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## NEARBY



### Shaheen Bagh is a conspiracy, says PM

NEW DELHI  
In a veiled reference to the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in Shaheen Bagh and elsewhere in the Capital, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday called them "experiments" based on a "design to dent the nationalistic heritage" of the country. Speaking at a BJP rally in east Delhi, he accused AAP and Congress of engaging in a "political game" through such protests.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 12

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**Man held for supplying gun to juvenile in JMI case**  
NEW DELHI  
The Delhi Police's Crime Branch has arrested a wrestler, Ajeeet, from Uttar Pradesh's Aligarh district for supplying a weapon to the juvenile who had opened fire on anti-CAA protesters outside Jamia Millia Islamia on January 30, an officer said on Monday.

CITY ▶ PAGE 5

## SC to frame issues for 9-judge Bench hearing religious rights

CJI acknowledges objection to wider review post-Sabarimala is a 'formidable point'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

Renowned jurist and senior advocate Fali Nariman has objected to the manner in which the Supreme Court turned a review of the Sabarimala case into an opportunity to set up a nine-judge Bench and examine whether certain essential religious practices of various faiths, including Islam and Zoroastrianism, should be constitutionally protected.

"Are you saying that when hearing the review of one judgment [Sabarimala in this case], we cannot refer such larger questions to a larger Bench?" Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sharad A. Bobde, heading the Bench, asked Mr. Nariman on Monday.

"Yes, that is absolutely right. It will be outside your jurisdiction to do that," Mr. Nariman replied emphatically.

The CJI observed orally that Mr. Nariman had a "formidable point there".

He, however, said the Bench would not "abort the hearing" now.

The objections raised by Mr. Nariman would be framed as an "issue" to be decided by the Bench. It would convene on Thursday to fix the dates of the hearings that would start next



There are at least six judgments of SC that say while deciding a review, SC cannot refer issues to a larger Bench  
FALI NARIMAN, Senior advocate

Sabarimala is a decided case  
RAJEEV DHAVAN, Senior advocate



Reference to a larger Bench in a review judgment is not permissible. If reference had to be made, it should have been done in the Sabarimala case before the final judgment on September 28, 2018  
SHYAM DIVAN, Senior advocate

You have raised possibly formidable points... We (nine-judge Bench) will hear the objections raised on whether the Supreme Court could have referred to a larger Bench new issues on essential religious practices while deciding the Sabarimala review  
S.A. BOBBE, Chief Justice of India

week. The CJI clarified that the nine judges would confer and frame the issues for hearing.

### PIL petitions

Senior advocate K. Parasaran countered Mr. Nariman, saying that the Sabarimala case had its genesis in public interest litigation petitions. It was not an *in personam* (affecting a specific person) litigation.

In a case emanating from a PIL petition, there is no restraint on a constitutional court in extending the scope or questions to be examined, he argued.

The Sabarimala case review by a five-judge Bench,

led by then CJI Ranjan Gogoi, took a curious turn on November 14 last. The Bench sidestepped the task of reviewing the September 2018 judgment, which declared the prohibition on the entry of women of menstruating age into the Sabarimala temple as discriminatory.

Instead, the Bench referred seven questions, including whether essential religious practices should be afforded constitutional protection under Article 26 (freedom to manage religious affairs), to a larger Bench.

Further, the Review Bench tagged other pending cases on the prohibition of

Muslim women from entering mosques, female genital mutilation among Dawoodi Bohras and the ban on Parsi women who married interfaith from entering the fire temple to the reference.

Chief Justice Bobde, when he succeeded Justice Gogoi, promptly set up the nine-judge Bench to decide this reference.

On Monday, Mr. Nariman argued that the Gogoi Bench had no business to either drag other cases into the reference or frame such "larger issues" when its sole mandate was to simply review the Sabarimala verdict.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

+ Will not splurge to end slowdown: Sitharaman  
'Govt. will create assets transparently'

VIKAS DHOOT  
PRISCILLA JEBARAJ  
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday asserted that the government was not going to repeat past mistakes and try to splurge its way out of the economic slowdown, in an apparent reference to the UPA government's response to the 2008-09 slowdown.

Speaking at a meeting of FICCI's national executive committee, the Minister said the government was willing to spend to pump prime the economy, but stressed that it "shall not repeat the mistakes of splurging".

The money being spent now will be used to create public assets that bring greater connectivity, Ms. Sitharaman said, adding, "We are showing where the money will go so that you can plan your investment."

Responding to speculation that the fiscal deficit could cross 4% or 5% of the GDP, she said, "I want to tell you that the experiences of the last time that India had a real tough economic situation and the call taken at that time, and post that call, the fiscal deficit number was touched by the government then."

Hinting perhaps to the 2009-10 Budget, when the fiscal deficit target was raised to 6.7% of GDP after the sharp slowdown triggered by the global financial crisis, she said: "The splurging with which the economy was expected to reach a better level and rise from the bottom it had reached are all fresh in our minds."

After the effects of the 2009-10 fiscal stimulus wore off, growth plunged sharply again over 2011 and 2012.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

## BJP pulls up Hegde for remarks on Gandhiji

Congress questions MP's sanity

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday issued a show cause notice to its MP Anantkumar Hegde for his comments against Mahatma Gandhi.

Karnataka State president of the BJP Nalin Kumar Katedel said the party's Central leadership had served the notice on Mr. Hegde, taking strong objection to his remarks and had sought an explanation from him.

In controversial comments on Saturday, Mr. Hegde had questioned the freedom movement led by Gandhi and described it as an "adjustment" with the British rulers.

"Freedom fighters who did not sacrifice anything made the country believe that it attained independence through *Upavas Satyagrah* (hunger strikes) – Gandhi's preferred mode of agitation – and became ma-



Anantkumar Hegde  
hapurush (great persons)," the MP from Uttara Kannada said at an event in Bengaluru.

Responding to the remarks, Congress leader Brijesh Kalappa appealed to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to conduct a "medical inquiry into the sanity" of the BJP MP. In a letter to Mr. Birla, Mr. Kalappa said, "As per Article 102 of the Constitution, an insane member cannot continue as a member of the Lok Sabha".

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

## Commen almost sell 3-star hotel, sitting in its lobby

Overheard by staff while negotiating the deal for ₹165 cr, they land behind bars

R. SIVARAMAN  
CHENNAI

Chutpah is defined as "extreme self-confidence or audacity". And the attempt by three commen to sell a well-known hotel in Chennai to gullible buyers, brazenly holding negotiations in the very hotel's lobby, has set a new benchmark in gumption.

The trio, identified as Karunakaran, 70, Paramanandham, 55, and Dakshinamurthy, 60, all from the city, were arrested on Monday as they tried to sell the three-star Hotel Ambica Empire to a group from Kerala.

The three men attempted to sell the hotel to the

prospective buyers at a cost of ₹165 crore.

They had sent a letter to Palakkal Home Solutions in Thiruvananthapuram, offering to sell the property. They claimed that it was a distress sale as the owner had a huge debt. They claimed that they had been officially authorised by the owner to execute the deal. One of the men claimed that he was the general manager of the hotel, the other, auditor and the third introduced himself as a manager.

Lured by this, and convinced by the letter, their fake documentation and the assurances of the three



ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

persons, a team of representatives from the Kerala firm landed up in Chennai to seal the deal. Two of the representatives from Kerala, booked rooms in the

same hotel, as per the instructions of the sellers'.

On Monday, the hotel staff noticed five persons seated on a couch in the lobby engaged in negotiations. The staff overheard stray phrases which set alarm bells ringing about the possible sale of the hotel. As they reported this to the manager, he immediately informed the owner, Sudharshan. The latter clarified that there was no such proposal. The manager then informed the Vadapalani police station, leading to the arrest of the three 'sellers'.

# HINDU

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page 14

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## nCoV outbreak declared a State calamity in Kerala

Third case confirmed in Kasaragod; 84 under treatment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/  
NEW DELHI

With the confirmation of a third case of the novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection in the State, Kerala on Monday declared the epidemic a State calamity.

The apex committee of the State Disaster Management Authority met Chief Secretary Tom Jose to propose the decision to ensure that the outbreak is controlled.

As on Monday, 2,239 travellers from China and other nCoV-affected countries have been admitted to hospitals with isolation facilities in various districts, a bulletin from the State Health Department said.

Chief Justice Bobde, when he succeeded Justice Gogoi, promptly set up the nine-judge Bench to decide this reference.

On Monday, Mr. Nariman argued that the Gogoi Bench had no business to either drag other cases into the reference or frame such "larger issues" when its sole mandate was to simply review the Sabarimala verdict.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12



Medical staff disposing of garbage outside an isolation ward for coronavirus at a hospital in Kochi. ■ PTI

tested negative.

Hospital authorities confirmed that the condition of all symptomatic persons under isolation in hospitals was stable.

GO set up

A high-level group of Ministers has been constituted on the directions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to review the management of the outbreak.

Confirming the third case

of the nCoV infection in a student who returned recently to Kasaragod from Wuhan, the Union Health Ministry said, "The patient ... is in isolation in the hospital. The patient is stable and is being closely monitored."

Five people, who were shifted to the Army's Base Hospital from a quarantine facility in Manesar, Haryana, after showing symptoms of cough and cold, have tested negative for nCoV. The five were among the 247 persons evacuated from the Hubei province in China.

The symptoms of the coronavirus infection start with fever and dry cough followed by breathing problems, according to doctors.

The Kerala Health Department has taken adequate preparatory measures and had framed detailed guidelines as soon as the WHO issued a global health alert.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12



## ANURAG BACHAN'S DROANACHARYA-IAS

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# Delhi police to soon get RFID-tagged weapons

Step will prevent misuse of weapons, make auditing easier

SAURABH TRIVEDI  
NEW DELHI

In a major step towards modernising its armory, the Delhi police will soon attach Radio-frequency identification (RFID) tags to its assault weapons to prevent misuse.

On February 1, the Delhi police issued tender for procurement of 6,000 RFID tags and readers, as well as fingerprint scanners and software for the system.

As per the tender document, the Delhi police are introducing a state-of-the-art weapons management system with web cameras to automate reporting and allotment of tagged weapons to police personnel after biometric authentication.

A police officer said that the new system will help manage details of each weapon and ammunition. It will

**C** The weapons management system will automate reporting and allotment of weapons to police personnel after biometric authentication.

DELHI POLICE OFFICER

when a weapon was issued, returned and stored, the officer said, adding that it will also be easy to track the weapon's history, recording the chain of custody. RFID tags will also help in weapons tracking, said the officer.

The police officer said that they have requested for suitable mini-tags that can be mounted on a wooden or metal surface. It should further be tamper proof and water proof.

"At present we have a manual system to maintain records. Audit of weapons is time consuming and requires a lot of personnel. The new technology will provide armories with a strong auditing and security system. In the first phase, 6,000 weapons will be tagged; after the trial, it will be implemented on other weapons," the officer added.

Greater accountability "After identifying the allotted arms/ammunition, the system should also be able to biometrically identify the personnel when they return weapons/ammunition after duty," read the tender document.

The system will track

tions did not have the locus to move such a petition.

He also contended that the professor, Abdul Gani Bhat, ought to have first made a representation to the Ministry, before approaching the court.

Mr. Bhat had argued that 10 MPs, four in the Rajya Sabha and six in the Lok Sabha, from J&K were enjoying the salaries and perks associated with their position at the cost of the public exchequer. He had contended that the MPs, including Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad and National Conference chairman Farooq Abdullah, were "illegally" continuing in their positions.

During the arguments, the Centre's standing counsel, Anil Soni, who appeared for the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, told the court that the plea was not maintainable and the peti-

Court extends Sharjeel Imam's police custody

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

A court here on Monday extended the police custody of Sharjeel Imam, arrested on sedition charges, by three days.

Sharjeel was produced at the residence of a magistrate amid high security, said advocate Mishika Singh, appearing for the JNU research scholar.

Sharjeel was arrested from Bihar on January 28 for allegedly making inflammatory speeches at Jamia Millia Islamia and AMU.

## HC dismisses plea against MPs of erstwhile J&K State

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday dismissed a plea which alleged that MPs from the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir were continuing to hold their seats illegally after the bifurcation of the State into Union territories and sought to prevent them from entering Parliament.

Justice Brijesh Sethi rejected the petition filed by a retired professor.

During the arguments, the Centre's standing counsel, Anil Soni, who appeared for the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, told the court that the plea was not maintainable and the peti-

tions did not have the locus to move such a petition.

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**IN BRIEF****BJP leader's plea against AAP candidate dismissed**

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi High Court on Monday dismissed as not maintainable a plea by a BJP leader challenging a Returning Officer's order that rejected a complaint against the nomination of an AAP candidate from Karol Bagh for allegedly concealing his educational qualification in the poll affidavit.

**AAP MLA's son joins Congress**

NEW DELHI  
Sardar Manpreet Singh, son of AAP MLA from Kalkaji Avtar Singh, on Monday joined the Congress. Besides him, several others from AAP joined the Congress, read an official party statement.

# Forget affiliations, vote for work'

Greater Kailash AAP MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj asks constituents to think about future

NIKHIL M BABU  
NEW DELHI

Around 5 p.m. on Monday, Aam Aadmi Party's sitting MLA from Greater Kailash Saurabh Bharadwaj arrived at Fashion Street in Shahpur Jat in an open jeep, followed by about half-a-dozen electric scooters and a dozen motorcycles.

As Mr. Bharadwaj took a chair for a public meeting, he was garlanded with currency notes. "Five years ago, when we came to power, we wanted the name of our village to be known by everyone... Now, there will be no one in Delhi and nearby areas who has not heard about the Shahpur Jat Festival," the AAP leader said.

**CAMPAIGN TRAIL**  
"People say that leaders do not listen to us and are inaccessible... Today, Home Minister Amit Shah is coming to Chirag Delhi. I said, it is good that they remembered our village. The elections should be held more often so that such big leaders come here," he added.

Towards the end of his five-minute speech, Mr. Bha-



Greater Kailash AAP MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj campaigning in the constituency on Monday. ■ BIBEK CHETTRI

radwaj asked the people to set aside their affiliation to political parties when they vote. "You should ponder about who is thinking about your house and the development of the village and about your children's future. Elections will come and go and these leaders will come and go. Think, who has worked for you in the past five years? and who will work for you in the next five years?" he said.

After the speech, amid chants of "Hamara vidhayak kaisa ho... Saurabh Bharadwaj jaisa ho", AAP volunteers distributed laddoos close to the weight of

the AAP MLA as a symbolic "Tulabhara".

"We are telling the people that if we have worked for you, then vote for us," Mr. Bharadwaj told *The Hindu*.

As the AAP leader left for a padyatra in the area, some residents said that schools and hospitals have become better under the AAP government. Others said that though some work had been, it was not as much as had been promised.

"Barabar ka takkar hoga (There will be tight competition)," said Ram Charit, 47, from Bihar, who had voted for AAP in the 2015 Assembly elections.

Inside his previous house in Shahpur Jat, Mr. Charit said that he has now moved to Tughlaqabad. "In this area they [AAP] have done work, but in my area, they have not done anything. So I will not vote for AAP this time," he said. When asked about the BJP's focus on Shaheen Bagh, CAA, and NRC in the run-up to the polls, he said it would not affect his voting. "What difference will it make to poor people?"

Ashish Awasthi, 38, who runs a business in Shahpur Jat, said: "They [AAP] have not done too bad or too good. I have heard the labourers saying that schools have gotten better. Our family always votes for the BJP, but AAP has a chance."

Rekha, 19, who studies in Gargi SKV, a government school, said: "The school has gotten better after Arvind Kejriwal came. There are new buildings and better facilities." Her mother, Rajbala, 40, said that they have been getting "zero" electricity bills for the past four months. "There is a lot of support for Mr. Kejriwal and my vote is for *jhaado* [AAP's poll symbol]," she added.

# AAP to release manifesto today

In last phase of campaigning, party to hold 15,000 meetings

**STAFF REPORTER**

NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday said it will release its manifesto for the Delhi Assembly elections on Tuesday.

At a press conference, party's election incharge Sanjay Singh said that AAP would be conducting 15,000 meetings across the city in the last phase of the campaign in the next three days.

Mr. Singh said 5,000 volunteers from every constituency will convince BJP voters to vote for AAP.

"We had said no matter how much they provoke us, we will remain focused on the issues. In this last phase of the campaigning, through our frontal cells, which pertain to Purvanchali people, women, youth, SC/ST communities, minorities etc., 500 representatives from these cells will hold 10 meetings every day over the next three days and thus 15,000 meetings will be held across all 70 Assembly constituencies," he said.

He added that the party will continue with its previous slogan – *Acche Hone Paanch saal, Lagey Raho Kejriwal* – along with a new



AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal during a roadshow in Palam on Monday. ■ V.V. KRISHNAN

al setup in place, the Election Commission is here, how is a Union Minister even allowed to make such a statement? And if Mr. Kejriwal indeed is a terrorist, I challenge the BJP to arrest him. They have crossed all limits of decency."

Mr. Singh added that they met the Chief Election Commissioner on Monday and demanded that an FIR be registered against the BJP leaders, including Mr. Adityanath. They also sought a ban on their campaigning.

"The CEC has ensured us that he will look into the matter," Mr. Singh said.

Meanwhile, the AAP said that the State chief of the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, trade union of the BJP, Devraj Bhadana, joined the party on Monday.

**Kejriwal recites hymn**

Mr. Kejriwal on Monday at a town hall meeting with News18 India, a news channel, said: "Now they (BJP) don't have any other issue and hence they portray me as anti-Hindi, I am a believer of Hanumanji from childhood." On being asked if he could recite *Hanuman Chalisa*, Mr. Kejriwal sang it.

**Clamping down**

There has been a several-fold increase in enforcement activities prior to the 2020 Assembly elections compared to 2015 polls

Preventive measures	2015	2020
CrPC Sections 107 (Security for keeping the peace; bound down), 116 (Inquiry as to truth of information)	326	705
CrPC Sections 107, 151 (Arrest to prevent commission of cognizable offences)	1,971	2,008
CrPC Sections 107, 150 (Information of design to commit cognizable offences)	960	2,204
CrPC Sections 109 (Security for good behaviour from suspected persons), 110 (Security for good behaviour from habitual offenders)	85	390
Delhi Police Act Section 65 (Person bound to comply with directions of officer)	28,480	95,375
Delhi Police Act (other than Section 65)	1,328	980
Excise Act Sections 40 and 40(B)	1,065	6,001

SOURCE: CEO OFFICE

# Preventive action ahead of elections up by 311%

Chief Electoral Officer shares data

**SIDHARTH RAVI**

NEW DELHI

The number of people against whom preventive action has been taken ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections has increased by around 311% compared to the 2015 State elections, revealed data shared by the Chief Electoral Officer.

During elections, various types of preventive actions under sections of the CrPC and State law are undertaken to ensure that there is a conducive environment for smooth conduct of elections, a senior official said.

Preventive action includes provisions to "bound down" individuals – where they are made to sign a bond that they will not engage in untoward activity – to other rules that allow police to detain individuals, said a policeman.

Seizure and depositing of arms has also increased; in 2015, 48 unlicensed arms were seized; in 2020, 384 were have been seized so far.

The number of unlicensed arms seized in the 2019 Lok Sabha election was almost double at 801.

Cartridges and explosives seized during the present elections are the lowest compared to both the 2019 and 2015 elections.

# HC seeks Centre, EC replies on rejection of nominations

**STAFF REPORTER**

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday sought response from the Centre and the Election Commission of India on a plea by 11 Independent candidates challenging the rejection of their nominations for the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections.

An HC Bench gave the orders on the candidates' plea, which has also sought setting aside of a single Judge order dismissing their petition against the rejection of their nominations. As per

**HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT****e-Procurement Notice****INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

1. The Executive Engineer, Gohar Division, HPPWD,Gohar, on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	Eligible class of Contractor	Time Limit
1.	Construction of 40.00 mtr. Span PSC/RCC box girder bridge Daul over Jeuni Khad on Sianj Daul Ropa road at RD 0/050 (SH-C/o Sub-Structure, Super Structure and both side approaches) UNDER NABARD-XXV.	1,88,44,052/-	2,21,000/-	5,000/-	Class- B & above	One year
2.	Construction of 40.00 mtr. Span PSC box girder single lane bridge over Jeuni Khad on Sianj Daul Ropa road at RD 0/050 (SH-C/o Sub-Structure, Super Structure and both side approaches)Under SCSP	63,04,229/-	95,600/-	2,000/-	Class C & above	One year
3.	Construction of Block Elementary Education Office (BEEO) Jai Devi Tehsil Sundernagar Distt.Mandi (HP) (SH-C/o Building Portion including W/S and S/I and Septic Tank)	28,97,363/-	51,000/-	1500/-	Class- D & above	One year
4.	Construction of Veterinary Dispensary Building at Rajwari in Tehsil Sundernagar Distt. Mandi HP.(SH-C/o Building Portion in Ground floor and W/S and S/I Septic Tank and Rain Water Harvesting system)	8,44,516/-	17,000/-	350/-	Class- D & above	One year
5.	Construction of Link road to Village Kharis in G.P. Ghartot km.0/0 to 2/700 (SH-C/o 6.00 mtr. Span R.C.C. Slab Culvert at km.1/500(Under SCSP)	8,96,918/-	18,000/-	350/-	Class- D & above	Six Month
6.	Construction of Junior Engineer Office cum Residence at Jachh (Jhunjhunu) Distt. Mandi (HP) (SH-C/o Building Portion including W/S and S/I Septic Tank and Rain Water Harvesting System)	23,83,403/-	43,500/-	500/-	Class- D & above	One Year
7.	Construction of Additional Accommodation for Govt. Senior Secondary School Building at Traur Tehsil Chachhot, Distt. Mandi HP.(SH-C/o Two Rooms with stair cases in First Floor)	10,38,368/-	21,000/-	350/-	Class- D & above	One Year
8.	Construction of Basket Ball field at Govt. Degree College Bassa, Tehsil Chachhot, Distt. Mandi HP.	8,54,168/-	17,500/-	350/-	Class- D & above	One Year

2. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:-The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <https://tenders.gov.in>.Bidder will be required to register in the web-site, which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: <https://tenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

**Key Dates:-**

1. Date of Online Publication	12-02-2020
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**IN BRIEF**



**Jaypee Institute holds CAT preparation event**

NEW DELHI  
The Electronics and Communication Engineering Department of Jaypee Institute of Information Technology, Sector-62 Noida, organised an event, 'Student Connect Program for CAT Preparation', on January 31 under the aegis of Capability Enhancement and Development Cell of the institute. The event was conducted in association with 'The Hindu Group' by eminent and profound speaker Kumar Abhishek. The aim of the programme was to enhance students' awareness on their strengths and weaknesses and guide them on how to meet the selection criteria efficiently.

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Air Quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	270	Gurugram	184
Ghaziabad	306	Faridabad	231
Noida	280	Greater Noida	282
■ 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]

**DELHI TODAY**

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(Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@thehindu.co.in)

# Jamia firing: U.P. man arrested for supplying gun to juvenile

The accused will be produced in court today; juvenile is in protective custody

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police's Crime Branch has arrested a wrestler for supplying a weapon to the juvenile who had opened fire on anti-CAA protesters outside Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) on January 30, an officer said on Monday.

"We have arrested the person from whom the juvenile had procured the weapon," said Rajesh Deo, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime). Ajeet, 25, hails from Sahajpura village in Uttar Pradesh's Aligarh district and is a wrestler. He completed his BA from a university in U.P. and was about to take



The juvenile opened fire on January 30. ■ FILE PHOTO

admission for postgraduation, said the officer.

The accused will be pro-

duced in court on Tuesday, the officer said, adding that further probe is under way.

On January 30, the juvenile had fired at a group of anti-CAA protesters outside JMI. A student had sustained injury in the incident. The accused was subsequently overpowered by the police and taken into custody.

During interrogation, the juvenile disclosed that he had managed to procure the gun and ammunition from a resident of Sahajpura village, who was later identified as Ajeet, a police officer said.

The juvenile, who was introduced to Ajeet by a cousin, had procured the coun-

trymade pistol from him for ₹10,000, he said.

The juvenile told the police that his father had given him the money to purchase new clothes for a relative's wedding.

The police said they were verifying whether Ajeet had procured the pistol from someone else. A case of attempt to murder under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Arms Act was registered at New Friends Colony police station and the probe was transferred to the Crime Branch.

Meanwhile, the juvenile has been sent into protective custody till February 28.

## Feb. 2 incident at Jamia: police analysing footage

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

A day after an alleged incident of firing was reported outside Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) campus, the Delhi police have not been able to make any breakthrough in the case. In less than a week, there have been four firing incidents targeting anti-CAA protesters in Delhi.

Two unidentified persons had opened fire at JMI protest site late on Sunday. Though no one was injured in the incident, the people

present at the spot were left panic-stricken.

"We have searched the place where the firing took place near Gate no. 7 [of the JMI campus]. We found no empty cartridge there. We are, therefore, probing further to identify the accused and verify the crime. An FIR has been lodged," in-charge DCP, South East, Gyanesh Kumar said.

The police stated that a few persons had approached them during registration of the FIR, saying they had seen a red scooter that was allegedly used in the commission of the crime. The police has claimed that no one could note down or click a picture of the registration number of the two-wheeler.

"However, according to some persons the last digit is 2 while as per some it is 4. There are many vehicles with the same series [registration] number and we are now verifying information to see what is the actual number," Jamia Nagar Inspector Upendra Singh said.

The police are also analysing CCTV footage and other videos of the incident captured by protesters.

Prior to Sunday's incident, Kapil Gujjar, a resident of Dallupura village on the outskirts of Delhi, had fired at anti-CAA protesters in Shaheen Bagh on February 1. Mr. Gujjar had allegedly shouted, "Hamare desh main aur kisi ki nahi sirf Hindu ki chalegi [Only the Hindus shall have a say in our country]". He was later arrested.

## NPR, NRC will affect homeless people: NCU

Survey conducted in five States

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The proposed National Population Register (NPR) and the National Register for Citizens (NRC) will adversely impact 1.77 million homeless people in India, National Coalition for Inclusive and Sustainable Urbanisation (NCU) said in a statement.

The NCU is a network of activists, researchers, urban practitioners, lawyers, informal sector workers, collectives and individuals. Condemning the CAA-NPR-NRC as unconstitutional and anti-constitutional, the organisation said surveys they conducted in five States revealed that 99% of the homeless people do not have birth certificates.

The survey was done in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. So far, the Home Ministry has not notified the NPR form. However, according to reports, the respondents will have to provide the date of birth and place of birth of their parents too.

The NCU, in a statement, said: "Thirty percent of urban homeless population do not have any identity proof. Similarly, there are a number of nomadic and de-notified tribes, as well as migrants driven by rural distress, who do not possess and will not be able to furnish the requisite documentation that the NRC-NPR process will undoubtedly expect." The organisation said that the burden of proof of citizenship should not fall on citizens but on the State.

**SHRNJINI GHOSH**  
NEW DELHI

Eleven days into a sit-in demonstration, on the lines of the protest at Shaheen Bagh, women protesters at Hauz Rani on Monday appealed to political leaders not to politicise the demonstrations ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections in Delhi.

Demanding that the Citizenship (Amendment) Act be revoked, protesters asked why the right to free speech is reserved only for politicians and not for those seeking constitutional rights.

Zainab Mallick, a homemaker, said: "From [Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister] Yogi Adityanath to Delhi MPs, everyone seems to be making controversial statements pertaining to Shaheen Bagh and the Muslim community. The ones firing shots are hailed as 'desh bhakts' but we are raising the flag and



Women seen at a dharna at Gandhi park, Hauz Rani in New Delhi on Monday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

are being called 'anti-nationalists'. What kind of logic is this?" Stating that the CAA is "clearly snatching rights from the Muslims", the 25-year-old, added: "We are pained with the constant vil-

ification of the Muslims. Why are we being treated like this? Instead of talking about the economy, women's safety and education, all that is being talked about is Pakistan. Why should we go

there? Jinko jaana tha wo chale gaye [The ones who had to go are already gone]."

The protest at Gandhi Park saw a stream of visitors, with women taking turns to occupy a tent accompanied by their toddlers.

**'Real issues forgotten'**

Samreen, (23), also a homemaker, said: "Stop playing politics in our name. If you [Centre] say that there are rumours about the CAA then why don't you come and clear our doubts? We brought you to power and now just because we are questioning you, we are being called 'anti-nationals'."

If the police are with the Centre then where will we get the bullets from? What narrative are you trying to spread and why should we even support this law?"

With a toddler in tow, Ms. Samreen added: "Education

and economy in the country is in a bad shape. Instead of talking about real issues why spew hate? Yahan pe kaam chalega jumla nahi [Work matters here and not gimmicks]."

Taira, (60), who is a regular at the demonstration, said: "We are here for our demands not for anything related to the elections. While some are dragging Arvind Kejriwal into the issue, others are talking about the BJP. All we want is our rights."

Adding that the protesters are trying to "speak to the Centre and not the Delhi government", Ms. Mallick added, "Our concern is with the ones who brought in this law in the first place. So it does not matter whether Mr. Kejriwal is supporting us or not. We want the Centre to hear us. It is high time that politics over the Hindu-Muslim dichotomy ends."

## Former judge's kin murder case: judgment on February 6

Accused initially confessed to the crime committed in Oct. 2018, later said it was 'accidental fire'

**ASHOK KUMAR**  
GURUGRAM

The District and Sessions Court here has fixed February 6 for pronouncement of judgment in the murder case of the wife and son of a judicial officer following the conclusion of final arguments on Monday.

The then Gurugram's Additional District and Sessions Judge Krishan Kant's wife Ritu and son Dhruv were allegedly shot by their Personal Security Officer, Mahipal, in South City-II market on Oc-



tober 13, 2018 in full public view. The prosecution produced 64 witnesses, including Mr. Kant, to prove the case against Mahipal, who was arrested two hours after the incident.

Public Prosecutor Anurag Hooda said two eyewitnesses

Rishi Gupta and Hemant – who had also recorded the incident on their mobile phones, deposed before the court. The incident was also captured on two CCTV cameras.

"Gunshot residue and fingerprints also proved the prosecution's case. Dhruv's blood group matched with the bloodstains on Mahipal's uniform. The call details of the accused proved his presence in the market at the time of the incident," said Mr. Hooda, also the Deputy Dis-

trict Attorney. Complainant's counsel Vishal Gupta said the accused had also called Mr. Kant and co-PSO Constable Vinay Kumar, admitting to his crime and both deposed before the court as prosecution witnesses.

"Mr. Kant deposed about dying declaration of his wife and the accused's confession. Also, the accused can be heard in one of the CCTV footage saying that he had killed Shaitaan and his mother. The accused also initially confessed to his crime but later

said it was accidental," said Mr. Gupta.

The defence took the plea that the revolver went off during a scuffle between Mahipal and Dhruv leading to the deaths. It claimed that Dhruv was enraged over Mahipal damaging a painting and abused him and tried to snatch his revolver. But Mahipal resisted the attempt and the weapon went off accidentally. Mr. Hooda said the victims had sustained two bullet injuries each and therefore it could not be an accident.

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

A minor rape victim filed a plea in the Delhi High Court on Monday, seeking permission to terminate her 24-week pregnancy.

The plea is listed for hearing on Tuesday before Justice Vibhu Bakhu.

The petition, filed through the 16-year-old girl's mother, is aggrieved as Section 3 of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act does not permit termination of pregnancy in case the pe-

**CITY 5**

**IN BRIEF**

**Jaypee Institute holds CAT preparation event**

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**Air Quality of Delhi-NCR**

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**DELHI TODAY**

**Exhibition:** "Shining Brightly

**ARUNACHAL PRADESH  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT  
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER**

The Executive Engineer, Chayangtajo Division, PWD, Arunachal Pradesh, Chayangtajo invites on behalf of Governor of Arunachal Pradesh online item rate bids in two bid system for the following works:-

**NIT No. CD/DRG-2/2018-19/01, Name of work :- C/o Road with Bridge from Chayangtajo – Yangfo Road, from (Sangri-Sangda Point) under Chayangtajo Circle to Wacha Holling (Veo) via Sanglouo Bagang, Tarawa Yangfo & Dadara under Sawa Circle on Indo-China Border, Length= 35 Km (Ph-1 0.00 Km to 4.00 Km), Estimated cost – Rs.3551.16 Lakhs, Earnest money – Rs. 35,51,200.00 For APST and Rs.45,51,200.00 Non-APST Contractors, periods of completion- 36 months & Last date and time of submission of bid – 1600 Hours 17/02/2020**

The bid forms and other details can be downloaded from the website <https://www.arunachaltenders.gov.in> from 1030 Hours of 03/02/2020. The Press Notice is also available on [www.arunachalpwd.org](http://www.arunachalpwd.org)

DIPR/ARN/8277-80/19

## 'BJP-JJP govt. did not take effective steps on SYL issue'

Abhay Chautala plans to raise it in State budget session

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA CHANDIGARH

With Punjab reluctant to give the Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal water to Haryana, Indian National Lok Dal senior leader Abhay Singh Chautala on Monday blamed the BJP-JJP coalition for not taking "effective steps" to ensure that the State gets its rightful share of water.

"The BJP-JJP coalition government is not taking effec-

tive steps to ensure that Haryana gets its rightful share," Mr. Chautala said addressing workers at the party's executive meeting in Jind.

According to a release, Mr. Chautala asked party workers to remain prepared for "any sacrifice" for the construction of the SYL canal. He added that he will raise the SYL issue during the budget session of the State Assembly.

On January 23, an all-party meeting in Punjab had called for a new tribunal to assess river water availability in the State.

Meanwhile, in Jind, the INLD demanded that the State government order a 'special girdwari' (revenue survey) to assess the extent of damage caused by a hailstorm recently and to compensate the affected farmers.

## Mukti Caravan mobilising people against child trafficking

It will travel to 8 districts of Rajasthan in two months

### MOHAMMED IQBAL JAIPUR

A *Mukti Caravan*, flagged off here last week, is mobilising people against child trafficking with the focus on generating awareness about preventive procedures in place to combat forced labour, exploitation and sexual abuse of children. The caravan will travel to eight districts of Rajasthan during the next two months.



Rajasthan DGP Bhupendra Singh flagging off *Mukti Caravan* in Jaipur. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Led by the child labour survivors, the caravan will reach out to villages and towns prone to human trafficking. The participants will distribute pamphlets and hold discussions with the people at public places and organise activities such as skits, poem recitation and screening of short films with an appeal to take action against trafficking units would help in the efforts to make Rajasthan a child-friendly State.

The National Crime Records Bureau's latest report has placed Rajasthan at sixth position in 2018 in terms of victims of trafficking being found. Mr. Tingal congratulated the police for rescuing 137 children of the State from Surat, Gujarat, in December 2019 and said the caravan would serve the purpose of eradicating children's exploitation.

The caravan will cover Jaipur, Tonk, Bhilwara, Udaipur, Rajsamand, Chittorgarh, Pratagarh and Banswara districts, which are prone to human trafficking. Activists will provide a helpline number to the people for quick action to deal with the instances of child trafficking.

**Spreading awareness**  
Mukesh, a former child labourer rehabilitated at Baal Ashram in Viratnagar, said he had learnt to lead an independent life after being rescued and would spread awareness about the menace of trafficking during the caravan's journey.

Nobel peace laureate Kailash Satyarthi had recently met Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and laid emphasis on strengthening the Anti-Human Trafficking Units to curb child trafficking.

**KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA**  
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**Registration of Firms**

The Vidyalaya Invites the Registration of Registered Firms for the Session of 2020-21 for the Supply and Services as mentioned below. Fully filled form along with the documents (GSTN / PAN etc.) should be reach this office through "Registered / Speed Post" on or before 20/02/2020. For further information and registration form Please Visit Vidyalaya Website : <https://rajokriafs.kvs.ac.in>

**Services :** Conservancy Services, Supply of Stationery, Printing Work (Question Papers, School Magazine, News Letter etc.), School Canteen, Catering Services, Video & Photography, Plumbing Work, Electrician, Carpenter, Aquarium etc.

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Sri Manish Dabade, Asst Professor, JNU

**ANALOG IAS ACADEMY**  
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Mr. R. Vashishth

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INSIGHT

Police officer to help raise hostage-taker's orphaned child

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LUCKNOW

A police officer said he will take care of the one-year-old girl whose parents died during the rescue of 23 children taken hostage by her father and hoped she becomes an IPS officer like him.

The girl's father Subhash Batham was shot dead early Friday as police rescued 23 children he had taken hostage at his home in Farrukhabad's Kasaria village.

Her mother Ruby Katherya was lynched by angry parents as she tried to escape from the house, police said.

Kanpur Range Inspector General Mohit Agarwal, who was involved in the rescue operation, on Monday said he will take on all responsibilities for the child. "I want her to become IPS officer like me. I am opening an account for her and will deposit money in it so that she does not have any problems with her studies," he told PTI over the phone from Kanpur.

## Chinmayanand granted bail in Shahjahanpur case

Allahabad HC directs court to take up case on priority basis

OMAR RASHID  
LUCKNOW



Former Union Minister Swami Chinmayanand

Former BJP Minister Swami Chinmayanand was granted bail by the Allahabad High Court in the alleged sexual exploitation case of a law student studying in his college in Shahjahanpur district of Uttar Pradesh.

Mr. Chinmayanand is accused of misusing his authority to seduce or induce the law student to have sexual intercourse with him, among other offences.

The law student who made the allegations against him was granted bail in December in connection with the extortion case against her by Mr. Chinmayanand.

A Bench of Justice Rahul Chaturvedi granted bail to Mr. Chinmayanand on a personal bond and on furnishing "two heavy sureties each in the like amount to the satisfaction of the court concerned".

The court also directed that the trial of both the cases – sexual exploitation and extortion – be transferred from Shahjahanpur to a court in

each other."

"...at this juncture, this court draws its conclusion that it was a complete matter of quid pro quo but over a span of time the greed for extracting "more", she along with her accomplices seems to have advanced for hatching a conspiracy against the applicant [Mr. Chinmayanand] and tried to blackmail him for ransom, through the obscene (sic) video clips recorded by herself," the court order read.

**'Blurred changes'**  
The court also said that since the chargesheet in the case was already filed and the "magistrate has already taken cognizance of the offences" it had "blurred chances" of any tampering of evidence at this stage.

While granting bail to Mr. Chinmayanand, the court also observed that the law student was already granted bail so "there is no justifiable reason to deny the bail to the present applicant – Chinmayanand".

## Tejashwi Yadav takes a swipe at Nitish

'Sharing stage with Amit Shah shows Bihar Chief Minister's political plight'

AMARNATH TEWARY  
PATNA



Rashtriya Janata Dal leader and Leader of the Opposition in Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Yadav on Monday took a swipe at Nitish Kumar over the Chief Minister hitting the Assembly election campaign trail in Delhi alongside BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Mr. Yadav alleged that Mr. Kumar is "defending the indefensible" in his speeches while sharing the stage with Mr. Shah, whom he called the CM's "mahboob".

"You can't give an account of your 15-year rule [in Bihar] but you went to Delhi to seek an account of the opposition's government... this is absolutely defending the indefensible," said the RJD leader, who is also campaigning for his party candidates in some constituencies of Delhi. The RJD, which is in an alliance with the Congress, is contesting four seats in Delhi.

Mr. Kumar's Janata Dal (United) is in the fray in two Assembly seats – Burari and Sangam Vihar – as part of the BJP-led NDA alliance, and on Sunday he addressed

public meetings in both of them while sharing the dais with Mr. Shah and BJP president J.P. Nadda.

### 'Uttering lies'

"Nitish Kumar shared the stage yesterday with his mahboob Amit Shah in Delhi for the Assembly elections and showed his political compulsions, shrewdness and plight despite his best efforts to hide them. He broke

all his past records of uttering lies in calling national capital Delhi as a city worse than Bihar," said Mr. Yadav, reminding the Bihar CM that "crores of Biharis have been migrating to Delhi".

While claiming that the Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi go-

vernment has failed to perform on all fronts, Mr. Kumar, while making an oblique reference to his Delhi counterpart, said during his speeches on Sunday that "some people have the habit of praising oneself... the government which got the mandate to govern Delhi did nothing on any front in the last five years".

"If you think infrastructure, healthcare system and education of Delhi are worse than Bihar, then only God can fathom your mental state. You should say in Delhi [rallies] how many factories and companies were set up in Bihar and how many youth got employment there," said the RJD leader,

attacking the Bihar government over its alleged failure on several fronts such as the death of hundreds of children due to AES in Muzaffarpur, sexual abuse of 34 girls at a shelter home in the same city and unprecedented waterlogging in Patna and deaths of several people due to flood and heat strokes.

"Instead of demanding special category status and a special package for Bihar, assistance for flood victims or demanding Bihar's right in the Central pool [of taxes] from the government, you termed those who are trying to snatch citizenship and change the Constitution as popular and great leaders," he said.

### JD(U) leaders hit back

JD(U) leaders in Bihar wasted no time in hitting back at Mr. Yadav.

"Tejashwi Yadav does not possess any moral right to comment on what our leader Nitish Kumar says. Everyone knows what his parents' regime of 15 years did for the State and what the Nitish government has done," a senior JD(U) leader reacted.

## Mamata comes to Kejriwal's rescue, calls BJP opportunists

'Party calls everyone a terrorist when elections are around'

SHIV SAHAY SINGH  
KOLKATA



CM Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata on Monday. • PTI

Dubbing the leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party as "most opportunist" and those encourage "vandalism" and "hooliganism" through their utterances, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday came to the rescue of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal by saying the BJP calls "everyone a terrorist when elections are around".

"What is this? Whenever there is election anywhere, they do this. They say everybody is a terrorist. Who are they then? The biggest nationalist? They are most opportunist," Ms. Banerjee told journalists at the State Secretariat.

Her remarks come in response to BJP leader and Union Minister Prakash Javade-

Gandhi, or Netaji (Subhas Chandra Bose), or Sardar Balalabhbihai (Patel) or (B.R.) Ambedkar".

The Trinamool Congress has urged the people of Delhi to vote for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and during the day the party chairperson urged the people of Delhi to believe in those "who work for people, rather than in those firing bullets".

### 'Don't behave like this'

"I will appeal to the BJP, don't behave like this. Don't play this dirty game. Only political speech, hate speech and vandalism is on. Otherwise, how constitutional post-holders are saying like this," she said in an indirect response to remarks made by Union Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur.

Accusing the BJP of delivering any good, either to the nation or to the people, Ms. Banerjee said, "They are only talking like this to encourage vandalism, hooliganism and goondaism, which is not the path of

### Winter visitors



Gulls over the Sangam in Prayagraj on Monday. The gulls fly thousands of kilometres to India to escape the Siberian winter. • AP

## Leopard enters Udaipur's City Palace

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
UDAIPUR

A leopard has strayed into the City Palace here, police said on Monday. The security guards spotted the feline late on Sunday night and informed the police.

**'Entry restricted'**  
Teams of forest department and police are at the site to rescue the cat. Entry to the portion where the leopard is present has been restricted," police said.

The City Palace in one of the noted tourist attractions in Udaipur.

## Two quarantined in Mizoram, no symptoms of coronavirus

No coronavirus case reported in the State, says Assam govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

quarantined.

The health official also told newscasters in State capital Aizawl that a Mizoram student who arrived on Monday by flight was screened at the Lengpui Airport although he was screened at another airport in India on arrival.

### 'Contact with students'

"Our government is in contact with all the Mizo students studying in China. We are in regular contact via a messaging app and the students said they have not been affected as they live far from Wuhan where the virus has

spread," said Mr. Tlau.

Meanwhile, the Assam government has said no coronavirus case has been reported in the State.

A man from central Assam's Morigaon who returned from Kerala two days ago was quarantined after he showed symptoms of the virus at the airport.

"The man has been kept in isolation as a precautionary measure after he was suffering from high fever. His is not a case of coronavirus infection," said Ramen Talukdar, the superintendent of Guwahati Medical College.

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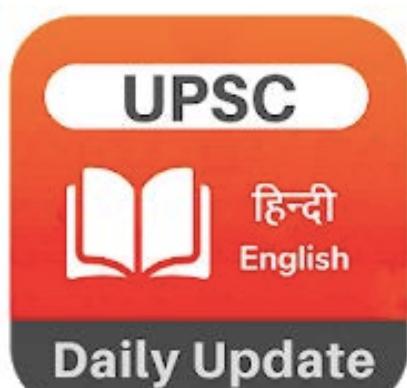
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## IN BRIEF



## Endowments officials take over ancient Mutt

TIRUPATI The headquarters of the ancient Hathiramji Mutt here in Andhra Pradesh witnessed high drama on Monday when officials of the Endowments Department took over its reins by breaking open the locked rooms. Documents, purportedly relating to the Mutt's properties, were seized. Last week, Arjun Das, the 'Mahant' of the Mutt, had been suspended by the State government on charges of financial irregularities and nepotism.

## CID asks ED to probe Amaravati land deals

VIJAYAWADA During its inquiry into a fraudulent sale, the Crime Investigation Department of Andhra Pradesh has found *prima facie* evidence for the defining of the boundary of the capital area (Amaravati) in such a way that it benefited some "connected people" holding land on the fringes. Sources said it was one of several cases of irregularities which ADGP (CID) P.V. Sunil Kumar requested the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Income Tax Department to probe.

## Inquiry into Disha encounter case begins

HYDERABAD The three-member commission constituted by the Supreme Court to probe the Disha case started its inquiry here on Monday. The Commission comprises former Supreme Court judge V.S. Sirupurkar, Bombay HC retired judge Rekha Baldota and former CBI director Kartikeyan. The committee was constituted to probe the circumstances that led to the killing of the four accused in the rape and murder of a woman Disha by the Cyberabad police.

## Two fall ill after gas leaks in A.P.

Experts on the job to plug the well in East Godavari, Minister blames private firm

## STAFF REPORTER

UPPUDI Two persons were rushed to hospital after falling ill due to suffocation at the gas well blowout site here in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh.

According to sources, the victims were suspected to be employees of the PFH Oil and Gas Private Limited.

The blast occurred on Sunday when the two from the technical team of the agency were checking the leakage point. As they opened the valve of the closed well, gas gushed out with heavy pressure and led to the blast, they said.

However, officials said the details of the two persons were not yet known.

The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) had closed the well in 2007, as the reserves were less. It had been abandoned since then, ONGC area manager B. Prasada Rao said.

The Kolkata-based PFH had taken the well on lease a year ago from the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) and the employees had uncapped the pipeline which caused the



Risky click: ONGC personnel and Fire services staff trying to cap the gas well at Uppudi village in Andhra Pradesh's East Godavari district on Monday. ■ S. RAMBABU

blowout, said Mr. Rao.

The AP State Disaster Response and Fire Services department, the ONGC's crisis management team, and experts from other agencies were trying to plug the leak when reports last came in.

## Fire safety measures

Amalapuram RDO B.H. Bhavani Shankar, who is monitoring the situation, said offi-

cials had taken all measures to prevent fire at the site and in the village.

Social Welfare Minister Viswaroop said the leak was caused due to the negligence of the PFH personnel, who were maintaining the well.

The Minister, who visited the site, said: "The PFH personnel unplugged the pipeline without studying the well's condition and have

not taken any safety precautions while doing so."

According to ONGC officials gas was gushing out from a six-inch diameter valve. However, there was no need to panic as only natural gas was coming out, they added.

Villagers blamed the government for giving the closed well on lease to a private company.

## No law to stop TV serials based on crimes: police

## Plea against 'Koodathayi - the game of death'

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOCHI

The Kerala High Court may consider whether the telecast of the TV show 'Koodathayi - the game of death' would amount to interference with the due process of law and whether a pru-

dent mind, including witnesses, would be influenced by the telecast, the police have submitted.

The police made the submission on Monday in a case filed by one of the witnesses in the Koodathayi mass murder case seeking to issue directions to stop the show.

The script of the TV serial was not available for the police for verification. However, the number, the method and

the place of homicides telecast in the serial was the same as in the Koodathayi case, the police said. All the six deaths are being probed by the Special Investigation, which filed its fourth chargesheet on Monday.

There is no specific law or order enabling the State government to prevent the making of a movie or a TV serial or to issue prohibitory orders, it was submitted.

## Techie stabs mother to death, escapes

## 33-year-old woman attacked her brother also

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

A 33-year-old software engineer allegedly stabbed her mother to death and then attacked her younger brother while they were sleeping in their house at K.R. Puram on Sunday. The police are yet to arrest Amrutha Chandrasekhar, but her brother, Harish, 31, who survived the at-

tack, told them that his sister mentioned being in some financial trouble before running out of the house.

Their mother Nirmala, 54, died on the spot. "She had multiple stab wounds and was also bludgeoned with an iron rod. Harish sustained deep cuts on his neck and hands," said a police source.

Amrutha is working in an IT company in the city. She lived with her mother and Harish, who is also a software engineer. Their father, Harish, 31, who survived the at-

ago. On Saturday, Amrutha told her family that she had been given a new role in Hyderabad and was planning to relocate. She urged her family to accompany her to Hyderabad for a quick visit. On Saturday, she booked their tickets for a Sunday morning flight.

"They had dinner together on Saturday night and went to bed early..." said a police officer. Around 4 a.m., Harish was woken up by some noise. He saw Amrutha look-

ing for something in his cupboard. When he asked her if she needed anything, she said she was busy packing for the trip.

Fifteen minutes later, she returned to the room with a knife and slashed his neck. "Harish jumped out of the bed and started calling his mother. Amrutha told him that she had killed their mother with the same knife. She told him that she had also used an iron rod, and was planning to kill him too," the police officer said.

## 400 CCTV cameras put up for jatara at Medaram

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MULUGU DT.

Police personnel in Telangana are gearing up to ensure smooth movement of devotees who arrive for the Sammakka Sarakka Jatara starting February 5.

The event, which is held every two years in the Medaram forest village in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district to honour the twin goddesses Sammakka and her daughter Sarakka, is the biggest tribal festival in Asia.

This year, the government is expecting a turnout of 1.2 crore devotees.

Making a presentation at the Pasara police station, Warangal City Police Commissioner and traffic in-charge for Medaram, V. Ravinder, has asked the officers to make sure that parking places are well lit at night and toilets and drinking water arrangements are sufficient. In case of breakdown of vehicles, they should be immediately cleared by cranes to prevent traffic congestion.

A group of senior officers has been tasked with monitoring the jatara and devotee movement through 400 CCTV cameras.

Private vehicles will be allowed to reach Medaram via Pasara while RTC buses and official vehicles would be allowed via Tadwai. There are designated parking lots for vehicles coming from Warangal, Karimnagar and Chhattisgarh.

District Collector R.V. Karnam and special officer V.P. Gautam inspected the special arrangements being made for the visit of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao on February 7 to Medaram. Senior officers of various government departments will meet every day around 9 a.m. to take stock of the situation.

## Cabinet aspirants band together in Karnataka

Chief Minister goes into damage control mode

## STAFF REPORTER

BENGALURU

Bharatiya Janata Party MLAs aspiring to become Ministers seem to have banded together and are learnt to have held a meeting to lobby for their inclusion. According to sources in the party, the meeting saw the participation of around 10 MLAs. MLA for Surpuri Raju Gowda told reporters that the legislators had indeed held a meeting and another one was planned.

Spooked by this, Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa spoke to most of the MLAs who attended the meeting over phone in an attempt to placate them, sources said.

He spoke to Mr. Raju Gowda, K. Shivanagouda Naik, G.H. Thippreddy, Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, Anand Mamani,



Raju Gowda

and Murugesu Nirani, and promised to rehabilitate them and consider them during the next Cabinet expansion.

Major Industries Minister Jagadish Shettar told presspersons in New Delhi on Monday that such lobbying and dissatisfaction was common among any ministerial expansion and there was no

crisis as such now. "The Chief Minister has spoken to most of the aspirants over phone. I also spoke to some of them and asked them to wait for their chance," he said.

He is also learnt to have held a meeting of strategists close to him and discussed with the State intelligence to take stock of the situation. "The MLAs who have come together seem to be more interested in their individual interests. With no force outside the party actively trying to pull down the government, the dissidence is unlikely to precipitate a crisis and is likely to blow over," one of the strategists said.

Mr. Raju Gowda has pitched for a ministry for Kalyana Karnataka region and Kalaburagi district.

## NIMHANS to help ITBP staff beat stress

'We reached out to those working in Dantewada & Mussoorie to assess their need'



We provide them a two-week training here in NIMHANS. However, we will continue providing them guidance through Virtual Knowledge Network after they get back too," he said.

The assessment for training began in 2017, he said, adding: "We reached out to people working in Dantewada and Mussoorie to understand their need. A special yoga programme has also been designed for them."

Several changes have been observed among the ITBP personnel since the introduction of mobile phones. "For instance, if someone's wife calls and complains of pain, the soldier is put under immense stress. That he will not be able to help the family member is one and whether there is so-

meone else to shoulder the responsibility is another," he said.

"During our interaction with the soldiers, we have learnt that they did not fear being caught in extreme conditions when they do their daily beat. But, what worries them is whether a chopper would even be able to reach them in case of an eventuality," he said.

**Science Day**  
To ignite young minds about concepts and research in mental and neurological health, NIMHANS will celebrate Science Day 2020 from February 12. The two-day event will showcase specific theme-based exhibition including display of developing brain, cognition and sleep and brain infections.

## Massive transfers of officers in Telangana indicate new focus

Those with proven track record get important portfolios

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

The transfer of over 50 bureaucrats in Telangana reflects the government's focus on streamlining the administration, especially such key departments as Finance and Education.

Coming soon after the municipal elections, the transfer is seen in official circles as an indication that effective governance and delivery of services to the last mile will get an impetus. Besides reshuffling senior IAS officers, who had held their portfolios for a few years now, the government has appointed new Collectors to 20 of the 31 districts.

Senior officials say the

transfer shows the "KTR mark" as several IAS officers of the 2014 and 2016 batches have been posted as municipal commissioners and additional commissioners in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. And, this is in line with Municipal Adminis-

tration Minister K.T. Rama Rao's stress on the need for young blood to streamline the local administration.

**Healthy mix**  
The transfer has resulted in an equal mix of senior and younger bureaucrats, with a proven record, getting important portfolios.

"More importantly, the postings show how the Chief Minister chose to ensure a

healthy mix of seniors and juniors for smooth governance in the next four years," a senior official said.

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is learnt to have spent over four hours last week fine-tuning the list so that those with sufficient experience are given key posts. The transfer of Education Department Secretary B. Janardhan Reddy as Agriculture Secretary, for instance, is being seen as a measure to underscore the priority given to the sector.

When Mr. Janardhan Reddy had been with the Agriculture Department in the past, he launched reforms to strengthen markets and welfare measures.

## Police question students in Bidar school for fourth time

This will affect children in the long run: school authorities

## STAFF REPORTER

BIDAR

Policemen in plain clothes visited Shaheen School in Karnataka's Bidar district again on Monday and interrogated the students, for the fourth time, as part of the investigation into the sedition case against the school authorities for staging a play in which some characters allegedly insulted Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

According to eyewitnesses, four policemen, along with two female members of the Child Welfare Committee, reached the school around 10.30 a.m. and questioned the teaching and non-teaching staff. By 12.30 p.m., Deputy Superintendent of Police Basaveshwara Hira joined the team and began questioning seven students. Some of them were not part of the play. The questioning lasted for two hours.

Some school children had staged the play during the annual day celebrations on January 21 on the theme of Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the National Regis-

ter of Citizens. A character said she would beat anyone asking for documents during NRC with footwear. Other children too were heard saying that they would not show the documents to prove citizenship. On a complaint by Neelash Rakshya, an activist, the police filed an FIR.

On January 30, the police arrested Nazbunisa, mother of the child who delivered the dialogues, and Fareeda Begum, the teacher who supervised the play, based on the child's statements.

It is learnt that on Monday, the investigating officers repeated the questions asked during the previous interrogations, such as who gave them the script.

"I cannot understand why the police are repeatedly subjecting the children to mental torture. The harassment will affect them in the long run," Tauseef Madikeri, CEO of Shaheen Group of Institutions, said. Mr. Hira told *The Hindu* that it was not interrogation, but examination of witnesses.

"They had dinner together on Saturday night and went to bed early..." said a police officer.

Around 4 a.m., Harish was woken up by some noise. He saw Amrutha look-

ing for something in his cupboard. When he asked her if she needed anything, she said she was busy packing for the trip.

Fifteen minutes later, she returned to the room with a knife and slashed his neck. "Harish jumped out of the bed and started calling his mother. Amrutha told him that she had killed their mother with the same knife. She told him that she had also used an iron rod, and was planning to kill him too," the police officer said.



Scientists in the making: Visitors taking a look at the exhibits at a space exhibition held as part of the Vikram Sarabhai Centenary Programme at the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in Malampuzha, Kerala, on Monday. ■ K.K. MUSTAFAH

NIMHANS Registrar K. Sekar, who also heads the Centre for Disaster Management, said the institute had started the training following a proposal from ITBP. "We are training the education and counselling staff from ITBP in batches, who will in turn go back and help/counsel the troops working under acute pressure in some of the toughest combat zones of the country," he said.

## IN BRIEF



Perarivalan seeks action against Raj Bhavan PIO

CHENNAI  
A.G. Perarivalan, a life convict in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, has moved the Tamil Nadu Information Commission seeking disciplinary action against the Public Information Officer of the Raj Bhavan for "deliberately" not furnishing information sought under the RTI Act.

## NCC is an investment in nation building, says Bedi

PUDUCHERRY  
Paying encomiums to National Cadet Corps for its role in nation building, Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi on Monday said, "NCC is the national investment to build the nation." Interacting at the Raj Niwas with NCC cadets from Puducherry, she said the NCC played a role in developing leadership quality.

## Woman set ablaze by stalker in Wardha

WARDHA  
A 25-year-old college teacher was set ablaze by her stalker on Monday in Maharashtra's Wardha district. The victim, Ankita Pisudhe, suffered 40% burn and inhalation injuries, a Wardha police official said, adding that the woman was admitted to a hospital in Nagpur and was in a critical condition. PTI

## 1,700 kg of marijuana seized in Odisha

BERHAMPUR  
The Odisha police on Monday seized over 1,700 kg of marijuana from a mini-truck in the Digapahandi area in Ganjam. The contraband was being smuggled from Paralakhemundi in Gajapati district to Puri. The vehicle driver, Biswaranjan Biswal of Balakati near Bhubaneswar, was arrested.

## Most missing women from Maharashtra, M.P.

States record highest number of missing children and women cases in 2016, 2017 and 2018

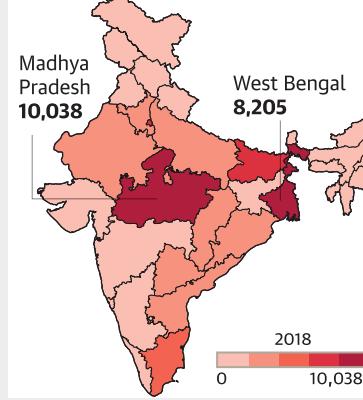
VIJAYA SINGH  
NEW DELHI

The highest number of women and children who go missing in the country are from Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh respectively, according to a study by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). The two States recorded the highest number of cases of missing children and women among all other States in the years 2016, 2017 and 2018.

In 2019, the Supreme Court had directed the NCRB to "analyse the data on missing persons [especially on women and children], so that areas prone to persons being trafficked can be identified". The NCRB study was based on the annual Crime in India Report compiled by

## Yet to be found

In 2018, most number of missing children were reported from Madhya Pradesh (10,038), followed by West Bengal (8,205). In the same year, most number of missing women were reported from Maharashtra, followed by West Bengal. The map shows the number of missing children by State:



## STATES WITH THE MOST NUMBER OF MISSING WOMEN:

Maharashtra	33,964
West Bengal	31,299
Madhya Pradesh	29,761
Delhi	13,272
Rajasthan	12,525

2016, as many as 28,316 women went missing in Maharashtra, followed by 29,279 in 2017, and 33,964 in 2018.

In West Bengal, the number of missing women in 2016, 2017 and 2018 was 24,937, 28,133 and 31,299, respectively. Madhya Pradesh recorded 21,435, 26,587 and 29,761 missing reports of women in the three years.

In 2016-18, a total of 63,407, 63,349 and 67,134 children were reported missing across the country. The maximum number of missing reports were recorded in Maharashtra and West Bengal in 2016, 2017 and 2018. The study said that in Madhya Pradesh, Indore reported the highest number of missing children, with 596 in 2017 and 823 in 2018.

## Borewell deaths: SC seeks response from Centre, States

Authorities are negligent about safety measures, says plea

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday sought a response from the Centre and States on measures taken to prevent children from falling into abandoned or open borewells.

A Bench led by Justice Arun Mishra issued notice on a petition filed by advocate G.S. Mani seeking the court to ask the governments at the State and Central levels to file a report on the action taken against errant officials whose neglect led to the tragic deaths of children trapped in borewells. Mr. Mani's petition



Court directions in 2010. He annexed several news reports of borewell deaths in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra over the years.

## Deplorable negligence

The petition said the deplorable negligence which led to the death of the two-year-old in Tiruchi brings to the forefront dangers of abandoned and open borewells.

He contended that the Tamil Nadu government had failed to take any precautionary measure despite the court directions nine years ago. There was a total failure, Mr. Mani said.

was filed in October last year in the wake of the death of two-year-old Sujith Wilson after he got trapped in an abandoned borewell in Tiruchi in Tamil Nadu.

Mr. Mani said authorities remain negligent about safety measures concerning borewells despite Supreme

court directions in 2010. He annexed several news reports of borewell deaths in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra over the years.

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## Five sentenced to life in Ayanavaram abuse case

Court holds in camera proceedings

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

A special court on Monday sentenced five sexual offenders to life imprisonment after they were convicted on charges of grave offences, including aggravated penetrative sexual assault, on an 11-year-old girl with hearing impairment at an apartment complex in Ayanavaram in 2018.

Four of them – Ravikumar, 58, a lift operator; Suresh, 34, plumber; Abishek, 25; and Palani, 42, a security staff – will have to undergo imprisonment for the remainder of their natural life, or until death, while Rajasekar, 42, a housekeeping staff, has been sentenced to life imprisonment. On Saturday, the special court convicted 15 of the 17 offenders. P. Gunasekaran was let off and another died during the trial.

## Tight security

Amid tight security, the convicts were brought to the court complex located in the Madras High Court premises on Monday. R.N. Manjula, special judge for exclusive trial of cases under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, held in camera proceedings and pronounced sentences on the convicts in the presence of the special public prosecutor and defence counsel.

## If tap water meets BIS norms, RO systems will be banned

Proposed regulation is not the final word and the Environment Ministry will await comments from the public for 30 days

JACOB KOSHY

NEW DELHI  
The Union Environment Ministry has published a draft notification that effectively prohibits users from installing membrane-based water purification, mainly reverse osmosis, systems in their homes if the water has been sourced from a supply that meets the Bureau of Indian Standards' (BIS) drinking water norms.

"Installation or use of MWPS [Membrane-based Water Purification System]

shall be prohibited, at the point of use or at the point of entry for purification of supplied water which is subjected to conventional flocculation, filtration and disinfection process or is from any sources which are in compliance with acceptable limit for drinking water prescribed by Bureau of Indian Standard 10500:2012," the Ministry said in the notification, made public on Monday.

The proposed regulation is not the final word and the

Ministry will await comments from the public for 30 days, after which it may incorporate the changes before it becomes law.

The Delhi Jal Board, among others, claims that the water it supplies meets BIS norms.

## NGT order

The Ministry has issued this order to comply with an order of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), which has prohibited the use of reverse osmosis (RO) purifiers in

places where total dissolved solids (TDS) in the supplied water are below 500 mg per litre.

The Water Quality Association of India, which represents companies that make RO systems, had moved the Supreme Court for a stay of the NGT's order.

The SC declined to intervene and the NGT had directed the Environment Ministry to issue a notification that restricted the use of water filters. The NGT had ordered a ban on RO filters on the

grounds that they wasted water and that, in the process of removing salts, they often deprived drinking water of essential salts.

RO, while useful in reducing salts, does not tackle bacterial agents or trace chemicals, and manufacturers often claim that additional filtration is required to deliver potable water.

"This is a work in progress... users will not be prosecuted for installing RO systems," Jigmet Takpa, Joint Secretary, Union Environ-

ment Ministry, told the *Hindu*. "However, this is part of a significant change we are implementing to regulate RO manufacturers and inform consumers that RO systems aren't needed always," he added.

## Current regulations

Current BIS regulations consider 500 mg/litre–1,200 mg/l of total dissolved solids, which consists of salts and some organic matter, as acceptable though there is no lower limit.

## ED attaches assets in Rose Valley scam

Total attachment stands at ₹4,750 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI  
The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth ₹70.11 crore, including the bank accounts of Multiple Resorts, St. Xavier's College (Kolkata) and Knight Riders Sports Private Limited, in connection with the Rose Valley Group ponzi scam. The total attachment in the case now stands at ₹4,750 crore.

The bank accounts of Multiple Resorts, St. Xavier's College and Knight Riders Sports – attached under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act – have an overall balance of ₹16.20 cr.

ice against the Rose Valley Group of companies and others. It is alleged that the companies fraudulently collected deposits of more than ₹17,520 crore from the public with the intention to cheat them by falsely promising high returns on their investment.

An amount of ₹10,850 crore was repaid, but the remaining still remains outstanding. The group diverted and siphoned off the funds.

Earlier, the ED had identified and attached properties having a tentative market value of about ₹4,680 crore.

It had arrested the group's promoter, Gautam Kundu, in March 2015. He is still in judicial custody.

Multiple Resorts, St. Xavier's and Knight Riders have a bank balance of ₹16.20 cr.

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## TENDER NOTICE

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (Open Tender): CORRIGENDUM 1. Expression of Interest from Construction PSU's for Execution of Civil & Structural Works Including Major/Minor Additions, Alterations and Repairs at Various Projects Clause (2C & 2D of EOI). Please visit below mentioned site for further clarifications

Notes for above tenders: 1) EMD for each tender should be submitted along with Techno Commercial Bid. 2) For further details regarding viz: quantities, Tender Fees, EMD etc. for above Tender Notice visit our web site: [www.midhani-india.in](http://www.midhani-india.in) 3) ANY CORRIGENDUM / CHANGES WILL BE UPLOADED ON MIDHANI WEB SITE ONLY. 4) Due Dates: As per Tender documents.

## TENDER NOTICE

MISHRA DHATU NIGAM LIMITED (A Govt. of India Enterprise) (A Mini Ratna-1 Company) PO: Kanchanbagh, Hyderabad – 500 058 Telangana State Phone No. 040-24340001,(10 lines) Fax : 040-24340764 & 24340214

Addl. G M (Purchase & Stores)

## TENDER NOTICE

Visit [www.edtenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.edtenders.kerala.gov.in) for Online Submission of Bids for Supply of Track Shoe Assembly For BEML Make BE240, Spare for Zaxis450 Hydraulic Excavator, Arm cylinder Assembly for Zaxis 450 Excavator, Bucket Cylinder Assembly for Zaxis Excavator, Boom Cylinder Assembly for Zaxis 450 Hydraulic Excavator, Wear plate for Coder ESP Duct, Cartridge type bag filter and II Chamber Shell Liner Plates. Supply of Unlaminated Polypropylene Woven Bags (non gusseted type) for PPC/OPC for MCL Walaya Micro Perfected Block Bottom PP bags with BOPP Lamination for MCL CGU-Alappuzha Undertaking Contract Work of Silo Extraction and Allied works at CGU-Alappuzha. Hiring of Excavator Bottom Dump/Front End Shovel Type-Mines, Supply of Imported Coal RBL type, Consultancy Services for Preparation of Techno Economic Feasibility study report for setting up of Cement Grinding Unit at Kannur, Supply 3000MT Clinker on FOR CGU, Cherthala or CFR Cochin ports.

Visit [www.malabargements.co.in](http://malabargements.co.in) for submission of tenders for regular Engineering Items & Services.

## NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No Material Description Due Date  
192023 Bleached Chemi Thermo Mechanical Pulp 18.02.2020  
002458 Hardwood 80 (Qty: 200 ADMT±5%)  
Terms & Conditions, Qty., Tender Fee, EMD, etc. are available in tender document at our website: [www.tnpl.com](http://www.tnpl.com) / [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in)

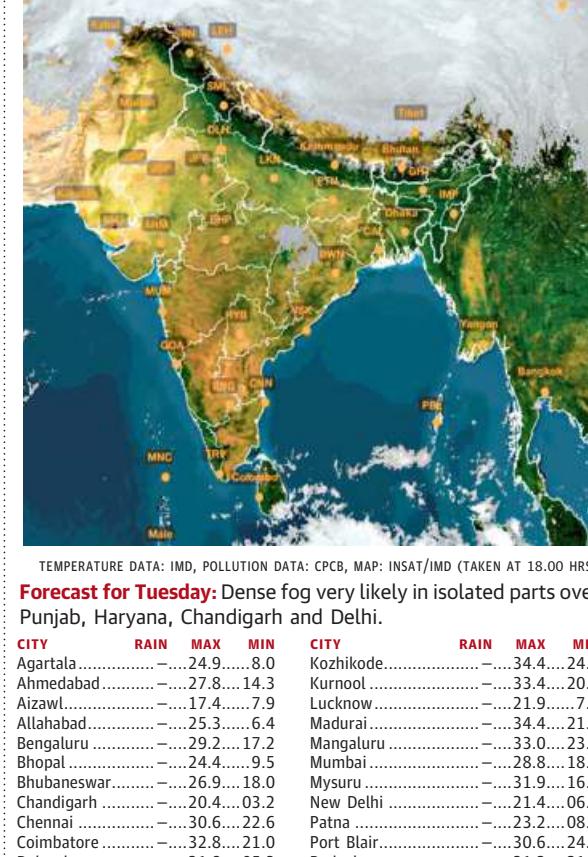
DIPR/ 675 /Tender/2020

## NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND NEURO SCIENCES, (Institute of National Importance) BANGALORE-560029 (ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT) Ph:080-26995215 Ref. No: NIMH/ENG/EE/2562/2019-20 Date: 01.02.2020 QUOTATION CUM AUCTION NOTIFICATION Sealed quotations are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Director, NIMHANS, Bangalore for Demolition of Lakshmi Mittal Rest Home and Family Psychiatry ward in NIMHANS campus "ON AS IS WHERE IS BASIS". Quotations form will be issued from 11.02.2020 to 13.02.2020 upto 3:00 p.m. The cost of quotation form is Rs. 5,000/- + GST (Rupees Five Thousand + GST only) non-refundable. Sealed quotations will be received upto 3:00 p.m. on 17.02.2020, and quotations will be opened on the same day at 3:30 p.m. if possible in the presence of the quotators. The auction will be conducted after opening of quotation based on highest bid amount among qualified quotators. The quotator should enclose the EMD of Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One lakh only) in the form of DD/PO/BC drawn in favour of the Director, NIMHANS, Bangalore otherwise quotation will not be considered. Above two demolition buildings can be inspected in consultation of Engineer-in-charge during the working hours. The successful quotator/bidder shall have to pay the bid amount within three days from the date of intimation from this office. Any other details can be had from this office. For information, Please visit NIMHANS website: [www.nimhans.ac.in](http://www.nimhans.ac.in) Sd/-, Executive Engineer

## WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD; POLLUTION DATA: CPCB; MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

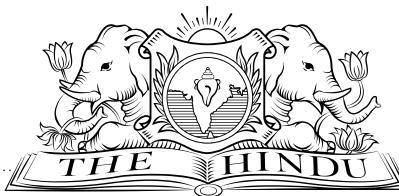
Forecast for Tuesday: Dense fog very likely in isolated parts over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi.

CITY RAIN MAX MIN CITY RAIN MAX MIN

Agartala ..... 24.9 ..... 8.0 Kozhikode ..... 34.4 ..... 24.4

Ahmedabad ..... 27.8 ..... 14.3 Kurnool ..... 33.4 ..... 20.9

Aizawl ..... 17.4 ..... 7.7 Lucknow ..... 21.9 ..... 7



## Camel in the tent

Allowing district hospitals to be attached to private medical colleges is problematic

**A**s the Centre pushes to attach medical colleges to existing district hospitals in the public-private partnership (PPP) mode, to ostensibly address the shortage of doctors in the country, the question is: does it understand the nature of the camel that it is planning to allow into the tent? Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in the Union Budget speech, introduced the proposal and stated that those States that fully allow the facilities of the hospital to the medical college and wish to provide land at a concession would be eligible for viability gap funding. Several details are already available in the public domain, as part of the plan, first proposed by NITI Aayog. It argues that it is practically not possible for Central and State governments to bridge the gaps in medical education with their limited resources and finances, necessitating the formation of a PPP model, "combining the strengths of both sectors". This would augment the number of medical seats available and moderate the costs of medical education. Experts have argued that the NITI Aayog has not given sufficient play to the role of the district hospital as the pivot of primary health care in every State. Allowing private parties to "operate and maintain the district hospital and provide healthcare services" could seriously dent public health services. It is problematic that the NITI Aayog envisages the creation of "free" patients versus others, because this will create a new category of have-nots. A working draft of the concessionaire agreement indicates that the private firm "can demand, collect and appropriate hospital charges from patients". There is understandable opposition to the scheme in States such as Tamil Nadu that have a robust public health-care system, and a medical college in nearly every district. These States are naturally loath to turning over a key unit in their health-care network, which is running reasonably efficiently, to the private sector motivated by profit rather than public interest.

Ultimately, eternal vigil will be the price of going for this new mode. While creating quality medical professionals for the country should definitely be on any government's to-do list, destabilising people's access to affordable public health services, will be disastrous. Viability gap funding is provided for projects that the government does not find commercially viable because of long gestation periods, and relatively minor revenue flows, and involves PPP, but this instant situation calls for pause: health fits square in the State's welfare role. The government must consider raising health-care spending beyond the usual under 2% of GDP, and ensure more resources are available to provide free, quality health care to all. If it does stay on its path of giving the private sector some control over district hospitals, it will do well to be wary of the camel in the tent.

## More of the same

Australian Open men's event saw no surprise; the women's draw threw up a new champion

**N**o player and tournament have been synonymous with each other quite like Rafael Nadal and Roland Garros. Novak Djokovic winning the Australian Open now seems equally ironclad. The Serb, on Sunday, captured his eighth title in Melbourne and 17th Grand Slam overall following a nearly four-hour, five-set duel with an inspired Dominic Thiem. The 32-year-old is just three Majors shy of Roger Federer in the all-time count. The victory did not come easy; in the 26-year-old Austrian, who had earlier beaten Nadal in the quarter-final, Djokovic had the most formidable of challengers from the sport's next generation. When Djokovic plays his two biggest rivals, Nadal and Federer, he gives the impression of a man who knows their games like the back of his hand. No wonder the two have not managed to beat Djokovic at a Major since 2014. But against players from a rung below, Djokovic has increasingly looked shaky. In fact, coming into Sunday's final, he had lost four of his last five matches with Thiem, including the last two meetings at Slams. During the contest, there were lapses galore, both physical and mental, as he struggled to apply his customary stranglehold. Yet, such was his resilience that despite the post-match admission of him being a nervous wreck through the tussle, Djokovic rose from the dead the same way he had in the 2019 Wimbledon final against Federer.

Even as the triumph leaves the state of men's tennis unaltered – Djokovic, Nadal and Federer have swept the last 13 Majors and currently occupy the top three ranking positions – it is clear that the Thiem-led mid-card, which includes Alexander Zverev, Daniil Medvedev and Stefanos Tsitsipas, is snapping at the heels of the leaders with ever more vigour. Thiem, fourth in the world, appears best-placed to succeed, having held his own against both Nadal and Djokovic, and beaten Federer all three times they met last year. Clay is a surface on which Thiem is a natural and the upcoming season on the red dirt is sure to provide sufficient cues. The churn in the women's section, however, is in an accentuated state with American Sofia Kenin, a counter-puncher blessed with magical hands, becoming the eighth first-time champion from the last 12 Grand Slam events. Once the semi-final line-up was completed, it appeared that the often capricious ladies' game had finally settled with three former Major winners in the fray. But space was carved out for yet another new champion, as the tenacious Kenin, 21, felled in succession, Ashleigh Barty, the reigning French Open champion, and Garbiñe Muguruza, a two-time Major winner, to become the youngest Australian Open champion since Maria Sharapova in 2008.

# Towards cooperative federalism

Not every State-Union disagreement is the same and the Union must develop newer conventions to foster cooperation



AYMEN MOHAMMED &  
MALAVIKA PRASAD

mand evidence of their citizenship. The rules also permit any person to object to the inclusion of a name in the draft register. This is not a case of weaponising citizenship; it is weaponising citizens against one another. The human cost of such an exercise will be immeasurable.

#### Constitutional governance

State governments have sufficient grounds to be concerned about the validity of the NPR. However, they are not empowered to hold the Union down to its obligations under the Constitution. The drafters of the Constitution were more anxious to give the Union Government the power to bring errant States in line with the Constitution. For example, Article 355 enjoins the Union to "... ensure that the government of every State is carried on in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution". Acting under its fiduciary duty towards the Constitution and the people of the State, the Union may also temporarily, and for restoring constitutional governance in a State, declare President's rule in the State under Article 356.

No equivalent power rests in the hands of States to hold the Union Government to the Constitution. When State governments raised concerns about the NPR, the Union insisted that States are under a constitutional duty to implement laws passed by Parliament – a position that a superficial reading of the Constitution may support. A duty to obey all laws passed by Parliament is premised on an un-



bridled deference to the Union Government to correctly understand and implement the Constitution while passing laws. However, nowhere in the Constitution is there any suggestion that the Union has the final say as to what is "constitutional".

Government is a human enterprise. It is wholly possible that a government may work the Constitution impermissibly, which Dr. B.R. Ambedkar reckoned with in saying "however good a Constitution may be, it is sure to turn out bad because those who are called to work it happen to be a bad lot". One safeguard against bad actors lies in the oath. All constitutional actors – State and Union legislators, State and Union governments and judges in the higher judiciary – are duty-bound to "bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India" by way of their oath.

The oath of constitutional functionaries of States is to be understood in light of Article 1 of the Constitution, which locates India's identity as a "Union of States". Therefore, States, and by extension their legislatures and governments, are indispensable to work-

ing the Constitution of India. As the Supreme Court of India recognised in the landmark S.R. Bommai judgment, States are not mere "appendages" of the Centre. After all, what sets Union Territories apart from States is the exclusive and distinct legislative and administrative competences of the States, to be acted on through their three organs of government. Thus, they cannot be reduced to mere administrative agencies entrusted with enforcing Parliament's laws without any application of mind.

Among the exclusively delineated areas of legislative and executive competence of States is the power and responsibility of public order and police. The NPR-NRC exercise is likely to place an undue burden on every single citizen of India. Compelling the most marginalised Indians to prove their citizenship under an arbitrary and obscure process is likely to cause widespread challenges to law and order. The Union, in compelling States to implement the NPR by ignoring the widespread dissent against it will be interfering with these exclusive powers of States. States, therefore, are entitled to more deference than mere reminders of their duty to obey Central laws.

#### Restricting cooperation

This is not to say that States have a "right to defy" the Union. The Constitution bars States from "impeding" the Union's work and rightly requires them to comply with central laws. However, consti-

tutional functionaries in States cannot be compelled to defy their oaths and enforce laws that are contrary to their good faith interpretation of the Constitution.

In abiding by their oaths, States may require the Union to find a constitutional way to fulfil its purported objective, by withholding cooperation in a federal scheme. New institutional norms can play an important role on this front. India is not the first democracy that has seen States restrict cooperation to the federal government on contentious issues.

In the United States, States and cities have limited their cooperation on federal anti-immigration policies and anti-gun ownership legislation. In contrast, there are also examples of countries that have strengthened federalism by actively including the provinces or states in national policy. For example, immigration laws in Australia and Canada empower provinces to nominate immigrants seeking to settle within their territory.

In these examples, there is a lesson for India. The Union government can include States in how decisions are made and enforced, or it can depend on archaic emergency provisions to enforce its will. Not every disagreement between States and the Union is the same, and the Union must develop newer conventions to settle within their territory.

**Aymen Mohammed and Malavika Prasad** are lawyers and doctoral candidates at the National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR) University of Law

# What Brexit means for the EU and its partners

It does not affect the core of the European Union; the EU project will be taken forward by the 27 Member States



JOSEP BORRELL FONTELLES &  
MICHEL BARNIER

**O**n January 31, 2020, the United Kingdom left the European Union. We lost a member of our family. It was a sad moment for us, for European citizens – and, indeed, for many British citizens.

Nevertheless, we have always respected the sovereign decision of 52% of the British electorate, and we now look forward to starting a new chapter in our relations.

#### A structured exit

Emotions aside, February 1 turned out to be historic but also undramatic. This is largely thanks to the Withdrawal Agreement that we negotiated with the U.K., which enabled us to secure "an orderly Brexit". One that, at least for now, minimises disruption for our citizens, businesses, public adminis-

trations, as well as for our international partners.

Under this agreement, the EU and the U.K. agreed on a transition period, until the end of 2020 at least, during which the U.K. will continue to participate in the EU's Customs Union and in the Single Market, and to apply EU law, even if it is no longer a Member State. During this period, the U.K. will also continue to abide by the international agreements of the EU, as we made clear in a note verbale to our international partners.

#### Element of continuity

So, with the transition period in place, there is a degree of continuity. This was not easy given the magnitude of the task. By leaving the Union, the U.K. automatically, mechanically, legally, leaves hundreds of international agreements concluded by or on behalf of the Union, to the benefit of its Member States, on topics as different as trade, aviation, fisheries or civil nuclear cooperation.

We now have to build a new partnership between the EU and the U.K. That work will start in a few weeks as soon as the EU 27



Member States have approved the negotiating mandate proposed by the European Commission, setting out our terms and ambitions for achieving the closest possible partnership with a country which will remain our ally, our partner and our friend.

#### Shared and deep links

The EU and the U.K. are bound by history, by geography, culture, shared values and principles and a strong belief in rules-based multilateralism. Our future partnership will reflect these links and shared beliefs. We want to go well beyond trade and keep working together on security and defence, areas where the U.K. has experiences and assets that are best used as

part of a common effort. In a world of big challenges and change, of turmoil and transition, we must consult each other and cooperate, bilaterally and in key regional and global fora, such as the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or the G20.

It is perhaps a cliché but the basic truth is that today's global challenges – from climate change, to cybercrime, terrorism or inequality – require collective responses. The more the U.K. is able to work in lockstep with the EU and together with partners around the world, the greater our chances of addressing these challenges effectively.

At the very core of the EU project is the idea that we are stronger together; that pooling our resources and initiatives is the best way of achieving common goals. Brexit does not change this, and we will continue to take this project forward as 27.

Together, the 27 Member States will continue to form a single market of 450 million citizens and more than 20 million businesses.

Together, we remain the largest trading bloc in the world. Together, at 27, we are still the world's largest development aid donor.

Our partners can be sure that we will stay true to an ambitious, outward-looking agenda – be it on trade and investment, on climate action and digital, on connectivity, on security and counter-terrorism, on human rights and democracy, or on defence and foreign policy.

We will continue to live up to our commitments. We will continue to stand by the agreements that link us to our international partners and we will continue to develop multilateral cooperation frameworks around the world.

The European Union will continue to be a partner you can trust. A steadfast defender of rules-based multilateralism, working with our partners to make the world more secure and fair.

**Josep Borrell Fontelles** is High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission. **Michel Barnier** is Head of Task Force for Relations with the United Kingdom

## 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.

#### No Budget boost

Indian masses, facing high inflation as well as alarming unemployment rates, had pinned high hopes on the Budget, but the annual exercise has let them down. Going through the Budget, one would not get the slightest sense of what the government plans to do to control unemployment. The Finance Minister also did not announce any rise in allocation to the two big flagship schemes – the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and PM-KISAN – that have the potential to boost rural incomes. The MGNREGS, in fact, saw a 13% drop in allocation when compared to the Revised Estimates. The impact of personal tax rate revision may be limited, given the withdrawal of exemptions. Besides, a small percentage of the taxpaying population is unlikely to make a serious enough dent on the fortunes of the entire economy. Revised fiscal deficit in the current year is 3.8% of GDP and the Budget estimate for 2020-21 is 3.5%. If a fiscal deficit of 3.8% could not prevent the economy from slowing down, reducing it will only aggravate the slowdown. To sum up, there was no measure to create wealth in

the Budget, nor was there anything to generate an atmosphere of trust.

S.K. KHOSLA,  
Chandigarh

**Neglect of social sector**

With the social sector being neglected in this year's Budget as well, a revival of the economy is a far cry. The core sectors of education, health care, nutrition and rural employment are being ignored in Budgets year after year to such an extent that it can now be said beyond a reasonable doubt that the government functions not for the vast majority of the population but for a select few in the corporate sector. The emptiness of the marathon Budget speech was tangible. The people of the great country are suffering due to lack of sufficient economic vision and, in the meantime, the ruling party is subjecting them to worthless exercises like the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA).

G.B. SIVANANDAM,  
Coimbatore

**Selling stakes in LIC**

The Budget had but one item of note, the government's intention to sell its stakes in LIC. This is a step that marks in purple the complete surrender of this government to the challenges of reviving a

neglected economy. The tax revisions were as bad. They would encourage the newly employed youth to spend more while dismayng the middle-aged, whose thrift is not only getting ignored but now being frowned upon. The handsome household savings that wrote the growth story in the 1990s will no longer play an active role in an already moribund economy.

R.NARAYANAN,  
Navi Mumbai

**Spirit of Shaheen Bagh**

What started off as peaceful protests at Shaheen Bagh against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, mostly by women, are now being used as a tool by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to consolidate the majority community's vote. Moreover, children are needlessly getting dragged into the issue. Hence, it could be in the protesters' interests to halt the demonstrations for now (Op-Ed page, "It's time for the Shaheen Bagh protests to end," Feb. 3). It is to be noted that had the Supreme Court ordered a stay on the CAA, the protests would have ended by now.

N. NAGARAJAN,  
Secunderabad

**It is the right time for the organiser**

s of Shaheen Bagh to call them off forthwith as the time factor is defeating its very purpose. The prolonged blocking of roads, instead of gaining more sympathisers, could be infusing more hostility among the local population. Any protest movement should be a time-bound one and it loses its appeal if it gets stretched beyond a limited time. The historic movement has served its purpose by drawing attention at national as well as international levels. But it is unfortunately now also serving the cause of the BJP.

A.G. RAJMOHAN,  
Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh

■ It would be a mistake to conflate Shaheen Bagh protests with the Delhi election. The valiant women at Shaheen Bagh never picked with any election in their mind. Their sole objective was to display a rejection of the discriminatory CAA-NRC mechanism. They left their homes in national interest to defend India's cherished Constitution, with bare and limited resources. Wrapping up the protests at this juncture would only serve the goals of communal elements and show that their threats and intimidation tactics have been successful. It would also create an adverse ripple effect as more than 75 sit-ins across the

country have taken inspiration from the movement. True, the protests have caused some inconvenience to the common public. But when democracy is under maintenance, temporary discomfort is not just acceptable, it could also be desirable.

MOHAMMAD SHAH FAHAD,  
Patna, Bihar

**Saving the Constitution**

It was heart-warming to hear Parliament reverberate with chants of "Save India, Save the Constitution" when 'star speakers' Anurag Thakur and Parvesh Verma spoke. Courtesy the BJP, the phrase *goli maaro* has made it to the Indian political lexicon, though what is patriotic or valorous about 'shooting down' compatriots in the name of religion defies understanding. It is gladdening that the tenacious anti-CAA protesters have elicited a response from Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad that the government is ready for talks with the protesters. Still, noises made by desperate hardliners in the Sangh Parivar illuminate their hostility towards the protesters. Prakash Javadekar has called Arvind Kejriwal a 'terrorist', just like Parvesh Verma did earlier. The use of symbols like the national flag, photos of

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Mahatma Gandhi and the recitation of the Preamble to the Constitution by the protesters have thwarted the BJP's attempts to brand them as 'anti-national'. The BJP is showing a pusillanimous reluctance to fight the Delhi election on real issues. Hate speeches by its members are also exposing the true face of Hindutva.

G. DAVID MILTON,  
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

**Drones to tackle locusts**

Prescribing a rule of thumb to legitimise the use of drones for spraying chemicals could be counterproductive ("Crop dusting with drones is illegal, says Centre," Feb. 1). Instead, decisions should be taken on a case-to-case basis, depending on factors like the scale and magnitude of the menace and the lack of availability of effective alternative solutions. Very recently, to combat the invasion of locusts, ultra-high-tech drones were used over large tracts in Sri Ganganagar district of Rajasthan, which wiped out about six lakh insects at one go. Every other measure had fallen flat and failed to put a check on their rapidly expanding geographical coverage.

Ds. ANUPAM BHARGAVA,  
Udaipur, Rajasthan

# Non-violence as an art of resistance

A non-violent imagination ought to see beyond militaristic nationalism and religious fundamentalism



AVIJIT PATHAK

As I write this piece, I know that my longing for non-violence would be regarded as ridiculous or an impossible proposition by many. It is not surprising. Living in contemporary India – a society characterised by toxic nationalism, triumphant majoritarianism, heightened socioeconomic inequality, and simultaneous ethical-political impoverishment – is like breathing violence everywhere. From brute/physical violence to psychic/symbolic aggression, the psychology of sadomasochism seems to have invaded our consciousness. What is really frightening is that we have almost normalised the everydayness of violence – the recurrence of rape and absolute objectification of women; the celebration of police encounters and the militarisation of the consciousness; the toxic/inflammatory speeches by Ministers and the invasion of university spaces by sponsored goons; and above all, the castigation of all dissenters and its vulgar celebration by noisy television channels.

Yet, at the finest moment of contemplation, some of us realise that our sociopolitical and psychic salvation lies in non-violence. However, in this dystopian age, a cynic might say that it is not possible to be convinced of non-violence and activate its therapeutic power.

#### The appeal of violence

Before we find an authentic answer to this question, it is important to acknowledge that despite the illuminating presence of the likes of Buddha and Mahavira, Namak and Kabir, or Gandhi and Tagore in the civilisational landscape, the instinct of violence continues to have tremendous appeal to the average person's consciousness. First, it tempts us because it activates and nurtures our egos; in fact, the devastating wars that have taken place in the name of the 'glory' of the nation reveal our collective and cumulative egos. Moreover, this egotistic pride is often celebrated as a hyper-masculine attri-



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bute of bravery. From militarism to aggressive/hyper-competitive sports carnivals, we see the sanctification of this sort of violence.

Second, it excites the surface personality; it stimulates brute instincts, and leads to some sort of catharsis or immediate instinctual gratification. In recent times, we are seeing this sort of violence in the form of mob lynching or communal frenzy.

Third, it is appealing because it does not demand the honest labour of self-reflection. Instead, we are led to believe that the problem lies necessarily always outside, and hence the annihilation of the 'enemy' out there is seen to be the only way to our redemption. In fact, the prevalent majoritarian nationalism sustains itself through this negative logic of the 'enemy', be it Pakistan or a bunch of 'urban Naxals'. The stimulation of war is what explains its mass appeal. Fourth, it satisfies the urge to find quick 'solutions'. This sort of 'surgical' orientation is seen in the nihilistic play of 'suicide bombers', or even in the supposedly 'revolutionary' guerrilla warfare. And fifth, it encourages one's sadistic thrill of being seen as 'superior' to others. This violence in the name of hierarchy or asymmetrical distribution of cultural/economic capital is seen in the cycle of caste war, racial discrimination and class conflict.

Yes, violence surrounds us, and we do not seem to be very kind to those who plead for non-violence. Jesus was crucified; Gandhi was assassinated; and John Lennon was killed. Moreover, we should not forget that the discourse of 'progress' and 'development' modern societies cherish is inherently violent. While technoscience, with its reckless urge to ma-

nipulate and conquer nature, causes environmental violence, and promotes instrumental reasoning, the self-seeking consumer striving for a mythical notion of 'good living' is reducing life into a war zone – a site of neurotic social Darwinism. In other words, we are caught into the very logic of structural violence.

#### Hearing the existential call

However, there are moments when we hear the existential call: to live is to rebel; and to rebel is to love and heal the wound. The fate of non-violence as an art of resistance, a mode of living, or a politico-spiritual pursuit would depend on our willingness to understand the meaning of this existential quest. Yes, even amid the all-pervading darkness, we see the traces of light. For instance, when the violence of 'development' is seen as 'desirable', Medha Patkar's *jal satyagraha* appears as the light of illumination. Or when the ruling regime remains intoxicated with power, Shaheen Bagh begins to look like a zone of possibilities – women filled with qualities like endurance, moral strength and non-violence, are revealing the immorality of the mighty state. And even when young students evolve the new aesthetics of resistance, and reveal the elasticity of consciousness by engaging with Marx as well as Gandhi, or Ambedkar as well as Bhagat Singh, we see the spark of non-violence.

The question is whether this potential can be unfolded further, and we can move towards non-violence as a mode of living, politics, culture, economy and education. To begin with, it has to be realised that to move towards non-violence is to move towards the spirit of non-pos-

sessiveness. Because it is the urge to accumulate wealth and power that intensifies one's ego, and causes a broken relationship with others. Likewise, to practise non-violence is to sharpen the power of empathy, and cultivate the art of listening. The spirit of dialogue or the ethics of care emanates from non-violence; it is the only answer to a totalitarian/fascist mindset. Moreover, non-violence demands the fundamental faith in the potential of what Gandhi would have regarded as 'soul force', even though we are more used to 'brute force'. In other words, non-violence is a quest, a journey, a process of awakening.

In fact, non-violence as a state of being, and a non-violent society as a structure of relationships, reinforce each other. A non-violent society, needless to add, cannot be based on the logic of techno-capitalism, its exploitative urge, or the violence it inflicts on nature through the logic of ceaseless 'development' and consumerism. Gandhiji was absolutely clear about it. A non-violent societal imagination ought to inherit the spirit of universalism; it has to see beyond militaristic nationalism, patriachalism and religious fundamentalism. Rabindranath Tagore, I believe, captured this spirit quite well. Furthermore, a non-violent society has to be a casteless society; possibly, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's inclination to the Buddhist ethics indicated this quest. Finally, a non-violent society seeks to overcome the Cartesian fragmentation and division; instead, it unites science and ethics, politics and spirituality, education and meditation, economy and ecology, and masculinity and femininity.

We are passing through terribly difficult times. With the rise of right wing nationalism in different parts of the world, the culture of violence has acquired a new dimension. And in our own country, the non-dialogic ruling regime with its propaganda machinery is turning everything into its opposite: vice into virtue, hatred into patriotism, and hyper-masculine aggression into religion. Yet, as I see the pockets of resistance, I begin to believe that the quest for non-violence cannot be finished. Possibly, at this crucial juncture, we are passing through some sort of inner churning.

Avijit Pathak is Professor of Sociology at Jawaharlal Nehru University

# Back to bread and butter

The AAP government in Delhi has taken the surplus of capital and distributed it among the poor



TIKENDER SINGH PANWAR

With less than a week to go before the Assembly election in Delhi, campaigning has reached a fever pitch. The Bharatiya Janata Party's speeches, pegged to the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC), have gotten shriller. While the party is busy painting the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) as 'anti-Hindi', and the protesters at Shaheen Bagh as 'anti-national', Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal continues to focus on civic issues in his campaign speeches. The Congress, which failed to win a single seat in the 2015 Assembly election, barely seems to be in the picture. Mr. Kejriwal insists these elections are being fought on the 'work done by the Delhi government'. When asked about the relevance of the CAA and NRC in the campaign, he said, "Electricity, water, education, schools, hospitals are the issues."

#### A glimmer of hope

This emphasis is important. Indian cities, especially large metros, are becoming more and more exclusionary towards the marginalised. Delhi has always been a city of the poor, displaced and dispossessed. Over the years, large development projects and master plans have pushed the poor further to the peripheries, depriving them of access to good healthcare facilities, education and infrastructure. Oxfam reports that while India is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world, it is also one of the most unequal. But Mr. Kejriwal's five years of rule have provided poor citizens a glimmer of hope.

Cities are the greatest generators of wealth and innovation. In India, they contribute about 60% of the GDP. A huge surplus is generated through the expropriation of some of the basic utilities and services in cities. Professor Ursula Heus wrote in the *Socialist Register* how 'use value items' have been commoditised. This, she said, has led to pauperisation of the people and the creation of a huge surplus for large transnational corporations. It's not a surprise then that some of the large transnational corporations shifted their portfolio from finance to service utilities. In fact, the largest appropriation of capital is taking place through either direct privatisation or backdoor privatisation of utilities such as health, education, water,

and even sanitation. The Smart Cities project further facilitated this growth of surplus by allowing the Internet of Things to govern cities and charging residents for the services being offered.

#### Electricity and health

It is against this backdrop that the Kejriwal government has tried to democratise this surplus and distribute it among the citizens. This has happened in various ways. Take, for example, water distribution and billing in Delhi. Every family in Delhi that consumes less than 20 KL (kilolitres, or 1,000 litres) is not charged for water. Similarly, for electricity consumption of up to 200 units, there is no charge. For those consuming 201-400 units a month, approximately 50% subsidy is provided. Whereas a family in Mumbai, Noida or any other megacity in India has to pay more than ₹2,000 for both water and electricity, families in Delhi save this money and use it for other purposes.

The Delhi government has also established mohalla clinics, or neighbourhood health clinics, in Delhi. The government has created a four-tier healthcare delivery system comprising clinics for primary health care, clinics for secondary health care, multi-specialty hospitals, and super-specialty hospitals. According to National Health Accounts estimates, patients in India bear a big chunk of health expenses – as high as 61% of the total health expenditure – by themselves. Therefore, free health clinics help reduce the financial burden on poor and marginalised groups. As of now, 300 mohalla clinics are functional and the AAP government proposes to open 500 more. This will also shift the health paradigm from curative to preventive care and ease the health expenditure for citizens significantly.

The Kejriwal government has also provided free bus rides for women. It promises to make bus rides free for all students, if elected to power. This will not only help people save more, but also reduce the burden on private mobility. Given that Delhi sees spells of very high pollution, encouraging public transport is important.

Nearly 49% of the population in Delhi lives in either slums or clusters. These are the people who have got enormous respite due to the redistributive policy implemented by the Kejriwal government in the last few years.

Mr. Kejriwal may have flip-flopped on issues such as Article 370, but at least he has proved that alternatives meaningful to a majority of citizens can be developed.

Tikender Singh Panwar is former Deputy Mayor, Shimla, and Convenor, National Coalition for Inclusive and Sustainable Urbanisation

# The broken myth of sushasan

Nitish Kumar's focus in Bihar has shifted from good governance to election engineering

RAJEEV RANJAN CHATURVEDY & ATUL K. THAKUR

Notwithstanding its success in the general election, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has of late been busy reassuring its Bihar ally, the Janata Dal (United), amidst growing differences on several matters. While some of the BJP leaders might have ambitions to take on the JD(U), particularly Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, the BJP leadership is mindful of its limitations in the State.

The BJP has no leader who can even come close to Mr. Kumar's popularity in Bihar. Therefore, parting ways with him could be a blunder. Recent setbacks to the BJP in Assembly elections have further alerted its leadership. It is not surprising, therefore, that Home Minister Amit Shah stated categorically that his party will contest Bihar Assembly elections, scheduled later this year, under the leadership of Mr. Kumar. This unequivocal endorsement of Mr. Kumar's leadership by Mr. Shah, and earlier by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is likely to end the wrangling among some BJP leaders in Bihar.

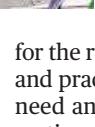
#### Alliance with BJP

Mr. Kumar has also faced an acute challenge in getting more out of his ally, the BJP. Bihar's demand for 'special status' based on its history of socioeconomic backwardness found no takers in the Modi government. Neither was the JD (U) offered any good ministerial post at the Centre, which meant the party did not join the government.

As the political trajectory gets broadly redefined for the ruling alliance in Bihar, policy and practice are not in sync with the need and aspirations of Biharis. Migration is still the only route to employment as the government has an indifferent attitude towards bringing the production base to the State and aligning the workforce locally. Sadly, the lack of vision for reform and persisting apathy regarding industry have made things worse.

Mr. Kumar is an engineer by training and 'electoral engineer' by choice, and this has imbued him with deftness in handling issues concerning Extremely Backward Classes, Mahadalits and women, for political gain. However, with a growing number of questions being raised on his governance record, the 2020 Assembly elections in Bihar will not be an easy one.

Rajeev Ranjan Chaturvedy is Visiting Fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore; Atul K. Thakur is public policy professional in New Delhi



#### DATA POINT

## Three Aces

Following a gruelling final against Dominic Thiem, Novak Djokovic won a record 8th Australian Open. He is now three Grand Slam titles shy of Roger Federer's 20. Along with Rafael Nadal, the two have won nearly 70% of all Grand Slams since 2000. The three players also hold the record for winning the most number of titles at the Australian Open (Djokovic - 8), Wimbledon (Federer - 8), French Open (Nadal - 12) and U.S. Open (Federer - 5). By Sumanth Sen and Naresh Singaravelu

Year	Australian Open	French Open	Wimbledon	U.S. Open
2000	A. Agassi	G. Kuerten	P. Sampras	M. Safin
2001	A. Agassi	G. Kuerten	G.S. Ivanisevic	L. Hewitt
2002	T. Johansson	A. Costa	L. Hewitt	P. Sampras
2003	A. Agassi	J.C. Ferrero	R. Federer	A. Roddick
2004	R. Federer	G. Gaudio	R. Federer	R. Federer
2005	M. Safin	R. Nadal	R. Federer	R. Federer
2006	R. Federer	R. Nadal	R. Federer	R. Federer
2007	R. Federer	R. Nadal	R. Federer	R. Federer
2008	N. Djokovic	R. Nadal	R. Nadal	R. Federer
2009	R. Nadal	R. Federer	R. Federer	J. del Potro
2010	R. Federer	R. Nadal	R. Nadal	R. Nadal
2011	N. Djokovic	R. Nadal	N. Djokovic	N. Djokovic
2012	N. Djokovic	R. Nadal	R. Federer	A. Murray
2013	N. Djokovic	R. Nadal	A. Murray	R. Nadal
2014	S. Wawrinka	R. Nadal	N. Djokovic	M. Cilic
2015	N. Djokovic	S. Wawrinka	N. Djokovic	N. Djokovic
2016	N. Djokovic	N. Djokovic	A. Murray	S. Wawrinka
2017	R. Federer	R. Nadal	R. Federer	R. Nadal
2018	R. Federer	R. Nadal	N. Djokovic	N. Djokovic
2019	N. Djokovic	R. Nadal	N. Djokovic	R. Nadal

Djokovic has not lost to either Federer or Nadal in a Grand Slam final since the 2014 French Open

Since 2003, at least one of the four Grand Slams has been won by one of the three. Since 2004, the number rose to at least two Grand Slams a year

Andy Murray's 2016 Wimbledon title was the last time a male player aged less than 30 won a Grand Slam

Nadal's record of 12 French Open titles is the highest for any player at a Grand Slam in the Open Era

In the 67 Grand Slam events held since the 2003 French Open, only 11 majors were won by players other than Federer, Nadal and Djokovic

Since 2003, the trio have played one another in 22 Grand Slam finals, with Federer and Nadal going head to head in nine finals

#### The Hindu

#### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 4, 1970

#### Psychological medicine

(From an Editorial)

There will be general agreement with the plea Dr. Bhaskaran made at the conference of the Indian Psychiatric Society at Hyderabad that the Indian Lunacy Act of 1918 should be replaced by more progressive legislation. Fifty years ago, mentally disturbed persons (despite the known fact that some disturbances were temporary) were isolated in "lunatic asylums" like criminals and supervised by warders who had no idea of how they should be treated. Unfortunately, this concept still survives, even among medical men. But Dr. Bhaskaran's speech shows that he does not share this outlook for he has called for the home-care of such persons and for setting up workshops where they could be trained in skilled vocations. It must be admitted that psychiatry is still far from being a developed science and it is therefore not surprising that there are only some 300 qualified psychiatrists in the whole country. Psychological medicine is at present at the level in which general medicine was a hundred years ago and theories of diagnosis and treatment vary very widely indeed.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 4, 1920

#### Why People Sing in Bath Rooms.

"Sounds of the Town" was the subject of the third of the series of Christmas lectures by Professor W.H. Bragg at the Royal Institution on "The World of Sound." He delighted his juvenile audience by his experiments in explanation of familiar noises in the house – the roar of the wind in the chimney, the drip of water in the bath, the echoings of any empty room, the singing of the kettle, and the creakings that are heard when the house is still at night. "Why do so many people sing in the bathroom?" asked the Professor, and the girls and boys broke out into laughter. The professor explained that the note is struck for them by the running water. He also pointed out that, while the voice sounds resonantly in the bathroom, it is not half so fine or inspiring when the song is continued in the dressing room. The reason is that the furniture of the dressing room tends to deaden the reverberations. Professor Bragg then gave illustrations of the rise and fall of the pitch of the noises caused by the dropping of a little India-rubber ball into a bowl of water. When the ball was given an irregular surface by dirt or grease it "burst" the water, and thereby caused a loud "plap"; but when the ball was rubbed quite clean and dry it fell noiselessly, because the water lapped round

## FROM PAGE ONE

## SC to frame issues for religious rights hearing

Mr. Nariman said he could cite at least six judgments of the court holding that a Bench sitting in review cannot frame new issues and refer them to a larger Bench.

Review jurisdiction was rare and limited. The task of a review Bench was only to ascertain that there was no apparent error or gross miscarriage of justice in the original judgment.

Chief Justice Bobde said the nine-judge Bench would not decide on the legality of the religious practices under challenge in the individual cases referred to it.

But Mr. Nariman intervened to say that courts "cannot decide the law without applying the facts of

each case". Senior advocate Shyam Divan added that courts cannot indulge in "speculative opinions". "The November 14 judgment was speculative in nature," he said.

Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan asked how the Sabarimala review could be kept in limbo.

"A review cannot be adjourned or postponed as the November 14 judgment has done... How can you hear larger issues when the review is pending?" he asked

The CJI said Mr. Nariman and others "may be correct in saying that law ought to be decided as and when cases come and not in anticipation or pre-emption of their coming".

## nCoV outbreak declared a State calamity in Kerala

This helped the State respond appropriately when nCoV struck, Health Minister K.K. Shylaja said in the State Assembly.

The Health Department's disease surveillance teams are now trying to get an estimate of the exact number of students who returned to Kerala from Wuhan.

"The natural assumption would be that we might have many more positive cases from amongst the Wuhan returnees in the coming days. Kerala does have a sizeable presence in Wuhan with a number of students pursuing undergraduate medical studies there," State Nodal Officer for Public Health Emergencies Amar Fettle said.

Airport surveillance and coordinated surveillance and monitoring measures with the help of various departments and local bodies helped the Health Department keep track of those who have returned to the State from China.

The logistics management

## BJP pulls up Hegde for remarks against Gandhiji

"If he [Mr. Hegde] is found to be medically fit, impose requisite punishment within the framework of the Constitution for feigning madness, or forthwith refer him for treatment to any qualified psychiatrist, pending which his Karwar seat may be declared vacant warranting election," Mr. Kalappa urged to the Speaker.

The Congress also demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi clarify his stand in Parliament on Mr. Hegde's remarks. "They are disparaging the national movement," Congress leader Anand Sharma said at a press conference.

"If the Prime Minister and the BJP government are sincere about Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary

celebrations, we demand that Mr. Modi come to Parliament and clarify his position," Mr. Sharma said.

The Congress said the time had come for Mr. Modi to clarify whether his loyalty was to the Mahatma or to his assassin Nathuram Godse.

Several Congress leaders took to social media to attack the BJP; some even demanded a sedition case against Mr. Hegde, a former Union Minister.

Senior leader Jairam Ramesh tweeted: "Anant Kumar Hegde is perhaps reflecting the views of his masters. If he is not, his comments should invite the strictest possible action from his party."

(With inputs from Nagesh Prabhu and PTI)

## Will not splurge to end slowdown: Sitharaman

When asked why the stock-markets were not happy on Budget day, the Finance Minister said: "But I see it being happy today. It was weekend mode then, Monday is the true working mode."

After a sharp 988 point fall during Saturday's trading, the Sensex gained a modest 136.7 points or 0.3% on Monday.

Defending the move to cap employer's contributions to the Employees' Provident Fund, the National Pension System or a superannuation fund at ₹7.5 lakh a year, Revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey said this will only affect those earning over ₹60 lakh a year. "In the U.S., they have a 401(K) account, where also I think there's a limit to how much employer can contribute. It is being done in many parts of the world and we have tried to see up to what limit," he said.

Having no limit on EPF contributions, he pointed out, allowed some scope for reducing one's tax dues by restructuring the salary into various components in such a way that the EPF/NPS component could be hiked.

"Therefore, this is not something very unusual that we have done," he underlined.

The Budget has not factored in the receipt of telecom firms' dues on account of adjusted gross revenue (AGR), said Atanu Chakraborty, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, in the Finance Ministry.

The government has pegged receipts from the telecom sector at ₹1.33 lakh crore for 2020-21, more than double the ₹58,686 crore expected this year.

The telecom industry owes the government ₹1.47 lakh crore in spectrum usage charges.

CY

## Opposition targets Thakur's poll speech

Congress, DMK members shout him down for his controversial speech at an election rally in Delhi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI



Making a point: Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said in the Lok Sabha that people cannot be silenced. ■ LSTV/PTI

Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Monday said the government could not silence people's voice (*boli*) with bullet (*goli*) as members of the Congress and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) targeted Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur in the House for his controversial speech at an election rally in Delhi.

Protesting against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the National Population Register (NPR), the members of the two parties raised slogans every time Mr. Thakur rose to answer a question during Zero Hour.

Speaker Om Birla and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi asked the members, who had come into the well of the Lok Sabha as soon as the Question Hour started at 11 a.m., to raise their concerns during the discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President for his address to the joint session of Parliament.

As the Opposition members did not relent, Mr. Birla announced an early lunch break soon after Zero Hour had started.

As soon as Monday's proceedings started, Opposition MPs, mainly from the Congress, started raising slogans, prompting the Speaker

to say the amended citizenship law had been discussed in detail.

"You can raise and discuss all issues that you want during the debate on the President's address. You will get enough opportunity. You were elected by people through democratic process, and it is my responsibility to give you opportunities to raise issues concerning people," Mr. Birla said.

But the moment the Question Hour got under way and Mr. Thakur started answering questions relating to the Finance Ministry, the Opposition members were heard shouting *Goli Maarna Band Karo* (Stop shooting) in an obvious reference to the Minister's objectionable comments for which the Election Commission had banned him and Parvesh Verma (also

of BJP) from campaigning in Delhi. The MPs, shouting "Go back" and "Shame shame", displayed placards saying "Save India", "Save democracy" and "Save Constitution".

"After the citizenship law was passed, common people are protesting against this. It is not something that is unjust. They are protesting with the Constitution in their hands, holding the national flag and singing the national anthem. But they are being fired upon and beaten mercilessly. The government cannot silence people's voice with bullets," Mr. Chowdhury said.

During the Question Hour, AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi too raised the issue of firing on Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) students and expressed solidarity with them.

## Sonia treated for stomach infection

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi has been diagnosed with a stomach infection, said the health bulletin issued by Sir Ganga Ram Hospital here on Monday evening.

"She has been admitted with us since Feb. 2 and underwent some medical tests today. She was diagnosed with stomach infection. She is being treated for the same," noted the release.

Ms. Gandhi was admitted after complaining of "uneasiness". Her son, Rahul Gandhi, and daughter, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, were with her when she was admitted. Sources said that she was likely to be discharged on Tuesday.

(With PTI inputs)

## Debate denial irks Rajya Sabha MPs

Opposition parties criticise Chairman's refusal to allow notices on CAA and NRC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI



Divided House: Opposition MPs protesting in the well of the Rajya Sabha on Monday. ■ RSTV/PTI

The State only required an intimation from China returnees and the rest was taken care of. A call to the 24x7 helpline (DISHA 1056) ensured that a person (who had developed flu symptoms) was picked up in a special ambulance and transferred to hospitals with isolation facilities.

Control rooms have been opened at the State and district levels and all activities were being reviewed on a daily basis, Ms. Shylaja said.

A senior health official in the State said, "The nationwide protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the proposed pan-India National Register of Citizens.

When the House met at 11 a.m., Mr. Naidu adjourned proceedings within 15 minutes following protests. When the House met again at noon, the Opposition parties renewed their call for a debate, with Trinamool members storming the Well of the House and Congress members standing on their seats. The House was then adjourned till 2 p.m.

The post-lunch session, too, saw two adjournments, first at 2 p.m. for an hour and again after reconvening at 3 p.m. when it had to be adjourned within two minutes.

The Congress, the Rashtriya Janata Dal, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), the Nationalist Congress Par-

ty (NCP) and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) addressed a joint press conference lodging their protest against the Chair's ruling.

Leader of the Opposition and Congress MP Ghulam Nabi Azad said not only the CAA and the NRC, even the National Population Register exercise was problematic.

## Wrong questions

"The NPR was done earlier too but it had very ordinary questions and was far simpler. This government through NPR wants to know the date of birth and place of birth of your parents too. The BJP projects it as a Hindu-Muslim issue, which is flagrantly wrong," he charged.

Mr. Azad and NCP MP Vandana Chavan said they would not be able to pro-

CPI(M) MP K.K. Ragesh said while the entire country was on the streets, the government was refusing to listen to the voice of the people.

Mr. Azad alleged that in the States ruled by the BJP, over 30 persons who participated in protests against the CAA had been killed.

"Rule 267 is to suspend business of the day to debate issues of national interest. This rule has become redundant now; it hasn't been applied for any issue at any time. This is a pathetic situation. We are compelled to raise the issue again and again to reflect the sentiments of people of India," DMK leader Tiruchi Siva said.

Ms. Chavan said that in her six-year tenure, she has not seen the implementation of Rule 267. "If it's not applied, then why is it in the rulebook," she asked.

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her six-year tenure, she has

not seen the implementation

of Rule 267. "If it's not ap-

plied, then why is it in the ru-

lebook," she asked.

During the discussion,

Congress leader Gaurav Go-

goi said, "People of India are

quoting the Constitution and

protesting on the streets.

The ruling party thinks they

can rule like dictators once

they have won elections.

Women and children are

being portrayed as ene-

## NIA raids Davinder's ancestral house

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR

Family members of several active and slain militants, civilians backing terror groups and apple traders in Kashmir are under National Investigation Agency (NIA) scanner as the agency on Monday continued to pursue the links of recently arrested Deputy Superintendent of Police Davinder Singh with militant outfits.

Mr. Singh was arrested on January 11 while ferrying three militants, including Hizb-ul-Mujahideen "commander" Syed Naveed Mushtaq, alias Babu, on the Srinagar-Jammu highway and planning to shift them to safer locations in Jammu and Delhi.

Nearly 40 members of the NIA are camping in Kashmir and for the third consecutive day, multiple teams of the agency searched several premises, including the ancestral house of Mr. Singh, and questioned many in north and south Kashmir at Tral in Pulwama. An official said the house at Ovary Gund village was searched. People said Mr. Singh was "not a very frequent visitor to Tral" after he shifted to Srinagar, where he reportedly owned two houses.

## Shaheen Bagh is a conspiracy: PM

We can't leave Delhi to such anarchy and vote-bank politics, says Modi

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI



High-octane campaign: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Delhi Pradesh BJP president Manoj Tiwari, Union Minister Harsh Vardhan and candidates on Monday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Speaking at the first of his two rallies to campaign for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in east Delhi days before the Assembly election, he accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Congress of engaging in a "political game" through such protests, which were going on at Seelampur and in the vicinity of Jamia Millia Islamia. "Are these protests and demonstrations just a matter of chance? No, they are not. They are not a matter of chance – they are experiments. Behind them is an intended political design aimed at denting the country's nationalistic heritage," he said.

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"Therefore, this is not something very unusual that we have done," he underlined.

During the review, some observers said the response for the postal ballot facility, being extended to citizens above 80 and persons with disabilities for the first time in Delhi, as well as the pick-and-drop service was "rather low", the statement said.

Delhi Chief Electoral Officer Ranbir Singh said the last date for registration had been extended till Wednesday.

naming the ruling AAP for the first time at a public event in Delhi.

## Diverting attention

The Constitution and the tri-colour, Mr. Modi alleged, were being used as shields from behind which "wisdom" was being "distributed", while efforts were being made to divert attention from "the real conspiracy" at play behind the scenes.

Delhi, he noted, could not be "left in this state of anarchy".

The people of Delhi, he

said, were aware of the

protests being a symptom of

"vote-bank politics".

"What is this kind of com-

munal hate and fear-mon-

gering that you, as head of

government, are encourag-

ing, that seeks to make wo-

men of all communities feel

more insecure and threat-

ened? We have long suffered

violence on our bodies, with

little access to justice. We

# India able to deter terror groups: Rajnath

'State support to them has tested our patience'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Continued presence of terrorist infrastructure and state support to terrorists in the neighbouring country have tested India's patience, but as a responsible and powerful nation, India has displayed that it can disrupt and deter the activities of terrorist groups and their patrons, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said here on Monday.

Addressing the third conference of defence attachés (DAs), he called upon them to work to increase India's defence exports.

"We need to be more focussed to secure our interests. We have adopted proactive measures to promote peace and stability in the region and increase defence and security cooperation with the Indian Ocean rim countries so as to create a stable maritime environment," Mr. Singh said.

A large country like India



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the three service chiefs with defence attaches in New Delhi on Monday. •PTI

could not restrict its defence cooperation to a few countries. Efforts, he said, should be made to expand it continuously. In this direction, he announced the creation of 10 new defence wings so that 10 more DAs could be appointed.

"This will further strengthen India's defence diplomacy," he noted.

The establishment of two defence industrial corridors in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh was expected to increase defence manufacturing and exports. There was a

lot of scope for DAs to work and attract FDI (foreign direct investment) in these corridors. India had also offered several defence lines of credit (LOC) to friendly countries to allow Indian defence exports and increase their presence in the global market, he stated.

The government recently introduced a scheme to promote defence exports through DAs to their respective countries. Under this scheme, funds have been allocated for export promotion to 34 countries.

## INTERVIEW | T.V. SOMANATHAN

# 'Govt. will catalyse infra investment'

Expenditure Secretary says Budget aims to husband available sources

PRISCILLA JEBARA  
VIKAS DHOOT  
NEW DELHI

*The government is striving to push spending into the most productive uses to spur the economy without becoming fiscally imprudent and has projected receipts and expenses in as realistic a manner as possible, Expenditure Secretary T.V. Somanathan said, detailing the Budget's provision.*

For the coming year, we're looking at the expenditure to GDP ratio going up by nearly 0.33%... some analysts compare it to this year's performance, where you have a 0.43% fall in spending

■ The projections that we have given for the coming year are our best case estimates. It's neither the most optimistic case nor the most pessimistic case. It's our most probable case.

Expenditure estimates obviously have a link with revenue estimates.

There is a 10% nominal growth assumption, which I think is eminently reasonable, and a 12% revenue growth is very likely in a normal year, if there are no structural changes like the

corporate tax changes that were made in the middle of this year.

So we have projected approximately 11%-plus expenditure growth, with capital expenditure growing by nearly twice that. The idea is to husband the available sources and push it into the most productive uses, use it for growth-inducing as much as possible.

But all of this is done with a background of staying fiscally prudent, because we don't want a repeat of a cycle where you suddenly break all the barriers, then two years later, you have a crisis where you suddenly have to roll everything back.

So we pushed expenditure to the limits that it can be pushed without being imprudent.



We don't want a repeat of a cycle where you suddenly break all barriers, then later have a crisis

How do we push capex in particular?

■ By re-prioritising and changing from low value add schemes to more of capital expenditure and even within those, (projects) with high-multiplier effect. That's the direction we would like to go. These are tasks which take time to do and quite a lot of analysis. It's not something that can be done overnight or at the press of a button, but we intend to look at them very carefully.

In some sectors you talked about spending on new projects. But the allocations seem very modest.

■ The national infrastructure pipeline that the FM unveiled on December 31, is ₹102 lakh crore, with the Central government, States and the private sector expected to chip in. As far as the central sector projects are concerned – nuclear power, railways, highways – we have provided very reasonable provisions for those.

In addition, there is a provision under the Department of Economic Affairs which will create a fund to catalyse private investment in infrastructure.

The amount is approximately ₹20,000 crore. It's the government's seed contribution or catalyst which can also be augmented, if the offtake is good. The exact manner in which it will be used is being decided. It could be PPP, it could be others, but it's basically a funding mechanism that has been created.

'Monitoring coronavirus cases in India'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

China is following the novel coronavirus cases detected in India, a statement from the Embassy of China said on Monday.

The Spokesperson of the Embassy, Counsellor Ji Rong, said China expected the world to assess Beijing's response to the crisis objectively, and would jointly combat the epidemic with India. The epidemic, he said, is "preventable and curable".

"The Chinese side pays close attention to the report of the emergence of one confirmed case of pneumonia caused by the novel coronavirus in India and will cooperate with the Indian side to jointly strengthen the epidemic's prevention and control," Mr. Rong said.

The official said China had extended help and shared timely information with Indian officials regarding the viral outbreak that had killed more than 360 Chinese nationals so far.



Against all odds: The troops were not issued 'multi-purpose boots' from November 2015 to September 2016. •PTI

## Siachen troops given poor gear, says CAG

Report faults clothing, equipment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

In a report tabled in Parliament on Monday, the Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) pulled up the Army for deficiencies in the provision of special clothing, rations and housing for troops in high-altitude areas, including Siachen.

As for the Indian National Defence University (INDU), proposed by the Kargil Review Committee in 1999, the CAG said the institute was "yet to fructify", even as the project cost had been revised from ₹395 crore to ₹4,007.22 crore, up 914%.

"There were delays of up to four years in the procurement of high-altitude clothing and equipment, leading to an acute shortage of essential clothing and equipment. There was a critical shortage of snow goggles, ranging from 62% to 98%. The troops had not been issued "multi-purpose boots" from November 2015 to September 2016, and had to resort to the recycling of available boots," the CAG said in the report on the performance audit of provisioning and procurement during the period from 2015-16 to 2017-18.

Furthermore, as the old models of face mask, jacket and sleeping bags were procured, the troops did not get the benefit of using im-

proved products.

"Lack of research and development by defence laboratory led to a continued dependence on import," the report said.

The INDU was recommended by the Kargil Review Committee in 1999 to address the deficiencies in India's security management system. The Union Cabinet accorded in-principle approval in May 2010 for establishing it in Gurugram at an estimated cost of ₹395 crore. "The land was acquired in September 2012; however, the setting up of the INDU is yet to fructify even after two decades of the Kargil War," the report said.

The draft INDU legislation had been lying for approval with the Cabinet Secretariat since December 2017, the CAG said.

On the special rations for troops in high-altitude areas to meet their energy needs, the CAG said substitutes for the scaled items were authorised on a "cost-to-cost" basis, and this resulted in the supply of a reduced quantity. "This compromised the calorific intake of the troops by as high as 82%." The housing project, aimed at improving the living conditions of the troops in high-altitude areas, was executed in an ad hoc manner.

## Chopper crash-lands in J&K, pilots safe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU

Two pilots had a narrow escape when an Army chopper crash-landed on a dry riverbed after it developed a technical snag in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi on Monday, officials said. The helicopter was on a training sortie from Udhampur to Reasi when it got entangled in power lines, they said.

## E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender ID: 2020\_AAI\_41424\_1

Airports Authority of India invites Item Tender through E-tendering portal by Joint General Manager (E-E)-I on behalf of Chairman, AAI from eligible contractors for the work of "Facility Management of Electrical and Mechanical equipments of Elevators, Escalators, Travellators, Passenger boarding bridges, Conveyor Belt and Standalone Weighing Scales at Chennai International Airport" for an estimated cost of ₹5,90,72,154.00 (Excluding GST) with a period of completion of 24 Months.

Last date and time of submission of e-bid document is 18/02/2020 upto 18:00 hours.

For detailed information log on to CPP

e-Procurement Portal reference

<https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app/or>

Further clarification/corrigendum if any will be notified through e-procurement portal at <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app/>

## JAIPUR VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED

Office of the Managing Engineer (TW),

Opp. Hotel Fortune, Near Railway Station,

Jaipur-302006, TELE FAX NO.0141-2201022

Reqd. Office Bhawan, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur 302005

## E-TENDER NOTICE

E-bids are hereby invited in two parts (Techno-commercial bid and Price bid) from eligible bidders for the work of providing, fixing and installation of FRP fencing and other related works in the various locations to be carried out on turnkey basis in the various towns of Jaipur District.

Participating bidders can download complete set of bidding documents from e-procurement portal <http://www.eproc.rajaasthan.gov.in>. Last Date/Time for receipt of online bids through e-procurement portal is 05/03/2020 up to 05:00 PM. For further details regarding Works, Tender Notifications & Specifications please visit <http://www.eproc.rajaasthan.gov.in> & <http://e.rajaasthan.gov.in> or <http://www.vvn.vnn.org>.

Ref. Samwad/01404861 / JPR-2543 (2020) SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (TW)

For Electricity Complaints Toll Free No. 1800 180 6507

## GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION

Parks Department

P.D.C.No.P/12/2020

## e-TENDER NOTICE

Tender are invited by the Superintending Engineer / Parks for the following work as per details furnished below:

Formation of 57 new parks and playfields in Greater Chennai Corporation (21 Packages)

Approx. value of work is Rs.4997.78 Lakhs - E.M.D.:1% of Tender value

For more information see [www.tntenders.gov.in](http://www.tntenders.gov.in) and [www.chennaicorporation.gov.in](http://www.chennaicorporation.gov.in)

Due Date and Time for Submission of tender: 09.03.2020 upto 3.00 pm

Tender opening date and time: 10.03.2020 at 3.00 pm

Pre bid meeting date and time : 18.02.2020 @ 3.00 pm.

Superintending Engineer / Parks

## GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH, APEWIDC, VIJAYAWADA

Door No.9-76, Sai Fortune Heights, Block-A, Vaddeswaram, Guntur (Dt)-522502.

## NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

"e-Procurement Notice Inviting Tender"

NIT No.'s : 16 to 21/MD/APEWIDC/2019-20 dated 03-02-2020

Separate Tenders are invited on e-procurement from Original Equipment / Product manufacturers for Procurement of the each of the following items, they are : a) Dual Desks I to III Classes b) Dual Desks IV to VI classes c) Dual Desks VII to X classes d) Teacher Chairs & Tables e) Almirals f) Green Chalk Boards, to supply to the Government Schools in Andhra Pradesh.

The inclusion of the region in the IOR signals the government's increasing level of comfort with the "Indo-Pacific" concept that describes the entire neighbourhood from the coast of Africa to the U.S. west coast.

In one of many changes effected last week to the Ministry's organisational structure, Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla decided to club the entire Indian Ocean Region and the Southern and Indo-Pacific Divisions under one Additional Secretary (Indo-Pacific).

According to officials, the specific outcomes from Mr. Richard's visit are still being finalised, but that the effort would be to offer Madagascar strategic cooperation similar to what is currently shared with other IOR countries.

The Indian Navy undertakes Joint EEZ patrols with Maldives, Seychelles and Mauritius, which have all joined India's coastal radar chain network.

## GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH, APEWIDC, VIJAYAWADA

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# Democratic race opens with Iowa caucuses

The voting will render the first verdict on who among dozens of candidates will take on Trump in Nov.

REUTERS  
DES MOINES, IOWA

Iowa Democrats kick off what could be a bruising nominating process when they gather at caucus sites around the State on Monday to begin choosing a challenger to President Donald Trump.

At more than 1,600 schools, community centres and other public locations, voters will render judgment on a field of 11 Democratic contenders, led by front-runners Senator Bernie Sanders and former Vice-President Joe Biden, who have battled for the top in recent Iowa polls.

The caucuses will begin on Monday at 7 p.m. CST (6:30 a.m. on Tuesday), and results are expected to begin rolling in within a few hours. Because voters may register as late as Monday, the caucuses could draw a late surge of attendance, particularly among independent voters or Republicans turned off by Mr. Trump.

By the end, tens of thousands of Democrats will have participated in the Iowa caucuses, the premiere of more



**Tight race:** Former U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden, Senators Amy Klobuchar, Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders in Columbia, South Carolina, in this file photo. •REUTERS

than 50 contests that will unfold over the next five months. After more than a year of campaigning and more than \$800 million in spending, the caucuses will render the first verdict on who among dozens of candidates is best positioned to take on Mr. Trump in the November 3 presidential election, whom Democratic voters are desperate to beat this fall.

Do voters want someone with appeal to centrists, independents and disaffected Republicans, like moderates

Mr. Biden, Pete Buttigieg, the former Mayor of South Bend, Indiana, and Senator Amy Klobuchar? Or should the party choose a candidate who energises its liberal base and could bring out new voters, like progressives Mr. Sanders and fellow Senator Elizabeth Warren?

#### Impeachment trial

The race has been overshadowed in recent weeks, with Mr. Sanders, Ms. Warren and Ms. Klobuchar relegated to part-time campaigning in Iowa as they stayed in Wash-

ington for the impeachment trial of Mr. Trump.

Even if one candidate wins by a commanding margin in Iowa, Democrats may still lack clear answers as the race moves on to the other three early-voting States of New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina later in February. And whoever remains in the race by Super Tuesday, when 15 States and territories vote on March 3, will also confront billionaire former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who is skipping the early States in

favour of focusing on delegate-rich States.

Mr. Sanders, who finished in a virtual dead heat with Hillary Clinton in Iowa during his first presidential run in 2016, surged recently in many Iowa polls to move just ahead of Mr. Biden. But Ms. Warren and Mr. Buttigieg remain in striking distance. Many polls show a big bloc of undecided Iowa voters, creating the potential for upsets and late surges.

#### Record turnout

Iowa State party officials are expecting a record turnout, exceeding the nearly 2,40,000 voter attendance in caucuses in 2008 amid the excitement over Barack Obama's first candidacy.

A poor showing in Iowa could cause a front-runner's fundraising to slow and support in later States to dwindle, while a strong result can give a candidate much-needed momentum that propels him or her to the nomination. Several Democrats who won the Iowa caucuses went on to clinch the party's nomination.

(With AP inputs)

# Trump impeachment trial to resume for final arguments

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump's impeachment trial resumes for final arguments on Monday before an expected acquittal later in the week that Democrats have said will be invalid because no witnesses testified.

The President was impeached in December for abuse of power over pressure on U.S. ally Ukraine to

announce investigations that would have helped him politically, including into Joe Biden, a leading challenger for this year's presidential ballot.

At only the third impeachment trial of a U.S. President, Mr. Trump is all but assured of being acquitted on Wednesday, the day after his annual "State of the Union".

Republicans hold 53 seats in the Senate to 47 for the

Democrats, but a two-thirds majority, or 67 senators, is needed to remove him from office.

Adam Schiff, the leader of the House prosecutors, known as impeachment managers, told CBS on Sunday that it was "pretty remarkable" that Senators on both sides had acknowledged that Democrats proved their case against the President.

on people and companies

and that the information was sent to an unnamed Saudi intelligence service.

An unnamed Norwegian citizen of Iranian descent was arrested on October 21, 2018 on suspicion of helping an unspecified Iranian intelligence service "to act in Denmark" and of alleged involvement in the assassination plot. That suspect has denied wrongdoing and is being held in custody.

Danish security service chief Finn Borch Andersen said on Monday that the suspected spying took place for six years from 2012.

Mr. Andersen said the three individuals had spied

on behalf of the Saudi

intelligence service.

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on people and companies

and that the information was sent to an unnamed Saudi intelligence service.

An unnamed Norwegian citizen of Iranian descent was arrested on October 21, 2018 on suspicion of helping an unspecified Iranian intelligence service "to act in Denmark" and of alleged involvement in the assassination plot. That suspect has denied wrongdoing and is being held in custody.

Danish security service chief Finn Borch Andersen said on Monday that the suspected spying took place for six years from 2012.

Mr. Andersen said the three individuals had spied

on behalf of the Saudi

intelligence service.

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## MARKET WATCH

	03-02-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	39,872	-0.34
US Dollar	71.35	-0.04
Gold	41,748	-0.67
Brent oil	55.84	-4.04

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	367.35	+5.05
Asian Paints	1867.65	+112.30
Axis Bank	708.95	+3.50
Bajaj Auto	3284.50	+141.20
Bajaj Finance	9086.15	+138.75
Bharti Airtel	510.05	+12.85
BPCL	460.30	+16.80
Britannia Ind	3230.05	+132.45
Cipla	444.55	+0.35
Coal India	178.65	+5.15
Dr Reddys Lab	3144.15	+21.10
Eicher Motors	19883.45	+175.80
GAIL (India)	114.50	+3.20
Grasim Ind	780.40	+21.00
HCL Tech	579.10	+11.80
HDFC	2259.75	+8.50
HDFC Bank	1192.80	+5.90
Hero MotoCorp	2376.15	+70.75
Hindalco	181.80	+2.60
Hind Unilever	2178.95	+104.05
ICICI Bank	515.55	+10.95
IndusInd Bank	1263.10	+52.00
Bharti Infralet	229.30	+17.85
Infosys	767.40	+12.10
Indian Oil Corp	108.05	+0.85
ITC	207.60	+11.40
JSW Steel	251.50	+6.75
Kotak Bank	1676.25	+28.30
L&T	1286.65	+0.75
M&M	558.70	+13.50
Maruti Suzuki	7011.30	+198.65
Nestle India Ltd.	16301.00	+776.25
NTPC	110.25	+0.95
ONGC	103.45	+0.90
PowerGrid Corp	187.35	+4.95
Reliance Ind	1385.50	+2.15
State Bank	298.10	+4.50
Sun Pharma	417.55	+5.25
Tata Motors	163.85	+1.75
Tata Steel	436.05	+12.25
TCS	2102.50	+62.35
Tech Mahindra	793.15	+14.40
Titan	1186.40	+13.15
UltraTech Cement	4370.65	+105.40
UPL	513.30	+9.65
Vedanta	134.15	+0.75
Wipro	237.40	+0.60
YES Bank	36.00	+1.90
Zee Entertainment	256.60	+3.65

EXCHANGE RATES		
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 03		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.13	71.45
Euro	78.70	79.06
British Pound	92.89	93.31
Japanese Yen (100)	65.55	65.85
Chinese Yuan	10.12	10.18
Swiss Franc	73.80	74.14
Singapore Dollar	51.99	52.23
Canadian Dollar	53.73	53.98
Malaysian Ringgit	17.27	17.37

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI		
February 03 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses		
Retail Silver (1g)	50.....	(50.3)
22 ct gold (1g)	3894.....	(3883)

Source: Indian Bank

# Manufacturing activity reaches a near 8-year high in January

Sharp rise in demand drives growth of new business, exports, jobs: IHS Markit



**More hands:** Firms increased employment at the quickest rate in close to seven-and-a-half years. ■ G.R.N. SOMASHEKAR

## Taxing investor on dividends will hurt REIT, InvIT funding

'Move will dampen sentiment of foreign investors'

### LALATENDU MISHRA

MUMBAI

The proposal in the Union Budget to tax dividend in the hands of unit holders/investors would hurt future InvITs and REITs, say real estate and infrastructure industry officials and analysts.

A team of industry executives is planning to meet Finance Ministry officials in New Delhi on Tuesday in this regard.

Calling for a roll-back, they said such a decision is contrary to the government's move to encourage InvITs and REITs to provide tax stability to long-term infrastructure investors.

To the point of internal investigations.

Sources said that breach of listing obligations by not submitting audited financial statements could be the reason behind the suspension.

The shares of the firm were last traded on Saturday (February 1) when the market was open for Budget announcements.

Earlier, the regulator had informed CDEL that delay in declaration of earnings beyond January 29 could lead to halting of trade in company's shares due to breach of listing regulations.

However, the company has sought more time for submission of audited results citing to non-comple-

mentary in the tax regime would hurt the sentiment of foreign investors who are already wary of the stability of tax regime in India, they added. The resultant tax burden on the part of investors will put at risk plans for raising about \$100 billion with regard to InvITs and REITs, they said.

Till this Budget, business trusts in India had a single level of tax at source, or the corporate tax paid by the special purpose vehicles (SPVs) that owned the assets. The SPVs paid tax only on their annuity income.

Under the provisions of the Income Tax Act, no dividend distribution tax is now

chargeable on any amount declared, distributed or paid by a 100% SPV by way of dividends (whether interim or otherwise) to a business trust out of current income.

Bobby Parikh, founder, Bobby Parikh Associates said the REIT / InvIT taxation framework was designed to provide a taxing outcome where income would effectively be subject to one level of tax.

But following the Budget announcement, resident unit-holders may be liable to tax in such income at rates that could go up to 43% while non-resident investors may be liable at rates that could go up to 20%.

proving at a pace not seen in close to eight years," said Pollyanna de Lima, Principal Economist at IHS Markit.

This is the 30th consecutive month the index has remained above the 50-point mark. A print above 50

means expansion, while a score below that denotes contraction. Companies noted the strongest upturn in new business intakes for over five years, which they attributed to better underlying demand and greater client requirements.

The rise in total sales was supported by strengthening demand from external markets, evident from the fastest increase in new export orders since November 2018.

Hiring activity also rose, with firms increasing employment at the quickest rate in close to seven-and-a-half years.

Manufacturing sector growth in India continued to strengthen in January, with operating conditions im-

## Markets shrug off Budget blues

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The first trading session after the Union Budget – which led to an intraday fall of almost 1,100 points on Saturday – saw the benchmarks close with marginal gains as buying in select index stocks lifted the indices, even as the broader market remained in the red. The 30-share Sensex gained 136.78 points, or 0.34%, to close at 39,872.31. The broader Nifty settled at 11,707.90, up 46.05 points or 0.39%.

Market breadth was weak with more than 1,500 stocks losing ground against 945 gainers.

Among top gainers in the Sensex pack were Nestle India, Asian Paints, HUL, Bajaj Auto, Maruti Suzuki and M&M.

## Bond yields fall as Centre avoids extra borrowing

Yield on 10-year bonds declines 10 bps



We expect the 10-year g-sec to trade between 6.5% and 6.6% in the short run

ABHEEK BARUA, Chief Economist, HDFC Bank

some relief in terms of no additional borrowings this year and in line with expectations [on the] borrowing target for next year," Mr. Barua added. Though bond yields are expected to remain range bound, market participants ruled out the possibility of any further rate reduction.

Bond markets were closed on Saturday. Despite missing the target for fiscal deficit of 3.3% for FY19, and projecting a fiscal deficit target of 3.5% for the next financial year, the gross borrowing programme of the government was retained at ₹7.1 lakh crore for the current financial year. Gross borrowing for the next year is pegged at ₹7.8 lakh crore which is in line with market expectations.

"With fiscal policy taking a growth-supportive role, on the back of the monetary policy being ahead of the curve last year, the calibrated policy mix should bode well for growth. We look for the central bank to remain on an extended pause on rates [even as supply-induced shocks dissipate] but maintain an accommodative bias to ensure the cost of capital remains stable and favourable," said Radhika Rao, senior vice-president and economist, DBS Group Research.

After reducing the interest rate by 135 bps between February and October, the RBI decided, in December, to keep the rate unchanged, citing inflation concerns.

## With few takers for SSRC, RBI pushes deadline

Absence of any incentive puts off staff

### MANOJIT SAHA

MUMBAI

Lacklustre response by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) staff to opt for specialised supervisory and regulatory cadre (SSRC) has forced the central bank to extend the deadline by six months.

The SSRC came into effect on November 1.

The RBI had invited applications from its staff, from grade B to grade F, to apply for the specialised cadre in January.

They were given the option to either opt in or opt out. The deadline to exercise the option ended on January 31.

According to sources, around 1,500 exercised the

option, of which less than 150 decided to opt in.

There were 3,500 candidates eligible to be in the cadre.

The requirement for the specialised cadre was 1,100.

As a result of the lacklustre response from the staff, the central bank has now decided to extend the deadline by six months.

Sources in the RBI said that the absence of any incentive in this cadre had made the employees reluctant to opt in.

An RBI spokesperson declined to comment on the issue, when contacted by *The Hindu*, saying this was an internal matter of the central bank.

## India can create 70-100 million formal jobs easily, says Chandra

Country must adopt policy changes, suitable tech, he says

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

India will be able to create 100 million formal jobs if all low-hanging fruits are properly tapped with the support of policy changes and suitable technologies, says Tata Sons chairman, N. Chandrasekaran.

India has been seeking inclusion in the global bond index, and featuring on the gauge indirectly helps the country sell bonds overseas.

"We are in a fairly advanced stage of listing some of the bonds in global indices. We will continue to meet all the requirements from our side."

"We want to get into global indices so that large passive investments come to India. It is going to happen very soon," Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs Atanu Chakraborty told IANS in an interaction.

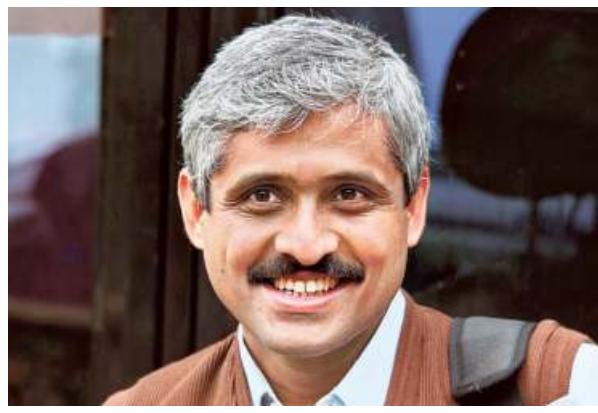
jointly authored by him and Roopa Purushothaman – he said, the country currently had this strange scenario of high skill and high productivity and low skill and low productivity layers.

"The middle layer is totally missing and we need to build this middle layer by augmenting technology," he said. He also observed that processes were weak in

high-skilled jobs. For instance, he elaborated, specialists or doctors could do only 50% of their jobs as they had to take care of tasks which were not part of the job profile due to paucity of qualified people in the middle layer.

"It is important we demystify the job of specialists so that half of their work can be taken up by bridgit workers."

**Looking back** Dr. Ravi Kannan is proud of the institutional changes in Silchar ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



### How did you fire-fight your way through?

● Most of what I learnt comes from my mentors from school, medical college, post grad, and later the Institute, where we had been trained to deal with all issues, not just my area of specialization (head and neck). All those held me in good stead. I had no idea of administration, pharmacy, and so on, but we dealt it one day at a time.

### What was the most important problem that you faced?

● When I first came here, I followed the Institute policy: treat people for free, at low cost, or no cost. But, that didn't seem to work. We tried out several options, but after several trials, meetings, and especially after a presentation at Kolkata, we began to look deeper into our problems trying to understand the why of it all. We found that out of every 100 patients who came into OPD, 58% never came for visit two, mainly because they worked for daily wages -- they were the sole breadwinners, with large families.

**How did you address this?**  
● We realised at that moment that if we did not pay attention to socio-economic dimensions, we could

never deliver. Our treatment depended on solving the root of the crisis. We took two decisions: one, every patient would go back with a follow-up date and secondly, we began to provide ad-hoc jobs, like cleaning, cooking, gardening, which did not require skilled labour. Seeing the abject poverty that they lived in, we provided free accommodation and nutritious food too.

### Did the situation improve drastically?

● Not quite. When we did the audit, we found that 55% had completed prescribed treatment. But even as we began to feel cheerful, the situation sank in. Let me explain: Say in a city like Mumbai, when they say they are treating 50% of patients where they see 30,000 odd patients and most of them come from other states, they seek only diagnosis, or an opinion and usually go back to their home states for continuation of treatment. But, for me, in Silchar, I am the last stop, and so 55%, it is a failure.



**Do you have separate slabs for those who can and those who can't afford treatment?**

● If we were to hike up prices for the rich, then, instead of focussing on what the patient needs, we would then begin to focus on what the patient is capable of giving. The rich would slowly elbow out the poor. In order to avoid this, we decided to have uniformity that would facilitate equitable and accessible healthcare.

### What does the award mean to you?

● I think the recognition is not about me; it is about all my colleagues, the hospital, everyone who has helped us in big and small ways. If the recognition can help awareness of cancer in the region, where more people can access treatment, that will be great. From 23 members, we are a team of 350 members, each a hero in their own right, who own the hospital, making it what it is today.

HEMA IYER RAMANI

In December 2006, Dr. Ravi Kannan, a surgical oncologist, who had just left the Adyar Cancer Institute after 15 years of practice, got a call from Dr. Chinmoy Choudhury, then director and current chairperson of the governing body at the Cachar Cancer Hospital and Research Centre in Silchar, Assam. He'd called to talk about a patient, but he also invited Dr. Kannan to head the centre. So Dr. Kannan and his wife, Seetha, went over for a weekend to explore the possibility.

"When we saw the conditions there, I knew I had received my calling," he says, adding that it was Seetha who really took the decision, resigning from her job at the

U.S. Consulate, "because she felt Silchar needed us more than Chennai. She volunteered at the community [and continues to] and we found help coming from various quarters to help us adapt," he says. And so in 2007 began a journey of cancer treatment in Silchar. Here, the doctor, recently honoured with the Padma Shri, tells us more about his experiences.

### What was the scenario when you reached Silchar?

● For various reasons, mainly lifestyle, the maximum number of patients come from Assam. We did not have a roadmap to our problems, so we began fire-fighting as each issue cropped up, tackling it one at a time.

## DELHI MOVES

SUNALINI MATHEW

Sakshi, 15, is a little shy when her teammates point to her as the fastest runner. The group of girls on the Pardada Pardadi's under-17 basketball team, from Bulandshahar, is always in training, for numerous events they take part in and outside the Uttar Pradesh, many of which they say they come out at the top. This makes it easy to take part in running events, of which Run for Her is one.

Organised over three years now, the run takes place on Women's Day, March 8, with an aim to raise awareness about women's empowerment, by way of running. Organised by the High Commission of Canada and the Run with Me Foundation, led by coach Ravinder, the money raised will go to the Pardada Pardadi Educational Society that supports education for girls, the Navjyoti India Foundation that works on women's safety and empowerment, and In For The Cause that helps society be inclusive of those with a disability.

While last year saw about 1,000 women participate, this year coach Ravinder says he's hoping to see about 1,200, with a few men taking part too. "We want to include men who support women's running too," he says, citing those who run in mixed groups for either safety or a sense of camaraderie.

Ankush Mendiratta, whose group Run Bugs has more women than men, says the least men can do, considering the city isn't safe for women at 4:30 or 5 a.m. when they set out for a run, is to run together. In a men-for-women format developed by the Pinkathon, Men-



## OUT RUNNING

This run isn't about distance or speed; it's about women coming out of homes to participate



diratta says, "I get calls asking, 'Can I run?' So I ask people to come and join us for tea on a Saturday just to get a sense of the connections we have and the positive spirit." Women, often reticent about sport find support in these groups.

Of a women's-only run, Rama Vedashree, 60, who has been running for the past decade or so, says, "New women runners tend to come for this because it's less intimidating. Distances are -- at 3 km, 5 km, 10 km -- are doable. A lot of my running friends run with their daughters (those as young as six can participate)." She adds that it's also a pleasant experience to run in the Chanakyapuri diplomatic area, where it's rare to get permission for an event.

**Showing the way** (Clockwise from far left) Sakshi (centre) winning a medal, last year's participants, Priyanka Mehta from Run Bugs, Rama Vedashree

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT, PRIYA SHARMA

In the meantime, 50 girls from Pardada Pardadi are getting ready to come to Delhi to run the race. They had five podium finishes out of six last year. "At first our parents weren't happy with us going out of station, but when they see us win, they're encourage us now," says Deepika Chaudhary, one of the participants.

Register at [townscript.com](http://townscript.com); ₹1,000 upwards; March 8th; train with Run Bugs ([facebook.com/groups/runbugs](https://facebook.com/groups/runbugs))

## PEOPLE

### Soul searching in the woods

A four day workshop at Jim Corbett National Park will help you connect with nature and find your *ikigai*



Jayirthi Ahya, a computer engineering graduate and former user experience designer set up Experience & Co. in 2014 when he was 24. "The idea was to bring young creators, movement makers together for different kinds of experiments, interventions and collaborations," he says. A part of what the company does is an experience-based forest festival, F of X, that's in its second year now, with an expected attendance of 350 people. He takes us through the four days that will feature over 40 speakers from professions as diverse as growth hacking and electronic music production to illustration and fashion consulting.

### What is the backstory of F of X?

One day my friend, Paras Malhotra, and I, were brainstorming on how to come up with an equation for a happy life that's relevant to our generation. We're quite opposite: he is very logical while I am very emotional. After sitting together for three to four hours, we figured that a happy, purposeful life is equal to  $f(x)$  max where  $x$  is that one single value that all of us are looking for. It can be different for everyone, but we all have that one thing to achieve. And if we can find it, we can live a very purposeful life. X stands for the unknown treasure on a map.

### What is F?

The four zones: heart, mind, soul, hand, which is also the way the festival is laid out. We feel that heart is where the crazy begins: The purpose, the passion, the story comes from it. The mind gives you the knowledge, insights, tools and framework to make that crazy happen. The hand zone is where we want people to come and play, to indulge in something which is not their comfort zone. It's derived from combinatory play. The idea is to disconnect yourself from the problem, and focus on something entirely different and in this way you'll find the answer to your problem. Soul zone is where we want all of this to align. This space is right next to the river to enable the people to relax, realign and recalibrate. This is a slow-down zone where we conduct deep conversations, sound healing sessions. Besides this, we have a silent zone.

### What are the activities to expect?

We have talks, sessions, masterclasses, workshops, passionate story telling, open-mics, collaboration activities, physical activities, acro-yoga, deep-dive workshops with masters, bonfire sessions with Q and As about love, life and work. All of these activities take place outdoors. Every conference in India ends after 7 p.m., but we realise that the best conversations happen at 2 a.m. After 7 p.m. we have music, story-telling. We have soul zone activities starting at 5 a.m.

### What is a participant going to take back home?

Well, first you're going to go back home with a very solid support network. Second, a lot of learning and knowledge that will help you create an action plan for 2020. Third, an experience of a lifetime, surrounded by 350 gorgeous people in a gorgeous place. Fourth, you'll go back home with a lot of clarity about what you're trying to do in life, why and how.

At Tarangi Resort & Spa, February 20th to 23rd, ₹30,000; book at [FofXfestival.com](http://FofXfestival.com)

SHUBHRA ROY

## PRODUCTS

### Khadi watches



The 23-year-old Titan now has watches with a dial and strap in khadi, in a tie-up with the 63-year-old Khadi and Village Industries Commission. Since the cloth is handspun, no two weaves are the same, making each watch different as well. The watch straps have been treated with a coating to make them durable. The watches are available in men's and women's styles.

At [Titan.co.in](http://Titan.co.in), ₹4,995

Contact us at [delhimetro@thehindu.co.in](mailto:delhimetro@thehindu.co.in)

### 5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



ART

#### Canvases on khadi

Swar Santati, an artistic tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary by a group of artists, is currently on display. Conceptualised and co-curated by Lavina Baldota, the exhibit narrates Gandhi's philosophy and his message through creative interpretations by independent artists, designers, and craftsmen.

VENUE: IGNCA, 11, Man Singh Road

TIME: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



FOOD

#### New menu

Oishi Wok in Gurugram that serves Asian cuisine has now introduced a new starters menu. The dishes include Dynamite Shrimp, Fire Cracker Tofu, Soya Garlic Fish, Korean Chilli Wings, Oishi Honey Chicken, Lotus Pond, Chili Edamame, Phaneang Curry. In addition, an option is available to customise your meal bowl.

VENUE: DLF Phase 4, Gurugram

TIME: 12 noon - 11 p.m.



EXHIBITION

#### Sculptures

Akar Prakar presents Translating Modernity, an exhibition of sculptures by sculptor Prodosh Das Gupta. Curated by art critic and author Uma Nair, the show traces a timeline from 1947-1990. The three large and 21 smaller sculptures on display, reflect the artist's interest in art history and his perception of the density of bronze.

VENUE: Triveni Kala Sangam, Tansen Marg

TIME: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.



FILM

#### Punjabi special

Daniel's Tavern that serves pan-Indian cuisine at The Imperial now has a special Punjabi classic menu. On till 10th February, the menu features Lasooni Jhinga (jumbo prawn marinated with garlic, yoghurt and cooked in clay oven), Amritsari Paneer (batter fried paneer marinated with Punjabi masala), and more.

VENUE: Janpath Lane, Connaught Place

TIME: 6:30 p.m. - 11:45 p.m.



FILM

#### Documentary

IIC will screen an award-winning Hindi documentary *Much Ado about Knotting*, directed by Geetika Narang and Anandana Kapur. The film offers a humorous look into the business of arranging marriages by matchmaking bureaus and websites. The film chronicles the marriage predicament that most couples face these days.

VENUE: C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC

TIME: 6:30 p.m.



ART

#### Canvases on khadi

Swar Santati, an artistic tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary by a group of artists, is currently on display. Conceptualised and co-curated by Lavina Baldota, the exhibit narrates Gandhi's philosophy and his message through creative interpretations by independent artists, designers, and craftsmen.

VENUE: IGNCA, 11, Man Singh Road

TIME: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



FOOD

#### New menu

Oishi Wok in Gurugram that serves Asian cuisine has now introduced a new starters menu. The dishes include Dynamite Shrimp, Fire Cracker Tofu, Soya Garlic Fish, Korean Chilli Wings, Oishi Honey Chicken, Lotus Pond, Chili Edamame, Phaneang Curry. In addition, an option is available to customise your meal bowl.

VENUE: DLF Phase 4, Gurugram

TIME: 12 noon - 11 p.m.



EXHIBITION

#### Sculptures

Akar Prakar presents Translating Modernity, an exhibition of sculptures by sculptor Prodosh Das Gupta. Curated by art critic and author Uma Nair, the show traces a timeline from 1947-1990. The three large and 21 smaller sculptures on display, reflect the artist's interest in art history and his perception of the density of bronze.

VENUE: Triveni Kala Sangam, Tansen Marg

TIME: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.



FILM

#### Punjabi special

Daniel's Tavern that serves pan-Indian cuisine at The Imperial now has a special Punjabi classic menu. On till 1

Ashwin Sanghi says his latest novel kicked off with a delicious cup of tea

MINI ANTHIKAD CHHIBBER

Ashwin Sanghi was enjoying a cup of sweet tea from a roadside vendor when inspiration for his latest book, *The Vault of Vishnu*, (Westland) struck.

"The vendor kept saying, 'Cheeni maar ke' meaning he had been generous with the sugar," says the Mumbai-based author, of the book that was launched at the 2020 Jaipur Literature Festival.

"It struck me then that we call sugar *cheeni*, which means 'from China'. Later on, I found out that the first Chinese immigrant to Bengal in the late 18th century was someone called Tong Achew who had established a sugarcane plantation and a sugar refinery. The region where he started the refinery was called Achipuri thereafter. Hence the term '*cheen*' for sugar."

"I also found that when the Chinese traveller, Xuanzang (Hsuan-tsang) visited India 11 centuries earlier, he had been excited to discover sugar and candies and took some back for the emperor. This meant that sugar had travelled from India to China and back again. I wondered how many such ideas went back and forth. These are two great civilisations and the exchange between them would have been substantial."

*The Vault of Vishnu*, like all of Ashwin's books is a heady mix of history, myth, science and thrills. The book has been extensively researched. "As is my usual pattern, I invested almost a year in my research – reading books, articles and papers that would enable me to build the historical narrative around this ancient relationship."

Ashwin visited China for the final part of his research. "I had never been to China before and it felt slightly intimidating. My itinerary was not determined by tourist cities but by specific locations that were part of my book's narrative, places such as the Terracotta Army, the Wild Goose Pagoda, the White Horse Temple



The overlap guy Ashwin Sanghi • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## It started with sugar

### Page turners

#### The Rozabal Line (2008)

The historical thriller looks at the theory of Jesus settling down in Kashmir

#### Chanakya's Chant (2010)

A look at the strategist Chanakya and his rebirth two and a half millennia later

#### The Krishna Key (2012)

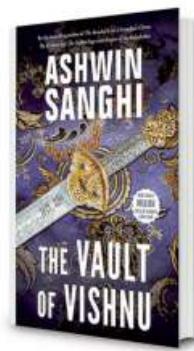
A serial killer, who believes himself to be Kalki and a history professor who needs to clear his name of murder collide

#### The Sialkot Saga (2016)

Two very different men are connected by an ancient secret in this thriller set in world of business

#### Keepers of the Kalachakra (2018)

String theory, quantum mechanics and the beginning of time among other concepts are peppered across the pages



ple and the Shaolin Temple. The research was more difficult because of the China dimension. Ask me to weave a story around an Indian idea and the process is almost automatic. An alien culture is far more challenging."

#### Fascinating fact

Of interesting nuggets of information Ashwin came across in his research, the author says, "I was studying the Silk Road. One of the most famous spots along that route was Samarkand, which boasted of the cleverest merchants. As I did my reading, I came across a passage that said that when the traders of Samarkand gave birth to a son, they put honey

on his lips and placed glue in his palms. It was to ensure that when he grew up, he would speak only sweet words while grasping coins in his hand as if they were glued there. I found that very similar to the thinking of traders from Jewish or Marwari backgrounds."

Saying he loves research in those areas that have overlaps, the 51-year-old says, "I am the overlap guy – between history and mythology; between spirituality and science; between past and present; between geography and politics..."

#### Feminine principle

Like all Ashwin's novels, *The Vault of Shiva* also has strong female characters from Pam Khurana, the young investigator from DRDO tasked with finding the secret of the Chinese soldiers' superhuman strength to Jaya Roy, the veteran RAW agent and Anu Rao. "You know my fascination for Shakti. I have always believed that darkness is not the opposite of light but the absence of it. Shiva is not the opposite of Shakti but the absence of it. Male energy is the absence of female energy. *The Rozabal*

Line had Martha-Swakilki-Alissa, *Chanakya's Chant* had Chandini, *The Krishna Key* had Priya and Radhika... each of my novels has always had strong female leads. This one is no different."

All the six novels in Ashwin's Bharat Series have 'Bharat' as a common thread but not a common character. "I want to build a character that will be common across a new series – as of now a closely guarded secret. The Bharat Series will always have different characters. The reason for that is the storylines will be different – one may require a scientist as the protagonist while another may need an academic or detective. Given that the Bharat Series is one in which I wish to write a book every two years until I die, I wish to keep my flexibility."

#### Screen avatar

Currently *The Sialkot Saga* is with Hansal Mehta for an OTT adaptation. *The Krishna Key* is with Eros Entertainment for a movie adaptation. *The Rozabal Line* is with a third entity for a mini-series. "I am sure that the remaining books will also get optioned or acquired soon. Any adaptation of the Bharat Series is always challenging owing to the scale and scope of these stories. Hence, patience is key."

*The Vault of Vishnu* alternates between the present and Xuanzang's journey to India between 627 and 645 CE. "It was the final journey among the three most important travellers (Bodhidharma and Faxian). Xuanzang's journey was documented extensively by his biographer. Writing about that particular journey was far easier than the other two."

Almost 80% of the journey is true claims Ashwin. "I have made deviations at places to suit the fictional narrative. Xuanzang talks about a third statue at Bamiyan (Afghanistan) but he does not actually visit it. He only makes a mental note to visit it on his return tour but does not end up crossing Bamiyan on his return," he says.

*The Vault of Vishnu* will be launched at Arth: A Culture Fest on February 21st at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Pragati Vihar

## '3 Idiots Rancho was based on real people'

Long-time collaborators Vidhu Vinod Chopra and Abhijat Joshi recount their journey

PRAVEEN SUDEVAN

Adulation often finds the artiste who performs rather than the one who works without an audience. Of course, there is a long list of celebrated exceptions. But, generally, the reception that a rockstar receives dwarfs the appreciation for an author. Which is why it was heartening to see the spectators at the Under 25 Summit welcome screenwriters Vidhu Vinod Chopra and Abhijat Joshi with as much fervour as when some of the actors, musicians, and stand-up comics entered the stage.

It didn't matter that Vidhu (67) and Abhijat (50) were among the oldest speakers at the Under 25 Summit that was held at Bengaluru on February 1 and 2. The mention of the duo's films evoked excited shrieks from the 1,000-plus people that thronged the auditorium.

Of the several movies Abhijat chose to speak about 3 *Idiots*, probably because of its college-going protagonists and the message it conveyed: pursue excellence, not success. Abhijat fondly recalled shooting the movie at the Indian Institute of Management in Bengaluru. He added that the character of Rancho, portrayed by Aamir Khan, was based on real people.

"When we were shooting for *Kareeb* (1998), the editor of the film, Renu Saluja, told us about this guy who graduated from the film institute. But he had a different name at the institute. And, the degree went to another person with that name. When we asked Renu why he did this, she replied, 'He was after education, not a degree.'

Rancho, it seems, has also traces of Vidhu, the producer of 3 *Idiots*.

For instance, the scene where Aamir's character takes a dig at another character who shows off his expensive watch has happened in Vidhu's life.



Reel and real Vidhu Vinod Chopra (above) was one of the inspirations for Aamir Khan's character in 3 *Idiots*

• FILE PHOTOS

"I had been to Dubai to meet my brother. And, he was telling me about this watch worth ₹2 lakh or so. I was like 'So, what's the big deal? My watch is considerably less expensive. But it shows the same time.'" The duo also discussed Vidhu's upcoming film, *Shikara*, which is based on the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from Kashmir, a familiar subject for him, since he grew up in the Valley.

Abhijat said that all the films that Vidhu had done so far could be counted as a preparation for *Shikara*, which is set to be released on February 7. "It will be in the league of *Schindler's List* and *The Pianist*," he added. "We showed the movie to James Cameron and he loved it," said Vidhu. Vidhu and Abhijat are likely to collaborate for the third film in the popular *Munna Bhai* series.

"I want to make *Munna Bhai*. It (*Shikara*) was a tiring film because it was close to my heart. I want to make some fun films now," Vidhu had said during a promotional event for *Shikara*.

### POOCH CAFE



### PEANUTS



### HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



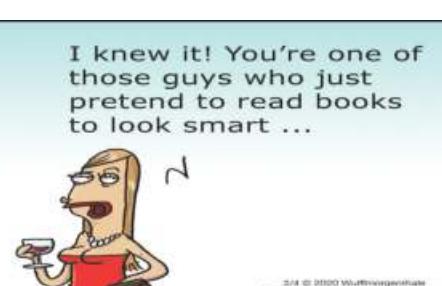
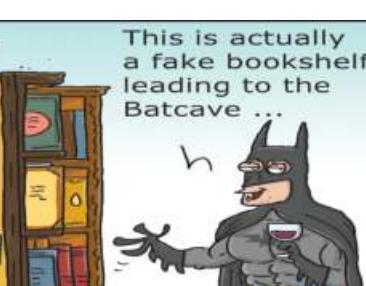
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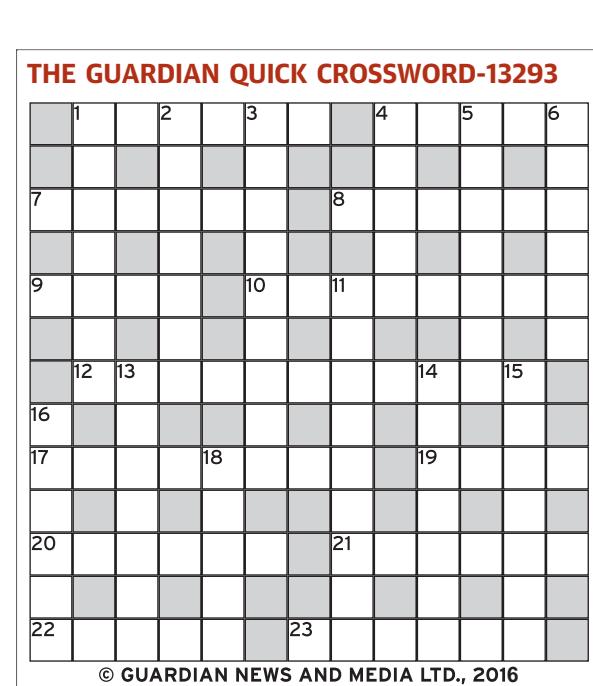
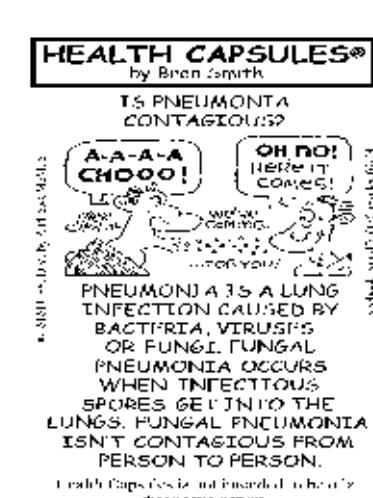
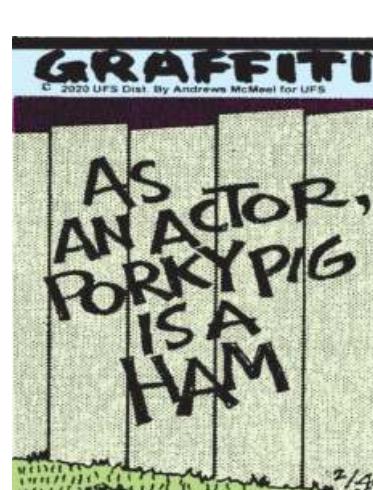
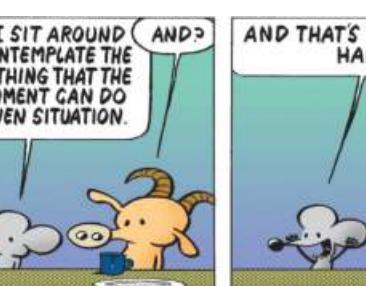
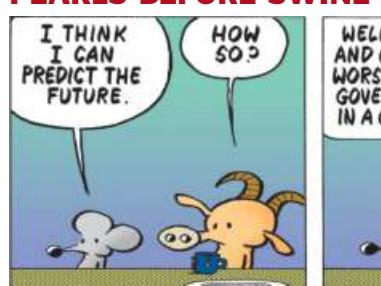
### TIGER



### WUMO



### PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



To play The Guardian Quick Crossword, Cryptic crossword, Sudoku & other puzzles online, scan the QR code.

- (3,4) 3 In Australia? (4,5)
- 4 Give birth (to an iceberg?) (5)
- 5 From Guadalajara or Acapulco? (7)
- 6 Put bubbles into (6)
- 11 Go gingerly (around) (9)
- 13 Inconsiderate driver (4,3)
- 14 Frozen shape in a drink (3,4)
- 15 Cosmonaut Yuri (7)
- 16 Flashing light (6)
- 18 Assign (5)

The solution will appear on February 5, 2020.

Solution No. 13293



- Bostonians?) (3,5)
- 19 Like an omelette? (4)
- 20 Delayed – postponed (2,4)
- 21 Artist's output (6)
- 22 Number etched by a skater? (5)
- 23 Scattered (6)
- Down
- 1 Thin varnish used to finish wood (7)
- 2 Redcoat (anag) – inter-war design style (4-7)
- 17 Social gathering (for diagnostic exams)

CM YK

# In a major blow, injured Rohit ruled out of New Zealand tour

Mayank Agarwal likely to be replacement for the three ODIs and Shubman Gill for the two Tests

## INDIA IN NZ

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI  
Limited-overs vice-captain Rohit Sharma was on Monday ruled out of the upcoming One-Day International and Test series against New Zealand after sustaining a calf injury during the fifth T20 International in Mount Maunganui.

Rohit retired hurt on 60 off 41 balls after he pulled his calf muscle while going for a quick single during the match that India won on Sunday.

### Being assessed

"He is out of the tour. Right now, it's not looking good. The physio is assessing him. We will get to know how bad it is, but he is not taking any further part in the series," a top BCCI source told PTI.

India is set to play three ODIs, starting Wednesday, and two Tests after that. It is learnt that Mayank Agarwal will replace Rohit as the third opener along with K.L. Rahul and Prithvi Shaw.

Mayank was the logical choice in the white-ball format since he was the reserve opener during the home ODI series against the West Indies



**Hors de combat:** Rohit Sharma is attended to after he suffered a leg injury during the fifth T20I against New Zealand at Mount Maunganui on Sunday. ■ GETTY IMAGES

when Shikhar Dhawan was absent owing to knee injury.

In the Test squad, Shubman Gill will join Rahul and Shaw as the third opener.

During India's last two Test

series at home (vs South Africa and Bangladesh), Gill was the back-up opener to Rohit and Mayank. His place was sealed in the squad after scores of 83 and 204 not out

in a drawn first 'A' Test against New Zealand in Christchurch.

The Test squad is yet to be officially announced, but it is learnt that it has already been

selected and only the official announcement is due.

The old selection committee under M.S.K. Prasad picked the replacements but it might take some time for

## The T20I series in numbers

BATTING						
Name	Innings	Runs	Highest	Avg.	S/R	50/100s
K.L. Rahul	5	224	57*	56	144.51	2/0
Colin Munro	5	178	64	35.6	130.88	2/0
Ross Taylor	5	166	54*	41.5	131.74	2/0
Kane Williamson	3	160	95	53.33	170.21	2/0
Shreyas Iyer	5	153	58*	51	131.89	1/0

BOWLING						
Name	Matches	Wickets	BBI	Avg.	Econ.	4/5W
Shardul Thakur	5	8	2/21	19.62	9.81	0/0
Jasprit Bumrah	5	6	3/12	21.5	6.45	0/0
Ish Sodhi	5	6	3/26	24.33	7.3	0/0
Hamish Bennett	5	6	3/54	30.16	9.52	0/0
Ravindra Jadeja	3	4	2/18	14.75	5.9	0/0

\* The runs and wickets in the Super Overs haven't been included

the official announcement as convenor of the selection committee, secretary Jay Shah, is on his way to New Zealand along with treasurer Arun Dhumal.

"Once the secretary's approval comes, the replacements will be officially announced. But the selectors have already sent the names," the source added.

It has still not been ascertained whether Rohit has endured a calf muscle tear, but he looked in severe pain even after physio Nitin Patel attended to him. Despite that, he smacked a six off Ish Sodhi but had to be replaced after the pain became unbearable.

## India fined for slow over-rate in final T20I

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
DUBAI

The Indian cricket team has been fined 20% of its match fee for maintaining a slow over-rate against New Zealand in the fifth and final T20

International on Sunday. Match referee Chris Broad imposed the sanction after India was ruled to be one over short

of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration. Stand-in captain Rohit Sharma pleaded guilty to the offence and accepted the sanction.

On Saturday, the Indian team had been docked 40% of its match fee after falling short of target by two overs in the fourth T20I.

## Rahul jumps to second place

Both teams are unbeaten in the tournament

## India takes on Pakistan for place in final

Both teams are unbeaten in the tournament

### U-19 WORLD CUP

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

K.L. Rahul reaped the reward for his stellar all-round show in India's 5-0 drubbing of New Zealand as he rose to a career-best second position in the ICC T20 rankings released on Monday.

Pakistan's Babar Azam maintained pole position while Rohit Sharma entered the top-10 of the rankings. Virat Kohli remains in ninth position.

Shreyas Iyer (up 63 places to 55th) and Manish Pandey (up 12 places to 58th) advanced in the latest rankings.

Among bowlers, Jasprit Bumrah gained 26 places to reach 11th position, Yuzvendra Chahal has advanced 10 places to 30th and Shardul Thakur's eight wickets in the series have lifted him 34 places to 57th.

Navdeep Saini (up 25 places to 71st) and Ravinder Jadeja (up 34 places to 76th) have also moved up.



**Captain's ace:** Ravi Bishnoi has delivered whenever skipper Priyam Garg needed him to, even with the bat. ■ COURTESY: ICC



Atharva Ankolekar.  
■ COURTESY: ICC

## Tendulkar's WC win in shortlist

### LAUREUS AWARD

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

Sachin Tendulkar has been shortlisted as one among five contenders for the Laureus Sporting Moment 2020 Award.

The winner will be selected after the third and final round of voting, which will

end on February 16.

The moment, titled 'Carried On the Shoulders Of A Nation', is a reference to the Indian cricket team's 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup triumph.

In his sixth attempt, Tendulkar finally tasted success in 2011 as India beat Sri Lanka by six wickets. Carried on the shoulders of the Indian

team, Tendulkar made a lap of honour, shedding tears of joy after the victory was sealed in his home city of Mumbai.

Earlier, Tendulkar was one of the 20 contenders for the award.

The winner will be announced during the Laureus World Sports Awards Show on February 17 in Berlin.

## Sindhu, Mary Kom among nominees

Phogat, Dutee and Manasi are the others in the fray

### BBC AWARD

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Shuttler P.V. Sindhu and boxer Mary Kom are among the five nominees for the inaugu-

ral BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award to be presented here on March 8.

The other three are Vinesh Phogat (wrestling), Dutee Chand (athletics) and Manasi Joshi (para-badminton),



The winner will be decided following online voting. Those interested in voting can log on to any one of the various Indian language websites of BBC. Voting closes on Feb. 17 at 11.30 p.m.

## Fati-Messi combo comes alive



**On the prowl:** Ansu Fati was on fire for Barcelona. ■ AP

## Rituparna and Kean Yew do it for Aces

The win over Warriors virtually assures them of a place in the last-four stage

### PBL

**V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM**  
HYDERABAD

Pune 7 Aces rode on the brilliance of Rituparna Das and Loh Kean Yew to score an emphatic 4-1 win against Awadhe Warriors and virtually assure itself of a place in the last-four stage of the Premier Badminton League at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium here on Monday.

The rest of the batsmen

have not done much to write home about and if the lower-order had not rescued India in the quarterfinal, the outcome of the game could have been different. Not to forget the match-winning spell from pacer Kartik Tyagi.

Atharva Ankolekar and in-

form leggie Ravi Bishnoi

shared a 61-run stand for the seventh wicket to give their team a fighting chance. In

the end, India won rather

comfortably.

Facing Pakistan fast bowlers Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Amir Khan and Tahir Hussain will be a challenge. Opener Yashasvi Jaiswal has been the backbone of the Indian batting, scoring three half-centuries in four games, including against Australia.

Both teams go into the semi-final unbeaten. While India beat Australia in the quarterfinals, Pakistan out-

played Afghanistan.

Pakistan captain Rohail Nazir played down the hype surrounding the game but an India-Pakistan contest is always high on pressure.

"It is a high-pressure game and has a lot of buzz in the world. We will play it like a normal game and hope to do well," said Pakistan opener Mohammad Huraira after the win over Afghanistan.

Like at the highest level, the India juniors have had the upper hand over Pakistan of late, having won the Asia Cup encounter last September when they emerged tournament winners.

India, the defending

champion here, had trounced Pakistan by 203 runs in the last edition in 2018.

However, history counts for little and the Priyam Garg-led India will have to be at its best to knock Pakistan out. Opener Yashasvi Jaiswal has been the backbone of the Indian batting, scoring three half-centuries in four games, including against Australia.

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# 'Greatest' tag there for the taking

Federer's Slam and weeks-at-the-top records in Djokovic's sights

## TENNIS

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
MELBOURNE  
Novak Djokovic put Roger Federer on notice as he won his 17th Grand Slam title at the Australian Open and warned he was going all-out for the Swiss' record of 20 – and his mark for weeks as World No. 1.

### Relentless

Djokovic, who came through a mid-match slump to win his eighth title in Melbourne, is relentlessly totting up the victories that could soon end the debate over who's the greatest in history.

The five-set victory over Dominic Thiem was his eighth in eight finals in Melbourne, putting him alongside Federer and Nadal as the only men to win the same Slam eight times.

It makes Djokovic, 32, the first man in the Open era, and only the second in history, to win Grand Slam titles in three different decades – and as a not-insignificant bonus, returns him to World No. 1.

### Ominous sign

In an ominous sign for his rivals, the Serb has started the year unbeaten with Wimbledon, the French Open, the Tokyo Olympics and the US Open all lying in front of him as tantalising opportunities.

He is clear-sighted about his goals: overtaking Nadal's 19 Major titles and Federer's 20 to become the all-time Grand Slam king, and outdoing the Swiss master's record 310 weeks in the top ranking.

Djokovic has so far clocked up 276 weeks as No. 1 and could pass second-placed Pete Sampras's 286 in April, and Federer's 310 on October 5.

"Obviously at this stage of my career, Grand Slams are the ones I value the most. They are the ones I prioritise," said Djokovic, adding "there's a lot of history on



**Well begun...!** Novak Djokovic, seen with the Australian Open trophy, has made an ominous start to the year. ■REUTERS

**G**rand Slams are one of the main reasons I am still competing and still playing full season, trying to obviously get the historic number one (record).

—NOVAK DJOKOVIC

the line".

"Grand Slams are one of the main reasons I am still competing and still playing full season, trying to obviously get the historic number one (record). That's the other big goal," he said.

### Huge win

With five Major titles in just over two years, and unbeaten by Nadal and Federer at the Grand Slams since 2014, there's no question who's now the leading member of the 'Big Three'.

The latest rankings tell the story at the top of men's ten-

nis: Djokovic is number one, Nadal, one year older at 33, is second and 38-year-old Federer is a relatively distant third.

Seven-time Major winner Mats Wilander said Djokovic's win in Melbourne sets a marker for a year in which he could sweep all before him.

"At the end of the year, we could have two players on 20 or two on 19 or even more because Novak can win all four," he said. "This is a huge win for him going forwards. A loss here would have been very difficult to get confidence and come back. But the door is open for him to start climbing through it and talk about being the greatest ever."

As he jets out of Melbourne, his name etched yet again on the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup, Djokovic warned that his confi-

**G**A loss here would have been very difficult to get confidence and come back. But the door is open for him to start climbing through it and talk about being the greatest ever.

—MATS WILANDER

dence and expectations were soaring.

### Confidence boost

"I'm super-happy with the way I started the season. It kind of sets the tone for the rest of the year," he said.

"To start off the season with a Grand Slam win significantly boosts your confidence and your expectations are quite high for the rest of the season.

"But whatever happens, this season is already successful."

As he jets out of Melbourne, his name etched yet again on the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup, Djokovic warned that his confi-

# Nagal and Ramkumar shown the door

Troicki and Caruso defeat the two in the opening round

## TATA OPEN

**N. SUDARSHAN**

PUNE  
Two of India's top-three singles players, Sumit Nagal and Ramkumar Ramanathan, bit the dust on the opening day of the Tata Open Maharashtra at the Balewadi Stadium here on Monday.

While Viktor Troicki overcame a mid-match letdown to beat Nagal 6-2, 6-7(4), 6-1, Ramkumar lost a contest that had seemingly nestled in his hands 3-6, 6-4, 7-5 to the Italian seventh seed Salvatore Caruso.

### Costly error

With Caruso serving at 5-5 in the third, Ramkumar had two break points but an unforced error off each wing cost him dear.

Then, at 5-6, Ramkumar's serve, which had worked like a dream under immense pressure in each of his two previous holds, faltered. A double fault and two ill-judged approaches to the net from 15-15 ushered in the defeat.

### Stiff challenge

Earlier on Centre Court, Troicki had to dig deep to overcome a stiff challenge from Nagal.

The Serb's current ranking of 191 is deceptive at best, for he was once ranked as high as 12 in the world.

The 33-year-old drew upon his rich experience to



**At full tilt:** Salvatore Caruso outlasted Ramkumar Ramanathan in three hard-fought sets in the first round on Monday. ■R. RAGU

turn a match that Nagal had appeared to have taken charge of towards the end of the second set.

**Big aces** Troicki won the first in quick time, breaking Nagal in the first and seventh games. But in the second set, Nagal found the tennis to match the Serbian's.

Up 2-1, he had his opponent by the throat at 0-40, but Troicki snuffed out three of four break opportunities with big aces and held to 2-2.

Troicki appeared to land the decisive break in the very next game, converting his fifth break point to go up 3-2.

But Nagal struck back immediately, with his ploy of moving Troicki end-to-end and opening up the court working well.

Nagal's next three service games were tidy before he made the play at 5-6.

With some deep, pinpoint returns he hurried Troicki into errors to earn two set points.

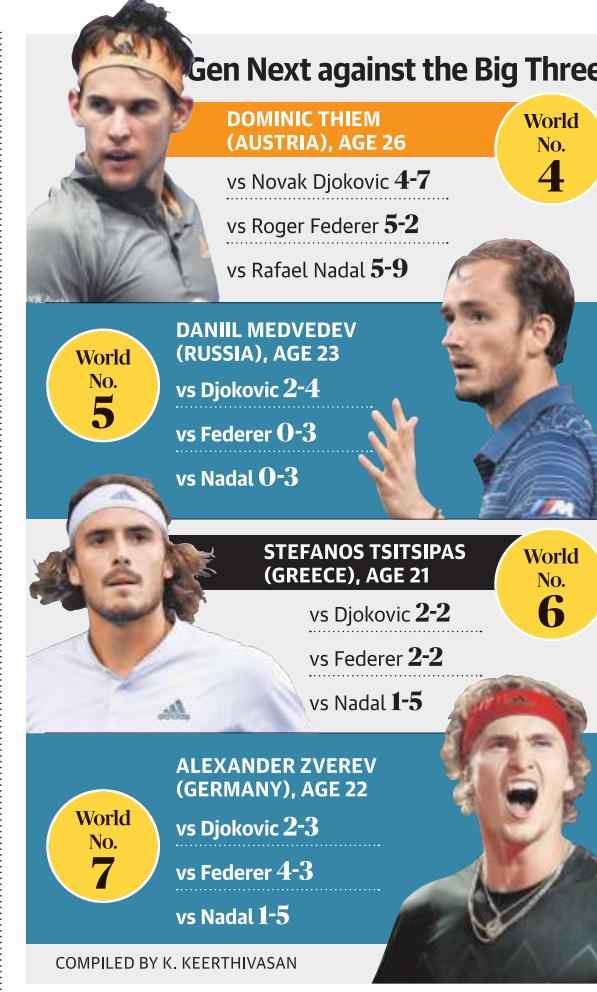
However, Nagal fluffed both, first sending a backhand cross-court wide before dumping a pass into the net.

The 22-year-old, however, composed himself to take the ensuing tie-break for the loss of just four points, with two great inside-out forehands sealing it.

The momentum carried into the third set and Nagal had two chances to break the Troicki serve in the very first game.

But Nagal struck back immediately, with his ploy of moving Troicki end-to-end and opening up the court working well.

But the latter saved both, the second with a forehand that just about caught the trammle.



## Unconventional champ

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
MELBOURNE

A strict vegetarian diet, spiritual guru and family hugging sessions aren't methods employed by most athletes, but they have helped Novak Djokovic turn himself into one of the best players ever – and now Australian Open champion for an eighth time.

### Turning to the unusual

The Serb has distinguished himself with his willingness to turn to the unusual, from hyperbaric chambers to meditation and Spanish guru Pepe Imaz, a former journeyman player whose "love and peace" philosophy drives his teachings.

While Switzerland's Federer and Nadal of Spain come across as straightforward characters, Djokovic is the

most complicated of tennis' 'Big Three'.

His daily routine, as related to *The New York Times* last year, involves getting up before dawn with his family, watching the sun rise and then doing hugging and singing sessions, and yoga.

The father-of-two has dabbled in various diets including gluten- and dairy-free, and is now a proud "plant-based athlete" – the subject of a Netflix documentary, 'The Game Changers', for which he is executive producer.

Rather than celebrating his Australian Open wins by partying, Djokovic climbs a fig tree in the city's Botanical Gardens. "I have a friend there, a Brazilian fig tree, that I like to climb and I like to connect with, so that's probably my favourite thing to do," he says.

# 'Novak has put Serbia on the map'

He is the most famous person in the whole country, says Troicki

**N. SUDARSHAN**

PUNE

Viktor Troicki was in a hurry. "I gotta go fast, it's fifth set, he's just a couple of games away," the Serb said after quickly wrapping up his final qualifying match. It was not long before Troicki watched Novak Djokovic – his Davis Cup doubles partner and one of his closest mates since their early days in war-torn Yugoslavia – win his eighth Australian Open and 17th Grand Slam title.

"Novak has put our nation on the map with all the things he has done for our country," Troicki said. "He is the most famous person in the whole country and the region. People recognise it, kids want to be like him."



**Trendsetter:** Troicki says tennis has become very popular in Serbia and because of Djokovic, there are a lot of kids playing the game. ■CAMERON SPENCER

The 33-year-old recollects those times back home when they were literally in penury. "We had nothing

There was no help from anyone except our parents, who were giving us everything they could. We had to go outside Serbia to even practice. Abroad, the kids that had everything – coaches, support behind them, the federations; we had nothing. We had to find it all on our own. That made us stronger and believe even more.

"Many, many, many players didn't make it, but we are the fortunate ones who did. Now, tennis has become very popular in Serbia, probably the most popular [sport] and because of Novak there are a lot of kids playing tennis. Federation is also supporting more and we have more clubs and more courts to play."

THE HINDU GROUP

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**Ringa Ringa Roses**

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### Tuesday's order of play

- **Centre Court:** Gojowczyk (Ger) vs Duckworth (Aus)
- Arjun Kadhe vs Vesely (Cze)
- Prajesh vs Maden (Ger)
- Paes & Ebden (Aus) vs Divij & Sitak (Nzl)

## TV PICKS

**NBA:** Sony Six (SD & HD), 6.30 & 9 a.m.  
**Ranji Trophy:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m.  
**ICC Under-19 WC:** Star Sports 3, 1.30 p.m.  
**Tata Open:** SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 3.10 p.m.  
**PBL:** Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m. onwards  
**South Africa v England:** 1st ODI, Sony Six (SD & HD), 4.30 p.m.

## IN BRIEF



**Harden, Antetokounmpo spark teams to big wins**

WASHINGTON  
NBA scoring leaders James Harden (*in pic*, 40 points) and Giannis Antetokounmpo (30) powered Houston Rockets and Milwaukee Bucks to wins over New Orleans 117-109 and Phoenix Suns 129-108 respectively on Sunday.  
**The results:** Toronto 129 bt Chicago 102, Houston 117 bt New Orleans 109, Milwaukee 129 bt Phoenix 108, Detroit 128 bt Denver 123 (OT). AFP



**Simpson rallies for Phoenix Open win**

LOS ANGELES  
Webb Simpson birdied the last two holes of regulation, then birdied the first playoff hole to deny Tony Finau and claim his sixth US PGA Tour title at the Phoenix Open on Sunday. It was the 2012 US Open champion's first title since the 2018 Players Championship. AFP

**Joshna loses to El Tayeb in semifinals**

CLEVELAND  
Top seed Nour El Tayeb of Egypt showed why she is the best in the business with a 11-4, 11-8, 11-3 win over Joshna Chinappa, seeded fifth, in the semifinals of the Cleveland Classic, a PSA World squash tour bronze event, here on Sunday.



**Tamim Iqbal tunes up with record triple ton**

DHAKA  
Tamim Iqbal warmed up for a Test comeback against Pakistan with an unbeaten 334, the highest First Class score on Bangladeshi soil, in the Bangladesh Cricket League. He overtook former Under-19 teammate Roqibul Hasan's 313, before surpassing Sri Lankan Kumar Sangakkara's 319 in a Test match in 2014, to chalk up the record score. PTI

**Daniel continues Maldini dynasty at AC Milan**

MILAN  
Daniel Maldini made his Serie A debut with Italian giant AC Milan to follow in the footsteps of his father, club legend Paolo, and grandfather Cesare. The 18-year-old, who came on in the 93rd minute against Hellas Verona at the San Siro, made his debut 35 years after Paolo and 66 after Cesare. AFP

## Kolhapur registers maiden win

## SPORTS REPORTER

BENGALURU  
FC Kolhapur City recorded a 2-0 win over Baroda Football Academy in the Hero Indian Women's League football tournament at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Monday. This was FC Kolhapur City's first win of the tournament.

In another outing, prolific striker Soumya Gugulot's brace propelled Kenkre FC to a 3-1 victory over Sreebhumi FC.

**The results:**

Kenkre FC 3 (Soumya Gugulot 5, 18, Asha Kumari 47) bt Sreebhumi FC 1 (Aarti 33); FC Kolhapur City 2 (Lhingnam Kigen 24, Subhadra Sahu 70) bt Baroda Football Academy 0.

# Delhi desperately seeking a win

Comes up against an in-form Gujarat with quarterfinal berth at stake

RAKESH RAO  
NEW DELHI

A desperate Delhi returns to home turf in search of a win against an in-form Gujarat and stay alive in the hunt for a place in the quarterfinals of the Ranji Trophy.

As things stand on the eve of this key-clash, Gujarat (26 points from six matches) is placed second, behind Andhra (27).

Delhi (17 from six) is ninth and faces a must-win situation in what is the penultimate clash for these teams in the league.

Delhi emerged victorious in both its previous home encounters. But what has hurt the host is the addition of just five points from four outstation engagements.

**Prove a handful**

Gujarat, having won its last two matches, could well prove a handful for Delhi, which is without an injured Ishant Sharma and utilityman Lalit Yadav.

Even without Parthiv Patel, who scored just 159 runs



**Batting mainstay:** Nitish Rana has been Delhi's go-to man for runs in a stuttering campaign so far. ■ FILE PHOTO

in eight innings spread over five matches, Gujarat looks formidable considering the form of Bhargav Merai (399 runs from 10 innings) and Priyank Panchal (344 from

nine). In addition, Manpreet Juneja (268) and Samit Gohel (256) have done their job.

Among the bowlers, left-arm medium-pacer Roosh Kalaria (24 wickets), medi-

um-pacer Chintan Gaja (22) and left-arm medium-pacer Arzan Nagwaswalla (20) have played their part in Gujarat winning four out of six matches. This week, the trio

could again make the decisive difference in conditions conducive to fast bowling.

**Maximum damage**

Similarly, Delhi will expect Simarjeet Singh (21 wickets), comeback-man left-arm medium-pacer Kulwant Khejrolia and young all-rounder Kunwar Bidhuri (7) to cause maximum damage.

Delhi overly relies on Nitish Rana (467 runs), skipper Dhruv Shorey (276) and Kulwant Chandela (273).

Unless more batsmen apply themselves, Delhi cannot complete a much-needed win.

"I expect at least two batsmen from the Delhi top-order to bat long," said coach K. P. Bhaskar and continued, "after all, we are desperately seeking a win."

"Unless we give our bowlers enough runs to bowl out the opposition twice, we cannot advance."

"The boys are keen to win the last two matches. We hope for the best."

## RANJI TROPHY, ROUND 8 SCHEDULE

**GROUP A:** Delhi v Gujarat (New Delhi); Punjab v Andhra (Patiala); Rajasthan v Bengal (Jaipur); Vidarbha v Kerala (Nagpur).

**GROUP B:** Baroda v Tamil Nadu (Vadodara); Karnataka v Madhya Pradesh (Shimoga); Railways v Himachal (New Delhi); Saurashtra v Mumbai (Rajkot).

**GROUP C:** Haryana v Assam

(Lahli); Jharkhand v Chhattisgarh (Jamsedpur); Maharashtra v Odisha (Pune); Tripura v Jammu & Kashmir (Agartala); Utarakhand v Services (Dehradun).

**PLATE:** Arunachal Pradesh v Bihar (Patna); Chandigarh v Mizoram (Chandigarh); Manipur v Pondicherry (Kolkata); Meghalaya v Sikkim (Mangaldoi); Nagaland v Goa (Dimapur).

## Indian boxers reap it rich

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

India's junior and youth boxers dominated the ring at the Golden Girl Championship in Boras, Sweden, claiming 14 medals, including six gold, the overall championship trophy and the 'Best Boxer' award for Prachi Dhankar.

The medalists: **Juniors:** Gold: Prachi Dhankar (50kg), Etoobi Chanu Wangjam (54kg), Lashu Yadav (66kg), Maha Raghav (80kg). Silver: Janhavi Churi (46kg), Rudy Lathmingmuani (66kg), Tanishka Patil (80kg). Bronze: Diya Negi (60kg).

**Youth:** Gold: Muzzkan (54kg); Bronze: Sanya Negi (57kg), Deepika (64kg), Muzzkan (69kg), Sakshi Jahdale (75kg).

single gold and four bronze medals at the event, the Boxing Federation of India said in a press release.

**The medalists:** Juniors: Gold: Prachi Dhankar (50kg), Etoobi Chanu Wangjam (54kg), Lashu Yadav (66kg), Maha Raghav (80kg). Silver: Janhavi Churi (46kg), Rudy Lathmingmuani (66kg), Tanishka Patil (80kg). Bronze: Diya Negi (60kg). Youth: Gold: Muzzkan (54kg); Bronze: Sanya Negi (57kg), Deepika (64kg), Muzzkan (69kg), Sakshi Jahdale (75kg).

## Domestic game has evolved big time, says Parthiv

The travelling, different playing conditions, pitches make the process a great experience to grow up with'

VIJAY LOKAPALLY  
NEW DELHI

At 34, he is a veteran of 191 First Class matches, including 100 in Ranji Trophy, but Parthiv Patel yearns for "perfection" as a cricketer who "performed" when the team most wanted him to. "Not that I have not made some winning impacts but not to the extent I had desired," said the genial wicket-keeper-batsman from Gujarat.

Parthiv made his Test debut a good two years and two months before he figured in his first Ranji Trophy match in November 2004 at Ahmedabad. "I remember the match vividly. We should have won that match against Delhi. I played against some established players on the circuit like Ashish Nehra, Aakash Chopra, Ajay Jadeja, Gautam Gambhir, Mithun Manhas, Amit Bhandari, Sarandeep Singh, Vijay Dahiya. Delhi was 102 for nine chasing 156. We almost won. It was a good start to my career."

Recalling his journey, Parthiv pointed out the progress made by Gujarat from the time he made his debut. "The Ranji Trophy title (2017) by beating Mumbai in the final was unforgettable. It showed the status of cricket in Gujarat. We had evolved as a team and to become the champion was very special indeed."



**Veteran voice:** Parthiv Patel says his role in the side is to guide the players in the right direction without imposing himself. ■ FILE PHOTO: N. SUDARSHAN

Parthiv shared his experience of playing domestic cricket.

"It has evolved big time since I have started. The matches have become very competitive. To sustain as a performing team for two months is hugely challenging. The travelling, different playing conditions, pitches make the process a great experience to grow up with.

Thanks to the domestic structure, you can see how well the Indian team is performing in all formats of the game. I feel proud of being part of this system."

On his role in the team, Parthiv noted, "My role is to

guide the players in the right direction. I know I have to play the part of a senior but I don't impose myself. All these years I've learnt that it is best if you become one of the team and not bask in what you've done. That's what I've always believed in."

His 100th Ranji Trophy match came last week against Vidarbha. Gujarat won the game with Parthiv making 58 as opener and an unbeaten 41 at No. 7 to finish the contest. "It was a special moment," said Parthiv, who will, however, miss the match against Delhi starting here from Tuesday.

Parthiv has been with the club for the last three seasons, serving as the assistant coach in 2017-18 before taking up the role of the technical director last season.

In this role, he headed FC Goa's Youth Development,

with three of his teams finishing as champions.

Miranda has been the assistant coach this season and was in charge of the Developmental Team till last season. Under his charge, the young Gaurs won the Goa Pro League and impressed in the second division league and the Durand Cup.

In this role, he headed FC

Goa's Youth Development, with three of his teams finishing as champions.

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Cup.

## Keerthana wins junior snooker title

## SPORTS BUREAU

PUNE  
Keerthana Pandian of Karnataka won the junior snooker title, defeating Anupama Ramachandran of Tamil Nadu 61-31, 59-18, 60-50 at the Manisha-Vascon National billiards and snooker championships, organised by BSAM at the PYC Hindu Gymkhana.

The winner practices at the KSBA under coach R. Ravichandran. She had won

the girls' title in the IBSF

World u-16 snooker champion-

ship in 2018.

**The results:****Junior girls:**

**Snooker, final:** Keerthana Pandian (Kar) bt Anupama Ramachandran (TN) 3-0 (61-31, 59-18, 60-50).

**Third place:** Ishikha Shah (MP) bt Krisha Jhurani (MP) 2-0 (64-30, 53-01).

**Finalists:** Anupama bt Krisha

2-1 (62-37, 40-57, 59-36); Keerthana bt Ishikha 2-1 (50-38, 65-82, 62-45).

Keerthana Pandian... getting it right. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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