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Netanyahu leads in Israeli election, but still lacks majority  
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## NEARBY



In Nikhil Vihar, Muslims told to vacate homes

BAHDURGARH

Around 50 men allegedly went around Nikhil Vihar, a locality spread across Haryana and Delhi, threatening two dozen Muslim families to vacate their houses before Holi. The Haryana police have deployed personnel there after receiving complaint.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

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OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 9

## Teenager dies at GTB Hospital

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN  
NEW DELHI

Another death was reported from Guru Teg Bahadur (GTB) Hospital here on Tuesday but hospital authorities said it is not related to the recent violence in north-east Delhi.

Eighteen-year-old Aqib died at the hospital on Monday. His body was handed over to the family on Tuesday. "He suffered a head injury in the violence when he went out to purchase clothes for his sister's wedding," said his older brother Wasim.

Health rights activists, meanwhile, said that GTB Hospital, which was the first hospital reached during the recent riots, "did not have a functional CT scan facility for the first two days of violence".

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MORE REPORTS ON ▶ PAGES 2, 3 & 4

## UN rights body to move SC on CAA

MEA says world body has no right to file petition on India's internal matter

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE  
NEW DELHI

In an unprecedented and rare move, the Geneva-based Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has announced that it plans to file an application in the Supreme Court, asking to be impleaded in petitions challenging the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) in the Indian Supreme Court, in accordance with the Court's established procedures, and she has informed the Indian Permanent Mission in Geneva of her intention," Rupert Colville, OHCHR spokesperson based in Geneva, confirmed to *The Hindu*.

*amicus curiae* in the case.

The OHCHR plan has been criticised by diplomatic and legal experts here, including one of the 22 petitioners in the case, as an "overreach".

"The High Commissioner [Michelle Bachelet] intends to submit an *amicus curiae* brief shortly on the Citizenship [Amendment] Act [CAA] in the Indian Supreme Court, in accordance with the Court's established procedures, and she has informed the Indian Permanent Mission in Geneva of her intention," Rupert Colville, OHCHR spokesperson based in Geneva, confirmed to *The Hindu*.

"The *amicus curiae* will focus on providing an overview of relevant and applicable international human rights standards and norms to support the Court's deliberations in the context of its review of the CAA," the spokesperson said.

An OHCHR spokesperson said that High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet intends to submit a petition to be '*amicus curiae*', and provide the SC with an overview of relevant international human rights standards for its review of the CAA

No foreign party has any locus standi on issues pertaining to India's sovereignty  
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focus on providing an overview of relevant and applicable international human rights standards and norms to support the Court's deliberations in the context of its review of the CAA," the spokesperson said.

Last week, Ms. Bachelet informed the Human Rights Council that the UN body had "great concerns over the CAA". She had also met with MEA Secretary (West) Vikas Swarup, who had travelled to Geneva to represent India

at the 43rd session of the Human Rights Council last Thursday. On Monday, the Indian Mission in Geneva was formally informed of the OHCHR's plans to file the petition.

MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said on Tuesday, "The Citizenship (Amendment) Act is an internal matter of India and concerns the sovereign right of the Indian Parliament to make laws. We strongly believe that no foreign party has any *locus standi* on issues pertaining to India's sovereignty."

"We are confident that our sound and legally sustainable position would be vindicated by the Honourable Supreme Court," he added.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 14

## Envoy summoned after Iran slams Delhi riots

India protests Foreign Minister's tweet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif's comments on the riots in Delhi are not acceptable to India, an official of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Tuesday.

The message was conveyed to the Iranian envoy to India, who was summoned to the Ministry hours after Mr. Zarif condemned the "violence against Indians". Path forward lies in peaceful dialogue and rule of law.

The comments from him came days after India fast-tracked work for the Chabahar project of Iran, even as both sides are struggling to exchange thousands of citizens stranded in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak.

MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said, "It was conveyed that his selective and tendentious characterisation of recent events in Delhi are not acceptable. We

## Reaching out



Helping hand: Riot-affected people receiving relief kits at Mustafabad in north-east Delhi on Tuesday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

## NIA arrests man, daughter in Pulwama attack case

Duo accused of providing shelter to the suicide bomber

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR

A man and his daughter were arrested on Tuesday from Pulwama's Hakripora village for allegedly sheltering the local suicide bomber who attacked a CRPF convoy last year in Pulwama that left 40 jawans dead.

Their house was allegedly used to shoot the bomber's last video by the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM).

They were identified as Tariq Ahmed Shah, 50, a driver by profession, and his daughter, 23.

### 'Provided logistics'

"Ms. Jan facilitated the terrorists at their home and provided food and other logistics on more than 15 occasions during 2018 and 2019. She was in constant touch with Muhammad



When terror struck: A file photo of security personnel inspecting the blast site in Pulwama district. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

house, the NIA said. "Besides sheltering the terrorists, the house was used for planning the heinous attack on the CRPF convoy. It was also used for preparing and recording a video of Dar, which was released by JeM soon after the attack."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 14

## Italian tourist tests positive for COVID-19

6th case confirmed; PM chairs review meeting; visas to Italy, Iran suspended

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday chaired a review meeting on the preparedness to combat the COVID-19 outbreak, with the number of confirmed cases rising to six in the country.

"Apart from the three positive cases from Kerala, who have recovered, three more cases have been confirmed positive for COVID-19 and six have heavy viral load and are awaiting confirmation. All are in isolation and are stable," said a senior Health Ministry official.

"Also, 24 persons, including 21 Italian tourists and three Indians (bus driver, conductor and tourist guide), who had contact with the Italian national confirmed as COVID-19 positive in Jaipur, have been shifted

### Preventive measures

The World Health Organisation has announced some basic protective measures against COVID-19

- Thoroughly wash hands with soap, or use alcohol-based hand rub
- Maintain at least 3 feet distance with anyone who is coughing or sneezing
- Avoid touching eyes, nose & mouth
- Wear a mask if you are coughing or sneezing
- Stay at home if you begin to feel unwell, even with mild symptoms such as headache and slight runny nose. Seek medical advice if conditions worsen

to the ITBP facility for testing. Depending on the result, action will be taken," added the official.

"On Tuesday, an Italian tourist in Jaipur tested positive, taking the total number of confirmed cases in India to six so far," a Ministry re-

lease said. Delhi and Telangana had reported one case each on Monday. While the Delhi patient has a travel history to Italy, the patient from Telangana had travelled to Dubai, the release added.

Contact tracing of the people who may have interacted

with the six confirmed cases is being carried out through the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) network, the Ministry added.

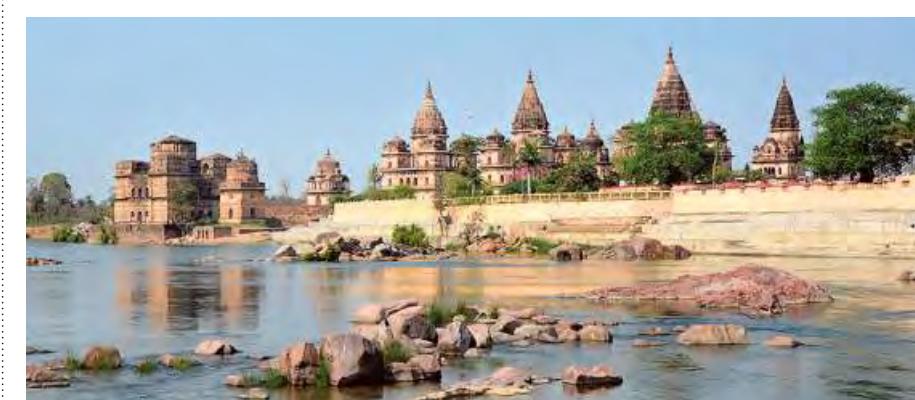
The Health Ministry has suspended all regular visas/e-visas granted on or before March 3 to nationals of Italy, Iran, South Korea and Japan, who have not yet entered India, in view of the emerging global scenarios regarding COVID-19. Visa on arrival (VoA) issued on or before March 3 to Japanese and South Korean nationals, who have not yet entered India, have also been suspended.

(With PTI inputs)

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WE ARE IN UNCHARTED TERRITORY, SAYS WHO ▶ PAGE 16  
TOKYO OLYMPICS ON TRACK, SAYS IOC ▶ PAGE 22

## Centre working on exclusive body for river-linking projects

National Interlinking of Rivers Authority will also generate funds



Water management: A file photo of the Betwa river in Madhya Pradesh which is to be linked to the Ken river.

T. RAMAKRISHNAN  
CHENNAI

The Central government is working on the establishment of an exclusive body to implement projects for linking rivers.

To be called the National Interlinking of Rivers Authority (NIRA), the proposed body on river linking has been under discussion for the past 18 months. However, the official said that as of now, no specific timeline has been determined for the constitution of the Authority. Also, the earlier idea of framing a Bill, envisaging the creation of the NIRA, is not being pursued now.

An official of the National Water Development Agency (NWDA), which is responsible for the formulation of proposals of the linking of rivers, said an updated draft Cabinet note has been circulated to other Ministries in the Central government. On

receipt of comments, the note will be finalised by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and sent to the Union Cabinet for approval.

Headed by Union Minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, the panel includes Irrigation or Water Resources Ministers and Secretaries of States. Since its formation, the Committee has held 17 meetings.

It is being assisted by a Task Force for ILR, which is a committee of experts essentially drawn from the Jal Shakti Ministry, Central Water Commission and the NWDA.

A Tamil Nadu government official said the Centre has not yet shared with States details regarding the new body though it has conveyed to them that it is planning to have an implementation agency for ILR projects.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 14

## No one will lose citizenship, asserts Mamata

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

Asserting that there is no need for residents to apply for citizenship again, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Tuesday that she will not allow even one person to be driven out of the State. "None of the refugees living in the State will lose their citizenship," she said.

Addressing a rally at Kaliganj in Uttar Dinajpur district, Ms. Banerjee said Indians hailing from Bangladesh who have voted in elections here are citizens of the country and don't need to apply afresh for citizenship. "Those who have come to India from Bangladesh are all Indian citizens, they have citizenship. What is the need to give citizenship anew? They have been voting in one election after another, electing Prime Ministers and Chief Ministers, and then it is said that they are not citizens," Ms. Banerjee said.

The Chief Minister and her party, Trinamool Congress, have been opposing the Citizenship (Amendment) Act with the slogan 'Amra Sobai Nagarik' (we are all citizens).

Referring to the Delhi violence, she said, "So many people have been killed... I will never allow a repeat of the Delhi happenings in Bengal. One should not forget that this is Bengal, not Delhi."

## Centre in talks with States wary of NPR

Minister tells Lok Sabha no document would be collected during the exercise

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday said it was in discussion with States that had expressed concerns over the updation of the National Population Register (NPR) from April 1 to September 30.

Union Minister of State for Home Nitinand Rai told the Lok Sabha that no document would be collected during the exercise, which would be

carried out along with the house-listing phase of Census 2021.

"The government is in discussion with the States having concerns in regard to the preparation of the NPR," Mr. Rai said. "The demographic and other particulars of each family and individual are critical of the exercise. The Union Cabinet has approved an outlay of ₹3,941.35 crore for the exercise.

The "pretest" or the trial NPR form collected details from 30 lakh respondents

last year on 21 parameters, including "place of birth of father and mother, last place of residence" along with other information like Aadhaar particulars (optional), voter ID card, mobile phone and driving licence number. The new NPR, for the first time, is also expected to collect information on a respondent's "mother tongue". In 2010 and 2015, the NPR collected details on 14 parameters.

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# In Nikhil Vihar, Muslim families told to vacate homes by Holi

Group of 50 allegedly threatened families in colony that straddles Haryana, Delhi

ASHOK KUMAR  
BAHDURGARH

Visibly shaken, a 34-year-old resident of Nikhil Vihar stands in front of her house with the nameplate that she was forced to tear out after around 50 men went around the locality – spread across Haryana and Delhi – threatening two dozen Muslim families to vacate their houses before Holi.

After receiving a complaint, the Haryana Police deployed personnel in the colony to maintain law and order.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (Badli) Ashok Kumar said that an FIR had been registered but the accused were yet to be identified.

"It was around 1 p.m. on February 29. Most of the men were out working. Only the women, children and the elderly were in their homes. They knocked violently on our door. When I stepped out they told me to leave with my family before Holi," said Baby, holding up the nameplate that bears green crescent moons and the name of her husband Israr Saifi. The family has been



Baby holds up the nameplate that she was forced to tear out on Feb. 29. ■ ASHOK KUMAR

staying at their present address for over seven years and claimed that they never faced any issues before because of their religion.

She said that the men, though not armed, were not willing to take no for an answer. "I was too scared to ask who they were. When they tried to pull out the nameplate, I offered to remove it on my own. I also painted over the religious chants that were inscribed in marble above the entrance," said Baby.

Her neighbour, Sadia said she and her carpenter husband were out when the men, aged between 20-40 years,

had come. "My in-laws and the children at home climbed up the terrace. The men kept banging violently at the door and pulled off a talisman tied at the entrance... but they did not barge into the house," added the 30-year-old resident.

#### Police deployment

Noor Begum, who stays behind a temple, said the men told them to go back to their village. "After they left, I called up the Delhi Police control room, but was told that the area falls under Haryana. I then called up the Haryana Police. More than two dozen police vehicles and senior officers soon arrived. The Haryana Police personnel are now deployed round-the-clock," said Noor.

She added that despite the riots in Delhi, they expected to be safe in Haryana.

A large chunk of the unauthorised colony falls in Haryana's Jhajjar district, but a few houses are in Delhi.

"Of around 20 houses of Muslims in the colony, most of them fall in Haryana. Only 4-5

houses are in Delhi's Najafgarh. While the Haryana Police stationed its personnel round-the-clock, the Delhi Police rider comes occasionally to take a round," said Baby.

Despite heavy police presence, the Muslim families, mostly migrants from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, said they were living under constant fear of being attacked. Najma Khatoon, 46, a widow, said that she has not been able to sleep properly since Saturday.

"Half-a-dozen families have already fled saying they will not return before Holi. The others too have sent young women and children in the house to safer places. We have invested all our savings to buy these houses, we cannot afford to go. My husband suggested that we should go, but the dealer is offering only ₹2 lakh for the house which we bought for ₹4.50 lakh," said a tearful Shahnaz, a resident.

The families claimed they had support from Hindu neighbours, also migrants, but little help from the locals.

## 'It was neighbour vs neighbour at Garhi Mendu'

A lot of the violence was the handiwork of locals, say displaced Muslim families

SIDHARTH RAVI  
JATIN ANAND  
NEW DELHI



A community centre that has been turned into a relief camp at Shri Ram Colony.  
■ SIDHARTH RAVI

Violence at many riot-affected areas in north-east Delhi was reportedly triggered by "outsiders", but it was "neighbour versus neighbour at Garhi Mendu village", said Muslim families displaced from the locality.

Hundreds of people who have taken shelter at a community center in nearby Shri Ram Colony said that Hindu families whom they had lived next to for decades asked them to leave and never come back as violence engulfed the village located in the Khajoori Khas. They were, however, unsure about naming their neighbours in police complaints.

Local Muslim residents say the situation is still tense and panic surfaces at least twice every night around 2.30 a.m. and 5 a.m.

Mohammad Shafi, 67, had shifted to a new house in the area eight days before the riots erupted. "It was on Monday around 6:30 p.m. First, they damaged the

Mubarak Masjid and then began attacking residents... I left with my family at 10 a.m. the next day. At 10:30 p.m. I got a call that my house and the factory below it are on fire... If the paramilitary had not come and we had not slipped away when they were deployed, it would have been us instead of the buildings," he said.

Mehboob Hassan, 72, the Imam of a local mosque, was preparing for evening prayers on February 24 when he heard some stones being peleted at the building.

"I stepped outside and about 10-15 people caught me and started to beat me... they hit my head and kicked me," he said. After managing

to escape, Mr. Hassan tried to run towards his house but was caught by mobs twice and beaten up each time. When he finally got home, he collected his children and fled the village.

Fatima Begum got news that preparations were being made to attack Muslims in the area, when she and her children decided to flee.

"All I took with me was two blankets," she said on Tuesday, having spent nearly a week in the same clothes. Her husband had stayed back to make sure that the goats and birds that the family kept were fed, but decided to leave a day later when mobs started burning vehicles. After the violence died down, people from the camp have been visiting the village on occasion to ensure that their livestock are fed.

Houses of several people who fled were looted and set alight. "In case a Muslim was living in a house rented from a Gujar [reportedly the dominant community here] it was left alone. Only Muslim households were targeted,"

## Requests fly thick and fast on SDM visit

HEMANI BHANDARI  
NEW DELHI  
On a street in Khajoori Khas near Chandu Nagar, riot victims and residents of the area surrounded a government official who had come on Tuesday afternoon. "Sir, there is no electricity, how will anyone live here?" asked one man as others nodded in agreement.

As acrid smell of smoke emanated from the gutted houses, Sub Divisional Magistrate Gaurav Yadav, who has been deployed here from Kanjhawala, made a call: "I want electricity in the area by the end of the day and I need the report on this within two hours".

When some residents claimed that the security personnel deployed in the area had misbehaved with the locals, the official glanced towards the uniformed men and said: "No one will abuse or misbehave with people here. If I get to know that anyone has..."

A local then shared how the water supply is shut.

Mr. Yadav was on the phone again and could be heard saying: "I need water tankers in this area to serve about 300 people by Wednesday evening".

He, however, told the residents that regular water supply may take some time to resume.

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# Riot victims 'dissatisfied' with Delhi govt's relief measures

We are getting food, water and clothes from our own people, say affected residents

**HEMANI BHANDARI**

NEW DELHI

Scores of riot victims who have shifted to Idgah ground in Mustafabad and other localities in the area said on Tuesday that they were not satisfied with the Delhi government's relief measures.

Seher Bano, whose house was vandalised and looted, said she had to shift to Idgah ground as "I do not know where the relief camps set up by government are".

"We are getting food, water and clothes from our own people. I have heard there is a process for compensation but I do not know the details. Politicians have not visited our area," she added.

Several NGOs and private entities have set up helpdesks and kiosks for legal and medical aid in the area.

At Idgah ground, camps have been set up for victims to stay and get help with documents to be submitted for compensation. Tents for men and women along with children have been set up sepa-



Riot-affected victims at a relief camp in Mustafabad in Delhi on Tuesday.

■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

*ab kya kar rahe hain, pata nahi. Paise nahin mile hain abhi tak, pata nahi kitna time lagega (Kejriwal has done some good work but I do not know what he is doing now. I haven't got the money yet. I don't know how long it is going to take)," he said.*

In the next camp, Arshad, a resident of Shiv Vihar, said he did not know who and what to trust. "People are telling me not to put a lock on my house to ensure that I get compensation... but I fear that my belongings may get stolen. No one is telling us what to do. I went to Karwan Nagar police station to file an FIR but they asked me to leave. Where are the government officials to help us?" he said.

Bismillah, a 70-year-old resident of Shiv Vihar, recalled that she was 18 when she got married and came to the locality. "I have lived in the same house for over 50 years and never saw anything like this. Our own neighbours, who ate at our house, betrayed us. I just want the government to

make sure I die in my own house where I came first after marriage," she cried.

Thirty-two-year-old Shaheen Bano, another resident of Shiv Vihar, said she is not entitled for relief from the Delhi government but wants authorities to ensure that she can safely reside in her rented house and not a relief camp. "*Humara paison ka nuk-saan nahin hua, usse bada hua hai. Hum beghar ho gaye* (Ours is not a loss of money but bigger than that. We are homeless)".

Shaheen has three young daughters and was living in a house in Chaman Park. She was earlier staying at another house and has shifted twice.

"It has been a week now. I just want the government to tell us where should we go? What should we do? Should we go back to our villages? I want the government to provide us safety and security to return to our houses," she said, adding that her Hindu landlord has asked her to come back but she is unsure.

Kejriwal meets Modi, seeks action against instigators of violence

CM has given clean chit to Centre: Cong.

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Parliament House on Tuesday and discussed the situation in violence-hit north-east Delhi.

The Congress said that Mr. Kejriwal sounded like he was there to give a clean chit to the Centre and the PM over the Delhi riots. "Did the CM seek registration of FIRs? Did he say that Home Minister should resign? Did he by name demand action against Kapil Mishra? It seemed to me that a supporter of the BJP was speaking after he met the PM," Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi said.

Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala tweeted "And no one killed 46 people, And no one burnt Delhi, And no one destroyed Delhi's love & brotherhood, And neither Sh. Amit Shah nor Sh. Arvind Kejriwal be asked for accountability, And Congrats for Modi-Kejriwal bonhomie & partnership, And 'Goli Maro' is business as usual! [sic]".

ing rumours of violence in Delhi on Sunday, but added that if the force had worked proactively when violence broke out, many lives could have been saved.

The Congress said that Mr. Kejriwal sounded like he was there to give a clean chit to the Centre and the PM over the Delhi riots. "Did the CM seek registration of FIRs? Did he say that Home Minister should resign? Did he by name demand action against Kapil Mishra? It seemed to me that a supporter of the BJP was speaking after he met the PM," Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi said.

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Mr. Kejriwal, who was meeting the PM for the first time after being re-elected, said that Mr. Modi had assured cooperation for the city's development over the next five years. "We agreed on working together on preventing such a situation from happening again," he said.

The CM also appreciated the role of the police in curb-

**Better saaf than sorry!**



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**'CJI's comment detracts from SC's moral authority'**

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

Reacting to Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde's comment that the Supreme Court too has limitations while hearing a petition on Delhi violence, Congress leader Ashwani Kumar on Tuesday said that the comment "detracts from the highest court's moral and constitutional authority".

that pressure and power are integral to each other, pressure being the price of power. The CJI is the highest judicial authority and cannot suggest helplessness in the discharge of duty, plainly cast upon the court by the Constitution, as the final arbiter between liberty of citizens and State power," Mr. Kumar said in a statement.

"Constitutional courts as keepers of the conscience are expected to rise in defense of the Constitution. Perceived diminution of their role and subjectivity in judicial decision making will have far reaching consequences for the future of our Constitutional democracy," he added.

## IN BRIEF

**Over 400 damaged vehicles removed**

NEW DELHI

At least 424 damaged or burnt vehicles have been lifted from the roads of riot-hit north-east Delhi till date, the East Delhi Municipal Corporation said on Tuesday. The vehicles are being collected as evidence and are being transported to locations identified by the police.

## TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT

Mr. N SELVAKUMAR

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selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

Mr. MANOJ KUMAR KUSHWAHA

PH: 9999490055

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**THE HINDU**

India's National Newspaper

## No call from party leaders, says BJP worker whose factory was destroyed in riots

'Action should be taken against leaders who made hate speeches'

**JATIN ANAND**

SIDHARTH RAVI

NEW DELHI

"Modi ji ka naara Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas tha, Sabka Vinash nahin... Badbolepar se ha-laat bigadte hain, yeh hota hai (Prime Minister Narendra Modi's slogan was Everyone's cooperation, everyone's development, everyone's confidence, not everyone's des-

truction... babbling worsens the situation, this is what happens)," said Mohammad Atiq as he held up pictures of his destroyed undergarments factory in Karawal Nagar.

"I gave the BJP 16-17 years of my life... I used to be on first-name basis with its senior State leaders... But not one of them has called to inquire or console me after my factory was destroyed last Monday, along with that of my younger brother, just because of what our names are," said Mr. Atiq, who leads the BJP's minorities' cell at Brahmpuri Mandal.

He said that he had worked



Mohammad Atiq

hard to ensure that 700-800 people from the Muslim community in the area took up the party's membership during a drive in the run-up to the Delhi Assembly elections.

Mr. Atiq said that he received a call from the owners of factories located near his

unit was informed that his factory, and that of his brother, had been ransacked during the violence in Delhi.

"Rioters have no religion just like the babbling leaders across the political spectrum whose speeches had triggered a breakdown of trust between communities," he said, adding: "On February 25, I got a call from a neighbour telling me that our factories had been destroyed... they told me not to come to Karawal Nagar even to assess the loss... I have not been able to gather the courage to go there. I am from Bihar and never felt as unsafe as I do

here now."

"My entire life savings was destroyed by rioters... Who were these people... Rioters have no religion, but what is a fact is that whether it is [BJP leader] Kapil Mishra or Asa-duddin [Owaisi], all kinds of hate speech which lead to a breakdown of brotherhood must be condemned," he added.

A resident of Usmanpur, Mr. Atiq said he, like his Hindu neighbours, had been carrying out night vigils at the local temple in the Gau Gali to confront the fear and apprehensions related to their safety and that of their families for the last ten days.

Mr. Atiq said that if given a chance he would complain at the highest levels against the hate speeches delivered by leaders from his own party, which "got worse after the Delhi election results".

"There is so much tension that people from both communities have not been able to sleep for the last 10 nights," he said, adding: "What Kapil Mishra has said, which even the party is condemning, must be condemned. What has happened has happened and it is high time that both communities come together to rebuild lives."

## STUDENTS OF NORTH EAST DISTRICT AND ITS ADJOINING AREAS IN DELHI

### FOR STUDENTS OF CLASSES X AND XII

- If you are a Class X or XII student registered in CBSE Board Exam, and
- Your Board Exam center is in District North East /some schools of East, or
- You reside in District North East

**For the exams which were postponed or you are unable to take till March 7, 2020, there would be another opportunity to take it at a later date.**

### WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO AT THIS STAGE?

- For examination at later dates, the school will send your name directly to the CBSE.
- To check your name in the CBSE list and new dates of exam contact your school immediately after March 7, 2020.
- You may approach your Head of School now for books, Stationary, etc in case you need it

**For further clarification,  
you can call us at 011- 22911698**



## IN BRIEF



Street theatre festival 'Manthan' begins

**NEW DELHI** The 13th edition of street theatre festival, 'Manthan', has started and will see events being held at over 150 locations to raise awareness about social problems. Over 4,000 artistes will be performing in the festival, which is being organised by Verve – a street play society of Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies, Delhi University. The theme this year is 'No More Honking', an aim to put an end to all unnecessary actions, noises and activities.

## Take immediate steps to install CCTV cameras: HC

**NEW DELHI** The Delhi High Court directed the police on Tuesday to take "immediate and urgent steps" to install CCTV cameras in vulnerable areas of the national capital, saying it would help in "curbing crime" and making women's security a reality. The HC gave Delhi Police three months to install the cameras and added that if more time was required then it will be granted thereafter.

## DU takes steps to ensure a safe Holi

**NEW DELHI** In the run-up to Holi, Delhi University officials reached out to the police and transport authorities to take measures to ensure no hooliganism takes place, the university said on Tuesday.

# Delhi govt. recommends rejection of Nirbhaya convict's mercy plea

Pawan Gupta had filed the petition before the President on Monday

**NIKHIL M BABU**

**NEW DELHI**

The Delhi government on Tuesday informed the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), its recommendation for "rejection" of the mercy petition filed by Pawan Gupta, one of the convicts in the rape and murder case of Nirbhaya, a senior Delhi government official said.

The recommendation was sent to the MHA after approval of the same by Delhi Home Minister Satyendar Jain and Lt. Governor Anil Baijal. Gupta had filed the petition before the President on Monday.

"The Home Department recommended the rejection

**C** The mercy petitions of the other three convicts were all rejected and the fourth one cannot be different. This will also be rejected by the President

**A SENIOR DELHI GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL**

of the mercy petition and it was sent to the Minister and L-G, who approved the same. The recommendation for rejection was then sent to the MHA by the Home Department today [Tuesday], the senior Delhi government official told *The Hindu*.

"The mercy petitions of the other three convicts were all rejected and the fourth one cannot be different. This will also be rejected by the President," the official added.

## Execution postponed

The four convicts were supposed to be hanged to death on Tuesday at 6 a.m. On Monday, hours before their execution, Additional Sessions Judge Dharmender Rana put on hold their execution when informed that Gupta has moved a mercy petition before the President.

Even if the President rejects the mercy plea of the

convict, the law laid down by the Supreme Court in its Shatrughan Chauhan judgment of 2014 requires the convict to be given 14 days time to set his affairs straight and "prepare" for the execution.

Gupta, Akshay, Mukesh, and Vinay brutally gang-raped the 23-year-old para-medical student in a moving bus on the intervening night of December 16-17, 2012. She died a few days later. An accused, Ram Singh, allegedly committed suicide in the Tihar Jail. A juvenile, who was among the accused, was convicted by the Juvenile Justice Board. He was released from a reformation home after serving a three-year term.

## 230 beds in 25 hospitals to treat COVID-19: Sisodia

**STAFF REPORTER**  
**NEW DELHI**

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Tuesday said that 230 beds have been made available at the isolation wards of 25 hospitals in the city as a measure to fight COVID-19. His family has also been monitored," Mr. Sisodia said.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had chaired an emergency meeting on the preparations with Health Secretary, Chief Secretary and Health Minister.

"Even though only one

COVID-19 case has been notified in Delhi, people need to be cautious. The patient has been kept under observation in Safdarjung Hospital. His family has also been monitored," Mr. Sisodia said.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had chaired an emergency meeting on the preparations with Health Secretary, Chief Secretary and Health Minister.

## Anti-CAA march called off as police detain 185 students

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
**NEW DELHI**

A march from Ramlila Maidan to Jantar Mantar called by Young India, a coalition of student organisations from across the country, against the CAA and the violence in north-east Delhi was allowed in the heart of Delhi in which provocative slogans were raised, but a peaceful march by the youth was not allowed and students were being detained for raising their voice.

asked the students to assemble at Jantar Mantar directly for the protest.

Addressing the gathering, activist Umar Khalid said that on February 29, a pro-CAA march was allowed in the heart of Delhi in which provocative slogans were raised, but a peaceful march by the youth was not allowed and students were being detained for raising their voice.

## OUR YAMUNA, OUR RESPONSIBILITY



**YAMUNA BELONGS TO ALL OF US AND IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP IT POLLUTION FREE.**

**LET'S ALL WE TAKE A PLEDGE TO KEEP YAMUNA POLLUTION FREE**

### SOURCES OF POLLUTION:

- Untreated Sewage ■ Industrial effluents ■ Construction debris
- Unchecked disposal of solid waste ■ Daily activities like bathing, washing clothes, bathing of animals, etc.
- Use of chemical fertilizers/pesticides in the flood plains for agriculture.

### DOS

- ☒ Sewer connections should be obtained by each and every house hold in areas where sewer network exists.
- ☒ Conserve water. Follow the principle of reduce / reuse/ recycle while water usage.
- ☒ Use mug instead of running the tap while brushing teeth or shaving.
- ☒ Take shorter showers to reduce water consumption.
- ☒ Check your water bill to see how much water you are using.
- ☒ Encourage rooftop rain water harvesting and recharging wells/tanks.
- ☒ Kitchen waste water should be used for watering plants and other non-potable uses.
- ☒ Establish community nursery by using waste water.
- ☒ Remain vigilant so that no septic tank waste is discharged into the drains and such incident should be reported. Septic tank waste is to be discharged at the designated points identified by DJB.
- ☒ Water conservation to be made a part of our daily routine.
- ☒ Promote the use of non-toxic liquid disinfectant and cleaners.
- ☒ Practice Waste Segregation at household level. Biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste should be put in separate bins and no waste should be littered or thrown in drains.
- ☒ Practising recycle and reuse. Make compost out of vegetable peels and other food wastes which can be recycled for use as manure. If space does not permit, try this in pots/ containers.
- ☒ Say no to single-use disposable plastics, carry a reusable bag (cloth bag) when shopping.
- ☒ Plant trees in your locality and ensure their survival. Planting of trees and shrubs in garden, balcony, roof top or a terrace garden provides shelter to birds and helps in conserving urban biodiversity.
- ☒ Make sure your home is leak free. Maintain and repair plumbing fixtures regularly.

### DON'Ts

- ☒ Do not discharge contaminated water in water bodies.
- ☒ Do not throw plastic, garbage, religious material and other wastes in river Yamuna.
- ☒ Do not litter near water bodies including lakes, ponds, drains and river.
- ☒ Stop chemical pollution – if you notice someone throwing chemicals into the river or lake, or hear about such an incident, inform your local authorities about the matter.
- ☒ Do not block/stop natural drains by constructing on drain or dumping wastes in the drain.
- ☒ Avoid wasting water.
- ☒ Idols made of Plaster of Paris and baked clay or painted with chemical/heavy metals based paints should not be immersed.
- ☒ Do not let overhead water-tanks to overflow. Switch off water supply when they are full.
- ☒ Do not wash your car with a hose pipe.



## 79 houses, 327 shops gutted in riots as per police reports: Sisodia

'Govt. has so far distributed ₹38.75 lakh as compensation'

**STAFF REPORTER**

**NEW DELHI**

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia after visiting riot-hit areas in north-east Delhi on Tuesday said that as per police reports, 79 houses have been totally burned, 168 substantially burned, and 327 shops gutted in the riots.

The Delhi government has so far distributed a total of ₹38.75 lakh as compensation in riot-hit areas. The families of people killed in the violence have been given a total of ₹22 lakh, the injured have been provided ₹9 lakh and ₹7.75 lakh distributed to people whose households were damaged.

"Eighteen SDMs are pressed into action besides four Magistrates to assess the loss incurred in the violence as well as to coordinate the relief and rehabilitation works in the affected areas. If the houses in those areas are locked, officials are trying to contact the oc-

**Chadha takes charge as DJB Vice Chairman**

**NEW DELHI**

AAP MLA Raghav Chadha took charge as Vice Chairman of the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) on Tuesday and reviewed water supply in communal violence-hit north-east Delhi and directed officials to ensure adequate supply of clean drinking water in the area, including additional deployment of water tankers if required. "Fulfilling CM Kejriwal's vision of 24-hour piped water to all households and clean Yamuna will be top priorities," he said.

cupants through their neighbours so that their names and details shall be included in the DMD relief operations on the ground.

Over 1,000 people have

moved to a relief camp in Mustafabad in the last 24 hours from Shivpuri, Mustafabad and Karawal Nagar, an official statement said. The Delhi government has also set up many helpdesks at the Mustafabad relief camp from where the families can get the compensations by filling a form.

The government also held a peacekeeping initiative at the community centre of Sri Ram Colony. "Members of both the communities were present, including SDMs, SHOs and others. Pardhan of Garhi Mendoo Bhikari ji came to

the meeting, decision was taken that more such trust-building programmes will be held inside the Garhi Mendoo village and a peacekeeping Aman Committee will be formed," the statement said.

## Delhi's most wanted criminal held with three of his accomplices

Gogi carried a reward of ₹6.5 lakh, was arrested from Gurugram

**STAFF REPORTER**

**NEW DELHI**

The Capital's most wanted criminal, who was carrying a reward of ₹6.5 lakh on his head, was arrested along with his three accomplices from Gurugram on Tuesday, police said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Manish Chandra said that the criminal Jitender Maan alias Gogi was arrested along with Kuldeep alias Fajja, Kapil alias Gaurav and Rohit alias Moi from an apartment complex.

Before he surrendered before the police, Gogi recorded a video saying that he has been surrounded by police and might get killed in an encounter because of which he is surrendering. Sources said that after the arrest when he was asked why he made the video, he said that he was anticipating a "Shootout at Lokhandwala" [Bollywood film] style encounter because of sirens and lights pointing at them.

Police said that they were on the trail of Gogi, Fajja and Gaurav for a long time. "Police got a tip-off on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday and visited Kherki Daula Toll Plaza in Gurugram. When police reached the toll plaza, they got information that Gogi, along with



Gangster Jitender Maan alias Gogi, along with three others, at the police headquarters in the city.

■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

wood film] style encounter because of sirens and lights pointing at them.

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## Cong. leader's office vandalised

**STAFF REPORTER**

**NEW DELHI**

Four miscreants allegedly attacked the personal staff of Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and vandalised his office on Humayun Road on Tuesday afternoon.

A police complaint has been lodged by Mr. Chowdhury's personal staff in

which his private secretary Pradipto Rajpandit said that four men came to Mr. Chowdhury's office looking for him. Entering his office, located just outside his main residence, one of the youths asked the staff to connect to Mr. Chowdhury over phone immediately.

However, they had left their number which is now reportedly switched off.

DCP (New Delhi) Eish Singh said that they are inquiring into the matter.

Talk: Indian Army International seminar on "Changing Characteristics of Land Warfare and its Impact on the Military". Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Army Chief Gen Manoj Naravane will speak at the inaugural session of this two-day event, scheduled at Manekshaw Auditorium, Khyber Lines, Delhi Cantonment, 9.45 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Talk: Seminar on "Belt and Road from the Ground Up" by Jacob Mandel, Freelance Researcher, Mercator Institute of China Studies (MERICS), Berlin at Seminar Room, Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS), Civil Lines, 3 p.m.

Exhibition: "Hindu Deities and Sanskrit in Japan", an exhibition of photographs by Benoy K. Behl, well-known photographer and Culture Historian at Kamaladevi Complex, India International Centre, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Living Between the times 2020", a solo painting exhibition by Milburn Cherian at Visual Arts Gallery, IHC, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Metamorphosis of Formations in Tar", a solo exhibition of Sriman K S Lamba at Triveni Kalash Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

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(Mail your listings for this column at [cityeditor@thehindu.co.in](mailto:cityeditor@thehindu.co.in))

### Air Quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi 205	Gurugram 178
Ghaziabad 240	Faridabad 244
Noida 242	Greater Noida 200
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

Exhibition: "Hindu Deities and Sanskrit in Japan", an exhibition of photographs by Benoy K. Behl, well-known photographer and Culture Historian at Kamaladevi Complex, India International Centre, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

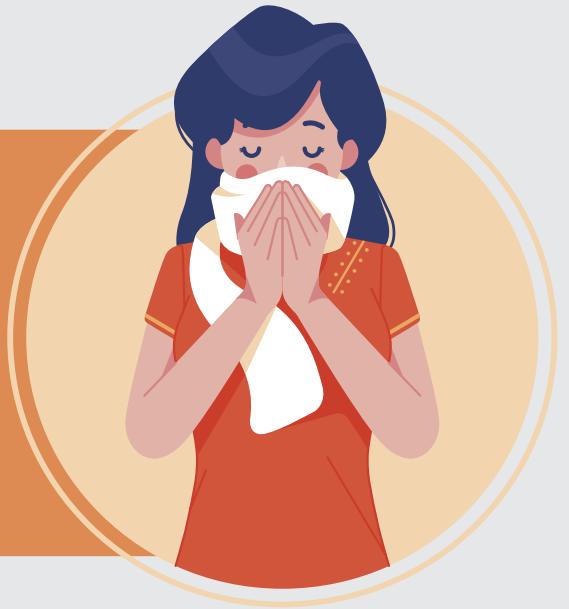
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(Mail your listings for this column at [cityeditor@thehindu.co.in](mailto:cityeditor@thehindu.co.in))

A-NO-DE

# NOVAL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) GENERAL ADVISORY FOR PUBLIC



The 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19), Wuhan coronavirus, is a contagious virus that causes respiratory infection, can transfer from human to human.

## SYMPTOMS

- FEVER
- DIFFICULTY IN BREATHING
- COUGHING
- TIGHTNESS OF CHEST
- RUNNING NOSE
- HEAD ACHE
- FEELING OF BEING UNWELL
- PNEUMONIA
- KIDNEY FAILURE

## MODE OF TRANSMISSION

Human Coronavirus (COVID-19) most commonly spread from an infected person to other through:

- Air by coughing and sneezing
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hand
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands

## HOW TO REDUCE RISK OF CORONAVIRUS INFECTION (COVID-19)

- Clean hand with soap and water or alcohol based hand rub
- Cover nose and mouth when coughing & sneezing with tissue or flexed elbow
- Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu like symptoms
- Isolation of symptomatic patients for atleast 14 days.

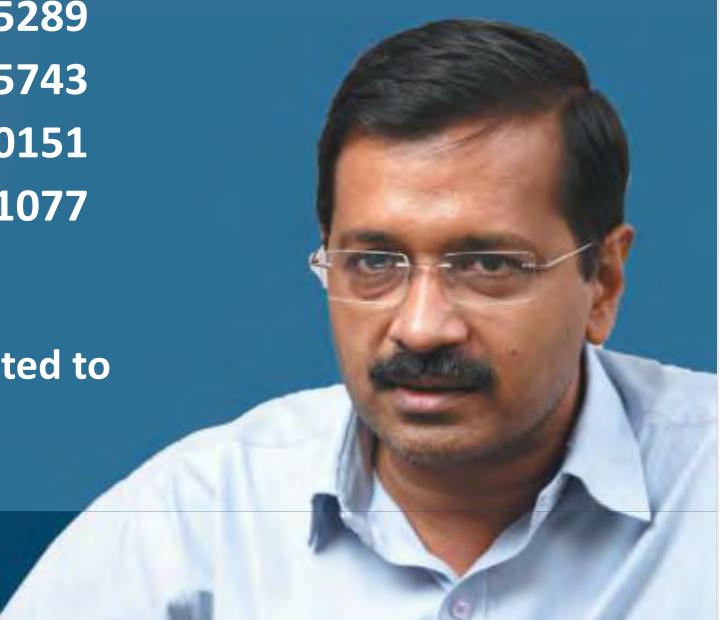
DO's	DON'Ts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cover your nose and mouth with disposable tissue or handkerchief while coughing or sneezing</li><li>• Frequently wash your hands with soap and water</li><li>• Avoid crowded places</li><li>• Person suffering from Influenza like illness must be confined at home</li><li>• Stay more than one arm's length distance from persons sick with flu</li><li>• Take adequate sleep and rest</li><li>• Drink plenty of water/liquids and eat nutritious food</li><li>• Person suspected with Influenza like illness must consult doctor</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands</li><li>• Hugging, kissing and shaking hands while greeting</li><li>• Spitting in public places</li><li>• Taking medicines without consulting doctor</li><li>• Disposal of used napkin or tissue paper in open areas</li><li>• Touching surfaces usually used by public (Railing, door gates, etc)</li></ul>

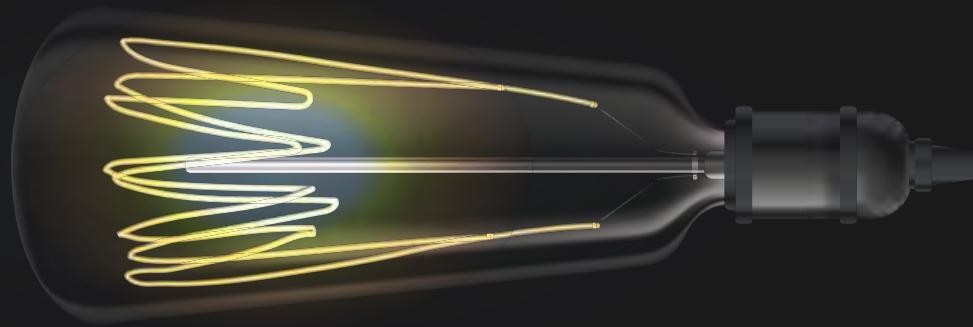
## Control Room Numbers at State and District level

State DGHS (HQ)	011-22307145, 22300012, 22300036
North	011-27708768
South	011-29531277
East	011-22050908, 22051234
West	011-25195529
North-West	011-25951182

South-West	011-25066674
South-East	011-26476410
North-East	011-22115289
New Delhi	011-23385743
Central	011-23270151
Shahdara	011-22111077

24\*7 Control Room has been established at DGHS (HQ), may be contacted for any query related to COVID-19 Ph: 011-22307145, 22300012, 22300036





# Celebrating people and organisations who are changing our world for the better.

**March 6, 2020 | Taj Mansingh Hotel, Delhi | 5 pm onwards**

Foraying into its third year, this awards that was launched as *The Hindu BusinessLine* entered its 25th year of publication, seeks to recognise and reward those whose work is transformational in a significant and positive way for our society, economy and planet



presents

**BusinessLine**

# CHANGE MAKER awards

RECOGNISING  
HUMAN  
CATALYSTS

*Award Categories:*

**Changemaker of the Year • Young Changemaker • Changemaker: Digital Transformation • Changemaker: Financial Transformation • Changemaker: Social Transformation • Iconic Changemaker of the Year**



**DTI** DELHI Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited  
(An Enterprise of GNCT of Delhi)  
**Notice Inviting Quotations for appointment of Chartered Accountant Firms**

DTIDC, an enterprise of Govt. of NCT of Delhi, having its office at 2nd Floor, Maharana Pratap ISBT, Kashmere Gate, Delhi-110006 invites sealed Quotations for appointment of Chartered Accountant Firms empanelled from CAG having head office in Delhi NCR for tax consultancy and commercial book keeping etc. for Financial Year 2020-21 & 2021-22. Notice Inviting Quotations and prescribed applications form may be downloaded from the website of DTIDC i.e. dtidc.co.in and also from the website of Transport Department i.e. transport.delhi.gov.in, from 04.03.2020 to 24.03.2020.

**Accounts Officer**  
Delhi Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited  
DIP/Shabdharth/1421/19-20

**श्रीधरां देवं पद्म समीकृतं भवति त्वं लिपितं परोत्तमं करो तुमन्**  
सर्वे स्वप्रत्यक्षं करो भूवितं किया जात है जिस दिनक 12.12.2019 को डीपीसी दिव्यांग व दिनांक 18.12.2019 को इंडियन एक्सप्रेस समाचार पर्सों में हरिहरण देवं पद्म समीकृतं संसाकृती वंचकृता द्वया अभ्युपां आयां पर तेव तन्नेविलाप व दिनक मन्त्री गां विश्वापम प्रभावित किया जाया था। उपरोक्त एवं दो दिव्यांग विभागों में जल बहाव गर अधिकारी हुए दिनक 06.03.2020 तारी 11:00 बजे लिपितं परोत्तमं का अध्योक्त विभाग जाना है। अतः सभी आधिक अपने तमीं मूल पात्राण चाहीं तमुं दिल्लीपां शूक लाइट (आधार वर्किंगटर कार्यकार्ताओंलिमिटेड प्रभावां पर) धारा: 09:30 बजे कालांग विभाग समेत उपरिकृत होना सुनिश्चित करे। किसी मूल पात्राण चाहीं तमांसा में देखने की अनुमति नहीं ही जारी। आधेदने को अपना तो कोई सुन्दर नहीं भौती जानागै। तथा लिपितं परोत्तमं के लिए कहीं तो TADA नहीं दिया जानागै।

उप सिविल सर्वेत-एक्सप्रेस  
कृपया सिविल सर्वेत-एक्सप्रेस

Pwdh/00156

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
(SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused person Md. Sabir Khan, S/o Md. Samshul R/o H.No. A-91, 4th Floor, Duggal Colony, Khanpur, New Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 1108/14 dated 30.11.2014 u/s 27 IPC The Delhi Medical Council Act, 1997, P.S. Neb Sarai, Delhi it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused person Md. Sabir Khan, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Md. Sabir Khan, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Md. Sabir Khan, FIR No. 1108/14 dated 30.11.2014 u/s 27 IPC The Delhi Medical Council Act, 1997, P.S. Neb Sarai, Delhi, is required to appear before the court on or before 25.04.2020.

By order  
Sh. Anuj Kumar Singh,  
MM South, Saket Court Complex,  
Room No.212,  
New Delhi

DP/14/SD/2020

**DELHI ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
Viniyam Bhawan, C-Block, Shivalik, Malviya Nagar,  
New Delhi-110017.  
Website: www.derc.gov.in  
Telefax: +91-11-26673608, +91-11-41080417

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**PETITIONS FOR TRUE UP OF EXPENSES FOR FY 2018-19 AND AGGREGATE REVENUE REQUIREMENT (ARR) & TARIFF FOR FY 2020-21 FILED BY GENERATION COMPANIES, TRANSMISSION LICENSEE AND DISTRIBUTION LICENSEES**

1. The Generation Companies viz. Inraprastha Power Generation Co. Ltd., (IPGCL) & Pragati Power Corporation Ltd. (PPCL), Transmission Licensee viz. Delta Transco Ltd. (DTL), Distribution Licensees viz. New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd. (BRPL), BSES Yamuna Power Ltd. (BYPL) and Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd. (TPDDL) have filed their Petitions for approval of True Up of expenses for FY 2018-19 and ARR & Tariff for FY 2020-21 before the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission ("DERC" or "The Commission").

2. The Petitioners have filed their respective Petitions under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, the DERC (Terms & Conditions for determination of Wheeling Tariff & Retail supply Tariff), Regulations 2007, DERC (Terms & Conditions for determination of Wheeling Tariff & Retail supply Tariff) Regulations, 2011 and Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions for Determination of Tariff) Regulations, 2017 and DERC Business Plan Regulations, 2017 & 2019. The Commission has admitted the Petitions vide its Orders dated 24/01/2020 and 20/02/2020 subject to clarifications/additional information, if any, that may be sought from time to time.

3. The Commission has prepared and uploaded Executive Summary of these Petitions on its website <http://derc.gov.in/>

4. In accordance with the provisions of the DERC (Comprehensive Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2001, the Commission hereby seeks comments/suggestions from the consumers and other stakeholders on the above Petitions. The comments/suggestions may be sent to the Secretary of the Commission at the above office address latest by 20/03/2020. The comments may be submitted personally or by post or through e-mail to the Commission. The comments can also be e-mailed to the Secretary, DERC at the e-mail address [secyderc@nic.in](mailto:secyderc@nic.in).

5. As per Regulation 27(x) of Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (Comprehensive Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2001, the Commission shall conduct Public Hearing on Tariff Petitions for True Up of FY 2018-19 and ARR & Tariff for FY 2020-21 at the following venue on 18/03/2020:

Date	Venue	Time
18/03/2020 Wednesday	NDMC Convention Centre, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi-110001	10:30 AM to 1:30 PM & 02:30 PM to 05:00 PM

6. The Public Hearing shall be conducted on first come- first heard basis. The stakeholders are requested to bring their Photo Identity proof for attending the Hearing. The registration for stakeholders shall be from 9:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. on 18/03/2020 at the above mentioned venue.

7. The Commission shall scrutinize the Petitions and seek further clarifications from the Petitioners, if required. By way of an Order, the Commission shall approve the True Up of expenses for FY 2018-19 and ARR & Tariff for FY 2020-21 after prudence check. The Orders on the Petitions shall be issued after considering the suggestions received from various stakeholders.

DIP/Shabdharth/1418/19-20

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER TEMP., CONSTRUCTION DIVISION (E/M), U.P.JAL NIGAM, MORADABAD**

Letter No.: 329/Nivida/26  
Dated: 27.02.2020  
**SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tenders are being invited for Construction of 01 Nos. Tubewell 300x200 mm dia 130 M deep by RC rig machine in Mohmmadpur Deomal T.W. No. 02 Rural Water Supply Schemes under NRDWP Distt. Bijnor U.P. Jal Nigam. The tender document shall be available at e-procurement website <https://etender.up.nic.in> from dated 05.03.2020 at 10:00 am onwards interested contractor can download the above tender document and upload their tender duly filled in from dated 05.03.2020 to 16.03.2020 up to 05:00 p.m. in above e-procurement website First cover (Technical) Shall be opened on dated 17.03.2020 at 11:30 am in the office of The Executive Engineer Temp. Construction Division (E/M), U.P. Jal Nigam, Moradabad in presence of intending tenderers if any. Tender cost Rs. 1000.00+18% GST (Non-refundable) in form of demand draft in favour of Executive Engineer Temp. Construction Division (E/M), U.P. Jal Nigam, Moradabad will be uploaded with tender. Other terms & condition can also be seen on U.P. Jal Nigam website [www.upjn.org](http://www.upjn.org) and e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in> in tender document.

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, 1st. CIRCLE, U.P. JAL NIGAM, 219, CIVIL LINES, MEERUT**

**SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE**

Letter No-383/731/33  
Dated: 27.02.2020

U.P. Jal Nigam, E-tenders are invited for Construction of OHT, Laying of Distribution & Rising main etc. in Birial Village water supply scheme under "QPV" in District-Baghpat. Intending tenderers experienced required should have completed in last 10 years ending Date- 31.12.2019. Tender document shall be available at e-procurement website, <http://etender.up.nic.in> latest by 03.03.2020. Interested contractors may view & download their tender document and upload their tender, duly filled online latest by 13.03.2020 up to 10:00 hrs. Uploaded tender document shall be opened on 13.03.2020 at 12:00 Hrs. onwards in the office of "Superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, UP Jal Nigam, Meerut".

The above tender notice is available on Website - [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). RIGHT OF RAILWAY TO DEAL WITH TENDER: Railway Administration reserves the right to postpone/modify or to cancel any one or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.

Divisional Railway Manager/Sig. & Telecom/Sonpar PR/2356/SEE/Sig&Tel/T/19-20/40

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
E-Open Tender Notice  
E-Open Tender Notice No. S&T/SEE/ E-OT/19-20/19 Date: 02.03.2020

The DRM (Sig. & Telecom)/SEE for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-Tenders for the following works. The last date of online E-tendering is 27.03.2020 up to 12:00 hrs. All information and tender documents related to E-Tender is available on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

SI. No.-1 E-Tender No. S&T/SEE/ E-OT/19-20/19 Name of work : Replacement of OFC equipments with all accessories in BJJ-KIR, DKGS-SPJ and SEE-CPR section in Sonpur Division. Approx. cost (in Rs.) : 3,77,32,074.53, Earnest Money (In Rs.) : 3,38,700.00, Cost of Tender Document (in Rs.) (Non-refundable) : 10,000.00, Completion period : 06 (Six) Months from date of issue of LOA.

₹ 2,500\*

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DELHI

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RISE 06:43 SET 18:23
RISE 12:45 SET 02:06
THURSDAY, MAR. 05
RISE 06:42 SET 18:24
RISE 13:41 SET 03:04
FRIDAY, MAR. 06
RISE 06:41 SET 18:25
RISE 14:42 SET 04:01

Delhi Weather	max min
Delhi City	29 14
Safdarjung	29 14
Palam	28 15

Delhi Paliom Today  
29°C Shallow fog/mist during cool morning is likely. Day will be comfortable. There are chances of light rain/thundershower.

Delhi Paliom Tomorrow  
26°C Fall in day temperature is likely due to rain/thundershower along with gusty winds.

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IN BRIEF

Mass death of laughingthrush birds

PITHORAGARH (UTTARAKHAND)  
Around 50 white-throated laughingthrush birds died mysteriously in the forests of Bering sub-division of Pithoragarh district in Uttarakhand. Forest range officer Manoj Sanwal confirmed the mass death. PTI

# Jharkhand govt. announces farm loan waiver, unemployment dole

Free power and free treatment also part of welfare steps in State budget

SATYASUNDAR BARIK  
BHUBANESWAR

The Hemant Soren government on Tuesday announced a slew of welfare measures including farm loan waiver, unemployment allowance, free power, free treatment for critical illness and universal scholarship for students in government schools.

Jharkhand Finance Minister Rameshwar Oraon presented the first budget of the alliance government led by Mr. Soren, which came to power in December last year.

"The annual budgetary allocation for the year 2020-21 is estimated at ₹86,370 crore. The revenue and capital expenditure has been estimated at ₹73,316 crore and ₹13,054 crore respectively," Mr. Oraon said in the State Assembly.

"More than 75% of Jharkhand's population depends on agriculture and allied activities. The government is determined for develop-



CM Hemant Soren and Finance Minister R. Oraon before the budget presentation in Ranchi on Tuesday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ment of people associated with the sector. The government has decided to start a short-term loan waiver scheme for people whose lion's share of income goes in repaying farm loan," he said.

'Pro-poor budget'

Welcoming the budget, Mr. Soren said: "The budget is a reflection of our pro-poor outlook. We have made our priorities public. We have turned the direction of our governance towards shan-

loan up to ₹50,000 will be waived."

The Minister said the State would assess the number of farmers who have taken loan and the total amount that needs to be repaid.

As per major budgetary provisions, people consuming less than 300 units of power will not have to pay electricity dues for first 100 units.

Unemployed youths, who had earned their bachelor and master's degree in the past three years and registered with employment ex-

changes for jobs, will be paid an annual unemployment allowance of ₹5,000 and ₹7,000 respectively. The government has made budgetary provision of ₹146 crore under this head.

The government also proposes to provide universal scholarship for students enrolled in government schools from Class I to XII under the Chief Minister Special Student Scholarship scheme.

The government will facilitate free treatment for critical illness such as cancer and kidney and liver ailments in top-notch health institutions of the country for families having annual income of less than ₹8 lakh.

Moreover, the Soren government announced that it will pay an additional ₹50,000 to the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana beneficiaries from the State exchequer. The government also proposes to provide ration to all people above 50 years of age.

## CBI closes its probe against ex-AMU V-C

DEVESH K. PANDEY  
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation has closed its probe against former Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University Naseem Ahmad as its request for prosecution was rejected.

The government also proposed to provide universal scholarship for students enrolled in government schools from Class I to XII under the Chief Minister Special Student Scholarship scheme.

The agency had last year sent the request for prosecution to the Union Human Resource Development Ministry.

Mr. Ahmad, a retired IAS official, was the AMU Vice-Chancellor from 2002 to 2007. He also headed the National Commission for Minorities from 2014 to 2017.

The agency had last year sent the request for prosecution to the Union Human Resource Development Ministry.

On January 2, 2018, the CBI registered the case against Mr. Ahmad, the then university Finance Officer Yasmeen Jalal Beg and the then Joint Finance Officer Shakib Ahsan, alleging irregularities in the appointment of Mr. Ahsan as an Assistant Finance Officer in 2005.

The FIR was based on the findings of a preliminary enquiry.

## Gang giving fake contracts for new ration cards busted

No new ration cards needed: Centre

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police have caught a Jharkhand-based group which fraudulently gave contracts for issue of plastic cards under the One Nation One Ration Card scheme.

The existing card will be accepted across the country to get subsidised foodgrain," Mr. Paswan had tweeted.

However, as no individual victim had been identified, Delhi Police could not make much headway in its investigations, said Deputy Commissioner of Police Eish Singh.

Man duped

On Monday, a Maharashtra resident Bhagwat Sahebaro Wayal approached the Ministry office in Delhi and alleged that he had been defrauded by a Jharkhand resident Pratish Kumar Ranawat, who had charged him up to ₹15 lakh for the contract to print new cards in one district.

Probe is on

Delhi Police arrested the accused and his associate with the forged letter in the city on Tuesday. Investigations are going on to find out whether they had carried out the scam in other States as well.

## 'Will end monopoly in Punjab transport sector'

Govt. will take all possible steps: CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH  
Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Tuesday said his government will take all possible steps to break the monopoly in the transport sector. A new ministerial policy would be brought out soon to eliminate the mafia completely from the State.

Capt. Amarinder, speaking in the State Assembly on the issue of the transport policy, underlined that the matter was sub judice but necessary action would be taken as per the directions of the court, as and when the issue was settled.

Show-cause notices

Assuring the House that any transport permits found illegal would be cancelled, the Chief Minister said that show-cause notices had already been issued for 142 permits, which were being examined as per law.

"The transport department was in the process of



CM Amarinder Singh .

issuing 15-day show-cause notices for the remaining 212 permits as well," said Capt. Amarinder, adding that his government was totally committed to ending monopolistic practices and cartelisation in the transport sector, which the previous SAD-BJP regime had promoted for its own benefit.

Earlier, while participating in the discussion over the budget proposals, Congress MLA Amrinder Singh Raja said the party has been power for almost three years now but yet there's no policy in sight to put an end to transport mafia.

## Haryana Cong. MLAs disrupt Assembly session

Their protest march was earlier halted

VIKAS VASUDEVA  
CHANDIGARH

The Haryana Assembly proceedings on Tuesday witnessed disruption by Congress legislators, who alleged that their protest march against the ruling BJP-JJP government was stopped at a distance from the entry point of the Assembly complex.

Haryana Congress MLAs led by Leader of the Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda held a protest march outside the Assembly complex against the State government for its alleged non-fulfilment of promises made during the 2019 Assembly poll campaign.

"This government has not taken one single step to fulfil the promises it has made in the election manifesto. Corruption and scams were at its peak in Haryana yet the government is not keen to investigate the allegations, be it paddy or mining scam. We have been demanding a CBI probe but why is the govern-



Cong. leader B.S. Hooda

ment reluctant?" asked Mr. Hooda, as party leaders shouted slogans while displaying placards and posters.

Inside the Assembly, the Congress MLAs stormed into the well of the House over the non-entry issue. They alleged that the government was acting in a dictatorial manner. Speaker Gian Chand Gupta informed the members that no placards, posters etc were allowed inside. After the Speaker assured that their rights will always remain protected, the Congress MLAs resumed their seats.

## Sikh student asked to remove turban

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DHAR (M.P.)

A Class XII Sikh student was allegedly forced to remove his turban during a security check before appearing for an exam at a school in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district.

The State government has launched a probe into the matter and the woman teacher, who asked the student to remove his turban, has been removed from the examination duty, an official said on Tuesday.

The incident took place on Monday when the student was appearing for an examination at a centre set up at the Government Girls School in Dhamnod.

The student, while talking to reporters after the incident, alleged that during the checking, a teacher asked him to remove his turban.

He, however, refused to do so and contacted the centre in-charge, who also asked him to follow the rules. Later, his turban was removed and checked and he was then allowed to appear in the examination, the student said.

State Tribal Welfare Development's Deputy Commissioner Brajesh Pandey said the matter was being inquired.



The picturesque Sukhna Lake in Chandigarh. ■ FILE PHOTO

Will do everything to protect people's interests: Amarinder

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

A day after the Punjab and Haryana High Court declared Chandigarh's Sukhna Lake as a living entity, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has asked Advocate General Atul Nanda to examine, in detail, the High Court orders with respect to constructions in the area around the lake.

The Chief Minister on Tuesday told journalists that his government had received a copy of the judgment and the A-G would examine the same and make his recommendations.

"The State government would take whatever decisions, legislative or judicial, needed to resolve the issue. We stand by the people and will do everything to protect their interests," he said in response to a question.

Declarining Sukhna Lake as a living entity, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has fined Punjab and Haryana ₹100 crore each for causing damage to Sukhna's catchment area.

**Demolitions ordered**  
The Bench of Justices Rajiv Sharma and Haridner Singh Sidhu also ordered the demolition of all commercial,

residential and or other structures in Sukhna's catchment area.

The court orders come in a *suo motu* petition of 2009 initiated over problems of silt in the lake which has resulted in its drying up.

**Permanent damage**  
In its order on March 2, the court observed that "... the acts of the States of Punjab and Haryana have caused permanent damage to the catchment area of Sukhna Lake. It was expected from the State agencies to foresee that the permanent structures in a catchment area would impede the flow of water in Sukhna Lake.

"The States should have taken precautionary measures to save the catchment area.

of Sukhna Lake. It is the duty of the States of Punjab and Haryana to restore the catchment area. The State government has also failed to take precautionary measures to save the catchment area. The damage caused to the catchment area is enormous. The State is bound to pay exemplary penal damages under the doctrine of 'Polluter Pays,'" read the order.

It added: "The officers of the States of Punjab and Haryana instead of protecting-conserving-saving the catchment area have permitted raising of permanent structures in this area. Since immense damage has been caused to the catchment area of the Sukhna Lake at least ₹200 crores would be required to restore the catchment area."

State Tribal Welfare Development's Deputy Commissioner Brajesh Pandey said the matter was being inquired.

## Delhi Transco Limited

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### REQUEST FOR PUBLIC RESPONSE

#### PETITION NO. 06 /2020 PETITIONS FOR APPROVAL OF TRUE UP OF ARR FOR FY 2018-19 AND ARR & TRANSMISSION TARIFF FOR FY 2020-21

1. Delhi Transco Limited (DTL) has filed a Petition for True up of ARR for FY 2018-19 on January 10, 2020 and Petition for ARR & Transmission for FY 2020-21 on February 13, 2020 before the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (hereinafter referred to as "Commission") for necessary orders under the provisions of Electricity Act, 2003. The Commission has admitted the Petitions vide Orders dated 24.01.2020 & 20.02.2020.

2. The salient features of the Petition are provided below:

#### TRUE UP OF ARR FOR FY 2018-19

(in Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	Particulars	2018-19
1.	O&M Expenses	345.27
2.	Depreciation	241.26
3.	Return on Capital Employed	365.02
4.	Income Tax	143.45
5.	<b>Less: Non Tariff Income</b>	3.42
6.	<b>Aggregate Revenue Requirement</b>	1091.58
7.	Approved ARR for FY 2018-19 (in Tariff Order dated 28.03.2018)	900.32
8.	Difference on Account of True Up	191.26

#### AGGREGATE REVENUE REQUIREMENT FOR FY 2020-21 (in Rs. Crore)

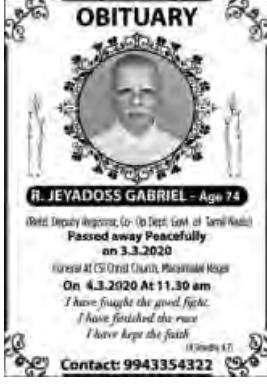
Sl. No.	Particulars	2020-21


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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE** [IN RE: R.D. DRYFRUITS PVT. LTD.]

On behalf of our client, R.D. DRYFRUITS PVT. LTD. CIN: U15549HR2019PTC022525 & Mrs. Urmila Bansal (Director) we hereby notify for the publication of general public notice for the purpose of getting confirmed of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the Special Resolution Passed at The Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on 27th February 2020 to enable the company to change its Registered Office from "State of Delhi" to "State of Maharashtra". Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature if his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the change of Registered Office address, within Fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy of the applicant company at its Registered Office at the address mentioned below:

Junction of Tyres Private Limited D-251, T/F, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi East, Delhi 110092

**Petitioner** Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the Company Proposes to make Application to the Central Government Under Section 13(4) of The Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(6)(a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 And

In the matter of Junction of Tyres Private Limited having its Registered Office at D-251, T/F, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi East, Delhi 110092

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# OPPORTUNITIES

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HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • JOBS • TECHNOLOGY

## Gender and the workplace

An ongoing CII survey seeks to improve the work environment for women

LIFFY THOMAS

**A**n ongoing survey – titled "Women on Work" – seeks to find out how the workplace and allied spaces and their culture can be made better for women employees. Conducted by the National Committee on Women Empowerment and Indian Women Network of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), it invites women to respond to a set of questions at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/CII-WoWSurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CII-WoWSurvey)

At the end of the exercise, the answers will be collated with the objective of offering insights that would help shape workplace policies and programmes for women. Questions are based on six

different areas – the impact of gender on career; experience of sexual abuse; gender-related facilities; safety and security for working women in a city; the impact of family and children on career; and a career break.

Phase I of the survey has been covered, and some of the collated responses run counter to popular perceptions. Bhairavi Jani, chairperson, CII National Committee on Women Empowerment & Indian Women Network, says that 56% of our respondents said that gender had no impact on career. Bhairavi adds that most of us would actually expect fewer people to make such a statement.

Close to 26% of respondents say gender plays a role

when it comes to whether someone is entrusted with challenging tasks.

Feeling unrepresented in promotions; getting the desired salary and benefits and a good support system at work were among the questions that the survey sought to find answers to.

On the subject of sexual harassment at workplace, Bhairavi says 11% said it existed, and some of the respondents blamed subordinates. The survey shows that married women showed more boldness in filing complaints. "This only shows that we need to work with companies to empower women with the correct knowledge, so that they have greater confidence," she says.

There were more respondents who wanted more and better washrooms at the workplace than those who chose crèches.

"For us, the big learning is that we need to create diagnostic tools, which we are launching on March 8, for companies to assess themselves in terms of their gender policies," says Bhairavi, a data scientist by profession.

"Our vision is to co-create an eco-system for women to live up to their full economic potential. We want to do this through advocacy, knowledge creation and on-ground intervention that promote equal opportunity for women to participate, grow and flourish," she says.

Close to 2,700 women

took part in the first phase of the survey. Bhairavi says the team is happy with the sample, as it represents good age and geographical variance, including position and sectors. "This survey will be kept open for some more time.

Meanwhile, we are launching another set of questions to get the views of both men and women," says Bhairavi. With the support of its member companies, CII will be working with policy makers to bring about more solutions.

## Lighting up Gurugram

Good street lights do have a role to play in helping women make an assessment about how safe they are in their work commute, and this factor can even influence whether they want to continue with a company or not. Based on the inputs from the survey, the CII team has been in a discussion with Safetipin, a social enterprise that runs a personal safe-

## Generation Equality: Decade of Action'

The sessions include 'Rethinking Value Chains: The Opportunity for Gender Equality', 'Digital Inclusion and Women Empowerment' and 'Innovation and Entrepreneurship'.

## INFO. TECHNOLOGY

### COCHIN SHIPYARD LIMITED (A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)

No. P&amp;A/18(220)/2020 28 Feb 2020

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For more details, please visit CSL website [www.cochinshipyard.com](http://www.cochinshipyard.com) (Careers page). Last date of receipt of online application is 08 April 2020.

"Hindi version of detailed advertisement is published in the website ([www.cochinshipyard.com](http://www.cochinshipyard.com)) of CSL" Sd/- CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (HR & TRG)

## GENERAL



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Selected candidates will have unparalleled avenues for growth and learning with LIC, the largest life insurer and one of the strongest financial institutions of the country.

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Schedule of events shall be as under:

<b>Online Registration/ Payment of fee</b>	<b>From 25/02/2020 to 15/03/2020</b>
<b>Likely date of Online preliminary examination</b>	<b>4th April 2020</b>

Detailed employment notification is placed on our website [www.licindia.in](http://www.licindia.in) under "Careers".  
Date:03.03.2020

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HAL, a Navratna Central Sector Undertaking, is a premier Aeronautical Industry of South East Asia, with 20 Production / Overhaul Divisions, 11 co-located R&D Centres and 1 Facility Management Division, spread across the Country. Openings are now available for the following Post/s in HAL, Flight Operations, Fixed Wing:  
(a) Senior Test Pilot / Test Pilot (Fixed Wing), Bangalore (Grade-VII/VI) - 2 Posts;  
(b) Senior Test Pilot / Test Pilot (Fixed Wing), Nasik (Grade-VII/VI) - 2 Posts;  
(c) Senior Pilot / Pilot, TAD, Kanpur (Grade-VII/VI) - 2 Posts;  
(d) Senior Test Pilot / Test Pilot (Fixed Wing), TAD Kanpur (Grade-VII/VI) - 1 Post  
Detailed Advertisement is available on the HAL Website [www.hal-india.co.in](http://www.hal-india.co.in). Interested candidates may visit HAL website for further details. Eligible candidates may forward their duly filled applications, on or before 26.3.2020 in the prescribed format, as per the instructions given in the detailed Advertisement hosted on the Company's website.  
Corrigendum/Addendum, if any, will be hosted on the HAL Website only

## OVERSEAS

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**Construction Manager** - BE + 10/15 Years' Experience in managing large International Construction Projects. Experienced as Construction / Site Manager on large projects covering activities of all disciplines - Mech/Elect/Instrumentation. Candidate to be hands on experienced in all areas/aspects of large Construction sites. Those experienced with PMC or Maintenance companies cannot be considered. Good package offered.

**Piping Erection Superintendent / Manager** - BE or Diploma/ AMIE with 15 years' experience in large International Projects in Piping / Erection activities. Able to coordinate with Supervisors, Foreman and a large workforce comprising various nationalities, and coordinate with all disciplines and departments.

**NOTE : Interviews shall be held by Video conferencing.**

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6/33, Mittal Industrial Estate, Andheri Kurla Rd, Marol, Andheri (E) Mumbai-59,  
Email: [gmpios@iosr.com](mailto:gmpios@iosr.com) DM No.: 810188  
Reg. no: B-0115/MUM/PER/1000+5/2018-2024

## ENGG./PRODN./TECH.

**Defence Electronics and beyond**  
**BHARAT ELECTRONICS LIMITED**  
(A Govt. of India Enterprise under the Ministry of Defence)  
(CIN: L32309KA1954GOI000787)  
Bharat Electronics Limited, a Navratna Company and India's premier professional Electronics Company requires candidates for the post of **Deputy Engineer on Fixed Tenure Basis** with the qualification of:  
B.E. / B.Tech.in Computer Science  
for Software division, Bangalore Unit. Candidates with relevant two year of post qualification experience may apply for the post in E-II grade in the payscale of ₹ 40000-3%-140000. For details please visit our website [www.bel-india.in](http://www.bel-india.in)

**CENTRE FOR MATERIALS FOR ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY**  
(a Scientific Society under MeitY, Govt of India) Alhani, M.G. Kavu P.O., Thrissur, Kerala, Pin - 680581 (Tel No. 0487-2201156 - 59 (4 lines))  
**EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION**  
Notification No. CMET/T/H/ADM/01/2020  
C-MET invites applications from eligible candidates for the Post of Scientific Assistant-Ill for its laboratory at Thrissur.  
No. of Posts : 1(Gen)  
Pay Matrix Level (7th CPC) : 5; Rs. 29200- 92300  
Educational Qualifications and Experience:  
Essential: Diploma in Electronics Engineering from a recognized University/Institution. Two years experience in the relevant field (Research or Technical) in a reputed R&D Institution or Industry  
Age Limit (as on 16.03.2020): Not exceeding 28 years  
Application Fee : Rs.500/-  
Rs. 250/- for SC/ST, persons with disabilities and woman.  
Payment shall be through online.  
Last date of receipt of application: 16.03.2020.  
For further details applicants may visit the C-MET web site  
The interested applicants may apply through our on-line portal in our website [www.cmet.gov.in](http://www.cmet.gov.in)

CM YK

## GENERAL

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Applications are invited from Candidates for the posts of Professors / Assoc. Professors / Asst. Professors in Applied Engineering/Agriculture, Automobile, Bioinformatics, Biomedical, Civil, CSE, ECE, EEE, Food Technology, IT, Mechanical Engineering (Automation & Robotics), Petroleum Engineering, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Textile Technology.

Eligibility : Ph.D from reputed institutions preferable. Candidates who have submitted Ph.D thesis may also apply.

Experience in teaching in Higher Technical Institutions desirable.

Interested candidates may forward their resume to [recruitment@vignan.ac.in](mailto:recruitment@vignan.ac.in) by 14-03-2020

Salary : As per UGC norms. Higher start for deserving Candidates

Shortlisted candidates only will be called for interview during early Apr 2020 and paid to & fro. III AC rail fare.

**KERALA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY**  
Main Campus, Vellanikkara, Thrissur-680 656, Kerala  
**NOTIFICATION**  
No. GA/K/3017/2020 Dated: 25/02/2020  
Applications in the prescribed format are invited from eligible candidates vide the following notifications for appointment as **Assistant Professors** in various departments/ disciplines under the Faculties of Agriculture and Agricultural Engineering, others (Physical Education) in the constituent colleges (Co-operation, Banking & Management/ Agriculture/ Horticulture/ Agricultural Engineering), KVKS, AICRPs, RARSS and satellite stations under the Kerala Agricultural University upon the approval of the Executive Committee of the University.  
1. Notification No. GA/K/15427/2019 dated 25/02/2020 (No Candidate Available (NCA) - SIUC Nadar-Agricultural Entomology)  
2. Notification No. GA/K/1988/2011 dated 25/02/2020 (Special Recruitment - SC/ST)  
3. Notification No. GA/K/18926/2019 dated 25/02/2020 (General Recruitment)  
The application form and other details regarding the qualifications, application fee and mode of payment, number of vacancies, age limit etc. are available in the KAU website [www.kau.in](http://www.kau.in). The application form can be downloaded from the website and the filled in separate applications against each notifications referred above should reach the Registrar, Kerala Agricultural University, KAU PO, Vellanikkara, Thrissur - 680 656, Kerala on or before 4 pm on 31/03/2020.  
(Sd/-) Registrar

## WALK IN FOR SELECTION

**HLL Lifecare Ltd**, a Govt of India Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare requires competent and result oriented professionals for the following positions on **Permanent/Fixed Term Contract basis** for Women's Healthcare Division (Pharma) at various locations across India.

Division	Position	Qualification & Experience
<b>Pharma</b>	<b>Business Development Executive</b>	Graduation with 2+ Years of sales Experience in Pharma Products
	<b>Area Sales Manager</b>	Graduation with 6+ Years of sales Experience in Pharma Products
	<b>Senior Area Sales Manager/Assistant Regional Manager</b>	Graduation with 10+ Years of sales Experience in Pharma Products

For Permanent positions candidates may apply only through online at <http://www.lifecarehll.com/careers>

Eligibility: Max Age 37 years as on 01.03.2020. Interested & eligible candidates may walk-in for selection on or before 09.30 AM to the following venue.

DATE	VENUE
13/03/2020	HLL Lifecare Ltd, Regional Marketing Office, HLL Bhavan, 501&502, 5th Floor, Plot No:86, Sector-11, Near Mandir Chowk, Behind Khopra Bus Stop (Mumbai-Pune Highway Road), Kharharg, Maharashtra - 410210.
11/03/2020	HLL Lifecare Ltd, Central Marketing Office, HLL Bhavan, #26/4, Tambaram-Velachery Main road, Palikaranai, Chennai - 601000

## Permanent Positions (Only online application)

Division	Position	Qualification & Experience
<b>Pharma</b>	<b>Area Sales Manager/Marketing Executive</b>	Graduation with 6+ Years of sales Experience in Pharma Products
	<b>Territory Officer</b>	Graduation with 4+ Years of sales Experience in Pharma Products

For more details on the eligibility criteria and for downloading the application form and online application, Kindly visit [www.lifecarehll.com](http://www.lifecarehll.com).

एवलएल लाइफकेयर लिमिटेड  
(आग्रह संस्कार का संग्रह)  
HLL Lifecare Limited  
(A Government of India Enterprise)  
CIN: U25193 KL 1966 GOI 002621

HLL Bhavan, No.26/4 Velachery-Tambaram Main Road, Palikaranai, Chennai-600100

स्वयं पौधियों के लिए जगतव्येषण  
Innovating for Healthy Generations

## Summit on gender equality

### The United Nations Global Compact Network India (UN-GCNI) is hosting

the third edition of its Gender Equality Summit on March 6 in New Delhi. Organised in partnership with UN Women, the summit is based on the theme 'India Inc. for

Generation Equality: Decade of Action'.

The sessions include 'Rethinking Value Chains: The Opportunity for Gender Equality', 'Digital Inclusion and Women Empowerment' and 'Innovation and Entrepreneurship'.

## Lighting up Gurugram

Good street lights do have a role to play in helping women make an assessment about how safe they are in their work commute, and this factor can even influence whether they want to continue with a company or not. Based on the inputs from the survey, the CII team has been in a discussion with Safetipin, a social enterprise that runs a personal safe-

## If you love training people in English, we'd love to have you.

## IN BRIEF



19 illegal resorts demolished near Hampi

KALABURAGI  
As per the Supreme Court order on February 11, the Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority, with the help of Koppal and Ballari district administrations, demolished 19 illegal resorts at Virupapur Gaddi near Hampi in Karnataka on Tuesday. Three resorts, whose petitions were pending in the High Court and the Supreme Court, were not demolished as the authorities chose to wait for the final orders.

## Photojournalist stabbed to death in Telangana

WARANGAL  
A 38-year-old photojournalist was allegedly stabbed to death and another injured by a man over a financial dispute in Mulugu district in Telangana, the police said on Tuesday. Bommineni Sunil Reddy, a senior photojournalist and treasurer of Warangal press club, and his friend, a money lender, were attacked by the owner of a bakery in Pasa village on Monday, when they had gone to recover the outstanding dues from him. PTI

## Allow Kerala students for exams, HC tells CBSE

KOCHI  
A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Tuesday directed the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to permit as many as 34 Class X students of Arooja's Little Star School, Thoppumpady in Kochi, to write the remaining CBSE examinations provisionally. CBSE did not allow the students to write the exam as the school was not affiliated to the CBSE board. The court also permitted four Class X students of Al-Azhar Public school, Palluruthi, to write the examinations.

## Hyderabad COVID-19 patient questioned on contacts

45 people isolated at Gandhi Hospital, samples sent for tests

K SHIVA SHANKER  
HYDERABAD

In his 24 years, perhaps Monday was the first time that this Hyderabad man was persistently asked by someone to give minute-by-minute details of who all he met, places he had been to, how much time he spent with them from the moment he stepped into Telangana.

Officials from the Telangana Health department were keen to know even micro details after his COVID-19 infection was confirmed. Officials found out the exact time at which he boarded the Bengaluru-Hyderabad bus, number of drivers and helpers in it and whether he had dinner with others on the way.

After confirmation on Monday afternoon that he tested positive for COVID-19, isolating and treating the



Make hay: The price of face masks has doubled in the light of COVID-19 outbreak in Hyderabad on Tuesday. ■ NAGARA GOPAL

young man was not the only priority for the officials in State Health department. The 88-odd people he was in close contact with after reaching Hyderabad have also been given top priority as they could become source of infection if they too are carrying the infection.

The techie who works for

a software company in Bengaluru returned from Dubai to the city on February 20. He worked there for a day and reached Hyderabad on February 22 by a private bus.

Ground level staff, senior officials from the Health department took turns to speak to the COVID-19 patient for over 30 minutes each to

know his travel history, places he visited and people he met. Wary of aggressiveness with which the virus spreads, officials spoke to him over phone. And the details he gave made officials and staff wide-eyed.

During the course of journey to Hyderabad and after reaching the city, he met at

least 88 people including 27 bus passengers, family members, around 20 doctors and staff at Apollo Hospital, Secunderabad.

The youth said his father picked him up from the bus stop and drove straight to their home. After developing cough and sickness, he consulted family doctors. When the sickness did not subside, he consulted doctors at the corporate hospital as an outpatient, underwent tests and got admitted there later.

Telangana Health Minister Eatala Rajender said that out of the 88 people, 45 have been isolated at Gandhi Hospital and their swab samples were sent for tests.

**Condition stable**  
The Minister said the condition of the techie was stable and the process of tracking people he came in contact with was on.

"The health condition of the man has shown improvement since Monday," he said.  
(With PTI inputs)

## Ready to tackle situation, says A.P. Deputy CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister A.K.K. Srinivas said here on Tuesday that there was no impact of the deadly novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in the State but the health machinery was on full alert to handle the situation.

Rapid response teams, comprising a microbiologist, physicians, epidemiologist and paramedical staff, have been kept ready in each district and all precautionary measures put in place, he said.

Addressing a press conference at the Secretariat, along with Special Chief Se-

## Virus outbreak to impact Kerala's economy, says Finance Minister

STAFF REPORTER  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A prolonged global outbreak of COVID-19 is bound to impact the Kerala's economy adversely, Kerala Finance Minister T.M. Thomas Isaac has cautioned.

Replying to questions in the Assembly on Tuesday, Dr. Isaac assessed that the impact of the disease could have on the State would be determined by how the spread of the virus would be contained over the next three months. He raised the possible scenario of a significant dip in foreign tourist inflow and remittances from non-resident Keralites

accounted for a bulk of NoRKS. Iran, where 66 deaths have been reported, has witnessed the highest death toll outside China, the epicentre of the outbreak. Besides, Saudi Arabia has imposed travel bans, which were reported to have affected several pilgrims who were set to fly to Jeddah.

The Minister added that the various industrial sectors in the country had begun to feel the impact of the viral outbreak. Nonetheless, the State was able to put up an effective resistance against COVID-19 and was confident of mitigating the repercussions of a global crisis.

The Karnata Health Department has asked 12 passengers who were with him on the bus from Bengaluru to Secunderabad to also remain at home.

The Telangana Health department is monitoring other

bus passengers who are in the State.

IndiGo, in a statement, said that four of its cabin crew who operated the flight from Dubai to Bengaluru were also under home observation.

About 20 people who were in the Dubai-Bengaluru flight on February 20, including those who sat in the two rows surrounding his seat, also are being contacted and will be advised to be under home isolation.

**Messages sent**  
Health department officials said that while some of the passengers were not receiving their calls, they have been sent messages.

Department officials are also in touch with residents of 92 flats in the building where the techie lived and plan to conduct surveillance activities.

We are monitoring the situation by making phone calls and enquiring about their health and asking them if they can continue to be under home isolation. In addition to this, the staff from the department's surveillance unit will also make visits if they find it necessary," officials said.

**Kept under isolation**  
A colleague of the software engineer has been kept under isolation at a health facility run by the State government.

In an unrelated case, another person who was screened at the airport and displayed symptoms like cough and cold is also under isolation at the same facility.

## Shane Nigam agrees to pay compensation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOCHI

Actor Shane Nigam has agreed to pay compensation to the producers of the movies *Veyil* and *Qurbani*, the shooting of which were suspended midway following differences between him and the producers.

An executive committee meeting of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA) was held here on Tuesday to resolve the issue.

Shane Nigam informed the committee that he was ready to pay the compensation. Kerala Film Producers' Association had asked for a compensation of ₹1 crore from the actor.

The differences between the actor and the producers peaked in November after the actor shaved off his hair and beard, thus disrupting the shooting of *Veyil*.

## A.P. House resolution to seek 2010 format of NPR, says CM

He says some questions are causing insecurity to minorities

STAFF REPORTER  
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday said the government would move a resolution during the upcoming Assembly session urging the Centre to revert to the 2010 National Population Register (NPR).

In a series of tweets, Mr. Reddy said: "Some of the questions proposed in the NPR are causing insecurities in the minds of minorities of my State. After elaborate consultations within our party, we have decided to request the Central Government to revert the conditions to those prevailing in 2010. To this effect, we will also introduce a resolution in the upcoming Assembly session."

Earlier, Muslim leaders, who called on him at his



Muslim leaders felicitating Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy at his camp office on Tuesday.

and Housing Census as part of Census of India 2021 to be taken up for 45 days between April and September 2020.

The Chief Minister had said last December that his government was not in favour of bringing the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and sought to assure minorities in the State that his government would oppose the nationwide NRC.

However, the YSR Congress had supported the NDA government in passing the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in Parliament.

General Administration Department Secretary Shashi Bhushan Kumar, in an order issued on January 22, said people are not required to submit any document to the enumerators during the NPR exercise.

(With PTI inputs)

## Beat the heat



Cool kit: Traffic police personnel getting solar hats, sunglasses and buttermilk to beat the summer in Tamil Nadu's Salem district on Tuesday. ■ E. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN

## Film on Marakkar runs into controversy

A descendant of Zamorin's naval chieftain seeks stay on Mohanlal-starrer

BIJU GOVIND  
KOZHIKODE

A descendant of Kunjali Marakkars has filed a writ petition in the Kerala High Court seeking to stop the release of the upcoming Mohanlal-starrer *Arabikadalinte Simham* (*Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea*) based on the life of the 16th century naval chieftain of the Zamorin of Calicut, for allegedly "distorting history".

The suit, moved by Mufeeda Arafath Marakkar, wife of Muhammed Yaser Arafath Marakkar of Koyilandy in Kozhikode district, through advocate K. Noorudheen and others, said the big-budget cinema with mega stars "disseminates a wrong message to scholars and researchers" and presents a distorted and perverted ver-

Mohanlal as Kunjali Marakkar in *Arabikadalinte Simham*.

sion of the history of Marakkars.

The epic historical drama, said to be the most expensive Malayalam film ever made, is directed by Priyadarshan and scheduled for worldwide release on March 26.

The petitioner has alleged

that the film offended the religious sentiments of Muslims for showing the great martyr in a poor light. Based on stills from the film, the petitioner said Kunjali Marakkars have been portrayed as a romantic hero and suggested that he was "a dancer singing songs with women."

The naval campaigns of Kunjali Marakkars are part of school curriculum in Kerala. But if this distorted version is publicly exhibited it would have a serious impact on the minds of the children in their formative years, the petitioner argued.

**Disgrace to family'**  
To ascertain the authentic history and trace minute details, the respondents failed to approach or consult the descendants of Kunjali Marakkars.

Arguing that Kunjali Marakkars IV was a bachelor and had no love affair in his life, the petitioner said the publicity material for the film showed "vulgar scenes of the great martyr" thereby bringing disgrace to his family.

Deploying drones will help paddy cultivation substantially at a time when farmers are pressed to find labourers and are fighting mounting costs. It is a technology application to be encouraged for the future, said Shinoj Subramanyam, head of the Ernakulam Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), referring to increasing technology adoption by farmers.

K.M. Laiju, a farmer and automobile mechanic in one



Boost to farming: A drone ready to spray fertilizer at Karumalloor in Ernakulam district. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

of Ernakulam's rice belt Karumalloor, is at the centre of media attention after he used a drone on Sunday for foliar fertilizer application on an eight-acre paddy plot.

"It took about two hours for the work to be done. The work would have taken about two days if done manually," he said. A scientist from the Department of Agriculture involved in field work said the results of the use of the drone should be visible within a few weeks. A positive outcome would encourage more farmers to resort to induction of the new technology to man their

fields, which were crying for attention for want of labour and rising costs.

He said Karumalloor had about 1,000 acres of paddy fields that could be brought under the use of the new technology.

**Good results**  
Mr. Subramanyam said an experimental drone deployment for fertilizer application at Chottanikkara recently showed good results. The farmers were happy with the outcome, he said.

Devan Chandrashekharan of Rovonize Systems, a start-up providing drones and backup facilities, said farmers reacted positively to the new technology. Drones have been used to take care of around 1,500 acres of paddy so far, he said.

## Drones will help Kerala paddy farmers'

With them, ryots can overcome labour shortage and rising costs, says KVK head

K.A. MARTIN  
KOCHI

If wishes were horses, Kerala's dream of substantially raising paddy production in the State would take wings with drones that have come to dominate activities ranging from everyday photography to survey of plant health.

Deploying drones will help paddy cultivation substantially at a time when farmers are pressed to find labourers and are fighting mounting costs. It is a technology application to be encouraged for the future, said Shinoj Subramanyam, head of the Ernakulam Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), referring to increasing technology adoption by farmers.

K.M. Laiju, a farmer and automobile mechanic in one



**Fact feature:** (1) Tourists wearing protective masks at Taj Mahal, Agra, on Tuesday; (2) People standing outside the RML Hospital in New Delhi; (3) Students participating in a demonstration against the Citizenship Amendment Act in the capital; and (4) Indian nationals who were airlifted from the COVID-19 hit Wuhan at the ITBP's quarantine facility. • PTI

## Two Noida schools shut after Delhi man infected

COVID-19 patient's son is studying in one of the institutions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Two private schools in Noida were shut on Tuesday after the father of one of their students tested positive for coronavirus. The patient from Mayur Vihar in Delhi, who had travelled to Italy recently and tested positive on Monday, was shifted to a quarantine ward at Safdarjung Hospital on Sunday night.

One of the schools, where the Delhi man's son is a primary student, said it will remain shut from March 4 to March 6, while the other said it will be closed till Saturday.

The Board exams will not be affected, messages sent by the schools to parents clarified.

**Samples collected**  
Information that the infected man had hosted a birthday party last week for the child, triggered fears that those who attended it including other children and relatives, might be at risk. Samples from five students from the school have been collected, Noida's Chief Medical Officer Anurag Bhargava said.

Fumigation was undertaken in both the schools and a Health Department team led by Noida's chief medical



**Taking precautions:** Students and teachers leaving a school in Noida on Tuesday. • PTI

officer visited the site, an official said. Several people, including family members of the Delhi man, were quarantined or kept in isolation.

The Health Ministry said that following the Delhi case it has appealed for the passengers who flew on AI-54 Vienna-Delhi on Feb 25 to follow protocol notified by the Ministry of Health regarding coronavirus "as one of the passengers has tested positive for the virus".

U.P. health minister Jai Pratap Singh noted that a total of 34 samples have been sent for testing to NIV, Pune. "These persons were reportedly in contact with the Delhi patient."

This includes six persons from Agra who were found to be in the "high-risk category" and had tested "positive" in the KGMU (King George Medical University) laboratory but their samples have been sent for re-confirmation to the NIV, Pune, Mr. Singh said.

The six have been transferred from Agra and admitted to Safdarjung hospital in Delhi, he added.

The 69-year-old Italian's wife also tested positive for the virus on Tuesday but her samples are being sent to Pune for another test.

The couple has been kept in isolation at the Jaipur's Saifai Man Singh Hospital.

## Govt. imposes curbs on drug exports

Restrictions in place on paracetamol and 25 pharmaceutical ingredients

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

India restricted the export of common medicines such as paracetamol and 25 other pharmaceutical ingredients and drugs made from them on Tuesday, as it looked to prevent shortages amid concerns of the COVID-19 outbreak turning into a pandemic.

Besides over-the-counter painkiller and fever reducer paracetamol, drugs restricted for exports included common antibiotics metronidazole, those used to treat bacterial and other infections, as well as vitamin B1 and B12 ingredients.

A notification by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said the export of 26 active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and formulations would require licence.

In February, the Department of Pharmaceuticals asked the DGFT to issue or

### Ban decision will affect our reputation, say exporters

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

The Centre's decision restricting export of specified active pharmaceutical ingredients and formulations made from these APIs, with immediate effect, has not gone down well with the exporters.

"For exporters, it is going to be a problem and will have an impact on our reputation," said Ravi Uday Bhaskar, Director General of Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India.

The restrictions will come in the way of the commitments made and not complying with them will result in complications for the exporters, he said.

ceutical ingredients (APIs) and formulations would require licence.

In February, the Department of Pharmaceuticals asked the DGFT to issue or

of Pharmaceuticals had recommended the restrictions.

Although India is source of about 20% of the world's generic drug supply, pharmaceutical companies in the country are dependent on China for two-thirds of the chemical components needed to make them.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has shut factories in China and impacted supplies, leading to fears of a shortage.

India's API imports, the raw material used for pharmaceuticals, stand at around \$3.5 billion per year, and around 70%, or \$2.5 billion, come from China.

Although India is heavily import-dependent for APIs from China, it exports a limited quantity of pharmaceutical ingredients.

## Luxury hotel sends staff on self-quarantine

A guest had tested positive recently

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Hyatt Regency, Delhi, a five-star hotel, asked its staff who were present at one of its restaurants where an individual who tested positive for COVID-19 dined on February 28, to go on self-quarantine for 14 days. The hotel said it has enacted precautionary operational protocols at the property as

advised by the government.

"Government authorities recently confirmed that an individual who dined at La Piazza restaurant at Hyatt Regency Delhi on February 28, 2020, has been diagnosed with COVID-19," an official said in a statement. The hotel has also started conducting temperature checks for all colleagues, he added.

## The SARS-CoV-2 is mutating, say scientists

'We aim to get a better understanding'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
AHMEDABAD

Scientists at Australia's national science agency, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, said the SARS-CoV-2 is mutating.

The 'mutations' were significant for the development of new diagnostics and vaccines, said Professor S.S. Vasan, a scientist at CSIRO.

RO. "We have analysed the 115 published genome sequences from the current COVID-19 infection to understand how changes in the virus affect its behaviour and impact," he said, adding: "We are aiming to get a better understanding of the virus, so CSIRO can begin testing new potential vaccines and therapeutics being developed for efficacy."

## Black carbon levels spike at Himalayan glaciers

The concentration near Gangotri glacier rose 400 times in summer, says study

JACOB KOSHY  
NEW DELHI

Black carbon concentrations near the Gangotri glacier rose 400 times in summer due to forest fires and stubble burning from agricultural waste, and triggered glacial melt, says a study by scientists at the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG).

The team of scientists from WIHG, led by P.S. Negi, measured variations of black carbon concentration at Chirbas, near the Gangotri glacier in the Indian Himalaya, located at an altitude of 3,600 metres, during the

year 2016. "The monthly mean concentration of EBC (equivalent black carbon) was found to be minimum in August and maximum in the month of May. The observed seasonal mean concentrations of EBC indicated a pristine glacial source and an absence of EBC sources in the locality," a press statement noted.

Black carbon results from the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels and biomass. The fine particles absorb light and about a million times more energy than carbon dioxide. It is said to be the second largest contribu-

mains in the atmosphere only for days to weeks, before it descends as rain or snow.

**Second largest emitter**  
The concentration varied from a minimum of 0.01g/cubic metre in winter to 4.62g/cubic metre during summer.

India is the second largest emitter of black carbon in the world, with emissions expected to increase dramatically in the coming decades, says an April 2019 study in the journal *Atmospheric Research*, with the Indo Gangetic plains said to be the largest contributor.

## SC to hear plea on violence against doctors

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to hear in the last week of March a petition seeking to make violence committed against doctors and medical personnel and establishments a separate penal offence.

Senior advocate K. Subramanian, appearing for the petitioner, pointed out that while the Union Health Ministry is reported to have finalised a draft Bill, there was delay due to some inter-departmental consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

"I therefore request an early date so that the Bill can be introduced during the ongoing session of Parliament," Mr. Subramanian said.

The petition was filed by Dr. S. Gurushankar, president of the Tamil Nadu chapter of the Association of Healthcare Providers (India).

It said police hardly swing into action to prevent incidents of violence against the medical community. "Unless such attacks are checked, there will be serious repercussions on patient care," it added.

## WALK-IN INTERVIEW

**MISHRA DHATU NIGAM LIMITED**  
(Govt of India Enterprise) Ministry of Defence  
P.O. Kanchanbagh, Hyderabad - 500058

Walk-In-Interview

MIDHANI, a Mini Ratna-I PSU proposes to engage 14 GAT's (Graduate Engineering Apprentices, 10 Diploma Engineering (TAT's) and 150 Trade Apprentices (ITI passed out), for one year Apprenticeship Training under the Apprenticeship Act-1961. Details are following:

Sl. No.	Category of Apprentices	Department & No of Vacancy	Walk in Inter. Date & Time	Venue of the Walk in Interview
1	GAT (Engineering)	(Metallurgy-4, Mechanical-4, Electrical-4, Instrumentation-1, and Civil-1) Total 14	19 <sup>th</sup> March 2020 from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM	Auditorium, Corporate Hostel Building,
2	TAT (Diploma)	(Metallurgy-2/3, Mechanical-3, Electrical-3, Instrumentation-1, and Civil-1) Total 10	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2020 from 9:00 AM to 4:30PM	
3	Trade App (ITI passed out)	Fitter - 25 Welder - 10 Turner - 10 Electrician - 25 Machinist - 10	21 <sup>st</sup> March 2020 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM	Dy. General Manager (HR- T&D)

The interested and eligible GAT's/TAT's candidates who ever registered their names at web portal www.mhdhani.gov.in and Trade Apprentices (ITI passed out) candidates at www.apprenticeship.gov.in may attend walk-in interview with respective Portal Registration Number as per above mention scheduled. MIDHANI CPS office (near to DMR) along with certificates & two photos for further details see our website www.mhdhani.gov.in

Sd/- Dy. General Manager (HR- T&D)

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Last date: 18/03/2020

Adv. No. 04/2020

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File No. CWE/AAP/15-POs/2019 Assistant Registrar (E)

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## Growing numbers

India cannot be complacent while dealing with the possible spread of COVID-19

**O**n Monday and Tuesday, India reported three more coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases – one each from Delhi, Hyderabad and Jaipur (an Italian tourist) – bringing the total number to six. While the first three cases, reported from Kerala, were in young adults who had arrived directly from China, the two new cases were Indians who had arrived from Italy and Dubai. Italy and the UAE have reported local transmission of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), thus marking all the five as imported cases. Detection of the three cases is no surprise considering that hundreds of passengers have arrived in India from China and other countries where local transmission of the virus has been going on for the last couple of weeks. On Tuesday, the Health Ministry said that six people in Agra who had come in contact with the COVID-19 index case in Delhi have been “detected with high viral load” and kept in isolation. Their samples have been sent to the Pune-based National Institute of Virology for confirmation. If even one of the six is confirmed to be positive, it would indicate local transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and will automatically change the status of virus spread in the country. The silver lining is that it highlights the ability of the system to trace and test people who have come in contact with the index case. Community transmission should not come as a surprise in light of the fact that the six confirmed cases had come in contact with many people before their infection status was confirmed.

The Health Ministry's Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) network is in hot pursuit to trace people who have come in contact with the six people whose samples have been sent for confirmation. Already, about 26,000 arriving passengers have been put under community surveillance of the IDSP network. Care should be taken to ensure that people under community surveillance do not flee, as was the case in Kerala when two adults under observation for coronavirus left the country unnoticed. While thermal screening at airports and seaports does help in detecting people with a fever so that further screening and testing can be performed to ascertain the infection status, it is essential that people who have arrived in the country seek immediate medical care and testing when symptoms show up days. The median incubation period after infection is three days; the incubation period can also last more than three weeks as per one study. Infected people do not show symptoms during the incubation period and hence thermal screening at airports and seaports will be unable to detect such cases. It is therefore heartening that universal screening of passengers arriving from 12 countries is being undertaken. It is also important that people and health-care providers are made aware that molecular testing does not have very high sensitivity and hence may turn up false negatives. It is hence essential that at least two negative tests are obtained before a person is certified as being uninfected.

## Flow and ebb

India had a rude jolt in New Zealand after doing well in the shortest format of cricket

**I**ndia's recent cricket tour of New Zealand has been a tale of the spectacular rise followed by a debilitating fall. A 5-0 sweep in the Twenty20 series was seen as the perfect launch pad for Virat Kohli's men to extend their supremacy in the subsequent One Day Internationals and Tests. But New Zealand at home, has always been an indomitable opposition. Just as Clive Lloyd's marauding West Indians struggled in the early 1980s, it was India's turn to eat humble pie. The ODIs were lost at 0-3 and in the following two Tests, New Zealand prevailed by 10 wickets and seven wickets at Wellington's Basin Reserve and Christchurch's Hagley Oval, respectively. The last mentioned game finished on Monday with two days to spare and the world's number one ranked squad looked bereft of ideas. Indian batsmen floundered against nagging swing bowling, an old nemesis, while its speedsters led by Jasprit Bumrah emerged second-best to the host's attack. Kane Williamson's men, tough in their sport but quick to smile, proved that their 2019 World Cup semifinal victory over the Men in Blue at Manchester's Old Trafford, wasn't an exception. India's woes tied up with history too as since its maiden tour of New Zealand during the 1967-68 season, it has won just two Test series while losing six and drawing level in the remaining two jousts.

India missed an injured Rohit Sharma atop the batting tree and its latest opening pair of Mayank Agarwal and Prithvi Shaw put on minuscule alliances of 16, 27, 30 and eight. The middle-order was exposed early to seamers Tim Southee, Trent Boult and Kyle Jamieson, who between them bagged 34 wickets to snuff out any latent resistance within the Indian ranks. Kohli suffered the batting horrors, with a mere 38 at an average of 9.50. Obviously an aberration in his otherwise exemplary record, but the skipper's poor form affected the team. Meanwhile, Bumrah and company, without enough runs on the board backing them, could not exert pressure and their bowling wasn't as effective as it was in the past. The latest slump in New Zealand did not reverse India's supremacy in the World Test Championship table where Kohli's unit still stays on top with 360 points, ahead of second-placed Australia (296 points). However, New Zealand leapfrogged from the sixth slot to third and is sitting well with 180 points. India has batsmen aplenty, who can hasten its scoring rate, but it also needs willow wielders capable of batting for time in Tests, a spirit that Rahul Dravid encapsulated and one that is evident in Cheteshwar Pujara too. It needs some more of this ilk, who prefer patience against good old swing bowling in cold climes.

# A COVID-19 response that is quick off the blocks

Given that India has a fragile health system, it is critical to plan a coordinated and coherent action plan



MANJUNATH SHANKAR &  
ANANT BHAN

**W**e are now facing the global spread of COVID-19, the new coronavirus disease, with confirmed cases being identified in new countries on an almost daily basis. As of March 2, 2020, according to the World Health Organization, there are around 89,000 confirmed cases from 65 countries; 27 countries have reported local transmission. In addition to China, there are now epidemics in South Korea, Iran, Italy and Japan. India has reported six confirmed cases to date in Kerala, Delhi, Rajasthan and Telangana. High income countries with resources such as the United States, Italy and Germany have reported local transmission clusters. Dr. Nancy Messonnier, U.S. CDC, says: “It’s not so much a question of if this will happen anymore, but rather more a question of exactly when this will happen and how many people in this country will have severe illness.”

### Getting the system ready

In India, we should anticipate the possibility of a rapid viral spread due to its uniqueness of being a respiratory pathogen with capability of community transmission. India needs to be ready to mount a coordinated, coherent and sustained response.

Even if the disease does not reach epidemic status in India, it behoves us to continue to develop and maintain infrastructure to respond to new novel infectious agents capable of rapid spread. Over the past decade we have already seen outbreaks in India of swine flu and Nipah. As such, outbreak preparedness is an investment which will pay dividends immediately at worst or in the medium to long term at best. Preparedness allows a health system to take proactive steps to mitigate

or lessen the adverse impacts of an outbreak and to be in control without being overwhelmed. COVID-19 has given us an opportunity to test our systems and build resilience for the future.

The objective of the response should be to adapt to the stage of the outbreak. In the initial days when travel-related cases are few and manageable, such as the current status in India (known cases), it makes sense to do extensive screening, testing of all suspected cases and do contact tracing to prevent its spread into the wider community. But once an outbreak takes hold with sustained community-wide local transmission, then testing lessens in significance and may in fact rapidly overwhelm the laboratory capacity. At that point, the response should change from containment to mitigation so that the health system does not crumble. Akin to a team chasing in cricket: with 10 wickets in hand and power play, it can go for big shots to win the game quickly. But if it loses wickets, then taking ones and twos to ensure that the required run rate does not go out of hand makes sense (epidemic peak and surge capacity in outbreak response terms).

### Components of a response

India has a fragile health system which is fragmented. It is critical to mount a coordinated and coherent response. This not only means involvement of both public and private sectors but also allopathic and non-allopathic medical systems, different departments such as police, fire, transportation, tourism, food supplies and other sectors. The response should be proportional and based on scientific principles while ensuring transparency and respecting human rights. The National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC), currently designed to be set up in situations of large natural calamities, should be leveraged; it should coordinate across ministries and departments. It should set up a dedicated web portal which includes a dashboard with key indicators, current case definitions, guidelines, risk communica-



REUTERS

tion materials and micro plans. Transparency and fact-based information are hugely important as in moments of crisis, rumours and unsubstantiated claims can rapidly spread. Utilising social media, media outlets effectively is also crucial. An epidemic of fear and misinformation can be damaging, stigmatising and corrosive to public interest.

### The Ebola example

Trust in government, its institutions and fraternity among fellow citizens forms the bulwark of an effective response. An outbreak which is unaddressed will have short- and long-term impacts on health. The 2014-15 West Africa Ebola outbreak overwhelmed local fragile health systems; many front-line health workers and prominent doctors fell victim. The subsequent outbreak response absorbed all available health resources and impacted other programmes such as routine immunisation leading to measles outbreaks in the aftermath. So, a response plan should be able to maintain ongoing regular health programmes while at the same time devoting adequate resources to the response. This in itself would be a delicate balancing act on the part of the NCMC. They, in conjunction with duly constituted State and district-level crisis committees, also have the even more difficult task of determining whether cluster containment measures such as those practised in China are feasible in the Indian context given its diversity and resources, and if so, how effective it would be and when to call it off. The response should be informed by the requirement to balance public health measures and the rights of those impacted.

With neither a definitive cure nor a vaccine on the immediate horizon (multiple teams are working on this internationally), the response plan undoubtedly relies on basic measures such as risk communication, health education, social distancing, and home isolation to reduce the speed at which the outbreak will spread. Large-scale behaviour change will be the cornerstone of a successful response. It is worthwhile to remember that Ebola was brought under control by people who within a short time changed their long-held traditional burial practices and routines such as hand shaking, and not just by people in hazmat suits treating patients in temporary hospitals. Though media shows people in hazmats more than people washing hands properly, it is the latter which plays an equal if not bigger role.

### Risk communication

In Iran, the Deputy Health Minister is among those infected. So a response plan should ensure that critical personnel (deemed irreplaceable) across sectors such as health, energy, defence, and food supply are identified and protected. Priority also needs to be given to protecting front-line health workers, intensive care unit nursing staff, doctors including specialists such as intensivists, pulmonologists, etc. In India, infection prevention and control practices in health-care facilities are often lenient. The reasons range from non-availability of personal protective equipment to a relaxed attitude towards safety norms, analogous to how seat belt or helmet use is practised in India. Risk communication should address this and make people feel comfortable entering hospitals where all the staff, right from parking attendants, security guards, receptionists, nurses, paramedical workers and doctors, are wearing appropriate personal protective equipment.

The government should draft and publish clinical guidelines for triage, admission, discharge, ventilator support and other components, as applicable for various le-

vels of the health system. These should be updated on a regular basis, as we learn more about the virus and how to tackle it. There should be strict enforcement to ensure equity and considerations built in so that those vulnerable are protected and get equal access to care.

### Across the board

A simple back of the envelope calculation will show that current health-care resources in themselves will be inadequate for the response – for example, the number of ambulances needed or the number of contact tracers in the Department of Health, etc. As such, resources from other departments and general public, financial, in kind and personnel, need to be pooled and mobilised. They need to be trained on a fast track without making compromises on quality. Preparedness is neither the sole domain nor the prerogative of government; all institutions, entities, firms both private and public and even individuals and households should make contingency and advance preparedness plans.

Companies need to decide on a nimble basis putting in measures such as work from home, suspension of non-essential travel, and reinforcing workplace hygiene and health information protocols, expansive leave policies for the sick or those under quarantine. Local authorities can make plans for school closure, home isolation and social distancing.

The unprecedented containment measures taken by China have bought the world some lead time. India has been fortunate to only see limited cases so far, but we must not squander this time window and be ready for a worsening situation. Preparing for the worst case scenario will hold us in good stead.

*Dr. Manjunath Shankar is a Public Health Specialist. He participated in the U.S. CDC Emergency response (Modelling Task Force) to the West African Ebola outbreak in 2014-15. Dr. Anant Bhan is a researcher in global health, bioethics and health policy*

## A blow against social justice

Denying application of reservation in promotions has largely confined SCs and STs to lower cadre jobs



DHILEEPAN SELVARAJAN

**T**he recent verdict of a two-judge Supreme Court Bench on reservations and Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes promotions – “that no individual could claim reservation in promotions and that the court could not issue a mandamus directing State governments to provide reservation” – has mainly raised four constitutional questions: Whether reservation in promotions is a fundamental right or not. Whether a court can direct the state to provide reservations. Whether quantifiable data for inadequate representation is a must for giving reservation in promotions. And whether it is the obligation of the state to give reservation.

In the first instance, as this case involves multiple constitutional issues, it should have been dealt with by a larger constitutional bench that included a Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST) judge. So, it is the moral responsibility of the Union Government to appeal this case and request a constitutional bench hearing. It must be noted that in 2018 a five-judge Constitution bench had denied reservation for SCs and STs who belong to the creamy layer; the Central government has asked for a review by a seven-judge Constitutional bench. This verdict on SCs and STs promotions has affected social justice and the advance-

ment of the under-privileged. Addressing the first question, the scope for reservation for the Backward Classes is promised in Part III of the Constitution under Fundamental Rights. Articles 16(4) and 16(4A) which empowers the state to provide reservation for SCs and STs are a part of the section, “Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment”. The right to equality is also enshrined in the Preamble of the Constitution. Many construe that the reservation is against Article 16 (Right to equality). But one should understand that the absence of equal opportunities for the Backward Classes due to historic injustice by virtue of birth entails them reservation. In other words, the right to equality is the basis of reservation as there is no level-playing field among castes. Articles 16(2) and 16(4) are neither contradictory nor mutually exclusive in nature. In fact, they are complementary to each other; even Article 16(4) is not a special provision.

Now, another question arises as to whether reservation should be applied in promotions?

### Destabilising move

The answer is yes, because in India, where there is a peculiar hierarchical arrangement of caste, it is conspicuous that SCs and STs are poorly represented in higher posts. Denying application of reservation in promotions has kept SCs and STs largely confined to lower cadre jobs. This is even seen in the higher judiciary. Hence, providing reservation for promotions is even more justified and appropriate to attain equality. The question of law is not about ena-

bling reservations in promotions or not, but this judgment destabilises the very basis of reservation; when there is no direct recruitment in higher posts, the implementation of reservation is justified at every level to get a reasonable representation. It is not correct to subdivide the scope of reservation at the entry level and in promotions; this delineation will only lead to confusion in the implementation of reservation. Now, by declaring that reservation cannot be claimed as a fundamental right is a dangerous precedent in the history of social justice.

Can a court issue a mandamus to the state for providing reservations? This is inappropriate because when the court is empowered to pass orders to create extra seats every year for forward-caste students who claim to be affected by reservation, why cannot it direct the state to provide reservation in promotions? The Supreme Court has extraordinary powers under Article 142, which empowers the Court to pass any order necessary for doing “complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it”.

The next question is about the necessity of quantifiable data to show an inadequate representation of reserved category people. This question has been addressed in the Constitution. Article 16(4)

reads: “Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the services under the State.”

Here, “in the opinion of State” should not be construed as the discretion of the state to give the reservation or not; on the contrary, if the state feels that SCs and STs are under-represented, then it is in the domain of the state to provide reservation. In the Indra Sawhney vs Union of India case (Mandal Commission) the idea of quantifiable data on inadequate representation was applied for exceeding the 50% cap for reservation; within 50% where the existing quotas for SCs and STs are accommodated were not affected. The responsibility of collecting data on representation by the Backward Classes lies with the state. Pathetically, the last caste-based census was in 1931, and in the pre-Independence era, by the British government. After Independence, no government has had the inclination to conduct a caste-based census due to political reasons. Even if a caste-based census is collected, the population and proportionate representation of SCs and STs will be low. For this reason alone, a proper caste-based census has not been conducted in independent India. Moreover, Article 16(4) clearly mentions that if the state, in its opinion, feels that SCs and STs are not adequately represented, then it can provide reservation for them. There is no mention of “quantifiable data” in the Constitution. Even after 70 years of SC/

ST reservation, their representation is as low as 3%. Finally, if the argument is that it is not binding on the state to give reservation, it must be noted that when reservation rights are in Part III as Fundamental Rights, it is the obligation of the state to ensure reservation to the underprivileged. This judgment has interpreted Articles 16(4) and 16(4A) only as enabling provisions. Enabling provisions mean that these provisions empower the state to intervene; it does not mean the state is not bound to provide it. Interpreting the Constitution by paraphrasing and selective reading is dangerous.

### Administrative efficiency

More importantly, this judgment has raised a new point – that the decision of the State government to provide reservation for SC/STs should not affect the efficiency of administration. This implies that the entry of SC/STs in the job market can reduce the quality of administration; this by itself is discriminatory. There is no evidence that performance in administration is affected on account of caste. There have been many attempts to dilute reservation in the past. But, this judgment appears to be debatable in the larger context and should be challenged in a constitutional bench. In a country of parliamentary democracy, even the Constitution of India can be amended. If the government at the Centre has genuine concern for SC/STs, it can amend the Constitution using its political majority.

*Dr. Dhileepan Selvarajan is a consultant cardiologist and a social activist*



pling reservations in promotions or not, but this judgment destabilises the very basis of reservation; when there is no direct recruitment in higher posts, the implementation of reservation is justified at every level to get a reasonable representation. It is not correct to subdivide the scope of reservation at the entry level and in promotions; this delineation will only lead to confusion in the implementation of reservation. Now, by declaring that reservation cannot be claimed as a fundamental right is a dangerous precedent in the history of social justice.

Can a court issue a mandamus to the state for providing reservations? This is inappropriate because when the court is empowered to pass orders to create extra seats every year for forward-caste students who claim to be affected by reservation, why cannot it direct the state to provide reservation in promotions? The Supreme Court has extraordinary powers under Article 142, which empowers the Court to pass any order necessary for doing “complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it”.

The next question is about the necessity of quantifiable data to show an inadequate representation of reserved category people. This question has been addressed in the Constitution. Article 16(4)

reads: “Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the services under the State.”

Finally, if the argument is that it is not binding on the state to give reservation, it must be noted that when reservation rights are in Part III as Fundamental Rights, it is the obligation of the state to ensure reservation to the underprivileged. This judgment has interpreted Articles 16(4) and 16(4A) only as enabling provisions. Enabling provisions mean that these provisions empower the state to intervene; it does not mean the state is not bound to provide it. Interpreting the Constitution by paraphrasing and selective reading is dangerous.

## 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.

**Delhi's message**  
The fears of the writer that the pursuance of Hindu Rashtra is no longer a camouflaged destination but is the current location, is not entirely unfounded (Editorial page, “The message from Delhi”, March 3). The way the country is progressing towards majority appeasement and the unabashed hate speeches, which intentionally go

unnoticed by those who matter in certain political parties are all in the making of a Hindu Rashtra. In this pursuit, economic issues of concern such as agriculture and unemployment have fallen by the wayside. It is a sad state of affairs that the dangerous and impious path being chosen is being gleefully encouraged by polarised sections. By the time the people of this great nation realise the mistake

of pursuing this path of self-destruction it may be too late to recover.  
**G.B. SIVANANDAM,  
Coimbatore**

**Pursuing reactor path**  
The development of solar-based energy sources in India is a welcome trend and has tremendous potential. Even harnessing tidal energy can prove beneficial, risk-free and environmental friendly.

**Solely pursuing nuclear-based energy sources is a double-edged sword with no accountability.**  
**N. VIJAI,  
Coimbatore**

**Lost young**  
It was saddening to find that the number of students who end their lives nearly doubled within a decade (OpEd page, Datapoint, March 3). The reasons listed are not

difficult

# The demolition of reason

What we see today is the adoption of various strategies of evasion, obfuscation, deflection, and denial



RAJEEV BHARGAVA

It was always an exaggeration to claim that man is a rational animal, distinguished from others by his capacity to take rational decisions. But it is no hyperbole to say that all humans can learn to reason with beneficial consequences. Reason has many functions – to help arrive at a common understanding and consensual decisions; discern what is and is not relevant; express our deepest thoughts and lend them coherence; differentiate right from wrong, good from bad, the significant or the urgent from the trivial. We are not purely rational and indeed should never be so. But to not use reason when it is badly required is plainly foolish or outright devious.

**Reason in its most debased form**  
Seen widely in our world and amplified in the electronic media, however, is the collapse of reason. Or rather, the deliberate, wicked surrender of virtually every form of reason and the adoption, instead, of various strategies of evasion, obfuscation, deflection, and denial. Conversations are stalled, discussions disrupted, facts manipulated and distorted. Reason now appears to serve, as never before, only self-interest and power. So, reason may not have disappeared completely, but it is certainly reduced to its most debased form – one that is cynical and instrumental.

When reason is so sullied, words become vacuous – mere sounds without meaning. Intellectual differences are reduced to a cockfight, mere shadow-boxing. Witnessing a group of British journalists picking holes in the argument of the far-right UKIP leader, Nigel Farage, exposing obvious inconsistencies and throwing widely known facts at him to show that he was a liar, the Turkish writer Ece Temelkuran likened this effort to playing chess with a pigeon who knocks over the pieces and shits on the chess board. Then, “the pigeon departs, proudly claiming victory, and leaving behind a mess for you to clean up”. How does one engage and



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK PHOTO

find common ground with those who make disruption and ignorance their primary values and are guided by them? Ms. Temelkuran describes the impossibility of having a proper political discussion with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's supporters. Talking to them is “like making a milkshake without the lid on,” she says. Reason is utterly helpless when people choose to defy it.

## Rounds of whataboutery

One of the most troubling features of current debates on television is that every substantive discussion of an important public issue is instantly replaced by an avoidable, unreasonable slanging match between the BJP and the Congress, as if all Indians are supporters of either the BJP or the Congress. More importantly, attention is diverted to real or imagined wrongs committed in the past by the Congress which helps evade fixing responsibility and accountability for wrongs committed in the present. For example, the recent horrific killings in Delhi cannot be discussed because “how dare those responsible for the 1984 pogrom against the Sikhs bring up Delhi 2020”? Likewise, a complaint about the muzzling of the press or about the fear experienced by ordinary citizens to speak out against the current regime simply has to be upstaged by a passionate denunciation of Indira Gandhi’s Emergency. But why does the failure of one party to give us some good (say, freedom) erase the failure of another party to do the same? Why can’t people complain against both?

Consider this: forty years ago, a man was caught stealing red-handed and punished. Today he himself is robbed and goes to the police to report the crime. But the police asks, “Aren’t you the same man who committed a theft in 1980? You have no right to lodge a complaint”. This is absurd. Does a man forfeit his right to complain or protest merely because he once committed a wrong? What kind of an argument is this? Admittedly, some arguments have relevance and validity in the immediate aftermath of a crime. But they lose force as time passes and circumstances change. It might be valid to speak in the 1940s of the responsibility of Nazi Germany for the mayhem it caused by starting the Second World War but farcical to keep carpings about it in the 21st century. The crime has long been acknowledged, punishment has been meted out, and Germans, even those who had morally disassociated from it much earlier, have apologised in word and deed. They have even institutionalised the remembrance of wrongdoing in memorials. This renders redundant any further reprimand of the Germans. What use is bringing it up especially by those who are destroying liberty today?

The Emergency was a horrific event, a permanent blot on Indian democracy and we must remember it continuously to ensure that it does not recur. But it would be ludicrous to ask the Congress, the leading Opposition party, to shut up if it protested against the imposition of Emergency-like measures and crazy to order ordinary citizens, who first suffered in the 1970s and might suffer again, to stop being “selective” when protesting against an assault on free speech, the suspension of habeas corpus or the mauling of an independent judiciary. To compel anyone to speak about every single past violation

of rights in the same breath as current violations is a devious way to bully everyone into silence.

Let us return to the present. We know that a slogan raised by some BJP leaders was an unambiguous incitement to violence. They were caught on video, reported to the Election Commission, and suspended from campaigning. This is an incontrovertible fact. Soon enough, horrific violence engulfed the national capital where the slogan was first raised. When a public interest litigation was brought to the court pleading that an FIR be registered about the culprits, their defence pleaded that unless all such hate speeches are examined, nothing should happen. As if this was not perplexing enough, another ridiculous feature entered the discourse. The speech of a Congress leader, which was not found to be inflammatory earlier, was pushed into the media and played out as a war cry by those who know its legal insignificance. Why then did they do so? To confuse and mislead people and to vitiate discourse. Is it not excellent ammunition for a new round of whataboutery?

## Evaluating political actions

Recently I got talking with a taxi driver about the National Register of Citizens in Assam. I said that I was sorry to hear about the fate of the officer in charge of the survey, whose professional integrity was redoubtable earlier but who now has five FIRs registered against him. His crime? He had discovered large numbers of Hindus without documents to prove their citizenship, now declared to be illegal immigrants. Unfazed, he said: “But Sir, such a man would have been shot dead in Pakistan”, implying that India is tolerant compared with Pakistan. After all, India only paralyses people with false cases, whereas in Pakistan, the same conduct is rewarded with death penalty! This is whataboutery gone mad! Political actions in India today are evaluated by two standards. First, the worst practices of the Congress and second, the repressive acts, real or imaginary, of a ‘rogue’ state across the border. The political class and all those mesmerised by it have simply sidestepped constitutional principles and political morality.

Rajeev Bhargava is Professor, CSDS, Delhi

# The legacy of childhood trauma

Policies on domestic violence ignore the effect of trauma on children and inter-generational transmission of violence



MATHANGI SWAMINATHAN

Everyone who knew Rakesh said he was a monster. He could not handle conflicts at home and often resorted to yelling to get his point across. He would discipline his children by being physically violent. His idea of showing love for his partner was through physical violence and threats. Where did Rakesh learn to be the man he was? Perhaps from his childhood. Rakesh’s story is all too frequent in India.

## Impact on children

One in three women faces intimate partner violence, according to the World Health Organization. Each successive government has tried to put in place legal and judicial resources for these women, but has left children unprotected and exposed. Witnessing such widespread violence at home affects children seriously. First, there are recorded physiological effects of trauma on the brain. CT scans show that children who have been exposed to trauma develop smaller corpus callosum and smaller hippocampus regions, which means that their learning, cognitive abilities and emotional regulation are affected. Second, inter-generational transmission of violence is a disturbing consequence of violence in families. Dr. Byron Egeland, a widely published researcher in the areas of child maltreatment and developmental psychopathology, showed a history of abuse to be a major risk factor for abusing the next generation. Researchers have estimated an average inter-generational transmission rate of 40%. This means that for every 100 persons who were abused as children, 40 transmit this violence to the next generation.

Rakesh’s own history shows that he was a victim of violence. Rakesh had been a witness to violence between his parents at home every day until he turned 20. He saw his mother being slapped, and learnt to create cover-up stories for the frequent injuries that appeared on his and his mother’s bodies. By the time he was five, he had learnt that violence was an acceptable means to deal with conflict, and that it was important for the man to dominate through power-assertive violence. To cope with the trauma at home, he had also learnt to quickly suppress his childhood fear and deep insecurity. How else could he deal with the complexity of it? The trauma left physical effects on his brain, leading to poor emotional regulation.

According to Dr. John Bowlby, a renowned psychiatrist known for his pioneering work in developing attachment theory, the “internal working model” of a child is developed based on familial patterns of showing love and resolving conflicts. Rakesh’s internal working model had been developed based on behaviours between his caregivers in the first two years of his life. How can we teach our children other ways of healthy relationships between partners if this is all they have witnessed all their lives?

It is important to note that not all victims of domestic violence become aggressors. We must not victimise young survivors of violence. Declaring that some of these victimised children will end up being violent themselves can, in fact, make it a self-fulfilling prophecy. Yet, it is crucial in a country that faces a massive crisis of violence against women to understand that a history of abuse is often a risk factor that points to a likelihood of perpetrating inter-generational abuse.

## Dealing with childhood trauma

India puts in place reactive policies every time a new case of violence comes to the fore. The country’s domestic violence policies have ranged from declaring certain offences against women as criminal offences, to setting up all-women police stations, to capital punishment for fatal rape cases. These policies have ignored the effect of trauma on children and the concept of inter-generational transmission of violence.

As a 2016 report by the U.S. Children’s Bureau explains, “violence and abuse produce trauma symptoms which when left unresolved, increase the likelihood that the individual will engage in violent behaviour as an adult.” We need to provide spaces for children to resolve these symptoms of childhood trauma.

India has become serious about mental health beginning with the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, but it needs to do more. Policy-makers need to link the provision of professional mental health services to families recovering from domestic violence. A prospective policy, working with families to actively provide trauma-informed mental health care, needs to be in place.

But for this to happen, India needs more mental health practitioners. It needs accredited systems to train and track the quality of mental health trauma-care providers. Connecting such a network to peer-supportive groups can help survivors integrate their experiences into their lives and finally heal.

*Mathangi Swaminathan is an alumna of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a Foster America fellow working in the child protection system in the U.S.*

# Tapping the LIC source

The government should ensure that a fair return is realised from the proposed partial disinvestment

R. RAMAKRISHNAN

More than 64 years after former Finance Minister C.D. Deshmukh called for the nationalisation of insurance, the government is considering partial disinvestment of its holding in the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). It plans to accomplish this in the second quarter of 2020-21. This begs the question: why now?

The simple answer is, the partial disinvestment of LIC is a source of income to the public exchequer to make up for the loss in tax revenue over successive cycles of corporate tax cuts, most of which were aimed at spurring domestic industrial development.

## Two groups of policies

The policies of LIC can be divided broadly into two groups: participating and non-participating. Participating policies are eligible for not less than 95% of the profits (surplus) emerging each year. Bonus is declared from this profit. Non-participating policies are not eligible for this bonus. As compensation, the premium rates under these policies are significantly lower. If Section 28 of the LIC Act, 1956, which prescribes the share of profits to participating policyholders, is not amended to reduce this share, then there will likely be no issues in carrying out disinvestment. However, if the government tries to reduce the percentage of profit going to participating policyholders, there could be a host of problems.

Since rights of existing policyholders cannot be taken away, this amendment can be made applicable only to policies issued in future and not to existing policies. This can create administrative problems. Two books of accounts must be maintained in each branch office: one with respect to old policies and another with respect to new policies. The bifurcation of administrative expenses between the two groups may also be a major problem. We can therefore assume that no change will be made to Section 28 of the LIC Act.

The value of a life insurance company is assessed by finding the present value of future profits generated by the current business, the probable flow of new business in the future,

and the present value of profits from this new business. This is a complex and time-consuming process. There is another method known as the Dividend Discount Model. This method is generally applicable only in the case of companies that pay regular dividends. The LIC has a long and uninterrupted history of dividend payments from inception.

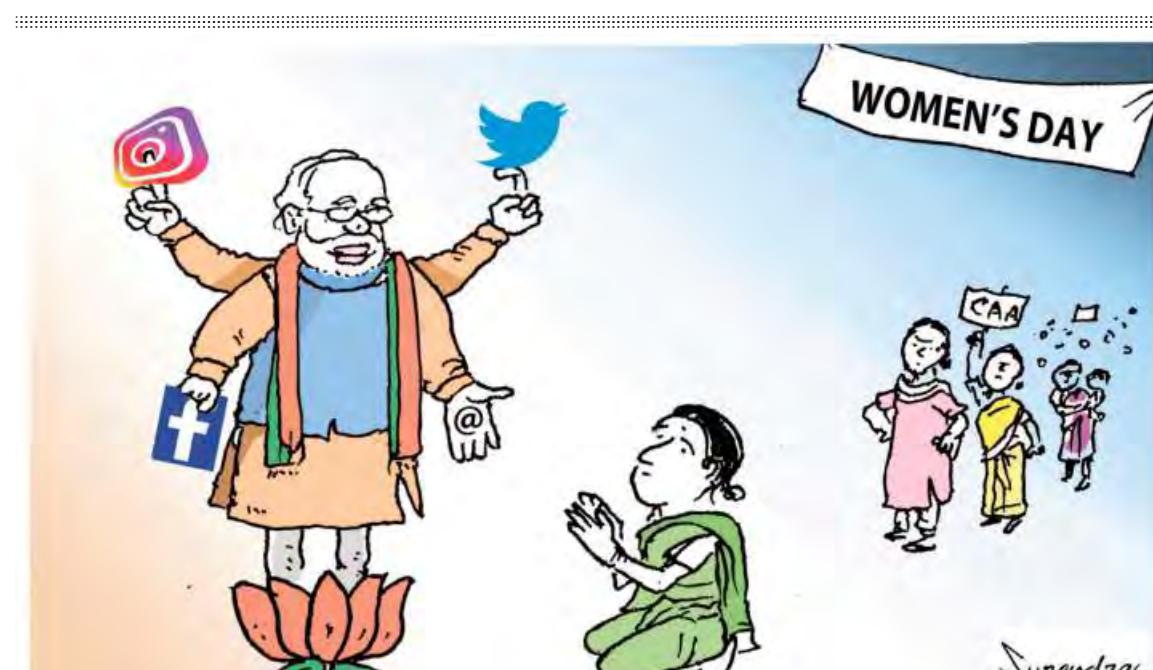
Under this method, if it is assumed that if the dividend increases by 3% each year, the present value of future dividends will be ₹300,000 crore (₹3 trillion). If the rate of increase of dividends is 4% or more, then the present value of future dividends will be very high, and theoretically, be equal to infinity. The average annual rate of increase of dividend over the last 30 years is 14.32%, so one can imagine what would be the present value of future dividends.

## Many products

The Corporation has a wide range of products. Its agents are reluctant to sell the high profit margin unit linked products since these do not guarantee maturity value. Its portfolio of Group, Pension and Annuity products, which have very low profit margin, is quite substantial. Shareholder’s share of profits is only 5%. It is not even 50% of the share of profits of shareholders of private insurers. Still, its dividend to shareholders is substantial. LIC is also introducing unit linked products, which generally have good profit margins. So, its dividends may go up even further. It is my considered view that its value today will be anywhere between ₹3 trillion and ₹5 trillion.

Its overall cost ratio compares favourably to that of any private insurer. With a capital of just ₹100 crore, it is managing a life fund of about ₹30 trillion and has built up, in the policyholders’ account, a solvency reserve of ₹1.5 trillion. Its million-strong dedicated agency force can be the envy of any insurer. About 96% of LIC’s new business comes from this group. On every count, it is a dream organisation. The government should ensure that a fair return is realised from the proposed partial disinvestment.

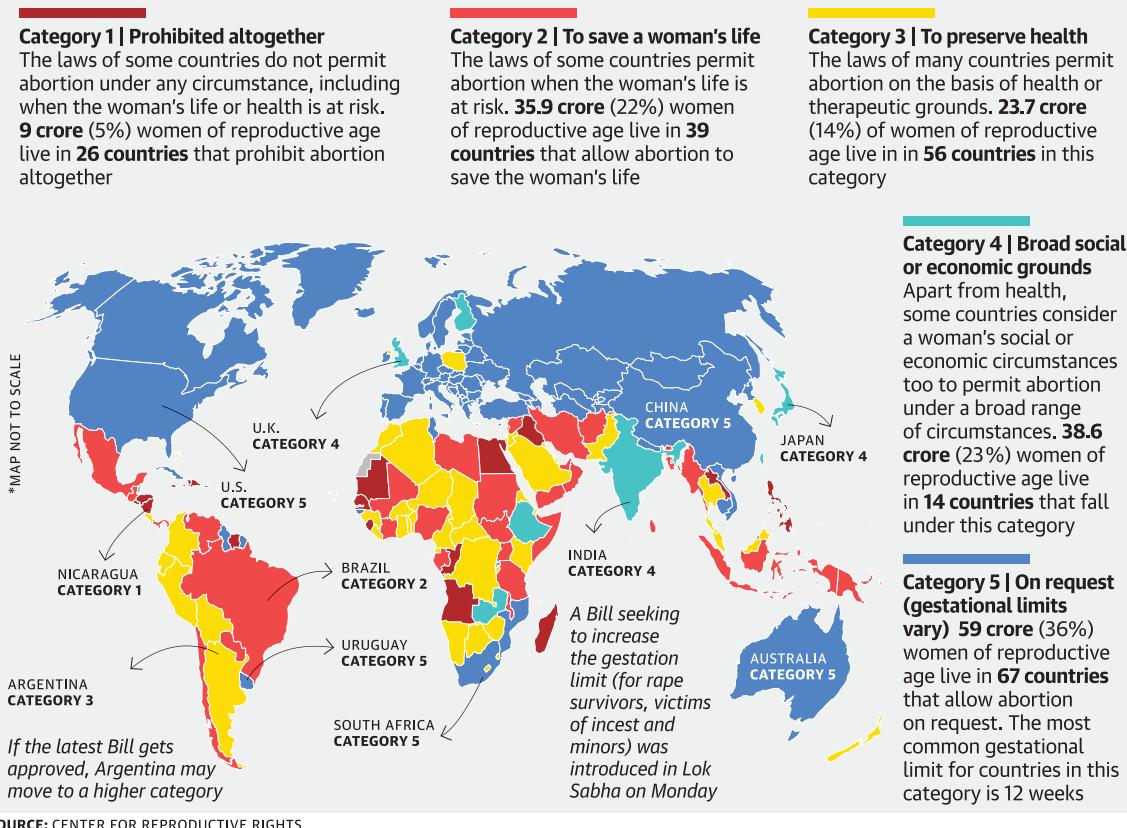
R. Ramakrishnan is a retired Chief Actuary, LIC of India



## DATA POINT

### Abortion laws around the world

Argentinian President Alberto Fernandez is planning to introduce a Bill which proposes to legalise abortion in the country. If approved, it will be a significant breakthrough for abortion laws in Latin America, which, together with the Caribbean, is home to at least five of the 26 countries globally where abortion is not permitted under any circumstance. The map depicts the legal status of abortion across the globe, based on five broad categories



The Hindu

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 4, 1970

Use 1951 population figures: T.N.

The Tamil Nadu Government was urging the Centre to amend the Constitution so as to provide for allocation of seats in Parliament to the various States on the basis of the 1951 population figures, the Chief Minister, Mr. M. Karunanidhi, told the State Assembly today [March 3, Madras]. Replying to a question by Mr. N. Kittappa, he said that such an amendment would enthuse the States like Tamil Nadu to implement the family planning programme vigorously, without any fear of reduction of seats in Parliament. Mr. Karunanidhi explained that as a result of the family planning drive, Tamil Nadu had brought down the population increase in the State to 11.85 per cent during the 10-year period from 1951 to 1961, but had lost on that account two seats in Lok Sabha. (On the basis of the 1961 census, the number of seats allotted to the State was reduced from 41 to 39.) For the same period, the population rise was 34.45 per cent in Assam, 19.7 in Bihar, 26.88 in Gujarat, 24.76 in Kerala, 24.17 in Madhya Pradesh, 23.6 in Maharashtra, 21.57 in Mysore and 19.82 in Orissa. The number of seats in Lok Sabha allotted to these States had also proportionately gone up.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 4, 1920.

## School of Navigation

Calcutta, March 3. - The Government of Bengal have for some time past had under consideration the question of establishing a school of Naval Institute in Calcutta for the training of Indian seamen in the elements of the theory of navigation and for the training of Indians in the art of navigation on a scientific basis. No facilities at present exist in this Presidency for Indians to qualify themselves for certificates of competency for higher post in mercantile marine. The Governor in Council is inclined to the view that an institute or academy on the lines of training institutions in European countries might prove beneficial to a section of Indians of average education who might be encouraged to take up the sailor’s profession in future. Inquiries made by the Government show that there is at present no mutual demand for such an institution in Calcutta but the Governor in Council thinks that the matter might be discussed with advantage at the present time. The question requires to be very carefully considered. It is necessary in the first place to ascertain definitely whether there is scope for such an institution in Calcutta.

FROM PAGE ONE

## UN rights body to move SC on CAA



**Steely resolve:** People from nomadic tribes and other communities protesting at Azad Maidan. ■ EMMANUEL YOGINI

Former Solicitor General Mohan Parasaran said that in his opinion, the UN official could not be impleaded on international law in a domestic matter. "The CAA has to be tested on the touchstone of the Indian Constitution and not some UN Convention. If such interventions as *amicus curiae* are allowed, it will set a wrong precedent," he observed.

Last month, a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde took "note" of a plea made by a UN Special Rapporteur in a case related to the rights of Rohingya refugees, but forwarded it to the government for a response without ruling on it.

Former Indian Foreign Service officer Deb Mukherji, who is a petitioner in the original case filed in December, said the UN move would not change their case against the CAA.

"I am not aware that international bodies can implead themselves in our courts, that is for the honourable Supreme Court to decide. We have been waiting for weeks to be heard, and hope our petition will be taken up soon," he told *The Hindu*.

(With inputs from Krishnadas Rajagopal)

## Father, daughter arrested by NIA in Pulwama case

The non-local militants who stayed there were identified as Muhammad Umar Farooq, a Pakistani terrorist and IED maker, and Kamran, also a Pakistani terrorist.

"Both were later killed in encounters with security forces," said the NIA.

Local JeM militant Samir Ahmed Dar and

scribed the UN rights body's move as "absolutely unprecedented in the diplomatic history of India".

Agreeing, former envoy to the UN, Chinmaya Gharekhan, said the move was "objectionable", as the UN was an inter-governmental body and "they are not supposed to approach the Supreme Court of India".

### 'Worries galore'

In her address to the Human Rights Council on February 27, Ms. Bachelet expressed "great concern" over the CAA. Earlier, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres had spoken of worries over the "risk of statelessness" that arose from the CAA being used as a discriminatory measure.

The Government of India has denied and rejected both the comments.

The citizenship Bill, enacted on December 12, 2019 after it was cleared by Parliament, promises to fast-track citizenship for undocumented migrants belonging to six faiths not including Islam and Judaism, who fled from religious persecution in Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan before December 21, 2014.

(With inputs from Krishnadas Rajagopal)

another non-local militant, Muhammad Ismail alias Ibrahim alias Adnan, also stayed in the house. The arrest comes days after the NIA arrested 22-year-old Shakir Bashir Magrey, an alleged JeM operative. He had allegedly tracked the movement of CRPF convoys and helped assemble the bomb used in the attack.

"Both were later killed in encounters with security forces," said the NIA.

Local JeM militant Samir Ahmed Dar and

## Apex body on river linking in pipeline

Once approved, the projects will be pursued as national projects, wherein the Centre will absorb 90% of the cost and the States concerned the rest.

As of now, six ILR projects – the Ken-Betwa, Damanganga-Pinjal, Par-Tapi-Narmada, Manas-Sankosh-Teesta-Ganga, Mahanadi-Godavari and Godavari-Cauvery (Grand Anicut) – have been under examination of the authorities.

With regard to the peninsular rivers, the Centre has chosen to focus on the Go-

davi-Cauvery link than the earlier proposal to link the Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Cauvery rivers.

The latter has eluded consensus given reservations from Odisha, officials said.

### Tamil Nadu situation

In view of Tamil Nadu's not-so-happy experience with its neighbours in getting its due share of water, it has been particular that either the Centre or any of its agencies execute the Godavari-Cauvery link project and look after operation.

## SC dismisses Fadnavis' review plea

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has dismissed a review petition filed by former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis against its October 2019 verdict directing him to face trial for suppressing information about two pending forgery and criminal defamation cases in his 2014 election documents.

The Bench led by Justice Arun Mishra reserved the case for orders on February 19.

## Government yet to notify CVC, CIC appointments

No official order even two weeks after selection; Congress leader cites conflict of interest in choice of vigilance chief

SANDEEP PHUKAN  
NEW DELHI

Two weeks after a high-power committee (HPC), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, selected the new Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) and the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC), the Centre is yet to officially notify the appointments.

A day after the selection panel had selected Sanjay Kothari, currently Secretary to the President of India, as the next CVC, the Congress on February 19 demanded that the appointment be

scrapped "alleging violation of laid-down procedure".

A senior official of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) – the nodal Ministry that handles government postings – told *The Hindu* that the delay was due to the process of getting a replacement for Mr. Kothari and not because of objections raised by the Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, a member of the HPC.

Other appointees including CIC designate Bimal Julka have been sent a letter from

the DoPT Ministry, officially informing them of the government's decision.

But the date of their taking charge has not been fixed in

the absence of the notification, the DoPT official said.

Though there is no rethink by the government on the appointments, the delay could be linked to fresh objections raised by Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury in a letter to the Prime Minister in which he cited conflict of interest against the CVC designate.

**Chowdhury's letter**  
In his letter of February 20, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said: "Gross violation of power and misutilisation of opportunity has been observed

in getting self-appointment of CVC by the Secretary to the Honourable President of India. The self-appointment, therefore, seems to be highly irregular, immoral and unjustified."

In a separate note attached to the February 20 letter, Mr. Chowdhury explained that Sanjay Kothari could be vetting his own appointment before President Ram Nath Kovind gives his approval.

"The Secretary to the present President is Sh. Sanjay Kothari. However, he has

been appointed by the President as the CVC which is a Constitutional post. Is there no conflict of interest as it is seen that the same secretary to President processed the file for his own appointment as the CVC and got it approved from the President of India?" Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's note reads.

The Congress has not ruled out the option of approaching the courts once the CVC appointment gets officially notified but a final view is yet to be taken, a senior party source said.

**Sanjay Kothari**

**Congress leader**

## BJP taking MLAs to Delhi: Digvijaya

STAFF REPORTER  
BHPOL

A day after accusing BJP leaders of luring Congress MLAs in Madhya Pradesh to cross over, Congress MP Digvijaya Singh on Tuesday alleged the BJP had "begun the process" of taking BSP and SP MLAs, who support the Congress government in the State, to New Delhi.

Ahead of the Rajya Sabha elections for three seats from the State later this month, Mr. Singh tweeted: "Didn't former BJP Minister Bhupendra Singh yesterday take BSP MLA Rambari in a chartered flight from Bhopal to New Delhi? Shivraj ji, do you want to say something?"

Mr. Singh, a Rajya Sabha member, however, wrote that the party reposed "full confidence" in Rambai Parihar, as she was an "admirer" of Chief Minister Kamal Nath and supported him.

### Slender margin

Given the seat arithmetic in the Vidhan Sabha, with Congress having 114 members and BJP 106, the Congress needs the continuing crucial support of one Samajwadi Party (SP), two Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and four independent MLAs to secure the third Rajya Sabha seat.

Endorsing Mr. Singh's claim, Chief Minister Kamal Nath said the BJP was scared that its "corruption" of 15 years would be uncovered.

BJP State media chief Lokendra Parashar said Mr. Singh was making such statements as he enjoyed being in the news.

BJP vice-president Shivraj Singh Chouhan is yet to respond to the charge.



**Rallying the team:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Ministers and senior party leaders during the BJP Parliamentary Party meeting at Parliament house in New Delhi on Tuesday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

was above everything, a senior party MP said.

An officially released transcript of Mr. Modi's speech said: "I feel sad when I see some parties hesitating to

chant *Bharat Mata ki Jai* [Hail Mother India]."

"They look at it [*Bharat Mata Ki Jai*] with suspicion, as though there was a strange odour emanating

from it. Given all this, the BJP must keep to its principles of keeping national interest uppermost," he added.

The mention of *Bharat Mata Ki Jai* was a riposte to

former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's speech on February 22 at a book launch that the chant connote a "militant idea of India", the sources said.

## PM's gesture to promote 'inspiring women'

This Women's Day, I will give away my social media accounts to women whose life & work inspire us'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi broke the overnight suspense about his announcement that he would consider giving up his social media accounts on March 8, by tweeting that he would hand over his accounts to "inspiring women".

This is the first time the Prime Minister would be giving access to his social media accounts for such a campaign.

This put at rest feverish speculation all of Monday night after Mr. Modi's an-

nouncement that he is considering renouncing his social media accounts. Speculation ranged from this being a curtain-raiser for an India specific "Weibo"-like platform to a social media detox campaign after a rash of dangerous rumours that swirled during the riots in Delhi.

The government has lined up a series of events to mark Women's Day, including commemorating women members of India's Constituent Assembly, telecast of

14 women-oriented films on Doordarshan, a special programme by chef Sanjeev Kapoor, and a round-table on women empowerment.

"This Sunday, thinking of giving up my social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram & YouTube. Will keep you all posted," Mr. Modi had tweeted previously immediately setting off a hashtag, #NoSir, to persuade him not to do so.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi continued his Twitter attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, challenging him to focus on the coronavirus threat rather than his social media accounts.

Endorsing Mr. Singh's claim, Chief Minister Kamal Nath said the BJP was scared that its "corruption" of 15 years would be uncovered.

BJP State media chief Lokendra Parashar said Mr. Singh was making such statements as he enjoyed being in the news.

BJP vice-president Shivraj Singh Chouhan is yet to respond to the charge.

(With inputs from IANS)

## Parliament comes to a standstill

Uproar in Lok Sabha as Speaker says debate on riots can be held after Holi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Proceedings in both Houses of Parliament were disrupted for the second day on Tuesday over the Opposition's insistence on a discussion on the Delhi riots.

The uproar started in the Lok Sabha when Speaker Om Birla, after the House met again at 2 p.m., stated that it would debate the riots after Holi on March 11.

"We are working for the benefit of the country. Keeping in mind the situation in the country, celebrating Holi festival in peace and harmony... government is ready to discuss the issue after Holi on March 11," he said, which prompted Opposition members to storm the Well to press for an immediate discussion.

When Mr. Birla allowed Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to move a Bill, tempers rose as MPs were seen crossing the Well.

**Warning in vain**

Though Mr. Birla warned members from both Opposition and Treasury benches that he would suspend them if they crossed over to the other side, order was not restored.

Congress leader Adhir

Ranjan Chowdhury walked over to the Treasury benches, which led to a commotion.

**Commotion ensues**  
Other Opposition MPs too followed Mr. Chowdhury and a commotion ensued as BJP members blocked their way.

Amid a jostle between BJP and Congress members, when some Opposition members banged a partition door near the Lok Sabha Secretary-General's desk, the Speaker adjourned the House for the day.

Earlier in the day, the Opposition's demand for an immediate discussion led to two disruptions, with the entire first half of the session getting washed out.

The Rajya Sabha saw multiple adjournments, with the first one coming within three

minutes of its convening. When Minister of State Anurag Thakur stood up to lay the papers from his Ministry, Opposition members started jeering him.

Many Opposition members were heard shouting "goli maaro" in a reference to Mr. Thakur's comments at a public rally during the campaign for the Delhi Assembly elections. Mr. Naidu said that no slogan would go on record.

"You don't want any business to be transacted, you don't want any discussion, any zero hour mention – five of you stand and argue with me," he said.

In the post-lunch session, though the Rajya Sabha Chair conceded to the Opposition's demand for a discussion, Deputy Chairman Hari Vanish informed the House that Mr. Naidu would have to take a call on the timing, and adjourned the proceedings after Telangana Rashtra Samithi MP K. Keshava Rao said the House should be adjourned to send a "message" that the "first concern was the people". Leader of the Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad said, "The whole world is discussing the incidents and if the Parliament of India does not, it will be odd."

On Monday, Ms. Haridas had complained of assault by women MPs of the BJP, including Jaskaur Meena, who, in turn, had said she was trying to defend herself against aggressive behaviour from the Opposition benches.

Ms. Deo has lodged a formal complaint with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi also made a move to have a resolution moved against Congress MPs Gaurav Gogoi, Ramya Haridas and Ravneet Bittu.

Speaking to presspersons outside the House on Tuesday, Ms. Deo said the two MPs approached her in a threatening manner, twisted her arm and hit her with their elbows on her chest.

"If [Union Minister] Smriti Irani had not caught me from the back, I would have fallen down and been hurt more seriously. I went to the CGHS [Central Government Health Service] clinic inside Parliament House and got some medical help afterwards," she said.

Ms. Deo added that it was "sad" that such scenes were being seen inside the House.

The Opposition has been putting the government on the mat ever since the second part of the Budget session over the Delhi riots last week, which has left over 40 people dead in North East Delhi.

She has named two Cong. members



**For a cause:** Opposition members protesting in the Lok Sabha during the Budget Session of Parliament. ■ PTI

## Haryana RS bypoll also on March 26

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The by-election to a Rajya Sabha seat from Haryana that was vacated by the BJP's Birender Singh in January would be held on March 26, the Election Commission of India (ECI) announced on Tuesday.

The seat fell



# We are in uncharted territory, says WHO

Globally, COVID-19 has killed more than 3,155 people and infected over 92,723 in 78 countries

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

BEIJING

The world has entered uncharted territory in its battle against the deadly coronavirus, the UN health agency warned, as new infections dropped dramatically in China on Tuesday but surged elsewhere.

Globally, the virus has killed more than 3,155 people and infected over 92,723 in 78 countries and territories. A clear shift in the crisis emerges, with nine times as many new cases recorded outside China as inside, according to the World Health Organization.

"We are in uncharted territory," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said. "We have never before seen a respiratory pathogen that is capable of community transmission, but which can also be contained with the right measures."

China has imposed draconian quarantines and travel



**War on virus:** Army trucks spraying disinfectant on a street in Ulsan, South Korea, on Tuesday, to prevent the spread of COVID-19. ■ AP

restrictions to people indoors – a strategy that appears to have paid off as new cases have been generally falling for days.

**'Safety gears' supply hit'**

"We are concerned that countries' abilities to respond are being compro-

mised by the severe and increasing disruption to the global supply of personal protective equipment... caused by rising demand, hoarding and misuse," Mr. Ghebreyesus said, warning that "supplies are rapidly depleting."

Italy on Tuesday put the

death toll at 79, with more than 2,500 people infected – the most of any country in Europe. While Italy has locked down towns, other countries have stopped short of imposing mass quarantines and instead have discouraged large gatherings, delayed sporting events and

delayed sporting events and

## 11 more deaths in Iran, 23 MPs contract COVID-19

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEHRAN

Iran put its armed forces on alert on Tuesday to assist health officials in battling COVID-19 that has killed at least 77 people, an outbreak that has sickened top officials and pushed even its supreme leader into wearing disposable gloves while trying to reassure the nation.

Even as government officials sit meters (feet) away from each other at meetings now in an effort to stop its spread, the virus is ravaging both its civilian leadership and its Shiite theocracy. A top emergency official said at least 23 members of Par-

liament reportedly now suffer from the COVID-19 it causes.

On Tuesday, it announced 11 more deaths and 835 new infections – the biggest increase in a single day since the outbreak.

Experts worry Iran's percentage of deaths to infections, now around 3.3%, is much higher than other countries, suggesting the number of infections in Iran may be far greater than current figures show. Meanwhile, a gloved Ayatollah Ali Khamenei praised the doctors and nurses combating the outbreak. He urged the nation to pray.

## France reports fourth death, sparks fear

REUTERS

PARIS

A fourth person has died in France due to COVID-19, the Health Ministry said on Tuesday. It gave no detail on the person's age or nationality.

On Monday evening, French health authorities reported 191 confirmed cases of coronavirus and said three people had died so far from the disease.

Fears of catching the virus have sparked a run on masks as well as sanitising hand gel in France, leading some stores and online retailers to hike prices.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

LOS ANGELES

The number of U.S. deaths from COVID-19 disease rose to six on Monday, all in the state of Washington, officials said, signalling the contagion has taken root in the Pacific Northwest.

Vice-President Mike Pence announced a treatment for the disease could be available by summer or early fall, but that a vaccine was farther off.

Mr. Pence, the administration's pointman for the crisis, also said the government was moving to screen 100% of passengers flying in from Italy and South Korea,

banned arrivals from virus-hit nations.

With concern growing about the impact on the global economy, G7 Finance Ministers and central bank chiefs will hold talks on Tuesday.

South Korea, the biggest cluster outside China, reported 851 new cases, its biggest daily increase, sending its total past 5,000 while its death toll rose to 28. "The entire country has entered a war with the infectious disease," South Korean President Moon Jae-in said.

By contrast, China reported 125 new cases – its lowest daily increase in six weeks – with all but 11 infections in Hubei province. The nationwide death toll rose to 2,943 with 31 more deaths, with 80,000 total cases.

China has even confirmed 13 imported infections, including eight Chinese nationals who worked at a restaurant in Italy's Lombardy.

# Taliban attacks Afghan bases, throwing peace talks in doubt

33 attacks in 16 out of 34 Afghan provinces in just 24 hours

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

KABUL

The Taliban carried out dozens of attacks on Afghan Army bases, officials said on Tuesday, hours after ending a partial truce and throwing into doubt peace talks between Kabul and the insurgents.

The intra-Afghan negotiations are due to begin March 10, according to a U.S.-Taliban deal signed in Doha on Saturday, but a dispute over a prisoner swap has raised questions about whether they will go ahead.

The agreement includes a commitment for the Taliban to release up to 1,000 prisoners and for the Afghan government to free around 5,000 insurgent captives – something the militants have cited as a prerequisite for talks but which President Ashraf Ghani has refused to

do before negotiations start.

The row has highlighted the tough road ahead, with the Taliban's decision to end a partial truce on Monday complicating matters further.

### Six civilians killed

In the last 24 hours the Taliban conducted 33 attacks in 16 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces, interior ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi said. "As a result, six civilians were killed and 14 wounded. Eighty men were also killed, 15 wounded," he said on Twitter.

Two soldiers were killed in one of the attacks in southern Kandahar province, a government statement said.

An attack in Logar province near Kabul killed five security forces, the provincial governor's spokesman

Didar Lawang told AFP.

The halt to the limited truce, which began on February 22, ends what was a welcome respite for ordinary Afghans, who have born the brunt of the deadly violence.

Kabul-based analyst Ahmad Saeedi told AFP the uptick in attacks reflected the insurgents' belief that "they have to keep the battlefield hot to be able to win on the negotiating table, as they did with the Americans."

### Release of captives

Ghani's government last week sent a delegation to Qatar to open "initial contacts" with the insurgents but Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen on Tuesday said the militants would not meet Kabul's representatives except to discuss the release of their captives.

## Netanyahu leads in Israel polls

He is likely to secure 59 seats, two short of a ruling majority

REUTERS

JERUSALEM

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu led on Tuesday in Israel's third national election in less than a year but was short of a governing majority, nearly complete results showed.

"The risk for all of us of becoming infected will be increasing," said Jeff Dunchin, a health officer in King County.

The state reported four new cases, three from the same nursing home, taking the total number of U.S. cases to more than 90.



Benjamin Netanyahu

ing crowd at Likud's election headquarters.

But Mr. Gantz stopped short of conceding defeat, saying the election could result in another deadlock.

"We turned lemons into lemonade," he told a cheer-

votes counted, Mr. Netanyahu, who has the pledged support of right-wing and religious parties for a coalition government, appeared to control 59 seats in Parliament, two short of a ruling majority.

The gap made former Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman's far-right Yisrael Beiteinu party a potential kingmaker.

A win for Mr. Netanyahu, 70, would be testament to the political durability of Israel's longest-serving leader, who fought the latest campaign under the shadow of a looming corruption trial.

## U.S. votes in crucial primaries after three ex-rivals back Biden

Klobuchar, Buttigieg and O'Rourke endorse the former V-P

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

HOUSTON

Americans vote on Tuesday in primaries that play a major role in who will challenge Donald Trump for the presidency, a day after key endorsements dramatically boosted Joe Biden's hopes against surging leftist Bernie Sanders.

The backing of Mr. Biden by three of his ex-rivals marked an unprecedented turn in a fractured, often bitter campaign.

The Democratic establishment is desperate to unite around a moderate candidate who can triumph over frontrunner Sanders, a self-

described democratic socialist, and face President Trump in November.

The 77-year-old former Vice-President is consolidating support among moderates eager to blunt the advance of Mr. Sanders, who could take a potentially insurmountable lead in the all-important delegate count after Super Tuesday.

Mr. Biden has been riding high with key endorsements that built into a political crescendo on Monday.

He took the stage at a rally in Dallas, Texas joined by Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar, who told the crowd she was ending her cam-

### ELSEWHERE



Pope Francis tests negative for COVID-19

VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis, who is suffering from a cold, has tested negative for the coronavirus, as Italy battles Europe's worst outbreak. Earlier, rumours were doing the rounds that the pope had himself come down with COVID-19. AFP

### Tornadoes hit Tennessee, killing at least 22 people

NASHVILLE

Tornadoes ripped across Tennessee, U.S., on Tuesday, shredding 40 buildings and killing 22 people. Daybreak revealed a landscape littered with blown-down walls and roofs. AP

## + MP challenges Nasheed on India stand

Muslims who are suffering in India deserve our attention, says Ali Hussain

MEERA SRINIVASAN

COLOMBO

A Maldivian legislator has challenged Speaker and Former President Mohamed Nasheed on his "selective" response to the treatment of Muslims in the neighbourhood.

In a tweet on February 28, Mr. Nasheed said: "I am delighted that Amal Clooney is working with Maldives to fight on behalf of the Rohingya people. As good Muslims, Maldivians have a duty to help our brothers and sisters, and it makes sense to begin with those who are closest to us."

It followed the Maldivian government's decision to join the Gambia in challenging



ing Myanmar's treatment of Rohingya people at the International Court of Justice.

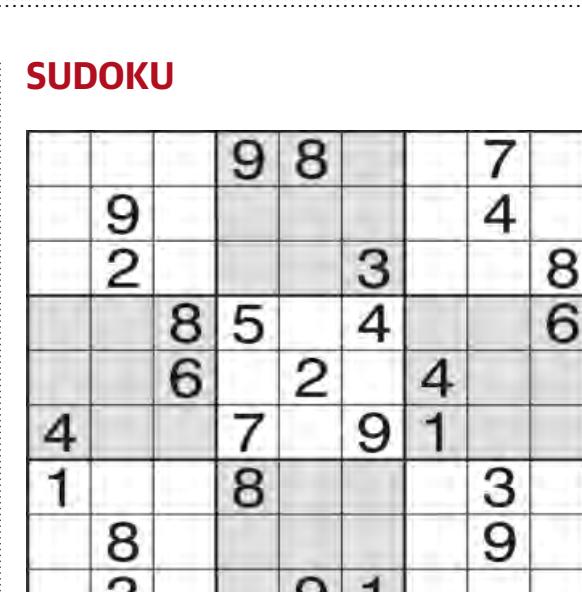
Apparently responding to Mr. Nasheed's tweet, Ali Hussain, an MP from the ruling coalition, said in a tweet the same day: "Also the Muslims who are suffering in India deserve our attention. India is closer to us in many ways so there is no reason why we can't raise our concerns."

Asked about his tweet, Mr. Hussain told *The Hindu* via telephone from Male: "Yes, I strongly believe that we cannot be selective in our pursuit of justice." Whether it the revocation of Article 370 [that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir], or the passage of the Citizenship

concerns over the infamous amendment that is not just discriminatory, but also arbitrary," he said. "Moreover, the transfer of a senior judge [Justice Muralidhar] just hours after he questioned the Delhi police on the recent violence raises serious questions about the space for independent judiciary [in India]," he said.

Observing that India was a "close friend", Mr. Hussain said it was therefore Maldives's duty to urge its friend to be fair to all its citizens. Asked about Mr. Hussain's position, Mr. Nasheed, widely hailed as pro-democracy activist, said "racial disturbances" anywhere were "unfortunate". The idea upon which India was born was "co-existence", despite different languages, ethnicities or religions, he said.

### SUDOKU



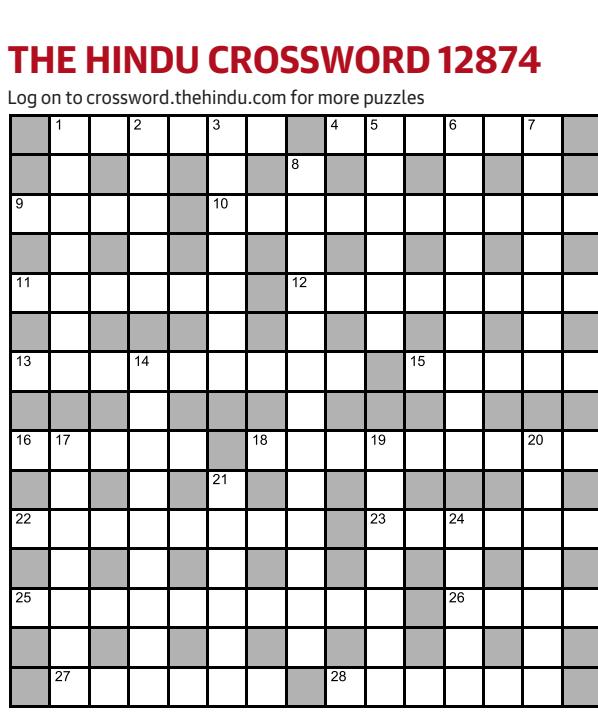
Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

Difficulty Rating: ★★★★☆

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12874

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



### ACROSS

- 1 Constructed outhouse to keep a pet primarily (6)
- 4 Pieces of used ginger found on the surface of soup (6)
- 9 Work in northeast? Not a chance (4)
- 10 Amazing that writing could stop South's revolt (10)
- 20 Outlook of a party's to seize power (6)
- 21 Dumb and slow at the start, after interval begins to get fast (6)
- 22 Wizard for fruit's not new, it's behind the road (7)
- 23 Belgians dismiss engineering degree; broadcast message (6)
- 24 Slow eatery receives reprimand (10)
- 26 Everyone with money ultimately band together (4)
- 27 Two small toffees with hole in the middle given as desserts (6)
- 28 Outlook of a party's to seize power (6)

### DOWN

- 1 Depot for fruit's not new, it's behind the road (7)
- 5 Hot lady dancing without Romeo! Not quite (6)
- 6 Typical of mess, opening late at Tenali; irritating (9)
- 7 Perhaps Michael Jackson and John Lennon are in Germany aboard a ship (7)
- 8 Relatives upset over last sister's evil act (8-2-3)
- 11 Keep actors on line before end of scene (6)
- 12 Brilliant story and climax concealing theme to the extremes (8)
- 13 Carrier of germs seen suffering (9)</

## MARKET WATCH

	03-03-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	38624	-1.26
US Dollar	73.23	-0.65
Gold	42,958	0.01
Brent oil	52.37	3.46

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	347.30	6.65
Asian Paints	1800.55	13.75
Axism Bank	687.15	2.95
Bajaj Auto	2692.25	-39.95
Bajaj Finserv	8963.65	49.15
Bajaj Finance	4454.10	9.35
Bharti Airtel	520.80	2.45
BPCL	425.00	12.65
Britannia Ind	3026.50	77.40
Cipla	425.30	23.35
Coal India	178.20	8.85
Dr Reddys Lab	3043.70	138.15
Eicher Motors	17888.45	875.05
GAIL (India)	103.20	3.55
Grasim Ind	700.05	31.60
HCL Tech	565.05	15.35
HDFC	2191.40	11.75
HDFC Bank	1181.80	2.20
Hero MotoCorp	2054.85	79.40
Hindalco	159.30	9.55
Hind Unilever	2166.65	7.20
ICICI Bank	514.75	8.65
IndusInd Bank	1108.05	28.80
Bharti InfraNet	219.35	2.50
Infosys	747.00	5.95
Indian Oil Corp	106.65	2.70
ITC	193.85	-1.45
JSW Steel	246.45	11.45
Kotak Bank	1626.30	27.30
L&T	1181.30	20.40
M&M	466.25	7.95
Maruti Suzuki	6386.05	100.90
Nestle India Ltd.	16359.40	249.45
NTPC	108.90	5.00
ONGC	93.35	4.25
PowerGrid Corp	191.70	8.20
Reliance Ind	1342.85	26.70
State Bank	289.85	2.45
Sun Pharma	393.55	24.05
Tata Motors	130.35	4.95
Tata Steel	387.55	23.50
TCS	2036.20	34.90
Tech Mahindra	752.30	7.75
Titan	1247.00	2.85
UltraTech Cement	4299.90	158.20
UPL	521.55	7.20
Vedanta	119.55	8.60
Wipro	223.70	2.90
YES Bank	31.20	-0.35
Zee Entertainment	251.10	17.25

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.09	73.41
Euro	81.29	81.65
British Pound	93.38	93.79
Japanese Yen (100)	67.84	68.14
Chinese Yuan	10.48	10.53
Swiss Franc	76.33	76.67
Singapore Dollar	52.50	52.73
Canadian Dollar	54.67	54.93
Malaysian Ringgit	17.36	17.46

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI
March 03 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses
Retail Silver (1g)..... 48.5..... (48.6) 22 ct gold (1 g)..... 4025..... (4005)

## SC junks order against resolution plan for Orchid

Paves way for its takeover by Dhanuka

SANJAY VIJAYAKUMAR  
CHENNAI

The Supreme Court has set aside the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal's (NCLAT) order against the approval of Dhanuka Laboratories' resolution plan for the debt-ridden Chennai-based Orchid Pharma.

The SC order in the case filed by the State Bank of India paves the way for the takeover of Orchid by Dhanuka Laboratories, whose resolution plan was approved by the Chennai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in June 2019.

Orchid informed the exchanges about the apex court's order on Tuesday.

The SC's division bench comprising Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman and Justice S. Ravindra Bhat said NCLAT's

# Vodafone Idea pays ₹3,043 cr. in deferred spectrum dues

Bharti pays ₹1,950 crore; Jio ₹1,053 cr.; Tatas cough up ₹2,000 cr. in AGR dues

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Beleaguered service provider Vodafone Idea on Tuesday paid ₹3,043 crore to the Department of Telecom (DoT), while Bharti Airtel made a payment of ₹1,950 crore as did Reliance Jio with ₹1,053 crore, towards deferred spectrum dues, sources said.

These dues are mainly instalments for airwaves bought by telcos in the previous auctions, and are not related to AGR liabilities.

The Tata group, on the other hand, made an on-account payment of ₹2,000 crore to the DoT towards dues related to adjusted gross revenue (AGR). This is in addition to the ₹2,197 crore the group had deposited with the government on February 17.

Tata Teleservices Ltd. and



Dial D for debt: Vodafone Idea is already struggling to pay its estimated AGR-related dues of ₹33,000 crore. ■ AFP

Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd. said in a statement they had made the payment "in good faith and as a matter of abundant caution towards licence fee, spectrum usage charges and applicable interest, penalty and interest on penalty."

The on-account payment is subject to reconciliation after the conclusion of the process of computation and verification being conducted by the DoT spanning a period beginning FY07 and spread across 20 circles. As per the DoT's estimates, the

Tata group's statutory dues are about ₹4,000 crore.

Vodafone Idea is struggling to pay its estimated AGR-related dues of ₹33,000 crore and has, till now, paid about ₹3,500 crore.

The company has already cautioned that its ability to continue as a going concern would depend on a favourable outcome of its modification plea in the Supreme Court. Additionally, last month, in a letter to the Telecom Secretary, it had expressed its inability to make these payments without government support.

In fact, Vodafone Group CEO Nick Read will be travelling to India this week ahead of the next Supreme Court hearing on the AGR issue on March 17. He has requested a meeting with Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on March 6.

## Rural ATMs under recalibration for ₹200, ₹500 notes

Lower denomination notes more sought after than ₹2,000 note in these areas, says NCR's MD

## MANOJ SAHA

MUMBAI

Automated teller machines (ATMs), mostly in rural areas, are being recalibrated to replace the cassettes for ₹2,000 bank notes with either those for ₹500 or ₹200.

This is because in such areas the demand for ₹2,000 bank note is not high while lower denomination notes are more sought after.

"It is more in the rural areas. There, people do not want ₹2,000 notes. Because it becomes difficult to change those notes. They generally prefer ₹100 and ₹200," said Navroze Dastur, MD, NCR Corporation. NCR manages close to 1.1 lakh

## Cash is king

ATM cash withdrawals have risen over the past 5 years and India is next only to China in such withdrawals. However, the percentage of cash withdrawals to GDP has been constant at about 17%

₹	Volume (in mn pieces)			Value (in ₹ bn)		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
2,000	3,285	3,363	3,291	6,571	6,726	6,582
	(3.3)	(3.3)	(3.0)	(50.2)	(37.3)	(31.2)

Figures in parentheses represent the % share in total volume/value | Source: RBI

Mr. Dastur emphasised that it was a business decision that responded to the demand.

"In some urban areas also, if you do not see offtake of ₹2,000 notes as a business decision, you will

replace the ₹2,000 with ₹500 or ₹200," he added.

The ₹2,000 notes came into calculation after the demonetisation exercise of 2016 when ₹500 and ₹1,000 currency notes were with-

drawn from the system.

According to RBI data, 3,291 million pieces of ₹2,000 notes were in circulation as at March 2019, which was roughly the same figure for the previous two years.

## Bias towards cash

A recent report by RBI has shown that the country continues to have a strong bias for cash payments.

Cash withdrawals from ATMs have increased over the past five years and India is next only to China in terms of cash withdrawals from ATMs. However, the percentage of cash withdrawals to GDP has been constant in India at about 17%.

## Rupee in free fall on COVID-19 fears; RBI soothes markets

Ready to take action, says central bank

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The rupee fell for the third consecutive session on Tuesday on concerns over the deadly COVID-19 spreading in India amid the central bank stepping in to calm investor sentiment.

The rupee dropped below the 73-a-dollar level even as the equity markets bounced back, snapping a seven-day losing streak.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stepped in to issue a statement saying the central bank was closely monitoring the situation and stood ready to take appropriate action.

The central bank acknowledged that the spillover of the global financial market turmoil in India had been largely contained as there were hopes of coordinated policy action.

The spread of the virus, the impact of which is expected to be higher than that of the SARS outbreak in 2003, is likely to affect global trade. The IMF has lowered global GDP growth projections by 10 basis points to 3.2% in 2020.

## Impact on exports

Since India and China are major trading partners, a sharp hit to their exports and imports is likely.

"Slowdown in economic activity in China is likely to weigh on exports from India. China's economic growth is likely to moderate to below 6% in 2020," said Abheek Barua, chief economist, HDFC Bank.

"Export of commodities like ores (India exports 72% of its total ores to China), organic chemicals, cotton, etc. is likely to get hit should the disruption from the COVID-19 continue for an extended period," Mr. Barua said.

## U.S. Fed cuts rates as G7 pledges action

## REUTERS

TOKYO/WASHINGTON

The U.S. Federal Reserve cut interest rates on Tuesday in an emergency move designed to shield the world's largest economy from the impact of COVID-19, as Group of Seven finance officials pledged "appropriate" unspecified policy moves.

In a statement, the Fed said it was cutting rates by a half percentage point to a target range of 1% to 1.25%.

"The fundamentals of the U.S. economy remain strong. However, COVID-19 poses evolving risks to economic activity," it said in a statement.

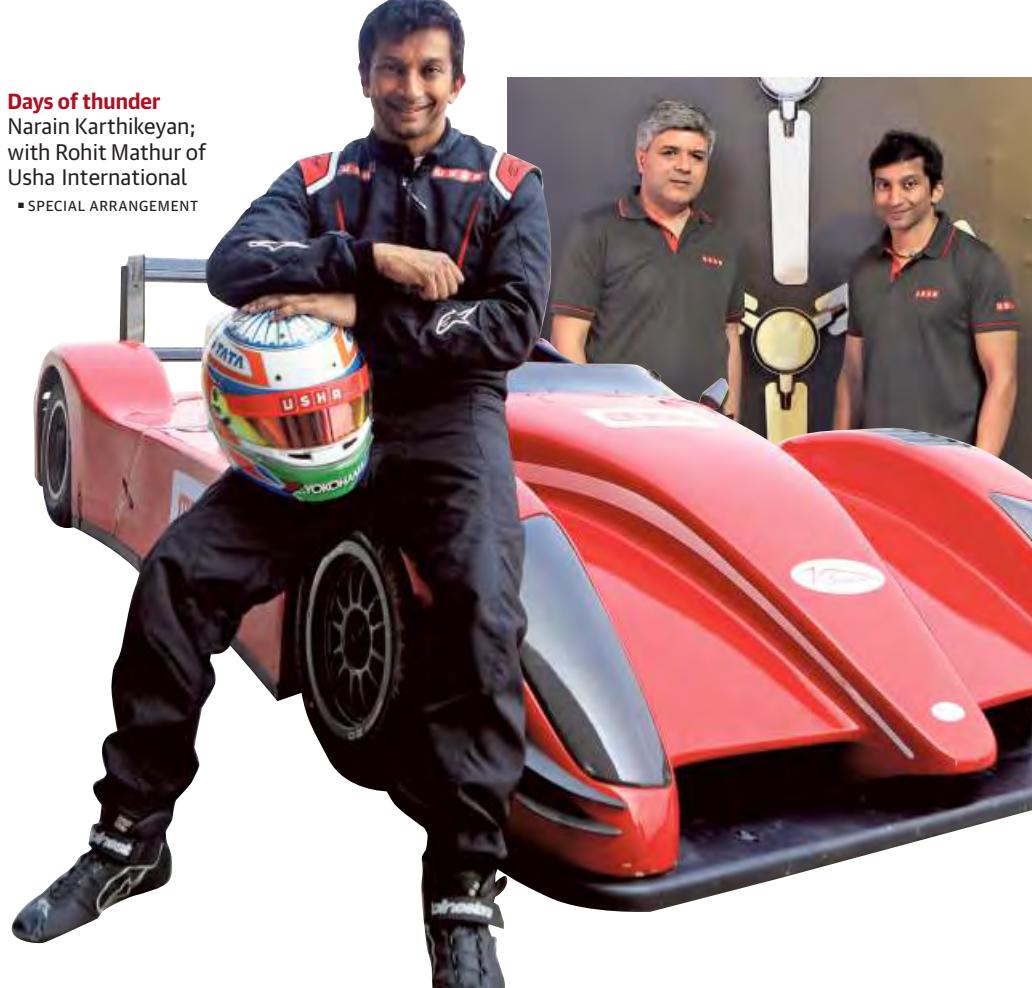
Finance Ministers from the G7 group of rich countries were ready to take action, including fiscal measures where appropriate, Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso said. Central banks would continue to support price stability and economic growth.

72.76, but weakened after reports of the COVID-19 spreading in India.

A school in Noida was reportedly shut down after a student

Narain Karthikeyan still awaits the next prodigal talent to blaze the trail he set in Formula One. He holds onto hope but is also not about to let go of the wheel. Not just yet...

# Race to the TOP



## CHOOSING BETWEEN RIVALS

While he harbours no regrets over a short-lived career in F1, his one time rivals, Lewis Hamilton and Sebastian Vettel, are set to duel it out for the title in the upcoming F1 season that begins in Australia later this month. Narain, more infamously than famous, had an on and off-track beef with Vettel when he raced in Formula One. With Hamilton chasing his seventh driver's championship that would pull him level with all-time record holder Michael Schumacher, we asked Narain who he would place his bets on. "Judging by recent performances, it has to be Hamilton. With the car and the driver combination, I think they are going to be unbeatable for a while," he says.

## PRADEEP KUMAR

He is no Dominic Toretto from the *Fast and Furious* films but Narain Karthikeyan – the 'straight outta Coimbatore' former Formula One racer – is as close a real life parallel as you can get for someone who lives by these words: "I live my life a quarter mile at a time."

It is not far fetched to propose that the man holds a unique distinction with the average Indian 'petrolhead' – nobody else can claim ownership to a name that is so synonymous with the world of motorsports, especially for a whole generation of racing enthusiasts since the 1990s.

When he completed his drive up the hill to the pinnacle of racing in the summer of 2005, the first Indian to do so, it inspired many to pursue the dream of getting behind the wheel of a car that can go insanely fast around a corner. But motorsport's image – of being a niche sport that opens its corridors only for the super rich – did not evolve, and Narain, in these last 15 years, remains only one of two Indians ever (Karan Chandhok is the other) to have made something of a mark in Formula One.

"Being the first one [in F1] was always very difficult. I got there against all odds. For a boy from Coimbatore... you know, when I started 27 years ago, I virtually had nothing. So, for me to race with the likes of [Michael] Schumacher, [Fernando] Alonso and the rest of them... sometimes you need to pinch yourself to know that you have really done it," says Narain.

## Coimbatore Central

The 43-year-old was in Chennai for the launch of Usha International's Racer Chrome fans, when he took a few minutes off to speak to us. Narain has been the firm's brand ambassador for a year. "[Usha] is a brand we have all grown up with. It was a perfect fit."

Something else that is a perfect fit is Coimbatore and its love for fast cars. The city is a hotbed for racing enthusiasts. "It is a city full of engineers and enthusiasts. We like to mess with our cars and tune them up. We have a deep culture and all racing cars, to this day, are manufactured in Coimbatore. I suppose it is part of our DNA," he smiles. Narain's father was into rallying

and so he was exposed to cars from a very young age. "Maybe, as a 10-year-old I thought that F1 was exciting. I just wanted to see how far I could reach."

An Indian racer driving in the Indian Grand Prix (at the Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida) is how far Narain could go. "We all thought that F1 coming to India would do a lot for the sport, but it didn't actually do much." He adds that there still is hope in the form of Jehan Daruvala, the 21-year-old from Mumbai, who was recently signed onto the Red Bull junior team (whose earlier graduates include Sebastian Vettel, Daniel Ricciardo and Max Verstappen). "[Jehan] is the best we have right now. He has done well in Formula 3. Now he is in Formula 2. It is his big chance," he adds.

Narain himself is a while away from hanging up his gloves. Last year, he competed in the SuperGT series in Japan, switching from a career driving single seater race cars that helped him build his fame and fortune. In the last race of the season, driving for Nakajima Racing, Narain won in his Honda NSX-GT under testing conditions, claiming his first win since the 2013 Autogp.

## Sprightly at dusk

"It felt quite nice," says Narain, of the feeling of winning after a gap. "[Racing in] Japan is tough. The whole package needs to come through [for a race win]. Everybody drives on different brands of tyres, engines and manufacturers. Honda NSX is a midship car, and it performed really well in some of the circuits. For the last race, all of us raced on the same kind of tyres and, I think, that made a big difference. I felt happy that I could achieve what I did," he adds.

But he left SuperGT immediately after prompting speculation on what's next. There are whispers that Narain has the European Le Mans series in his sights. In 2009, Narain's desire to compete in the gruelling 24 hours of Le Mans ended abruptly when he suffered an injury on the eve of race day, leading to disqualification. Does he want to chase an unfulfilled dream? "At some point, yes. I'm taking a break now." Narain says his desire to get behind the wheel has not diminished. "My reflexes are still quite good, and fitness wise, I keep at it," he says. "As you grow older, recovery takes longer. But I still love the sport and that is why I do it."

**Universal themes** Tanel Toom at BiFes; a still from Truth and Justice ■ SAMPATH KUMAR GP, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**The film did extremely well in Estonia, surpassing even The Avengers. Were you at all surprised?**

• I was completely ready to get beaten and kicked out of the country. You have to be. The fact it's based on a well-known book doesn't guarantee you success. There are even more reasons it might flop as everyone has a version of their own in their heads how this story should be and how the characters should look and talk. Even the ones who have never read the book. We were lucky; it did unbelievably well. But filmmaking is always a gamble. Unless it's part of a Marvel comic book franchise, you never know the outcome. And I think you need that uncertainty. That keeps you on your toes and pushes you to do a better job. That's very important. Because lazy filmmaking is the worst kind of filmmaking.

**What was your experience like in India? Did you get a chance to see any local films?**

• I have been in love with India for quite some time now. The food, the culture, the people. My stay in Bangalore this time was so short and the schedule was so packed that unfortunately I didn't have a chance to see many films. But I love Indian movies. I've been saying for years that one day, I'd really love to do a Bollywood movie. With all the dancing and singing.

## PEOPLE

### Enter the dragon...

In a 50-50 collaboration, author Paro Anand and nine-year-old Sarah Rose write *A Very Naughty Dragon*



This is not one of those scary mean dragons. Draco, the protagonist of *A Very Naughty Dragon* (Scholastic), only wants to be big like his father and go on hunts. But before that he has to negotiate a bunch of bullies, and build self confidence.

The book is a collaboration between well-known author Paro Anand and nine-year-old Sarah Rose. When Paro's publisher told her that her earlier book, *A Very Naughty Bear*, was doing well, she thought of *A Very Naughty...* series. "I turned to Sarah, my friend, Jaya's daughter and a voracious reader, and asked her to suggest an animal. Without a moment's hesitation, she said, 'Komodo Dragons!'" I said, "That's a great idea, but I don't know enough about them." Confidently she said, "I know quite a bit and I could do the research for you!"

Sarah has been "fascinated by Komodo dragons" since she was in Class 2. "I know a lot about them," she says happily. The collaboration was not token, Paro is very clear. "It was a 50-50 partnership. Through my travels, working on another novel and Sarah's long school hours and multiple extracurricular activities, we had Face Time discussions and e-mail conversations. It was actually much smoother and easier than I thought. Certainly easier than a collaboration I did with a gentleman who is a professional writer," she adds wryly.

However she is a bit disappointed at having to edit out one input from Sarah; "that Draco eats his parents because he is rather fed up with them! You know how it is. Some parents feel that children will do exactly what they read in a story, and then, heaven knows, the book may have been banned!"

Sarah explains that Paro "would guide me when I got something wrong, correct me and invite me to parties. She would also help me whenever I got stuck. It was a great experience working with her."

Of course both their takeaways from their collaboration differ.

Sarah has learnt that "it takes a lot of time, effort and planning to write a book. And when you think that you can now relax, you have to

still do some work." Paro says she "relinquished all ego. I wasn't a senior writer giving a chance to a little kid; we were equal partners with great respect for each other. Second, what made it so perfect was how well-read Sarah was and how her school and parents had taught her the art of research. She knew how to engage with the story and also had the wonderful ability to take a fact and, as she says, 'turn it upside down'. It added a fun and unexpected element to our work that I have never got [when I was] writing on my own."

I wonder why they call Draco naughty, when he's actually very determined. Sarah agrees but argues that "he snuck out of his home to practice and went a little too far. He left his home against his parents' permission." Paro, on the contrary, says this never occurred to her. While Sarah says she would like to write more, "individually and in collaboration", Paro has a lot happening. "I have finally finished a novel on displacement: being driven out of one's homeland and finding one's roots again," she says. "Told from the point of view of two very different young girls: a Kashmiri Pandit girl and a child from a made-up tribe of the highlands. I have been working on it for over two years but it's more relevant today than when I started it."

She's also very excited about "a fellowship from the Tarkshila Foundation that will publish my new writings in Hindi. My books have been translated into foreign languages, but not those of my country." She is also working on a book that "examines the ideas of freedom and how it means different things to different people."

R. KRITHIKA



Contact us at [delhimetro@thehindu.co.in](mailto:delhimetro@thehindu.co.in)

## APARNA NARRAIN

*Truth and Justice*, director Tanel Toom's visually stunning epic, spanning the years 1872 to 1896, has gone on to become the highest grossing film of all time in Estonia, even surpassing *The Avengers*. The film also made it to the 2020 Oscars shortlist for International Feature Film Award, giving the 37-year-old his second brush with the Academy (he was nominated in 2011 for his short film *The Confession*).

The film, based on the eponymous 1926 novel by Anton Hansen Tammsaare, tells the story of farmer Andres Paas and his wife, Kroot, as they arrive at Robber's Rise to create a new life there. Kroot isn't as convinced about the marshy land but still toils on it. Convinced that a ditch will drain the water, Andres asks his neighbour Pearu to share the cost, despite warnings that Pearu is not one to be trusted. As life goes on, Andres changes from the man he once was. Tanel, whose film is being screened at the Bengaluru International Film Festival (ending today), spoke to *The Hindu*. Edited excerpts:

## What made you decide to adapt the story for film and what changes did you have to make?

• When I read the book, I was affected by how contemporary the struggles of the novel's characters were and by how strongly they resonated with my own pursuit for self-fulfillment. The way Andres never ceases the non-stop drudgery to acknowledge what he has

achieved or to say a good word to his loved ones reminded me a lot of my father. And myself too.

There have been many attempts to make it into a film before. The first year, I was only working on structure and choosing the main events for the film. My intention was to maintain the essence of the story and tell it in the most effective and exciting way.

Initially, it seems like Pearu is the villain, but as the film progresses, we see that it is actually Andres who is increasingly blind to his many faults...

• Yes, that was one of the things that I was initially really excited about – the massive character arc for Andres and how we ask in the end is he a better man than Pearu? We all change. And we do because of the environment, the people we meet, the events and conflicts that happen to and around us. Although Pearu might be one of the most visible reasons, I think he's not the only one who pushes Andres for change. The land that doesn't obey Andres's will, the fact that he still



## The characters resonated with me'



hasn't got an heir... all this creates disappointment in him and makes him question "what am I doing wrong?". But, of course, the nature of the character's change is not just determined by the external events and conflicts that happen to us but are in close relationship with our

nature. We might act very differently in similar situations. Andres is a very rational and dogmatic man who is obsessed with justice and being right. This is actually the main source of the conflict as this determines how he deals with Pearu and also with his land.

## What was your experience like in India? Did you get a chance to see any local films?

• I have been in love with India for quite some time now. The food, the culture, the people. My stay in Bangalore this time was so short and the schedule was so packed that unfortunately I didn't have a chance to see many films. But I love Indian movies. I've been saying for years that one day, I'd really love to do a Bollywood movie. With all the dancing and singing.

## 5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



### DANCE

**Odissi**  
India Habitat Centre is hosting an Odissi dance drama this evening, titled *Ananta*. It will be performed by Arnab Bandyopadhyay and Troupe, based on the themes of cosmic creation and *panchabhuta*, a group of five physical elements. Arnab is a disciple of Guru Kelucharan Mahapatra and Guru Ratikant Mahapatra.

**VENUE:** The Stein Auditorium, IHC

**TIME:** 7 p.m.



### ART

**Mixed media**  
An ongoing solo exhibition titled *Idioms and Images*, showcases the works of artist Ajit Seal. Curated by Dr. Meghali Goswami, the collections on display demonstrate the artist's experiments of the different mediums of printmaking such as lithography, wood engraving, etching, plate lithography and enamel paintings.

**VENUE:** Art Konsult, Hauz Khas Village

**TIME:** 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



### PERFORMANCE

**Music appreciation**  
Wild City, along with the podcast-project *Women in Labour*, is putting up an evening of music. The event will see a conversation with Komorebi and Kavya Trehan who are both composers, singer-producers, and instrumentalists. They will talk about their experience as music professionals. This will be followed by performances by them.

**VENUE:** The American Center, Barakhamba

**TIME:** 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.



### CULTURE

**Youth fest**  
The fifth edition of Udaan Utsav, a three-day cultural festival begins today at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts. The festival is expected to witness the participation of more than 3,000 students from over 80 colleges. They will be taking part in painting, spot-writing, and street-play events.

**VENUE:** IGNCA, 11, Man Singh Road.

**TIME:** 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



### THEATRE

**Hindi drama**  
The 17th Natsamrat Natya Utsav, a five day drama festival starts today. *Hai Mera Dil*, a play directed by Shyam Kumar will be part of the opening day. The story revolves around Madan and his illusion of his heart's deteriorating health. This, coupled with his wife's suspicious nature, leads to a comedy of errors.

**VENUE:** Muktadhara Auditorium, Gole Market

**TIME:** 6:30 p.m.



# A facelift sans all the frills

NIKHIL BHATIA

Selling over 5,00,000 units since its launch in 2016, the Maruti Suzuki Vitara Brezza has been a runaway hit. An upright SUV design, a practical cabin, and a punchy and economical diesel engine indicate that the Vitara Brezza had all the ingredients compact SUV buyers wanted. The Vitara's styling has been refreshed for 2020 and the interior gets an equipment update too. However, the biggest change is under the hood; the old 1.3-litre diesel engine makes way for a BS-VI 1.5-litre petrol engine, effectively transforming the Brezza from a diesel-only model to a petrol-only one. We see what the petrol Brezza is like and if it has the same mass appeal as the older version.

First and foremost, how do you identify this as the 2020 Brezza? Maruti hasn't made any sheet metal changes, but there are enough cosmetic changes to distinguish it from the older model. The front bumper is new, as is the grille which sports a new four-slat design and a generous helping of chrome too. The headlamps, while familiar, are now dual-projector LED units – first in the segment – and get new LED daytime running lights that double as indicators. LED fog lights are also part of the new lighting package.

New 16-inch alloy wheels, revised tail-lamps and a new rear bumper complete the makeover. There are also new colours to be had, along with the option of a contrast black-finished roof on the top ZXi+ trim. Furthermore, there are a lot of ac-

The Maruti Suzuki Vitara Brezza petrol is practical, easy to live with and makes for an all-round sensible buy



cessories to personalise your Vitara Brezza.

Inside, the changes aren't as extensive. The dashboard has been retained, and the only real talking point is the incorporation of Maruti's latest SmartPlay Studio touch-screen infotainment system. Touch responses are significantly better now, and the general layout of the menus is also easy. A unique detail on the automatic version is an infographic on the MID of the hybrid system at work.

As before, access to the Brezza's cabin is convenient, while the relatively-high seating position and upright pillars give that all-important feel of driving an SUV.

There is plenty of room at the back and passengers will like the view out of the large windows too. The boot is well-shaped and should you need more space, there is al-

ways the option to split the rear seat into a 60:40.

Powering the Brezza is Suzuki's familiar 1.5-litre, naturally-aspirated petrol engine, which is also the sole engine of choice on the Ertiga, XL6 and Ciaz. The engine makes 105hp and 138Nm of torque, which aren't shining figures for the compact SUV segment. However, in everyday driving, you won't have reason to complain. The engine is smooth and quiet, there's enough pep at low speeds and, though unexciting, there's a pleasant build of speed. Overtaking traffic won't pose much of a problem either, though you do miss that mid-range kick that you'd get on the older diesel. That being said, the Vitara Brezza petrol isn't slow. In our preliminary tests, it did the 0-100kph dash in a brisk 11.89sec (a Venue turbo needs 11.4sec), 20-80kph in third gear in a

class-best 11.40sec, and 40-100kph in fourth in a respectable 14.88sec.

The engine isn't quick-revving and tops out at just over 6,000rpm. Still, keep your foot pinned down and you will like the way the engine winds in the top end of the rev band. The throaty note from the unit also adds some character.

The standard-fit 5-speed manual gearbox requires little effort, and the light clutch is also easy to live with in town. Coming to the automatic, the petrol motor comes paired with a 4-speed torque converter unit in place of the diesel's AMT. The unit shifts smoothly between gears and works well in everyday scenarios. It's only when you want immediate power that it tends to falter, taking a bit of time to get to the right gear.

Interestingly, the Brezza auto, with an ARAI-tested fuel economy of 18.76kpl, is more efficient than the manual, rated at 17.03kpl. Part of the reason is Suzuki's SHVS mild-hybrid system that comprises an in-

tegrated starter generator and lithium-ion battery. It adds in mild motor assist under hard acceleration, energy recuperation on deceleration and auto start/stop functionality.

There is a change in ride and handling too. The steering is lighter and requires less effort to twirl, while low-speed bump absorption seems to have improved too. You don't feel as much of the surface imperfections as before. On the flip side, the steering has lost some of the older Vitara's directness, which takes away confidence at higher speeds. There's also more vertical movement when you go faster.

Moving to the prices, the Vitara Brezza petrol-manual prices start at ₹7.34 lakh and top off at ₹9.98 lakh, while the automatic's prices range from ₹9.75 lakh to ₹11.40 lakh. While these are on par with those of rivals, it's not as competitive as it ought to have been. The reason? The Brezza's 1.462cc engine means Maruti's compact SUV does not qualify for small car excise sops available to models with length under 4m and petrol engines with displacement under 1,200cc.

What the updated Brezza also lacks is novelty value. Yes, the facelift helps, but there is a nagging feeling that Maruti missed a chance to up the cabin ambience and add in more features. It sticks too close to formula and doesn't feel any more than the 2016 model rehashed for the year 2020. Still, the Brezza petrol has its strengths. The engine is better than the power and torque numbers might lead you to believe, and refinement levels are far better than the noisy and clattery diesel's. All said, the Maruti Suzuki Vitara Brezza petrol might not be a model that pulls at your heartstrings but it is practical, easy to live with and makes for an all-round sensible buy, which are all good reasons to be interested in one.

**Sticking to a formula** Maruti has missed a chance to up the cabin ambience and add in more features ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



## SPECIFICATIONS

**WHEEL BASE:** 2500mm

**FUEL TANK CAPACITY:** 48 litres

**ENGINE:** (Manual) 1462cc, 4-cyls, petrol/(Automatic) 1462cc, 4-cyls, petrol mild-hybrid

**POWER:** (Manual) 105hp at 6000rpm/(Automatic) 105hp at 6000rpm

**TORQUE:** (Manual) 138Nm at 4400rpm/(Automatic) 138Nm at 4400rpm

**GEARBOX:** (Manual) 5-speed MT/(Automatic) 4-speed AT

**FUEL ECONOMY (ARAI):** (Manual) 17.03kpl/(Automatic) 18.76kpl

**KERB WEIGHT:** (Manual) 1110-1130kg/(Automatic) 1125-1140kg

## Q AND A WITH HORMAZD



### A good alternative

**Shivansh Pathak, Thane:** I want to go for the Kia Seltos petrol GDI 1.4, but it is above my budget of ₹15 lakh. Is it worth opting for the Hyundai Venue 1.0 GDI with the 7-speed DCT? If not, does Kia plan to get a hatchback to India soon or are there any other SUVs/sub-four-metre SUVs in my budget worth taking a look at?

■ The Venue doesn't have the same performance as the Seltos and is definitely a segment down, but the DCT version, paired to a smooth and strong turbopetrol, makes for a great drive. If you are not too fussed about the rear seat space, which is in short supply in the Venue, the compact Hyundai SUV is a good, cheaper alternative to the Seltos. Kia has no plans to launch a hatchback in India.

### Try the Yamaha

**Shaminder, Mohali:** I want a bike which can cruise at around 80-90kph for hours without any hesitation because I tour on the weekends. The bike should be reliable, have comfortable seat and be a bit fun to ride. My budget is around ₹1.5 lakh, which I can stretch a bit.

■ The Yamaha FZ25 is a good choice, even if a little above your budget. It has the performance to effortlessly hold such speeds and it's a comfortable bike that will also prove to be reliable and fun when you want it to be.

### Keep the Benz

**Siddharthan, Salem:** I currently drive a 2015 Mercedes-Benz M-class ML350. It has done 1,00,000km and is in excellent condition. Should I continue with it or buy a new Toyota Fortuner?

■ If your ML350 is running well, we suggest you keep it, as you won't get another SUV like it with a smooth V6 diesel. In fact, Mercedes has discontinued the V6 diesel in the latest GLE, which is the ML's successor. The 2020 Fortuner won't be anywhere near as smooth as your ML350.



Hormazd Sorabjee is the editor of Autocar India. Mail your feedback and queries to [roadshow@thehindu.co.in](mailto:roadshow@thehindu.co.in)

## POOCH CAFE

### FAMOUS DOGS



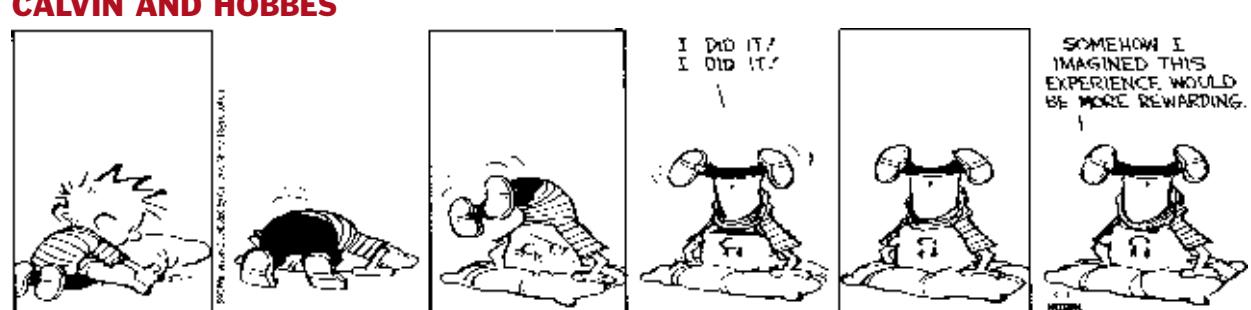
### AMELIA AIRHOUND

WHILE OTHER DOGS TRIED TO IMPRESS THEIR MASTERS BY ROLLING OVER, AMELIA WENT FOR A MORE EXTRAVAGANT TRICK: FLYING A PLANE ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN. IN 1937 SHE TRIED FLYING AROUND THE ENTIRE PLANET, BUT SHE DISAPPEARED. HER MASTER PUT UP "MISSING" POSTERS, DESCRIBING HER AS "SPUNKY, WEARING GOGGLES, AND SMELLING LIKE KIBBLE AND JET FUEL." BUT SHE WAS NEVER SEEN AGAIN.

## PEANUTS



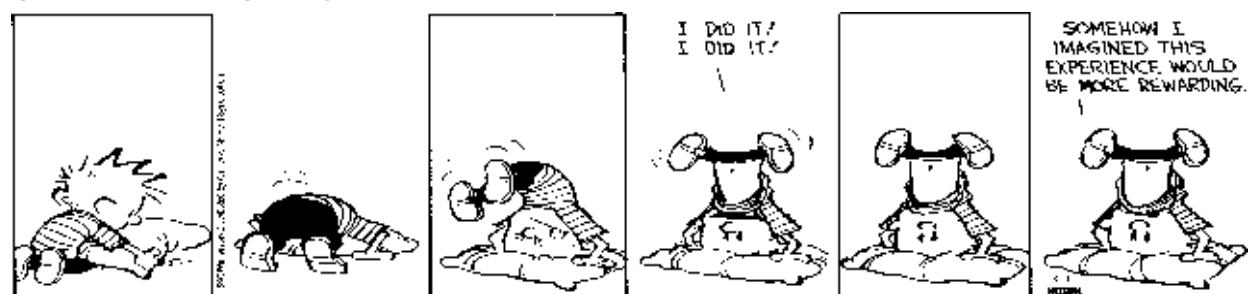
### CALVIN AND HOBBES



## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



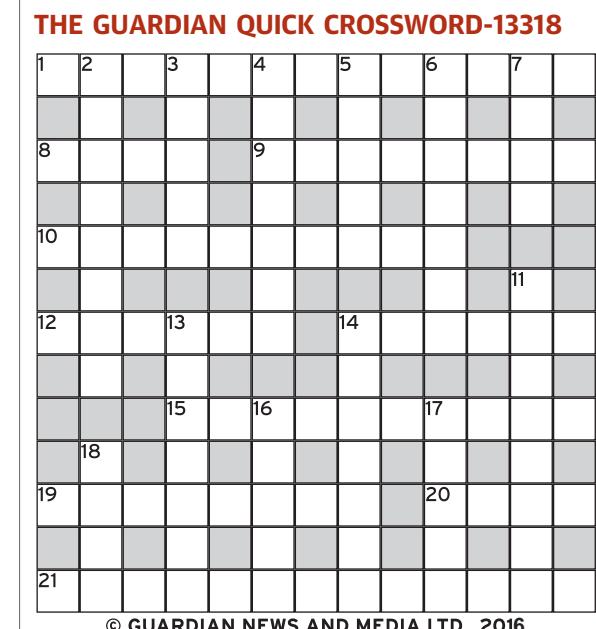
### CALVIN AND HOBBES



## TIGER



## THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13318



To play The Guardian Quick Crossword, The Hindu Cryptic crossword, Sudoku & other puzzles online, scan the QR code.

**6** Winners (7)

**7** Traditional knowledge (4)

**11** Co-founder of al-Qaida, killed 2011 (3,5)

**13** Without purpose (7)

**14** Excess (7)

**16** No idea (informal) (5)

**17** Carreras, for example (5)

**18** Daybreak (4)

## WUMO



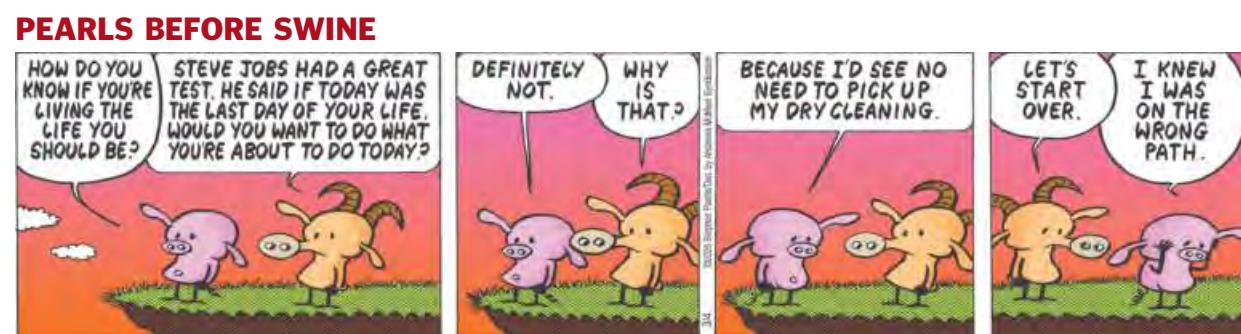
## HEALTH CAPSULES

by Bron Smith

HOW IS CHICKENPOX TREATED?

WHAT'S NO PAIN RELIEF?

## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



## THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13318



**19** Motherly (8)

**20** Naked (4)

**21** With a very tight budget (2,1,10)

**9** Treatment for the feet (8)

**10** Commotion (10)

**12** Get away (6)

**14** Small yellow and black finch (6)

**5** (Of the sea) ebbing and flowing (5)

V	A	I	N	T	C	A	N	C	I	T	Y
A	C	O	M	E	L	A	N	N	I	G	I
C	I	A	G	E	R	S	H	A	K	P	U
O	A	T	H	S	A	K	E	A	R	O	D
A	T	H	S	A	K	E	A	R	O	O	I
M	A	E	E	R	P	A	N	N	I	S	C
P	A	R	O	D	P	O	L	I	O	T	D
A	P	A	N	N	A	T	R	E	I	C	E
N	U	A	N	N	A	R	E	N	I	S	C
I	U	A	R	O	I	S	T	O	O	I	C
E	L	S	T	O	P	P	A	G	O	C	I
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V	A	I	N
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# Kohli's men found wanting in testing conditions

Ignore the hype merchants, this Indian team is no world-beater in Tests

## INDIA IN NZ

S. DINAKAR  
CHRISTCHURCH

SENA is an acronym that takes the Indian team out of its comfort zone in Tests. It stands for South Africa, England, New Zealand and Australia.

These countries represent the toughest challenge for India, the batsmen in particular.

The New Zealand tour completed a cycle of SENA campaigns for India, beginning with the tour of South Africa in 2017-18.

Since then, India has toured England, Australia and New Zealand for the Test series. And what's the score? It's 1-3 against Virat Kohli and his men.

**Unsatisfactory record**  
For a team ranked No. 1 in Tests, this is an unsatisfactory record. Kohli's team likes to believe it is one of the great sides in world cricket and the best Indian team ever. That's far from the truth.

Clive Lloyd's bunch of conquerors steam-rolled opposition away from home. Then Steve Waugh's men were formidable on foreign soil.

And let's not forget Bradman's Invincibles. This Indian team is not even close to those sides.

While it's true that India competed hard in South Africa, it eventually went down 1-2. India lost critical moments in the first two Tests and that hurt the side.

Then, India travelled to England. It was trounced 1-4 in the Test series but the scoreline did not reflect the intensity of the contests. India

was found wanting in end-game skills.

### Hour of glory

Then arrived India's hour of glory when the side won its first ever Test series – the verdict was 2-1 – in Australia last season. Steve Smith and David Warner were missing from the Aussie line-up. But you cannot hold that against the Indians.

In New Zealand, India was swept aside 0-2 without any fight. In conditions where the ball swung, seamed and bounced, the Indian batsmen, lacking footwork, unsure of the off-stump and undone by short-pitched bowling, stood totally exposed.

The quality of the New Zealand bowling was high. The response from the Indian batsmen was poor, and, at times, pathetic.

### Failing to click

The skipper himself made 38 runs from four innings at 9.50. Kohli was not still at the crease as he awaited the ball – here you need to wait for the ball to come to you, play it late – and was dragging his front foot across.

Kohli could not pick the direction of the swing. When the ball swung, Kohli, with his pad thrust forward, was in trouble.

The Indian batsmen would be embarrassed in the manner they got out to short-pitched deliveries. They did not get into good positions and were unsure whether to essay the hook or the pull or leave the lifters.

And they walked back to distressing dismissals; none more than Ajinkya Rahane's hooking-into-the-stumps-act at the Hagley Oval. New Zealand possessed a world-class right-left pair in Tim Southee and Trent Boult and a rising star in Kyle Jamieson with his height, bounce, off-stump line and subtle movement.

**A pale shadow:** India skipper Virat Kohli had a forgettable series against New Zealand, scoring just 38 runs from four visits to the crease. ■ GETTY IMAGES

at the Hagley Oval. New Zealand possessed a world-class right-left pair in Tim Southee and Trent Boult and a rising star in Kyle Jamieson with his height, bounce, off-stump line and subtle movement.

### Not pacing the innings

Against them, the Indian batsmen could not pace their innings. They were too slow against the accurate Kiwis at the Basin Reserve and then decided to play the hook and the pull against almost every short ball at the Hagley Oval.

The move fetched some runs but eventually back-fired. At a critical point on day one, Pujara, fatally, attempted to pull a sharply

climbing delivery from the off-stump.

That Mayank Agarwal's 58 was the highest individual score for the Indians in the series tells the story. These are conditions where you need to be decisive whether going forward or back.

The Indians were often caught at the crease. As for bowling, the Indian pacemen except Ishant Sharma bowled the wrong length in the first Test. Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami found rhythm and control in the second Test but then the batsmen let them down.

This Indian team is no world-beater in Tests. Ignore the hype merchants.



**New Zealand-India Test series in numbers**

MOST RUNS						
Player	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Ave	100/50
Latham	2	4	122	52	40.66	0/2
Blundell	2	4	117	55	39.00	0/1
Mayank	2	4	102	58	25.50	0/1
Pujara	2	4	100	54	25.00	0/1
Shaw	2	4	98	54	24.50	0/1
MOST WICKETS						
Player	M	Inns	Wkts	BBI	Ave	5W
Southee	2	4	14	5/61	13.14	1
Boult	2	4	11	4/28	19.36	0
Jamieson	2	4	9	5/45	16.33	1
Bumrah	2	4	6	3/62	31.66	0
Ishant	1	2	5	5/68	15.20	1

## Luck has deserted Kohli: Sehwag

'He is too good to allow this bad patch to continue'

VIJAY LOKAPALLY  
NEW DELHI

Former India opener Virender Sehwag backed India skipper Virat Kohli to emerge from the "temporary bad phase" the latter had encountered on the tour of New Zealand.

Even as former captain Kapil Dev observed that Kohli may have suffered due to slowing down of reflexes, Sehwag insisted it was "lack of form".

"When you are out of form, nothing works for you. It is not that Virat is not making efforts but luck has deserted him," Sehwag told *The Hindu*.

Last week, Kapil and batting great Mohinder Amarnath had backed Kohli to come good. "It's a matter of one innings," both had said.

"He is too good a player to continue to fail," Kapil had opined. "He is repeatedly getting out to incoming balls. The same issue had troubled Rahul Dravid, Viv Richards and Amarnath."

"Virat certainly doesn't have hand-eye coordination issues," said Sehwag.

In England in 2014, Kohli had failed because he was not able to cope with swing, felt Sehwag.

### Pressure

"Here (New Zealand) the ball seamed a lot and if you are not getting runs, the challenge multiplies. Of course, you can adapt, playing more on the front foot, and also by leaving the ball. For me, it is important to know which ball to leave and you can do that when you are feeling confident. The pressure also may have got to Virat."

Reflecting on "bad patch" experience, Sehwag said: "Every player has to go through this phase. Sachin (Tendulkar), (Brian) Lara, (Steve) Smith... all have experienced poor form."

"I came out of it [tough time] without compromising on my natural game. When countering difficult times, you have to be patient and back your instincts. I am sure Kohli will find his way back. He is too good to allow this bad patch to continue."

Those were the days when a draw was cause for celebration, and an individual century or a five-wicket haul restored some national pride. We didn't expect to win anything, and when the great spinners, or later, Sunil Gavaskar, were praised in England or Australia we took it personally.

Those were the days when the middle order was shaky. The spinners prayed, "Give us 250 runs to bowl at," but the batsmen often

struggled.

Those were the days of unsettled opening batsmanship (till Gavaskar came along), unreliable middle orders and a dearth of bowlers who could take wickets abroad.

Those were the days when the opponents' lower order batsmen often held up the Indian bowling. Wes Hall, Tom Veivers, John Snow, Peter Lever, Geoff Miller, Michael Holding, all bowlers, all got half-centuries while Tony Mann, who had batted at number eight in the first innings came in as night watchman for Australia in the second and made 105.

My mother exhibits this pessimism every time. She has been following the fortunes of the Indian team since the mid-1960s at least. I remember her keeping scores in a notebook, or if that couldn't be immediately found, on the margins of the daily newspaper while listening to the radio commentary.

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Showcasing her potential: Thailand's Nattakan Chantam scored 56 in the washed-out match against Pakistan. ■ AFP

## India to clash with England in last four

SA plays Australia in the other semifinal

### T20 WORLD CUP

#### AGENCIES

India will take on England in the Women's T20 World Cup semifinals, it was decided on Tuesday, following the rained-out game between South Africa and the West Indies.

The abandoned game meant South Africa and West Indies shared a point each, which was enough to push the former to the top spot with seven points, leaving England second.

Thailand posted its highest T20I score at the World Cup, but it proved to be in vain as its clash with Pakistan was abandoned because of rain.

England, which finished with three wins and a loss in the group stage, faces India on Thursday in a repeat semifinal of the 2018 edi-

tion. Back then, England had beaten India before losing the final to Australia.

India, which is aiming to make its maiden final, topped the group stage with four wins in as many games.

The second semifinal between South Africa and four-time champion Australia will also be played on Thursday at the SCG.

#### Perry ruled out

Meanwhile, Australia was dealt a heavy blow on Tuesday as star player Ellyse Perry was ruled out of the tournament with a hamstring injury. The world's top-ranked allrounder limped off in pain after attempting a run out during Australia's narrow win over New Zealand on Monday.

#### The scores:

Thailand 150/3 in 20 overs (Nattakan Chantam 56, Nattaya Boochatham 44) vs Pakistan. Match washed out.

## If there's a washout...

Rain has been forecast for Thursday, the semifinal day. In ICC tournaments, a minimum of 10 overs per side is needed to constitute a T20 match.

There is a reserve day for the final. However, no rain has been forecast for Sunday.

Africa-Australia matches are washed out in Sydney, India and South Africa will fly out to Melbourne for the summit clash as they topped their groups.

There is a reserve day for the final. However, no rain has been forecast for Sunday.

### FINAL LEAGUE STANDINGS

Group A	M	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
India (Q)	4	4	0	0	8	0.979
Australia (Q)	4	3	1	0	6	0.971
New Zealand	4	2	2	0	4	0.364
Sri Lanka	4	1	3	0	2	-0.404
Bangladesh	4	0	4	0	0	-1.908

Group B	M	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
South Africa (Q)	4	3	0	1	7	2.226
England (Q)	4	3	1	0	6	2.291
West Indies	4	1	2	1	3	-0.654
Pakistan	4	1	2	1	3	-0.761
Thailand	4	0	3	1	1	-3.992

**Semifinal schedule:** March 5: India vs England, 9.30 a.m.

South Africa vs Australia, 1.30 p.m., Sydney

**Final:** March 8, Melbourne, 12.30 p.m. IST

## Harika holds Cramling

### FIDE WOMEN'S GP

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India's No. 2 Dronavalli Harika started her campaign in the FIDE Women's Grand Prix here with a draw against Swedish veteran Pia Cramling in the first round.

The strong tournament featuring 12 players, including world champion Ju Wenjun (China), is the third in the series of four Grands Prix from which two with the highest points tally would qualify for the next candidates event.

India's World No. 2 Koneru Humpy leads the Grand Prix standings after two events with 293 points while Grandmaster Harika is joint fifth with Wenjun (120 points, 1 event).

#### The results (first round):

Alexandra Goryachkina (Rus) drew with Alina Kashlinskaya (Rus); Alexandra Kosteniuk (Rus) drew with Nana Dzagnidze (Geo); Ju Wenjun (Chn) drew with Zhansaya Abdumalik (Kaz).

D. Harika drew with Pia Cramling (Swe); Ananatova Stefanova (Bul) drew with Marie Sebag (Fra); Anna Muzychuk (Ukr) drew with Mariya Muzychuk (Ukr).

## IOC says Olympics on, urges athletes to prepare 'full steam'

REUTERS  
LAUSANNE

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Tuesday gave further unequivocal backing to this summer's Tokyo Olympics, urging athletes to prepare "full steam" despite the coronavirus

threat.

"We are preparing for a successful Olympic Games, Tokyo 2020," IOC head Thomas Bach said at an executive board meeting to discuss the July 24-Aug. 9 sporting extravaganza.

Earlier on Tuesday, Ja-

pan's Olympics minister Seiko Hashimoto had said that the details in Tokyo's contract with the IOC "could be interpreted as allowing a postponement" until the end of the year.

Hashimoto said, however, that Japan's government and

Tokyo were still committed to the Games beginning on July 24, and the IOC has repeatedly swatted aside any suggestions of a postponement.

The Olympic body said again on Tuesday there was no Plan B, and that the

Games would take place in their allotted time slot.

Any change to dates would instantly wreak havoc on most sports programmes, with competition calendars planned several years ago to accommodate the Tokyo timings.

"I would like to encourage the athletes to continue their preparation for Tokyo 2020 with great confidence and full steam," said Bach. "From our side, we will continue to support the athletes and the National Olympic Committees."

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**SBI card**

## SBI CARDS AND PAYMENT SERVICES LIMITED

Our Company was incorporated as "SBI Cards and Payment Services Private Limited" on May 15, 1998, as a private limited company under the Companies Act, 1956, at New Delhi, with a certificate of incorporation granted by the Registrar of Companies, National Capital Territory of Delhi and Haryana at New Delhi ("RoC"). On the conversion of our Company to a public limited company pursuant to a special resolution passed by our shareholders on August 2, 2019, our name was changed to "SBI Cards and Payment Services Limited" and a fresh certificate of incorporation dated August 20, 2019 was issued by the RoC. For details of the change in the registered office of our Company, see "History and Certain Corporate Matters" on page 167 of the Red Herring Prospectus dated February 18, 2020 read with corrigendum and clarification dated February 27, 2020 published on February 28, 2020 in all editions of Financial Express and Jansatta ("RHP").

**Registered Office:** Unit 401 & 402, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Aggarwal Millennium Tower E-1,2,3, Netaji Subhash Place, Wazirpur, New Delhi 110 034, India; **Corporate Office:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Tower-B, Infinity Towers, DL Cyber City, Block 2 Building 3, DL Phase 2, Gurugram, Haryana 122 002, India; **Tel:** +91 (124) 458 9803, **Contact Person:** Ms. Payal Mittal Chhabra, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer; **Tel:** +91 (124) 458 9803, **E-mail:** investor.relations@sbicard.com; **Website:** www.sbicard.com, **Corporate Identity Number:** U65999DL1998PLC093849

### OUR PROMOTER: STATE BANK OF INDIA

**INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING OF UP TO [+] EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 10 EACH ("EQUITY SHARES") OF SBI CARDS AND PAYMENT SERVICES LIMITED (OUR "COMPANY" OR THE "COMPANY" OR THE "ISSUER") FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹ [+] PER EQUITY SHARE (INCLUDING A SHARE PREMIUM OF ₹ [+] PER EQUITY SHARE) ("THE OFFER PRICE") AGGRGATING UP TO ₹ [+] MILLION, COMPRISING A FRESH ISSUE OF [+] EQUITY SHARES BY OUR COMPANY AGGRGATING UP TO ₹ 5,000 MILLION ("FRESH ISSUE") AND AN OFFER FOR SALE OF UP TO ₹ 130,526,793 EQUITY SHARES ("THE OFFERED SHARES") AGGRGATING UP TO ₹ [+] MILLION, INCLUDING UP TO 37,293,371 EQUITY SHARES AGGRGATING UP TO ₹ [+] MILLION BY STATE BANK OF INDIA ("SBI") ("PROMOTER SELLING SHAREHOLDER") AND UP TO 93,233,427 EQUITY SHARES AGGRGATING UP TO ₹ [+] MILLION BY CA ROVER HOLDINGS ("CA ROVER") ("INVESTOR SELLING SHAREHOLDER") AND TOGETHER WITH THE PROMOTER SELLING SHAREHOLDER, THE "SELLING SHAREHOLDERS" AND SUCH OFFER, THE "OFFER FOR SALE" AND TOGETHER WITH THE FRESH ISSUE, THE "OFFER".**

**THE OFFER INCLUDES A RESERVATION OF UP TO 1,864,669 EQUITY SHARES, FOR SUBSCRIPTION BY ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES (THE "EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION") AND A RESERVATION OF UP TO 13,052,680 EQUITY SHARES, FOR SUBSCRIPTION BY SBI SHAREHOLDERS (THE "SBI SHAREHOLDERS RESERVATION PORTION"). THE OFFER LESS THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION AND THE SBI SHAREHOLDERS RESERVATION PORTION IS HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "NET OFFER", AGGRGATING UP TO [+] EQUITY SHARES. THE OFFER AND THE NET OFFER SHALL CONSTITUTE [+]% AND [+]% OF THE POST-OFFER PAID UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY, RESPECTIVELY.**

*\*Discount of ₹ 75 per Equity Share is being offered to Eligible Employees bidding in the Employee Reservation Portion.*

**QIB Category:** Not more than 50% of the Net Offer | **Retail Category:** Not less than 35% of the Net Offer | **Non Institutional Category:** Not less than 15% of the Net Offer

**Employee Reservation Portion:** Up to 1,864,669 Equity Shares | **SBI Shareholders Reservation Portion:** Up to 13,052,680 Equity Shares

**Price Band:** ₹ 750 to ₹ 755 per Equity Share of face value of ₹ 10 each | **The Floor Price** is 75 times the face value and the Cap Price is 75.5 times the face value of the Equity Shares.

**Bids can be made for a minimum of 19 Equity Shares and in multiples of 19 Equity Shares thereafter.**

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**Mandatory in public issue from January 1, 2016. No cheque will be accepted.**

*\*Applications supported by blocked amount (ASBA) is a better way of applying to issues by simply blocking the fund in the bank account. For further details, check section on ASBA below.*

**UPI**

**UPI-Now available in ASBA for Retail Individual Investors and SBI Shareholders Bidding in SBI Shareholder Reservation Portion (up to ₹ 2,00,000).\*\***

**Investors are required to ensure that the bank account used for bidding is linked to their PAN.**

**\*UPI-Now available in ASBA for Retail Individual Investors ("RIs") and SBI Shareholders Bidding in the SBI Shareholder Reservation Portion (Up to ₹ 2,00,000) applying through Registered Brokers, DP's & RTAs. Retail Individual Investors and SBI Shareholders Bidding in the SBI Shareholder Reservation Portion (Up to ₹ 2,00,000) also have the option to submit the application directly to the ASBA Bank ("SCSBs") to use the facility of linked online trading, demat and bank account.**

**ASBA has to be availed by all the investors except Anchor Investors. For details on the ASBA and UPI process, please refer to the details given in ASBA form and abridged prospectus and also please refer to the section "Offer Procedure" beginning on page 404 of the RHP.**

**The process is also available on the website of BSE and Stock Exchanges in the General Information Document. ASBA cum application forms can be downloaded from the websites of BSE Limited ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE"), and together with BSE, the "Stock Exchanges" and can be obtained from the list of banks that is available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in. List of banks supporting UPI is also available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in. HDFC Bank Limited has been appointed as Sponsor Bank for the Offer, in accordance with the requirements of the SEBI circular dated November 1, 2018, as amended.**

### Risks to Investors

- I. The six merchant bankers associated with the Offer have handled 46 issues in the past three financial years, out of which 17 issues closed below the issue price on listing date.
- II. There are no listed peers in India engaged in Issuer's line of business.
- III. The Price/Earnings ratio based on diluted EPS on a restated consolidated basis for FY19 for the Issuer at the upper end of the Price Band is 80.06 and is higher as compared to the NIFTY 50 index Price/Earnings ratio of 27.50 (as on February 20, 2020).
- IV. Average cost of acquisition of Equity Shares for the Selling Shareholders is in the range of ₹28.69 to ₹81.19 per Equity Share and the Offer Price at upper end of the Price Band is ₹ 755 per Equity Share.

### BID/OFFER PERIOD

### OPEN

### CLOSES TODAY FOR QIB BIDDERS

**CLOSES ON (FOR ALL OTHER BIDDERS) THURSDAY, MARCH 05, 2020**

In case of a revision in the Price Band, the Bid/Offer Period will be extended for at least three additional Working Days after such revision of the Price Band subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding a total of ten Working Days. In cases of force majeure, banking strike or similar circumstances, our Company and the Selling Shareholders, in consultation with the BRLMs, may for reasons to be recorded in writing, extend the Bid/Offer Period for a minimum of three Working Days, subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding ten Working Days. Any revision in the Price Band and the revised Bid/Offer Period, if applicable, will be widely disseminated by notification to the Stock Exchanges, by issuing a public notice, and also by indicating the change on the respective websites of the BRLMs and at the terminals of the Syndicate Members and by intimation to Designated Intermediaries and the Sponsor Bank.

The Offer is being made in terms of Rule 19(2)(b) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, as amended, ("the SCR") read with Regulation 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018, as amended ("the SICDR Regulations"). The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process, in compliance with Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations, where not more than 50% of the Net Offer will be Allotted on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers ("QIBs") ("the QIB Category"), provided that our Company and the Selling Shareholders in consultation with the BRLMs, may allocate up to 60% of the QIB Category to Anchor Investors, on a discretionary basis (the "Anchor Investor Portion"), of which one-third shall be reserved for domestic Mutual Funds, subject to valid bids received from domestic Mutual Funds at or above the Offer Price, at which Equity Shares are allocated to Anchor Investors. Further, 5% of the QIB Category (excluding the Anchor Investor Portion) shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Mutual Funds only and the remainder of the QIB Category shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to all QIBs (other than Anchor Investors), including Mutual Funds, subject to valid bids being received at or above the Offer Price. Further, not less than 15% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Non-Institutional Investors and not less than 35% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation to Retail Individual Investors, in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid bids being received at or above the Offer Price. All Bidders (other than Anchor Investors) shall mandatory participate in the Offer through the Application Form, by issuing a public notice, and also by indicating the change on the respective websites of the BRLMs and at the terminals of the Syndicate Members and by intimation to Designated Intermediaries and the Sponsor Bank, as the case may be. Anchor Investors are not permitted to participate in the Anchor Investor Portion through the ASBA process. For details, see, "Offer Procedure" on page

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