



Govt. grants FCRA registration to A.R. Rahman's NGO page 12



Don't use 'nationalism', it may connote Nazism for some, says Bhagwat page 13



Michael Bloomberg comes under attack at Democratic debate page 14



India takes on New Zealand in the first Test at Wellington from today page 18

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NEARBY



SC dismisses plea by Uphaar victims' kin

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court has dismissed a curative petition filed by the relatives of Uphaar theatre fire tragedy victims against Sushil and Gopal Ansar for negligence that led to the death of 59 people in 1997. A three-judge Bench found no merit in the curative plea filed by the Association of Victims of Uphaar Tragedy.

NATION ▶ PAGE 9

Govt. to hold meet with experts on pollution: Rai

NEW DELHI
Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Thursday said the government will hold a conference on February 27 with experts, activists and officials to reduce air pollution in the city. "After the conference, the government will also write letters to Environment Ministers of U.P., Haryana and Punjab for a meeting in March to find solutions," he said.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

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FRIDAY REVIEW ▶ 4 PAGES

CAA will cause Muslims to face exclusion: U.S. panel

PM made it clear that country won't budge: official sources

SRI RAM LAKSHMAN

WASHINGTON DC

Days before U.S. President Donald Trump is due in India, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) released a fact sheet on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA).

"There are serious concerns that the CAA serves as a protective measure for non-Muslims in case of exclusion from a nationwide National Register of Citizens (NRC)," the USCIRF says. "This purpose is evident from BJP politicians' rhetoric. With the CAA in place, Muslims would primarily bear the punitive consequences of exclusion from the NRC which could include 'statelessness, deportation, or prolonged detention,' according to three United Nations Special Rapporteurs."

However, official sources in New Delhi said the new citizenship law was an internal matter that would stay. "CAA is a done deal. It's not going to change. The Prime Minister has also made it clear that India will not budge an inch on this issue," said the source in response to USCIRF's comments on the CAA and the NRC.

On the possibilities that Mr. Trump might raise uncomfortable issues like me-



Dissent continues: An anti-CAA protester being detained near the U.P. Bhavan in New Delhi on Thursday. ■ BIBEK CHETTRI

Address terror threat from Pak, India tells UN chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres should spend more time addressing the threat of terrorism that emanates from Pakistan, MEA official spokesperson Ravneesh Kumar said on Thursday. Referring to Mr. Guterres' comments in

Pakistan, Mr. Kumar said terrorism was a more pressing issue as it violated human rights. "He made a few comments on Kashmir and on some other aspects of India and on NRC as well. Our position has not changed," he said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

diation during visit, an official spokesperson said, "On all these issues our position is well known to the U.S. side. Time and again we have communicated with them – the State Department, the White House and the Congress – about our

sensitivities. Our position is well known and we hope that things will go on smoothly during the visit. And, we don't see any such problem."

(With inputs from Kallol Bhattacharjee)

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Shooter kills nine in German bar, cafe

Officials see 'xenophobic' motive



Nation jolted: Police personnel cordon off the site of attack in central Hanau, near Frankfurt, on Thursday. ■ AP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HANAU

A shooter with suspected far-right beliefs killed nine people at a shisha bar and a cafe in the German city of Hanau, the police said on Thursday, before apparently killing himself and his mother. Federal counter-terror prosecutors said they were investigating the case, which showed "signs of a xenophobic motive".

The gunman was identified as 43-year-old German Tobias R. Around 10 p.m. on Wednesday, he rang the

doorbell at the shisha bar and shot at people in the smoking section, killing five, mass-market daily *Bild* said.

He then fled by car before opening fire at the Arena Bar & Cafe, killing three people outside. One of the injured persons died later.

The gunman left behind online material that suggested a terror attack motivated by "a hostile attitude to foreigners", said Peter Beuth, the Interior Minister of the state of Hesse.

Speaking to thousands of people gathered here from the makeshift stage at the protest site, Ms. Ramachandran explained that the

SC interlocutors examine alternative routes

On second day of dialogue, Shaheen Bagh protesters propose traffic solutions

SIDDHARTH RAVI

NEW DELHI

Supreme Court-appointed interlocutors on Thursday examined alternative routes that could be opened to get around the traffic blockade due to the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act protests at Shaheen Bagh in the Capital. On the second day of dialogue, senior lawyers Sanjay Hegde and Sadhana Ramachandran also requested demonstrators to meet them in smaller groups.

The interlocutors sought to make a distinction between the protesters' objections to the CAA and the roadblock caused by the sit-in. While multiple protesters questioned why the Supreme Court hadn't heard the challenge to the CAA yet and pronounced its verdict on the Act's constitutionality, Mr. Hegde and Ms. Ramachandran assured them that all their arguments would be placed during the hearing in court.

Speaking to thousands of people gathered here from the makeshift stage at the protest site, Ms. Ramachandran explained that the



Interlocutors Sanjay Hegde and Sadhana Ramachandran talk to protesters at Shaheen Bagh on Thursday. ■ PTI

court had also upheld their right to protest. "Sanjay and I don't want you to get up from Shaheen Bagh. Shaheen Bagh will remain intact. But can we together come up with a solution so that demonstrations continue here in the same space but the public may also use the road, if that is possible?" she said.

The crowd voiced scepticism. "We are being heard

here after 60-odd days of blocking this road. If we go somewhere else, we won't be heard even if we sit for two years," said one protester, which was met with loud applause.

'Source of inspiration'

Another protester argued that the demonstrations at Shaheen Bagh were a source of inspiration for anti-CAA

protests across the country.

Mr. Hegde acknowledged the fact but cautioned that if something bad were to happen, it could affect other ongoing protests nationwide. The interlocutors also argued that had the Supreme Court so desired, it could have directed the government to clear the road; instead it chose to reach out through the mediators.

The commotion during the discussions prompted Ms. Ramachandran to propose that groups of 10-20 women meet the mediators one after another for a more meaningful dialogue, but several protesters didn't warm up to the idea.

90-minute interaction

On the protesters' suggestion, the mediators, following the 90-minute interaction, decided to examine alternative routes near Kalindi Kunj and Faridabad that could be opened in order to reduce traffic congestion.

Two volunteers from the site accompanied Mr. Hegde and Ms. Ramachandran to show them the options. The duo is expected to return on Friday to continue talks.

Army hails SC for 'enabling judgment'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court judgment granting Permanent Commission to women officers in the Army gives clarity on the issue and a road map has been prepared for its implementation, Army chief General Manoj Naravane said on Thursday.

"The judgment is a very enabling one. It gives a lot of clarity on how to move forward. There is equal opportunity for everyone and there is no gender discrimination," he said in a brief interaction with the media.

Elaborating, he said the first task at hand is to comply with the SC judgment. "We have drafted a plan. We will send out letters to everyone and ask for their choice."

The same procedure that is followed for male Short Service Commission (SSC) officers will be followed in ensuring Permanent Commission for women, he said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Nirbhaya case convict claims mental illness

Officials see 'xenophobic' motive



Nation jolted: Police personnel cordon off the site of attack in central Hanau, near Frankfurt, on Thursday. ■ AP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HANAU

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Two Dalits tortured in Rajasthan, seven arrested

Several videos of the assault and torture went viral on social media, leading to reactions and protests

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JAIPUR

Two Dalit youth were beaten up, stripped and tortured in Rajasthan's Nagaur district on the suspicion of stealing money from the cash box of an automobile service agency. The police on Thursday arrested seven persons accused of committing the crime after several videos of the assault went viral on social media, leading to protests in the State Assembly and strong reactions from political leaders.

The videos of the assault showed a group of men thrashing the two youth,

who are cousins, with rubber belts. They later allegedly dipped a piece of cloth wrapped on a screwdriver in petrol and inserted it in the private parts of one of them.

The incident at Nagaur district's Karnu village reportedly took place on February 16. The victims, Bisa Ram, 24, and Panna Ram, 20, could be heard screaming and pleading in the video footage.

The youths lodged a complaint at Panchodi police station, after which a case under Sections 342 (wrongful confinement), 323 (causing hurt) and 143 (unlawful as-

sembly) of the Indian Penal Code as well as the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act was registered.

Heinous crime unit

Director General of Police Bhupendra Singh said the heinous crime monitoring unit would monitor the case and it would be taken up under the case officer scheme for speedy investigation.

Opposition Rashtriya Loktantrik Party tried to disturb the Assembly proceedings when Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot was about to start reading out his budget speech.

As they entered the well of the House to protest against the incident, Speaker C.P. Joshi asked them to go back to their seats.

The three MLAs later staged a dharna on the stairs at the Assembly's entrance gate. They were carrying placards condemning the incident and demanding removal of the Nagaur Superintendent of Police. Mr. Gehlot said immediate

and effective action had been taken in the horrific incident and nobody would be spared.

Earlier in the day, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi reacted sharply to the incident and said the video of the two victims being tortured was "horrible and sickening". He asked the State government to take immediate action to bring the perpetrators of the crime to justice.

BSP chief Mayawati said the incident in the Congress-ruled State was a "painful reminder" of the 2016 Una flogging incident.

Several vehicles, including a State bus and police motorcycles, were damaged in the arson and vandalism. Those served notices include retired IPS officer S.R. Dara-

28 anti-CAA protesters issued recovery notices of ₹64 lakh

They include Darapuri and Sadaf who intend to move court

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LUCKNOW

Twenty-eight persons in Lucknow have been asked to pay around ₹64 lakh as recovery for damage to private and public property during the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act at the Parivartan Chowk on December 19.

Several vehicles, including a State bus and police motorcycles, were damaged in the arson and vandalism. Those served notices include retired IPS officer S.R. Dara-

puri, lawyer and activist Mohammad Shoaib, Congress member Sadaf Jafar, teacher Robin Verma and cultural activist Deepak Kabir.

The order issued by K.P. Singh, Additional District Magistrate (East), earlier this week asks the 28 persons to pay the amount within 30 days or face confiscation of their properties. The ADM found them responsible for illegal assembly and fixed the damages under "joint and several liability".

The accused are out on

bail in the arson and vandalism case slapped against them. Mr. Darapuri and Ms. Jafar said on Thursday that they intend to move court against the recovery notices. They stated they have not yet received any official communication. "I am hearing news that I've been issued recovery notices by the district administration, though I have not received any such notice till now. I will challenge it in the High Court if I get any," said the retired IPS officer.

(With inputs from PTI)

IN BRIEF

Criminal killed by unidentified men

NEW DELHI
A 29-year-old man, identified as Rakesh, who was involved in multiple cases of robbery and theft was allegedly killed by unidentified people following a quarrel over a monetary dispute in south-east Delhi's Sunlight Colony on Thursday, said the police. They said that teams have been formed to nab the accused and investigation is under way.

Vendor run over by train in Nangloi

NEW DELHI
Forty-year-old Prem Raj was hit by a moving train while crossing a railway track in Nangloi on Thursday afternoon. He was on his way to buy flowers for his streetcart when the incident happened. He was the sole breadwinner of the family and is survived by his wife and two minor sons.

Air Quality of Delhi-NCR		
Delhi	Gurugram	160
Good	230	160
Ghazabab	270	180
Noida	253	Greater Noida 246
Good 0-50	51-100	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		

Lawyers stay away from work over judge's transfer

They say it will erode litigants' faith

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Delhi High Court lawyers abstained from work on Thursday in protest against the transfer of Justice S. Muralidhar to the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

The Delhi High Court Bar Association (DHBCA) also expressed shock over the transfer of the judge. "All the members of the Bar cooperated in the protest as the said transfer of Justice S. Muralidhar is a rarest of rare case and the majesty of our institution is at stake," DHBCA executive member, advocate Naginder Benipal, said.

In an emergent executive committee meeting on Wednesday, the Bar association had requested its members to abstain from work on Thursday as a mark of protest.

The Supreme Court collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde, in a meeting on February 12, had recommended transfer of Justice Muralidhar to the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

Justice Muralidhar was

number three in the Delhi High Court, his parent HC.

Detrimental effect

In its resolution, the Bar association said, "Such transfers are not only detrimental to our noble institution but also tend to erode and dislodge the faith of the common litigant in the justice dispensation system. Such transfers also impede free and fair delivery of justice by the Bench."

Justice Muralidhar was also part of the High Court Bench which had first ordered decriminalisation of IPC Section 377 to give freedom of sexual expression to the LGBT community.

A controversy had erupted in 2018 when Justice Muralidhar had quashed the transit remand order by a trial court and directed release of rights activist Gautam Navlakha from house arrest in the Koregaon Bhima violence case.

Besides Justice Muralidhar, the collegium has also recommended transfer of Bombay HC Judge Ranjit V. More to the Meghalaya HC.

Submit report on illegal e-waste units

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Following a plea alleging the operation of 5,000 illegal e-waste processing units in and around Delhi, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Thursday directed the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) and the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) to furnish a fresh report on the same.

A Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel directed the DPCC to coordinate with the District Magistrates of East and North-East Delhi, Ghaziabad and the UPPCB before submitting the report.

The authorities were directed to file the report by April 23. The orders came after the DPCC informed the tribunal that nine teams were constituted to carry out inspections of the areas to identify the illegal e-waste processing units so that closure notices could be issued. In July 2019, 57 premises were closed in the old Seelampur area, the DPCC said.

Centre has no intention to end Shaheen Bagh stir: Sanjay Singh

AAP leader criticises Yogi Adityanath's 'death wish' remarks on CAA violence



It suits the Modi government that the protest continues because it indirectly helps it in pursuing its agenda of polarisation

SANJAY SINGH
AAP leader and Rajya Sabha member

he said the role of the police in dealing with rioters during the CAA protests should be appreciated.

Mr. Adityanath said his government supported democratic protests but would maintain law and order by dealing strictly with those indulging in violence.

Mr. Singh alleged that instead of focusing on good governance and improving law and order in the State, Mr. Adityanath was trying to divert the attention of the public. Under Mr. Adityanath, U.P. was becoming notorious for "rapists", he said. He denied that his party was strategically tilting towards a "soft Hindutva" policy to present itself as a national alternative to the ruling BJP.

Referring to the AAP government's policy on the NPR, he said, "We are looking into certain additional information that is being sought this time under the revised format."

(With inputs from Nikhil M Babu)

"If the Narendra Modi government was serious about ending the Shaheen Bagh protest, it would have followed up on the assurance given by its law minister on taking the path of dialogue and honest engagement with the anti-CAA protesters. It suits the Modi government that the protest continues because it indirectly helps it in pursuing its agenda of polarisation".

Mr. Adityanath defended the State police on Wednesday over the deaths of anti-CAA protesters, saying they were shot by other rioters and nothing could be done to save someone with a "death wish". Wrapping up the discussion on the Governor's address in the State Assembly,

Jamia violence: 6 students get notice as fresh videos emerge

Footage shows protesters throwing stones from the campus

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A few more videos of the Jamia violence, which erupted on December 15 last year during the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act protest, emerged on Thursday. The videos show protesters throwing stones from inside the campus.

The footage which has emerged during investigation by the Crime Branch show police officers escorting students from the new library at 6.55 p.m. In another video with time stamp 5.18 p.m., a few persons can be seen throwing stones from

The videos suggest that the police exercised restraint even as protesters were throwing stones at them

SIT MEMBER

inside the campus while the gate is open. In another video at 5.06 p.m., persons can be seen throwing stones right outside the campus on the main road while teargas shells thrown by police come their way.

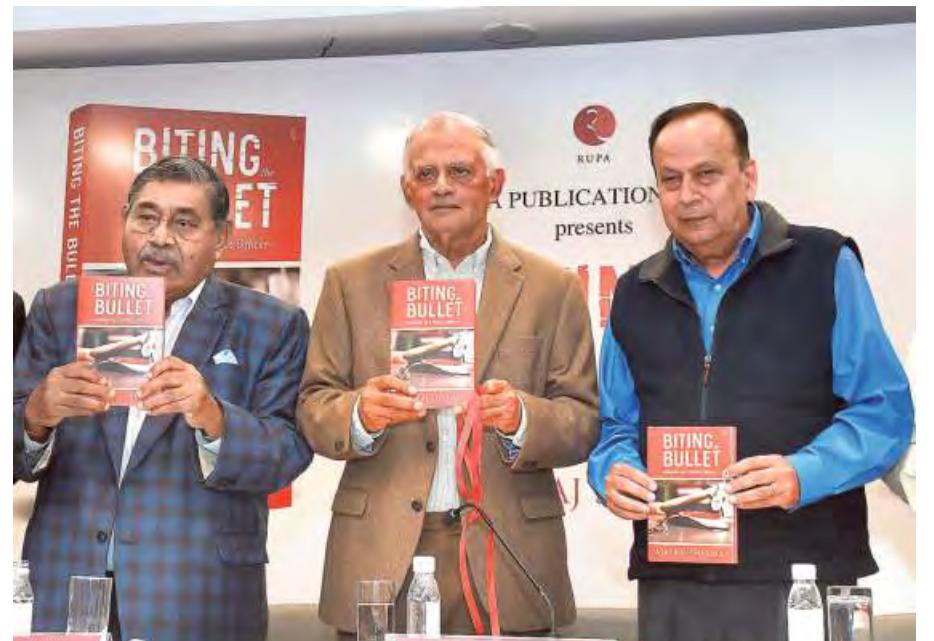
"The videos suggest that the police exercised restraint even as protesters were throwing stones from

them," said a member of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Jamia violence.

On Thursday, five Jamia students who joined the probe recorded their statements. Notices were issued to 10 students on Wednesday. The police said that notices have been issued to six more students.

The SIT team visited the campus on Tuesday and examined the area where violence erupted in the wake of videos that emerged in the last few days showing security personnel thrashing students in the library.

Annals of the past



(From left) Former Delhi Police chief Ajai Raj Sharma releasing his book 'Biting the Bullet' with Vijay Kapoor and Pankaj Vohra, in the city on Thursday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Ravidas temple: ex-MP seeks action against DDA, govt.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Former Congress MP Ashok Tanwar moved the Supreme Court on Thursday seeking contempt proceedings against the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and the Delhi government for allegedly "wilfully and deliberately disobeying" its orders allowing construction of a permanent structure for the temple in Tughlaqabad forest area instead of a wooden porta cabin as suggested by the Centre.

In October it had accepted the Centre's revised offer of 400 sq metre land in Tughlaqabad forest area for construction of the temple and had directed the government to constitute within six weeks a committee for the it.

Mr. Tanwar moved the apex court on Thursday claiming that none of the directions given by the court on October 21 and November 25 last year have been implemented by the authorities.

DELHI TODAY

Talk: Panel discussion on "The Invisible Elephant of Uni-Polarity in the Room". Panelists: Ambassador Niraj Srivastava and Ambassador Arun Kumar Singh at Conference Room - I, India International Centre (IIC), 6.30 p.m.

Talk: Special lecture on "China's Current Science, Technology and Innovation: Opportunities and Challenges" by Prof. Stéphanie Balme, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Sciences Po at Seminar Room, Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS), Civil Lines, 3 p.m.

Talk: Lecture on "Series on Psychology Promoting Pro-Social Behaviours through Positive Parenting" by Priyanka, Consultant Clinical psychologist at Casuarina Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7.30 p.m.

Dance: "Drishtikon 2020 - Samaratni Night of Divine Union", a Kathak performance by Guru Diwali at The Stain Auditorium, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7.30 p.m.

Exhibition: "Known Unknown", an exhibition of contemporary artists curated by Amitava Das at Shridharani Galleri, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m.- 8 p.m.

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



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Goel hails CM's initiative to work closely with Centre

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

BJP MP Vijay Goel on Thursday said he welcomed the point Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal made after taking oath at Ramlila Maidan on Sunday that he would like to work closely with the Central government for development of Delhi.

Mr. Goel said he hopes that Mr. Kejriwal remains true to his word. In the next five years, Mr. Kejriwal will implement everything he said in his speech, he said, adding: "We will also forget his past actions and request him that he will stop his step-motherly treatment of civic bodies and release approximately ₹10,000 crore stalled funds to all three corporations."

He alleged that Delhiites had to suffer a lot because the government did not release funds to the civic bodies due to which work regarding sewers, road, sanitation, education and health have not been carried out.

Kejriwal said he wants to coordinate with all parties for all round-development of Delhi. It is also required of the Chief Minister that he meets the seven MPs from Delhi every 15 days so that they can contribute to the development of the city and make it the world's number one Capital," Mr. Goel said. He also added that Mr. Kejriwal should consider the implementation of Ayushman Bharat and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in Delhi without any delay. Mr. Goel said he hopes that Kejriwal will reinstate Janta Darbaar' so that Delhiites can meet him directly.

Govt. to hold conference with experts to reduce pollution: Rai

Will work to make the fight against the issue a mass movement, says Environment Minister

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Thursday said the government will hold a conference on February 27 with experts, NGOs and officials to reduce air pollution in the city.

Word to other States

"After the conference, the government will also write letters to Environment Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab for a meeting in March to find solutions to air pollution," he said.

He also said the government will work to make the fight against air pollution a mass movement. "If air pollution has to be reduced by one-third, it has to be turned into a mass movement. Only efforts from the part of the government will not help to reduce it. Till everyone participates, it will be difficult to control it," Mr. Rai at a press conference.



GObtaining real-time data is the first step. Second, STPs have been created by the DJB to detect and monitor the causes of pollution of the Yamuna. I will also visit the STP plant setup in Delhi Gate to oversee the treatment process

GOPAL RAI
Environment Minister

The aim to reduce air pollution to one-third in the next five years was mentioned in the 10-point 'Kejriwal Ka Guarantee Card' released by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the run-up to the 2020 Delhi Assembly election.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Rai, who was given charge of the Environment Ministry, which was earlier under Minister Kailash Gahlot, chaired a meeting of officials of the Environment Department to understand the situation.

Steps taken in last 5 yrs

"The environmental issues pertaining to Delhi have been a subject of concern. When we formed the AAP government five years ago, we had taken various measures to decrease pollution levels. A lot of work has been done in this sector as a result of which the government has been able to reduce around 25% of pollution levels in the city along with the support of various agencies and the people of Delhi," Mr. Rai said.

He said an action team must be formulated consisting of people from multiple agencies because all of them play an important role in this sector. "Obtaining real-time data is the first and foremost step in this direction. Second, STPs have been created by the Delhi Jal Board to detect and monitor the causes of pollution of the Yamuna. I will also visit the STP plant setup in Delhi Gate to oversee the treatment process and its functioning," he said.

40 lakh trees/year

The Minister added that a joint meeting of all the agencies, including civic bodies, Public Works Department, Delhi Development Authority, Resident Welfare Associations, among others will be held on February 28, where discussions will be held on how to spearhead the Delhi government's plan of plantation of 40 lakh trees in the city in a year.

Students' union protests against rise in LPG price

They use stoves made of cow dung

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The National Students' Union of India (NSUI) on Thursday organised a protest at Delhi University against the rising price of LPG.



NSUI members protest at Arts Faculty, Delhi University against hike in price of LPG cylinders, on Thursday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

a living by selling pakoras and tea, then he increased prices of the gas cylinders.

As a mark of protest, the NSUI resorted to using stoves made out of cow dung and wood.

It said: "The economy is facing a slowdown, unemployment is at an all-time high but the government has responded by putting more pressure on the common man, hitting where it hurts the most by increasing the LPG cylinder price."

"Mr. Modi told us to earn

Government's think tank gets new V-C

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Jasmine Shah has been re-appointed as the Vice-Chairman of the Dialogue and Development Commission, a think-tank of the Delhi government.

After his appointment, Mr. Shah met Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal here. "Honoured to be appointed by the Cabinet as the Vice-Chairperson of @DDC Delhi for the next term of AAP govt. Met CM @ArvindKejriwal and discussed with him various ways in which DDC can assist in his vision to transform Delhi into a 21st century city [sic]," he tweeted.

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India's National Newspaper

IAS MOCK INTERVIEW

India's Most Experienced Interview Panel is Here!

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. R.P. Aggarwal (Retd. IAS) | 6. B.K. Pandey |
| 2. Amb Anil Trigunayat | 7. K.D. Singh |
| Former Ambassador & Secretary, Association of Indian Diplomats (Former Ambassador) | IIFS, Former Principal Conservator of Forests - Arunachal Pradesh |
| 3. S.B. Singh | 8. Dr. N.K. Sahu |
| Well known IAS Interview Mentor | IES, Former Joint Secretary - HRD Ministry |
| 4. G.S. Patnaik | 9. Devi Prasad |
| IAS, Former Vice Chairman - DDA, Former Adviser to Governor of Arunachal Pradesh | IES, Celebrated Budget & Economic Survey Expert |
| 5. R.P. Sinha | 10. S.B.S Tyagi (Retd. IPS) |
| IAS, Former Secretary - Govt of India | 11. H. Bhushan |
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(Jaipur) - 981855693; Absolute Honda (Mahipalpur) - 011-40470000, 981607030, 9811625338, 9152462887; (RK Puram Sector 1) - 011-26713841, 9871600734, 9871500735, 9069145268; Uday Honda (Addchini) - 011-2619381/82/83, 9212355512, 9212355515; (Ay Nagar) - 011-41026278, 9266135550, 9266155517; **WEST DELHI:** One Honda (Meena Bazaar) - 9555007307, 9871080111; (Shastri Nagar) - 9882719494, 9999786767; **EAST DELHI:** Rajendra Honda (Shahdara) - 011-22832996/97/98, 931008240; (Dilshad Garden) - 011-2231205/06, 9818372396; (Bhajanpur) - 9212670292/93; (Dabri) - 9212670291, 011-65000237/39; (Bijwasan) - 9599442118; **CENTRAL DELHI:** Smooth Honda (Daryaganj) - 011-48119998, 8010209992; (J.B. Honda (Jhande Walan) - 9717099729; (Pandey Nagar) - 9717099723; Celebrate Honda (Jagatpura) - 011-45644444, 9821398522; (Jheel) - 8448131114, 011-22000123; **NORTH DELHI:** Globus Honda (Azadpur) - 011-45561371, 8226993152, 8826993150; (Rani Bagh) - 011-45091549, 8226993157; (Ptampura) - 011-43028981, 8826993162 (Zakir) - 951044222; Rohini Honda (Sector 3) - 8822201000; (Ritamb) - 85277479000; (Buoh Vihar) - 8527724000; Santosh Honda (Narela) - 84670857312, 88824931002; **BALLABGARH:** Kabir Honda - 981716687, 9312655454; **GAUNCHI:** Big Swing Honda - 882699589, 9212168811; (Gangpati Honda - 0124-423500, 9910894235; Yume Honda - 9818250011, 9506308444; Malvi Gurugram Honda - 0124-2222501, 7827041254, 9873875500; Regent Honda - 011-4061142, 8899913146; **PALAN VIHAR GURUGRAM:** Ganpathi Honda - 8130955568, 8130975566; Pioneer One Honda - 0124-4242350, 9910894233; Yume Honda - 9650186777; **SEC- 52 GURUGRAM:** Big Swing Honda - 882699589, 9212168811; (Gangpati Honda - 0124-423500, 9910894235; Yume Honda - 9818250011, 9506308444; Malvi Gurugram Honda - 0124-2222501, 7827041254, 9873875500; Regent Honda - 011-4061142, 8899913146; **BALLABGARH:** Kabir Honda - 981716687, 9312655454; **DHARUHERA:** Shri Krishna Honda - 9416714941; **FARIJABAD:** Pick Up Honda - 9818066610, 9873875500; Regent Honda - 0124-2672444, 8222840011; **BADSHAHPUR GURUGRAM:** 920514517; 9249430089; **GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR:** Parkash Honda - 0124-423500, 9910894235; **PATAUDI:** Yume Honda - 0124-2672444, 8222840011; **GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR:** Parkash Honda - 0124-423500, 9910894235; **ROHTAK:** Lohach Honda - 8684988803, 9684988803; **SHRI KRISHNA HONDA:** Ashirwad Honda - 9017190979; **KUNDLI:** Triumph Honda - 9254015904; **BAHALGARH:** Triumph Honda - 9034015920.

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(Jaipur) - 981855693; Absolute Honda (Mahipalpur) - 011-40470000, 981607030, 9811625338, 9152462887; (RK Puram Sector 1) - 011-26713841, 9871600734, 9871500735, 9069145268; Uday Honda (Addchini) - 011-2619381/82/83, 9212355512, 9212355515; (Ay Nagar) - 011-41026278, 9266135550, 9266155517; **WEST DELHI:** One Honda (Meena Bazaar) - 9555007307, 9871080111; (Shastri Nagar) - 9882719494, 9999786767; **EAST DELHI:** Rajendra Honda (Shahdara) - 01

Many detained during protest at U.P. Bhavan

They were protesting against imposition of 'draconian' laws in State without permission: police

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Nearly 100 people were detained by the police for holding demonstrations at Uttar Pradesh Bhavan at Chanakyapuri against the "imposition of draconian laws" in the State.

The demonstrations called by the Jamia Coordination Committee (JCC) were being carried out despite not having received permission, as a

consequence of which up to 65 men and 34 women were detained outside U.P. Bhavan, the police said. All the students who were taken to Mandir Marg police station were released by the evening, the JCC said.

Demonstrators demanded the release of Khafell Khan who has been booked under the National Security Act. The protest, meant to be a "gherao" was against various



A protester being detained on Wednesday. ■ BIBEK CHETTRI

preventive detention laws as well as sedition charges being imposed on political and social activists across U.P.

"The U.P. Chief Minister continues to spread terror in the State openly. Innocent people are being thrown into jails. They are being slapped with draconian laws, such as UAPA, NSA and others. We demand that all political prisoners be released without delay. When the State turns rogue, who is going to protect the rights of the citizens?" a JCC representative said.

Students group KYS,

which also participated in the protests, in a statement, attacked the U.P. government, saying that it had a "...complete disregard for people's civil liberties and rights..." highlighting alleged action against the anti-CAA protesters. The group also stated that it condemned the CAA, the proposed NRC and the atrocities allegedly committed by the State government against protesters.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR TRANSPORT U.T. CUM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CHANDIGARH CITY BUS SERVICES SOCIETY, CHANDIGARH CORRIGENDUM

In reference to the e-tender bearing Reference No. 174/DC(F&A)/CCBS/2020 dated 28.01.2020 uploaded on <http://tenders.chd.nic.in> and chdctu.gov.in website chdctu.gov.in for inviting e-tender for "Hiring of 40 Nos. Midi (9.0 Mtrs) Without Heating System Fully built pure Electric Buses including Bus Charging stations on kilometer basis for a period of 10 years" the last date of submission of Technical Bid is hereby extended from 24.02.2020 upto 02:00 PM to 26.02.2020 upto 02:00PM and opening of Technical Bid is extended from 24.02.2020 at 03:00 PM to 26.02.2020 at 03:00 PM.

General Manager
for Director Transport-cum-CEO
Chandigarh City Bus Services Society
Chandigarh.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body male **Age** : About 35 years, **Height** : 5'7", **Face** : Long, **Complexion** : Sallow, **Build** : Thin, **Identification** : A burn mark on right foot, wearing brown colour jacket, blue colour shirt and black colour pant, was found dead on 07.02.2020 at footpath, Vardhman Road, near Jain Mandir, Lodhi Colony, New Delhi. In this regard DD No. 05-A dated 07.02.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Lodhi Colony, New Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO - P.S. Lodhi Colony, New Delhi
Tel. No.: 011-24620283, 24611753

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Kunal Batra** S/o Har Bhagwan Batra R/o P-42, West Patel Nagar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 324/14 u/s 498-A/406/34 IPC P.S. Patel Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Kunal Batra** cannot be found and where as it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Kunal Batra** absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Kunal Batra** accused of FIR No. 324/14 u/s 498-A/406/34 IPC P.S. Patel Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 21.03.2020.

By Order: Ms. Akanksha
Metropolitan Magistrate-Mahila Court-05
Room No. 353, 3rd Floor,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

Office of the Superintending Engineer Research Circle Irrigation Research Institute, Roorkee-247667

Short-Term e-tender Quotation Notice No. 03. SE(R)/IRI/2019-20

Sealed quotations are invited on behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand from authorized manufacturing company/whole seller/ distributor for the supply of following items described in table given below. The Technical Bid should be uploaded and the same should be received in Hard Copy by the office of undersigned on 03.03.2020 up to 3.00 PM in person or by post. For any postal delay, the whole responsibility will of Quotator(s)/Bidder(s) only. The "Technical Bid" shall be opened on the same day i.e. on 03.03.2020 at 3.30 PM in the office of undersigned in presence of the Quotator(s)/Bidder(s) or their authorized representatives. The date of opening of "Price Bid" of only technically prequalified Quotator(s)/Bidder(s) will be commenced later. Other terms & conditions, Pre-qualification Bid form, Pre-qualification Criteria, Price Bid form, Specifications, etc. and Information regarding Prequalification may be download from our website www.rirorkee.res.in or may be collected from the office of the undersigned in any working day on the payment of Rs. 200/- (Rs. Two hundred only).

Item No.	Name of the Item	Unit	Quantity
1.	Concrete Rebar Scanner	No.	01
2.	Ultrasonic Pulse Velocity Test Apparatus	No.	01
3.	Hydraulic UTILITY 2000 kN	No.	01
4.	Linear Variable Differential Transformer (LVDT)	No.	100 mm

(Shankar Kumar Saha)
Superintending Engineer

DIPR UK 11094

MODERN COACH FACTORY, RAEBARELI

Tender No.: RE-CAMC-TRMM-2019-20-23 Due on: 20.03.2020 Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/M&P, Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli, for and on behalf of President of India, invites ONLINE open tender based on single packet system from reputed firms through Indian Railways portal www.ireps.gov.in for Tender notice No. RE-CAMC-TRMM-2019-20-23, Due on 20.03.2020 on prescribed format for the under mentioned work-

Description of work	Approx. Value (in ₹)	Earnest Money rounded off to nearest multiple of 100 (in ₹)
Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (including spare parts) of 01 no. of CNC Tool Room Milling Machine for 01 year.	₹ 31,50,800.00 (Rs. Thirty One Lakhs Fifty Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Seven Only)	₹ 63,000.00 (Rs. Sixty Three Thousand Only).
Cost of Tender document: ₹ 3,000.00 Completion period from the date of commencement of work: 12 months (01 Year)		

Date and Time of closing of tender: 20.03.2020 at 15:30 hrs.
Detailed Tender Notice, Eligibility criteria, Terms & conditions are available in tender document at Indian Railways portal: www.ireps.gov.in Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (M&P)

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that one unknown male name & address unknown, Age: 60 Yrs., Height: 5'7", Wheatish Complexion. Identification : Cut mark on right eyes. Wearing jeans was found dead at Gate No.5, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi on 06.02.2020.

In this regard a DD No. 15-A dated: 06.02.2020 has been lodged at P.S. S.J. Enclave, New Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about this deceased may kindly inform the following.

S.H.O,
P.S. S.J. Enclave, Delhi
Ph.: 011-24106345, 24106346

MODERN COACH FACTORY, RAEBARELI

Tender No.: CAMC-STM-2019-20-24, Due on: 18.03.2020 Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/M&P, Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli, for and on behalf of President of India, invites ONLINE open tender based on single packet system from reputed firms through Indian Railways portal www.ireps.gov.in for Tender notice No. CAMC-STM-2019-20-24, Due on: 18.03.2020 on prescribed format for the under mentioned work-

Description of work	Approx Value (in ₹)	Earnest Money rounded off to nearest multiple of 100
Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (including spare parts) of 06 nos. of Skin Tensioning Machines for 03 years	₹ 29,60,816.00 (₹ Twenty Nine Lakhs Sixty Thousand Eight Hundred Sixteen Only)	₹ 59,200.00 (₹ Fifty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Only)
Cost of Tender document: ₹3000.00 Completion period from the date of commencement of work: 36 Months (03 Years) * Date & Time of closing of tender: 18.03.2020 at 15:30 hrs. * Detailed Tender Notice, Eligibility criteria, Terms & conditions are available in tender document at Indian Railways portal: www.ireps.gov.in Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (M&P)		

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HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Tel. 01972-288041, Email- ee-bar-hp@nic.in

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)

The Executive Engineer HPPWD Division Barsar on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites/reinvites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of work.	Estimated cost	Starting date for downloading Bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for Submission of Bid
1	Annual Maintenance plan on Jhanjiani & Dakoti Jhanjiani Maslana Khurd road (Sh+P/L) bituminous concrete 30mm thick in km. 0/0 to 1/0 & 1/0 to 2/0) respectively (DRRP NO. HP-03-05V-N09 & VR0223) (With paver finisher) Time -One Month Cost of form-500/- Eligible class of contractor- Class D	16,26,425=00	27-02-2020 From 10:30 A.M.	31900=00	11-03-2020 up to 10:30 A.M.
2	Annual Maintenance plan on Tang Karai road (Sh+ P/L) bituminous concrete 30mm thick in km. 2/0 to 3/30) (DRRP NO. HP-03-03V-R0011) Under PMGSY (With paver finisher) Time -One Month Cost of form-500/- Eligible class of contractor- Class D	10,67,033	27-02-2020 From 10:30 A.M.	21400=00	11-03-2020 up to 10:30 A.M.
3	Annual Maintenance plan on Naraina Tal to Marangal road (Sh+ P/L) bituminous concrete 30mm thick in km. 0/0 to 2/0 (2/0 to 3/30) (DRRP NO. HP-03-03V-R0053) Under PMGSY (With paver finisher) Time -One Month Cost of form-500/- Eligible class of contractor- Class D	16,04,558=00	27-02-2020 From 10:30 A.M.	31600=00	11-03-2020 up to 10:30 A.M.
4	Annual Maintenance plan on Dhaneta Pansai road (Sh+ P/L) bituminous concrete 30mm thick in km. 0/0 to 1/0 & 2/0 to 3/0) (DRRP NO. HP-03-03V-R0068) Under PMGSY (With paver finisher) Time -One Month Cost of form-500/- Eligible class of contractor- Class D	16,04,558=00	27-02-2020 From 10:30 A.M.	31600=00	11-03-2020 up to 10:30 A.M.
5	Annual Maintenance plan on Sanahi road (Sh+ P/L) bituminous concrete 30mm thick in km. 0/0 to 2/0 (2/0 to 3/30) (DRRP NO. HP-03-03V-R0016) (With paver finisher) Time -One Month Cost of form-500/- Eligible class of contractor- Class D	19,17,453=00	27-02-2020 From 10:30 A.M.	36300=00	11-03-2020 up to 10:30 A.M.
6	Annual Maintenance plan on Palwani to Gidamvi road (Sh+ P/L) bituminous concrete 30mm thick in km. 0/0 to 2/0 (2/0 to 3/30) (DRRP NO. HP-03-03V-R0011) (With paver finisher) Time -One Month Cost of form-500/- Eligible class of contractor- Class D	24,06,798=00	27-02-2020 From 10:30 A.M.	43700=00	11-03-2020 up to 10:30 A.M.
7	Annual Maintenance plan on Main to mangrol Dedoh road (Sh+P/L)bituminous concrete 30mm thick in km. 0/0 to 2/0 (2/0 to 3/30) (DRRP NO. HP-03-03V-R0015) (With paver finisher) Time -One Month Cost of form-500/- Eligible class of contractor- Class D	16,04,558=00	27-02-2020 From 10:30 A.M.	31600=00	11-03-2020 up to 10:30 A.M.
8	C/I road from Dandroo to Man Khad bridge via Charcheri km. 0/0 to 2/0 (2/0 to 3/30) (DRRP NO. HP-03-03V-R0012) C.D., GSB, WMM & Tarring, Drain & Parapets in between km. 0/0 to 2/0 Under NABARD RIDF-XXV Time -Nine Month Cost of form-2000/- Eligible class of contractor- Class B	85,56,277=00	27-02-2020 From 10:30 A.M.	1,18,100=00	11-03-2020 up to 10:30 A.M.
9	C/I road from Jansoo to Majra km. 0/0 to 2/0 (2/0 to 3/0) (DRRP NO. HP-03-03V-R0010) Under NABARD RIDF-XXV Time -Nine Month Cost of form-2000/- Eligible class of contractor- Class B	1,05,48,732=00	27-02-2020 From 10:30 A.M.	1,38,000=00	11-03-2020 up to 10:30 A.M.
10	Up-gradation of Rural Road infrastructure in Nadaun Constituency Linking of Habitation's Manpal Gauna Karour Basral, Sera Kitpal Dhaneta, Kangoo Kashmir Galore, Gahli Phahal etc., Sh- Providing and Laying interlocking concrete block pavement, drain, crash barriers and road signage's on various road Linking of Habitation's Manpal, Gauna Karour Basral, Sera Kitpal Dhaneta, Kangoo Kashmir Galore, Gahli Phahal etc., Under NABARD RIDF-XXV Time -One & half year Cost of form-5000/- Eligible class of contractor- Class A	4,91,06,183=00	27-02-2020 From 10:30 A.M.	5,23,600=00	11-03-2020 up to 10:30 A.M.

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer, HPPWD, Division Barsar

on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

Financier-cum-property dealer found dead with 37 bullet wounds

Police suspect gang war; kin say he was getting extortion calls

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI



Anchil Singh

A financier-cum-property dealer was shot dead in Rohini's Kanjhawala on Wednesday night. While his family claimed that he was killed for not paying the extortion money, police suspect it to be a case of gang rivalry.

The victim, Anchil Singh alias Pawan (26), is a resident of Karala village.

Jailed for 6 months

Anchil had an attempt-to-murder case registered against him in April 2019 and was lodged in jail for around six months. He was released on bail in December, his family said.

On Wednesday, the victim's brother, Sachin (29), said he spoke to Anchil at 8.08 p.m., about half-an-hour before the incident. "I asked him to come home on time. He said he would reach in 15-20 minutes. At 8.44 p.m., I called him again and someone else picked up the phone and told me that my brother had been shot dead," Mr. Sachin said.

Mr. Sachin and other family members rushed to the spot which was about 2 km from their residence. On reaching there, they spotted his SUV with bullet holes

₹50,000-₹1 lakh. My bro-

ther had a verbal spat with the caller and he had been holding grudges against him," Mr. Sachin said.

Mr. Rajbir said that cases of extortion by gangsters are a rampant issue in their village and nearby areas. "There are four-five of them who hold anyone at gunpoint and demand money. The biggest concern is that gangsters are operating even from jails," he said.

He also said that about a week ago, they were informed by an acquaintance that Anchil was going to be targeted. The victim was taking precautions throughout the week and was constantly changing cars to make sure nobody was aware of his whereabouts, Mr. Rajbir said, adding that he had submitted an application in 2014 at the local police station that he and his family members were scared for their lives.

A senior police officer said that the murder was a result of a "gang war". "One Deepak alias Teeter is suspected to be behind the murderer.

Timings
DELHI

FRIDAY, FEB. 21	
RISE 06:55	SET 18:15
RISE 05:31	SET 16:13
SATURDAY, FEB. 22	
RISE 06:54	SET 18:16
RISE 06:14	SET 17:09
SUNDAY, FEB. 23	
RISE 06:53	SET 18:17
RISE 06:52	SET 18:03

Delhi Weather	max min
Delhi City	27 14
Safdarjang	27 14
Palam	28 14

Delhi Palam Today
25°C A comfortable morning is likely. Rain and thundershowers are expected.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
26°C Mist or shallow fog is likely in the morning. A partly cloudy sky is likely.

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THE HINDU
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IN BRIEF

Five of family killed as car hits truck in J&K

JAMMU
Five members of a family were killed on Thursday when their car rammed into a truck on the Jammu-Patankot Highway in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. PTI

Proposal against CAA in M.P. Assembly session'

Law brought in to distract public attention: Digvijaya

SIDHARTH YADAV
Bhopal



Congress MP and former Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh on Thursday said the Madhya Pradesh government would table a proposal against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the National Population Register (NPR) in the upcoming Assembly session beginning March 16.

Stating that the law was brought in to distract public attention from the deteriorating economy and spiralling unemployment, Mr. Singh told reporters in Gwalior that he'd spoken to Chief Minister Kamal Nath about the proposal.

"The Congress Working Committee has already opposed the CAA, the NRC and the NPR nationwide. That's why even Madhya Pradesh is against it," he said, while taking part in a rally against the law.

Moreover, he claimed that new questions were added to the NPR update exercise, scheduled in the State from May.

"For instance, the birthplace and date of birth of parents. Whoever is unable to answer such questions will

be deemed doubtful," he said.

On February 5, the State government had passed a resolution calling upon the Centre to abrogate the law, and begin the NPR update only after withdrawing the proposal to add new queries.

However, when a December 9 notification issued by the State government scheduling the NPR update surfaced recently, Congress MLA Arif Masood threatened an agitation if the government went ahead with it.

Quelling apprehensions, Mr. Nath on Monday said the NPR would not be implemented in the State "at present".

"The notification being talked about was issued on December 9. After this, the Centre implemented the Citi-

There is misconception
"There is a misconception that the NPR is like census. Those against whom D (doubtful) would be written, would be included in the NRC. Even under the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government at the Centre failed at implementing it. That's why 13 States have taken a stand against it now," he said.

'Scindia must revive his father's party'

STAFF REPORTER
CHANDIGARH

Madhya Pradesh Mahila Congress general secretary Ruchi Thakur has said Congress leader Jyotiraditya Scindia should revive his father's party as he was being ignored by the State leadership. "Lakhs of supporters" will back the decision, she added.

Speaking at the rally, former MP and Janata Dal (United) leader Sharad Yadav said, "The Central government is going against the Constitution by implementing all the three. Not just Muslims, but Dalits, tribals and others from backward communities are being targeted."

Meanwhile, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said the protests were similar to the non-cooperation movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi against the British.

"He is an inspiration to everyone, yet being ignored," said Ms. Thakur.

'Punjab to probe sacrilege cases'

SC has rejected CBI plea to investigate them, says CM



ed by the State government. Two persons were killed in the police firing in Behbal Kalan of Faridkot district in 2015, which followed the sacrilegious act of Guru Granth Sahib at Bargari.

AAP welcomes decision

Aam Aadmi Party MLA Aman Arora welcomed the decision and said that now the Punjab government should ensure time-bound investigations into the cases so that the guilty could be punished.

Before the session started, the Shiromani Akali Dal staged a protest outside the Assembly and demanded a rollback of the power tariff hike in the State.

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Haryana govt. determined to tackle drug abuse: Governor

All efforts will be made to get water through SYL canal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH



Haryana Governor Satyadev Narayan Arya on Thursday said the State government was considering setting up a Narcotics Enforcement Bureau to fight drug abuse and trafficking in the State.

"The State government intends to adopt a multi-stakeholders approach to the issue of addiction to drugs by involving NGOs, educational institutions and community organisations. Our efforts will focus both on demand reduction and choking supplies. Anti-narcotic cells have been established in every district while at the State-level the Special Task Force will function as an anti-narcotics wing of the police," the Governor said.

Mr. Arya, who was addressing the budget session of State Assembly here, said the government accords high priority to ensuring equitable distribution of water to every farmer.

"Every possible effort

would be made to bring to Haryana our legitimate share of surplus Ravi-Beas waters through the Sutlej Yamuna Link canal at the earliest," he said.

He said the State government has decided to celebrate the year 2020 as "Sushashan Sankalp Varsh". "Under this, focus would be given on launching several new good governance initiatives and on improving service delivery to citizens by every department and across the State throughout the year," Mr. Arya said.

The Governor said the government has streamlined the mining activities in the State.

"I believe that increase in

No new taxes in Rajasthan budget

Concession in stamp duty, cut in motor vehicle tax

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR



No new taxes were imposed in the State budget for 2020-21 presented by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot in the Rajasthan Assembly on Thursday. Mr. Gehlot, who also holds the finance portfolio, provided a total relief worth ₹30 crore to the people by announcing concession in stamp duty on lease deeds, reduction in motor vehicle tax and waiver of interest and penalty payable on stamp duty.

Mr. Gehlot announced seven resolutions, on which he said the budget was based, dealing with sectors such as healthcare, farmers' welfare, skills development, water and power supply, labour welfare, women and child development and expansion of education.

The estimated fiscal deficit stood at ₹33,922.77 crore, which is 2.9% of the State Gross Domestic Product. The estimated revenue receipts in the budget were

sure that the State's population was disease-free.

Mr. Gehlot also announced setting up of a Board of Investment to facilitate the grant of approvals to investments on a one-step pattern, a Nehru Child Protection Fund for protection of child rights and strict control over human trafficking and child labour, besides action to check adulteration and establishment of fast-track courts for trial of these cases.

The budget proposed an increase in Dearness Allowance from 12% to 17% for the State government employees effective from July 2019 and recruitment to about 53,000 posts. The construction of 15 new medical colleges will be completed in the next four years with an expenditure of ₹5,000 crore. "For ensuring physical, mental and intellectual development of students, Saturday will be 'No Bag Day' in all government schools," Mr. Gehlot said.

Health care fund
While a provision of ₹4,533.37 crore was made for Medical and Health Department during 2020-21, a "Nirogi Rajasthan" Management Fund of ₹100 crore was proposed to be established for better control of healthcare services to en-

Observance of International Mother Language Day

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₹50,000 crore due from Centre: Mamata to PM

She claims 'steady reduction' in Central funds to the State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, expressing concern over "steady reduction" in central funds to the State and "inordinate delay" in their release.

She claimed that while the earning of the Central government is increasing through collection of "cess and surcharges", the "receivables of the State" from the Centre is reducing since the BJP government came to power in 2014. Ms. Banerjee wrote that the West Bengal government has been deprived of an outstanding amount of nearly ₹50,000 crore under several heads.

One of the key factors is that the Centre is increasingly relying on "cess and surcharges", which have gone up from 6.17% of the Gross Tax Revenue in 2014-2015 to 18.4% in 2019-2020. "Since these do not form a part of the kitty of Central taxes, their devolution to States



CM Mamata Banerjee attending Swami Pranavanandaj Maharan's 125th birth anniversary in Kolkata on Thursday. • PTI

does not happen", thus reducing the "receivables of the State". But more fundamental challenges are evolving out of the delay in paying GST (Goods and Services Tax) compensation to the States, she wrote.

Negative impact'

The GST compensation of November 2019 was cleared in February 2020, "having a serious negative impact on the management" of the

States' finances, the letter noted. In addition, "Bengal is being denied of ₹11,212 crore of devolution funds from the Centre during the financial year 2019-20", as estimated in the previous budget. Devolution of Central taxes reduced over the last two years, as well. An amount of ₹2,330.01 crore Special Backward Regions Grant Fund has not arrived either, the letter stated.

Altogether the State has been "deprived" of an amount of nearly ₹50,000 crore, the Chief Minister claimed. However, over the last decade the State has "repaid a staggering loan of ₹3 lakh crore towards debts and interest... left behind by previous Left Front Government". Despite, working against odds, the State GDP is at 10.4%, higher than the national GDP, and Industrial Production (IIP) is 3.1% (April-November) as compared to national IIP of 0.6%. The State is also significantly ahead of the Centre in services sector, she wrote.

Nagaland Lokayukta orders probe against Deputy CM

He is accused of helping NPSC candidates

RAHUL KARMAKAR

GUWAHATI

The Lokayukta of Nagaland has ordered a "preliminary enquiry" into charges that Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton had offered to help the candidates of Nagaland Public Service Commission (NPSC) get through the interview stage.

Lokayukta Justice Uma Nath Singh, a former Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court, said that his order on Thursday was based on a complaint received by the Nagaland Lokayukta Police Establishment. Vicca S. Aye, a former president of the Su-mi (tribe) Students' Union, had on Wednesday lodged the complaint against Mr. Patton's alleged offer.

Mr. Aye complained that Mr. Patton, serving as Nagaland's Home Minister for seven years now, had indulged in "rampant abuse of administrative discretion and favouritism and interfered in the normal administrative functioning of the police department". He also alleged that 1,135 appointments were made in the police department without the posts



Nagaland Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton

being advertised for.

The Lokayukta found the complaint "procedurally in order" and advised proper verification of the facts as the allegations relate to "a high public functionary" and any gap "may have a cascading effect on the existence of the State government".

The Lokayukta also directed the Commissioner of Police in Dimapur to ensure the protection of the complainant "who comes in the category of whistleblower", and warned that failing to do so would invite necessary legal consequences against the authority responsible for such protection.

75 free bone marrow transplants in six years in Odisha hospital

Major milestone for SCB Medical College and Hospital

SATYASUNDAR BARIK

Bhubaneswar

The SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack on Thursday achieved a major milestone by performing its 75th bone marrow transplant - the highest in any State government-run hospital in the country.

The Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT) Unit of the hospital extends the treatment free of cost - a pioneering effort in the country. Of the 75 cancer patients who have undergone the complex transplant procedure, 70 have been found to be healthy while five have passed away.

"The bone marrow transplant, which a poor patient cannot dream of availing, is extended free of cost in our facility. The Health and Family Welfare Department of Odisha bears the cost of the treatment. Probably no government-run hospital in eastern India has performed so many BMTs," said R.K. Jena, head of Clinical Haematology Department in S.C.B. Medical College and Hospital and the man behind this un-



Dr. R.K. Jena, the man behind the unique endeavour.

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ique endeavour.

A BMT unit started functioning in the hospital on February 26, 2014. In the last six years, Dr. Jena and his team have been conscientiously trying make life better for cancer patients.

Expensive procedure

BMT is a procedure to replace damaged or destroyed bone marrow with healthy bone marrow stem cells. In private sector hospitals, a patient has to cough up about ₹10 lakh for a BMT. In the SCB facility, the cost incurred on each BMT ranges between

₹70,000 and ₹1 lakh. Of the 75 patients, 65 belong to below poverty line. Now, around 30 patients are waiting to avail of BMT at SCB.

Dr. Jena, who was also former president of Indian Society of Haematology and Blood Transfusion, said only private hospital Tata Medical Center, Kolkata, had done higher number of BMTs than SCB Medical College.

All BMTs have been carried out through Stem Cell Apheresis procedure. "In all cases we have successfully mobilised and collected adequate stem cells by a single procedure, unlike other centres needing one to three procedures. Restricting to one procedure reduces cost," he observed.

Of the 75 cancer patients, five were above 65 years and conducting BMT on them was no mean achievement. As per Indian Journal of Cancer, very few hospitals in the country have attempted BMT involving elderly persons. Dr. Jena said, "We conducted BMT on one patient who was 74 years old."

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THE HINDU CLASSIFIEDS MART

Six killed, seven hurt as SUV rams into truck

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

CHANDRAPUR

Six people were killed and seven others injured when their SUV rammed into a stationary truck in Chandrapur district in the wee hours of Thursday, the police said.

The deceased included three women and a two-year-old boy, they said.

The mishap took place around 12.30 a.m. when the victims were returning from Pratapgad in neighbouring Gondia district, police inspector S.R. Rajput said.

The vehicle belonged to one Bhoyar family from Babupeth area in Chandrapur city.

The SUV driver apparently failed to notice the truck parked on a roadside and rammed into it at Keshalgat village on Chandrapur-Mul road, around 30 km from the district headquarters, the official said.

Six occupants of the SUV died on the spot, while seven others, including the driver, received injuries, he said.

Affidavit case: Fadnavis gets bail

Complainant wants criminal proceedings against ex-CM for non-disclosure of criminal cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NAGPUR

Former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis appeared before a Nagpur court on Thursday in connection with a complaint seeking criminal proceedings against him for non-disclosure of criminal cases in his 2014 election affidavit.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate P.S. Ingle recorded the BJP leader's appearance in court and granted him bail on a personal bond of ₹15,000.

This was the last chance given by the magistrate for Mr. Fadnavis to appear before the court.

"The presence of the accused (Fadnavis) is secured. The offences are bailable. There is no apprehension of him absconding. Hence, bail is granted," Mr. Ingle said.

The court was hearing an application filed by advocate Satish Uke, seeking initiation of criminal proceedings against Mr. Fadnavis for alleged non-disclosure of criminal cases registered against him in his election affidavit in 2014.

Mr. Fadnavis was granted protection from appearance on four earlier occasions



Former CM Devendra Fadnavis at the court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate in Nagpur on Thursday. ■ S. SUDARSHAN

since November 2019.

The court has now posted the matter for further hearing on March 30.

'Already settled'

Later, talking to reporters outside the court premises Mr. Fadnavis said that his poll affidavit was filed by his advocate.

"The two cases against me are for carrying out public protests, and not any personal or private complaint against me," he said, adding that the cases have already been settled.

He also said there was no malafide intention behind

not disclosing the two cases in the poll affidavit.

Claiming that the complaint seeking criminal action against him is "politically motivated", Mr. Fadnavis said, "I know who is behind this".

Mr. Uke has alleged that Mr. Fadnavis, in his election affidavit filed in 2014, failed to disclose the pendency of two criminal cases against him.

The Supreme Court earlier this week reserved its order on an appeal filed by Mr. Fadnavis, seeking it to reconsider its 2019 verdict asking him to face trial for allegedly

failing to furnish details of the two cases.

In his appeal, Mr. Fadnavis claimed that the law stipulates for disclosure of details about criminal cases only if charges are framed in those cases, and on conviction.

In its judgement on October 1, 2019, the apex court set aside the Bombay High Court order giving a clean chit to Mr. Fadnavis and holding that he did not deserve to be tried for the alleged offence under the Representation of the People (RP) Act.

It had also directed a magistrate's court in Nagpur to consider afresh the complaint filed by Mr. Uke seeking criminal proceedings to be initiated against Mr. Fadnavis under section 125-A of the RP Act.

Section 125-A deals with the penalty for "filing false affidavit", and says if a candidate or his proposer fails to furnish or gives false or conceals any information in his nomination paper on issues like pending criminal cases, then the person may be awarded six months jail term or fine or both.



The government can take back land from developers if there is no industrial activity in more than 50% area. ■ FILE PHOTO

25,000 acres across Maharashtra was notified under the emergency clause of the erstwhile Land Acquisition Act 1888.

Housing Minister Jitendra Awhad, while addressing a CII Real Estate Summit on Thursday, said that he thanked Mr. Fadnavis for coming out with a policy to curb land speculation by SEZ developers and which ensured land is available for affordable housing. "As a government we will pursue the policy and will ensure that the real estate industry benefits," he said.

As per the policy on land acquired for SEZ by private developers, more than

land to the developer at the same rate at which it was originally acquired by the SEZ developer by using Government machinery and thereafter use it for providing affordable housing."

It further added that a special Bill, titled SEZ Prevention of Land Speculation Bill would be introduced which will incorporate the above as the guiding principle.

Mr. Awhad later told *The Hindu* that he only mentioned about the housing policy because being the minister of the department it is his duty to follow it, irrespective of which government passed it.

Vacant SEZ land to be used for affordable housing: Awhad

State to use unexplored provision in policy passed by BJP govt.

ALOK DESHPANDE

MUMBAI

In what could turn out to be a major blow to the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) developers who continue to hold land bank without setting up industries, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government is set to use an unexplored provision in the housing policy passed by the previous Devendra Fadnavis government which stipulates that in case of no industrial activity in more than 50% area, the land stands vested with the government.

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BJP slams govt. for restoring excess water supply to Baramati

It is an equitable distribution of water, says minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday criticised the Maharashtra government's decision to restore supply of water from a dam in Pune district to NCP chief Sharad Pawar's home turf Baramati, saying the water meant for farmers "will now be in Pawar's farm".

However, a State minister defended the government's decision, saying it will benefit the farmers.

In June last year, the Fadnavis government had cleared a proposal to cut off the supply of "unused" water from the left bank canal of Nira Deoghar dam to parts of Baramati, Indapur and Purandar in Pune, arguing that these areas were located outside the notified command area of the dam.

Baramati is the family stronghold of Mr. Pawar, whose daughter Supriya Sule is a Lok Sabha member from there.

His nephew and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar represents Baramati Assembly seat.

Hitting out at the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress government over reversing the previous regime's decision, the BJP on its Twitter handle @BJP4Maharashtra said, "Water meant for common farmers will now



Baramati is NCP chief Sharad Pawar's family stronghold.

be in Pawar's farm. The government is now helping Supriya to reap Rs 113 crore from her brinjal farming on 10 acre land."

The State Cabinet under Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Wednesday decided to equally distribute water from the left and the right bank canals of the Nira Deoghar dam to the command areas, according to an official release.

As per the decision, 55% water will be released in the left bank canal which will benefit Purander, Baramati and Indapur talukas while the right bank canal will get 45% water, which will be utilised for the talukas of Pandharpur, Sangola, Malshiras (all coming under rain-fed areas in Solapur), and Khandala and Phaltan (in Satara).

Targeting the NCP patriarch's family, Mr. Nimbalkar said, "This is not the government's decision but that of Pawars. We are going to protest against it in coming days," he said.

Between 2009 and 2017, the accused was manager in five different branches of the bank in Pune.

The water will be made available for the purpose of drinking, industrial use and agriculture.

Minister of State for Water Conservation Dattatreya Bharde welcomed the government's decision, saying farmers from Indapur, Baramati and neighbouring villages will benefit from it.

"We are not diverting water; it is an equitable distribution of water," he said.

However, BJP Lok Sabha member from Madha (Solapur) Ranjit Naik Nimbalkar and alleged that "Pawars have been diverting water for their own benefits".

Mr. Nimbalkar said it is a matter of livelihood of nearly 10 lakh people from Malshiras, Sangola, Pandharpur, Mangalvedha and Mohol talukas of Solapur.

"We are not happy with this water diversion as Pawars have been diverting the water for their own benefits for so long many decades. The BJP government had stopped it, but the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi government has reversed it. We will face scarcity once again," he said.

While sentencing Shaliwahan Solegaonkar, the then branch manager, the special CBI judge also imposed a fine of ₹24 lakh on him. The court also sentenced Solegaonkar's accomplice Rakesh Jadhav to three years RI and fined him ₹10,000.

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Between 2009 and 2017, the accused was manager in five different branches of the bank in Pune.

BoM manager gets 10 yrs RI for diverting ₹2.5 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PUNE

A CBI court here sentenced the then branch manager of Bank of Maharashtra to 10 years rigorous imprisonment for misappropriating over ₹2.5 crore.

While sentencing Shaliwahan Solegaonkar, the then branch manager, the special CBI judge also imposed a fine of ₹24 lakh on him. The court also sentenced Solegaonkar's accomplice Rakesh Jadhav to three years RI and fined him ₹10,000.

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ing of nearly ₹1,000 crore.

This is part of the Maharashtra government's soon-to-be-launched Maha e-skill 2020 mission.

The scheme was positively received as it is about giving employment and enhancing skills of the youth to make them job-ready. We will be spending ₹250 crore in the first year and will continue it for four years with a total spend-

ing of nearly ₹1,000 crore.

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field of education, to work directly with various government departments from the tehsil level to Mantralaya.

The first six months will contain practicals, wherein the trainees will learn about the functions of government, the different works and departments. In the next year, the youngsters will be given work in their respective departments.

According to an official from the State's Skill Development Department, the new scheme will provide opportunities to over one lakh graduates, irrespective of their

ENTERPRISE CONNECT

CBIP Awards to Bhakra Dam and to Sh. D.K. Sharma, Chairman, BBMB



Keeping in view outstanding maintenance and operation of the Project and its service to the nation, Central Board of Irrigation and Power (CBIP) based on recommendations of the high level

jury has awarded the most prestigious National Level Award to 'Bhakra Dam', the Temple of Modern India, as 'Best Maintained Hydroelectric Power Houses (Functional Project - age more than 50 years) to BBMB. Bhakra Dam was selected due to its robust health, ensured by rigorously following detailed documented maintenance schedules,

round the clock vigil and by using latest technology and material for its upkeep & repairs under the dynamic leadership of Chairman, BBMB.

Both these awards were received by Sh. D.K. Sharma, Chairman, BBMB from Sh. Rattan Lal Kataria, Hon'ble Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Govt. of India on 19th February, 2020 in the award ceremony held at New Delhi.

POWERGRID SIGNS MOU WITH National Foundation for Communal Harmony



Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (POWERGRID), a Maharatna CPSE, under Ministry of Power, signed MoU with M/s National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH), an Autonomous Organization under Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India on 12th February, 2020, for providing assistance for the rehabilitation of child victims of communal, caste, ethnic or terrorist violence, with special reference to their care, education and training besides promoting communal harmony, fraternity and national integration in Assam, Manipur and Chhattisgarh under its CSR initiative.

SJVN's Profit After Tax (PAT) Recorded an Increase of 39 %

SJVN Limited has recorded 39% increase in Profit After Tax (PAT) during the third quarter of FY 2019-20 ended on 31st December 2019. The Profit After Tax (PAT) of the company have

increased to Rs. 1262 crore from Rs. 907.78 crore during the corresponding quarter of last financial year.

Shri Nand Lal Sharma Chairman & Managing Director stated that 1500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station, which is the country's largest underground power house and 412 MW Ramapur Hydro Power Station are creating new benchmarks, in hydro sector each year. He further added, based on excellent performance of Power Stations, SJVN has declared an interim dividend of Rs.1.70 per share having face value of Rs. 10/- and this will amount to a total of Rs. 668 Crores.

Shri Manoj Jain takes charge as Chairman & Managing Director, GAIL (India) Limited

Shri Manoj Jain assumed charge as Chairman & Managing Director of GAIL (India) Limited. A Mechanical Engineer with an MBA in Operations Management, Shri Jain joined GAIL as a Graduate Engineer Trainee in 1985 and rose through the ranks to his current position. Before his appointment as CMD, Shri Jain was Director (Business Development) of the company.

Shri Jain is also currently Chairman of GAIL Global (USA) Inc. (GGUI), GAIL Global (USA) LNG LLC (GGULL) and Konkan LNG Pvt

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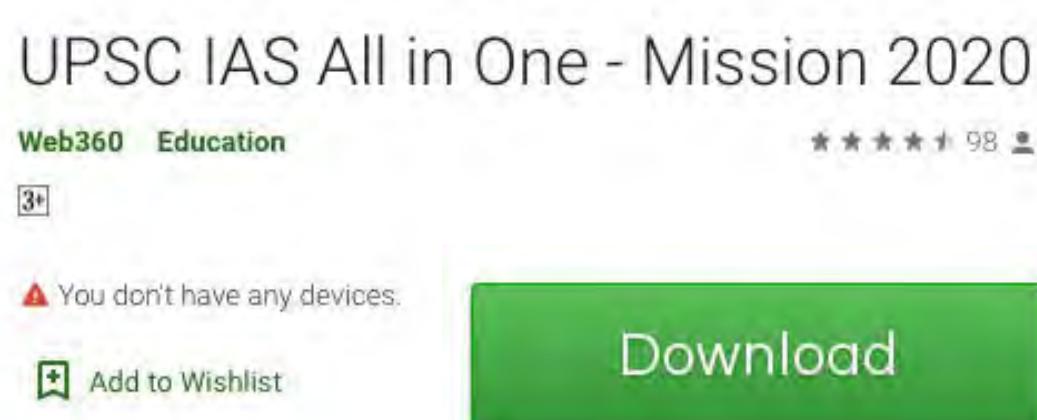
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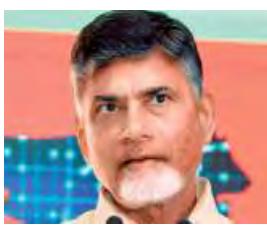
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IN BRIEF



TDP chief Naidu declares assets and liabilities

GUNTUR For the ninth consecutive year, former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and Telugu Desam Party president N. Chandrababu Naidu and his family declared their assets and liabilities. According to the statement of assets and liabilities released by Mr. Naidu's son and general secretary of TDP Nara Lokesh, the total assets of Mr. Naidu are valued at ₹9 crore and liabilities at ₹5.13 crore.

SC stays warrants against Karnataka police chief

NEW DELHI The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the non-bailable warrants issued by the Karnataka High Court against State police chief Praveen Sood after he failed to personally appear in connection with a case linked to the transfer of a police officer. A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Sharad Bobde froze the warrants after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and advocate Shubhranshu Padhi appeared for the State and requested an urgent hearing.

VACB raids residence of former Kerala Minister

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM The Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB) on Thursday raided the residence of former Kerala Health Minister and Congress legislator V.S. Sivakumar. The agency has indicted him for illegal amassment of wealth. It has also accused him of having squirrelled away the ill-gotten wealth in the name of benamis during his period in office between 2011-16. The raid came days after Governor Arif Mohammad Khan gave the nod to prosecute Mr. Sivakumar.

Survivors of Kerala RTC bus accident left in a state of shock

They say local people came to their rescue

G. KRISHNAKUMAR
KOCHI

Mangled remains: The KSRTC bus that met with an accident on the outskirts of Tirupur on Thursday. ■ M. PERIASAMY

Charishma K. woke up on hearing a loud thud and found that the right side of the bus in which she was travelling was completely open. A passenger in the Garuda Volvo bus of the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation that met with a major tragedy at Avinashi on the Coimbatore-Salem highway early on Thursday, Ms. Charishma boarded the bus from Bengaluru and was on the way to her cousin's house in Ernakulam. "My seat number was 3 and it was on the left side of the bus. I found that the right side of the bus was

completely damaged when I suddenly woke up. It was all over in flash. I am still in a state of shock," she told *The Hindu* over the phone.

"We could not get out through the main exit door as it got jammed. Locals,

who rushed to the spot immediately, broke the glass panes of windows and rescued us," she said.

Ms. Charishma, a bank employee in Bengaluru and a resident of Kannur, said she was not injured.

Driver-conductor pair had a commendable track record

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The driver-cum-conductor pair, who lost their lives in the accident, had a commendable track record, with their humanitarian ways winning them accolades from within the organisation and from passengers.

In July 2018, the KSRTC's then Chairman and Managing Director Tomin Thachankery issued a special commendation letter to V.D. Gireesh from Perumbavoor and V.R. Baiju from Piravom after they pro-actively intervened to save the life of a woman passenger. Kavitha Warrior, a passenger, had seizures while the KSRTC



Garuda Volvo bus was passing through Hosur. The driver took a U-turn and drove 3 km to the nearest hospital. With the hospital insisting that there had to be a bystander, they contacted the KSRTC officials, who suggested that Baiju stay back at

the hospital, till her relatives arrived.

Aliyar, an office-bearer of Kerala State Transport Workers Union, spoke of how the duo also helped rush a child, who suffered from epileptic fit while travelling to Bengaluru, to a hospital.

The Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) would provide a compensation of ₹10 lakh each to the deceased, of which ₹2 lakh would be released immediately. The families of the deceased KSRTC employees would be given ₹30 lakh each under the insurance scheme. The State government also declared that it would take care of the medical expenses of all the injured passengers.

The KSRTC launched helpline number 94950 99910 to provide details of the bus passengers.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

had informed him that they received a legal request asking them to remove a tweet posted from his account. The tweet in question is a video clip which purportedly shows Joint Commissioner of Police Avinash Mohanty disembarking from his official vehicle, pulling out a lathi, and using mild force against individuals on January 10 at the AIMIM massive anti-CAA-NRC-NPR Tiranga Rally.

7.56 TMC of water for the Kalasa-Banduri Nala project. The Kalasa-Banduri Nala (diversion) project, which will utilise 7.56 TMC of water from the inter-State Mahadayi river, is being undertaken by Karnataka to improve drinking water supply to the twin cities of Hubballi-Dharwad and the districts of Belagavi and Gadag.

It involves building barrages across Kalasa and Banduri, the tributaries of the Mahadayi river, to divert 7.56 TMC water to the Malaprabha river, which fulfils the drinking water needs of the twin cities.

SC passes interim order on Mahadayi tribunal's award

Implementation subject to judgment in appeals in appeals by 3 States

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday passed an interim order allowing an application by the State of Karnataka to notify the Mahadayi Water Dispute Tribunal's award.

The implementation of the award would, however, be subject to the final judgment of the Supreme Court in the civil appeals filed by Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra, challenging the allocation of water from the Mahadayi river among them.

Don't oppose

Neither of the two States – Goa and Maharashtra – opposed the plea made by Karnataka to publish the August 2018 tribunal award in the official gazette. A Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud listed the petitions for final arguments in July. Advocate General Prabhulal Navadgi, senior advocates Shyam Divan and Mohan Katarki, and advocates Nishanth Patil and V.N. Ragupathy represent-



A file photo of Mahadayi river flowing in Karnataka's Belagavi district. ■ P.K. BADIGER

Twitter notice to anti-CAA, NPR activists on content

SYED MOHAMMED
HYDERABAD

Activists and individuals who support the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act-National Register of Citizens-National Population Register protests said they got an email from Twitter Legal informing them that the micro-blogging giant has received a request that certain content be taken out.

One such activist, S.Q. Masood claimed that Twitter

Mr. Masood shared the email from Twitter Legal with *The Hindu*. An excerpt of the email, which he received on February 17, reads thus: "As Twitter strongly believes in defending and respecting the voice of users, it is our policy to notify our users if we receive a legal request from an authorised entity (such as law enforcement or a government agency) to remove content from their account."

Roja faces wrath of Amaravati protesters

Mob surrounds her car at SRM varsity

STAFF REPORTER
GUNTUR

Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC) chairperson R.K. Roja on Thursday faced the wrath of protesters outside SRM University at Neerukonda village in Thullur mandal. Ms. Roja was returning from the varsity after attending an industry-academia meeting.

A large number of protesters, including women, gathered outside the university and surrounded Ms. Roja's car demanding that she express her support to the agitation for retaining Amaravati as capital.

Additional forces

Taken aback by the sheer number of protesters, Ms. Roja sat in the car. Additional police forces were rushed but it took an hour for the police to reach the village.

Later, speaking to reporters at the central party office, Ms. Roja alleged that the attack was orchestrated by the "cronies" of TDP chief N. Chandrababu Naidu.

Stating that A.P. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy was committed to the welfare of farmers, she said there was no question of neglecting Amaravati as it would be the legislative capital of the State.

Student raises pro-Pak. slogan at Owaisi event

AIMIM leader condemns sloganeering

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) here on Thursday, with All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi as chief guest, ended up embarrassing the organisers after a student-activist, who was allowed to talk on stage, suddenly raised pro-Pakistan slogans.

The college student, identified as Amulya Leona, 19, has been charged with sedition, the police said.

While speaking on the stage, she suddenly shouted "Pakistan zindabad" thrice, leaving the crowd and organisers stunned.

Some of the organisers rushed to her and tried to stop her from speaking further. Mr. Owaisi too joined in. Holding on to the mike, the girl then went on



Amulya being restrained at the meet in Bengaluru. ■ V. SREENIVASA MURTHY

to shout "Hindustan zindabad" twice, before the police whisked her away from the stage. Later, Mr. Owaisi told the crowd, "Whatever has been spoken [by the girl] is wrong. Neither my party nor I has any connection with it. As long as we are alive, we will be raising Bharat zindabad slogans".

Major scam unearthed in A.P. ESI hospitals

Officials, staff procured drugs worth ₹975.80 cr. allegedly in violation of rules

RAJULAPUDI SRINIVAS
VIJAYAWADA

Even as an investigation is on into the multicrore scam in the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Scheme in Telangana hospitals, diagnostic centres and dispensaries, a similar scandal was unearthed in ESI hospitals in Andhra Pradesh.

Officials of the Vigilance and Enforcement (V&E), who raided the hospitals and dispensaries, reportedly noticed that Directors of Insurance Medical Services (DIMS), joint directors, civil surgeons, administrative officers, pharmacists and clerical staff procured drugs worth about ₹975.80 crore in the last five years allegedly in violation of rules.

The officers purchased drugs, surgical items, lab

equipment, furniture and other material reportedly in collusion with some companies without calling for tenders and on the basis of fabricated quotations, said Director-General (V&E) K.V. Rajendranath Reddy, who submitted a 100-page report to the government on the alleged irregularities in the ESI scheme.

2014 to 2019 The purchases were reportedly made from 2014 to 2019, during the tenure of Directors B. Ravi Kumar, C.K. Ramesh Kumar and G. Vijaya Kumar, joint Directors G. Jagadeep Gandhi, V. Krishna Kumari, V. Janardhan, B. Chandrasekhar and T. Sarala.

According to the V&E report, administrative officer

V.V.S.N. Murthy, Central Drug Store pharmacist K. Dhanalakshmi, Ravi Tejasri, daughter-in-law of Ms. Dhanalakshmi, Tele Health Services Private Limited director T. Pramod Reddy, Civil Surgeon K. Ranga Swamy, Jalam Environment Private Limited director G. Murali Krishna, Prodigy Computers and Laptops director T. Dinesh, and other staff were allegedly involved in the scam.

The budget allocated for purchase of drugs during the period was ₹293.51 crore, but the directors reportedly procured medicines worth ₹698.36 crore.

Excess amount The ESI officials purchased drugs worth about ₹89.58 crore from non-rate contract firms and paid ₹51 crore ex-

cess, causing huge loss to the government, the V&E officials said.

The purchases were made on nomination basis at exorbitant prices, the Vigilance report stated.

Work order

According to the Vigilance and Enforcement officials, Director Dr. Ramesh Kumar issued work order to Jalam Environment Private Limited, for establishing sewage treatment plant at ESI Hospital Tirupati, for ₹1.94 crore on nomination basis.

He also issued annual maintenance contract for maintenance of sewage treatment plants in Rajahmundry, Tirupati and Vijayawada for ₹3.49 crore and the plants are not in working condition.

Requests by actor The actor has been charged under various Sections of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which deals with the prohibition of trade or commerce in trophies and ani-

K.S. SUDHI
KOCHI

The Kerala government has issued a no objection certificate to withdrawing the wildlife crime case registered against actor Mohanlal for illegally procuring and stocking elephant tusks, a Schedule One wild animal.

Mr. Mohanlal is the first accused in the case. P.N. Krishnakumar of Olloor, Thrissur; K. Krishnakumar of Eroor, Thrivithura; and Nailini Radhakrishnan of Chennai are the other accused in the case.

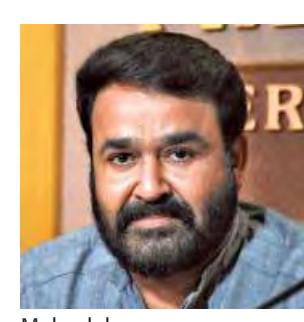
Requests by actor

The actor has been charged under various Sections of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which deals with the prohibition of trade or commerce in trophies and ani-

mal articles derived from certain animals.

It was after considering the two requests made by Mr. Mohanlal on January 31, 2016 and another one, three years later on September 20, 2019 that the State government took the decision to issue the NOC. The government also considered a letter written by the Chief Wildlife Warden on August 14 last year and another letter from the Director General of Prosecution on December 4, 2019, in this regard before arriving at the decision.

The Additional Chief Secretary wrote a letter to the Ernakulam District Collector on February 7 this year, stating that the State government had no objection to withdrawing the criminal case registered against the



Mohanlal

actor with the consent of the court. The government has also asked the District Collector to issue directives to the Public Prosecutor/Assistant Public Prosecutor in this regard.

Incidentally, the The Forest Department had been conducting the criminal case against the actor at the judicial first class magistrate court, Perumbavoor. The

case was registered by the Kodanad Forest Range officer. After the initial proceedings, the court posted the case in March.

It was by invoking the Section 321 of Criminal Procedure Code, which empowers public prosecutors to withdraw the case after obtaining a written permission from the State government, that the Kerala government made the controversial move.

The Forest officials had seized two tusks and a mirror stand with another two tusks fixed on both sides of the mirror from his house in 2011. The offences charged against Mr. Mohanlal attract imprisonment for a term not less than three years and may extend to seven years and fine not less than ₹10,000.

IN BRIEF



SHRCs asked to join common portal

NEW DELHI
The State Human Rights Commissions (SHRCs) were asked by National Human Rights Commission Chairperson Justice H.L. Dattu (retd.) on Thursday to join the common portal – HRC Net – to avoid duplication of complaints, an NHRC statement said.

Six year old raped and killed in Tripura

AGARTALA
A six-year-old girl was raped and murdered in the Silachari area of Agartala on Thursday. The police arrested a 35-year-old man believed to be involved in the crime that took place at Ghoragappa. "His involvement will be confirmed after getting the post-mortem and forensic reports," a police officer said.

School manager held for urging students to cheat

MAU
A private school manager was arrested on Thursday for allegedly giving "cheating tips" to students appearing in the U.P. Board examinations and advising them to slide in a ₹100 note along with answersheets to get a good score, police said. The video clip was secretly filmed by one of the students and sent to the CM's office, officials said. PTI

Man held in Dubai for theft worth \$2 million

DUBAI
A 26-year-old Indian has been arrested for allegedly stealing 86 expensive watches worth over \$2 million from a shop in Dubai. The man, who worked as a cleaner, has gone on trial at the Dubai Court of First Instance after he was accused of stealing from the watch and jewellery shop where he worked. PTI

SC dismisses curative petition by kin of Uphaar fire victims

59 people died in a blaze in Delhi theatre in 1997 during a movie screening

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has dismissed a curative petition filed by the victims of the Uphaar theatre fire tragedy against Sushil and Gopal Ansals for negligence that led to the death of 59 people in 1997.

A three-judge Bench of Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde, Justices N.V. Ramana and Arun Mishra found no merit in the curative plea filed by the Association of Victims of Uphaar Tragedy. The petition was decided in the chambers. The order is dated February 13 and published on Thursday (February 20).

In 2017, in a majority judgment of 2:1, the court partially reviewed its original judgment of 2015 and decided to send real estate baron Gopal



Painful memories: Relatives of the victims of the Uphaar tragedy paying homage. ■ FILE PHOTO

Ansal back to jail for a year while sparing his elder brother Sushil from serving time behind bars due to his advanced age.

CBI's review petition

The majority decision had come on separate review petitions filed by the CBI against the 2015 judgment of the court that had allowed

the Ansals to walk free after directing them to pay a total compensation of ₹60 crore.

In its judgment on the review petitions, the court had noted that Gopal Ansal had spent four months and 20 days in prison.

It had set off this period from his jail term and ordered him to serve the rest of the prison sentence.

Deciding the review, the court had further taken into consideration the fact that Sushil Ansal had already served over five months in jail and granted remission.

The court found that for a man of his age – Sushil is in his late 70s – and physical ailments, the punishment would suffice.

The court had upheld the 2015 judgment's direction to the Ansals to pay a total compensation of ₹60 crore, saying it was not excessive.

The theatre at Green Park area here became a death-trap in 1997 during the screening of blockbuster movie *Border*. Smoke from a fire inside the theatre asphyxiated cinegoers as extra seats blocked the exit routes.

A 100 more were injured in the ensuing stampede inside the blacked-out theatre.

Case deferred citing 'mood of court'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

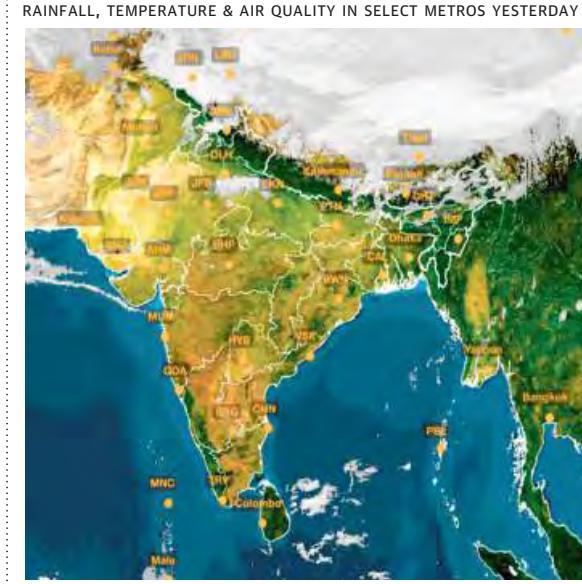
CHANDIGARH

A Punjab and Haryana High Court judge earlier this month acceded to a request for an adjournment from a counsel, who sought the adjournment on the plea that the "mood of the Court is bad".

Appearing in the case *Pappu Singh And Others vs Narinder Singh*, advocate K.S. Sidhu prayed for an adjournment.

Justice Rajiv Narain Raina had, while granting adjournment in the order dated February 4, said: "Counsel assuming that mood of the court is bad this morning dismissing the first four urgent cases prays that time may be granted to him to argue the case on some other day. I grant permission for an adjournment but not without saying that those cases were not worth admission."

WEATHER WATCH



TEMPERATURE DATA: °C, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSTAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, eastern Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	... 29.6...	14.4	...	Kozhikode	... 35.4...	23.4	...
Ahmedabad	... 33.6...	15.8	...	Kurnool	... 34.1...	21.2	...
Aizawl	... 20.9...	10.6	...	Lucknow	... 28.6...	14.4	...
Allahabad	... 28.0...	13.6	...	Madurai	... 34.2...	20.5	...
Bengaluru	... 32.6...	16.5	...	Mangaluru	... 36.5...	19.4	...
Bhopal	... 32.3...	17.6	...	Mumbai	... 31.6...	16.7	...
Bhubaneswar	... 32.6...	18.8	...	Mysuru	... 31.9...	17.0	...
Chandigarh	... 23.8...	16.2	...	New Delhi	... 27.5...	13.6	...
Chennai	... 31.5...	22.2	...	Patna	... 28.0...	13.0	...
Coimbatore	... 32.7...	20.9	...	Port Blair	... 30.9...	26.0	...
Dehradun	... 26.4...	10.1	...	Puducherry	... 32.0...	20.5	...
Gangtok	0.4...	Pune	... 34.6...	18.0	...
Goa	... 33.5...	22.8	...	Raipur	... 31.8...	15.8	...
Guwahati	... 26.4...	14.4	...	Ranchi	... 28.8...	12.2	...
Hubballi	... 33.0...	19.0	...	Shillong	... 18.0...	7.1	...
Hyderabad	... 31.5...	19.4	...	Shimla	... 19.1...	7.7	...
Imphal	... 25.0...	7.0	...	Srinagar	2.2...	8.5	3.6
Jaipur	... 30.4...	16.8	...	Tiruvananthapuram	... 33.0...	22.3	...
Kochi	... 33.0...	24.0	...	Tiruchi	... 33.5...	19.5	...
Kohima	... 15.6...	10.4	...	Vijayawada	... 31.4...	21.2	...
Kolkata	... 31.0...	20.5	...	Visakhapatnam	... 31.5...	22.6	...

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀ CODE	Yesterday
Ahmedabad	10	.50	.68	.227	.195	...	In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Muzaffarpur, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 320 indicating a hazardous level of pollution. In contrast, Maithai, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 35
Bengaluru	10	.94	.51	.86	.100	...	
Chennai	65	.22	.46	115	—	...	
Delhi	18	.58	.57	.304	.178	...	
Hyderabad	.4	.50	.22	—	.96	...	
Kolkata	19	.18	.21	.169	.133	...	
Lucknow	.8	.77	.28	.331	—	...	
Mumbai	14	.74	.32	.150	.214	...	
Pune	80	.29	.88	.151	.115	...	
Visakhapatnam	.6	.20	.54	... 68	.70	...	

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

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

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

PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heart beat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Rajiv case: Cabinet advice has no value, says Centre

Home Ministry had decided not to release any of them and informed Governor, said the AGS

MOHAMMED IMRANULLAH S.

CHENNAI

The Union Home Ministry on Thursday asserted before the Madras High Court that its approval was absolutely essential for releasing the seven life convicts in the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi assassination case and since it had already decided not to grant remission to any of them, the effect of a recommendation made by the State Cabinet to the Governor on September 9, 2018 to take them free was nothing but "zero."

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) G. Rajagopalan told a bench of Justices R. Subbiah and R. Pongiappan that the Centre had also communicated to Governor Banwarilal Purohit a decision taken by it in April 2018 against releasing the seven convicts.

Governor's call

On his part, State Public Prosecutor (SPP) A. Natarajan told the court that the Council of Ministers had only made a recommendation and it was up to the Governor to take a call.

Expressing shock over such a stand taken by the Centre and the State, M. Radhakrishnan, counsel for one

of the convicts S. Nalini who had filed a *habeas corpus* petition seeking her immediate release, said, "There is a difference between an executive power and a sovereign power. The Union of India cannot even be allowed to speak in this matter because it relates to advice given by the council of ministers in the State to the Governor."

"It is unfortunate that such submissions are being made by the Additional Solicitor General. The State Public Prosecutor too is wrong in submitting that the Governor is the final authority. Ours is a quasi federal country

where the Governors act as per the aid and advice of the council of ministers in every State but the submissions made now probably show the State government here is being run on the aid and advice of the Union Home Ministry."

After hearing all of them, the judges reserved their verdict on the petition filed by Nalini who had sought her release on the ground of long delay on the part of the Governor in taking a decision on the Cabinet's recommendation.

Stating that the advice given by the council of ministers was binding upon the Governor and he would have no option but to accept it, the petitioner said, her detention since the date of recommendation should be considered illegal. Petitioner's counsel cited a 1980 Supreme Court verdict in the famous Maru Ramu case and contended that the Governor's signature was not mandatory for her release.

The SPP said the petitioner's detention since September 2018 could not be termed illegal since she had been lodged in prison as per orders passed by judicial forums.

Bulk of Jharkhand's deleted ration cards weren't fake'

18 died due to starvation in the past three years

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Almost 90% of ration cards deemed fake and deleted by the Jharkhand government between 2016 and 2018 actually belonged to existing, valid households, according to a new study by economists affiliated to the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

The randomised control study found that almost 56% of these deleted ration cards were not linked with Aadhaar. Over the last three years, at least 18 starvation deaths have been reported in Jharkhand due to lack of access to subsidised food, mostly because beneficiaries' ration cards were not linked to Aadhaar.

More of the same

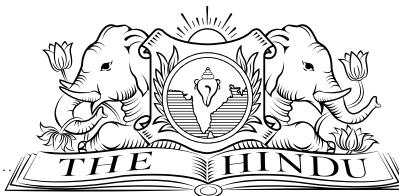
The results of the study assume greater urgency and importance as the newly elected Jharkhand government has expressed its intention to restart the drive to delete fake ration cards.

The J-PAL study now confirms this reporting with analysis of an extensive randomised control trial. The paper analysed the effects of requiring biometric identity verification for the subsidised food programme in 10 randomly selected districts between 2016 and 2018.

Government data shows that 5.9% or 1.44 lakh ration cards were deleted out of a total 24.5 lakh cards in those districts. Using a sample of 3,901 cards, the study found that 213 cards or 5.5% had been deleted. Of the 213 deleted cards, 187 cards or 88%, were found to belong to valid beneficiary families. Only 26 cards were "ghosts" or fakes, belonging to families which could not be traced.

Limited studies including a

Ground Zero report "Death by D-



Trump cards

Even if the Trump visit yields no big deal, some agreement on trade will be made

Ahead of U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to India, some of the key deliverables from the trip, as well as the outcomes that may not be delivered after his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday, are coming into view. The larger question remains as to whether the bonhomie between the two, who will be meeting for the fifth time in eight months, will also spur the bilateral relationship towards broader outcomes, with expectations centred at bilateral strategic ties, trade and energy relations as well as cooperation on India's regional environment. On the strategic front, India and the U.S. are expected to take forward military cooperation and defence purchases totalling about \$3 billion. Mr. Trump has cast a cloud over the possibility of a trade deal being announced, but is expected to bring U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to give a last push towards the trade package being discussed for nearly two years. Both sides have lowered expectations of any major deal coming through, given that differences remain over a range of tariffs from both sides; market access for U.S. products; and India's demand that the U.S. restore its GSP (Generalized System of Preferences) status. However, it would be a setback if some sort of announcement on trade is not made. A failure to do so would denote the second missed opportunity since Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal's U.S. visit last September. Finally, much of the attention will be taken by India's regional fault-lines: the Indo-Pacific strategy to the east and Afghanistan's future to the west. India and the U.S. are expected to upgrade their 2015 joint vision statement on the Indo-Pacific to increase their cooperation on freedom of navigation, particularly with a view to containing China. Meanwhile, the U.S.-Taliban deal is expected to be finalised next week, and the two leaders will discuss India's role in Afghanistan, given Pakistan's influence over any future dispensation that includes the Taliban.

Any high-level visit, particularly that of a U.S. President to India, is as much about the optics as it is about the outcomes. It is clear that both sides see the joint public rally at Ahmedabad's Motera Stadium as the centrepiece of the visit, where the leaders hope to attract about 1.25 lakh people in the audience. Despite the Foreign Ministry's statement to the contrary, the narrative will be political. Mr. Trump will pitch the Motera event as part of his election campaign back home. By choosing Gujarat as the venue, Mr. Modi too is scoring some political points with his home State. As they stand together, the two leaders, who have both been criticised in the last few months for not following democratic norms domestically, will hope to answer their critics with the message that they represent the world's oldest democracy and the world's largest one, respectively.

ART of life

The Assisted Reproductive Techniques Bill is a much-needed complement to Surrogacy Bill. Sometimes, the leash follows the dog, but given the importance of control, the sequence can seem insignificant. It only matters that there remains a good hold over the circumstances. No matter then, that the Assisted Reproductive Techniques (ART) Bill, which was cleared by the Union Cabinet this week, came after the Surrogacy Bill that it should have preceded. Together, the ART Bill; the Surrogacy Bill; the amendment to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act; and the older Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act present a bouquet of legislation that will have a positive impact on the reproductive rights and choices of women in India. The ART Bill to regulate clinics offering fertility treatments has been long in the works, and was first presented publicly way back in 2008. ART measures help couples unable to conceive naturally to bear children with the aid of state-of-the-art technology to achieve pregnancy, leading to safe delivery. India has a rich history of employing ART, though the initial years went officially undocumented at that time. In the late 1970s, only months after the birth of Louise Brown, the first 'test tube baby', Kolkata-based doctor Subhas Mukherjee announced the birth of the world's second test tube baby. Subsequently, the industry saw phenomenal growth, as infertility rates went up. A market projection (by Fortune Business Insights) said the size of the ART market is expected to reach \$45 billion by 2026. Among Asian countries, India's ART market is pegged at third position. A lack of regulation and the consequent laxity in operations drove a lot of traffic from other nations to India. This, in turn, along with the relatively low costs, led to the mushrooming of ART clinics across the country. Undoubtedly, this also led to a plethora of legal, social and ethical issues.

It is at this juncture that the ART Bill has seen a fitting revival, egged on by legislators who facilitated the passage of the Surrogacy Bill in the Rajya Sabha. It seeks to regulate and monitor ART procedures, and mandates the establishment of a National Board and State Boards to lay down rules for implementation, and also honours a long-pending demand – creation of a national registry, and registration authority. While the rules will handle the bells and whistles, the Bill already sets a comprehensive framework to operate on. Most significantly, the Bill recommends punishment, even jail time, for violations of the provisions. Since it does impinge on surrogacy too, the government must now work on ensuring synchrony in both Bills. Having come this far to ensure the reproductive rights of women, the state now has the thriving ART industry on a leash, and the Bill is its best chance to eliminate exploitation in the field.

Losing a nation, in seven acts

A Turkish journalist's recent book on her country's descent into 'dictatorship' has a troubling message for India



SATISH DESHPANDE

Are we losing our country? This is the question that Ece Temelkuran, a Turkish journalist and writer, suggests that we should be asking ourselves. In her recent book, *How to Lose a Country*, she describes how her homeland was stolen from her by what she considers the dictatorship of Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Subtitled "The seven steps from democracy to dictatorship", the book outlines a *saptapadi* that Indians have become intimately familiar with over the past six years. In fact, Ms. Temelkuran's main point is that this is now a global trend.

The story begins with the creation of a movement that claims to be of and for the "real people", the authentic owners of the nation unjustly marginalised in the past by assorted conspiracies. This is followed by an assault on rationality and on language, where new meanings are thrust upon old terms and argument is replaced by aggressive slogans. The third step is a shedding of all shame and decency on the part of leaders, who then teach their followers to do so as well, all in the name of an authentic indigeneity.

After this comes the dismantling, or co-option, of all the institutions that are intended to act as checks and balances on executive power, including the judiciary, the media and the Constitution. The fifth step is the designing of new citizens, who will be pre-calibrated to the new normalcy that has been

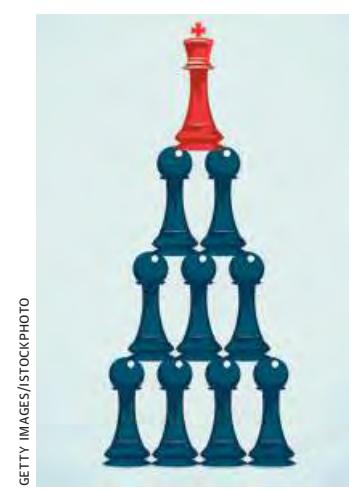
speedily established, shrugging off the weight of history. The sixth step is the reduction of all liberal and secular thinking persons to a stage of irrelevance and despair where they can only "laugh at the horror" that their country has become. The seventh and last step, of course, is when the new rulers build their own country, having crushed all possible sources of resistance to their agendas.

How the liberals react

Ms. Temelkuran emphasises that the early steps in this journey are marked by confident expectations of the liberal establishment that the disturbances are temporary, and the built-in safeguards in the system will take care of the threats. But this confidence soon gives way to helpless disbelief expressed in incredulous exclamations: "They can't do this!", "How did they get away with that?", and so on.

Ms. Temelkuran persuasively argues that, in the last two decades, this sequence has been repeated in countries as different from each other as Hungary, Brazil, the United States and Turkey (to name a few), and it is currently under way in the United Kingdom.

India finds no mention in Ms. Temelkuran's book, which is mainly addressing Anglo Americans and Europeans. But the resemblance to our recent history is uncanny. We can argue about the exact sequence, and about the relative importance or distinctiveness of this or that step, but the overall trend is striking in its similarity. Oddly enough, this book is useful precisely because it is saying nothing new, nothing that we do not already know. It is merely holding out a mirror, and there



is something helpful about seeing our own experiences reflected back to us as part of a larger phenomenon. This relativising of what we are accustomed to thinking of as uniquely Indian draws attention to three features of our recent history that we may otherwise neglect.

The first is that this journey towards an authoritarian communalism is flagged off by neoliberalism and the values it promotes. This may sound disappointingly formulaic, part of the same tired left-wing rant that most people have stopped hearing long ago. But think about it. Today, large sections of our population are convinced that some minorities ought to be legally deprived of citizenship. Could we have arrived at this point if neoliberalism had not discredited social welfare as an idea? Whatever its faults, welfarism did assume that citizens are connected to each other not only by communitarian but also by civic-national ties. Neoliberalism cut the ties that connected individuals to each other and to the state, there-

by undermining our secular-social bonds. Or, to take an opposite example, think about why neoliberalism seems self-evidently opposed to things like reservation.

The second feature on which a lot has been said already is the unique role of the media in India. As the world has been repeatedly told, India has more than 400 news channels that broadcast news 24X7, far more than any other country on earth. But what is remarkable here is not so much the giant medium, but the invisible, yet incredibly effective, work that has gone into creating an audience that is primed for the message before it even arrives. The stunning swiftness and reach of the new social media are often credited with – or blamed for – the spread of bigotry. This is unfair, for most of that credit belongs to those who tutored the addressees to receive the message without the slightest trace of scepticism. This is no mean achievement in a country where, until yesterday, people prided themselves on their scepticism and wore their cynicism on their sleeves. The same suspicious lot are now eager consumers of the most crudely concocted fake news and alternative facts.

A fundamental disconnect

The final feature concerns the composition and positioning of the opinion-making classes, or of intellectuals in the broad sense. There are two related but distinct aspects to this. The first is the degree to which a left-of-centre perspective has monopolised the more formal and institutional parts of the intellectual world. This has meant that, taken as a whole, our intellectual class was never really outside the sphere of

state power, but very much an insider. This is in spite of the sharp disagreements and antipathies that may have separated specific persons or groups from particular political parties or leaders. In fact, even during the Emergency, when a large number of politically active persons including some intellectuals was actually imprisoned, there was never a fundamental disconnect between the corridors of power and the opinion makers. Today, we have a clear split – a major section of the media and many bureaucrats, artists, performers and other such public persons are completely identified with the power centre to the extent that they have no autonomous identity left. On the other side of the divide is that segment of the intellectual class that is completely cut off from the power centre and has been made its target. This latter segment is struggling to come to terms with its unprecedented, total and aggressive exclusion from the power centre.

The other aspect is the relative scarcity of right-wing intellectuals. This ought to be a matter of concern for liberals and leftists because it denies those in power the benefits of moderation and refinement in the pursuit of their agendas. It also ensures that the politics of resentment plays out in extreme ways that damage institutions and cause irreparable harm to the intellectual ecosystem.

But the immediate message conveyed by *How to Lose a Country* is that it is imperative to act at once, before the *saat pheras* are over, and we are bound over to an authoritarian regime.

Satish Deshpande teaches Sociology at Delhi University. Views are personal

Gearing up to fight the next big viral outbreak

Indian States should regularly test their preparedness to not just diagnose and treat diseases, but also to prevent them



VINOD THOMAS

India is ill-prepared to deal with the new strain of coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) that is causing worldwide panic. Policymakers must take forceful action to prevent the spread of the new virus and heed the urgent warnings of global public health professionals about new pathogens. The consequences of not doing this will be dire for all densely populated countries.

The World Health Organization (WHO)'s Global Health Security Index finds that no country is adequately prepared. It assesses 195 countries across six categories – prevention, early detection, rapid response, health system quality, standards, and the risk environment. India is ranked 57th. That the country scores around the global average is no comfort, because the global average is a low 40.2 out of 100, and India's score is 46.5. (For the record, the U.S. is ranked first and China 51st).

4-point health agenda

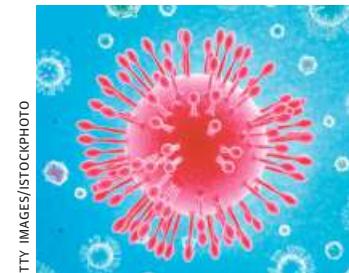
The prospect of new outbreaks puts four items on the health agenda in the spotlight that require both immediate and longer-term action: early detection and prevention; better collaboration across health service providers; more investment in health sys-

tems, outcomes, and education; and better care of the environment and biodiversity, which directly affects people's health safety.

That Thailand is ranked sixth in the Health Security Index – the highest ranking for an Asian country – says a great deal about the country's track record in disease prevention, early detection, and rapid response linked to investments in its public health system. When the deadly Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), also caused by a coronavirus, broke out in 2015, Thailand quickly notified the WHO of its first confirmed case and acted transparently to arrest the spread – in stark contrast to delayed notification by China's officials of the recent outbreak.

The influenza A (H1N1) outbreaks since 2009 in Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and other States have acutely underscored the need for better detection, awareness of symptoms and quarantining. The Pune-based National Institute of Virology has been designated as a WHO H5 reference laboratory. Yet, clearer protocols for all three types of surveillance are needed in all States, and these protocols need to be communicated to health professionals at all levels and the public in local languages.

One lesson of the 2008 global financial crisis was the need for countries to conduct regular stress tests on their financial systems, an exercise that has proved valuable. Countries need to do the same for their preparedness to deal with



health emergencies. Each State in India should do this to expose crucial gaps in areas such as adequacy and supply of diagnostic equipment, health facilities, hygienic practices, and prevention and treatment protocols. Alarming scenes of queues of desperate shoppers trying to buy hand sanitisers, face masks and other protective products in Hong Kong and China highlight the need for strong supply chains for products that people need during health emergencies. China is realising, at a chilling cost to the safety of its health workers, the difficulty of ensuring enough supplies so that it can avert panic buying.

This is where partnership can come in – partnerships between private and public sectors, and between countries – that can sustain supply chains and bolster the medical capacity of countries struggling to cope. In Asia, collaborative approaches exist, for example, for combating tuberculosis, AIDS and malaria. But more is needed to tackle health emergencies on the scale of recent outbreaks, particularly on funding. There could be an emergency loan

facility, with a "deferred draw-down option" as the World Bank uses for disasters, natural or health, that can help augment own resources in times of a public health catastrophe.

But the best defence of all is to invest more, and more efficiently, in health and education to prepare populations and strengthen health services. Health expenditure by the government in India is less than 1.5% of Gross Domestic Product, which is low for a middle-income country. Spending at that level limits, among other things, the availability of health professionals during crises. According to WHO, India has only 80 doctors per 1,00,000 people.

Investing in education, health

Kerala's experience in 2018 with the deadly Nipah virus showed the value of investing in education and health over the long term. The availability of equipment for quick diagnosis, measures to prevent diseases from spreading, and public information campaigns all helped to keep the mortality rate from the Nipah virus relatively low. Having capable public health professionals helped in the information exchange with WHO and other international bodies.

One of the many dimensions of new pathogens that is getting increased attention is the link with environmental degradation. The interaction between particulate matter from pollution and viral respiratory tract infections, especially in the young and the elderly, as well as the malnourished, has

been increasingly noted in epidemiological studies. Many of the highest air pollution readings are being recorded in Indian cities.

India's health status is being worsened by climate shocks. An HSBC study of 67 countries ranks India as the most climate-vulnerable one because of the impact of severe temperature increases and declines in rainfall. The effects of such occurrences are magnified by the high density of the country's population, the sheer number of people in harm's way, and the high incidence of poverty. Research is increasingly connecting global warming to vector-borne viruses.

The recent outbreak in China – with the SARS-CoV-2 having believed to have emanated in a market where wild animals were sold – highlights the biodiversity link. Nearly two-thirds of known pathogens and three-quarters of newly emerging pathogens are spread from animals to humans. This dangerous trend for disease spillovers from animals to humans can be traced to increased human encroachment on wildlife territory; land-use changes that increase the rate of human-wildlife and wildlife-livestock interactions; and climate change. Protecting the precious biodiversity should be a priority.

More outbreaks are likely in the future; the best response is better preparedness.

Vinod Thomas is a former senior vice president at the World Bank and visiting professor at National University of Singapore

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.

Ahmedabad cover-up

Shanty dwellers in Ahmedabad have been served notices to vacate for the time being in view of U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to the city. Poverty and slums are here to stay and the government seems to be of the view that the only way to avoid exposing them to outsiders is to either hide them by constructing a wall or by removing them at least temporarily. We need to see how the government fulfils its promise of providing affordable housing for all by 2022. It looks as though we have to live with the paradox of extraordinary achievements in fields like space science and digital technology and at the same

time be a witness to stark poverty. The government perhaps wants the poor to realise that at the end of the day, they have to take care of their own poverty and the state, irrespective of the party in power, can only provide a few sops and freebies as consolations. K.R. JAYAPRAKASH RAO, Mysuru

founder Arvind Kejriwal preferred to stick to the basics and sought votes on the basis of the performance of his government in the five years that they had been in power. As the writer avers, the scales were tilted in favour of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for a second time largely because the party had the unstinted support of the youth and the women. This groundswell of support was largely due to the AAP government's attention on providing the basic necessities at subsidised prices to the voters and these facilities included, inter alia, electricity, potable water and *mohalla* clinics. The patronage of

the youth was cultivated through the AAP's sharp focus on education, its monitoring of the fee rates in private schools and colleges, etc. C.V. ARAVIND, Chennai

Partition and Congress
The view that Partition ensured India's unity (Op-Ed page, "By agreeing to Partition, Congress kept India united," Feb. 20) is a skewed one that ignores the resulting communal violence. And the assumption that the federal system Cabinet Mission envisaged would have caused in a weak centre and a dismantling of the Indian Union is an unwarranted speculation.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was the Congress president when the Cabinet Mission arrived in India. In his autobiography, *India Wins Freedom*, Azad wrote: "[T]he Constitution of India must be federal. Further, it must be so framed as to ensure complete autonomy to the provinces in as many subjects as possible. We have to reconcile the claims of provincial autonomy with national unity. This could be done by finding a satisfactory formula for the distribution of powers..." The Indian subcontinent has never enjoyed peace and harmony since the Partition and the wounds it created are still festering. SUKUMARAN C., Palakkad, Kerala

Return of Taliban
If the U.S. goes ahead and inks the deal with the Taliban, the collapse of the new government of President Ashraf Ghani and the return of the militants to power may not be far away (Editorial, "Infinite crisis," Feb. 20). The return of the Taliban would be tragic for Afghanistan society, especially for its women. For India, the prospect of a Taliban government in Afghanistan is worrying, as the possibility of an increase in cross-border terrorism from Pakistan cannot be ruled out. KOSARAJU CHANDRAMOULI, Hyderabad

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What distinguishes welfare measures from freebies?

PARLEY

Adequate fiscal space and socioeconomic context should be the basis for welfare policies

There is an overwhelming consensus that a slew of welfare policies initiated by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in its previous term secured the party's victory in the 2020 Delhi Assembly election. In a conversation moderated by Jayant Sriram, Reetika Khera and Lekha Chakraborty discuss the rudiments of good spending and bad spending by governments:

Many say that welfare policies helped AAP win the Assembly election. There are two aspects to this. The first is spending on education and health, which is the fundamental obligation of the government to provide for its citizens; the second aspect is offering water and electricity free and at subsidised rates. Yet they are clubbed together when people argue that the AAP doled out 'freebies'. Is the word 'freebies' an elitist construct? There was a similar criticism of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in 2005. It involved discussions on how 'somebody would have to pay for the subsidy'.

Reetika Khera: I think there is a general problem with the mainstream media in India. Very often, when speaking about programmes of redistribution such as MGNREGA, the labels that are used are quite derogatory. I think [providing] healthcare and education are basically the functions of the government. That's part of the reason why governments exist in the first place. [It's the same with] water and electricity or public services. So, calling them 'dole' or 'freebies' isn't exactly the right terminology.

Lekha Chakraborty: Talking about freebies sounds like some kind of private spending and "clientism", trying to sell it to a certain set of people. But that is not what happened in the Delhi election. The focus was on providing basic services in health and education and addressing any deficits in governance. I don't know whether the term 'freebies' exists in economics. You're

right, perhaps it's an elitist construct, but it's not accurate in describing what happened in Delhi.

How does one explain state spending on welfare measures? What do we consider good spending and what is bad or fiscally irresponsible spending, given that AAP currently has a revenue surplus budget?

RK: If the state spending on welfare is not legitimate, then what is a legitimate thing for it to spend on? A part of the function of the government is that for things that we cannot individually organise, we entrust elected representatives to do for us. Public goods/services – sewage, drinking water, water, electricity, public transport – are one set of things; education and health are what we call 'merit goods'. And they are the kinds of things where the market mechanism is not a satisfactory mechanism to deliver these things. And this is not just an Indian thing, world over, this is a well-understood principle.

LC: It depends on the fiscal space you have. And within this fiscal space how you design public benefits is entirely [up to] that party or government. So the distinction between welfare and non-welfare is kind of blurred. What is important is basically the public finance or the fiscal space question. What's important is stability of revenue in how you design your public benefits. I think the Delhi government has that stability of revenue, whether it's the present government or the previous government, there is the comfort of having stability in revenue that other States do not have, so that's a position of strength. Second, providing these things for free is giving income in hand, a kind of disposable income to the people. Whether it's giving them free transport rides or free electricity, it is giving them disposable income to spend on something else which becomes important at a time of economic slowdown.

RK: I think that often when people talk about the availability of fiscal



SHANKER CHAKRAVARTY

space, the focus is only on the expenditure side and not enough attention is paid to revenue. Even in Delhi, there is great potential for increasing revenue. The second thing is good welfare spending, whether it's on health, education or public transport, at the Central level is very low. So, what AAP did in the last term was try to bring it closer to what it should be.

Various State governments have schemes in the name of welfare. In Tamil Nadu, for instance, Amma canteens that provide cheap food are good but other policies like giving free grinders/computers/cycles are seen as problematic. Where do we draw the line?

RK: Each of these has to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The first thing to start with, of course, is the state's ability to finance these things. And when I say finance, let me reiterate that the focus should be both on the expenditure side as well as its ability to generate revenues. Let me give you a small example in Jharkhand that illustrates the complexity of these issues. We learned recently that the State provides an exemption from registration duty for properties that are valued at more than ₹50 lakh if they're registered in the names of women. Now, we know that women's property rights are important, but weak. But these are properties that are worth ₹50 lakh and, according to the bureaucrat who told us, it costs the exchequer a few hundred crores annually. So, you know, it's a question of balancing priorities and it's always tricky.

C 'Leave nobody behind' should be the crux of a public policy or a welfare policy, rather than thinking that roads and public infrastructure are the most important.

REETIKA KHERA

Now, as far as free grinders are concerned, it's a huge labour-saving device, especially in a State like Tamil Nadu where rice is always being ground to make idli or dosai. Ultimately, one would have to evaluate them on a case-by-case basis depending not only on the benefits in some cases but also on the cost side.

LC: Good welfare and bad welfare is context-specific. If I'm a girl going to school, then mobility is very precious to me. So, if a politician is providing cycles to girls, that is very valuable. And in the case of grinders, you can say it's giving people more time to pursue other things and that can ultimately have a positive effect on income poverty as well. Similarly, with rural employment guarantee, I don't know why the government is not giving adequate emphasis for this because when all else fails, the government acting as 'the employer of last resort' is very precious.

One criticism of welfare policies is they can be targeted at certain communities and groups. Then it becomes a somewhat cynical political act.

LC: Any state, or an entity that you call a state, is a heterogeneous thing. You have to take into account the religious composition, the urban-rural mix, maybe the level of the economic development, all of these things matter. Governance structures and political decisions are then built around that. So, as long as there is no implicit crony contractual relationship between the government in power and the specific interest groups they are focusing on, it's okay. All governments focus on winning over a group called swing voters and they look at how to make things attractive to those voters, but as long as there is no implicit crony contractual relationship or something like that, it's okay.

ten useless CCTVs. Focus on better street lighting instead. In the public distribution system, they seem to have a plan to start "home delivery" of PDS commodities. That is a bad idea, because distribution in a public place in front of others is a big protection against corruption.

Between 12 and 2 p.m., on any day, you should go and stand on the road outside AIIMS. It's really heartbreaking how poor patients who have come to Delhi for treatment... their families are often sleeping outside on the footpath and then some NGO-type people come with trucks and they distribute food and people have to queue up. So the dignity involved with just the most basic need like this is something that Delhi should be working much more towards.

LC: What is still fresh in my mind is the Nirbhaya case. Things have not improved. And the government is not focusing much attention on the security of women and girls after sunset. Maybe that's one of the reasons why the Congress lost actually. Because they were doing good things in terms of infrastructure and constructing flyovers and the like, but when it came to the narrative about security of citizens in the capital city, there wasn't much focus. So I would like them to focus on that as a first priority. Then, of course, there is social infrastructure like health and education that Reetika rightly pointed out.

The argument about welfare policies, in Delhi and elsewhere, is that it takes money away that could be spent on roads and infrastructure. How do we square this?

LC: Infrastructure is one thing, but as an economy develops, a group of people are kept vulnerable. So, to remove their un-freedoms, and for them to participate in the economy and to access schools and colleges, we need to have public policies which tackle these logical entry barriers. So, 'leave nobody behind' should be the crux of a public policy or a welfare policy, rather than just thinking that roads and the public infrastructure should be [most important]. You need to remove many barriers that people face first.



Reetika Khera
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is Professor, NIPFP, and Research Associate, Levy Economics Institute of Bard College, New York



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Advantage hardliners

With legitimacy of the reformists eroding in Iran, hardliners are expected to win big

RAMIN JAHANGIRLOO

The parliamentary elections in Iran come at a critical time for the Islamic regime. Unlike the previous elections where hardliners already in power fought against moderate and pro-reform figures seeking a comeback, this year's elections hold huge importance for the future of the Iranian regime. The events of the past four months, starting with the social turmoil in cities in November 2019 until the shooting down of the Ukraine International Airlines flight PS752 on January 8, 2020, not only shifted back the global attention to Iran, but also eroded much of the political legitimacy of the Iranian regime. The brutal response of Tehran's authorities to the unrest in the country after the government announced a 33% increase in fuel prices created distrust of the regime. The regime's popularity faded even more after the government lied for days about what caused Flight 752 to crash and finally admitted downing the plane. As a result, many Iranians are frustrated by the whole nomenclature, either hardliners or moderates, and will probably not participate in the elections.

Disqualification of moderates
The low turnout would make it impossible for the regime to pretend that it could prevail ideologically against U.S. President Donald Trump's maximum pressure strategy. This comes as a surprise more than 40 days after the assassination of Major General Qassem Soleimani at the orders of Mr. Trump in Iraq, which seemed to have helped the regime in Tehran on the domestic front and paused the anti-Iran regional outcry in Iraq and Lebanon. In a poll conducted by the Institute of Social Studies and Research at Tehran University, over 76% of the population across Tehran province said they will not take part in the elections. In addition, of more than 15,000 people who applied to run for parliament, 7,296 were disqualified by the Guardian Council from running. The 12-member Guardian Council consists of six Shiite clerics appointed by the Supreme Leader and six lawyers elected by parliament. It is charged with ensuring that draft laws do not contradict religious laws or Iran's

constitution, and overseeing elections and legislation. On paper, running for parliament is open to all Iranians who are between the ages of 30 and 75 years, but this time many reformist contenders were disqualified in the majority of constituencies due to embezzlement and corruption. As a result, hardliners are expected to win big. The Iranian government announced this month that it was preparing a new draft law for a referendum that would limit the powers of the Guardian Council of the Constitution. Even if this law is accepted, it will not take effect for these polls.

The disqualification of moderate candidates is the biggest cause of discontent for the Iranians. With hardliners in control, the government is set to lead to an even more aggressive foreign policy. Also, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) will see its power more strengthened than before as a result of the elections. With President Hassan Rouhani's camp being weakened, Iran doesn't look likely to produce a détente with the U.S. and EU. Though reformists could try to reunite as some kind of an opposition to a monopoly of power by hardliners, the truth is that they have lost a great deal of legitimacy and credibility in Iran over the years.

Young Iranians have been disillusioned with Mr. Rouhani's government and angered by poverty, high unemployment and corruption. As a result, for many of those who will not vote in the elections, one of the main reasons is also that Mr. Rouhani and his reformist Cabinet distanced themselves from the millions who voted for them in the presidential elections on promises of reform and action against corruption. Also, it is true that with the sanctions imposed by the Trump administration and designed to bring Iran to heel, Iranian hardliners, especially members of the IRGC, seem to have become even more assertive and ready to close ranks. Therefore, what the upcoming elections show clearly is that despite decline of legitimacy, the establishment tries to remain united, because as long as it is united, the Islamic Republic will continue to survive.

Ramin Jahanbegloo is Director, Mahatma Gandhi Centre for Peace, Jindal Global University, Sonipat

US DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARIES



NOTEBOOK

Staying neutral in moments of cultural friction

Reporting on the nuances of parenting across cultures has its own challenges

NARAYAN LAKSHMAN

With less than a week to go before the visit of U.S. President Donald Trump to India, mainstream and social media conversations on the subject have centred on what the summit meeting could mean for bilateral ties, prospects for a trade deal, security questions, and a fixation on guestimating the likely strength of the crowds that will attend. However, the optics may be, or however, sparkling the personal chemistry between Mr. Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it is worth remembering that in the longest arc of cooperation between the world's oldest and largest democracies it is not only governments that matter but people-to-people relations.

In this context, there are

many signs of organic convergence that has happened in recent decades, including the spread of the classic, consumer-focused, consumption-driven models of Western capitalism seeping into every pore of Indian culture and, conversely, the proliferation of yoga, Indian cuisine and lifestyle habits getting transmitted from the sub-continent to the U.S.

Yet there are still points of dissonance that become evident now and again, often quite controversially.

One such source of cultural friction that I encountered and reported on more than once during my time as *The Hindu*'s U.S. correspondent goes to the very heart of each country's value system: parenting.

Almost with clockwork regularity, every few years an Indian immigrant family in the U.S. would find themselves in a crisis after the courts or social services took their children into protective custody or arrested a parent on suspicion of abuse towards a child.

In several cases that I reported on,

the troubles began during a doctor's visit,

ostensibly a routine matter from the perspective of the parents. Typically, the physician would identify medical symptoms that raised a red flag according to a predetermined list of objective criteria for potential cases of abuse. One example is retinal damage, which is consistent with 'shaken baby syndrome'. After interviewing the parents, separately and together, and potentially interviewing the child without the parents present, the physician would, perhaps along with a social worker, draw up a report testifying to the possibility of abuse.

At this point the case would usually enter a grey area depending on the specific reason for the injuries given by the parents. In one case that I examined,

the father and mother were on the same page as they described how their child had been taken away from them by hospital staff after they reported head injuries.

that the child had suffered after falling off a bed. In another case a child reported a tibia fracture while engaged in play with a parent, yet a lack of consistency between the parents' accounts regarding how the accident occurred led to suspicions that resulted in the father facing criminal charges and a ban on meeting his family.

In each of these cases the biggest challenge as a reporter was to remain, in the absence of overwhelming evidence or a conviction by a court, neutral in the sense of not taking the parents' side or backing the host country government's position.

While I'd like to think that *The Hindu*'s U.S. reportage held firm to this standard, to this day I have not figured out whether the authorities in each case were being overzealous, or whether the tenets of "Indian-style parenting" were strongly at odds with a more universal conception of child rights.

Despite the recent political events in their country, Czechoslovaks have not lost their sense of humour. Among the jokes circulating about their plight is the following: A man goes into a Prague police station and reports that two Swiss soldiers took his Soviet watch. "Don't you mean two Soviet soldiers took your Swiss watch?" The policeman asked. "You said it. I didn't," replied the citizen. Another story begins with a resident of Prague viewing two motor cars in Wenceslas Square, one a Rolls-Royce and the other the small Soviet Moskvich. "Which do you like best?", he was asked by a bystander. "I think the Moskvich," the Czech said. "You don't know your automobiles," said his neighbour. "I know my cars," said the Czech, "but I don't know you".

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEB. 21, 1920.

Lala Lajpat Rai.

Bombay, February 20. — Lala Lajpat Rai arrived this morning by steamer "Cableton". He was met by a large number of Bombay leaders and was given a public ovation. He was carried in procession through the principal streets of the city.

A Banquet.

Bombay, February 21. - A banquet was given last night by the Bombay National Union in honour of Lala Lajpat Rai which was attended by about 200 persons including Messrs Tilak, Swami Satyadev and others. After the banquet an address eulogising the services of Lala Lajpat Rai was presented to him by the Home Rule League and National Union. Replying to the address Lajpat Rai said his work in America was not a secret. Everything he had done was known to all his countrymen there. He received help from all his countrymen of all political creed and opinion and had used the help and offered in his own way for the service of his mother country. He allowed them to override his own opinion or control his own judgment. Before the establishment of India Home Rule League in America his work consisted of writing a few articles for papers and a few pamphlets. After its establishment everything was on record all the monies received had been placed in the account books and those accounts had been placed open for the British secret service to see. He had never concealed anything. Their accounts, their correspondence and everything was open for the inspection of everybody and no doubt the secret service had done that.

FROM PAGE ONE

CAA will cause Muslims to face exclusion: panel

The USCIRF report raised serious concerns about comments from various BJP leaders about the party's intention to create a new, exclusively Hindu country in India.

"Hindutva political rhetoric questions the legitimacy of Muslims' Indian citizenship and perpetuates the further marginalisation of this faith community. The BJP Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath, for example, promised in 2005 to cleanse India of other religions, calling this the 'century of Hindutva,'" said the USCIRF.

The document also cited extensively from concerns expressed by the UN reports and observations that have described the controversial CAA as biased against the minority Muslim community of India.

A Wednesday tweet from the USCIRF – which is an independent bi-partisan commission established by the U.S. Congress – calls the CAA "a significant downward turn in religious freedom" in India.

Focus on Pak. terror, India tells UN chief

The MEA spokesperson's statement came in response to Mr. Guterres' remark that Muslims in India could end up stateless because of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

The UN chief paid a four-day visit to Pakistan during which he told the *Dawn* newspaper that he is personally concerned about the threat to the Muslims and other religious groups because of the new law.

Mr. Guterres also thanked

The fact sheet says of the CAA: "The law's passage sparked large-scale protests across the country that provoked a harsh and deadly crackdown by police forces."

"A wide variety of political parties, non-governmental organisations, and religious groups also submitted petitions to the Supreme Court challenging the CAA's constitutionality, arguing that it, in particular, violates Section 14 (equality before the law) of the Indian Constitution... Alongside the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights, the U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, and the House Foreign Affairs Committee similarly expressed their concern about the law," the fact sheet says.

There is also a reference to Home Minister Amit Shah's comments. He is quoted as saying the government would "selectively throw out all infiltrators".

Pakistan for its contribution to the UN peacekeeping missions.

"At the same time, we hope that the UN Secretary General would emphasise on the imperative for Pakistan to take credible, sustained and irreversible action to end cross-border terrorism against India that threatens the most fundamental human right of the people of India, including Jammu and Kashmir," said Mr. Kumar.

Nirbhaya case convict claims mental illness

The plea further claimed that he was having "decreased sleep" and had been referred to a senior psychiatrist.

The plea claimed that when Sharma's counsel visited him in the prison on the request of his family

members, he found that he had sustained grievous head injury, fracture in his right arm with plaster and was suffering from 'insanity', 'mental illness' and 'schizophrenia'. The court had on February 17 issued fresh death warrants for March 3

Army chief hails SC for 'enabling judgment'

"It will be the same rule for everyone," the Army chief said.

On Monday, the court directed the government that women officers in the Army be granted Permanent Commission and command postings.

Observing that the judgment was for those who have crossed a certain point in their career in the Army, he said the rules for young

officers would not be applied to women officers with greater seniority. All the factors will be discussed in the training of the next batch of women officers, he stated.

Noting that the Army started inducting women officers in 1993, he added that the Army was the first service to employ women as jawans in the Corps of Military Police.

A.R. Rahman's NGO gets FCRA licence

The foundation was in trouble earlier due to charges of tax evasion

VIJAYA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Union government has granted Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) licence this year to more than 20 non-governmental organisations (NGOs), including the A.R. Rahman Foundation, run by the Academy award-winning composer and his family.

Any NGO or association that intends to receive foreign funds has to compulsorily register under the FCRA, monitored by the Union Home Ministry.

After the Modi government came to power in 2014, the FCRA licences of more than 16,000 NGOs were cancelled on account of various violations.

Foreign funding

- FCRA licences of 20,674 NGOs were cancelled from 2012 onward
- 10,002 registrations were cancelled in 2015 alone
- Before 2011, the number of FCRA registrations stood at 40,376

The Rahman Foundation had run into trouble with the authorities when it allegedly received money from a U.K.-based mobile phone company in 2015. The income tax authorities had accused Mr. Rahman of evading tax and getting the money transferred to a bank account linked to the Trust that was

not registered under the FCRA. Mr. Rahman and his auditor had contested the claims.

The Ministry said the Foundation had been registered for "cultural, social and educational" purposes under the FCRA.

Under the 2010 Act, registered NGOs can receive fo-

reign contribution for five purposes – social, educational, religious, economic and cultural. This year, only the Vadodara-based Madrasa Muhammadiyah Baccho ka Ghar has been registered under the "religious (Muslim), cultural, educational" category.

A total of 21 other associations were also registered under the FCRA this year, most in the "social and economic" category.

In 2017, 2018 and 2019, the number of new FCRA registrations stood at 1012, 521 and 683, respectively.

The Ministry informed Parliament last year that more than 5,804 NGOs were registered for "religious purpose" under the Act.

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'Centre won't dilute Article 371'

NDA govt. committed to preserving cultures, traditions of northeast, says Shah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday allayed fears in the northeast that Article 371 would meet the same fate as Article 370. He was speaking at a public meeting at the 34th Statehood Day celebrations in Itanagar.

His visit was marked by protests in Arunachal Pradesh and China, which claims the State as part of southern Tibet. Students of the Rajiv Gandhi University led the protest related to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) at Mithun Gate, less than a kilometre from Indira Gandhi Park where the Statehood Day programme was held.

Misinformation spread
"Misinformation was spread after the abrogation of Article 370 that Article 371 will also be scrapped... It will never happen and nobody can do it," Mr. Shah said, asserting that the NDA government was committed to preserving and protecting the unique cultures and traditions of the northeast inhabited by various ethnic groups.

While Article 370 had special provisions for Jammu



Warm welcome: Home Minister Amit Shah being welcomed by artists as he arrives in Itanagar to attend the 34th Statehood Day of Arunachal Pradesh. ■ PTI

Arunachal an integral and inalienable part of India'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Indian leaders visit Arunachal Pradesh in the way they visit any other part of India, said the External Affairs Ministry in response to China's objection to Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to the Himalayan State. "Our position on Arunachal

Pradesh is clear and consistent. It is an integral and inalienable part of India. Objecting to the visit of Indian leaders to a State of India does not stand to reason and understanding of the Indian people," said the official spokesperson of the Ministry Raveesh Kumar.

and Kashmir, Articles 371-A to 371-J have certain provisions for Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh,

Mr. Shah said the northeast was only geographically connected to the rest of India till 2014, when the NDA government began to integrate the region emotionally. "The region used to get importance earlier only on political grounds but Prime Minister Narendra Modi has changed the trend," Mr. Shah added.

The Modi government wants the entire northeast to be free of militancy, inter-State boundary conflicts, law and order, drug menace and other problems. When we seek votes in 2024, the northeast will have been free from all problems," the Home Minister said.

Sikkim, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh besides Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa and Karnataka.

Centre damaging crop insurance: Congress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday accused the Centre of surreptitiously trying to shut down the crop insurance scheme by reducing the government's share of premium and putting the burden on farmers.

At a press conference, Congress chief spokesperson Ran-

deep Surjewala said the Union government was running the crop insurance scheme "only to benefit its crony capitalist friends and their insurance companies".

"From an earlier cap of 2% on premiums, the farmers will have to pay 27% premium as the Centre

has reduced its share by half on crop insurance," Mr. Surjewala said.

"Instead of making the scheme more farmer-friendly, the government is shutting it down in a surreptitious manner by making it completely unviable for the farmer," he said.

Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram slammed the government's decision on Twitter. "Nothing can be more anti-farmer than the central government's decision to reduce its contribution to the Crop Insurance Scheme. Making crop insurance voluntary for loanee farmers is another retrograde step," he tweeted.

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Sprucing it up: Workers cleaning the area surrounding the Taj Mahal on Thursday, ahead of President Trump's visit. ■ PTI

MAHESH LANGA
KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

AHMEDABAD/ NEW DELHI

In a new twist about the mega event 'Namaste Trump' to be held at the newly built cricket stadium in Ahmedabad on February 24, the organiser of the event has turned out to be the newly formed Donald Trump Nagarik Abhiavadan Samiti (Citizen Felicitation Committee for Donald Trump). But, in another mystery, it is not yet known who formed the committee.

On Thursday, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar told persons that the committee was the organiser.

However, even in Gujarat, officials and agencies involved in the preparations are unaware of the existence of any such committee.

In the dark

"I don't know about the committee. We are only concerned about the preparations and logistical support," a top official told *The Hindu*. Another official from Ahmedabad said "only today had he learnt about existence of the committee".

Even the Ministry declined to give more details about the group. Its silence prompted the Congress to ask about the committee and when it extended the invitations. "Dear PM, intriguing new from MEA. Pl state: who is the president of Donald Trump Abhinandan Samiti?

When was the invitation extended to the US President and accepted and why the President Trump is saying you have promised him a grand event with 7 million people," tweeted Congress spokesman Randeep Surjewala.

Earlier, it was said the Gu-

arat Cricket Association is organising the event at which Mr. Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi were supposed to inaugurate the world's largest cricket stadium. But the inauguration was put off. Though, no official reason has been given as to why the inauguration of the stadium has been put on hold, insiders said that "apparently the PMO was not keen on the inauguration along with the event."

The Ministry said there was nothing unusual in the largescale preparations to welcome Mr. Trump and such detailed plans are part

of normal logistical plans before any high profile foreign visits.

"We have to see any such visit in the context of protocol and security arrangements which have to be made. This is very reciprocal. When our Prime Minister visits abroad, we do expect such arrangements and facilitation by other countries as well. I really don't understand the big deal here," Mr. Kumar said, answering a question on the expenses being incurred by the Government of India and the Gujarat government for the visit.

Apart from beautification and construction of a wall in Ahmedabad, elaborate arrangements are being made in Agra, where President Trump and Melania Trump will pay a brief visit to the Taj Mahal.

Mr. Surjewala questioned the Gujarat government's decision to spend ₹120 crore on the 'Namaste Trump' event to be held at the Motera stadium. "Diplomacy is a serious government business and not a series of photo ops and event management tactics," Mr. Surjewala said.

dent Barack Obama's departure from office, 58% of Indians had confidence in his handling of world affairs, 9% had no confidence and 33% did not opine on it.

As many as 48% of Indians disapprove of Mr. Trump's policies of increasing fees and tariffs on goods from other countries entering the U.S., roughly a quarter approve and another quarter do not offer an opinion.

Indians have positive view of Trump'

SRI RAM LAKSHMAN

WASHINGTON DC

With U.S. President Donald Trump's arrival in India only days away, a new survey from the Pew Research Center suggests that while Mr. Trump is positively perceived by Indians in India, his specific policies, including trade, are not as positively regarded. The survey also found that Indians who associate with the BJP are more

likely to think favourably of Mr. Trump than those associated with the Congress.

The survey, conducted between June 24 and October 2, 2019, was based on 2,476 adult respondents, surveyed face to face. It found that a majority (56%) of Indians had confidence in Mr. Trump doing the right thing regarding world affairs. This number has increased from 14% in 2016. A large part of

this increase is because the share of "don't know" responses (or those declining to respond) to the question on Mr. Trump's approach to world affairs has decreased from 67% to 30% over three years. The proportion of those expressing lack of confidence in Mr. Trump's handling of world affairs has more or less flat-lined since 2016.

Prior to former U.S. Presi-



China realised it can't support Pak. all the time: Army chief

Pak. is under FATF's glare; hence, it toned down its rhetoric'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

China has realised that they cannot back their "so-called all-weather friend" all the time, Army chief Gen. Manoj Naravane said on Thursday referring to Pakistan's continued support to cross-border terrorism and the ongoing plenary of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

"They [China] have taken a step back," he said in a brief interaction with presspersons.

Pressure on Pak.

"There is all-round pressure on Pakistan regarding its support for cross-border terrorism and they may have to

rethink their strategy".

There was an "external dimension" to cross-border related incidents. Pakistan was under the glare of the FATF and they must have factored in that "to tone down their rhetoric."

The crucial FATF plenary was under way in Paris, which would decide if Pakistan moved out of the 'Grey List' or moved into the 'Black List', he said.

Incidents of terrorism and terror-related incidents in Kashmir have gone down, but the Line of Control (LoC) remained active and Cease Fire Violations (CFV) continued as attempts to cross the LoC were on everyday,

including attempts by the Border Action Teams (BAT) of Pakistan, he said.

Gen. Naravane said the counter-infiltration grid had been strengthened. "No infiltration attempt has been successful."

Theatre commands

On the proposed establishment of theatre commands, he said they were in the "very preliminary" stages and there would be detailed discussions before anything is finalised. Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen. Bipin Rawat recently outlined one or two commands for the Northern Command and two theatres for the Western Command.

New Delhi to send medical supplies by aircraft to China

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

India will deliver medical supplies to China to combat the COVID-19 epidemic. An External Affairs Ministry official said on Thursday that India would send a large military transport aircraft to evacuate nationals from Wuhan.

"The government has decided to send a consignment of medical supplies in a relief flight to Wuhan. This is just a small way to express

our support to China as it continues its fight against the COVID-19 epidemic. On its return flight, the aircraft will bring in Indian nationals who could not board the first two flights," said Ravesh Kumar, Ministry spokesperson, announcing that a heavy lift C-17 aircraft will be sent for the mission.

Indians in Wuhan had earlier been told that the special flight would arrive on Thursday but a member of the Indian community in

formed *The Hindu* that the Embassy has now asked the community to wait for a fresh date.

Officials here said that India is waiting for China's permission to send the aircraft.

Air India and IndiGo on Thursday extended the suspension period of their flights to China into June.

Last month, Air India had cancelled its flights to Shanghai and Hong Kong until February 14, which has now been extended to June 30.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY

e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 41/19-20/SE/PHC/PKD, KIIFB-CWSS to Karimba, Kongad and Mundur (Part) Panayath - Phase I - Package II - Design Construction, Commissioning and Maintenance of 13.00LL OHSR, Supplying, laying, Testing, Commissioning and trial running of CWPM and CWGM to OHSR, Supplying and Erection of CWPM sets including road restoration. EMD : Rs. 50000. Tender fee : Rs. 16800. Last Date for submitting Tender : 18-03-2020 03:00:pm. Phone : 04912544927. Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in Superintending Engineer KWA-JB-GL-6-686-2019-20

Sl. No Tender No. Description Pre-Bid Meeting Last date of Online submission

Sl. No	Tender No.	Description	Pre-Bid Meeting	Last date of Online submission
1. T 358/2020	Automated Electrophoresis apparatus with all accessories Type C, Electrophoresis System, Urine Toxicology Analyzer, Automated Nucleic Acid Extraction and RT PCR (Rotor-based) System, Karyotyping and FISH Workstation, Penta Head Microscope with High Optics & HDMI Multi Output Photographic Camera.	26.02.2020 11:00 a.m.	17.03.2020 05:00 p.m.	
2. T 359/2020	AV Fistula Set, Oils Urethrolome, Arthroscope & Instruments Full Set (Knee & Shoulder), Stereotactic System, C- Arm Type B, Ultrasound Color Doppler Portable-typeC, Warmer Baby.	28.02.2020 11:00 a.m.	17.03.2020 05:00 p.m.	
3. T 360/2020	OT Fistula Set, ICU Cot Type B, Semi Conductor Laser Unit, Horizontal Cylindrical Autoclave - 250 L, Horizontal Rectangular Autoclave - 300 L, Medical Liquid Oxygen.	02.03.2020 11:00 a.m.	19.03.2020 05:00 p.m.	
4. T 361/2020	Defibrillator with Cardiac Monitor and Pacing, Multiparameter Monitor (5 para) with Central Monitoring System, Multiparameter Monitor with Capnogram, Multiparameter Monitor with Capnogram and IPM, Multiparameter Monitor with IBP and Central Monitoring System, Sequential Compression Devices Calf Pump	04.03.2020 11:00 a.m.	19.03.2020 05:00 p.m.	

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE No. M_M_W271_Bio-Toilets_2020

Dated 18.02.2020

1. For details, visit www.etenders.gov.in
2. E-Bids are invited by the Project Director, DRDA Coimbatore Districts for Construction of New Panchayat Union Office Building at Madukkarai, P.N Palayam and Construction of New Bus Stand near Maruthamalai Adiyaram in P.N Palayam Block-Package wise, in two cover system,

3. The package wise bid documents can be downloaded free of cost from www.etenders.gov.in from 21.02.2020 to 23.03.2020

4. Last Date and Time for downloading and submission of bid documents : 23.03.2020 Upto 3.00 p.m.

I. Last Date and Time for downloading and submission of bid documents : 23.03.2020, 4.00PM onwards

II Date and Time of online opening of Bid Documents : Joint Director /Project Director, DRDA,Coimbatore

Description :Contract for Maintenance and operation of contract of Bio-toilets of coaches at BBQ, GSN/TBM coaching depots of Chennai Division for a period of 4 years.

Location	Advertised tender Value in (₹)	Earnest Money Deposit in (₹)	Similar nature of work	Period of completion
Basin Bridge, Gopalsamy Nagar & Tambaram	Rs. 18,34,63,586.06	Rs. 10,67,300/-	Applicable	04 years

Tender closing date and time : 12.03.2020 @ 11.00 hrs. Details of value of tender, tender form cost, EMD are given in e-portal www.etenders.gov.in. For

ELSEWHERE



Kashmir journalist wins AFP's Kate Webb Prize

HONG KONG
Ahmer Khan, a 27-year-old Indian freelance reporter, was named the winner of the 2019 Agence France-Presse Kate Webb Prize on Thursday for his coverage on the ground in Kashmir during the lockdown of the region. The award recognises journalism by locally hired reporters in Asia operating in difficult conditions. **AP**

Trump names Grenell as top intel official

WASHINGTON
President Donald Trump announced that Richard Grenell, the U.S. Ambassador to Germany, will become acting director of national intelligence, a move that puts a staunch Trump ally in charge of the nation's 17 spy agencies, which the President has only tepidly embraced. **AP**

Japan firm lands massive Sri Lanka airport contract

COLOMBO
Japanese firm Taisei Corporation was chosen by Colombo on Thursday to build a new \$570 million terminal for Sri Lanka's main airport, as Tokyo re-emerges as a key infrastructure backer amid a raft of Chinese projects. The new terminal is expected to double capacity at the Bandaranaike International Airport to around 20 million passengers a year. **AP**

Turkey, Russia to continue talks on Syria

ANKARA
Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said that Turkey and Russia have inched closer toward each other's positions during talks in Moscow this week on restoring calm in Syria, but that their discussions have not produced the results yet that Ankara desires. He said talks would continue. **AP**

Bloomberg comes under attack at Democratic debate

The billionaire candidate was accused of trying to buy his way into White House

REUTERS
LAS VEGAS

Michael Bloomberg faced a barrage of attacks at his first Democratic presidential debate on Wednesday, as his rivals assailed the free-spending and fast-rising billionaire over his record on race, history of sexist comments and the use of his massive fortune to muscle his way into the contest.

In a rough debate débüt that gave voters their first unscripted look at the media mogul and self-funding former New York Mayor, Mr. Bloomberg seemed uncomfortable and hesitant as he defended his record and argued that he is Democrats' best chance of beating Republican President Donald Trump in November.

Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Amy Klobuchar, Joe Biden and Pete Buttigieg all lined up to go after Mr. Bloomberg, who has surged in polls helped by an unprecedented advertising blitz. But they also heaped personal attacks on one another in the most contentious of the nine Democratic White House debates.

All of the contenders on the Las Vegas debate stage accused Mr. Bloomberg of trying to buy his way into the White House and said his record as Mayor and businessman was not good enough to beat Mr. Trump.

"We're running against a billionaire who calls women fat broads and horse-faced lesbians," said Ms. Warren, a Senator from Massachusetts. "And, no, I'm not talking about Donald Trump, I'm talking about Mayor Bloomberg."

"Democrats take a huge risk if we just substitute one



Face to face: Democratic presidential hopefuls, from left, Michael Bloomberg, Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders, Joe Biden, Pete Buttigieg and Amy Klobuchar arriving for the Democratic primary debate in Las Vegas on Wednesday. **AP**

arrogant billionaire for another," she added.

Mr. Bloomberg has been accused over the years of many sexist and misogynistic comments, and several lawsuits have been filed alleging that women were discriminated against at his media company.

Remarks about women

He did not respond to Ms. Warren's comments about his alleged remarks about women, taken from a booklet given to him in 1990 that was said to be a compilation of his sayings over the years. A campaign spokesman has said Mr. Bloomberg "simply did not say the things somebody wrote in this gag gift."

Mr. Bloomberg, who entered the race in November and is skipping the first four early voting states in February to focus on later nominating contests in March, has risen to No. 2 among Democrats behind Mr. Sanders, according to a Reuters/Ipsos national poll released on

Tuesday. Mr. Bloomberg said at the debate that he was using his money for an important cause. "I'm spending that money to get rid of Donald Trump, the worst president we've ever had. And if I can get that done, it will be a great contribution to America and to my kids."

Mr. Trump was happy to inject himself into the debate pile-on of Mr. Bloomberg, telling supporters at a rally in Phoenix: "I hear he's getting pounded tonight."

The debate came at a pivotal time, three days before Nevada's presidential caucuses, the third contest in the state-by-state race to find a challenger to Mr. Trump in the November 3 election.

High stakes

The high stakes were evident in the intensity of the exchanges, with Mr. Biden and Ms. Warren, in particular, facing the do-or-die task of reigniting their campaigns after poor showings in Iowa and New Hampshire earlier

this month. Both Ms. Warren and Mr. Biden, the former Vice-President and one-time front-runner who lost ground to Mr. Sanders and Mr. Bloomberg in recent weeks, criticised Mr. Bloomberg for his treatment of women, and asked him to commit to releasing women who had signed non-disclosure agreements to settle lawsuits.

Mr. Bloomberg refused, saying they were made "consensually" with the expectation they would stay private.

"We are not going to beat Donald Trump with a man who has who knows how many non-disclosure agreements, and the drip, drip, drip of stories of women saying they have been harassed and discriminated against," said Ms. Warren, who had her most aggressive debate.

Mr. Bloomberg said there were "very few" non-disclosure agreements. "None of them accuse me of anything," he said. "Maybe they didn't like the jokes I told."

Merkel slams 'poison' of racism after nine killed in shooting

Suspect wanted to 'destroy' people from two dozen countries

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HANAU

Chancellor Angela Merkel condemned the "poison" of racism on Thursday after a shooter with suspected far-right beliefs killed nine people at a shisha bar and a cafe in the German city of Hanau.

The suspect, identified as 43-year-old German Tobias R., was found dead at his home following an hours-long manhunt. The body of his 72-year-old mother was also found at the flat in what appeared to be a murder-suicide.

Federal counter-terror prosecutors investigating the case said they saw a "xenophobic motive" behind the victims. Relatives and friends of the victims gathered at the Arena bar around midday Thursday, an AFP reporter said, embracing one another in tears.

"Racism is a poison, hatred is a poison and this poison exists in our society, and it is already to blame for far too many crimes," Ms. Merkel said in Berlin.

Racism is a poison, hatred is a poison and this poison exists in our society, and it is already to blame for far too many crimes

ANGELA MERKEL
German Chancellor



ople from over two dozen countries should be "destroyed".

He also said he had never been with a woman, which he blamed on being "watched" by unspecified secret services.

Ms. Merkel pledged to fight back against "all those who try to divide Germany".

She cited the murders carried out by the neo-Nazi "NSU" cell between 2000 and 2007 as well as last June's killing of pro-migrant politician Walter Luebcke, and the deadly anti-Semitic attack in Halle in October as examples of the threat posed by the far right.

'Historic' pact with U.S. will be signed soon, says Taliban

Deputy leader says insurgents are 'fully committed' to deal

REUTERS
KABUL

The Taliban's deputy leader said the group would soon sign a agreement with the U.S. to reduce violence for seven days, adding that militant commanders were "fully committed" to observing the "historic" accord.

"That we today stand at the threshold of a peace agreement with the United States is no small miles-

tone," Sirajuddin Haqqani wrote in an opinion piece in the *New York Times*, in the first significant public statement by a Taliban leader on the accord for a week-long reduction in violence.

The agreement in principle, which was struck during negotiations between U.S. and Taliban representatives in Qatar, could lead to a withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan.

Achieving the potential of the agreement, ensuring its success and earning lasting peace will depend on an equally scrupulous observance by the United States of each of its commitments," wrote Haqqani.

Clashes between Afghan forces and the Taliban have continued, but Afghanistan's Interior Minister said a deal to cut violence would be enforced within five days.

Trump ally gets prison term for meddling in Russia probe

Judge to consider request for a new trial



Roger Stone

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON
Donald Trump's longtime ally Roger Stone was sentenced on Thursday to 40 months in prison for impeding a congressional investigation, in a case that ignited a firestorm over the U.S. President's political interference in the justice system.

Mr. Stone, a veteran Republican operative and one of Mr. Trump's oldest confidants, was convicted in November of lying to Congress, tampering with a witness and obstructing the House investigation into whether

Ms. Jackson's sentence fell well short of the seven to nine years initially recommended by the original prosecutors in the case before they were overruled by the Justice Department after Mr. Trump complained publicly. Those prosecutors quit the case.

The truth, still matters.

Roger Stone's insistence that it doesn't, his belligerence, his pride in his own lies are a threat to our most funda-

mental institutions, to the very foundation of our democracy."

Mr. Stone was not immediately sent to prison as Ms. Jackson said implementation of the sentence would be delayed while she considered his request for a new trial.

Ms. Jackson's sentence fell well short of the seven to nine years initially recommended by the original prosecutors in the case before they were overruled by the Justice Department after Mr. Trump complained publicly. Those prosecutors quit the case.

The judge said such a sentence was "unnecessary" for Mr. Stone, who has no prior criminal record.

19 children died in Yemen air strikes: UN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SANA'A

Nineteen children were among at least 31 civilians killed in air strikes on rebel-held northern Yemen last week, the United Nations said on Thursday.

"UNICEF is sad to confirm that the recent attack in Al-Jawf, north of Yemen, on February 15, took the lives of 19 children (eight boys and 11 girls) and injured another 18 (nine boys and another nine girls)," the UN children's agency said in a statement.

Saturday's air strikes came after the Iran-aligned rebels claimed to have shot down an aircraft of the Saudi-led coalition supporting the government.

Number of new COVID-19 cases drops in China

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIJING

China on Thursday touted a big drop in new COVID-19 cases as proof its epidemic control efforts are working, but the toll grew abroad with deaths in Japan and South Korea.

Fatalities in China hit 2,118 as 114 more people died, but the number of new cases declined to 394, a notable shift from the 1,749 figure released a day earlier.

However, Beijing said it has again changed the method of counting patients. Last week, the National Health Commission said officials in Hubei, the epicentre of the outbreak, would record new

infections without waiting for laboratory test results, relying instead on doctors' diagnoses and lung imaging.

On Thursday though, it returned to its prior way of counting, a decision sure to aggravate observers who say consistency is key to understanding COVID-19's path.

More than 74,000 people have been infected in China, and hundreds more in over 25 countries. The number of infections in the country nearly dou-

South Korea reports first virus death

Germ alert: People waiting to undergo tests for COVID-19 at a medical centre in Daegu, South Korea, on Thursday. **AP**

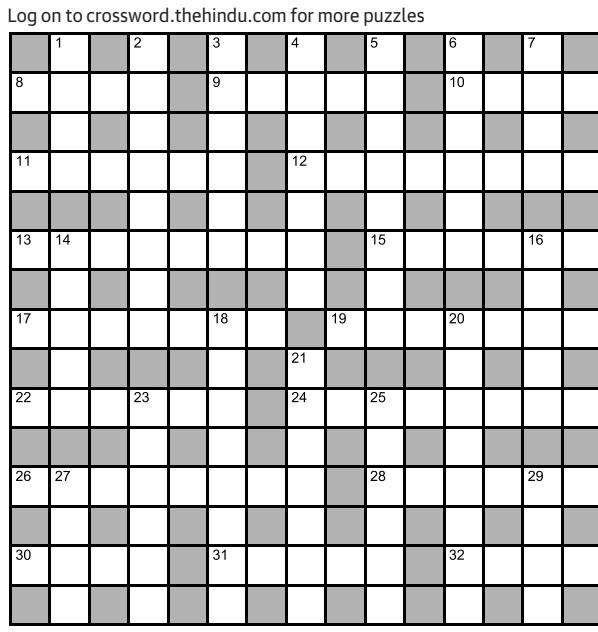
bled on Thursday to 104 – including 15 at a hospital in Cheongdo county. The Mayor of Daegu – South Korea's fourth-largest, with 2.5 million people – advised residents to stay indoors.

Two deaths in Iran
Iran reported two deaths on Wednesday, the first in West Asia. Deaths have previously been confirmed in France, the Philippines, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Chinese officials say the drastic containment efforts, including quarantining millions in Hubei and restricting movements in cities nationwide, have started to pay off. "Results show that our control efforts are working," Foreign Minister Wang Yi said at a special meeting on the virus with Southeast Asian counterparts in Laos.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12864

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



ACROSS

- 8 Thanks! With side-car for hire? (4)
- 9 American emergency room's customers (5)
- 10 Hit returning friends (4)
- 11 Champion consumes and swindles (6)
- 12 Scurrying mice follow a boor and scholar (8)

(set by Incognito)

- 4 Fine writing instrument's with a lieutenant by end of day (7)
- 5 I smear Hawaiian, for example (8)
- 6 Dozing general's surrounded by snake (6)
- 7 Waterway in Dharwad, India (4)
- 14 Prescribed medicine quantity, including a drop of wine and divine groundwater (5)
- 16 Two military commanders get a drink (5)
- 18 Horribly laments about current diseases (8)
- 20 State: "Young woman and heavenly beauty, but not hot" (8)
- 21 Praise father consuming milky coffee (7)
- 23 South American queue to get sodium chloride solution (6)
- 25 Destroyed garden menace (6)
- 27 Touched soft material (4)
- 29 For starters, entertainer showed public yellow spot (4)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12863

C	A	F	I	C	D			
B	O	W	I	S	P	E		
N	T	N	O	N	N	J		
A	S	S	I	T	E	N		
P	W	S	T	N	Y	S		
A	W	S	O	A	L	R		
P	W	N	H	O				

MARKET WATCH

	20-02-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	41170	-0.37
US Dollar	71.64	-0.14
Gold	42492	0.26
Brent oil	59.62	1.84

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	370.85	-0.45
Asian Paints	1842.25	-42.65
Axis Bank	744.30	3.25
Bajaj Auto	3065.50	-25.40
Bajaj Finance	9709.70	-48.95
Bharti Airtel	4880.45	2.40
BPLC	471.75	-3.80
Britannia Ind	3059.40	-22.85
Cipla	435.75	-11.75
Coal India	179.35	1.60
D Reddys Lab	3255.30	-22.85
Eicher Motors	18848.65	-26.55
GAIL (India)	119.30	-0.55
Grasim Ind	751.30	-5.85
HCL Tech.	608.05	2.30
HDFC	2369.50	-7.75
HDFC Bank	1217.10	-10.10
Hero MotoCorp	2240.25	-11.35
Hindalco	189.95	1.85
Hind Unilever	2248.25	-43.90
ICICI Bank	547.00	2.20
IndusInd	1182.20	-40.05
Bharti Infratel	226.20	1.10
Infosys	797.00	-3.45
Indian Oil Corp	112.30	-1.90
ITC	207.45	0.75
JSW Steel	281.80	0.95
Kotak Bank	1685.95	-15.15
L&T	1280.60	-0.80
M&M	524.85	-1.55
Maruti Suzuki	6757.60	1.00
Nestle India Ltd.	16539.50	-24.55
NTPC	111.35	-0.70
ONGC	102.80	1.10
PowerGrid Corp	189.25	1.75
Reliance Ind	1485.95	-17.85
State Bank	327.65	7.30
Sun Pharma	404.95	1.40
Tata Motors	158.50	0.45
Tata Steel	443.55	10.35
TCS	2156.80	-39.55
Tech Mahindra	829.60	-11.30
Titan	1322.85	-6.75
UltraTech Cement	4428.10	-45.00
UPL	584.35	-0.85
Vedanta	142.35	-0.30
Wipro	245.70	-1.90
YES Bank	35.45	0.15
Zee Entertainment	256.80	4.55

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.44	71.76
Euro	77.11	77.46
British Pound	91.88	92.30
Japanese Yen (100)	63.79	64.10
Chinese Yuan	10.17	10.22
Swiss Franc	72.64	72.97
Singapore Dollar	51.02	51.25
Canadian Dollar	53.88	54.13
Malaysian Ringgit	17.07	17.16

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

February 20 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g) 51.6 (51.8)

22 ct gold (1g) 3978 (3965)

+ States to get

₹19,950 cr. GST compensation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI
The Centre has released ₹19,950 crore as GST compensation to States, taking the total amount released to them to more than ₹1.2 lakh crore.

In a statement, the Finance Ministry said ₹19,950 crore was released to States and Union Territories last Monday.

When the Goods and Services Tax (GST) came into force in July 2017, States, which lost powers to levy taxes such as VAT, were guaranteed to be compensated for any loss of revenue in the first five years of GST implementation. This compensation was to come out of a pool that was to be created by levy of a cess on certain sin and luxury goods.

“With this release, the Central government has released a total of ₹1,20,498 crore towards GST compensation to the states/UTs during current fiscal,” the statement said.

SBI Card public offer to open on March 2

IPO help may raise about ₹10,000 cr.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

The initial public offering (IPO) of SBI Card will open on March 2 and close on March 5, State Bank of India said in a notification to the exchanges.

The initial public offer consists of a fresh issue worth ₹500 crore and an Offer For Sale of up to 13.05 crore shares.

The total offer aims to raise close to ₹10,000 crore. SBI Card is subsidiary of State Bank of India, the country's largest lender.

“State Bank has been informed by SBI Cards that the

Vehicle registrations sputter, slide 7% on poor sentiment

Lack of demand boosters in Budget impacts retail auto sector in January: FADA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The automobile sector continued to plow on the slow lane in January 2020 with total vehicles registrations declining 7.17% year-on-year as per FADA data, indicating the persisting contraction in the sector.

Except for three-wheelers and tractors, all other segments witnessed contraction as per the monthly vehicle registration data released by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA).

As per the data, two-wheeler registrations declined by 8.82% year-on-year while passenger vehicles registrations plunged 4.61% and commercial vehicles by 6.89%.

On the other hand, registrations of three-wheelers showed a growth of 9.17% while tractor registrations rose by 5.11%. This is the first time that tractors have been included

Stuttering moves

Except for 3-wheelers and tractors, registrations in all other segments, including for passenger vehicles, witnessed a contraction. Transition to BS-VI is also leading to a delay in purchase decisions

Category	Jan. '20	Jan. '19	Change %
2-wheelers	12,67,366	13,89,951	-8.82%
3-wheelers	63,514	58,178	9.17%
Commercial vehicles	82,187	88,271	-6.89%
Passenger vehicles	2,90,879	3,04,929	-4.61%
Tractors	46,170	43,924	5.11%
Total	17,50,116	18,85,253	-7.17%

Vehicle registration data for January '20



Source: FADA Research

in the list. “Auto sales continue to be in the negative territory in the month of January,” FADA president Ashish Harsharaj Kale said.

“Except for three-wheelers, others suffered, with many consumers still not concluding their purchase decisions,” he added.

“The ongoing transition of BS-IV to BS-VI is also a factor in the delayed purchase decisions.” Mr. Kale said the overall weak economic senti-

ment continues in the market and “even the Union Budget, although an inclusive one with growth drivers for the mid to long-term, did not have any direct measures to spur growth in the sector.”

“BS-IV units returnable”
“The last 14 months has seen one of its toughest times in auto sales. FADA has, therefore, requested the OEM’s, through the SIAM, that any

BS-IV vehicle billed further,

which is not against specific customer order, to be on returnable basis to avoid financial loss to our members,” Mr. Kale said.

He said the association will also co-ordinate with banks and NBFCs to ensure financing of BS-IV inventory

till the stock is liquidated before March 31 and for the smooth transition to BS-VI

without any financial implications to any stakeholder.

Vodafone Idea pays ₹1,000 cr. in AGR dues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Vodafone Idea on Thursday paid ₹1,000 crore more to the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) towards its statutory dues, a senior official said.

The company had paid ₹2,500 crore to the government towards adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues on Monday. In all, it owes the Centre ₹53,000 crore.

The DoT source said that notices would also be sent to Tata Teleservices for recovery of full dues in a day or two. Separately, Bharti Airtel chairman Sunil Mittal on Thursday met Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and sought a cut in taxes and levies amid the ‘unprecedented’ AGR crisis.

World's second-biggest control centre for goods trains set to roll

Will serve as nerve centre of 1,800-km Eastern corridor: MD

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

PRAYAGRAJ

The world's second-biggest Operation Control Centre for goods trains, built in India by the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India (DFCCIL) is ready to begin operations, and is likely to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the end of this month, a senior company official said on Thursday.

The centre, built at Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, will be the ‘nerve-centre’ of the over 1,800 km-long eastern dedicated freight corridor, the corporation’s MD Anurag Sachan said on Thursday.

The control centre has a theater which measures

1560 sq m, with a video wall of more than 90 m and will be used as a one-stop shop for controlling and monitoring rail systems, including train operations and the power supply system.

The Dedicated Freight Corridor, touted as one of the biggest infrastructure projects in the country, is a 3,360 km stretch consisting of the Eastern and Western corridors. The Eastern corridor, which is being funded by the World Bank, will run from Ludhiana in Punjab to Dankuni near Kolkata, traversing Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand.

Mr. Sachan said that the Western corridor will have a similar operation control system at Ahmedabad.

For the Eastern corridor, targeted to be completed by December 2021, the World Bank loan stands at about \$1.86 billion.

The MD added that once operational, the freight corridor will help decongest the existing Indian Railway network, while also helping increase the average speed of goods trains to 70 kmph, from the existing 25 kmph.

It will connect the existing ports and industrial areas for faster movement of goods... and will help increase the rail share in freight transportation from the existing 30% to 45%,” Mr. Sachan said.

(The writer is in Prayagraj at the invitation of the World Bank)

LALATENDU MISHRA

MUMBAI

Eurolife Healthcare, a leading player in the production and distribution of intravenous infusions and other pharmaceutical products, plans to invest ₹500 crore over five years in India and Europe to expand capacity and tap Europe and the U.S. in a ‘big way’, a senior executive said.

While ₹100 crore will be invested in capacity expansion at the company’s four units in India this year, about ₹400 crore will be invested in Europe to acquire more companies there and expand its unit in Hungary. This will double monthly capacity to about four million bottles.

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While ₹10



MADHUR TANKHA

Growing up in Shillong and subsequently travelling across the Northeast, Kishalay Bhattacharjee, an Associate Professor and Vice Dean, New Imaginations, Jindal School of Journalism and Communications, O.P. Jindal Global University, had a first-hand experience witnessing the trials and tribulations of the minorities – tribals and refugees from East Bengal. He's put his experiences into the nine day long exhibition ArtEast 2020: The Story of Telling. Collecting all the

pieces from different regions of the Northeast has been a cathartic experience for him, he says. Kishalay, a former journalist with NDTV, where he covered Northeast for 20 years, will deliver the curatorial note at the fest that begins at IIC on February 21.

Excerpts from a conversation.

What was the catalyst for curating this exhibition?

The catalyst for creating this was identity politics, which has become very intense in recent times. We felt that one of the pillars of identity polit-

The Northeast in Delhi



Fillip to languages (Clockwise from top) Kishalay Bhattacharjee, a sketch by Sakshi Pathak, NID-Haryana, light and shadow installation by Ashima Sharma ■ MADHUR TANKHA, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ics is language. The assertion of your nationality is through language. Since this festival focusses on the Northeast, though taking the larger sub-continent in mind, I wanted to go back and see how language politics plays in that region vis a vis other parts of the country. Earlier, there were divisions within Assam like the Bodos, who have been demanding separate Statehood. Hundreds of thousands of people lost their lives to armed underground organisations. All this is due to the conflict over language. Rather than homogenise, it is important to celebrate the diversity.

Misuse of Citizenship (Amendment) Act, can best be seen in Assam. In that State, the Assamese has he-

seen it, we have put up on the wall multiple translations of *Hum Dekhege*. The message comes across through Urdu, Manipuri, Mizo and Rohingya scripts. It is titled We Shall Bear Witness. Visitors will be encouraged to write this line in their native language. Then we have a collage of faces titled Pehchan, where identity is meshed in language. It has been arranged by students of the NID, Haryana. Our identity is not through our face but in terms of which language we speak, what kind of food we eat.

In the gallery, there will be a video installations of languages of persecuted communities. That will include Kashmiri, Rohingyas and Tibetans.

How have the anti-CAA protests been brought alive?

Shaheen Bagh became a metaphor for a new India. For many Indians who haven't seen it, we have put up on the wall multiple translations of *Hum Dekhege*.

gemony over other languages like Bodo, Bengali and Sylheti. Now, the moot question is who is the real Assamese? Rather than answer this question, Assam is now being divided between Indians and illegal migrants.

Shaheen Bagh became a metaphor for a new India. For many Indians who haven't

seen it, we have put up on the wall multiple translations of *Hum Dekhege*. The message comes across through Urdu, Manipuri, Mizo and Rohingya scripts. It is titled We Shall Bear Witness. Visitors will be encouraged to write this line in their native language. Then we have a collage of faces titled Pehchan, where identity is meshed in language. It has been arranged by students of the NID, Haryana. Our identity is not through our face but in terms of which language we speak, what kind of food we eat.

In the gallery, there will be a video installations of languages of persecuted communities. That will include Kashmiri, Rohingyas and Tibetans.

So we will have the booming voice of theatre stalwart M. K. Raina speaking in chaste Kashmiri. Kamar Dadar, noted calligrapher, has done two work on Mizo and Manipuri scripts. A Naga boy will sing in his mother tongue. People in Delhi have never heard a member of the Lotha tribe. Palm leaf manuscripts from Majuli Braj will be on display.

How would you like people to perceive the Northeast?

There are two kind of perceptions. One is that the Northeast is a lively exotic place, with great scenery and enchanting music. Hence, it is a go to place. The other perception is that girls from the Northeast are very easy going, friendly and nice company. The third perception is that much of the Northeast is extremist. These stereotypes exist among all communities. However, there is reverse racism there as well.

This exhibition talks about displacement and migration of people. How are you telling the story of this through your event?

Miyah in Lucknow refers to a Muslim gentleman. In Assam it is seen as a slur: a Bangladeshi who has taken my land and job. The Bengali-speaking Muslims reclaimed this word. How words and semantics matter will be shown in Witness Us - A Reading of Miyah Poetry Poets. Shahjan Ali Ahmed, Ashraful Hussain, Rehma Sultan and Rafiqul Islam will recite poetry.

We will also show that Kashmiri Pandits now settled in Delhi communicate in a different language so their mother tongue suffers. The Kashmiri script is common for both Pandits and Muslims of the Valley. Rohingyas in Delhi now speak Hindi and their children study in Hindi medium schools. The intent here is to question why we term a human being as illegal.

Art Gallery, Kamaladevi Complex, IIC, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

PEOPLE

We have takedown

On the first ADCC-backed submission wrestling competition in India



The first ever Abu Dhabi Combat Club-promoted India Nationals will be held on February 23 at the DLF Avenue Mall. The grappling tournament, the world's largest submission wrestling competition, is expected to witness over 300 fighters battle it out for crowning glory.

The tournament is open only to Indian nationals and is divided into three categories – beginners, intermediate and professional. The winner of the pro category will qualify to compete at the Abu Dhabi Combat Club (ADCC) Asian qualifiers and move one step closer to fight against the likes of Gordan Ryan and Keenan Cornelius at the 14th ADCC World Championships 2021.

According to ADCC India Founder Siddharth Singh, "In the world of mixed martial arts (MMA), grappling is 50 percent of the sport, while striking is the remaining 50. Grappling involves more control and no striking. - Wrestling (as we see it, in traditional akhadas or kusti gyms), Judo, Sambo and Jiu-Jitsu are among the various forms of grappling."

Siddharth Singh was the first Indian to compete at ADCC Taiwan last year. He won gold in his weight class and came second in the absolute division. He was approached by the team from ADCC Asia, who offered him an opportunity to start ADCC India leading to the first ever ADCC India Nationals.

The ADCC, for the first time is organizing an absolute division (no weight category) for the pros. Three international referees from Singapore, Finland and Kazakhstan will officiate three mat areas.

The ADCC World Championship takes place once in two years and has featured grapplers like Brazilian-American mixed martial artist Kron Gracie, former world-champion Brazilian jiu-jitsu practitioner Kyra Gracie, two-time Abu Dhabi Combat Club World Heavyweight Champion and European jiu-jitsu champion Fabricio Werdum, and current mixed martial artist Demian Maia.

PRODUCTS

Summer bride



Designer Anju Bhandari recently launched Tala-e-Daura – an era of Gold, her Chikankari bridal collection for Spring Summer 2020. The collection has a touch of zardosi and other art forms from the Awadh region. Along with Bhandari's signature silhouettes, the collection includes nude Chikankari jaal saris, heavy Chikankari suits and lehangas, with zardosi being the highlight in each piece. The intricate ek and do taar technique on flowy pure fabrics forms the heart of the collection.

Available at the Anju Bhandari Studio and Ogaan in Hauz Khas, or at Good Earth, Khan Market; upwards of ₹1,95,000

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



MUSIC
Swaranjali, Delhi Presents Gharana Festival 2020
On 21st and 22nd Feb
AMALTA'S HALL, India Habitat Centre, Lajpat Road, New Delhi at 7 pm daily
Program
On 21st Feb 2020
Pt. Sandip Bhattacharjee (Vocal); Pt. Sandip Chatterjee (Sitar)
On 22nd Feb 2020
Ustad Saeed Zafar Khan (Sitar); Sayra Begum (Thumri)



FETE

Arunachal food fest
ITDC is organising a three-day Arunachal food festival, in collaboration with the Government of Arunachal Pradesh, at The Oudh. In addition to the dishes prepared in accordance with the culinary traditions of the State, the food festival will also showcase dance troupes, handicrafts, and organic spices from Lohit district.
VENUE: The Ashok Hotel, Chanakyapuri
TIME: 12 noon onwards



PERFORMANCE

Tabla and Kathak
Sight For All Foundation, a non-profit organisation, is putting up an evening of music and dance at Triveni Auditorium. Called Prakash, the event will feature a solo tabla recital by Arunangshu Chaudhury and a Kathak recital by Archana Singh. Also, there will be a presentation by Vrindan, an ethno music ensemble.
VENUE: Triveni Kala Sangam, Mandi House
TIME: 6 p.m. onwards



FOOD

Punjabi special
Multi-cuisine restaurant Food Exchange is organising a food festival called Highway Cuisine, which offers food inspired by the *dhabas* across Punjab. On 23rd February, the menu offers popular dishes such as Bhatti ka Kukkad, Lahori Paneer Tikka, Mutton Ra Ra, Pindi Chhole, Tandoori Bhoona, and more.
VENUE: Novotel New Delhi Aerocity, IGI Airport
TIME: 6:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.



PAINTINGS

Canvas
Anubha Agarwal, a self-taught artist and lawyer, is holding a three-day solo show of her paintings titled Colour Me Colour You. In this exhibit, the artist has used acrylic colours to emotive the innumerable emotions, soulful expressions as well as the beauty, divinity and rawness of a woman.
VENUE: Foyer, India Habitat Centre
TIME: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Hindustani classical

Swaranjali, an organisation for art and culture, is hosting a two-day music festival titled Gharana 2020. Today's event will feature a vocal recital by Pt. Sandip Bhattacharjee and a santon recital by Pt. Sandip Chatterjee. Tomorrow, there will be a sitar recital by Ustad Saeed Zafar Khan and thumri by Sayra Begum.

VENUE: Amalata Hall, IHC

TIME: 7 p.m onwards

CYK

AN-ND-E



Something for everyone Most of the dishes are Kerala comfort food, with prices starting at ₹6 • THULASI KAKKAT



SHILPA NAIR ANAND

By 9 p.m., traffic on the Salem-Kochi Highway is a high-speed blur of lights and motor vehicles. Outside Kochi's Kalamassery metro station, Priya Babu stands by a yellow and green three-wheeler, dressed in a bright pink chef's coat and green apron. The little vehicle is an ingenious combination of autorickshaw and food truck, outfitted with a stainless steel kitchen, in which Priya cooks nine *thattu* dosas on a skillet. Beside her are large steel vessels, filled with sambar and coconut chutney.

As she methodically flips dosas, her aunt serves, five a plate, to waiting customers. "The food is tasty, that's why we are here," says a group of students as they wait for their dosas. At ₹30 for a set of five, it is also economical.

Priya is at this location practically every night, from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. in the morning, as are nine other women residents of Koonamthai's PA Beerankutty Road Lane II, off the National Highway. They are all part of Kalamassery Municipality's Kudumbashree project 'Amma Ruchi', of which Priya is the president.

The project, mooted by Koonamthai-Milma Ward councillor Jaleel Pamangadan for the area's women belonging to the Scheduled Castes, was inaugurated on December 30 last year, and the women started the business on January 2. They drive the vehicles and sell food prepared by them, at locations between Edappally Toll and Premier Junction in Kalamassery on the National Highway. The standardised menu, primarily, is typical Kerala comfort food – it includes *kappa-meen* curry (tapioca and fish), *puttu-kadala* (chana) curry, boti, fish fry, *parottas*, chapatis and dosas, as well as

THE IDEATION

Councillor Jaleel Pamangadan got the idea of vending food through three-wheelers when he was on a trip to Bengaluru

"I saw food being sold on a Royal Enfield motorbike. There isn't much space on a motorcycle to do that, but it was done efficiently," he says. "That set me thinking about using a small vehicle, preferably a three-wheeler that women could use for the same purpose."

Back home, he pitched the idea to the Municipal Corporation

He then got in touch with Lifeway Solar Devices, which made a prototype of the e-vehicle. "I thought of e-vehicles as it would significantly cut down their expenses and be sustainable too," he says

The project is part of National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM)

the universally popular desi Chinese dishes, fried rice and chilli chicken. Since it is early days, they can choose the dishes they sell; for now they cook at their homes.

Meet the team

A couple of days later, I meet Priya, Asha Salin, Leela Raju, Sindhu Suresh, Greeshma Arun and Sanitha Sajeewan at Koonamthai Anganwadi, which is on the lane they live on. The women, aged between 28 and 52, are neighbours; their educational qualifications range from Class V to Class XII (Intermediate). The others are Vasanthi Shaji, Suni Shibu, Shinju Babu and Divya Raj. Nine of the women have autorickshaws, while Divya is to be in-charge of the central kitchen where the food will be prepared.

Four of the nine three-wheelers are parked in a line outside their houses. The e-vehicles, fabricated by Lifeway Solar Devices, are mounted with solar panels to power the lights. All the women had to get a three-wheeler driving licence before they bought the vehicles. "It is not as easy as it sounds," says Asha. Two-wheeler and four-wheeler licence are prerequisites for this, so she had to learn how to drive a four-wheeler. "I already had a licence," says Leela, who used to be an autorickshaw driver. The rickshaws have been bought, and outfitted, with a bank loan and another from Kudumbashree totalling ₹4 lakh each.

This is the primary occupation for most of these women, but some, like Greeshma, have other jobs. She works at a cable company keeping accounts from 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.; then sets out after work with the rickshaw to her spot at Pathadipalam. "It is so hectic, I barely manage a couple of hours of rest. By the time we get home it is past 2 a.m., it's almost 5 a.m. by the time we go to bed. This would be impossible without the support of our families," says Greeshma.

"It has almost been two months since we launched, and we have all

lost weight because there is so much work and no rest or time to eat," says 34-year-old Asha, as the others burst out laughing. The last month-and-a-half has been tough, but they are slowly finding their balance.

The menu is tried, tested and more importantly, familiar. Priya, Sindhu, Suni and Shinju attended a month-long training programme by Kudumbashree in Thrissur. "It helped ready us in terms of how to prepare food on this scale," says Priya. Asha chips in, "We cook like we do for our families, we take a portion out for our use. This way, we save time." Prices are standardised – one dosa costs ₹6, a chapathi ₹8 and one parotta is ₹10. The prices of fish dishes depend on the variety of fish used – *ayala* (mackerel), *mathi* (sardines) and *kothuva* (anchovy). A meal costs around ₹150.

Since most of these women set shop after six, office-goers returning from work are regular customers. Leela, however, begins at 3.30 pm, since her spot is at Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT). "I start with *bhajjis*, and later my husband or son-in-law brings the dinner items," she says. Since she starts early, she is done by midnight.

"As of now, we are neither making a profit nor a loss," says Asha. The women are buoyed by the flow of regular customers and positive feedback. The late hours by the roads don't scare them. "There are enough policemen on the roads and people are decent," says Priya, "What is there to be afraid of?"

IN THE DRIVING SEAT
Pune-based Shila Dawre is one of the country's first woman auto-rickshaw drivers. She entered the profession back in 1988.


These tuktuks serve tapioca

Amma Ruchi, with its bright autos selling fresh home-style food to Kochi's office-goers, is Kerala's answer to food trucks



POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



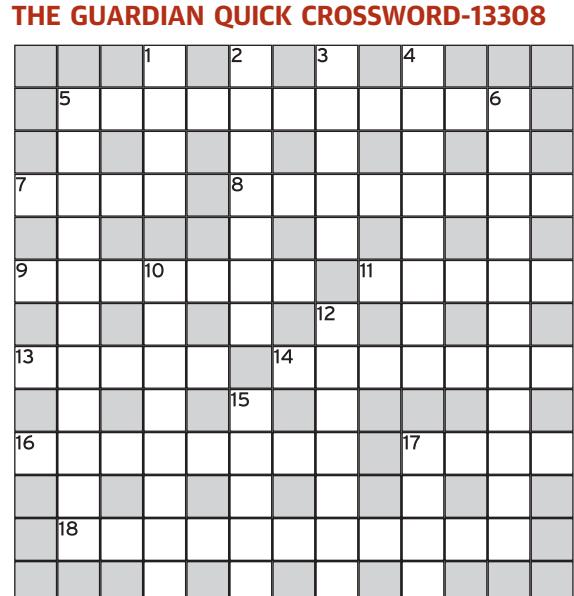
CALVIN AND HOBBES



TIGER



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13308



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

- 3 Inking (5)
- 4 Ruffians (8)
- 5 Mourning (11)
- 6 Commemorative awards (11)
- 10 Trusty (8)
- 12 US detective (informal) (7)
- 15 Booth (5)
- 17 Straight-laced (4)

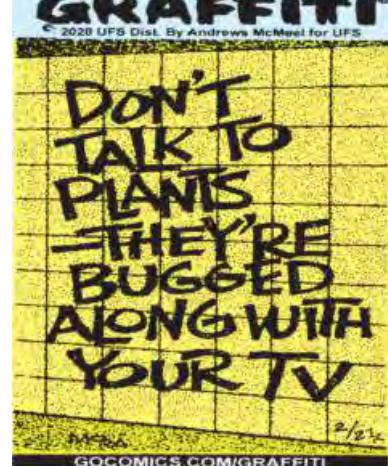
The solution will appear on February 22, 2020.

Solution No. 13307

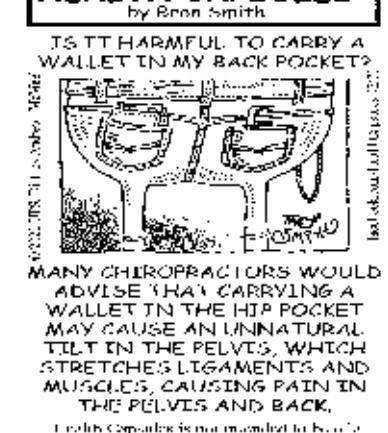
WUMO



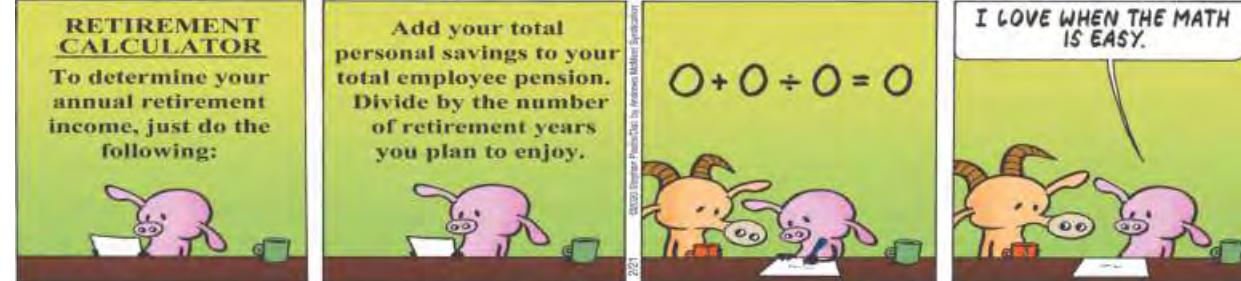
GRAFFITI



HEALTH CAPSULES



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



Across

- 5 In a difficult situation – under siege (11)
- 7 Long hard journey on foot (4)
- 8 Brief and precise (8)
- 9 Whim (7)
- 11 Passenger vessel operating on a regular schedule (5)
- 13 City in Somerset (5)
- 14 Produce a regular

throbbing sensation (7)

- 16 Roman silver coin – is read (anag) (8)
- 17 Pointed front part of a ship (4)
- 18 It let losers (anag) – spread rumours (4,7)
- 20 Down
- 1 Anti-aircraft fire (4)
- 2 Ankle-length garment worn by priests and choristers (7)

P	A	C	I	F	T	E	N	N	I	S	C
E	O	R	M	R	O	C	D	A	V	A	E
R	M	E	O	E	R	A	V	E	R	R	E
I	M	U	O	M	E	I	S	E	R	R	E
S	W	E	T	T	O	N	O	X	L	I	P
H	N	D	S	S	T	E	D	F	L	E	T
N	E	F	E	E	T	E	E	E	T	R	A
V	N	E	S	E	T	E	E	E	T	R	A
C	U	S	T	R	A	T	E	E	T	R	A
H	E	C	K	E	E	E	E	E	E	R	E
O	U	T	L	E	T	H	Y	B	R	I	D

It could well be an engaging battle of attrition

The India-New Zealand match-up may boil down to strategy and execution of plans; catching in the slips will be of great importance

INDIA IN NZ

S. DINAKAR
WELLINGTON

You step into Basin Reserve and memories of another day flash before your eyes.

The year was 2002 and India was taking on New Zealand in the first Test of the series at this breathtaking ground flanked by hills.

Beautiful and brutal
In the middle, the duel between the gladiatorial Shane Bond, bowling with the wind, and the ice-cool Rahul Dravid, was both beautiful and brutal.

Bond – athletic, rhythmic and hostile – got the ball to climb viciously and Dravid, a combination of heart and technique, rose on his toes, took the weight off the bottom hand and kept the lifters down with skill and class.

It was a combat of searing intensity. Dravid's 76 was worth more than a hundred but India eventually lost the Test.

That was also a Basin Reserve track that offered assistance to the seamers in both the innings.

Subsequently, the pitch here has changed in character. These days, much about dishing out winning cricket at the Basin is how a team performed in the second innings.

There is a covering of



Zestful bunch: Indian players will want to carry the positive vibes in practice onto the field and perform well. ■ TWITTER.COM/BCCI

grass on the pitch for the forthcoming first Test and the two teams should be close to being bowled out in their first innings by day two.

It's in the second innings as the surface eases out that the real game begins.

There is less deviation off the track for the seamers, the pitch becomes slower and runs flow off the blade.

Then it boils down to strategy and execution of plans. The strong wind, who bowls with and against it, could be

critical to the outcome.

This said, the surface for the India-New Zealand game, a part of the World Test Championship, could be different in character.

The track might be harder underneath, offering bounce to the seamers even after the effect of the grass covering wears off following the first two days.

The host has announced its 12 for the Test, with Matt Henry missing the cut. Left-

arm spinner Ajaz Patel should get the nod over Daryl Mitchell, a seam-bowling all-rounder.

The Mumbai-born Patel could keep one end locked up, bowling against the wind. There could be dip and drift for the spinners.

Value of starts

Both sides will realise the value of starts, particularly with the Kookaburra ball in operation. The Kookaburra's seam is not as pronounced as

that of Duke, and the ball tends to do less after the first 20 overs.

This is precisely why the Indian opening pair of Mayank Agarwal and Prithvi Shaw has to prevent the Kiwi pacemen from making early inroads.

The back-in-action Trent Boult and Tim Southee form a potent left-right combination of swing bowlers who can exploit chinks.

The Kiwis will miss Neil Wagner's hustling ways but

The numbers so far

With the teams evenly matched, the two-Test series between India and New Zealand, beginning in Wellington on Friday, promises to be a mouth-watering contest. Here is a look at how the sides have fared

H2H

PLAYED	INDIA	WON	NEW ZEALAND	WON	DRAWN
57	21	10	26	10	26

* Does not include an abandoned Test at Dunedin in 1998

■ TWITTER.COM/BCCI

India vs New Zealand in New Zealand

PLAYED 23 | WON 5 | LOST 8 | DRAWN 10

India vs New Zealand in Wellington

PLAYED 7 | WON 1 | LOST 4 | DRAWN 2

INDIA: BATTING

Name	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg.	50/100s
Dravid	28	1,659	222	63.80	6/6
Tendulkar	39	1,595	217	46.91	8/4

INDIA: BOWLING

Name	Inns	Wkts	BBI	BBM	Avg.	5/10w
Bedi	22	57	6/42	9/70	19.14	4/0
Prasanna	18	55	8/76	11/140	20.12	4/1

NEW ZEALAND: BATTING

Name	Inns	Runs	Highest	Avg.	50/100s
McCullum	19	1,224	302	68.00	2/4
Dowling	22	964	239	48.20	2/3

NEW ZEALAND: BOWLING

Name	Inns	Wkts	BBI	BBM	Avg.	5/10w
Hadlee	24	65	7/23	11/58	22.96	4/2
Vettori	21	40	6/127	6/149	48.42	2/0

Jasprit Bumrah, Umesh Yadav, Ravindra Jadeja, Wridhiman Saha (wk), Navdeep Saini and Shubman Gill.

New Zealand: Kane Williamson (Capt.), Tom Latham, Tony Blundell, Henry Nicholls, Ross Taylor, Colin de Grandhomme, B-J. Watling (wk), Tim Southee, Ajaz Patel, Tim Southee, Kyle Jamieson and Daryl Mitchell.

Umpires: Richard Kettleborough & Aleem Dar, **TV Umpire:** Michael Gough; **Match Referee:** Ranjan Madugalle.

Match starts at 4 a.m. IST.

'Every condition for us is home condition'

Still, I would say, New Zealand is the favourite: Rahane

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
WELLINGTON

Normally quiet and introspective in nature, Ajinkya Rahane lets his bat do the talking. He is short in stature, possesses rapier-like strokes, can be solid in defence and delivers when his team needs him to.

In India's last Test at the Basin Reserve, in 2014, Rahane notched up a brilliant 118. Predictably, he has fond memories of the arena.

Special moment
He remembered that hundred. "That was a really special moment for me. I remember that my backlift was changing because of the wind and that was a challenge to control my backlift. There were times when I had to shorten my backlift."

He added, "Sometimes you've got to play with low



Fond memories: In India's last Test at the Basin Reserve in 2014, Rahane notched up a century. ■ AFP

backlift and, maybe, you have got to change your guard and play accordingly."

On pacemen having to bowl against the wind in Wellington, he said, "I don't think any of the fast bowlers

like to bowl against the wind but it's about what your team wants. Wind is a big factor in Wellington."

Play natural game

Rahane's advice to the young

Indian opening pair of Mayank Agarwal and Prithvi Shaw was to "go out there and play your natural game."

Wickets in New Zealand ease out after the first couple of days, he said, and added the batsmen should consolidate. There would be opportunities for the spinners in the later stages of the Test, Rahane noted.

About Rishabh Pant, he said, "He bats at No. 6 or 7, so he has to keep visualising about it if he got an opportunity. Keep it simple, focus on the controllables."

Rahane said expectations on foreign soil from this Indian team, particularly after the conquest in Australia, had grown. "Now every condition for us is home condition. Still, I would say, New Zealand is favourite in home conditions. But we will try our best."

India has quality batsmen and a world-class attack'

But Williamson sees opportunity to bounce back from debacle

S. DINAKAR
WELLINGTON

The grace and flow in his batting is hard to ignore. The man slices open attacks by easing into his strokes. A natural with the willow, Kane Williamson is an outstanding leader of men.

But then, even Williamson can go through a phase when tough questions are asked and he has no choice but to answer them.

Against the wall

The recent Kiwi debacle in Australia has meant the side, that prides on punching above its weight, has been pushed against the wall.

And the chances are that the injured Kiwis could come hard at the Indians. Williamson, "India is a quality side, it is leading the Test championship and there is a reason for it. They have so many quality batsmen and a

ed he would be missing pacer Neil Wagner – awaiting the birth of his child – in the first Test.

Williamson said, "You sort of don't replace a guy like Neil. I think the qualities that he brings are quite unique. But you bring in I guess a guy who targets slightly different areas coming from a slightly different height as well. Very exciting opportunity for Kyle Jamieson."

The Kiwi skipper said batting in New Zealand conditions could be demanding. "It does tend to provide a bit of movement and assistance for the fast bowlers. So leaving the ball well and knowing where your off-stump is important".

Asked whether the Indian batting could be vulnerable around the off-stump, Williamson said, "I think if you can execute your plans on a surface that's going to pro-

vide some assistance, then it's a challenge for anybody."

Admiring Virat

On his bonding with Kohli, Williamson said, "We go quite a long way back really, to our under-19s, and played against each other in different competitions as well, the international arena and +

"And I've always admired Virat in a lot of ways for setting benchmarks in the international game."

He added, "It was really interesting the other day to sit down and have a quiet chat on the outfield and share a lot of thoughts that we had and a lot of similar views on the game and slightly different approaches which was really refreshing and quite inspiring as well from a guy who's leading the way with his tenacious and competitive attitude."

'Can't rely on one or two players'

Youngsters are enjoying this moment, says Harmanpreet

WOMEN'S T20 WC

IANS

SYDNEY

Captain Harmanpreet Kaur on Thursday said India cannot just rely on one or two players to win a game and if it wants to win the ICC Women's T20 World Cup, it needs to play as a group.

India has failed to reach the final in any of the six previous editions.

It made the semifinals two years ago, only the third time the country reached the knockout stage.

"If you want to do well as a team, you need to come up together and do well for the side," said Harmanpreet.

"Through past tournaments, we have learnt that you cannot depend on just one or two players to win the game for you. If you want to win a big tournament like the World Cup, you have to come up as a team and that's what we're looking to do."

Winds of change
A lack of performance at key moments has usually been the cause of disappointment but the winds of change are blowing ahead of India's opening match against Australia on Friday.



Cup that matters: One of the 10 captains of the participating countries will take home the trophy. ■ AP

CHAMPIONS SO FAR		INDIA'S SCHEDULE	
2009: Eng	Feb. 21	vs Aus	Sydney
2010: Aus	Feb. 24	vs Ban	Perth
2012: Aus	Feb. 27</		

TV PICKS

New Zealand v India: 1st Test, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 4 a.m.
NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m. & 9 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 3 & SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m.

Women's T20 World Cup: India v Australia, Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 1.30 p.m.

FIH Pro League: India v Australia, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7 p.m.

ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

South Africa v Australia: 1st T20I, Sony Six (SD & HD), 9.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Guardiola to stay at City 'no matter what'

MANCHESTER
Pep Guardiola said he trusts Manchester City's Abu Dhabi ownership "completely" in its bid to overturn a two-year ban from European competitions and that he will be at the club next season "no matter what happens." City is expected to file a formal challenge against the decision of a UEFA panel within days at the Court of Arbitration for Sport. AP

McLaren taking Coronavirus precautions

MONTMELÓ
Formula One team McLaren revealed on Wednesday that it was taking measures to counter the threat of the deadly Coronavirus, including banning entry to its motorhome at winter testing to anyone who has travelled from China. The announcement was made after a Chinese journalist, who had journeyed to Barcelona from Shanghai, was refused entry to the team's hospitality suite in the paddock for the three-day pre-season test session which runs until Friday. AFP

Reliable Majumder to Bengal's rescue

His unbeaten century helps the visitor recover from an early collapse against Odisha

Y.B. SARANGI
TANIGI

The experienced Anustup Majumder hit a magnificent century to fashion Bengal's astonishing recovery in the Ranji Trophy quarterfinal match against Odisha at the DRIEMS ground here on Thursday.

Majumder – who last scored a hundred in Bengal's previous quarterfinal clash (against Gujarat in Jaipur) in 2017-18 – played the role of a rescuer for the third time this season.

He bailed the team out from a precarious 46 for five and helped it close the opening day at an impressive 308 for six.

Disastrous beginning

It was the worst start for Bengal in a season replete with miraculous recoveries as the Odisha medium-pacers extracted good movement on a familiar surface



Responsible: Anustup Majumder, who dug in and played with purpose, celebrates his century.

• BISWARANJAN ROUT

early in the morning. Bengal skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran, asked to bat, nicked Suryakant Pradhan down the leg in the sixth over. It triggered a mini-collapse as half the team was out in a little over an hour. Koushik Ghosh edged one to the slips, Abhishek Raman was lbw, Arnab

Nandi – who fell in debutant seamer Preet Chohan's first over – was held in the slips and Manoj Tiwary got a beauty. However, the depen-

dable duo of Majumder and Shreevats Goswami showed a lot of character and let the pitch ease out.

Prior to lunch, Majumder cracked three crispy boundaries off Basant and after having the meal, he drove, pulled and cut with more confidence.

Good stands

Majumder (136 batting, 194b, 20x4) had two crucial partnerships of 95 and an unbroken 167 with Shreevats Goswami (34, 75b, 5x4) and Shahbaz Ahmed (82 batting, 154b, 13x4) respectively.

Goswami, dropped on 15, played some wristy shots off before being caught behind off his hips in the post-lunch session.

Majumder, who stood outside the crease to negate the movement, and an in-form Shahbaz played strokes all around the park to frustrate Odisha, whose field place-

ments defied logic.

It was a satisfying performance for the 35-year-old, who had thrown away his wicket on 99 against Delhi.

"Am used to such situations now. Good to get some support," said Majumder.

The scores:

Bengal – 1st innings: Koushik Ghosh c Poddar b Basant 9, Abhimanyu Easwaran Dhuper b Suryakant 7, Abhishek Raman lbw b Suryakant 1, Arnab Nandi c Shantanu b Chohan 24, Manoj Tiwary lbw b Debabrata 4, Anustup Majumder (batting) 136, Shreevats Goswami c Dhuper b Chohan 34, Shahbaz Ahmed (batting) 82; Extras (lb-7, nb-2, w-2): 11; Total (for six wkts. in 86 overs): 308.

Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-17, 3-25, 4-46, 5-46, 6-141.

Odisha bowling: Basant 20-6-48-1, Suryakant 22-4-96-2, Chohan 15-3-52-2, Debabrata 14-0-54-1, Poddar 10-0-36-0, Shantanu 5-0-15-0.

Quarterfinal scores



At Cuttack: Bengal 308/6 in 86 overs (Anustup Majumder 136 batting, Shahbaz Ahmed 82 batting) vs Odisha. **Toss:** Odisha.

Jammu: Karnataka 14/2 in six overs vs Jammu & Kashmir.

Toss: Karnataka.

Ongole: Saurashtra 226/6 in 79 overs (Vishvarajesh Jadeja 73, Sheldon Jackson 50, Chirag Gandhi 40 batting) vs Andhra. **Toss:** Andhra.

Valsad: Gujarat 330/4 in 90 overs (Samit Gorai 52, Bhagav Merai 84, Parth Patel 118 batting, Chirag Gandhi 40 batting) vs Goa. **Toss:** Gujarat.

Into The Groove for feature event

BENGALURU: Into The Groove, who has been well prepared, is expected to score in the Madras Race Club Trophy (1,400m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Friday (Feb. 21). False rails (width about 8.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1. CHARMADI PLATE (DIV. II, 1,400m), rated 00 to 20, 5-y-o & over, 1-45 p.m.: 1. Fierce Fighter (4) A. Imran 60, 2. Zala Princess (6) Cheetan G 59.5, 3. Prime Star (5) Md. Aliyar 58.5, 4. Desert Gift (7) Antony 58, 5. Phoenix Reached (8) Jagadeesh 58, 6. Rancho (3) Arshad 58, 7. Good Word (9) Shreyas 57.5, 8. Noble Splendor (1) Sai Vamshi 56.5 and 9. El Matador (2) A. Vishwanath 54.

1. PRIME STAR,
2. PHOENIX REACHED,
3. FIERCE FIGHTER

2. KATEEL PLATE (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2-15: 1. Dream Chaser (7) Kiran Rai 55, 2. Katana (8) Suraj 55, 3. Little Joe (1) T.S. Jodha 55, 4. Redoubtable (2) Jagadeesh 55, 5. Rocky Retreat (4) David Allan 55, 6. Amalfi Sunrise (5) Trevor 53.5, 7. Amalfi Sunrise (5) Trevor 53.5, 7.

Baroness (9) Ajeet Kumar 53.5, 8. Glenary (3) S. Hussain 53.5 and 9. Paparazzi (6) Antony 53.5.

3. AMALFI SUNRISE, 2. KATANA, 3. PAPPARAZZI

3. BYERLY TURK TROPHY (3,200m), rated 45 to 65, 2-15: 1. Lycurgus (3) Trevor 60, 2. Treasure Striker (1) I. Chisty 59, 3. Roman Senator (2) David Allan 58 and 4. Show Girl (4) Vaibhav 57.

1. ROMAN SENATOR, 2. LYCURGUS

4. BHAGAMANDALA PLATE (DIV. IV, 1,400m), rated 30 to 50, 5-y-o & over, 3-15: 1. Masada (7) M. Naveen 66.5, 2. Dream Catcher (2) Cheetan G 63.5, 3. Naazaan (6) Naveen K 52.5, 4. Automatic (9) S. John 62, 5. Diamond Rays (10) R. Marshall 57.5, 5. Bold Move (3) Vaibhav 56.5, 6. Brooklyn Supreme (4) Vinod Shinde 56.5, 7. Aleef (1) A. Vishwanath 56, 8. Duxton (7) Darshan 54.5 and 9. Ultimate Power (5) Jagadeesh 54.5.

1. DUXTON, 2. TIO RICO,
3. BOLD MOVE

5. SAPTARISHI PLATE (1,200m), rated 15 to 35, 5-y-o & over, 3-45: 1. Raw Gold (7) Cheetan G 60, 2. Zhu Zhu Zest (5) Darshan 59.5,

7. CHARMADI PLATE (DIV. I, 1,400m), rated 00 to 20, 5-y-o & over, 4-45: 1. Azeemki Prin-

cess (5) Arvind K 60, 2. South Bell (1) M. Naveen 60, 3. Bazinga (4) Antony 59.5, 4. Glorious Days (10) Jagadeesh 59.5, 5. Above The Rest (8) Chetan G 59, 6. Freestyle (7) S. Qureshi 59, 7. Apollo Bay (3) Trevor 58.5, 8. Brightside Of Life (6) S. John 57, 9. Only Prince (9) Sai Vamshi 56 and 10. Duty Call (2) Arshad 52.5.

1. APOLLO BAY,
2. BRIGHTSIDE OF LIFE,
3. BAZINGA

8. BHAGAMANDALA PLATE (DIV. IV, 1,400m), rated 30 to 50, 5-y-o & over, 5-15: 1. Yerwazan (3) Kiran Rai 60, 2. Sharp Response (1) M. Naveen 59.5, 3. Mohican (6) A. Imran 58.5, 4. Fantastic App (2) Vijay Kumar 58, 6. Princess Holly (5) Ajeeet Kumar 58, 7. Lightning Attack (8) Darshan 57.5, 8. She's Innocent (9) Vinod Shinde 57.5 and 9. Rodant Treasure (7) S. Hussain 56.5.

1. MOHICAN, 2. YERWAZAN,
3. MEMORITER

4. DAY'S BEST: INTO THE GROOVE Double: AMALFI SUNRISE – ROMAN SENATOR

5. MEMORITER

6. DAY'S BEST: INTO THE GROOVE Double: AMALFI SUNRISE – ROMAN SENATOR

7. CHARMADI PLATE (DIV. I, 1,400m), rated 00 to 20, 5-y-o & over, 4-45: 1. Azeemki Prin-

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7. CHARMADI PLATE (DIV. I, 1,400m), rated 00 to 20, 5-y-o & over, 4-45: 1. Azeemki Prin-

Federer to miss French Open

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

DELRAY BEACH

Divij Sharan and Artem Sitak of New Zealand beat Andre Goransson and Ugo Humbert 5-7, 6-4, [10-7] to set up a quarterfinal against the top seeded Bryan twins, Bob and Mike, in the \$673,655 ATP tennis tournament here on Wednesday.

Other results:
€ 769,670 ATP, Marseille: Doubles (quarterfinals): Frederik Nielsen (Den) & Tim Puetz (Ger) bt Denis Shapovalov (Can) & Rohan Bopanna 7-5, 6-7(3), [10-8].

\$ 54,160 Challenger, Cuernavaca, Mexico: Singles (second round): Guilherme Clezar (Bra) bt Ramikumar Ramanathan 7-6(5), 4-6, 6-4.

\$ 15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Manish Sureshkumar bt Rishabh Agarwal 6-3, 6-1.

€ 46,600 Challenger, Bergamo, Italy: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Adil Shamasdin (Can) & Purav Raja bt Nino Serdarusic (Cro) & Chun-Hsin Tseng (Tpe) 6-4, 6-4, [10-3].

€ 46,600 Challenger, Koblenz, Germany: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Yannick Hanemann (Ger) bt Sasi Kumar Mundkur 7-5, 6-4.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Andre Begemann (Gen) & Florent Merle (Rou) bt Sriram Balaji & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan 7-6(6), 4-6, [10-6].

\$ 15,000 ITF men, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Daniil Glinka (Est) bt Aryan Goveas 7-6(1), 6-0.

\$ 15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Manish Sureshkumar bt Rishabh Agarwal 6-3, 6-1.

Bettering Rural India:
Challenges in the time of climate change
Bhupesh Baghel, Hon Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh

Citizen Bane: The CAA - its constitutionality, its need, its purpose
Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha
Manish Tewari, MP & National Spokesperson, Indian National Congress
Yamini Aiyar, President, Centre for Policy Research

The Kashmir Gambit: Can it ever pay off?
M K Narayanan, Former National Security Adviser, Government of India
Srinath Raghavan, Professor of International Relations & History, Ashoka University

Mohammad Ibrahim Wani, Assistant Professor, University of Kashmir

India's Political Future: Looking at 2024 & Beyond
Ram Madhav, General Secretary, Bharatiya Janata Party

Tomorrow's Leaders: Youth as a

IN BRIEF

Gujrathi draws with Hari, stays in lead

PRAGUE
Vidit Gujrathi played out a draw with compatriot P. Harikrishna in the seventh round of the Prague Chess Festival's Masters category here to maintain a one-point lead over the field. With five points, he is ahead of Russian Nikita Vitiugov and Alireza Firouzja.

The results (seventh round):
P. Harikrishna 3 drew with Vidit Gujrathi 5; David Anton Gujjarao (Esp) 3.5 drew with Markus Ragger (Aut) 3; Nikita Vitiugov (Rus) 3 drew with David Navara (Cze) 3; Alireza Firouzja (Iri) 4 bt Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Pol); Sam Shankland (USA) 3.5 bt Nils Grandelius (Swe) 2.5. PTI

HFC wallops NEUFC

GUWAHATI
Hyderabad FC brought its ISL season to a conclusion with a thumping 5-1 win against NorthEast United FC here on Thursday.

The result: NUEFC 1 (Andrew Keogh 35) lost to Hyderabad FC 5 (Liston Colaco 12, 41, Marcelinho 13, 88, Mohammed Yasir 55).

City sees off West Ham

MANCHESTER
Manchester City posted a 2-0 win over West Ham in the Premier League on Wednesday.

The result: Manchester City 2 (Rodri 30, De Bruyne 62) bt West Ham 0.

Amandeep stays on top

BENGALURU
Amandeep Drall remained in the lead after another steady round of golf on the second day of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour (Leg 4). Amandeep shot 1-over 71 at the BGC here on Thursday to sign for a two-day total of 140 and lead Vani Kapoor by two strokes. Oviya Reddi climbed from tied eighth overnight to tied third after shooting the day's best round of 68.

Top scores: 140: Amandeep Drall (69, 71); **142:** Vani Kapoor (71, 71); **145:** Oviya Reddi (77, 68), Asmita Sathish (A) (73, 72); **147:** Neha Tripathi (74, 73); **148:** Khushi Khanijau (77, 71).

Indian women pin three gold medals in freestyle

Divya, Pinki and Sarita triumph while Nirmala comes off second-best

ASIAN WRESTLING

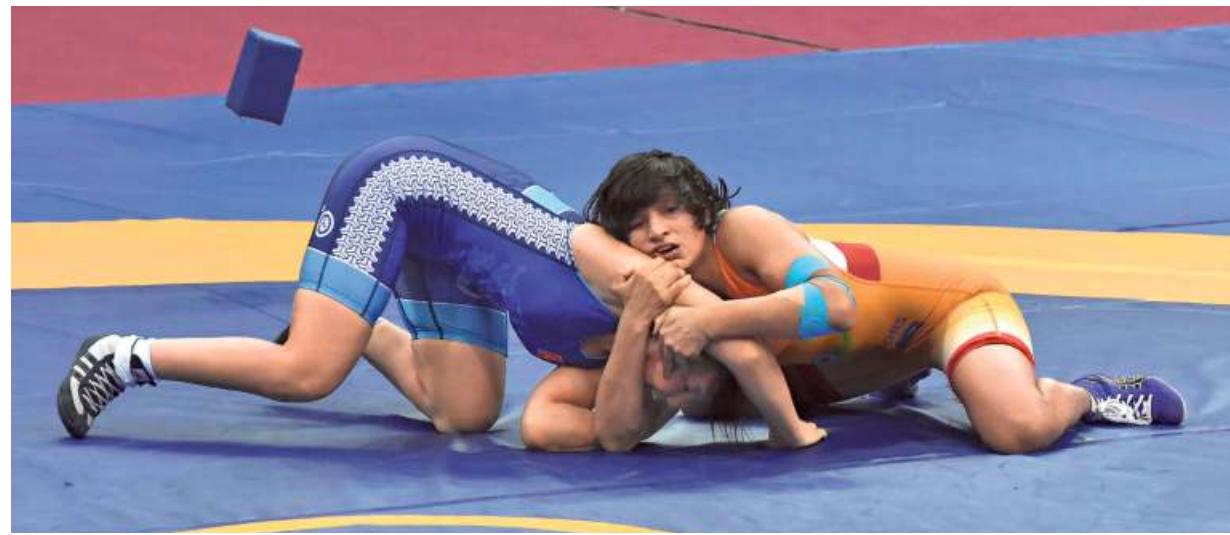
UTHRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI

The absence of Chinese and North Korean wrestlers was expected to impact the quality of the women's section at the senior Asian Championships and India was the biggest beneficiary, winning three gold medals and a silver on Thursday.

With Japan also sending a largely second-string squad – barring former World champion Mayu Mukaida – the Indians were favourites for medals. Barring the 50kg, the other four weight categories in action on the day had seven or fewer competitors, forcing the organisers to conduct bouts in Nordic (round-robin) format.

Emphatic wins

Asian Games bronze medalist Divya Kakran was the first to ensure a gold in the 68kg, winning all four of her bouts in the morning session by



Taking advantage: Pinki cashed in on Dulguun Bolormaa's passivity to emerge on top. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

pinning her opponents.

"I had to win by fall to get five points from all my bouts because the Japanese was winning all her bouts by big margins, so I took the risk even though my coach told me I didn't have to."

She admitted the absence of China made a difference,

"Yes, it did benefit but if you have just five wrestlers, it becomes tough because you have to fight everyone and win big," she added.

In the evening session, Pinki (55kg) and Sarita (59kg) added to the gold tally but not before being pushed by their Mongolian opponents.

While Pinki won 2-1 in a largely defensive bout that saw all three points being scored through the opponent's passivity, Sarita had to dig deep in the final 15 seconds for a 3-2 victory.

"I already had a slight elbow injury and it got aggravated a bit in the morning so

I wanted to be cautious. Also, I am simply happy to win my first medal, that too gold, in the competition," Pinki said.

On her part, Sarita said she was confident even when Battsetseg Altantsetseg took a crucial point with 21 seconds left to level 2-2, lifting her out for the winner.

Chawrasia, Lahiri among strong home-grown golfers for India Open

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

Some established names and rising stars will join the European Tour regulars when the 56th edition of \$1.75 million Hero Indian Open tees off at the DLF Golf and Country Club at Gurugram on March 19.

Almost all the leading Indian names and a couple of past champions like S.S.P. Chawrasia (2016 and 2017), Anirban Lahiri (2015), Jyoti Randhawa (2000, 2006 and 2007) along with Shubhankar Sharma, Shiv Kapur, Gangajet Bhullar, Rashid Khan, Udayan Mane and others will be part of the field that has some tough overseas challengers.

Though the final list of entries is yet to be finalised, defending champion Stephen Gallacher (Scotland), Andy Sullivan (England), Joost Luijten (Netherlands), Thomas Bjorn (Denmark), Yuta Ikeda (Japan) besides some young talents like Justin Sub (US), Akshay Bhatia (US), Nicolai Hoogaard (Denmark) and Mathew Jordan (Great Britain) are part of the field.

The winner of the event receives \$291,660 (approximately ₹2.08 crore) while the 70th finisher takes home \$3,200 (₹2.29 lakh).

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Kapur said, "I've marked three or four weeks to peak this season. Indian Open week is among them. I'm

playing three weeks leading up to it – New Zealand next week, then Malaysia and Thailand – working my way back, planned it in such a way that travelling gets reduced. Playing in Dubai has helped me prepare for challenges that courses like the DLF sort of presents – with sloppiness, fast greens."

Mane, winner of three successive titles on the domestic PGTI Tour recently, could well follow Rashid Khan to the Tokyo Olympics this year. He said, "Indian golfers do not have any great 'home advantage' of playing at the DLF course. It is a modern course and many players in both continents have adjusted to the challenges such courses offer. We do have the crowd backing us. But over all, it is a fair test for everyone."

"I am looking to make my game better. I am just looking to improve and sharpen my sword for, when ever the day comes of me winning, that's the ultimate goal of learning more about my swing, my game, polish and re-polish my skills. I am going to come three days before Indian Open and get my self as acclimated to the weather and the golf course."

Shubhankar said, "I've had a few good results recently but I really want to do well here. DLF was once my home course and it will be great to do well there."



The prize: Shubhankar Sharma, Udayan Mane and Shiv Kapur pose with the Hero Indian Open trophy on Thursday.

■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Good day for Sharath Kamal

HUNGARIAN OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BUDAPEST

India's A. Sharath Kamal entered the quarterfinals of both men's doubles and mixed doubles at the ITTF World Tour Hungarian Open on Thursday.

Sharath partnered Manika Batra to a marathon 11-8, 9-11, 6-11, 11-9, 11-7 victory over home hope Adam Szudi and Szandra Pergel.

Later, Sharath paired up with G. Sathiyan to register yet another hard-fought 11-6, 11-8, 9-11, 11-9 win over Japan's rising stars Shunsuke Togami and Yukiya Uda in men's doubles.

The results:

Pre-quarterfinals: Men: Doubles: A. Sharath Kamal & G. Sathiyan bt Shunsuke Togami & Yukiya Uda (Jpn) 11-6, 11-8, 8-11, 9-11, 11-9; Hang Siu Lam & Nam Pak Ng (HK) bt Harmeet Desai & Manav Thakkar 13-11, 11-8, 11-13, 6-11, 11-2.

Mixed Doubles: Sharath & Manika Batra bt Adam Szudi & Szandra Pergel (Hun) 11-8, 9-11, 6-11, 11-9, 11-7.

Leipzig beats Tottenham

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

LONDON

Tottenham needs another Champions League escape act to reach the quarterfinals after Timo Werner's penalty earned RB Leipzig a deserved 1-0 last 16, first leg win in London.

Spurs captain Hugo Llorente kept his side in the tie with a string of important saves, but last season's finalist faces a huge task to turn the tie around in Germany on March 10.

The results: Atalanta 4 (Hatemboer 16, 62, Illicic 42, Freuler 57) bt Valencia 1 (Cheryshev 66); Tottenham Hotspur 0 lost to RB Leipzig 1 (Werner 58-pen).

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