcare, education, etc. – do not attract black and brown voters. And yet, Mr. Sanders has built up the biggest following of all the candidates among non-white voters. He is the most trusted and most loved by minorities of any politician in America. In Nevada, Mr. Sanders garnered a staggering 70% of the Latino vote and was a close second to Joe Biden among the Blacks. The reason is obvious – because minorities are the most economically desperate section of the American population. They are the natural constituency for a

campaign centering on economic justice.

Mr. Sanders is succeeding because he is attracting voters who are either ignored or actively discouraged from voting by his Party. And with every victory, his campaign is gaining exponentially in strength. After five decades of neglect and abuse, working-class Americans had given up on the system. Their cynicism and sense of hopelessness was not only accepted by the two Parties, but encouraged by them. Up to this past weekend, the message on the airwaves was, "he cannot win". The idea is for every household to feel that even if they feel attracted to his programme, they are alone in their sentiments – that that the mythical 'centre', will reject him.

But with every win, every success, the brute facts have become impossible to ignore. Iowa showed that he had a real base; New Hampshire confirmed that it was not a fluke; Nevada has shown that he is not only able to attract minority voters, but that he is by far the most popular candidate among them. Mr. Sanders got more votes in Nevada than the next three candidates combined. The Party is in full-blown panic and, over the next months, will do everything it can to stop him.

But its power is limited. The fact is that the American Parties have very little control over who can and cannot run on their tickets. Anyone is free to enter a primary, and if they can attract enough votes, it is very hard to stop them. And the Party leadership's helplessness is becoming palpable. The last weapon they had was their fear mongering, and now that too has become ineffective.

Mr. Sanders has tapped into a deep, simmering sentiment among the American people. It is far more dangerous than anger. It is *hope* – and it threatens to overturn the entire political establishment.

Vivek Chibber is a Professor of Sociology at New York University and editor of 'Catalyst' magazine

State lethargy amidst cough syrup poisoning

A national recall of Coldbest-PC, the medicine behind the death of 12 children in Jammu, is needed



DINESH THAKUR

A few days ago, we learnt that 12 children died in Udhampur district of Jammu due to poisoned cough syrup (Coldbest-PC). More are fighting for their life in a hospital. A team of doctors at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh, attributed the deaths to the presence of diethylene glycol in the syrup, thereby causing poisoning of the patients who consumed it.

Tracking the sold bottles
In 1998, 33 children died in two hospitals located in New Delhi due to similar poisoning. In all three cases, the manufacturer of the suspect cough syrup, due to negligence or human error, failed to detect and contain the level of diethylene glycol in the syrup, thereby causing poisoning of the patients who consumed it.

Tracking the sold bottles
There will be plenty of time later to ascertain the cause and prosecute the guilty but the immediate concern for doctors, pharmacists and the drug regulators should be to prevent any more deaths. The only way to do so is to account for each and every bottle of the poisoned syrup that has ever been sold in the Indian market and stop patients from consuming this drug any further. Any patient who has consumed even a spoon of the syrup should then immediately be referred to a hospital for treatment.

According to the information available on the website of the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA), in 1937, when the United States faced a similar situation with glycol poisoning, its entire field force of 239 inspectors and chemists were assigned to the task of tracking down every single



bottle of the drug. Even if a patient claimed to have thrown out the bottle, the investigators scoured the street until they found the discarded bottle. This effort was accompanied by a publicity blitz over radio and television.

We do not see such public health measures being undertaken here; authorities are simply not communicating the seriousness of the issue to the general public. At most, the authorities in Himachal Pradesh (H.P.), who are responsible for oversight of the manufacturer of this syrup, have made general statements that they have ordered the withdrawal of the drug from all the other States where it was marketed. However, there is no transparency in the recall process and information about recalls and batch numbers is not being communicated through

authoritative channels. There is no public announcement by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), which is responsible for overall regulation of the entire Indian market. The suspect product, although manufactured in H.P., has been sold across the country. The website of the DCGI, which is supposed to communicate drug alerts and product recalls, has no mention of Coldbest-PC as being dangerous as of this writing.

Need for a recall policy
One of the key reasons why the DCGI and state drug authorities have been so sloppy is because unlike other countries, India has not notified any binding guidelines or rules on recalling dangerous drugs from the market. The 59th report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health as well as the World Health Organization (in its national regulatory assessment) had warned the DCGI on the lack of a national recall framework in India. A set of recall guidelines was drafted in 2012 but never notified into law. In 2016, in a report submitted by me to the Ministry of Health suggesting measures to reform the drug regulatory framework, I had pointed out to the Ministry that a national drug recall framework was in urgent need. In

a pending case before the Delhi High Court, I have also sought for the notification of a national recall mechanism. The government is yet to file its response.

While a national recall of this adulterated medicine is the immediate need, the administration also needs to quickly identify which other pharmaceutical companies have received the spurious ingredient that was supplied to the manufacturer in H.P. from a trader in Chennai. It is very likely that the trader in question marketed the same ingredient to other pharmaceutical companies, who, like the manufacturer at the centre of the present scandal, may have failed to test it for its identity and purity. It is important for regulatory enforcement to raid and seize the records of the trader in Chennai and verify its sales. As of today, we have little to no information on whether any of this is happening. The lackadaisical response of drug regulators in India is not surprising. It is the result of a larger lethargy and arrogance that is emblematic of the babudom which is responsible for keeping us safe from unethical practices of pharmaceutical companies.

The writer is a public health activist and was the whistleblower in the Ranbaxy case

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Following 'raj dharma'
The Congress delegation's petition to the President seeking the sacking of Home Minister Amit Shah for his allegedly inept handling of the Delhi riots is a futile exercise ("Congress urges President to remove Amit Shah," Feb. 28). The virtual 'No. 2' in the Cabinet, Mr. Shah has already received a pat on the back from his party. The BJP, being a party with a difference, has never believed in taking any kind of action against any of its members, irrespective of their position, and this has been the trend ever since it came to power at the Centre in 2014. When acts

of commission indulged in by its motor-mouths hardly earns them even a mild rebuke, one can well imagine how acts of omission are likely to be dealt with. The President can hardly be expected to advise the government to follow *raj dharma* either, as the limitations of his office might come in the way of his proffering any kind of advice to the government, especially one that enjoys a brute majority. Every time the Opposition parties point a finger at the NDA government, holding it responsible for not reigning in the rioters, the standard response of the BJP is to remind the Congress of the

riots in 1984, unmindful of the fact that two wrongs can never make a right.

C.V. ARAVIND,
Bengaluru

Peaceful assertions
The women of Shaheen Bagh have not only thwarted insidious attempts to malign and rubbish their protests, but asserted their independence of thought and action by not yielding to the wishes of Maulvis and Imams to end their protest. If only the government gives them a firm commitment that the National Register of Citizens would not be implemented, they may be persuaded to give up their protests and

leave the issue of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act to be decided by the Supreme court. Whichever way the curtain finally comes down on the protests, they will for long be remembered as a renaissance movement of Muslim women who came out on the streets, showed physical endurance, grit and determination to stand up for their rights (Editorial page, "Hope, belief and the candles of Shaheen Bagh," Feb. 28).

R. RAVICHANDRAN,
Chennai

Humour in Parliament
Considering that parliamentary proceedings

these days are interspersed with disruptions and disturbances, it is heartening to read that 50 years ago, Rajya Sabha was witness to lighter and humorous moments, with members involving themselves in questions like, "which part of the life

is the most romantic?". It would be a good idea to send such reports to the present-day representatives for their benefit. (From the Archives, "Kissing tickles the elders too," Feb. 28)

S. ARJUN PRASANNA,
Bengaluru

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS: >> The last paragraph of a report, "High Court to hear plea for FIRs on April 13" (February 28, 2020) said: "On Wednesday, the Bench comprising Justice S. Muralidhar asked the police to take a 'conscious decision' on registering FIRs against the three BJP leaders". It was wrong. The High Court ruling did not limit the scope of its directions to only the four videos played in Court or to any particular alleged person. The web version of the report has been corrected.

>> In a report, "All-party MPs to meet Minister", (some editions, February 27, 2020) the name of the Civil Aviation Minister was wrongly mentioned as Mr. Suresh Prabhu instead of Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri.

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in



Yet another chance at post-war recovery

More than a decade after the civil war ended in Sri Lanka, the Tamil people in the Northern Province continue to emphasise the need for jobs, livelihoods, and a reliable market. The new government's promise of development, they say, must come with meaningful reconciliation. **Meera Srinivasan** reports

The cellophane wrap is yet to be peeled off. The brand-new shutters are rolled up in almost all the 20 stalls along the margins of the large hall, 10 on each side. "It is nearly done. After all that delay because of the rains, it is finally over," says the middle-aged man supervising the construction. He looks relieved.

The structure in Madduvil village in Jaffna district in Sri Lanka's Northern Province is an 'economic centre' initiated by the previous Maithripala Sirisena-Ranil Wickremesinghe government. Built at a cost of LKR 150 million (approximately ₹6 crore), the facility came as a response to northern farmers' frustration over being unable to sell their produce. They found the local market inadequate and fragile, and their links to the national market, from which they were cut off during the war, virtually non-existent.

The 'economic centre' was conceived as a central point where farmers could deposit their produce. From there, it could be transported to similar hubs, such as Dambulla in the Central Province, thereby linking the farmer to the island's major markets, and potentially more consumers.

An intense monsoon and many bureaucratic hurdles dragged the project over the last two years, and now, the change in government three months ago has cast doubts on its future. Officials in the Northern Province administration say they are awaiting directions from the new government.

A decade may have passed since the civil war, fought by the state armed forces and rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), ravaged Sri Lanka's Tamil-majority north and east. But the local economy is far from revived.

In 2018, the contribution of the Northern and Eastern Provinces to the national GDP was lowest in the country, at 4.1% and 5.6%, respectively. The Western Province, where the capital Colombo is located, contributed 38.5%, according to data published by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

The Tamil people, who passionately demand accountability and justice for alleged rights violations, and a political solution to the national question, have also been drawing attention constantly to the need for jobs, livelihoods, a reliable market and rural credit that isn't predatory. And they have been made a promise.

'Development, not devolution'

Following his big election win in November 2019, propelled mostly by the majority Sinhalese community, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's message to the Tamils was unambiguous: "It's going to be development, not devolution."

"For 70 odd years, successive leaders have promised one single thing: devolution, devolution, devolution. But ultimately nothing happened," he told *The Hindu* in an interview a fortnight after he assumed office, and asked people to judge him by his record on development after five years. His older brother and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa has also reiterated the message.

For people listening to the brothers' renewed thrust on development, the fate of projects initiated by the predecessor government is only one of the many questions that arise. The nature of development that the leaders might pursue is another key concern.

As the war ended in 2009, brutally claiming tens of thousands of civilian lives, then President Mahinda Rajapaksa undertook large-scale development – building roads, providing electricity and restoring railway networks – and never missed chance to flaunt them. The infrastructure was no doubt necessary to rebuild the area razed by incessant bombing, but it was not sufficient to win over the Tamil people residing there. The government's version of development did not speak to the everyday concerns of Tamils yearning for a decent living, and a life without fear amid curbs by a powerful and omnipresent military. The Tamils registered their protest at every opportunity – in the 2013 provincial election and the 2015 presidential poll when Mahinda Rajapaksa was unseated after a decade in power. Even in the November 2019 presidential election, they rejected the Rajapaksa brand, despite their many disappointments with the Sirisena-Wickremesinghe government.

Meanwhile, the post-war decade had left the Tamil community heavily in debt. Sporadic, piecemeal efforts from development organisations and NGOs proved futile and at times, compounded their misery. Struggling to keep their head above water – as living costs have spiralled and joblessness prevails – people wonder if the Rajapaksa's development vision might be any different this time.

Patchy resettlement

It is only in the last few years that B. Sekar started using multi-day boats for tuna fishing. It was a big jump from his smaller, fibre glass boat that couldn't go



The former government began reconstructing the damaged fisheries harbour to help revive livelihoods of the fisherfolk of Myliddy, located on the island's northern tip, in Jaffna peninsula. The Gurunagar fishing port in Jaffna, Sri Lanka. (Below): People of the Northern Province want development to be tied to their rural livelihoods. A fisherman in Myliddy in Jaffna peninsula. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ MEERA SRINIVASAN



much beyond the coastline. "The tuna is for exports, mainly. We don't eat it, our people can't afford it," he says, standing at a newly painted shelter facing the harbour.

The former government began reconstructing the damaged fisheries harbour to help revive livelihoods of the fisherfolk of Myliddy, located on the island's northern tip, in Jaffna peninsula. Its first phase, completed at LKR 150 million (about ₹6 crore), was inaugurated in August last year. This was significant because the harbour was retrieved from the military and finally available for people to access and use. After having been displaced to places far away – in some cases even to India – about 100 fisherfolk families are now resettling in their former lands around the harbour.

Data from the District Secretariat show that in Jaffna district alone, over 400 families continue to live in temporary camps for the internally displaced. They are yet to return to their original lands, some of which the army still holds.

Post-war resettlement has been at best patchy in the north and east, according to residents, for it's never about families simply "moving back". Resettlement entails finding housing (most houses were destroyed in war-time shelling), schooling for their children, and a steady income to rebuild lives. But for now, they at least get to go back to their land or sea, like in Myliddy.

"If this fisheries harbour is to really work for us, it has to be extended to accommodate more boats. Otherwise it will be a clamour for space all the time. If only they would take our views, we can explain exactly what is required here," Sekar says.

Barely a few feet away, other fishermen have lined their small boats that have no place in the big harbour. "They're developing this fisheries harbour, but you can see how they benefit only the large [multi-day] boats. Our catch has taken a big hit because the oil from the bigger boats coat and damage our nets, and we have no place to even mend them," says P. Rasakumar. His family has returned to the area after being displaced for 28 years.

The "fruit" of development, going by his account, is skewed in favour of the relatively more powerful, even within a vulnerable community. If a multi-day boat owner like Sekar says his views are yet to be factored in by policymakers, Rasakumar has little hope his might even be heard.

On the one hand, the locals can't let go of the development – however slow-paced, inadequate or lopsided it might be. On the other, the nascent development at their doorstep threatens to breed new conflicts – for instance, between the fishermen operating large boats and those owning small ones; or between the local Tamil fishermen of Myliddy and the Sinhalese fishermen from the southern parts of the island who park their large boats and land their catch here.

Resolving conflicts

Lebbai Rifas in neighbouring Mullaitivu district shares the concern. "Local contradictions constantly weigh us down," says the 42-year-old, who runs a bakery in Mulliyawalai town. He is referring to the difficulties faced by Tamil-speaking Muslims who were trying to resettle in their lands after living elsewhere since the 1990s when the LTTE evicted them overnight. Rifas was in class nine when his family was forced to leave their home. "Nearly 1,000 families have returned now and it's not just about their land. It's about having access to agriculture, fisheries. How can you plan for development without addressing the gaps in resettlement? A progressive vision to develop our district cannot emerge unless we resolve these local tensions," he says. "There cannot be development without reconciliation within."

If Rifas cannot envision development without reconciliation, farmer K. Sivalingam from Kokkilai town sees no point in development without power devolution. "It has been 10 years since the war ended and look at us! All we want is to be able to govern ourselves, manage our own affairs at the provincial level. They don't even want us to sing the national anthem in Tamil," he says, dejected.

Like him, many people in Jaffna and Mullaitivu repeatedly referred to the Rajapaksa government's decision to drop the Tamil anthem from the Independence Day celebrations on February 4. They see it not just as a denial of their basic right to express in their language, but also as a move foretelling more ex-

clusion in future. Some are cynical and others, hopeless.

The people of Mullaitivu, one of the poorest districts in the country, speak of their alienation from Colombo. But they also feel distant from Jaffna. "Whether it's provincial administration or policymaking, everything is so Jaffna-centric. They don't understand our specific needs," says M. Kuhanathan, a retired school principal from Vattappalai town.

The persisting disparity within the Province, between Jaffna peninsula and the Vanni (the mainland area including Mullaitivu, Vavuniya, Mannar and part of Kilinochchi district), is a familiar refrain here. "Even the war hit the Vanni a lot more, but we are still cut out," Kuhanathan says, seated in the airy veranda at his home, barely 15 km from Mullivaikkal, where the war witnessed its gory end. He urges authorities to move on proposed bridge connecting Mullaitivu with the Eastern Trincomalee district. "That will bring more people to our district. We cannot have investment without enabling infrastructure. And that infrastructure should benefit the people here," Kuhanathan notes.

"There are many local needs that both the Central government and our own provincial government [2013-2018] have ignored for long. Now the national leaders are using the trope of development only to access big international loans, nothing else," he adds.

Zooming into the rural

"We have natural resources, we just need to tap them thoughtfully," says Kuhanathan, echoing a sentiment often heard from people of the Northern Province, particularly the Vanni. Their developmental aspirations are closely tied to their reliance on the rural economy – agriculture and fisheries.

At the same time, officials who have worked in the Province for long emphasise the need for industries if the challenge of unemployment has to be addressed – more so in Jaffna, where agriculture is not as central to the economy as in the Vanni.

According to Sri Lanka's Labour Force Survey in 2018, the Northern and Eastern Provinces have among the highest unemployment rates in the country, 5.6% and 6% respectively, though the figure doesn't capture those precariously engaged in the informal sector, or others who have simply given up looking

for jobs.

"Most youth want government jobs, but that's not practically possible. There is a young labour force with few options. They are not inclined towards agriculture or fisheries even if their parents are in those sectors. We need industries to come up, so they can be absorbed," says a senior official, requesting not to be named.

A Central Bank-commissioned report in 2018 on an economic development framework for the north too recommends investing capital in existing and new small-scale industries to boost local productivity. It underscores the need for greater capital investment "to compensate for the tremendous destruction of capital assets and decades of crippled capital accumulation".

Elusive investment

Small industries are not alien to Jaffna. Records of the Department of Statistics show that in 1983, Jaffna district alone had 3,121 manufacturing units, where thousands were employed until the war began raging. Similarly, the industrial estate in Atchuveiy, Jaffna, was set up in 1971 and had over 30 factory units employing a few thousands. They were destroyed during the war. The estate was revived in 2014 with Indian assistance, but the half-a-dozen medium-scale industries functioning now have been able to employ barely 100 people.

Successive governments have spoken of reviving defunct old factories, including cement and tile across the Northern Province, that is home to about 10 lakh people, but are yet to show just how they would.

Further, the industries have to be re-oriented towards production for local consumption, not merely for exports, notes Ahilan Kadigamar, a political economist at the University of Jaffna. Post-war, the thrust has been either on large-scale development, including World Bank or Asian Development Bank-aided projects for millions of dollars, or export-oriented production that is yet to kick-off. "Neither addresses the very specific needs of the people of this Province. We need development that appreciates the strengths and challenges of our rural economy, we need jobs to generate incomes here, and a market locally and nationally to sell what is produced here," he says.

However, industries, small or big, cannot simply be resurrected in a war-battered economy unless there is a conducive environment. That is perhaps why many are pinning their hopes on the Palaly airport, redeveloped last year, and the Kankesanthurai harbour that the new government has promised to develop. At present, army-run hotels dot the coast here, with no other commercial activity in sight.

The Government of India is involved in both projects. It offered an LKR 300 million (about ₹12 crore) grant to upgrade airport facilities, and also approved a \$45.27 million Line of Credit to redevelop the harbour that could attract investment, in addition to improving logistics and connectivity.

Potential investors and officials in Jaffna say once operational, the harbour will ease import of raw materials. Locals

see the opening of the airport as crucial, especially after India's Alliance Air in October launched direct flights connecting Jaffna and Chennai thrice a week. However, high costs and a limited baggage allowance of 14 kg has set limits to business opportunities in the sector. The promise of this "regional airport" depends on the government further upgrading its facilities.

"That is our main focus – improving connectivity through the airport and the port," says P.S.M. Charles, Governor of the Northern Province, concurring with the popular demand. As a representative of the President at the provincial level, the Governor holds considerable administrative powers, particularly in overseeing Central government-backed projects. "We have ancient temples, beautiful beaches and places of historic significance in this Province. There's great potential for both industry and tourism. We welcome Indian pilgrims and tourists. We are also keen to have Indian investors," she told *The Hindu* at her bungalow.

The projects would need at least a few years to become fully operational, and much longer to help create the "hub". It's not just time, but also human resources that are crucial.

"So many of our people left the country during the war. Today, human resource is also a challenge. But we have to somehow overcome this. If Japan and Germany could re-emerge so strong after their wars, why aren't we able to," asks Kandasamy Suseendran, a retired banker from Jaffna.

Meanwhile, those facing the brunt of the post-war impact are desperate to move ahead. This is especially true of the generation that witnessed the war all through, and those who had nowhere else to go. "There isn't a job I haven't done to survive," says M. Arunthavamalar in Mullaitivu, who works in small farms.

"Everyone seems to want to promote individual entrepreneurship, like sewing or livestock farming, and not collective work. We are all left to our own devices and there's no way we can scale up our business. See the interior roads here, they're rickety and quite unmotorable. How do we reach the market?" asks the 57-year-old leader of a women's co-operative society.

As a single mother, Arunthavamalar has had to brave displacement to other districts for years and raise her daughter with her income. The end of the war brought little relief to her. "If I had this hand, I could do a lot more work," she says looking at her left arm. It is amputated till over her elbow, following a grievous injury in a bomb shelling in Mullivaikkal where scores of people moved in May 2009, after the army declared it a safe zone. That is also where tens of thousands of civilian deaths were reported.

For her, development is not insulated from the trauma of the war, or a decade's fatigue since. At some level, the challenging life she leads today is a stark reflection of the failed promise of post-war recovery. "A lot of time has gone by. From the outside it might seem somewhat normal now. But if you ask me if there is peace, I can't say yes."



FROM PAGE ONE

One killed in fresh attack; Delhi toll rises

Four other persons succumbed to injuries. "The total deaths in our hospital stands at 38 [of this, 28 were brought dead and 10 people died during treatment]. Patients have come in with burns, stab, blunt assault, and gun wounds. We have received 215 patients from February 24 onwards," an official at the GTB Hospital said.

Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal visited parts of the riot-hit areas, met residents

and assured them of assistance in "bringing back normalcy". In a tweet, he said: "Delhi Police to ensure continued domination of the area."

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, meanwhile, said the Delhi government had set up nine shelters for riot-affected people. He announced immediate assistance of ₹25,000 to those whose houses had been burnt completely.

(With PTI inputs)

NIA makes first arrest in Pulwama case

The NIA said, "Magrey revealed he had harboured Adil Ahmad Dar and Pakistani terrorist Mohammad Umar Farooq in his house from late 2018 till the attack in February 2019, and assisted them in the preparation of the improvised explosive device (IED)."

On February 14, 2019, Dar rammed a car into a CRPF bus on the Jammu-Srinagar Highway, near Pulwama. All 40 jawans in the bus were killed.

Magrey's shop is located near the Lethpora bridge, where the attack occurred, and as advised by Umar Farooq, he conducted reconnaissance of the movement of the CRPF convoy on Jammu-Srinagar Highway in January 2019. "Further, he was also involved in modifying the car and fitting the IED in it in early February," the NIA said.

"The explosives used in the attack were determined, through a forensic investiga-

tion, to be ammonium nitrate, nitro-glycerin and RDX," the NIA said.

An NIA official said DNA samples were extracted from the "meagre fragments of the car" and were matched with Dar's father to establish the suicide-bomber's identity.

The two main suspects – Mudasir Ahmed Khan and Sajjad Bhat, the owner of the car – were killed in an encounter with security forces on March 3 and June 16 last respectively. The third suspect, Kamran, an expert in assembling IEDs, and the fourth suspect, Pakistani terrorist Mohammad Umar Farooq, were killed on March 29 last. The fifth suspect, Qari Mufti Yasser, JeM's south Kashmir commander, was killed in an encounter on January 25 this year.

Magrey was produced before the NIA special court in Jammu and remanded in custody for 15 days.

Coronavirus infects global markets

The second wave of the coronavirus set off fears of a recession in the U.S. and the Euro zone. Ratings agency Moody's warned that the impact of disruptions in global supply chains, investment pullbacks by companies and slowing travel could trigger a global recession in the first half of 2020.

A statement by World Health Organisation Director-General Tedros Ghebreyesus that the virus had a "pandemic potential" added to the panic as spreading fear in the markets competed with the virus's

spread. About 60 new countries as far apart as Mexico, Belarus, the Netherlands and New Zealand reported new cases, with Nigeria, Africa's largest economy, reporting its first case.

The effect of the virus was such that Switzerland cancelled the Geneva Motor Show, one of the show-piece events of the automobile industry, that was due to open next week. Japan shut down Tokyo Disneyland and Universal Studios, and questions have risen over the Olympics that are set to begin in Tokyo in July.

AAP govt. gives nod to try Kanhaiya for sedition

While the official order in this regard was dated February 27, AAP spokesperson and Rajender Nagar MLA Raghav Chadha, in a statement, said the prosecution was sanctioned on February 20. Mr. Kumar, welcoming the decision, said in a tweet: "Thanks to the Delhi go-

vernment for giving permission in the sedition case. I request the Delhi Police and government lawyers to ensure that the case is taken more seriously, that there is a speedy trial in a fast-track court, and that justice is ensured in an actual court of law instead of one on TV..."

Numbering of houses begins in M.P.

STAFF REPORTER
BHOPAL

Census officials are numbering houses in Madhya Pradesh while preparing for house-listing, along which the update of the National Population Register (NPR) will be undertaken from May.

The State is yet to inform them of its resolve to disallow the update. "We are yet to receive an official communication from the State government..." said a census official.

After the January 3 order of the State census office to undertake the update and house-listing in 45 days in the first phase of Census 2021, district authorities have deployed officials to number houses and list them at the ward-level.

Leaders meet at Eastern Zonal Council meeting

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR/KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday urged Home Minister Amit Shah to maintain peace in the country in the wake of the violence in Delhi.

In her first face-to-face meeting with Mr. Shah following the clashes in the national capital, Ms. Banerjee brought up the issue of riots in the presence of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the 24th Eastern Zonal Council meeting.

"I am saddened by what has happened in New Delhi. It is necessary to bring back peace. Victims' families in-

69 killed in 79 days after Parliament nod for CAA

While the number of deaths mounts, the Home Ministry is yet to notify the rules that will make amendment operational

VIJAYA SINGH
NEW DELHI

As many as 69 people have been killed in various incidents in the 79 days since the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) was passed by the Parliament on December 11.

While the number of deaths mounts, and more than two months have elapsed since Parliament ratified the legislation, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is yet to notify the rules that will make the CAA operational.

The CAA allows citizenship on the basis of religion to undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

Senior MHA officials asserted that the rules were

still under construction. "The rules cannot be outside the purview of the Act, they will reflect the provisions of the Act but it will not be possible to give a deadline as to when it will be notified," said a senior MHA official, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

Another MHA official added that as and when the rules are finalised and published in the official gazette, it would be tabled in Parliament, within 15 days if it is in session or on the first day of the commencement of the next session.

According to the Manual on Parliamentary Work, "statutory rules, regulations and bye-laws will be framed within a period of six months



Searching for clues: Forensics experts examining areas affected by the violence in northeast Delhi on Friday. •PTI

from the date on which the relevant statute came into force."

The manual states that in case the Ministries/Departments are not able to frame

the rules within the prescribed period of six months, "they should seek extension of time from the Committee on Subordinate Legislation stating reasons

for such extension" which cannot be more than for a period of three months at a time. The request should be made after obtaining the approval of the Minister, according to the manual.

State-wide protests

After the CAA was enacted, six people were killed in Assam, 19 in Uttar Pradesh, two in Karnataka and 42 have been killed so far in the riots in Delhi.

Several areas in Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Telengana and Karnataka have witnessed protests against the CAA and its link with a proposed nationwide National

Oppn. seeks President's intervention

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Courts should follow their own rules to ensure that public interest litigation (PIL) do not become 'political interest litigation', the Congress said on Friday.

The party's assertion came soon after a Bench of the Delhi High Court issued a notice to the Centre and the Delhi government on a petition seeking FIRs against Congress chief Sonia Gandhi and party leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Vadra, former MP Tarique Anwar and Mahila Congress chief Sushmita Dev.

son, who is also a senior Advocate of the Supreme Court, said his party would question the maintainability of such a petition.

"When we move the High Court, we will ask the court how was a notice issued in the first place? These are all important questions. We will give a very comprehensive, strong and befitting reply but let me tell you that the whole world is receiving FIRs but the whole doesn't include the great Mr Kapil Mishra, the great and only Mr. Anurag Thakur, Mr. Parvesh Verma. Not even an FIR after months," Mr. Singhvi said.

The Congress spokesper-

Don't preach 'raj dharma' to govt.: BJP

Congress's own record is 'full of twists and turns', says Law Minister



Pushing back: Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad addressing a press conference in New Delhi on Friday. •PTI

tion of Register (NPR) was started by the Congress-led regime, he observed.

"If Congress does something, it is good. But if we do the same thing, they provoke people. What type of raj dharma is this?" he asked.

Referring to the Congress chief's remarks of "fight to finish" at a rally in Ramlila Maidan last year, Mr. Prasad asked whether such remarks did not constitute provocation. He alleged that the Congress could stoop to any level for "vote bank" politics. It should act responsibly for maintaining peace, he said.

Mr. Prasad accused the Congress of changing its stand on granting citizenship to persecuted minorities in the neighbouring countries.

Poet 'stunned' that his work had an impact on Roger Waters

Amir Aziz's poem was read out at a protest by the rock icon

NAMRATA JOSHI
MUMBAI

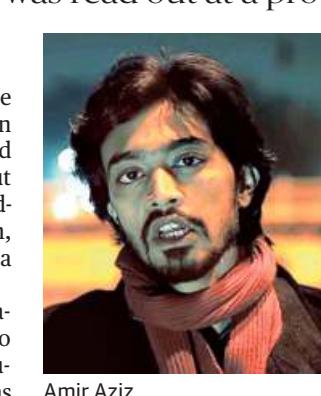
Poet Amir Aziz says that he would, perhaps, have been the last person in the world to have got to know about rock icon Roger Waters reading out lines from his poem, *Sab Yaad Rakha Jayega*, at a London protest.

The poet-lyricist-balladeer, who was in Patna to perform at Kanhaiya Kumar's rally on Thursday, was sent the video link late on Wednesday by a friend, but couldn't access it because of a bad Internet connection.

"I assumed it was one of those mashup videos in which my poem must have been superimposed on one of his [Waters'] performances," he told *The Hindu* on a

phone call from Delhi on Friday.

Mr. Aziz finally got to see the clip around 5 p.m. after the rally on Thursday, by which time it had gone viral and his phone was jammed with thousands of messages from friends and fans.



Mr. Aziz, who has written popular protest songs and poems of dissent such as *Achche Din Blues*, *The Ballad of Pehlu Khan*, *Jamia Ki Ladkiyaan* and *Main Inkaar Karta Hoon*, wrote this *nazm* "in the name of Kashmir, AMU, Jamia, UP, JNU, Delhi and all those places where atrocities are committed by cowards in the cover of darkness". He is an avid Pink Floyd fan.

Unable to process the praise – "This kid's got a future" – lavished on him by the "rock phenomenon", as he refers to Mr. Waters, Mr. Aziz said: "Mujhe pata nahi kya bolna chahiye (I have no idea what to say)... Just that my poetry, my words have reached out to him."

Mamata urges Shah to ensure peace



Looking east: Mamata Banerjee, Naveen Patnaik and Amit Shah in Bhubaneswar on Friday.

including that of police constable and IB officer should be assisted," Ms. Banerjee said.

"If a problem takes place in any part of country, it spreads to other parts too. This should not happen. Please see to it that peace is maintained in the country," she said at the beginning of her address.

Ms. Banerjee asserted that she would take up the issue of Delhi violence politically after normalcy was

restored. The Council did not discuss the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

NRC not discussed'
"They did not raise the issue and we also did not. The issues of NRC, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the National Population Register were not on the agenda. So no discussion was held," Ms. Banerjee said.

Later in the afternoon, Mr. Shah addressed a public

meeting here and defended the enactment of the CAA and the withdrawal of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.

He reiterated that Opposition parties were spreading lies and instigating people to carry out riots.

The Left parties and the Congress criticised the visit of Ms. Banerjee to Bhubaneswar.

Leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha and MP from Bengal Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury alleged a "tacit understanding" between the BJP and Trinamool Congress.

Later in the day West Bengal Congress president Somendranath Mitra, who held a rally in Kolkata against the violence in Delhi along with Mr. Chowdhury, said Ms. Banerjee's meeting with Mr. Shah indicated a "political understanding".

The Hindu on a

Numbering of houses begins in M.P.

STAFF REPORTER
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Leaders meet at Eastern Zonal Council meeting

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The Hindu on a

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INTERVIEW | WINSTON PETERS

'Raised CAA, Delhi violence because our population back home will ask'

We were interested to know about the legislation, says New Zealand Deputy PM

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

India and New Zealand have committed to working closer on their Indo-Pacific strategies and bilateral trade issues this week, but India's admission to the Nuclear Suppliers Group remains an unresolved issue. New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters said he had also raised questions over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act during his discussions with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

New Zealand has brought out its vision for India-New Zealand bilateral ties-2025. What are your priority areas, and what do you hope will be India's?

■ The plan is to bring better cooperation between our two countries, not just on domestic and bilateral issues like trade, but on the big picture – the Indo-Pacific commitment – and to give it shape and form on the basis of fundamental principles of the rule of law, belief in democracy, multilateralism and the aspirations of the Indian government to be more involved in the Pacific region.

You are in Delhi at a time there has been violence over the Citizenship Amendment Act... Did that come up in your talks?

■ We asked for better information, and what were the surrounding circumstances around this event [violence], yes, we did. We are not a country that interferes in the local politics of another country. We might have a view, but we respect the right of democracies to make specific decisions.

What we were interested in finding out was all the aspects surrounding the legislation and where it would all lead to. The last part of the question is unknown. But we are interested to know, because our population back home will ask the question, did you raise it? The answer is yes, and we wanted to know what the political view

about the legislation is and we go away better informed about what the system thinks, and what the opposition thinks.

What is your response to India's decision to walk out of the RCEP, which New Zealand is a part of and do you think the government will rethink?

■ We have looked at some of the reasons for India's decision, including their concerns on dairy imports, and our considered view is that New Zealand's dairy industry represents no threat to the Indian economy or the farming community. We didn't ask for the government to rethink [its RCEP position], but we do think it is necessary to avoid knee jerk reactions to the open market. This is not meant as a criticism, as politicians we understand how democracies work.

One of the thorns in the India-New Zealand relationship is your refusal to make an exception for India's membership at the Nuclear Suppliers Group. Was this discussed and is New Zealand likely to change its stand?

■ Not at the moment. We have come here to reiterate why we have made the statement in the first place that New Zealand would like to fix norms and criterion for all non-NPT states to be admitted into the NSG. We had a very valuable discussion with the External Affairs Mi-



■ New Zealand would like to fix norms for all non-NPT states to be admitted into the NSG

nister [S. Jaishankar] on our position. Remember, we have planes in the air surveilling North Korean movement and the nuclear threat, which we need to deter and we need to play this role.

On the Indo-Pacific strategy for the region, New Zealand is not part of the Quad (Australia-India-Japan-US). Would it like to be?

■ We don't have ideas above our station, and we haven't been invited [to join the Quad]. We are a serious international player, and we are proud of that. When there is a crisis in the region, our military, airforce and navy are there.

It is also our job to ensure that in the Pacific Islands neighbourhood we live in, there are no vacuums and our neighbours' national interest is supreme. So we provide aid, do development cooperation with them. We may not give them big loans at low interest rates at levels of debt against the GDP that

they can't pay back.

India has shown an interest in the region, and what we have offered is our understanding and our expertise of the Pacific Island region to work on projects together. If 4-5 partners work together, our money will go a whole lot farther and per project, a whole lot cheaper, as long as we agree that the object is to benefit the people.

Did you also discuss how to tackle the 5G challenge, and whether Chinese company Huawei should be allowed to participate in the networks, given the security concerns?

■ It came up. We were at pains to point out that the international narrative that we have banned Huawei, as a government, is entirely wrong. The legislation on this passed by a former government, required that government communications and the security bureau to analyse whether the security conditions were adequately met. So it is not a political decision, it is a technical process for 5G. The security and safety of our citizens remains our number one priority.

India to attend U.S.-Taliban peace deal ceremony

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India has accepted an invitation to witness the signing of the U.S.-Taliban peace deal in Doha, official sources confirmed. India's Ambassador to Qatar P. Kumaran will represent the country at Saturday's event, which will be hosted by the Government of Qatar.

The decision to send Mr. Kumaran to the ceremony came even as Kabul hosted Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla who met the Acting Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Haroon

Chakhsuri in the Afghan capital. "Foreign Secretary conveyed India's support for the people of Afghanistan in their pursuit for sustainable peace, security and development," Ministry of External Affairs Official Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said after the meeting.

"They reviewed and positively assessed developments in bilateral strategic partnership," Mr. Kumar observed, adding that Mr. Shringla reiterated India's commitment to Afghanistan's pursuit of "sustainable peace and reconciliation".

Disabled to get assistive devices

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Over 56,000 assistive aids and devices would be distributed among differently-abled beneficiaries and senior citizens at a distribution camp organised by the Union Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry in Prayagraj on Saturday.

DIRECTORATE OF BASIC EDUCATION U.P.
Vidhya Bhawan, Nishatganj, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh-226007
Tel : +91 - 522 2780384, Email: tprocurementcell@gmail.com
Website: www.premupa.in, www.basiceducationup.com, www.etender.up.nic.in

Corrigendum for Tender number 2020_UPBED_432559_1
PRERNA DIGITAL SYSTEM Project for Elementary Schools of Uttar Pradesh

This is for information of all the bidders that following amendments/ Prebid Response/Corrigendum are being made in tender documents (Ref. Tender Notice No. 2020_UPBED_432559_1) bidding for supply, commissioning of Biometric Tablets and related services, as per the Technical specification given in this Tender document. (Annexure 1).

The bidders are advised to take into account the following amendments/ Prebid Response/ Corrigendum before submission of their bids against this tender. If any bidder has already submitted his/her bid, then he/she should resubmit his/her bid taking into account following amendments/Prebid Response/ Corrigendum. For convenience and clarity, the revised Tender documents including the formats are being uploaded on the below websites.

www.etender.up.nic.in, www.basiceducationup.com, www.premupa.in

Canara Bank
F & B Section, GA Wing, 3rd Floor, Dwarakanath Bhawan,
K R Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru - 560004
Tel: 080-26234495, Email: holt@canarabank.com

Notice Inviting Quotes from Approved Insurance Cos.

CANARA BANK intends to avail the Insurance cover for one year period from 01.04.2020 on Banker's Indemnity & Master Assets Policies under traditional cover and in this regard can quotes for IRDAI approved General Insurance Companies, as per the RFP documents hosted in the Bank's website.

For details, visit Bank's website <http://www.canarabank.com> and also NIC e-publish site [https://eprocure.gov.in](http://eprocure.gov.in).

Last date for submission of completed RFP is upto 23.03.2020.

Further communication, corrigendum, and amendments if any, will be hosted in Bank's website only.

Sd/-
Date: 28/02/2020 DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM (WORKS BRANCH)
E-Tender Notice No.V/W/TVC/3/2020 Dated: 25-02-2020

Divisional Railway Manager / Works Branch / Thiruvananthapuram Division, Thiruvananthapuram - 14 for and on behalf of the President of India invites ONLINE Tenders for the following works as per Tender Notice given in our e-Tender Portal www.reps.gov.in. The Tenderer (s) / Contractor(s) to apply for E-Tender for WORKS in Thiruvananthapuram Division, need to get enrolled in the e-Tender Portal www.reps.gov.in and only Online Tenders will be accepted.

Description: SRR - ERS Section: Br.No.132 at Km.64/375 - Repairs to Bridge abutments damaged in Flood 2019.

Approximate Value ₹ 99.07 Lakh
Earnest Money Deposit ₹ 1,98,100/-
Cost of Tender Form ₹ 5,600/-
Period of Completion in Months Three
Date of Opening 19-03-2020 at 11.00 Hrs.

Details of approximate value of Tender, Tender Form Cost, EMD & Location are given on the e-Portal, www.reps.gov.in. For Details of Bid Submission, please refer Website Portal www.reps.gov.in.

SENIOR DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/Co-ordination, Thiruvananthapuram - 14.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.TVC-SNT-SIG-2019-20-47 Dated: 21-02-2020

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Southern Railway, Thiruvananthapuram Division, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 014 for and on behalf of The President of India invites ONLINE Open Tenders for the following works as per Tender Notice given in our e-Tender Portal www.reps.gov.in.

The Tenderer (s) / Contractor(s) intending to apply for E-Tender for WORKS in Thiruvananthapuram Division, need to get enrolled in the e-Tender Portal www.reps.gov.in and only Online Tenders will be accepted. The Bidders will have to make payment towards Tender Document Cost and Earnest Money against such Tenders through online payment modes like Net Banking, Debit/ Credit Cards etc., available on the Website.

Tender No. & Name of Work: TVC-SNT-SIG-2019-20-47: Provision of S&T Arrangements in connection with replacement of existing Steel Girder with PSC Slabs / RCC Slabs for Bridges, Re-Girdering of Bridges over Thiruvananthapuram Division.

Cash Value (Approx.) ₹ 62,29,022.04 Ps.
Earnest Money Deposit ₹ 1,24,600/-
Cost of Tender Documents ₹ 5,600/-
Last Date for Receipt of Tender 16-03-2020, 14.00 Hrs.

Completion Period 180 Days

DIVISIONAL RAILWAY MANAGER/S&T/ Thiruvananthapuram Division, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 014.

SC to hear Sabarimala case before contempt pleas on police reforms

Top court spells out its priorities after advocate sought an urgent hearing

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI



A nine-judge Constitution Bench will decide the extent of religious freedom under Article 25.

shown by the Delhi police in not stopping people from making hate speeches, which caused the riots. "If you had not allowed people to get away after inflammatory remarks, all this would not have happened," he said.

Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, who was the lead judge on the Shaheen Bagh Bench, had also described the instances of communal violence in Delhi as "deeply unfortunate".

Rise in sedition cases
Supreme Court Judge Justice Deepak Gupta, at a public forum, red-flagged the hike in sedition cases against activists, lawyers and students and branding voices of dissent as "anti-nationals". Expressing dissent to government's policies did not amount to acting against the nation, he had said.

The Prakash Singh judgment had held that "commitment, devotion and accountability of the police has to be only to the rule of law". In 2006, the top court

held, "The supervision and control has to be such that it ensures that the police serves the people without any regard, whatsoever, to the status and position of any person while investigating a crime or taking preventive measures".

The court had underlined that the approach of the police should be service-oriented. The police should not act in a such a way that rule of law became a casualty. If the police crossed the limits of law, the guilty among them should be brought to book.

The judgment had referred to 'Political and Administrative Manipulation of the Police' published in 1979 by the Bureau of Police Research and Development, warning that excessive control of the political executive and its principal advisers over the police had the inherent danger of making the police a tool to subvert the process of law, promoting the growth of authoritarianism and shaking the very foundations of democracy.

Shah, NIA chief should go, demands Cong.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Home Minister Amit Shah and National Investigation Agency (NIA) chief A.K. Modi have no right to remain in their posts after a court granted bail to Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terror conspirator Yusuf Chopan due to "inadequate evidence", the Congress said on Friday.

In the statement, the NIA had said the bail was granted to Chopan in a terror conspiracy case and not the February 2019 attack case. However,

this press statement has not been uploaded on its website.

"We demand the resignation of the Home Minister and the NIA chief," he said as he posed a list of questions to the government. "Is a person named Yusuf Chopan a terrorist of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM)? Well, the answer is 'yes'. Is JeM not responsible for the Parliament

attack, Pulwama and many similar terrorist attacks?" Mr. Singhvi asked.

The Congress also questioned the NIA's assertion that a chargesheet couldn't be filed because of lack of sufficient evidence. "Isn't this the worst example of treason?" he further asked and added, "either the government is incompetent or it is guilty of lying".

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer(Design),
9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.
IFT No. BWSSB/CE(D)/ACE(QA)/TAQA/319/2019-20 Date: 27.02.2020

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only through e-procurement portal)

BWSSB invites tenders in Two cover system from Eligible tenderers for the work of Construction 12Nos. of Quarters Block-I, Stilt+Ground+2floors at Banashankari premises, Bangalore.

Amount put to tender: Rs. 296.55 Lakhs. EMD: Rs. 4.45Lakhs.

The last date & time for receipt of tenders: 20.03.2020 upto 16:00 Hrs. The Technical bids will be opened on: 23.03.2020 at 12:00 Noon. The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement can be obtained by logging on to [https://ePROC.karnataka.gov.in](http://ePROC.karnataka.gov.in).

Sd/-
Chief Engineer(Design).

NLC India Limited
'NLC INDIA' - Government of India Enterprise
Regd. Office : First Floor, No.8, Mayer Sathyamurthy Road, F.E.D., Egmore Complex of Food Corporation of India, Chetpet, Chennai - 600 031. Corp. Office : Block-1, Neyveli-201, Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu. Corp. Lm.: L9090711956G0003507, Website: www.nlcindia.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR SUPPLIES (e-Tender Sl.No. 1 to 7)

Sl.No. Tender Ref./Scope of supplies & Qty. Req'd.

1. UNIT:M.C.COMPLEX:ENQ/19-20/003342/MM01(06) dt:22-02-2020: Due date of opening: 24-03-2020

31 Items of SME Spares. Due date of opening: 24-03-2020

2.PTE.No. ENQ/19-20/003353/MM01(03) dt:22-02-2020: Procurement of Track Link Pin. Due date of opening: 24-03-2020

3.PTE No. ENQ/19-20/003437/MM01(01) dt:22-02-2020: Set of gear wheel 106 teeth and Pinion 17 teeth. Due date of opening: 20-03-2020

4. PTE No.ENQ/19-20/003441/MM01(03) dt:22-02-2020: Procurement of Worm and Worm Wheel gear for track and slew gear boxes. Due date of opening: 25-03-2020

5.PTE No.ENQ/19-20/003496/MM17(01) dt:25-02-2020: Procurement of Tyres (3 Items). Due date of opening: 23-03-2020

6. ENQ/20-20/003451/MM25(01) dt : 25-02-2020: Handheld Vibration Analyser : 1 No. Due date of opening: 23-03-2020

7. GTE ENQ/19-20/003539/MM25(01) dt:26-02-2020: Planetary battery banks under buy back - 14 Items Due date of opening: 02-04-2020

FOR e-TENDER DOCUMENTS/DETAILS/CORRIGENDUM VISIT: <a href="http://www.n

33 Turkish soldiers killed in Syria strikes

Ankara threatens to send refugees to Europe as crisis in Idlib worsens; Erdogan asks Syria to pull back

REUTERS

OUTSIDE SARAQE/ISTANBUL
Refugees in Turkey headed towards European frontiers on Friday after an official declared that borders had been thrown open, a response to the escalating war in Syria where 33 Turkish soldiers were killed by Russian-backed Syrian government troops.

Moscow and Ankara traded blame over the strike in northwest Syria, the deadliest attack suffered by Turkey's army in nearly 30 years.

The UN Security Council called an emergency meeting to avert open conflict between Russia and NATO member Turkey.

U.S. President Donald Trump, in a telephone conversation with Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan, condemned Thursday's attack on Turkish troops and reaffirmed U.S. support for Ankara's efforts to avert a humanitarian disaster in Syria, a White House spokesman said. The two leaders also said Syria and Russia must halt their offences in north-



In search of safety: A group of migrants waiting on no-man's land at Turkey's Pazarkule border crossing with Greece's Kastanies on Friday. ■ REUTERS

west Syria, spokesman Judd Deere said. Turkey's neighbours Greece and Bulgaria reinforced their borders in response to Ankara's threat to reopen the frontier, shut under an accord that halted the 2015-16 migration crisis when more than a million people crossed into Europe by foot.

"We have decided, effective immediately, not to stop Syrian refugees from reaching Europe by land or sea," a senior Turkish official said on condition of anonymity. The EU noted that Ankara had made no formal announce-

cement of any change in policy at the border.

Direct confrontation

Inside Syria there was ample evidence of the renewed fighting that has caused perhaps the worst humanitarian crisis of the nine-year-old war. A million civilians have been displaced since December inside Syria near the Turkish border in desperate winter conditions. Turkey, already home to 3.7 million Syrian refugees, says it cannot take more.

Syria's civil war has worsened dramatically in recent months despite largely vanishing from Western countries' agendas. Government forces, backed by Russian air power, have launched an assault to capture the northwest, the last remaining territory held by rebels backed by Turkey. With diplomacy sponsored by Ankara and Moscow in tatters, Turkey has come closer than ever to direct confrontation with Russia on the battlefield.

Turkey's Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke by telephone on Friday. The Kremlin said they agreed on the need for a new arrangement to avert clashes. Turkey said the leaders agreed to meet as soon as possible.

Thursday's air strike was the worst on Turkey's military since a 1993 attack by Kurdish separatists.

Turkey's Defence Minister said it occurred despite coordination with Russia. Moscow said the Turkish troops should not have been in the area, and Ankara had failed to say where they were.

WHO raises global risk of virus to 'very high'

New COVID-19 cases fall in China but rise elsewhere

REUTERS

GENEVA/BEIJING

The rapid spread of the COVID-19 outbreak increased fears of a pandemic on Friday, with six countries reporting their first cases and the World Health Organization (WHO) raising its global spread and impact risk alert to "very high".

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said his organisation was not underestimating the risk. "That is why we said today the global risk is very high," he told reporters in Geneva.

WHO spokesman Christian Lindmeier said the scenario of the new strain of coronavirus reaching multiple or all countries "is something we have been looking at and warning against since quite a while".

The virus has now infected 83,000 globally, with cases being confirmed in around 50 countries. More than 2,800 deaths have been reported – the majority in China.



A cleaner sanitising a train wagon in Milan, Italy. ■ AP

Mainland China reported 329 new cases in the past 24 hours, the lowest there in more than a month, taking its tally to 78,826. The death toll reached 2,788 as of the end of Thursday, up by 44 from the previous day. But as the outbreak eases in China, it is surging elsewhere.

Mexico, Nigeria, Estonia, Denmark, the Netherlands and Lithuania reported their first cases, all with travel history connected to Italy, the worst-affected European country. Mexico is the se-

cond Latin American country to register the virus, after Brazil.

Mr. Lindmeier said the WHO was looking very carefully into reports of some people getting re-infected.

In Europe, Germany warned of an impending epidemic and Greece, a gateway for refugees from West Asia, announced tighter border controls. The death toll in Italy rose to 17 and those testing positive rose to 655. Germany has nearly 60 cases, France about 38 and Spain 23.

South Korea has the most cases outside China. It reported 571 new infections on Friday, bringing the total to 2,337, with 13 people killed.

U.S. intelligence agencies are monitoring the spread of the virus in Iran and India, where only a handful of cases have been reported, sources said.

Confirmed cases in Japan have risen above 200, with four deaths, excluding the more than 700 cases on a quarantined cruise liner, *Diamond Princess*.

Pro-democracy media tycoon arrested

Jimmy Lai accused of taking part in Hong Kong rallies



Jimmy Lai

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG
Hong Kong media tycoon Jimmy Lai, a high profile critic of Beijing, was arrested on Friday for taking part in last year's pro-democracy protests that rocked the city for seven months.

The 72-year-old owner of the *Apple Daily* newspaper is accused of joining a rally on August 31 that had been banned by the police for security reasons.

Mr. Lai was arrested and charged along with veteran pro-democracy activists Lee Cheuk Yan and Yeung Sum,

the police said. The trio could be jailed for up to five years if convicted of taking part in an "unauthorised assembly". They are due to appear in court on May 5.

Tens of thousands of protesters defied the police ban on the demonstration marking the anniversary of Beijing's rejection of a call for universal suffrage for Hong Kong that sparked the 2014 "Umbrella Movement".

Some gathered in the name of a religious procession – which does not require police approval –

while others claimed they were shopping.

In a separate charge, Mr. Lai was accused of intimidating a reporter in 2018 during a vigil for the victims of China's bloody Tiananmen crackdown on June 4, 1989.

Amnesty International said the legal action against the trio was politically motivated. "These unjustifiable arrests are a shameless attempt to harass and silence those in Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement," said the rights group's Man-kei Tam.

Virus reaches sub-Saharan Africa

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LAGOS

Nigeria on Friday announced the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in sub-Saharan Africa.

The case is an Italian citizen who works in Nigeria and returned from Milan earlier this week, Health Minister Osagie Ehanire said in a statement on Twitter. "The patient is clinically stable, with no serious symptoms," he said.

Official denies report of 210 deaths in Iran

REUTERS
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DUBAI/TEHRAN

At least 210 people have died due to COVID-19 in Iran as of Thursday night, BBC Persian reported on Friday, citing hospital sources.

However, Iran's Health Ministry spokesman, in a tweet, rejected the report.

The spokesman, Kianoush Jahanpour, announced earlier in the day that eight people had died from the virus, taking the

overall toll to 34. An additional 143 cases have been detected over the past 24 hours, raising the total number of infections to 388, he said. It is the highest number of new cases for a single day since Iran announced its first confirmed infections on February 19.

Iran has the highest death toll from the virus outside China, where COVID-19 first emerged. One of Iran's seven Vice-Presidents is among the infected.

Malaysian king strikes down Mahathir's plan amid crisis



Mahathir Mohamad

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KUALA LUMPUR
Malaysia's king struck down on Friday a power play by 94-year-old Mahathir Mohammad aimed at seizing momentum in a political crisis, capping a week of turmoil that has left the country effectively leaderless.

He rejected Mr. Mahathir's plan to convene Parliament to vote on the country's next Prime Minister, after it was widely criticised as against the Constitution.

Old foes Mr. Mahathir and Anwar Ibrahim are locked in a power struggle sparked by the elderly leader's resignation and their ruling coalition's collapse, following a failed bid to push out leader-in-waiting Mr. Anwar.

according to a palace statement. The monarch has met all MPs this week to work out who they back for premier, but no candidate has emerged with enough support. A candidate must have support of at least 112 MPs.

Palace officials will now hold talks with the leaders of different parties and ask them to put forward candidates, extending the turmoil and heightening the chances of a snap poll.

The party of Mr. Mahathir said it was nominating Muhyiddin Yassin. It signalled that Mr. Mahathir was giving up on returning as premier himself but wanted an ally in the role. The former ruling coalition meanwhile said it was nominating Mr. Anwar, 72.

Sanders and Bloomberg vie to bust barrier

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

White House hopefuls Bernie Sanders and Michael Bloomberg could hardly be more different in their politics, but in one striking way they share a similarity marking a milestone in U.S. presidential campaigning: both men are Jewish.

Should Senator Sanders, the progressive torchbearer and current Democratic frontrunner, or centrist billionaire Bloomberg, who is polling in third, win the nomination and then the election against incumbent Donald Trump, America would have the first Jewish President in its history.



Face to face: Mike Bloomberg and Bernie Sanders. ■ AFP

And yet the fact that two Jews are in prominent positions in the 2020 race – 16 months after a white nationalist murdered 11 worshippers at a Pittsburgh synagogue – has been met with muted celebration within the Jewish community, and a sense of detachment among the broader public, observed Rabbi Adam Kligfeld. "It's amazing, stunning, surprising and odd how little is being made of that data point."

The two are also drawing concerns. Mr. Sanders is a self-described democratic socialist, while Mr. Bloomberg is a multi-billionaire accused of buying his way into the presidential race.

There is little love lost between them, as evidenced in January when Mr. Bloomberg sandbagged Mr. Sanders during an address at a Miami synagogue.

"I know I'm not the only Jewish candidate running for

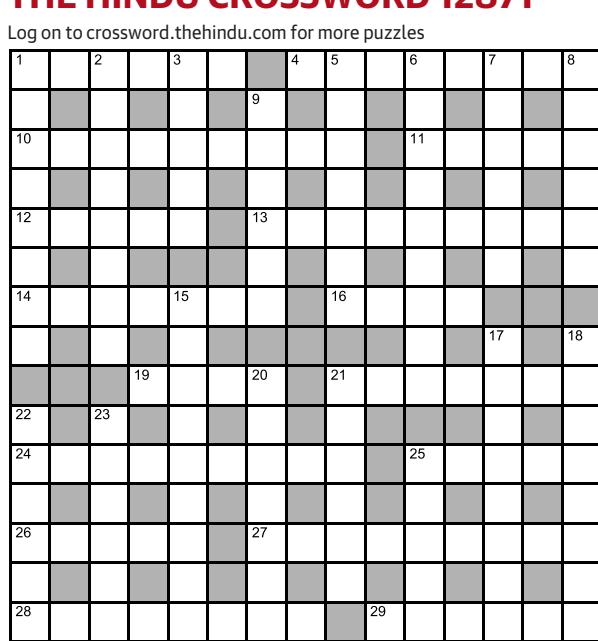
President," he said. "But I am the only one who doesn't want to turn America into a kibbutz."

The rise of Mr. Sanders has sparked a debate about whether values embraced by Jews, like social justice, are best achieved through policies, including universal health care, or by unwavering defense of Israel. He has repeatedly insisted he supports Israel but opposes policies that he says hurt Palestinians. In Tuesday's debate he branded Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a "reactionary racist".

For decades Jews have voted overwhelmingly Democratic. But only 11% of Jewish voters support Mr. Sanders, while 8% back Mr. Bloomberg, Pew Research Center polling from January shows.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12871

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



ACROSS

- 1 India supports unlimited consumption (6)
- 4 Shocked papal assembly was in the forefront (8)
- 10 Bond with beryllium implanted in false tooth (9)
- 11 Rub a seer wrongly (5)
- 12 Perhaps 3 comb-like devices (5)

DOWN

- 1 Show in order to get rid of the central character (8)
- 2 Plant's channel went upwards (8)
- 3 Relative goes with empty stomach to Lords (5)
- 5 Right publicity to cut across is missing (7)
- 6 A jittery emir jails natives (9)
- 7 Union measure (6)
- 8 Fears some dark studies (6)
- 9 Half a month is taken to freeze some semi-solid extracts (6)
- 13 Excellent meal with some primal cut (5)
- 14 Set rusk baked in ivory holders (7)
- 15 Mostly wide open mixer (9)
- 16 Dash of caramel anglaise (4)
- 17 Missile's failure to burn initially (5,4)
- 18 Play, novel and movie (3,5)
- 19 Field is without children now (6)
- 20 Bigger food retailer for the auditor (7)
- 21 One of us is an independent Scotsman (6)
- 22 Caught dark warrior (6)
- 23 Sticky rotten waste yard (6)
- 24 Fabulous offer on lamps (3,3,3)
- 25 Clever girl inside is charming (8)
- 26 A little goat to destroy a pasture (5)
- 27 Missile's failure to burn initially (5,4)
- 28 Play, novel and movie (3,5)
- 29 Field is without children now (6)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 12870

D	A	M	G	E	A	D	A	P	T	S
E	O	O	M	R	O	A				
E	C	H	O	D	R	A	W	B	L	A
I	S	U	G	I	D					
A	B	S	T	I	R	O	N	C	L	A
B	L	A	S	P	H	E	M	E	N	L

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	3	2	6	1	9	4	5	7
5	6	4	8	3	7	2	1	9
7	1	9	4	5	2	3	8	6
9	5	3	1	7	4	8	6	2
2</								

MARKET WATCH

	28-02-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	38,297	-3.64
US Dollar	72.21	-0.87
Gold	43,358	-0.36
Brent oil	50.49	-1.21

NIFTY 50

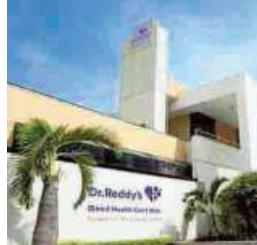
	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	342.20	-11.50
Asian Paints	1797.95	-45.85
Axia Bank	697.30	-38.55
Bajaj Auto.	2890.00	-46.60
Bajaj Finance	9050.75	-37.25
Bharti Airtel	523.50	-8.15
BPCL	426.35	-17.70
Britannia Ind	2970.20	-55.85
Cipla	402.10	-19.10
Coal India	168.40	-5.70
Dr Reddy's Lab	2927.10	-139.95
Eicher Motors	16602.35	-451.05
GAIL (India)	104.40	-2.95
Grafix Ind	687.20	-25.65
HCL Tech	534.35	-38.70
HDFC	2175.75	-96.45
HDFC Bank	1177.65	-21.80
Hero MotoCorp	2051.75	-58.50
Hindalco	155.90	-12.45
Hind Unilever	2174.75	-80.20
ICICI Bank	497.25	-18.10
IndusInd Bank	1104.05	-11.50
Bharti Infralet	214.45	-8.65
Infosys	731.70	-46.15
Indian Oil Corp	105.75	0.10
ITC	197.55	0.00
JSW Steel	235.70	-16.40
Kotak Bank	1620.35	-62.40
L&T	1187.55	-22.80
M&M	457.05	-36.45
Maruti Suzuki	6283.10	-6.70
Nestle India Ltd.	15778.85	-484.90
NTPC	106.55	-2.50
ONGC	91.95	-1.40
PowerGrid Corp	181.50	-4.95
Reliance Ind	1328.65	-57.60
State Bank	303.00	-18.95
Sun Pharma	372.90	-15.60
Tata Motors	128.95	-16.30
Tata Steel	381.75	-31.05
TCS	2000.15	-105.35
Tech Mahindra	744.40	-64.75
Titan	1254.50	-23.40
UltraTech Cement	4219.60	-102.05
UPL	519.70	-31.15
Vedanta	114.00	-16.55
Wipro	221.45	-10.15
YES Bank	34.60	-2.20
Zee Entertainment	239.30	-5.05

EXCHANGE RATES	
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 28	
CURRENCY	TT BUY TT SELL
US Dollar	71.98 72.30
Euro	79.00 79.35
British Pound	92.61 93.06
Japanese Yen (100)	66.26 66.55
Chinese Yuan	10.30 10.35
Swiss Franc	74.49 74.82
Singapore Dollar	51.60 51.83
Canadian Dollar	53.56 53.80
Malaysian Ringgit	17.06 17.16

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI	
February 28 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses	
Retail Silver (1g)	49 (50.9)
22 ct gold (1g)	4064 (4064)

IN BRIEF



Dr. Reddy's unit under USFDA scanner

HYDERABAD
Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has been issued a Form 483 with one observation by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) on completion of an inspection of the company's formulations manufacturing plant-3 at Bachupally in Hyderabad. On Thursday, the company had initially, in a filing during the trading hours, said it has received a Form 483 with two observations on completion of the inspection.

India Cements clarifies on share price spurt

CHENNAI
The India Cements Ltd. (ICE) on Friday told the BSE that in the context of the recent spurt in its share prices, it had no announcement to make. Replying to a query from the BSE on the company's share price movement, ICL said it came to know about the procurement of 2,25,19,602 equity shares, constituting 7.27% of the paid-up equity share capital, under open market purchase on February 25 and 26, via disclosures made by investor Gopikishan S. Damani to the bourses.

2 brokerages penalised for misusing client funds

MUMBAI
The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has penalised brokerages Motilal Oswal Financial Services and Nirmal Bang Securities for alleged failure to segregate client securities and further misusing such client securities. In two separate orders issued on Friday, the capital market watchdog imposed a monetary penalty of ₹17 lakh and ₹30 lakh on Motilal Oswal Financial Services and Nirmal Bang Securities, respectively.

Sensex tracks global markets' plunge

Constituents such as Reliance Industries and HDFC slide by more than 4% on black Friday

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Indian stocks nosedived on Friday, that saw most equity benchmarks the world over lose heavy ground as concerns on the global impact of COVID-19 outbreak made investors turn cautious towards risky assets such as equities.

The benchmark Sensex lost a whopping 1,448.37 points, or 3.64%, to close at 38,297. This was the sixth straight session of losses for the index during which it lost a little over 3,000 points.

On Friday, Sensex constituents such as Reliance Industries and HDFC lost over 4% in a single day. Overall, more than 2,000 stocks lost ground on the BSE against about 400 gainers.

Meanwhile, the broader Nifty settled at 11,201.75, shedding 431.55 points, or 3.71%. Incidentally, the India VIX index surged almost 28%

Virus fears

Benchmark Sensex lost 1,448.37 points, or 3.64%. With this, the index has shed over 3,000 points in 6 straight sessions

1,200 stocks lost ground on BSE against about 400 gainers

Nifty shed 39.55 points, or 3.71%.

India VIX (volatility index) index surged 28% to 23.24

2 Domestic institutional investors stemmed the fall with ₹7,700 cr. of purchases

CLOSING 38,297

FEB 28



on Friday to end at 23.24 and was now not very far from its 52-week high of 30.18.

"Indian equity market plunged sharply today hitting the lowest level since mid-October on fears that COVID-19 outbreak may trigger a recession across major economies," said Siddhartha Khemka, head, retail research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, adding it was

the worst weekly fall since 2009.

Elsewhere in Asia, the benchmarks of South Korea, China, Japan, Australia, Singapore and Thailand all lost more than 3% each. Dow Jones Industrial Average shed 870 points to 25,036 in early Friday trade.

"As COVID-19 spread rapidly around the world, hopes that it would be contained has vanished and markets fear it could turn into a pandemic."

Investors are fearful that it might lead to a global recession as the outbreak is spreading to the world's largest economy – the U.S. as well as Europe which will adversely impact the global supply chains big time and derail economic growth," added Mr. Khemka.

FPI sell equities

Back in India, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) sold equities worth nearly ₹1,500 crore, bringing its net flows in the current month at about a paltry ₹1,800 crore. In January, FPIs were net buyers at ₹12,123 crore.

The fall would have been steeper if domestic institutional investors, that include insurance firms and mutual funds, did not step up their buying with net purchases of almost ₹7,700 crore.

Rupee slips to 6-month low, RBI intervenes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Massive sell-offs in equities on COVID-19 spreading beyond China took a toll on the rupee which slipped to a six-month low during intra-day trade.

The rupee slipped to 72.27 against the dollar – a six month low – prompting the RBI to intervene in the foreign exchange market by selling dollars.

The rupee, which opened weak at 71.93 a dollar, finally ended the day at 72.21, down 0.87% as compared to the previous close.

The infrastructure sectors had expanded by 1.5% in January 2019.

The production of coal, refinery products and electricity grew by 8%, 1.9% and 2.8% respectively.

Sectors which recorded negative growth during the month under review are crude oil, natural gas, and fertilizers.

During the April-January period, core industries growth slowed down to 0.6% against 4.4% in the year-ago period. The eight core sectors recorded negative growth from August 2019 to November 2019.

Farmers' not to be hurt by govt. move to cut crop cover premium: Bhutani

Lack of long-term, consistent data reason for unsustainable premiums, he says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre's move to reduce its subsidy share in the case of high premium crops under its flagship agricultural insurance scheme will not increase the cost to farmers, said Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) CEO Ashish Kumar Bhutani. However, it should spur States to take steps to ensure that premiums are reduced, he added.

"The officers' association had demanded a 20% pay hike and it is not clear if they would stick to the demand or settle for 15%. The bank unions has called a three-day strike from March 11-13, and an indefinite strike from April 1, mainly over their demand for wage revision.



has so far been mandatory for farmers with crop loans, is becoming optional from April and is expected to see a 30% drop in enrolment. In such a scenario, Dr. Bhutani was at pains to reassure farmers that they could continue to avail comprehensive protection at the existing

"When you have a premium rate of 60%, that should not be called insurance. We should be finding other ways to help farmers manage risk in such cases," he said, listing the lack of long-term, structured and consistent data as the main reason for unsustainable premiums.

States should take steps to ensure that such data is made available or be prepared to bear the extra cost, said Dr. Bhutani. The other reason for high premiums may be that the crop is simply not viable in that area, in which case also insurance schemes are unsustainable, he added.

FM says 'steadiness' in economy is a good sign

She reacts to the 4.7% GDP growth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said the "steadiness" in the economy is a good sign, soon after the official data showed the December quarter GDP growth at 4.7%.

Speaking at an event, Ms. Sitharaman made it clear that she was not expecting a jump in the number either.

India's economic growth slowed to 4.7% in October-December 2019, according to official data.

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth was registered at 5.6% in the corresponding quarter of 2018-19, as per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

On the impact of CO-



Nirmala Sitharaman

VID-19 on the economy, she said there was no need to immediately press the "panic button" but admitted that it may get challenging if the issues prolong for another two or three weeks, citing her conversations with the industry players over the last few days.

RBI okays IndusInd CEO appointment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Suman Kathpalia as MD & CEO of the IndusInd Bank



Own your blue

Tiffany & Co debuts in India with a Delhi outpost. Will it impact the American jewellery brands exclusivity or increase its fan base?

MAGANDEEP SINGH

Luxury gifting would have never gained the momentum it has without a very important invention – the calendar. Because a gift is an expression of a sentiment, it can be expressed anytime. But throwing a calendar into the mix roils things up, making the desire even more heightened as said date approaches.

What makes this game even more exciting is that in most couples (or thruples), there is one who never forgets dates and the other who can't ever remember them. That is when you say, "Thank God for Tiffany & Co."

The distance of it

Gifting, I tell you, is one of the most dangerous of mating dances of the human species; there is so much that can go wrong. From the 'wrong size or colour' type of errors to the more grievous faux pas – like the time I was gifted a comb for my follicle-y-challenged pate – the odds are not in the favour of the gift-er.

Think of Tiffany then as a luxury concierge service which is set



The exterior and interiors of the Delhi store, and pieces from the Tiffany T, HardWear and True collections



up somewhere at the crossroads of this conundrum. Why? Because (a) you can never go wrong with a brand that commands such retro-chic cred, (b) the goods are expensive, and (c) come with a week's notice in case of exchanges.

Reliance Brands Ltd certainly knows a thing or two about wise investments – it already has partnerships with names such as Brooks Brothers and Ermenegildo Zegna, and is planning to bring down Balenciaga next – and getting this brand to India will only add more brilliance, pun intended.

But will yet another luxury gifting possibility be enough for the kitty parties of Delhi? Or will the 'covet value' of the brand stand to fall now, considering how the ribbon-wrapped blue box can be purchased locally, without wasting unnecessary carbon miles to show just how precious it was to them? Is a Tiffany bought locally as special as one bought on Old Bond Street? We promise our sweethearts the moon, so surely distance has a role to play in the magnitude of

the gift. Only time will tell, but at least for now, special occasions just got a bit dearer for the average suitor.

Singular and solitaire

I recently sauntered into their swanky new outpost in that Delhi pin code where, if the IT department set up shop, the targets would be sitting ducks. The store looked like any other Tiffany store in the world; plug and play luxury if that can exist. The iconic robin egg blue, along with lashings of silver, dominate the 2,600 sq ft space, with walls sporting eye-catching monochrome photos of the New York skyline. It was so neatly nestled at The Chanakya mall, sat amidst other brands of similar stature, one could just imagine them as the popular kids at school group. Being bought out by LVMH hasn't changed anything about its ethos or visual language (not so far, at least, and I hope it stays that way).

The staff was scant but observant, discreet yet affably charming, but, most importantly, while they did have a touch of that Tif-

fany snoot, it still came with a grounded cognisance of the cost-conscious Indian buyer. If it was just about buying silver or platinum, I am sure the family jewellers do a nifty job of it. But here, where a brand is commanding eye-watering figures for the labour and design as much as for the raw material, the sales folk need to be niftier to go about their pitch.

Mind you, I don't think anyone in any Tiffany store has ever had to sell a Tiffany solitaire; they just sell themselves. The brand has possibly had a hand in setting up more couples than St Valentine did. Those rings sit there on their pretty pedestals, high and solitary, in their nearly invisible abode, not lonely, just more in a class of their own. Sure, your local jeweller can do a similar setting, but that's like arguing that even a Tata nano can have climate control.

In the end, after having browsed through bracelets, necklaces, rings, cuff links and other accoutrements – a mix of new designs and classics, from collections including Tiffany T, Atlas and Key – I, too, walked out with a tiny box, something that neither the lady would have refused nor my credit card would have declined.

Some of the jewellery starts around ₹1,000, but you will need good eyesight to find it if it were to fall to the floor. Speaking of which, the store is on the ground floor of The Chanakya and will be much easier to find.

PEOPLE

A brush of perfection

In Delhi as part of an international tour, is Jordan Liberty, an L.A.-based makeup artist, who leverages YouTube for global popularity



He has 280k followers on Instagram and 475k YouTube, with the fan base staying consistent over a decade – and going by these numbers, it's only growing. Jordan Liberty, the Los Angeles-based professional makeup artist is in Delhi this weekend, sharing his expertise through a masterclass. Yesterday, he had a meet-and-greet session at the DLF Promenade in Vasant Kunj.

Jordan's skills extend beyond makeup – as an artist, he also photographs his own work, and believes in teaching skills he acquires. Also dabbling in consulting, creative direction, marketing, and product development, Jordan has collaborated with various well-known makeup and skincare brands like NARS, MAC, Urban Decay, Sephora, Anastasia Beverly Hills, and NYX. His eight-year-old niche brand, Liberty Republic, makes false eyelashes and vegan nail lacquers. Ahead of his masterclass today – part of his ongoing International Beauty Tour covering 12 cities across the world – Jordan talks about his work, how he stands out in a crowd, and why he chooses to photograph his own work. Edited excerpts.

You are a self-made makeup artist. Is it tough breaking into this industry when you're not "trained" at a certain institution?

I think the most difficult thing for new makeup artists is to differentiate yourself, globalize your name, and become a stand-out artist. You can't teach that. I did it by learning photography, getting over my fear of public speaking, and always coming up with and sharing new techniques that set me apart. Something I also talk about in my classes is professionalism – it's incredible how many artists are held back by poor hygiene standards, complacency, and bad manners. You cannot learn this in a classroom setting.

You dropped out of fashion school in New York, and started working as an art director. Any lessons from those early days that influence your work today?

When I first got into the industry, I was hungry to grow my craft and elevate my work – and I still am! I began to keep my finger on the pulse of the beauty industry to predict "what's next" – and YouTube was part of that. I never wanted to be in the public eye, but taking advantage of what social media could offer me was something that I knew would get my work seen on a global stage.

How do you manage to stand apart from a slew of beauty bloggers and influencers leveraging social media for their work?

From the beginning, I have separated myself by being a professional. I'm not an influencer. I don't share silly trends to grab a few clicks. I think I've been able to last on social media for 12 years because of this. Authenticity counts.

You're a cancer survivor. Does this impact what products you use based on the ingredients used in them?

Oddly, no. Most topical products aren't really that bad when you compare them to, say, what we eat or how we live. I've focused more on inner well-being and just being cognizant of where things come from.

You also photograph your own work – why?

Underwhelmed by how photographers shot my early work, I decided that I should at least try to shoot – I never dreamed that it just a few years I'd be doing makeup and photography for major beauty campaigns [for brands like NARS and MAC].

You constantly put up new makeup videos on your channels. How do you guard against plagiarism and still keep your work fresh?

I've had my ideas, images, and even videos stolen or recreated. It's [bad] when people feel entitled to your hard work, but then I remind myself that people who need to steal, lack the imagination to come up with great ideas on their own. Stealing will only take them so far. I stay focused on what's next, what's new, and my followers who appreciate what I share.

At The Lalit, on February 29th, 10 a.m. onwards; for tickets insider.in, upwards of ₹34,999

CHHAVI VOHRA

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

The future is collective

Leading designers, artists and musicians come together at a two-day sustainable fair in the capital's Bikaner House

NIDHI ADLKHA

Weekend event calendars in almost every city feature one mainstay event: the 'sustainable' pop-up. These are no doubt a great way to get consumers to make the shift to local brands and handmade products, but there is now a surfeit of similar brands at every fair. This is where Future Collective – opening today in the capital – aims to be different. Set in the backdrop of the heritage Bikaner House's recently-opened Centre for Contemporary Art, the two-day event will push you to think about how and why you shop.

"We don't need a handful of people doing it perfectly, but millions doing it their way and making that effort," says jewellery designer Roma Narsinghani, who put together the Conscious Culture Design Fair along with business partner Asha Kochhar and Vidyun M Singh, Director Programmes, India Habitat Centre.

"We're showcasing and starting a dialogue with the artists, with a focus on sustainability and innovation that is also com-



mmercially viable," she says. Audiences can choose to attend a food workshop, participate in a creative think tank about hazards and origins of toxic indoor air, watch a lineup of panelists (Shilpa Sharma of Jaypore, authors Mala Barua and Vasudha Rai, architect Martand Khosla, etc), ideate about everything from sustainable textiles to building materials and future-conscious food. There are also art installations, exhibitions, musicians and a puppet show for children.

Narsinghani explains how the Sunday Markets at Bikaner House – featuring Himalayan

cheese, Assamese tea, and Bengali and South Indian delicacies – are beautiful, and the sentiment when putting together Future Collective was the same. And then there's the food. Look forward to global plates with seasonal dishes like shroom buns, charred broccoli and mojo roast cubanos, Asian bowls and avocado parcels. "There is also a Zero Waste Bar with recipes created by mixologist Yangdup Lama."

Slow route with Mora

Narsinghani leads her list of top five must-attend events at the fair with Evelyn Mora's talk. The

founder of the climate-positive Helsinki Fashion Week (HFW) will address how brands can avoid greenwashing. "At the end of the day, brands produce and are responsible for their own individual shows, so for them to take these aspects into account would be fairly doable, especially in the big capitals like New York, London, Milan and Paris," says Mora, who is wrapping up her first book, *The Troublemaker*, by the end of 2020. "It is an exposé of the fashion industry and sustainability."

As for the environmental impact of fashion shows – now doing the rounds on social media, she says, "Currently, the fashion world is introducing many sustainable ways. But unfortunately, I currently see a lot of greenwashing even from the 'sustainability advocates'." At Future Collective, the Paris-based entrepreneur wants to meet people who "act more than they talk", and is looking forward to the work of Mumbai-based vintage label Bodements, Naushad Ali from Puducherry and New Delhi's agender apparel brand, Two Point Two.

Future Collective: Conscious Culture Design Fair will be held at Bikaner House, New Delhi, on February 29 and March 1. From 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The shape of green

For Narsinghani, Stefano Funari's Sari Swap is a personal favourite. Funari, founder of Mumbai-based fashion label, I was a Sari, brings to the event his "first experiment to customise for the conscious consumer". "People can bring in their pre-loved saris and get them customised into accessories," says the Italian designer known to craft

everything from bags to beaded jewellery with the six yard garment. According to him, Indian culture is rooted in sustainability. "But the modern Indian fashion industry, much like global fashion, is far away from sustainable practices".

Shani Himanshu, co-founder of 11:11 – known for experiments with denim and khadi – will be presenting his SS20 'Indigo Flower' collection. The garments are hand-painted with natural dyes, and use hand-spun indigenous cotton along with Indigo colour blocking in different shades. Along with co-founder Mia Morikawa, he is developing a technology "where the wearer of the garment can use a smartphone to know [its] lifecycle from seed-to-stitch". The duo is also building a cooperative of 500+ artisans through the seed-to-stitch approach.

Mia Morikawa

Stefano Funari

Shani Himanshu



FOOD

New menu
The casual dining restaurant Scene - High Bar, has introduced a new tikka menu. Curated by its in-house kitchen chefs, the main course menu has on offer dishes such as Paneer Tikka, Lahsun Chatpata Paneer, Dahi ke Kebab, Murg Tikka Punjabji, Thecha Murg Tikka, and Fish Tikka Ajwain, to name a few.

VENUE: NineX City Mart, Sector 49, Sohna Road

TIME: 12 noon - 12 midnight

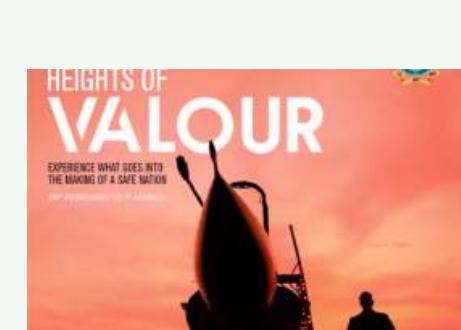


DANCE

Smriti Pravah 2020
Tomorrow, Kinkini Dhvani Institute will present two Bharatanatyam performances in Kalakshetra style, in memory of renowned cultural icon and dancer Rukmini Devi Arundale. Performing artistes are Archita Ramesh, Ashwini Rao, Malika Panicker, Suchitra Mitra, Umma Poonacha, Tripti Bhupen, and Swagata Sen Pillai.

VENUE: Triveni Kala Sangam, Mandi House

TIME: 6:30 p.m. onwards



EXHIBITION

Air Force display
Pacific Mall is hosting a three-day show titled Heights of Valour, an Indian Air Force display that will give a glimpse of the sort of work that the IAF does to safeguard the nation. The show is aimed at informing people of the history of IAF, while also providing career related information to those interested in joining.

VENUE: Pacific Mall, Tagore Garden

TIME: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



MUSIC
Morning ragas
IHC, together with Spic Macay, is organising a Hindustani classical flute concert by Pandit Ronu Majumdar on Sunday morning. Majumdar is credited with making the *bansuri* popular with the younger generation through his unique blend of the ancient form of *drupad gayaki*. He will be accompanied by Pranshu Chatural on the tabla.

VENUE: Amphitheatre, India Habitat Centre

TIME: 10:30 a.m.



FASHION
Textile craft
Ahmedabad-based CDS Art Foundation is hosting the fifth edition of Walking Hand in Hand, a collaborative fashion show of royal textiles craft. The show has been curated to bring forth select artisans and designers, and to showcase a set of their handpicked craft to culture and fashion enthusiasts in Delhi.

VENUE: Sunder Nursery, Nizamuddin

TIME: 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.



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FILM REVIEWS

Contemporary twist on a classic, gone wrong

Leigh Whannell's vision for a feminist angle doesn't quite make *The Invisible Man* cohesive

DEBORAH CORNELIUS

Long has the lore of H.G. Wells' *The Invisible Man* fascinated folks. With its 2020 adaptation, director and writer Leigh Whannell (*Saw* and the *Invisible* series), gives the film a marked feminist twist. Instead of focusing on the actual man in the story, Whannell emphasises the consequences of control and a chauvinistic erasure of the female identity.

Initially, the film was supposed to be a part of Universal Pictures' grand scheme to revive the Dark Universe properties. Sadly, *The Mummy's* reboot in 2017 put quite a large wrench in the works with its dismal box office performance. The studio then focused on remaking *The Invisible Man* as a stand-alone low budget feature with Blumhouse Productions.



Futile twists Elizabeth Moss, as Cecilia, in a scene from the film

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In its second feature of the year, after the underwhelming *Fantasy Island*, the production house sticks to what it knows best with horror, including a science fiction-themed feminist angle.

Whannell's contemporary take is evident from the get go. His heroine, Cecilia (Elizabeth

Moss) is seen tip-toeing around a beach-front house, fear bulging in her eyes. She's drugged her boyfriend, optics-genius Adrian Griffin (Oliver Jackson-Cohen) in order to escape. Her attempt to fly the coop is only partially successful, when weeks later, news of Griffin's suicide surfaces. But myste-

The Invisible Man

DIRECTOR: Leigh Whannell
CAST: Elisabeth Moss, Aldis Hodge, Storm Reid, Harriet Dyer, Oliver Jackson-Cohen
STORYLINE: An optics genius uses his suit of invisibility to stalk and harass his ex-girlfriend
RUNTIME: 125 minutes

rious harassment ensues. It's evident Griffin has returned but Whannell insists on the inclusion of twists and turns that are more futile than surprising.

Griffin's turn as a broken woman, who is mentally tortured in spite of leaving an abusive situation, could be triggering for its authenticity. It definitely helps that Whannell spotlights gaslighting, forced isolation, dominance and male power.

But the director's well-intentioned or probably opportunis-

tic vision – to capitalise on a necessary subject – doesn't quite realise into cinematic excellence. While Cecilia's situation elicits due empathy, Whannell is unable to craft a screenplay with originality.

The Invisible Man is derivative, merging classic literature with any Hollywood revenge film. That said, there are moments, albeit fleeting, of pure horror when the Invisible Man teases his presence.

But when the cat is out of the bag, in this case, a technological marvel of a suit, there's not enough drama, horror or excitement to grip waning audience attention.

It's a shame that *The Invisible Man's* fragmented positives can't merge into a fulfilling whole, only because awareness about gendered violence is still sorely needed.

turns it into the story about every woman. And every man. All of it is centred around a lovely early sequence featuring women across age groups and societal divides, riding away in to the night in cars and bicycles, some with their men, all with their own stories of patriarchal infringement on the one hand, and a soother like orange lolly on the other.

Amrita's husband Vikram (Pavail Gulati), the one who slaps her without thinking but is presumably 'not such a bad guy', is not the only one. Much as it is about women who are conditioned to remain quiet at the receiving end of everyday patriarchy ('Bardaasht karna' as a character puts it), it's also about casual insensitivity by men – 'Shh' happens. People move on", says the husband. At times it gets woefully toxic (watch out for Manav Kaul), at others, unwitting as in the case of a loving, model father (Kumud Mishra), who could have throttled his wife's desires, even while being the wind beneath his daughter's wings.

It's these dualities and dilemmas that lend an edge. Slowly, it lays bare the normali-

sation of male entitlement and holds a mirror to one and all. And, much of the credit for rendering things compelling should go to the cast, a finely attuned ensemble. There is a range of men – specially Mishra and Gulati in complex turns – but towering over them is the gang of women led ably by the fragile yet steely-resolved Taapsee Pannu. From the ever reliable mother (Ratna Pathak Shah) and mother-in-law (Tanvi Azmi) as the more pliant older order, to the younger rebels like the spirited fiancée of Amrita's brother (Naila Grewal), her conflicted lawyer (Maya Sarao), and the house help (Geetika Vidya) – its a sorority of much consequence.

It's at the fag end, in its needless effort to rehabilitate offenders and turn them abruptly penitent, that the film wobbles but thankfully doesn't get entirely derailed. On one hand, it holds the more widely palatable but disconcerting possibility of reconciliation. On the other is an overriding assurance that it's not the same Amrita we are leaving the theatre with as the one in the beginning. She has come a long way.

Music for the world

Indian sound engineer Vijay Rathinam on the process of creating the foley effects for *The Iron Mask* and other international projects

NIKHIL RAGHAVAN

Come April and the world will see the international release of *The Iron Mask*, directed by Oleg Stechenko. The Russian and Chinese language versions of this Sino-Russian co-production, titled *Journey to China: The Mystery of Iron Mask*, was released late last year. The trailer of the forthcoming film shows a lot of jaw-dropping action sequences and chemistry between Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jackie Chan.

One of the three sound designers who worked on the film is one Indian, Chennai-based Vijay Rathinam who, along with Alexey Sinityn (Mosfilm) and Harry Cohen (sound Designer of *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood* and *The Hateful Eight*) designed all the sound effects to enhance the feel of this magnum opus. Vijay, incidentally, has exclusively provided all the foley inputs for *The Iron Mask*, which was mixed at Mosfilm in Russia by Gary C Bourgeois (*Captain America: The First Avenger*) and Dmitry Klimovin. "All the foley effects have been created at our sound facility, The Audioville, by our team of foley experts. One of the highlights of the film is the fictional weapon called the Mace which uses high decibel sounds to kill people. We had to be careful that the sounds we created and designed do not affect the film's audience; striking a balance without taking away the sound and visual effect of those scenes, was a challenge," says an excited Vijay.

Vijay has an important nomination which recognises the talent in him and his team of sound designers at The Audioville, the studio from where they work on many international film productions. The 67th Annual Golden Reel Awards, presented by the Motion Picture Sound Editors and held in January in Los Angeles, had his name as a nomination, under the 'Foley Supervisor' category for the Hindi film *Gully Boy*, along with others in films such as *Atlantics*, *Parasite*, *Shadow*, *The Fall of the American Empire* and *The Sound Story*.

"It was a close call, but we were upstaged by *Parasite*. But personally, the very fact that my work was recognised as of international standard was comforting enough," says



Sound choice Vijay Rathinam

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Vijay. The hard work and the uphill climb that started in 2003 while doing his Masters in Advanced Music Production at Glamorgan University, the UK was paying off, despite his reluctant move back to India from a creatively enriching period in England. In recent times, Vijay has worked on films such as *Panipat* (with Stephen Gomes), *Mariyan* and *Sarvan Thaala Mayam* and has just completed designing sound for the Madhavan-Anushka starrer, *Nishabdham* (Telugu version) and Kabir Khan's *The Forgotten Army* Amazon series (with Stephen Gomes).

Vijay's The Audioville provides sound design and Foley services for a lot of international films and television series."Working with international productions through their directors and editors is enriching. Soon after my Masters I joined as Sound Editor at Inspire GLG, an animation tele-film studio based in Worcestershire," says Vijay.

Currently, he is doing only a couple of Indian films a year. "There's a lot of work coming in from international productions," concludes Vijay, who has just completed work on *The Owners* and *Dreamland*, besides TV series, *Kingdoms of Fire* (directed by Peter Weber) and *The Trial of Christine Keeler*.

NAMRATA JOSHI

There is something about picking up the newspaper and milk bottles from the main doorway and brewing the morning cup of tea, with ginger and lemon-grass thrown in. Then drinking it in a cherished moment of peace in the balcony, before the rush of the day gets to consume you. It's a commonplace daily vignette that is interspersed through *Thappad*, a running thread capturing a different underlying meaning at each juncture in Amrita's (Taapsee Pannu) life. From the unquestioning contentment in domesticity and keeping her own dreams on the backburner, to the uneasiness of being taken for granted in a marriage; from the humiliation of the unforeseen slap delivered by an inconsiderate husband during a party, to actively questioning one's own complacency with the role playing in a happy family circus. The morning cuppa is a marker in the evolution of *Thappad*'s protagonist. It's about how she consolidates within, even as the world outside – marriage, relationships, family – comes crashing down.



• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Thappad

DIRECTOR: Anubhav Sinha
STARRING: Taapsee Pannu, Dia Mirza, Maya Sarao, Geetika Vidya, Ratna Pathak Shah, Tanvi Azmi, Naila Grewal, Pavail Gulati, Kumud Mishra, Manav Kaul, Ankur Rathore, Sushil Dahija
STORYLINE: Amrita's seemingly happy life comes crashing down when her husband slaps her at a party
RUN TIME: 142 minutes

Punching patriarchy

Thappad is the story of one woman, that becomes that of every woman, every man, and everyday male entitlement

It's a slow and steady change, rather than an overnight transformation.

The trailer of *Thappad* had left me with a sense of trepidation. How can a film that has revealed its core in the teaser and the title itself sustain audience interest for over two hours? What more would there be to it than the usual conflict in the

wake of an act of violation? How to build a film around a slap? 'Just one' slap at that?

However, writers Anubhav Sinha and Mrunmayee Lagoo Waikul do well in turning a solitary slap into larger exploration of male entitlement. They weave a dexterous but concise narrative that, even while focusing on one woman's life,

turns it into the story about every woman. And every man. All of it is centred around a lovely early sequence featuring women across age groups and societal divides, riding away in to the night in cars and bicycles, some with their men, all with their own stories of patriarchal infringement on the one hand, and a soother like orange lolly on the other.

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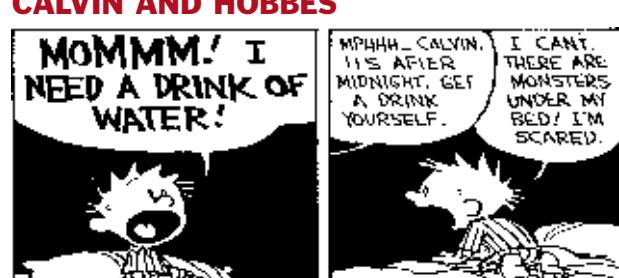
PEANUTS



POOCHE CAFE



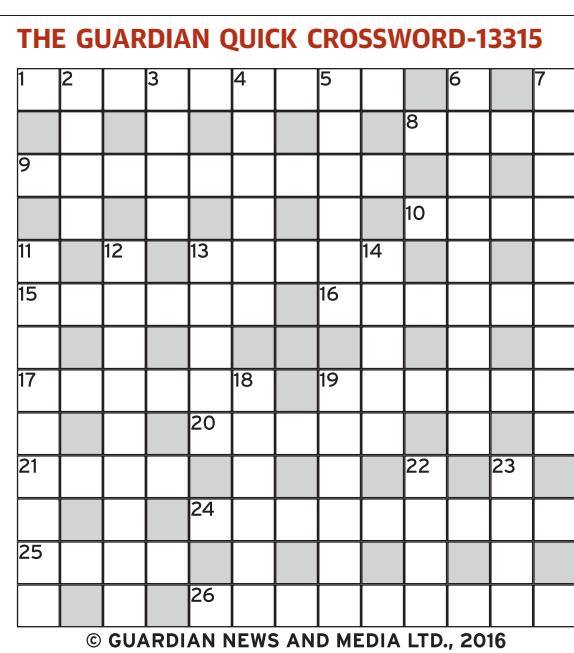
CALVIN AND HOBBES



TIGER



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13315



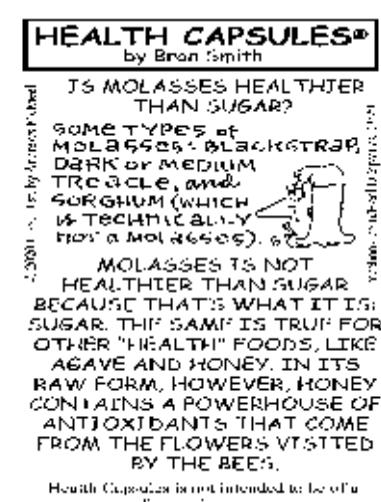
To play The Guardian Quick Crossword, The Hindu Cryptic crossword, Sudoku & other puzzles online, scan the QR code.

7 Packaging material – telephony (anag) (9)
11 Sharp practice (9)
12 Radioactive material, Pu (9)
13 Softened (5)
14 Filings rolled up in soft tortillas (5)
18 Final score (6)
19 Become gentler (6)
22 Cooking fat (4)
23 Eighth-century king of Mercia (4)

The solution will appear on Mar 2, 2020.

Solution No. 13314

WUMO



- Across
- 1 Challenging (9)
- 8 Irish county – salad cream (4)
- 10 Enduring courage (9)
- 11 Swirling current (4)
- 13 Sound like a cat (5)
- 15 Situation causing delay (6)
- 16 Spectre (6)
- 17 Maker of knives etc (6)
- 19 Quick temper – spite (6)
- 20 The people (Greek) (5)
- Down
- 2 Press (4)
- 3 Seizures (4)
- 4 Herb of the mint family, attractive to some pets (6)
- 5 Shropshire market town (6)
- 6 Dickens novel (4,5)

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



A ND-NDE



Trophy Cabinet	LALIGA	CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	COPA DEL REY	OTHER HONOURS	TOTAL
	Real Madrid 33	Real Madrid 13	Real Madrid 19	Real Madrid 26	Real Madrid 91
	Barcelona 26	Barcelona 5	Barcelona 30	Barcelona 33	Barcelona 94

Shaky Madrid hosts troubled Barca in pivotal Clasico

Zidane's side has been goal-shy and prone to defensive lapses in recent weeks. Setien's squad has been stretched thin — a situation senior players blame on the club's hierarchy. Neither team can afford a loss this weekend

Sunday's Clasico will, no doubt, shape this season's LaLiga title race, but the fixture's billing as a contest between the world's two best teams is in question.

In mid-week Champions League round-of-16 action, Real Madrid lost 2-1 in its home leg against Manchester City while Barcelona drew 1-1 at Napoli, a result which seemed to confirm Lionel Messi's fears that the side is not good enough to win the trophy.

"This Clasico is like a race between two injured people, the reality is the two teams are doing very badly," said former Real Madrid and Argentina forward Jorge Valdano.

Defending champion Barcelona (55 points after 25 games) takes a two-point

lead into the clash at the Santiago Bernabeu after cashing in on a wobble from Zinedine Zidane's side, which drew 2-2 with Celta Vigo and lost to Levante in its last two league fixtures. This two-point difference is the smallest between the clubs when playing the second league Clasico of the season since 2015.

Selection problems

Both sides enter the game with selection issues, with Madrid light on forwards due to the absence of Marco Asensio, Eden Hazard and Rodrygo. Barcelona, meanwhile, needs to fill holes all over the pitch, with Jordi Alba, Sergi Roberto, Ousmane Dembele and Luis Suarez all injured and Gerard Pique facing a battle to be fit. Despite having the most

expensive wage bill in world sport, Barca coach Quique Setien was forced to fill his bench against Napoli with three reserve team players, and dressing room heavyweights are not hiding their anger at the club's hierarchy.

"We have a short squad but those in charge knew that," said Ivan Rakitic, echoing a sense of discontent with Barcelona's board following recent outspoken comments from Messi.

Yet, even with its many problems, Barcelona seems to have more momentum heading to the Bernabeu, thanks to four straight league victories. There was also a bright spark last weekend: new signing Martin Braithwaite came off the bench and produced an eye-catching cameo on debut, showing that he could contribute to the attack in the absence of Suarez and Dembele. "He did well," Setien said. "He was a great signing for us."

Setien also knows that when things aren't going to plan, he can rely on a moment of Messi genius to rescue the side. Messi ended a four-game scoreless streak in style last weekend, pumping

LALIGA SEASON STATS

	Real Madrid	Barcelona
Goals per game	1.8	2.5
Shots per game	16.3	12.9
Conversion rate (scoring)	11%	19%
Goals conceded per game	0.7	1.2
Shots conceded per game	8.4	9.8
Conversion rate (conceding)	8%	11%
Penalties scored	5	3
Penalties conceded	2	4
Possession	57%	63%
Pass success	86%	88%
Dribbles per game	12.4	13.9
Defensive actions per game (Tackles+Interceptions+Fouls)	39.5	34.4
Form guide	WWWWDL	WLWWWW

in four goals against Eibar. But even during that goal drought, his worst in six years in the Spanish league, the 32-year-old was decisive for Barcelona, helping with a series of assists.

Money in the bank

"Messi has been doing this for the last 14 or 15 years, and he will keep doing it," Setien said. "He is a guarantee for any team or coach. He always comes through, either

with goals or with assists."

The Argentine has admirers in the Madrid camp, too. "He is one of the best players of all time, I have so much respect for him but I hope on Sunday he doesn't have a good day as it would mean we will have done a good job," Real captain Sergio Ramos told LaLiga's website. "It will be a very competitive game because of what stage we are at in the season. The gap between us is minimal,

the result could be decisive and I hope we can make a real statement by winning."

Madrid is in desperate need of a statement win. In its first 34 matches this season, the team lost only three times, but in the last three games, Madrid has been beaten twice and held to a home draw — the club's worst run of the season, coming at an inopportune time before the Clasico.

Turnaround needed

"I see Sunday's game as an opportunity for us to change our fortunes around," Zidane said. "It's a bad moment for us, I agree, but on Sunday we have a great chance to change that. We have to be more united than ever, stronger than ever, and keep working hard to change this dynamic."

The Frenchman dismissed the notion that fans have lost confidence in the club because of the recent results, especially the setbacks at home.

"We need the fans to keep their trust in us and come back here on Sunday to support us," Zidane said. "We gave everything we had in these last few games and played well despite the bad results. We can't control everything in football."

The stark reality, however,

is that Madrid's season could be over in March for a second year running if it unravels in the Clasico. A five-point deficit, should it lose to Barcelona on Sunday, would be difficult to bridge. Especially given that the Catalans have a kind run-in, with only one more away game against LaLiga's top six.

Zidane's concern will be that his goal-shy team has become even less of a threat with the alarming decline of Karim Benzema, who scored 16 goals from August to December but only has two so far this year. And for a side which has relied heavily on its solidity at the back, having let in the fewest goals in the Spanish top flight so far this season, Madrid has become increasingly prone to the kind of nervy errors that were a regular feature of its failures last season.

But Zidane said his side will analyse its mid-week performance, learn from its mistakes, and focus on Sunday's game. It's a message the players appear to have taken to heart. "We can think about yesterday's defeat or work on tomorrow's win," wrote Ramos on social media after the City defeat. "I choose the latter. Head and heart already on el Clasico." REUTERS, AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE & ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOST GOALS AND ASSISTS (THIS LIGA SEASON)

	Real Madrid	Barcelona
Goals	Karim Benzema 13	Lionel Messi 18
	Sergio Ramos 5	Luis Suarez 11
Assists	Luka Modric 3	Antoine Griezmann 8
	Karim Benzema 6	Lionel Messi 12
	Federico Valverde 4	Luis Suarez 7
	Luka Modric 4	Antoine Griezmann 4

HEAD-TO-HEAD

	Real Madrid	Barcelona	Draws
Overall	95	96	52
LaLiga	72	72	35
LaLiga at Bernabeu	52	22	15
LaLiga (since 2016-17 season)	0	4	3
LaLiga at Bernabeu (since 2016-17 season)	0	3	0

GAME THEORY

Teen sensation

Erling Haaland has transformed Borussia Dortmund's fortunes since joining the club in January. The 19-year-old Norwegian striker's prolific form has helped the side win five of the six league games he has featured in; before his arrival, Dortmund had won eight of 17. A look at what he has done this season:

SEASON STATS Haaland has already scored 40 goals (in just 29 games) this season — 12 at Dortmund since his January transfer and 28 at Red Bull Salzburg prior to that

Tournament	Appearances	Minutes	Goals	Goals per 90 mins
At Dortmund (January 18, 2020-present)				
Bundesliga	6	395	9	2.05
Champions League	1	90	2	2.00
DFB Pokal	1	n/a	1	n/a
At Salzburg (July 26-December 10, 2019)				
T-Mobile Bundesliga	14	n/a	16	n/a
Champions League	6	374	8	1.93
Stiegl Cup	1	n/a	4	n/a

GOALS BREAKDOWN Here's how Haaland has scored his goals at Dortmund [the data pertains to his goals in the Bundesliga (9) and the Champions League (2); the data for his DFB Pokal goal isn't available]:

By Zone	Six-yard box	Penalty area	Outside penalty area	
4	6	1		
By Situation	Open play	Counter	Set-piece	Penalty
7	3	1	0	
By Body part	Right foot	Left foot	Head	
3	8	0		

FINISHING EFFICIENCY Haaland has converted his shots into goals at an incredible rate so far at Dortmund. For context, Robert Lewandowski, who has scored 36 goals this season in the Bundesliga and Champions League combined, has a conversion rate of 25.17%, having taken 143 shots

SHOTS GOALS

AT DORTMUND

BUNDESLIGA 16 9

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 4 2

CONVERSION RATE 56.25% 50.00%

Rakuten

Batsmen will have to step up for India to draw level

Ishant out with injury, Umesh likely to come in; New Zealand all set to unleash pace power by playing four specialist seamers

INDIA IN NZ

S. DINAKAR
CHRISTCHURCH

The Hagley Oval is flanked by lush green gardens that mirror the city's serene and pleasant ambience.

However, things will not be remotely as peaceful for the Indians on a grass-laden surface as they strive to square the series in the second Test beginning on Saturday.

A big game

Also at stake would be 60 points of the World Test Championship. It's a big game for both sides.

The Test has not begun and India has already been hit by an injury blow. Ishant Sharma's ankle injury – picked up during the Ranji season – has flared up again and the lanky paceman will miss the second Test.

Ishant was, by far, the best Indian bowler in the first Test and returned a five-wicket haul.

Umesh Yadav, sharp but not as tall as Ishant, is expected to come in.

While Ishant relies on

bounce and an off-stump line, Umesh, a handful with his pace, does damage with reverse-swing. Umesh pitches the ball up and can bowl out-swingers with the new ball.

The Indian batsmen will have to approach the Test with a fresh mind-set. At Wellington, they appeared under a mental siege. They were neither convincing in defence as the ball seamed around nor able to pierce the infield. Simply put, the Indian batsmen could not take the challenge to the Kiwi pacemen.

In fact, apart from Mayank Agarwal's second-innings half-century, none was able to find the balance between aggression and defence.

Sweet memories

The Kiwis comprehend the green, seaming track here and the conditions well. In the Test against Sri Lanka, here in 2018, New Zealand won by a whopping 423 runs. Trent Boult, Tim Southee and Neil Wagner were red hot.

And that was a Test where New Zealand, asked to bat,



No easy ride: India has a fight on its hands, and Mayank Agarwal, Wriddhiman Saha and Cheteshwar Pujara, seen leaving the Hagley Oval after training, know that only too well. ■ AP

was dismissed for 178 in its first innings. So the toss alone does not determine outcomes in these parts.

A team has to play good cricket, adapt to the conditions.

The batsmen, including

the young Prithvi Shaw, have to wait for the ball to come to them, and play late.

The Indian batting could

be under greater scrutiny in the Test with the Kiwis likely to play four specialist seamers plus Colin de Grand-

homme's teasing swing. Kohli & Co. will have to face off against left-arm Wagner, who employs short-pitched bowling with telling effect, both over and round the wicket, often from wide of the crease.

Before Wagner enters the picture, the Indians will have to cope with the left-right swing bowling of Boult and Southee.

Then there is the off-stump line and bounce of Kyle Jamieson.

On a seaming track, firm pushes in the 'V' rather than big drives are more productive. If the length is short, the cut and the pull can fetch runs.

Know your off-stump

The Indian batsmen have to play and leave, know where their off-stump is. They also need to display footwork, balance in the stance, and a still head. It's important that the batsman covers for movement.

Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami did not bowl the right length in Wellington.

Both should pitch the ball

- 60 points of the World Test Championship at stake
- New Zealand won a Test, against Sri Lanka here in 2018, by 423 runs

up for it to swing. And land on a good length for the sphere to seam around.

The Indians have a fight on their hands on what could be a seam-trap.

New Zealand: Kane Williamson (Capt.), Tom Latham, Tom Blundell, Henry Nicholls, Ross Taylor, Colin de Grandhomme, B.J. Watling (wk), Kyle Jamieson, Tim Southee, Trent Boult, Neil Wagner, Ajaz Patel and Daryl Mitchell.

India: Virat Kohli (Capt.), Mayank Agarwal, Prithvi Shaw, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Hanuma Vihari, Rishabh Pant (wk), R. Jadeja, Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, R. Ashwin, Umesh Yadav, Ravindra Jadeja, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Navdeep Saini and Shubman Gill.

Umpires: Richard Kettleborough, Michael Gough; **TV umpire:** Aleem Dar; **Match referee:** Ranjan Madugalle.

The match begins at 4 a.m. IST.

A shake-up can be a good thing: Shastri

India coach confident boys will be able to bounce back with an open mind-set

S. DINAKAR
CHRISTCHURCH

As an opening batsman, Ravi Shastri relished pushing deliveries down the ground. He played the percentage game, batted straight.

And, as coach, Shastri is someone who talks straight. No roundabout answers. He gets to the point quickly, does not go into denial mode.

Asked about India's inability to make short work of the tail, a factor that has often haunted this side, Shastri said: "It has been a problem in the last year or so. We've had a chat on this. We've been over-aggressive or at times too defensive. We will look to address it."

Ashwin's batting

On R. Ashwin, Shastri observed: "He is a world-class bowler. If anything, he will be disappointed with the way he has batted. He would want to improve his batting.



Charged up: Virat Kohli drives home a point with Prithvi Shaw ahead of the second Test, which will see an India revival, according to coach Ravi Shastri. ■ AP

We have had conversations on this."

On having to choose between Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja for a place in the eleven, Shastri said: "We will see how much of a role a spinner has, first of all. How many overs you think he is going to bowl in the game, Is there going to be something for him on day four or five.

"Will the second innings be that important. Do you need him more in the first innings? Is his batting going to count? Is his fielding going to count? Is his overall fitness going to count? Those are areas you look into."

Shastri felt a defeat, such as the one in the first Test, was sometimes good for a team. "I always believe when

you are on a run like we were, a shake-up like that is good because it opens your mind-set."

He said: "When you are on the road winning all the time, or you have not tasted defeat, you can have a closed mind-set. I thought we were a little conservative and tentative in that first Test. Winning away from the sub-continent in red-ball cricket is always difficult. You need to adapt."

Pacers ready to strike
Talking about the Indian pacemen, Shastri exuded confidence. "Bumrah is very close to getting a five-for or a six-for, might happen tomorrow. Similarly with Shami, so nothing to worry about. The Indian bowlers have to be more patient, bowl more in the right areas and create pressure."

Looking at the second Test, Shastri is not short on optimism.

'Advantage home pacers'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHRISTCHURCH

Trent Boult was full of beans ahead of the second Test on a greenish Hagley Oval pitch.

He said here on Friday, "I wouldn't say the confidence is through the roof but we're very excited about continuing from where we left off in Wellington."

Boult said the conditions here suited the Kiwi pacemen. "I like the overheads that present down here in terms of the cloud cover and the swing that's on offer."

The left-arm pace spearhead said: "It's always a good surface here. There's always a little bit there in the initial stages of that first innings but it turns into a good surface."

On the pitch being green, Boult said: "Traditionally you come down here and normally see a bit of grass so, from my point of view, I hope it stays that way and that we get it to move around a bit."

The spinners haven't



More ammunition: Neil Wagner is expected to add muscle to the New Zealand attack. ■ AP

been too successful here. "There hasn't been too many wickets taken here by spinners, but if that suggests there isn't much turn I'm not sure. Generally it's a wicket that has good pace and carry and it swings around here a bit and it generally produces a good contest between bat and ball."

Generally it's a wicket that has good pace and carry and it swings around here a bit and it generally produces a good contest between bat and ball

TRENT BOULT

Mohinder backs Kohli to come good

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI

One of India's finest batsmen, Mohinder Amarnath hoped Virat Kohli would come good in the second Test against New Zealand starting on Saturday in Christchurch. Kohli has aggregated a mere 201 in nine innings across formats with just one half-century.

"It is not that they have not played there. They have done well earlier but the difference here is that Virat has not performed," said Amarnath, in town on a private visit. Another reason, he emphasised, was the absence of K.L. Rahul from the team. "Rahul has done well. He's been the man in form. And you have to play the man in form. I am surprised he is not playing in Tests in this series. He would have been better than trying someone out."

"If you see India's performance overseas in the last two years Virat has been the key. Sometimes luck doesn't favour you. But I'm sure he'll

India has a few flaws to iron out

Takes on Sri Lanka in its last group engagement



All for one, one for all! Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur will want her team to pull together as one unit. ■ PTI

T20 WORLD CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MELBOURNE

In Amarnath's opinion, the batsmen were, "jabbing" at the ball. "When the ball takes an edge it carries. Not the case when you play with soft hands. When you play tight you may miss connecting those deliveries. The technical aspect of batting has been the reason for the failure in this Test. You have to adjust. You can't play in your flamboyant style even if it is your natural game."

Bounce, he noted, was not the problem. "You can cope with the bounce. It's the seam movement and the swing where the technique comes into play. If the ball seams and swings in the second Test too, it will be a tough test for the Indians."

engagements on a high when it takes on the islanders. But the Indians definitely have a few things to worry about, especially their below-par show with the bat.

India managed just 132 against Australia, 142 against Bangladesh and 133 vs New Zealand. The middle-order has repeatedly squandered good starts. In all the three matches, the bowling unit came to the rescue.

Heavily reliant on the brilliance of a 16-year-old Shafali Verma, the Indian middle-order has cut a sorry figure and it's time senior pros like Harmanpreet and Veda Krishnamurthy step up. Opener Smriti Mandhana too has failed to join the party so far.

Shafali has been impressive at the top, registering

scores of 29, 39 and 46. But she has failed to convert the starts into big scores.

Harmanpreet has cautioned her batters against making "silly mistakes".

Star performers

The Indian bowling, however, has been phenomenal and facilitated the smooth entry into the last-four round. Leg-spinner Poonam Yadav has been the star performer, picking up eight wickets, including a match-winning effort of four for 19 against Australia.

She has been complemented by Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Deepti Sharma and pacer Shikha Pandey.

Young Shafali was adjudged Player-of-the-Match for a 34-ball 46 and the 16-year-old was elated. "Feeling

good, very happy with the performance, want to continue doing this. I waited for the loose balls and converted those," said Shafali.

The teams (from):

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Tanvi Bhatia, Harleen Deol, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Richa Ghosh, Veda Krishnamurthy, Smriti Mandhana, Shikha Pandey, Poonam Yadav, Arundhati Reddy, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Pooja Vastrakar and Radha Yadav.

Sri Lanka: Chamari Atapattu (Capt.), Harshitha Madavi, Nilakshi de Silva, Kavisha Dilhari, Ama Kancharla, Hansima Karunaratne, Achini Kulasuriya, Sugandika Kumari, Hasini Perera, Udesika Prabodhani, Sathyra Sandeepani, Anushka Sanjeevani, Shashikala Siriwardene, Dilani Manodara and Umeshwa Thimashini.

England beats Pakistan

SA hands Thailand a thrashing

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
CANBERRA

England kept its hopes alive in the ICC women's T20 World Cup with a 42-run win over Pakistan here on Friday.

Captain Heather Knight once again led from the front with 62 in its 158 for seven – her sixth consecutive half-century. In reply, Pakistan was all out for 116.

Knight, who hit eight 4s and a 6, was playing her 100th T20. Natalie Sciver chipped in with 36 and Fran Wilson made 22, with Aiman Anwer taking three wickets.

Some tight England bowlers pinned Pakistan down and at the half-way stage, it was struggling at 51 for five. Aliya Riaz did her best to accelerate the run rate in a 41-run cameo.

"We probably would have liked a little but more (total), but the wicket was slow," said Knight.

Earlier, South Africa



Making hay: South Africa's Lizelle Lee made the most of a weak Thai attack to notch up a century. ■ GETTY IMAGES



Mohinder Amarnath.
FILE PHOTO: VIVEK BENDRE

clubbed the highest total in the World Cup as it thrashed Thailand by 113 runs.

Proteas skipper Dane van Niekerk won the toss and opted to bat, with her team building 195 for three, anchored by powerful opener Lizelle Lee's 101.

It was the biggest score in the tournament's history, beating India's 194 for five against New Zealand in 2018.

In reply, Thailand was all out for 82.

"The box we wanted to tick today was to take the win," said van Niekerk.

"Credit to Lizelle for that century."

The scores: England 158/7 in 20 overs (Natalie Sciver 36, Heather Knight 62; Aiman Anwer 3/30) bt Pakistan 116 in 19.4 overs (Aliya Riaz 41; Anya Shrubsole 3/25, Sarah Glenn 3/15).

South Africa 195/3 in 20 overs (Lizelle Lee 101, Sune Luus 61) bt Thailand 82 in 19.1 overs (Onnicha Kamchomphu 26; Shabnim Ismail 3/8, Luus 3/15).

Match starts at

Multifaceted for Sprinters' Cup

Cosmos has an edge in Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy Stayers' Cup

RIAZ BABU & H. KAMAL KHAN
MYSURU

Multifaceted, who is in rousing form, appeals most in the Bangalore Turf Club Sprinters' Cup (1,200m), while Cosmos has an edge over his rivals in the Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy Stayers' Cup (3,000m), the main attraction of the pre-invitation day's races to be held here on Saturday (Feb. 29).



1 MADRAS RACE CLUB MILLION (1,400m), 1.30 p.m.

1 Astrologer	(Vishal Yadav)	Prashant	12	55
2 Code Of Honour	(Padmanabhan)	David Allan	6	55
3 Crystal Ocean	(Md. Sajid)	D.S. Deora	7	55
4 Flame Of Thea	(N. Lagad)	C.S. Jodha	9	55
5 Ombudsman	(V. Lokanath)	R.N. Darshan	4	55
6 Rubik Star	(Karthik G)	A. Sandesh	11	55
7 Sherwin	(A. Mangalorkar)	Suraj Narredu	10	55
8 Allabouther	(Attaullahi)	P. Trevor	5	53.5
9 Ceffina	(Monnappa)	Arshad Alam	2	53.5
10 Escape Plan	(Md. Sajid)	Kiran Rai	8	53.5
11 Mahalakshmi	(B.V. Salvi)	P.S. Chouhan	1	53.5
12 Princess September	(Tejaswi)	Jagadeesh	13	53.5
13 Silver Days Again	(M. Bobby)	Nicky Mackay	3	53.5

CODE OF HONOUR: As a favourite finished third to Violin over 1,100m in his last start at Bengaluru; deserves another chance.

RUBIK STAR: Found Forest Flame too good in the EBCO Worksmart Breeders' Produce Stakes (1,400m), at Mumbai; well tuned.

SHERWIN: Failed as an odds-on favourite in Rani Jindan's 1,200m at Bengaluru; working attractively.

ALLABOUTHER: Has improved since her third to Lombardy (1,200m) at Malakpet.

1. RUBIK STAR | 2. SHERWIN | 3. CODE OF HONOUR

2 DESHMESH -WIN LEGEND MILLION (1,400m), 2.00 p.m.

1 Subah Ka Tara	(Samar Singh)	Srinath	4	62
2 Bernardini	(I. Ghatala)	David Allan	2	61
3 Courage	(A. Mangalorkar)	S. John	14	59.5
4 Contributor	(M. Bobby)	K. Mukesh Kumar	15	58
5 Brave Lady	(Azar Ali)	Arshad Alam	7	56.5
6 Grand Tenton	(Rakesh)	D.S. Deora	12	56.5
7 Valegro	(Shroff)	Neeraj	13	54.5
8 Saadeek	(M. Bobby)	S. John	1	53
9 Cerise Noir	(Attaullahi)	P. Trevor	5	52.5
10 Treasure Delight	(S. Narredu)	Yash Narredu	16	52.5
11 Top Striker	(Md. Sajid)	Irvan Singh	9	52
12 Royal Serenity	(Vishal Yadav)	K. Nazil	11	50.5
13 All In	(V. Appachu)	Sai Kiran	8	50
14 Batman	(V. Appachu)	Ajeeth Kumar	3	50
15 Script Writer	(Monnappa)	R.N. Darshan	6	50
16 Star Of Thea	(Tejaswi)	Jagadees	10	50

BERNARDINI: A hat-tricker; continues to be in rousing form.

VALEGRO: A consistent runner; continues to shine in the morning trials.

CERISE NOIR: A comfortable winner over 1,200m at Bengaluru; retains form.

TREASURE DELIGHT: Won his last start impressively; may trouble the best.

1. BERNARDINI | 2. VALEGRO | 3. CERISE NOIR

3 HYDERABAD RACE CLUB MILLION (1,400m), 2.30 p.m.

1 His Eminence	(Ranjeet)	R.N. Darshan	8	61.5
2 Akita Pro	(I. Ghatala)	Suraj Narredu	15	61
3 Ashwa Raftar	(Md. Khan)	A. Imran	6	61
4 Strategist	(S. Sreekant)	Srinath	5	61
5 Haloween's Way	(Monnappa)	Chethan Gowda	13	58.5
6 Hukum	(Vishal Yadav)	Arshad Alam	2	58.5
7 Country's Power	(Prashant Pawar)	H. Rahul	11	58
8 Aurelia	(Md. Sajid)	Kiran Rai	9	57.5
9 Evandor	(V. Appachu)	Sai Kiran	1	55.5
10 Musterion	(Aarvind G)	Nicky Mackay	3	55
11 Sporo	(Surender G T)	P.S. Kaviraj	14	53.5
12 Tokyo Rose	(M.R. Singh)	D.S. Deora	7	53
13 Notting Hill	(Rakesh)	P.S. Chouhan	16	52.5
14 Karadeniz	(Faraz Arshad)	P. Trevor	10	51.5
15 African Emperor	(S.M. Johnson)	R. Shelar	4	50.5
16 Asgardia	(Attaullahi)	C.S. Jodha	12	50.5

AKITA PRO: Fit for the fray.

STRATEGIST: Won a 1,200m in a gutsy manner at Malakpet; retains form.

MUSTERION: A comfortable winner of his last start; may repeat.

KARADENIZ: Comes into the reckoning on his close second to Musterion.

ASGARDIA: Well placed on weights.

1. AKITA PRO | 2. KARADENIZ | 3. MUSTERION

4 R W I T C MILLION (1,800m), 3.00 p.m.

1 Queen Regnant	(Aravind G)	Chethan Gowda	16	62.5
2 Premier Ace	(Ranjeet)	R.N. Darshan	2	61.5
3 Sussex Pride	(Tejaswi)	J. Paswan	4	61.5
4 Brown Bess	(Dheeraj)	S. John	1	61
5 Hokkaido	(Vishal Gaikwad)	Suraj Narredu	11	60.5
6 Sardinia	(Girinath)	Sai Kiran	5	58.5
7 Touch Of Class	(G. Srinivas)	D.S. Deora	6	58.5
8 Naval Wrestler	(B.V. Salvi)	P.S. Chouhan	8	56
9 Star Holiday	(Sharavanan)	T.S. Jodha	7	54
10 Double Trouble	(Vishal Yadav)	Anil Baanda	14	53
11 Star Sapphire	(S. Narredu)	Yash Narredu	9	52
12 Admiral One	(Darius)	Irvan Singh	10	51.5
13 High Priestess	(Padmanabhan)	P. Trevor	13	51.5
14 Chilly Breeze	(Monnappa)	Arshad Alam	3	50.5
15 Gazebo Talk	(Neil B Devaney)	K. Nazil	12	50.5
16 King Star	(Rakesh)	I. Chisty	15	50

QUEEN REGNANT: Comes into the reckoning on her fourth to Anjeze in the Bangalore Oaks (2,400m).

HOKKAIDO: Her nowhere in Juliette's Indian Oaks (2,400m) is best ignored.

STAR SAPPHIRE: Failed as a favourite in Sea Of Cortez (1,400m), should be given another chance.

Day's best: MULTIFACETED
Double: BERNARDINI - AKITA PRO

Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8; Tr (i): 1, 2 & 3; (ii): 3, 4 & 5; (iii): 6, 7 & 8.

RANJI SEMIFINAL LINE-UPS

Bengal vs Karnataka

Bengal: Abhimanyu Easwaran (Capt.), Manoj Tiwary, Anustup Majumder, Shreyas Goswami (wk), Sudip Shreevatee, Goswami (wk), Prashant Pawar, Karthik G.

Umpires: Yeshwant Barde and K.

Srinivasan; **TV umpire:** Anil Chaudhary; **Match referee:** Prakash Bhatt.

Match begins at 9.15 a.m.

Saurashtra vs Gujarat

Saurashtra: Jaydev Unadkat (Capt.), Harvik Desai, Snell Patel (wk), Avi Barot (wk), Vishvaraj Jadeja, Sheldon Jackson, Arpit Vasavada, Chirag Jani, Pritak Mankad, Dharmendra Singh Jadeja, Kamlash Makwana, Kishan Par-

mar, Samarth Vyas, Kushang Patel, Chetan Sakaria, and Parth Bhut.

Gujarat: Parthiv Patel (Capt.), Priyank Panchal, Samit Gohel, Bhargav Merai, Manprit Juneja, Chirag Gandhi, Roosh Kalaria, Chintan Gaja, Arzan Nagwaswalla, Siddharth Desai, Rujul Bhatt, Dhruv Raval (wk), Kshitij Patel, and Tejas Patel.

Umpires: S. Ravi and Rohan Pandit; **TV umpire:** C. Shamshuddin; **Match referee:** Sanjai Verma.

Match starts at 9.30 a.m.

Match starts at 9.30 a.m

TV PICKS

India vs New Zealand:

Second Test, day one, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 4 a.m.
KIUG: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 12 p.m.

ISL: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7:15 p.m.

ICC T20 World Cup: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 5:30 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 3 & SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 9:15 a.m.

Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 5:40 p.m., 8:10 p.m. & 10:40 p.m.

Bundesliga: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 7:40 p.m. & 10:40 p.m.

Serie A: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 7:30 p.m. & 10:20 p.m.

NBA: Sony Six (SD & HD), 6:30 a.m. & 9 a.m.

South Africa vs Australia: Sony Six (SD & HD), 4:30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Sun Yang gets eight-year doping offence ban

LAUSANNE China's triple Olympic swimming gold medallist Sun Yang has been found guilty of refusing to give a doping sample and banned for eight years by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Friday. The CAS upheld the appeal by the World Anti-Doping Agency against the international swimming federation (FINA) and Sun, who has already served a doping ban in 2014. Sun has the right to appeal the ruling in the Swiss federal court. AFP

Harris shines as Sixers defeat Knicks

LOS ANGELES Tobias Harris finished with 34 points to lift Philadelphia 76ers over New York Knicks to a 115-106 NBA victory on Thursday. Al Horford had 15 points and nine assists and Shake Milton 19 points as the Sixers improved to a league-best 28-2 at home. **The results:** Indiana Pacers 106 bt Portland Trail Blazers 100; Golden State Warriors 86 lost to LA Lakers 116; Oklahoma City Thunder 112 bt Sacramento Kings 108; Philadelphia 76ers 115 bt New York Knicks 106. AFP

Manuel shines for Garcha Hotels

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI Manuel Llorente converted all the three 60-yard penalties to help Garcha Hotels make the semifinals of the Maharaja Jiwajji Rao Scindia Gold Cup 12-goal polo tournament at the Army Equestrian Centre, Delhi Cantonment, on Friday.

Angad Kalaan converted one of three penalties to get four goals for Garcha Hotels, the same as Sujan-Sona, for which Dhruvpal Godara and Siddhant Sharma converted two apiece.

Jindal Panther could convert only one of six penalties and thus could not make the semifinals, after the tie-break was applied between the three teams, to decide the two teams from the group.

In the semifinals, to be played at the Jaipur Polo ground on Saturday, Cavalry-ASC will meet Sujan-Sona, while Garcha Hotels will clash with Sona-Sujan.

Paes-Ebden duo bows out

SPORTS BUREAU

DUBAI The duo of Leander Paes and Matthew Ebden of Australia was beaten 6-3, 6-3 by qualifiers Henri Kontinen and Jan-Lennard Struff in the doubles quarterfinals of the \$2,950,420 ATP-500 tennis tournament here.

Other results:
\$54,160 Challenger, Columbus, USA: Doubles (quarterfinals): Treat Huey (Phi) & Nathaniel Lammons (US) bt Sri Ram Balaji & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan 6-3, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Doubles (quarterfinals): Moez Echagour & Anis Ghorbel (Tun) bt Kaza Vinayak Sharma & Manish Sureshkar 6-4, 6-4.

CM YK

Attack-minded teams in high-intensity clash

Will CFC and Goa continue their firebrand play?



Among the best: Having shaken off a sluggish start and played remarkably well since, Chennaiyin FC appears a confident unit. ■K. PICHUMANI

ISL

K. KEERTHIVASAN
CHENNAI

A vastly improved Chennaiyin FC (CFC) will take on the ever-consistent and fluent FC Goa in the first-leg semifinal of the Indian Super League here on Saturday.

The contest between two extremely attack-minded teams – table-topper FC Goa has scored 46 while CFC has converted 32 in 18 league matches – is likely to provide an entertaining fare. But will defence be given the short-shrift in the high-intensity clash?

Strikers

Striker Nerijus Valskis has scored 13 goals, and has been the star for the host while his counterpart Ferran Corominas has been invaluable with 14 goals and four assists for FC Goa.

FC coach Owen Coyle, at the pre-match press conference here on Friday, said

that the defenders would play a key role.

"I think both defences have a huge part to play. Both sets of attacks are good – forwards and midfielders. We are very much changed since I came in [as to] how we play and shape up. Both operate with two foreign centre-backs, both with two good full-backs."

"Defenders have to stand up and be counted against wonderful attacking players," he added.

No concern

Conceding 23 goals in the league isn't a cause for concern, countered FC Goa inter-

national coach Clifford Miranda, to pay attention to this," he said.

This season, FC Goa has won both its home and away matches against CFC, but Coyle refused to believe that it will have an impact on the semifinals.

"The bearing of the two league games have no significance on the playoffs. For a start, I have lost only once to Goa [referring to the 3-4 defeat at home]," he said.

According to Coyle, Andre Schembri might be available while Dragos Firtulescu is doubtful. Miranda revealed that CFC was one team that everyone loved to avoid.

"Chennaiyin started really bad but since they changed the manager, they've improved a lot. CFC is the most difficult team in my opinion. One team we would have wanted to avoid," he said.

Will the clash witness a goal-glut or will it turn out to be an anti-climax?

Talent pool is getting bigger, says Maymol

KIUG

SHYAM VASUDEVAN
BHUBANESWAR

The Indian women's football team enjoyed a lively 2019. A fifth successive SAFF Championship title, a third South Asian Games triumph, an agonising exit from the second round of the AFC Olympic Qualifiers on goal difference, the Gold Cup at home and a streak of exposure tours and friendlies, including the COTIF Cup in Spain – the women hustled all year round.

Common goal

India coach Maymol Rocky, who has been at the helm for over two years now, feels it is a sign of bigger things to come. "This is the first time the women's team has

played so many matches. It has shown in our results. The players, the Federation, and the government have to be given credit and it has been possible because everybody worked towards a common goal," she told Sportstar.

Maymol is in Bhubaneswar, scouting for talent at the Khelo India University Games. "This is a great platform because the girls are

getting to play more matches. They're all at the university level and are eligible to play for the national team. Some girls have shown a lot of promise and I feel the talent pool is getting bigger and gives us more opportunities to scout," she said.

Two girls playing in the women's final here, Goa's Karishma Shirvoikar and Tamil Nadu's Karthika Angamuthu recently got call-ups to the national camp.

Maymol, a former India footballer, added that the large talent pool allows her to rotate her squad. "If you've noticed, I've made a lot of changes in the national camp since the time I've joined. And in the future also, players will be replaced if they take it easy. Everybody needs to be on their toes and nobody can take it easy. Including me and my staff."

Thus, it would have jeopardised their chances of competing in the World Cup at home in Delhi, starting on March 16.

Olympiakos dumps out Arsenal United cruises; Inter advances behind closed doors

EUROPA LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Youssef El-Arabi scored in the last minute of extra-time as Olympiakos knocked Arsenal out of the Europa League on Thursday on a night when four former European champions were eliminated.

Ajax, Celtic, Benfica and Porto went out but Manchester United hardly broke sweat after Simon Deli of

Brugge conceded a penalty and earned a red card in the 23rd minute at Old Trafford.

Inter Milan booked its ticket with a 2-1 win on the night and 4-1 on aggregate over Bulgarian club Ludogorets to deafening silence and a surreal atmosphere behind closed doors of its San Siro Stadium.

The results (round of 32, second leg): Espanyol 3 (Calleri 16, 57-pen 90+1) bt Wolves 2 (Traore 22, Doherty 79). Wolves win 6-3 on aggregate. Inter Milan 2 (Biragli 32, Lu-

kaku 45+4) bt Ludogorets 1 (Cauly Souza 26). Inter wins 4-1 on aggregate.

Manchester United 5 (Bruno Fernandes 27-pen, Ighalo 34, McTominay 41, Fred 82, 90+3) bt Club Brugge O. United wins 6-1 on aggregate.

Arsenal 1 (Aubameyang 113) lost to Olympiakos 2 (Cisse 53, El Arabi 120). 2-2 aggregate. Olympiakos wins on away goals.

Ajax 2 (Pereira 10, Oliviera 64-og) bt Getafe 1 (Mata 5). Getafe wins 3-2 on aggregate.

Get ready for a tactical battle: Habas

Feels that ATK and BFC will give nothing away

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

The second semifinal between ATK and Bengaluru FC will be a tactical battle as it features two sides which have been the best defensive sides in the edition, according to ATK head coach Antonio Lopez Habas.

At a pre-match interaction ahead of the first leg encounter against BFC on Sunday, Habas said his boys will have to "bring up their 100%"

against the defending champion which displayed tactical competence while finishing third in the standings.

BFC conceded the least number of goals (13) among the 10 teams in the league phase. Habas' team was second best, letting in only 16.

A good match

"This will be a good match as both sides have done quite well defensively," said Habas. "I am sure it will be a ve-

ry tactical and low-scoring match as the two teams have shown good balance. In my opinion, we will not be seeing big scores both in Kolkata and Bengaluru."

The ATK gaffer said consistency will be a key factor. "ATK had been a league laggard the past two seasons but this season, it found the right balance to finish No. 2 in the league stage. In the playoffs, the challenge will be to keep the shape and al-

so maintain the balance," he said.

Good referees, please

Habas said that the organisers should ensure "good referees" are given the task of supervising the matches as even small errors can have a big impact on the game.

"We need good referees as it can have a damaging effect on the game if they do not make accurate decisions," said Habas.

Araujo, Yusa shoot CCFC past Arrows

I-LEAGUE

NANDAKUMAR MARAR
MUMBAI

Chennai City FC soaked up the early pressure from Indian Arrows, enjoyed more ball possession as the first half wore on and hammered home two second half goals in an I-League fixture at the Cooperage ground on Friday. Adolfo Araujo netted the first and set up Katsumi Yusa for the second.

"The bearing of the two league games have no significance on the playoffs. For a start, I have lost only once to Goa [referring to the 3-4 defeat at home]," he said.

With its fifth victory in 14 matches, Chennai City climbed to the third spot. Arrows, which has also played 14 games, has eight points (two wins, two draws

and 10 losses).

Araujo's class was evident from his movement on the turf, control on the ball and eye for goal. For Arrows, Nikhil Raj caught the eye with his footwork and speed on the wings.

The Spaniard scored with an angular left-footer after picking his spot and finishing coolly – a low drive past custodian Samik Mitra. He bettered this strike with a precise pass to link up with Jackson Dias, whose relay from the right was tapped in stylishly by Yusa.

The result: Chennai City FC 2 (Adolfo Araujo 48, Katsumi Yusa 60) bt Indian Arrows 0.



Tapping home: Katsumi Yusa slips one past Arrows custodian Samik Mitra. ■PRASHANT NAKWE

Ghosal, Chotrani get ASF awards nomination

SQUASH

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Ace player Saurav Ghosal and noted junior Veer Chotrani are the two Indians featured in the Asian Squash Federation performance award list for 2019.

Outstanding show

According to an intimation from the Asian body, Ghosal has been nominated for the Dato Alex Award for 'outstanding performance of the year' in the senior category (men) and Chotrani

has been picked for the Hasam Musa Award for 'outstanding performance of the year' in the junior category (boys).

The awards will be presented at the Asian Team Championships to be held from March 25 to 29 in Kuala Lumpur.

In all, 15 nominations had come in from four countries for the seven categories in the ASF Performance awards.

In addition, for the four ASF coaches award, 19 nominations had come in from six countries.

Santoso to coach singles players

BADMINTON

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Experienced Indonesian coach Agus Dwi Santoso will be assisting the India's singles badminton players, including Olympic silver-medalist P.V. Sindhu, from next month as they prepare for the Tokyo Games later this year.

Santoso comes in after the unceremonious exit of South Korea's Kim Ji Hyun, who left abruptly last September after guiding Sindhu to an unprecedented World Championships gold.

Santoso has been roped in to guide the singles players – both men and women – ahead of the Games, scheduled to be held from July 24 to August 9.

India pulls out of Cyprus WC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Indian shotgun team, scheduled to compete in the World Cup in



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