



Rajya Sabha functions amid protests against Anurag Thakur  
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SC to hear Zakia Jafri's plea against SIT's clean chit to Modi on April 14  
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I wish to serve all Sri Lankans, says President Gotabaya  
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Jaiswal helps India defeat Pakistan in U-19 World Cup semifinal  
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## NEARBY



Nirbhaya case: HC to decide on plea today

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi HC will on Wednesday pronounce its verdict on the Centre's plea challenging the stay on execution of the four convicts in the December 16, 2012, gang rape-and-murder case. Justice Suresh Kumar Kait had on February 2 reserved order on the Centre's plea.

NATION ▶ PAGE 9

Rahul attacks BJP, AAP on unemployment

NEW DELHI

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal of trying to divide the country by spreading hatred and violence instead of trying to solve the problem of unemployment. "Mr. Modi and Mr. Kejriwal are not concerned about the future of the youth of the nation," he said at a rally here.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

Shaheen Bagh shooter an AAP member: police

NEW DELHI

The Delhi police on Tuesday claimed that Kapil Baisala, who allegedly opened fire at the Shaheen Bagh protest site on February 1, is a member of the Aam Aadmi Party. The announcement kicked off a political storm.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

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OPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 15

## No decision yet on pan-India NRC, Minister tells Parliament

During NPR, no verification of citizenship or document collection: Nityanand Rai

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The government informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday that till now it "has not taken any decision to prepare National Register of Citizens (NRC) at the national level".

Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai was responding to a question by Lok Janashakti Party's (LJP) Chandan Singh and Telangana Rashtra Samithi's (TRS) Nama Nageswara Rao on whether the government had any plans to introduce the NRC all over the country.

While replying to another question, Mr. Rai said the "government is in discussion with the States having concerns in regard to the preparation of National Population Register (NPR)".

Mr. Rai said in a written

Govt. is in discussion with the States having concerns in regard to the preparation of National Population Register  
**NITYANAND RAI, MINISTER OF STATE FOR HOME**  
ON FEB. 4, 2020

There is no need to create a background for NRC; we are clear that NRC ought to be done in this country, our manifesto is the background  
**AMIT SHAH, UNION HOME MINISTER ON DEC. 9, 2019**

reply that "during the exercise of updation of NPR, no verification is done to find individuals whose citizenship is doubtful".

Several Opposition-ruled States have vociferously opposed the NPR, slated to begin from April 1 onwards along with the decennial

Census. According to the Citizenship Rules, 2003, the NPR is the first step towards the compilation of the NRC.

**Form not finalised**

The NPR form is yet to be finalised and notified but the trial form last year collected details from 30 lakh respon-

dents on 21 parameters, including the place of birth of father and mother and the last place of residence.

On December 9 last year, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had told Parliament that "there is no need to create a background for NRC; we are clear that NRC ought to be done in this country, our manifesto is the background."

To a question on whether the government had finalised the questionnaire for the NPR, Mr. Rai said, "The demographic and other particulars of each family and individual are to be updated/collected during the exercise of updation of NPR. No document is to be collected during this exercise."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

## 'Love jihad' not defined under law, says Centre

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday said the term 'Love Jihad' is not defined under the law, and no such case has been reported by any of the Central agencies.

Union Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy said Article 25 of the Constitution provides for the freedom to profess, practice and propagate religion subject to public order, morality and health. "Various courts, including the Kerala High Court, have upheld this view," he said in a written reply.

Mr. Reddy, however, said two cases from Kerala involving inter-faith marriage had been probed by the National Investigation Agency.

FIRM ON STANCE ▶ PAGE 8

"The term 'Love Jihad' is not defined under the extant laws. No such case of 'Love Jihad' has been reported by any of the Central agencies," Mr. Reddy said to a question by Congress MP Benny Behanan on "whether Central agencies have reported any case of 'Love Jihad' from Kerala during the past two years and if so, the details thereof?"

Mr. Reddy, however, said two cases from Kerala involving inter-faith marriage had been probed by the National Investigation Agency.

STAFF REPORTER  
KOZHIKODE

Two persons who had returned from China recently and were under observation for novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection in Kozhikode, Kerala, have left the country for Saudi Arabia, violating the State Health Department's instructions to remain under home quarantine till the end of the 28-day incubation period of the virus.

District Medical Officer V. Jayasree said efforts were being made to trace the two persons.

Speaking at a special council meeting convened

Taking precautions: An ambulance driver of a Kochi hospital putting on protective apparel on Tuesday. ■ AFP

by the Kozhikode Municipal Corporation to discuss steps to be taken on the ground to contain the outbreak, Dr. Jayasree urged councillors to

be alert and keep a watch on people in their respective wards who had returned from China and other nCoV-affected countries.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

er, it has to be cured," Chief Justice Bobde addressed Mr. Narayan.

However, the court made it clear that it had no intention to "go wandering into the Speaker's jurisdiction" of deciding anti-defection petitions.

"The three-year delay was unnecessary. You [Speaker] needed to have taken action. *Prima facie*, if there is inaction on the part of the Speaker

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

AAP promises 24-hr markets in manifesto

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A compensation of ₹1 crore to the families of safai karamcharis who die on duty, doorstep delivery of rations, and 24x7 markets on a pilot basis in key commercial areas are among the main promises made in the 28-point Delhi Assembly elections manifesto released by the Aam Aadmi Party on Tuesday.

Delhi Jan Lokpal Bill, Delhi Swaraj Bill and full statehood for Delhi have also been included in the manifesto.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 3

## Two in quarantine for nCoV flee to Saudi

Efforts on to trace duo from Kozhikode, who were advised isolation for 28 days

STAFF REPORTER  
KOZHIKODE

Two persons who had returned from China recently and were under observation for novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection in Kozhikode, Kerala, have left the country for Saudi Arabia, violating the State Health Department's instructions to remain under home quarantine till the end of the 28-day incubation period of the virus.

District Medical Officer V. Jayasree said efforts were being made to trace the two persons.

Speaking at a special council meeting convened

The ward-level committees, headed by the councilors, would consist of health workers and anganwadi and ASHA workers, she said.

A source said the departure of the two potentially infectious persons had left the health administration, charged with ensuring that proper healthcare facilities were extended to all, red-faced. The health authorities also faced reluctance from air passengers returning from abroad to disclose their travel history for fear of being asked to go into quarantine at their homes.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

## Recovery of lost Kishore Kumar film has buffs agog

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE  
PUNE

For decades, collectors of rare Indian film memorabilia and aficionados of the music of legendary Bollywood composer duo of Shankar-Jaikishan have been doggedly searching for prints of a "lost" 1957 film starring Kishore Kumar, which uniquely featured a song picturised on Jaikishan himself.

For Indian film cineastes, the haunting melody *Ae Pyase Dil Bezu baan* from the film *Begunah*, sung by the great Mukesh, had Jaikishan playing the piano in the song sequence.

It was considered the 'Holy Grail' of rare collectibles as it was believed that prints of the film did not exist any more.

Now, in a fortunate stroke of serendipity, the Pune-based National Film Archive of India (NFAI) has come into the possession of two 16 mm prints of *Begunah*, totalling around 60 minutes of the film's footage but more virtually, the iconic song picturised on Jaikishan.

Of all hard-to-find Indian film items, *Begunah* has a particularly interesting history as it was a knock-off of a 1954 Hollywood film from Paramount Pictures, titled *Knock on Wood*, starring famous comedian-musician Danny Kaye. A little more than a week after its



A still from *Begunah* showing music composer Jaikishan.

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT release, Paramount Pictures got wind of the Hindi rip-off and filed a copyright suit in a Mumbai court.

The court, with alacrity, then directed that all prints of the Hindi film to be destroyed.

While it may have been the Mumbai Metropolitan Court, we do not exactly know in which Mumbai court the copyright suit was filed by Paramount. The court directed all prints of *Begunah* to be destroyed on grounds of plagiarism. The film is especially interesting as it features Kishore Kumar, who was a darling of Indian film distributors in his acting heyday. Most fascinatingly, the famous song sung by Mukesh *Ae Pyase Dil Bezu baan* that was picturised on maestra Jaikishan marks his only substantial appearance in any movie," said NFAI director Prakash Magdum, speaking to *The Hindu*.

Of all hard-to-find Indian film items, *Begunah* has a particularly interesting history as it was a knock-off of a 1954 Hollywood film from Paramount Pictures, titled *Knock on Wood*, starring famous comedian-musician Danny Kaye. A little more than a week after its

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# Shaheen Bagh shooter an AAP member: police

Revelation by DCP (Crime) kicks up a political storm ahead of Assembly elections; accused's family refutes allegations

## STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi Police on Tuesday said that Kapil Baisala, who allegedly opened fire at the Shaheen Bagh protest site on February 1, is a member of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

The announcement kicked off a political storm with the BJP accusing AAP of "selling the security of the country for political gains".

AAP has said that it will inquire into whether Mr. Baisala is part of the party.

DCP (Crime) Rajesh Deo said that Mr. Baisala and his father had joined AAP in early 2019. He said that the police had recovered pictures from his phone – seized for the probe – in which the accused can be seen with senior AAP leaders.

"We have retrieved WhatsApp data and photos of him and his father Gaj Singh joining AAP. He had deleted

these pictures but with technical help, the photos were recovered," Mr. Deo said, adding that Mr. Baisala has admitted to joining AAP.

Mr. Baisala's family, however, has refuted the police's claim. "I have no idea where these photographs are from. My nephew had no association with any political party," said Fatesh Singh, uncle of the accused.

### Legal notice

Meanwhile, AAP has said that they will send a legal notice to the DCP for taking the party's name without the Election Commission's permission and "influencing" the Assembly elections, which are scheduled to be held on Saturday.

APP MP Sanjay Singh accused Mr. Deo of being a BJP spokesperson and said that the party will complain to the EC to find out on "whose



Kapil Baisala in police custody after a firing incident in south-east Delhi's Shaheen Bagh on February 1. • FILE PHOTO

permission the officer took the party's name".

"As per EC rules, no official can take the name of any political party, which can influence the election, without permission of the poll panel. He [the DCP] did not have permission from the EC. He had permission from [Home Minister] Amit Shah, he had permission from the BJP," Mr. Singh said.

On whether Mr. Baisala is

an AAP member, Mr. Singh said: "Let us first inquire whether they [accused shooter and his father] are part of the party or whether they were part of the party and then joined any other party after it. I do not know their status, let us check it first."

The pictures retrieved from the phone allegedly show Mr. Baisala and his father in the presence of several AAP leaders, including

Atishi and Mr. Singh.

During interrogation, it was revealed that on February 1, Mr. Baisala, along with his friend Sarthak Larolla, had gone to Shaheen Bagh on a bike. When they reached the protest site, Mr. Larolla left with the bike and Mr. Baisala's phone.

Later, Mr. Baisala fired two rounds in the air and was apprehended. The weapon was also recovered. Mr. Larolla joined the investigation and the mobile phone was recovered from his residence.

The police said his father had unsuccessfully fought two municipal polls from Jangpura and Patparganj on the Bahujan Samaj Party ticket in 2008 and 2012.

Meanwhile, BJP national president J.P. Nadda alleged that both the country and the Capital had now seen the "ugly face" of AAP.

"For political motives, Mr.

Kejriwal and his people have sold the security of the country. Earlier, Mr. Kejriwal used to insult the Army and argue in favour of terrorists but today his connections with those terrorist activities have surfaced," he alleged.

Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said: "It is clear that AAP's design is to allure votes of one community and defame another community. They have instigated the youth to incite violence."

### Custody extended

Meanwhile, a local court on Tuesday extended by two days the police custody of Mr. Baisala. The Delhi police have submitted that the incident could be a part of a larger conspiracy. "The time and place of the incident clearly indicates that the incident is part of a larger conspiracy, which is to be unearthed," the investigating officer said.

ing a PCR van in the vicinity of the campus and briefing students and the administration to report to them immediately if any violent or unwanted activity comes to their notice on campus premises. The JNU administration has also deployed 277 private security personnel on campus round the clock, the Minister said.

Mr. Reddy quoted Delhi Police as reporting that no case was registered against the injured students, adding that details of the investigation could not be divulged at this stage.

### 'Police entered campus'

On being asked whether the police entered Jamia campus without the permission of university authorities, Mr. Reddy said, "As reported by Delhi Police, they entered the university campus chasing the violent congregation of students/mob to nab/disperse the offenders, control the situation and to protect the government property as well as saving the lives of innocent students residing in the area."

"Fifty-one persons sustained injuries and all were medically examined. No one was killed in this incident. Some private cars and property were also damaged. Some of the rioters involved have been identified," Mr. Reddy said.

### Security measures

The MoS (Home)

added that safety measures undertaken by the police in the aftermath of the violence include deployment of police personnel both on and outside the JNU campus, liaising with students and the university administration to maintain peace, deployment of policemen in plain clothes around the campus, station-

the attack at JNU.

"As reported by Delhi Police, three cases were registered against the mob, who were found involved in unlawful activities and defacing public property while protesting against the amended law. Fifteen persons have been arrested by Delhi Police. Sixty-two police personnel and 127 persons, including 36 students, were injured," he said replying to a written question.

## Investigation into Jamia violence at a crucial stage, Centre tells High Court

Bench gives government time till April 29 to submit report

### STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Centre told the Delhi High Court on Tuesday that the investigation into the incident of violence at Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) during an anti-citizenship law protest was at a crucial stage, while seeking more time to submit a report on the probe.

Taking note of the submission by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, a Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar granted the Centre time till April 29 to submit its reply.

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for some JMI students, said that 93 students and teachers had filed complaints about attacks on them by the police but no FIR has been filed against the agency till date.

On December 19, the HC had asked the Centre, the Delhi government and the police to reply to several petitions seeking setting up of a judicial commission to look into the violence at JMI during protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

The court was hearing six

petitions, moved by lawyers; JMI students, residents of Okhla (where the university is located), and the Imam of Jama Masjid. The pleas have sought medical treatment and compensation for the students in addition to action, including registration of FIRs, against the erring police officers.

They have further contended that the force used by the police was "disproportionate and brutal", and expressed concern over the "unwarranted arrest and detention of students".

## IN BRIEF

### HC tells JNU to finish classes, conduct exams

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday asked Jawaharlal Nehru University to meet with its Academic Council to resolve the issue of completing classes for the monsoon semester, which was disrupted due to students' agitation, and conducting exams. The court has asked for the decision of JNU's AC to be filed before it by February 7. The order came on pleas by students and professors challenging JNU's decision to hold online open-book or take-home exams for the semester.

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Poor	101-200
201-300	301-400
Very Poor	>400
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### DELHI TODAY

**Talk:** Public lecture on "Climate Change and Future Impact on India" by Prof. R.K. Ganjoo, University of Jammu, NMML at Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML), Teen Murti House, Teen Murti Marg, 3 p.m.

**Talk:** Seminar on "CAA: Analyzing Media Reports, Commentaries in China" by Hemant Adlakha, Professor, JNU and Honorary Fellow, ICS at Seminar Room, Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS), Civil Lines, 3 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "Ye Meri Roti Hai", a solo art show by artist Kinghorn Swargiary at Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**Exhibition:** A solo show by painter Shilpi Singh Patel at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "Mapping Memories", an exhibition of paintings and silk-screen prints by Madan Meena at Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. (Mail your listings for this column at [citeditor@thehindu.co.in](mailto:citeditor@thehindu.co.in))

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## '51 people injured in JNU violence, 127 in Jamia protests'

Capital has witnessed 66 anti-CAA protests so far, govt. tells Parliament

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

As many as 51 persons were injured and private cars and property damaged when masked persons, armed with rods and sticks, attacked students and teachers of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) on January 5, Parliament was informed on Tuesday. The government has also deployed 277 private security personnel on campus round the clock, the Minister said.

Mr. Reddy quoted Delhi Police as reporting that no case was registered against the injured students, adding that details of the investigation could not be divulged at this stage.

### 'Police entered campus'

On being asked whether the police entered Jamia campus without the permission of university authorities, Mr. Reddy said, "As reported by Delhi Police, they entered the university campus chasing the violent congregation of students/mob to nab/disperse the offenders, control the situation and to protect the government property as well as saving the lives of innocent students residing in the area."

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As reported by Delhi Police, three cases were registered against the mob, who were found involved in unlawful activities and defacing public property while protesting against the amended law. Fifteen persons have been arrested by Delhi Police. Sixty-two police personnel and 127 persons, including 36 students, were injured," he said replying to a written question.

## ECI appoints new DCP for South East district

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

After removing the Deputy Commissioner of Police of South East Delhi on Sunday, the Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday appointed 2010 batch IPS officer Rajendra Prasad Meena to the post.

Mr. Meena, who had been posted as additional DCP of North East district, was told to take charge of the new role immediately, according to an ECI letter to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

Ahead of the Delhi Assembly polls on Saturday, the ECI had reviewed the law and order situation in the city in the wake of two firing incidents at protest sites in south-east Delhi.

Since December, when Parliament passed the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, anti-CAA protests have been staged outside Jamia Millia Islamia and Shaheen Bagh. Two firing incidents at the two protest sites last week preceded the ECI's move to remove DCP Chinmoy Biswal.

# AAP manifesto promises 24-hour markets, Swaraj Bill

Party vows to give ₹1 crore compensation to families of safai karamcharis who die on duty; Kejriwal asks BJP to declare chief ministerial face

### STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A compensation of ₹1 crore to the families of safai karamcharis who die on duty, doorstep delivery of rations, and 24x7 markets on a pilot basis in key commercial areas are among the main promises made in the 28-point Delhi Assembly elections manifesto released by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday.

Delhi Jan Lokpal Bill, Delhi Swaraj Bill and full statehood for Delhi have also been included in the manifesto.



(From left) Aam Aadmi Party senior leaders Sanjay Singh, Manish Sisodia, Arvind Kejriwal and Gopal Rai releasing the party manifesto for the Delhi Assembly elections on Tuesday. ■SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal said the manifesto will turn Delhi into a "21st Century, progressive Capital" and his government would need "support" of the Centre.

"In the last five years, our government has provided relief to the people of Delhi in various sectors and issues of public importance. Our vision now is to take Delhi to the next level. We have to turn Delhi into a 21st century, highly advanced, and progressive Capital of a developed nation. This manifesto has been created keeping in mind this idea of a progres-

sive Capital. We cannot do it alone, we need participation and support from the people, the Centre, and all agencies in creating a Delhi of our dreams," he said.

Mr. Kejriwal said the manifesto talks about all communities and sections of people, including women, traders, contractual workers, sanitation workers, and victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. The document also pro-

### Manifesto highlights

- Delhi Jan Lokpal Bill
- Delhi Swaraj Bill
- Spoken English, personality development classes for school pass-outs
- ₹1 crore compensation to families of Safai Karamcharis who die on duty
- Burari, Kirari, Bijnor, Narela, Karawal Nagar, Mangolpuri to be connected to the metro network, 24x7 markets on a pilot basis
- Deshbhakti Curriculum
- Protection from sealing of shops
- Legal protection to vendors and hawkers



mises to connect Burari, Kirari, Bijnor, Narela, Karawal Nagar, Mangolpuri and other places to the metro network, which will be increased to over 500 km.

It also promises a Deshbhakti Curriculum, protection from sealing of shops, and legal protection to street vendors and hawkers. "We shall pursue with the Centre for Bhojpuri language to be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution," states another promise.

Full statehood, the demand around which the party's 2019 Lok Sabha election manifesto was created, also

found its mention at the 28th point. The document is shorter compared to the 70-point manifesto released by the party ahead of the 2015 Assembly elections. "AAP had passed the Delhi Jan Lokpal Bill, 2015, in the last Assembly elections and it is pending with the Centre for the last four years. AAP resolves to continue its struggle to get the Bill passed," the manifesto reads.

On the Delhi Swaraj Bill, the manifesto read: "The Delhi government had approved the formation of 2,972 Mohalla Sabhas in 70 Assembly constituencies in June 2016

as the first step in devolution of power to the people and making them direct participants in solving day-to-day issues affecting their quality of life. We will pursue with the Centre to bring in a strong Delhi Swaraj Bill that will formalise the roles and responsibilities of Mohalla Sabhas."

### A better city

"This manifesto is our dream of creating a better Delhi. Creating a Delhi of our dreams has two roadmaps as per our manifesto," Mr. Sisodia said. He added that the first phase of the roadmap of the manifesto was the 10-point guarantee card, which was released in January, vowing 10 guarantees to the people of Delhi. The current manifesto is the second phase and it involves a detailed description of some of the works to be undertaken by the AAP government in the next five years.

"I want to tell the BJP... the people of Delhi want the BJP to declare the Chief Ministerial face. I am ready to debate with that CM face. The debate can be at any place," Mr. Kejriwal said.

Delhi Pradesh Congress

Committee chief Subhash Chopra called AAP manifesto a pack of empty promises as it was repeating the same set of lies which it could not deliver in the past five years.

"What prevented AAP from fulfilling its earlier promises since having an absolute majority," he questioned. Commenting on AAP saying it "will pursue with the Centre to bring in a strong Delhi Swaraj Bill", Mr. Chopra said in the first five years, AAP only clashed with the Centre. He added that last time, AAP did not regularise the sanitation workers on contract and also delayed their wages.

### A bundle of lies: BJP

At a press conference here, Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari said the AAP manifesto was a "bundle of lies. This manifesto contains the same old promises that were in AAP's 2015 manifesto while some points are copied from the BJP's Sankalp Patra."

Union Minister Harsh Vardhan alleged that the Kejriwal-led party had removed the manifesto from its website thinking they could "cheat" the people of Delhi.

## Will ensure Delhi develops with the speed it deserves, says Modi

Send those who practise politics of hatred packing, he tells voters

JATIN ANAND  
NEW DELHI

At his final public meeting before Delhi goes to the polls on February 8, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday assured voters that he would ensure that the Capital develops with the speed that it deserves to progress, but only if they exercised their franchise in favour of the BJP.

PM Modi promised to build a "world-class" Delhi, which would be "safe and bereft of chaos and violence", even as he appealed to voters to "punish and send on holiday", practitioners of "vote-bank politics" and the "politics of selfishness and hate".

**'Take the right decision'**  
"This is my second rally after the one in east Delhi on Monday. The support for the BJP is palpable and we all know what is going to happen on February 8 [election result]... This is the first election of the decade and the progress of the country will depend on the decisions the country takes... Today, the Capital has to show the rest of it the way forward. You have to make the right decision on February 8," he said at the Ramlila Maidan in Dwarka.

"Delhi needs a government that shows the way forward, not one that levels accusations; not a government that complicates matters and



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with senior BJP leaders at a public meeting in Dwarka on Tuesday. ■SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

creates stumbling blocks... Delhi can never develop with a government that makes excuses, spreads lies and accusations... I have eaten your salt; I will stand by you and do whatever it takes to develop Delhi," he added.

Making a direct reference to AAP's flagship Mohalla Clinics, Mr. Modi connected it to the non-implementation of the Centre's Ayushman Bharat initiative. He attacked the AAP government for allegedly turning a blind eye to the woes of the Capital's poor.

"In Delhi, there is a government that does not feel anything for you. What is the fault of the poor of Delhi that they have been kept away from the benefits of the Ayushman Bharat scheme?" he demanded. "The merits of this scheme are not about the ₹5 lakh limit. What if a citizen of Delhi gets ill somewhere else? Will the local Mohalla

clinics go to treat him there? If the Ayushman Bharat scheme was implemented in Delhi, even if the beneficiary suffered a heart attack in another city, they would have been able to afford treatment," he added.

The development of Delhi according to the "standards of the 21st century" was not only imperative for its own people but for all the citizens of the country, he argued.

Talking about illegal colonies, he said: "The seven Lok Sabha MPs that you chose made it possible [conferring ownership rights to residents of unauthorised colonies] because you elected them... All your dreams will continue to come true if you exercise that power in favour of the BJP again... Remember that February 8 is not a holiday but a day to send the practitioners of the politics of hatred on a holiday."

## Chidambaram lashes out at PM's 'language'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram on Tuesday said the language of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who had termed the Shaheen Bagh protests as a conspiracy, reminds him of colonial days when every agitation was deemed a conspiracy.

"The language reminds us of the language of our colonial masters: every peaceful, non-violent protest was labeled as a conspiracy. PM says that Shaheen Bagh protest divides India. On the contrary, it is the CAA that divides India and the protests at Shaheen Bagh and other places unite India," he said.

In a series of tweets, Mr. Chidambaram took on Mr. Modi, who had made those remarks at an election rally in Delhi.

"PM Modi says that protests against CAA in Jamia, Seelampur and Shaheen Bagh are not a coincidence and that 'it is a conspiracy'.

Protests have taken place and are taking place all over the country. Shall we conclude that there are conspirators all over the country?" he asked, adding that the protests at Shaheen Bagh and other places prove that "the soul of India is unsullied and the hearts of millions of Indians beat in unison".

## Cong. attacks BJP, AAP over unemployment

Rahul and Priyanka address rally

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal of trying to divide the country by spreading hatred and violence instead of trying to solve the problem of unemployment.

"The world is looking towards India to set up manufacturing hubs that will create jobs. Major countries want an alternative to China so that there is healthy competition, but Mr. Modi and Mr. Kejriwal are only interested in divisive politics and not concerned about the future of the youth," he said.

Mr. Gandhi said the educated youth are told that there are no jobs for them.

Mr. Gandhi on Tuesday addressed rallies in Jangpura and Sangam Vihar.

In Sangam Vihar, he was accompanied by Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Mr. Gandhi accused the BJP of indulging in violence in the name of religion. The people who are trying to divide the country on religious lines are the ones whose patriotism needed to be questioned, he added.

The Congress leader also hit out at the Modi government for favouring 15 large business houses instead of



Rahul Gandhi with Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in Sangam Vihar on Tuesday.

■SANDEEP SAXENA

addressing the economic slowdown. "The BJP and AAP are spreading lies... Congress is the only party that has fulfilled its promises," he said while asking people "to cleanse hatred and violence from their heart" before going to vote.

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Mr. Gandhi accused the BJP of indulging in violence in the name of religion. The people who are trying to divide the country on religious lines are the ones whose patriotism needed to be questioned, he added.

The Congress leader also hit out at the BJP government for failing to address unemployment.

## 'BJP talking only about Shaheen Bagh, Pakistan'

Arvind Kejriwal tells news channel

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday told a news channel that the BJP does not have any issues, other than Shaheen Bagh, Pakistan, and Hindu-Muslim dichotomy, to bring up ahead of the Assembly polls.

"The BJP doesn't want to talk about any issue. Only Shaheen Bagh, Hindu-Muslim, and Pakistan... Apart from these three issues, they do not have anything else," Mr. Kejriwal told the NDTV during an interview.

"Home Minister Amit Shah wants to fight the entire election on the Shaheen Bagh protests. He is so powerful. Can he not open a road?" said the CM.

He added the BJP does not want to solve the issue in Shaheen Bagh.

"Who is benefitting from

Shaheen Bagh? BJP is getting the benefit from it... The road should be opened. The BJP wants to fight the whole election on Shaheen Bagh, this is dirty politics. But people are watching," he said.

**'BJP did no work'**  
The Chief Minister also said the BJP does not have any work that can win them votes. "They did not do anything in municipal corporation schools. They know they cannot fight us on work done and development," he said.

Mr. Kejriwal said if there is one "desbhakti" party in the country, then it is the AAP. "We have been formed out of Anna Andolan," he said. "I have no desire of becoming the Prime Minister. I may be the only Chief Minister in the history of India who resigned by himself in 49 days," he said.

### IN BRIEF

#### CEO extends dates to apply for pick-and-drop

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi Chief Electoral Officer on Tuesday extended the last date to register for availing pick-and-drop facility for senior citizens till February 5. Earlier, the last date for registration was January 31.

The CEO has also identified around 150 centenarian voters, the official added.

#### TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT

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selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

Mr. MANOJ KUMAR KUSHWAHA  
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**THE HINDU**  
India's National Newspaper

## An Oppn. councillor fights to become an MLA

Abhishek Dutt, Cong's Kasturba Nagar candidate, is wooing voters with work done

SIDHARTH RAVI  
NEW DELHI

A two-time councillor of the South Delhi Municipal Corporation from the Congress, Abhishek Dutt, is a familiar face in the Kasturba Nagar constituency from where he is contesting the Delhi Assembly elections.

Since the announcement of the elections, locals say he has been regularly meeting people in public gatherings.

On Tuesday, he was seen engaged in a door-to-door campaign at Lodhi Complex appealing to occupants of the government flats here. Various local civic and infrastructure issues such as provision of better roads, cleanliness, sewerage facilities are his priorities. In conversation with prospective voters, he repeats, "I am asking for votes based on my work. That's the difference between us and others." While the Congress may not form the government in Delhi Assembly, Mr. Dutt is no stranger to working from the Op-



Kasturba Nagar Congress candidate Abhishek Dutt talks to a constituent on Tuesday. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

### CAMPAIGN TRAIL

ly to succeed and that waste segregation had been implemented here prior to the scheme itself. "There are also no dark spots in my ward," he said. Asked what his plan for the constituency was, Mr. Dutt said, "We will take the Andrews Gunj [ward] model forward."

Mr. Dutt's holds a reputation of a "hard worker", with area residents compliment-

ing on how he regularly responds to people's calls and resolves issues. "I have heard a lot about him from the people in Garhi, Sadiq Nagar, Andrews Gunj. They say he will work for you even if you call him at night," said Krishna Mehta, a resident.

**Inspite of 'goodwill'**  
His reputation extends to those who are not keen on voting for the Congress as well. Commenting on him, Amit Kagra from Lodhi Complex, said: "He has a lot of goodwill here. Everyone knows he gets work done, but my vote is going to AAP." For him and many others here, the present election was about issues effecting Delhi at large. However, Sukhvinder Kaur who met Mr. Dutt, earlier in the day, believed he is a good candidate but argued that older parties such as the BJP and the Congress have had given several chances. "These people [AAP] should also get a chance," she said.

Youth are tired of looking for jobs: Manmohan

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Tuesday said it was a

## NGT stops construction near DU

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has restrained a real estate developer from constructing a housing complex next to Delhi University (DU) campus in north Delhi.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said, "While accepting prayer for adjournment, we direct that the project proponent may not proceed with any further activity till further consideration of the matter by this Tribunal."

The directions came days after the Supreme Court set aside a previous order of the NGT ordering status quo on the construction, which the builder had challenged.

During the February 3 hearing, the counsel appearing for the builder, sought an adjournment in the matter which was opposed by the counsel appearing for DU on the grounds that in the absence of a stay, the project proponent may proceed with the project. The plea moved by DU had challenged the order of the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority which granted the Environmental Clearance for the project located near the Vishwavidyalaya metro station.

# Court to pronounce sentence in shelter home case on Feb. 11

It found 19 guilty of sexually assaulting girl inmates in Muzaffarpur

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI



Brajesh Thakur

A special court, which on January 20 held Brajesh Thakur and 18 others guilty of sexually and physically assaulting girl inmates of a shelter home in Bihar's Muzaffarpur, on Tuesday reserved its verdict on the quantum of sentence for February 11. The CBI sought life imprisonment for Thakur and the maximum punishment for the others. Lawyers for the convicts argued for a minimum sentence.

The court had earlier convicted Thakur of the charge of aggravated penetrative sexual assault under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, and of gang-rape, rape and other related crimes under the Indian Penal Code and the Juvenile Justice Act. Vijay Kumar Tiwari, Guddu Patel, Ramanuj Thakur and Kishan Kumar were also found guilty.

ty of committing aggravated penetrative sexual assault, rape, gang-rape and other related crimes.

One accused, Vicky, was acquitted. Rosy Rani, a former Assistant Director of the Child Protection Unit, was also convicted. But she had already served out the maximum punishment of six months, hence she was granted bail.

Among the convicts are Dillip Kumar Verma, a Child Welfare Committee chairman in Muzaffarpur; Vikas Kumar, a former member of the committee, and Ravi Roshan, Child Protection Officer. Rama Shankar Singh

and Ashwani were convicted of the charge of criminal conspiracy and abetting rape.

Thakur's close aide Shaisa Praveen, who was arrested by the CBI, Indu Kumari, Manju Devi, Minu Devi, Chanda Devi, Hema Masih, Neha Kumari and Kiran Kumari were also convicted of the charge of abetting rape and allied offences.

The shelter home was run by a non-governmental organisation, Sewa Sankalp Evam Vikas Samiti. The instances of sexual assault of inmates were first recorded by a research team of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

## #MeToo: Instagram account holder seeks time from HC

The user had posted harassment allegations by a woman against artist Subodh Gupta

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Instagram account handle 'Herdsceneand', who posted sexual harassment allegations by a woman against artist Subodh Gupta, has filed a defamation suit against him.

In the last hearing, the HC had asked 'Herdsceneand' whether she/he wants to represent the anonymous victim in the defamation case filed by Mr. Gupta. The identity of the person running the time for it.

Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw, taking note of the plea, has posted Mr. Gupta's defamation case against 'Herdsceneand' on February 11.

In the last hearing, the HC had asked 'Herdsceneand' whether she/he wants to represent the anonymous victim in the defamation case filed by Mr. Gupta. The identity of the person running the art fra-

Instagram account, which published the allegations in the wake of #MeToo movement, has been kept secret on the court's directions.

The Instagram handle had earlier said that she/he was only a "whistleblower", a neutral platform which intended to bring out the instances of sexual misconduct and harassment in the art fra-

mernity, as part of the #MeToo movement.

The HC was hearing Mr. Gupta's defamation suit against 'Herdsceneand', following the publication of anonymous sexual harassment allegations against him last year. It had earlier restrained 'Herdsceneand' from posting any content relating to Mr. Gupta on its account.

## Pregnancy termination: board to examine minor Hospital to assess threat to rape victim

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday directed the constitution of a medical board to examine a minor rape victim, who is seeking permission to terminate her 24-week pregnancy.

Justice Vibhu Bakhrus asked the medical superintendent of Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital to constitute the board to examine the condition of the 16-year-old girl and expeditiously submit the report on whether continuing the pregnancy would pose any risk to her health.

The board shall also include a psychiatrist, the court said.

The court, which listed the matter for February 6, requested the concerned doctor to be present during the hearing. The court further said that it would also interact with the girl and her parents, who were present during the hearing, on the next date and asked them to be there.

The petition, filed through the girl's mother, is aggrieved as Section 3 of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act does not permit termination of pregnancy in case of rape survivors, victims of incest, differently-abled and minors.



and Prachi Nirwan, said the pregnancy poses a substantial risk to the girl as she herself is of a 'tender age'.

The plea said the rape victim was examined by doctors at a government hospital here on January 25 and she was found to be 24-weeks pregnant. Pursuant to this, a case of rape and criminal intimidation was lodged at Swaroop Nagar police station here.

The doctor has opined that since the period of gestation is over 20 weeks, it is beyond the permissible limit and the court's permission is required for pregnancy termination.

Last week, the Union Cabinet had approved extending the upper limit for permitting abortions from the present 20 weeks to 24 weeks for "special categories of women", which would include rape survivors, victims of incest, differently-abled and minors.

## Coronavirus: five shifted to Safdarjung Hospital

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Five people admitted to an Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) facility here, after being evacuated from coronavirus-affected Wuhan in China, were shifted to Safdarjung Hospital on Tuesday, officials said.

Among those shifted are three men and two women, they said. The five have been shifted as a "precautionary measure" after they showed basic symptoms like cough and sneezing and some had a medical history.

A total of 406 people have been quarantined at the ITBP facility in Delhi's Chhawala area since the last week after they were brought in two batches from Wuhan onboard separate Air India flights.

ITBP spokesperson Vivek Kumar Pandey said the centre now has "401 inmates and they are being well taken care of".

Another official said samples of all the people quarantined at the facility have been collected by doctors in coordination with the National Centre for Disease Control and the Indian Council for Medical Research and they are being sent to labs in AIIMS and Pune for further tests.

**KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA**  
Ordnance Factory,  
Muradnagar

Registration for Suppliers  
for the Session 2020 - 2021

Applications are invited for Registration of Firms for the Session 2020 - 2021 for the Items / Services used in the Vidyalaya.

For Downloading the Registration Form / Details of the Items Please visit the Vidyalaya website :  
[www.muradnagar.kvs.ac.in](http://www.muradnagar.kvs.ac.in)

Principal

**Power Supply arrangement**

E-Tender Notice No. DY.CEE/CON/SCI/03/2020, Dated: 03-02-2020. Open tender through e-Tendering system are invited from valid electrical contractor and supervisor license for the following work.

**Tender No.: EL-CON-SCL-10-2018-BS-RT.**

**Name of works:** Power Supply arrangement on 33 KV by lattice steel Tower to proposed Hortokali Railway station and Tunnel No. 10 to Tunnel No. 12 in connection with Bhairabi - Saigar New BG line project. Tender value: ₹4,27,78,806.80, Earnest money: ₹4,13,900.00, Completion period: 180 days. E-tender will be closed at 14:30 hrs. on 25-02-2020 and opened at 15:30 hrs. on 25-02-2020. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) & [www.niflyconstruction.org](http://www.niflyconstruction.org).

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/CON/ SCL, Maligaon  
Northeast Frontier Railway  
(Construction Organisation)

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**HOME DEPARTMENT (PORTS & TRANSPORT)  
MAHARASHTRA MARITIME BOARD**

Indian Mercantile Chambers, 3rd Floor, 14 Ramjhaini Kamani Marg, Ballard Estate, Mumbai- 400 001, Tel.: 022-22656375, Fax: 022-22614331, Website: <https://mahammb.maharashtra.gov.in>

**E-Tender Notice - (Year 2019-2020)**  
Main Portal: <https://mahatenders.gov.in>  
Departmental Portal: [www.mahammb.maharashtra.gov.in](http://www.mahammb.maharashtra.gov.in)

Digitally signed E-Tender for following work is invited by Chief Executive Officer, Maharashtra Maritime Board, Mumbai, from Registered with Government of Maharashtra in appropriate class and having experience in execution of Marine related civil works, for following work in B2 & B1 Tender Form.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Tender in Rs	Earnest Money Amount in Rs	Blank Tender form amount in Rs.	Time limit for Completion of Work
1.	Construction of Approach Road to Ro-Ro Jetty at Narangi, Tal. Vasai, Dist.Palghar.	25,07,23,50/-	12,54,00/-	5,900/-	18 Months (Including Monsoon)
2.	Construction of Allied Facilities (Compound Wall, Parking Area, Retaining Wall, Approach road etc) to passenger Jetty at Belapur (Navi Mumbai), Tal. & Dist. Thane.	3,75,94,285/-	1,88,000/-	2,360/-	18 Months (Including Monsoon)

The details can be viewed online and downloaded directly from the Government of Maharashtra E-Tendering Portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in> on sub Portal of Home Department [www.mahammb.maharashtra.gov.in](http://www.mahammb.maharashtra.gov.in) from 04.02.2020 at 10:00 hours (IST) onwards. The right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason is reserved.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Maharashtra Maritime Board, Mumbai.

DGIPR/4808/ADV/19-20

### NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

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Email :- [dyccmcon@ner.railnet.gov.in](mailto:dyccmcon@ner.railnet.gov.in) Internet :- [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in)

#### TENDER NOTICE NO. 04 DATED : 03.02.2020

#### Invitation of tenders through e-Procurement system

By. Chief Material Manager/Con North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur, and on behalf of The President of India, Invites tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items. Complete description of the item and other condition are available on website [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in)

Sr. No.	Tender No. Due date	Brief Description of Stores	Qty. Required	Earnest Money(Rs.)
1.	17195015C Dt.04.03.2020	Relay AC immune plug in type style QNA1DCneutraline24V12F/4Bcontacts	1335 Nos.	85770.00
2.	17195023D Dt.04.03.2020	Relay AC immune plug in type style QNA1DCneutraline24V8F/6Bcontacts	1851 Nos.	128910.00

1. Above tenders are available on REPS site i.e. [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in). The firm desirous in participating against e/tender are advised to electronically regd. themselves on the above website for which they would require to obtain class-III digital certificate (if already not obtain) from certifying agencies authorized under govt. of India IT Act,2000. Manual offers will not be accepted. 2. Advertised tender of Dy Chief Material Manager/Con, NER, Gorakhpur are being opened through EPS (E- Procurement system) only. Firms desirous to participate in Dy Chief Material Manager/Con, NER/GKP should obtain necessary digital certificate and get themselves registered with CRIS/New Delhi. Necessary details in this regard can be obtained from the website <http://www.reps.gov.in>. 3. In case of difference between English and Hindi version of the tender notice the English version shall prevail. 4. Head of allocation towards Cost of Earnest money & SD Money is 00844566. 5. Item above are reserved to be procured from RDSD approved source only.

CPR/S-58 Dy Chief Material Manager/Con, Gorakhpur

About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955

"Never travel on roof and foot boards"

### OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, DELHI

OLD ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE BUILDING,  
KASHMERE GATE, DELHI-110006

Helpline No.1800- 111-400/1950: website: [www.ceodelhi.gov.in](http://www.ceodelhi.gov.in)

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### Pre-Certification of political advertisement in Print Media on the day of Poll & One day prior to poll.

Kind attention of general public, all media houses, political parties and all contesting candidates is invited towards Election Commission of India letter No.491/MCMC/2020/Communication dated 29.01.2020, which states that - No Political Party or candidate or any other organization or person shall publish any Advertisement in the print media on Poll Day & one day prior to Poll Day (7th & 8th February, 2020) unless the contents of Political advertisements proposed to be published by political parties, candidates etc. are got Pre-Certified by them from the Media Certification and Monitoring Committee(MCMC) at the State Level/District Level as the case may be. Further, it is informed that the polls for General Election to Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi-2020 will be held on 08.02.2020(Saturday) between 08.00 AM to 06.00 PM. This is issued for information, guidance and compliance of all concerned.

Sd.  
SATNAM SINGH

SPL.CHEIF ELECTORAL OFFICER

DIP/Shabdarth/1343/19-20

### OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, DELHI

### OLD ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI-110006

Helpline No.1800- 111-400/1950: website: [www.ceodelhi.gov.in](http://www.ceodelhi.gov.in)

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### BAN ON EXIT/OPINION POLLS ETC.

#### ATTENTION: NEWS BUREAUS, MEDIA HOUSES, RADIO & TELEVISIONS CHANNELS, etc.

Attention of General Public especially news bureaus, media houses, radio and television channels and social media etc. is drawn towards the Election Commission of India's Notification No. 576/Exit/2020/SDR/Vol.I dated 24th January, 2020 regarding BAN on EXIT POLLS, results of any OPINION POLL/ ANY OTHER POLL SURVEY in print or electronic media or dissemination in any other manner whatsoever. The notification is reproduced below for information and compliance of all concerned.

- Whereas, the schedule for the General Election to the Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi was announced by the Commission vide Press Note bearing No.ECI/ PN/4/2020, dated 6th January, 2020. .
- And whereas, as per the provisions of Section 126A of The Representation of the People Act, 1951 (in short R.P. Act, 1951) there shall be restrictions on conduct of any exit poll and publication and dissemination of result of such exit poll during such period, as may be notified by the Election Commission in this regard;
- Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers under sub-Section (I) of Section 126A of the R.P. Act, 1951 , the Election Commission, having regard to the provisions of sub-Section (2) of the said Section, hereby notifies the period between 8.00 A.M and 6:30 PM on 8th February, 2020 (Saturday) as the period during which conducting any exit poll and publishing or publicizing by means of the print or electronic media or dissemination in any other manner whatsoever, the result of any exit poll in connection with the above mentioned General Election to the State Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi, 2020 shall be prohibited.
- It is further clarified that under Section 126(I)(b) of the R.P. Act, 1951, displaying any election matter including results of any opinion poll or any other poll survey, in any electronic media would be prohibited during the period of 48 hours ending with the hours fixed for conclusion of poll in the respective polling areas in connection with the above mentioned General Election to the State Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi, 2020 shall be prohibited.

Sd.  
SATNAM SINGH

SPL.CHEIF ELECTORAL OFFICER, DELHI

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, DELHI**<br

Timings

DELHI

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 05
RISE 07:08 SET 18:04
RISE 14:06 SET 03:21
THURSDAY, FEB. 06
RISE 07:07 SET 18:04
RISE 15:00 SET 04:21

Delhi Weather

max	min
21	05
Safdarjung	21 05
Palam	22 06

Delhi Palam Today  
22°C Shallow fog is likely. A comfortable afternoon with mainly sunny sky will persist.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow  
21°C Shallow fog continues over the area. A sunny day and comfy afternoon.

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THE HINDU

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# AMU Proctor resigns from post

Resignation seen as an attempt to 'reward' students and defuse tension on campus

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GHAZIABAD

Afifullah Khan, the Proctor of Aligarh Muslim University, has resigned from his post. An official release said Prof. Khan had tendered his resignation and that Vice-Chancellor Tariq Mansoor has accepted it and appointed Mohd. Wasim Ali, a professor in the Department of Law, in his place.

AMU students have been demanding his resignation, along with that of the V-C and Registrar, for allowing the police to enter the campus on December 15, 2019. The demand grew louder when the proctorial team nabbed two students and a former student for heckling the V-C during his Republic Day speech and handed them over to the district administration.

The university's official spokesperson said Prof. Khan had cited personal reasons for his decision.

However, sources said his resignation had been sought in an attempt to defuse the

## Three months after tragedy, M.P. Dalit family waits for jobs, houses

2 children were thrashed to death for defecating in the open

SIDHARTH YADAV  
BHOPAL

More than three months have passed yet the families of two Dalit children thrashed to death for defecating in the open by upper caste men in Shivpuri district in September last year have not been shifted into new houses or given jobs and land promised to them by Congress leader Jyotiraditya Scindia within a month.

"Nothing can cure the deep wounds the family has suffered," he told reporters after meeting the family in Bhavkhedi village of the district on October 14. "But being people's servants, the least we can do is bring them succour. The construction of permanent houses would at least take a month."

Besides, Mr. Scindia, a former MP from Guna, stating it was unbelievable someone in "his region" could even think of committing such an act, had assured the Mehtar family's adult members employment, children's education and had requested Chief Minister Kamal Nath to allot 20 bigha of land on "humanitarian ground" to them.

**'Promise unfulfilled'**  
"The promises of Maharaj have come to naught," Bablu Valmik\*, whose son, 11, and sister, 12, were the victims, told *The Hindu*, referring to Mr. Scindia, who belongs to the royal family of Gwalior.

"The wheat we got in assistance is over, we don't have a ration card for the city yet and there is no work promised to us. I thought with a permanent job, I could help meet at least the daily expenses."

Under the Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, the family received ₹8,25,000 on top of ₹50,000 as compensation by the panchayat. While Mr. Valmik has set aside a lakh each as fixed deposit in a bank for his two daughters' wedding, he had



Cong. leader Jyotiraditya Scindia interacting with the Dalit family in October last year. • JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA'S TWITTER ACCOUNT

to shell out ₹2 lakh each for two new houses, with ₹4 lakh left in his bank account now. "Both the girls go to school in Shivpuri, and they don't face caste discrimination like in the village school," he said.

At present, the family – Mr. Valmik and four brothers, his wife, daughters and parents, sister-in-law and two nephews – is staying at two temporary houses having a room, a kitchen and a bathroom each in a colony for Public Health Engineering officials in the city. "There is no water connection, even in the toilet. We have to pay ₹350 for a tanker every three days," he said. Back in the village, the family stayed in two ramshackle huts without toilets, which prompted the two victims to go out for defecation in the district, declared open defecation-free by the government.

On September 25, as the two victims defecated in the open along a village road, two men of the Yadav community, dominant locally, struck lathis on their heads, killing them. They were later arrested.

**Daily wage work**  
An agricultural labourer back then, Mr. Valmik every morning now rushes to the city circle to seek daily wage work as a construction worker, making ₹150-200 a day, along with one of his brothers. "The two-and-a-half bigha land in my father's name in

## Girl dies after falling into midday meal container

Three-year-old suffered 80% burns, succumbed to her injuries in hospital

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MIRzapur (U.P.)

A three-year-old girl has succumbed to burns after falling into a container of freshly cooked midday meal at a government primary school in Rampur Atari village here, officials said on Tuesday.

Anchal, 3, who was not enrolled in the school, used to go there with her brothers Ganesh and Himanshu, who are students of Classes

**School principal suspended, FIR registered against cooks**

VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH  
Basic Siksha Adhikari

II and V. On Monday, at about 12 noon when midday meal was ready and students gathered there to have it, the girl lost her balance due to the rush and fell into a big utensil of hot freshly-cooked vegetable," District

Magistrate Sushil Kumar Patel said.

At the time of incident, the cook was not there. As the students raised an alarm, a teacher, Narendra Kumar Verma, picked the girl out of the big vessel. She was rushed to a private hospital with 80% burns and later, to a government hospital, where she died on Monday evening at about 7 p.m., he said.

The school's principal,

Santosh Kumar Yadav, has been suspended on the directives of the DM, Basic Siksha Adhikari (BSA) Virendra Kumar Singh said.

"There are 172 students and six cooks for the school. An FIR has been registered against all six cooks at the Lalganj police station. A three-member committee has also been formed to probe the incident and it will submit a report in two days," the BSA said.

## SAD to stage protests against Punjab govt.

District-level dharnas to begin on Feb. 13

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

The Shiromani Akali Dal has decided to stage protests against the ruling Congress government, which is about to complete three years in power, for its alleged anti-peoples policies.

In a statement, senior party leader Daljeet Singh Cheema said the decision regarding the schedule of the protests was taken at a meeting which was presided over by party president Sukhbir Singh Badal.

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Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 &amp; 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993.

In the matter of: OA NO. 646/2019

CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA ..... Applicant

Versus

ADITYA KUMAR &amp; Ors. .... Defendants

(D-1) ADITYA KUMAR, S/O. SH. VIRENDER SINGH B-1004, Amrapali Empire, Crossing Republic, Ghaziabad-201016, U.P. Also at Village Rasool Pur, Post Rahman Pur, Syewali, Distt.-Bulandshahar-203150, U.P.

(D-2) SMT. KIRAN CHAUDHARY, W/O. ADITYA KUMAR, B-1004, Amrapali Empire, Crossing Republic Ghaziabad-201012, U.P.

Also at: Village Rasool Pur, Post Rahman Pur, Syewali, Distt.-Bulandshahar-203150, U.P.

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal on 20.04.2020 at 10:30 A.M.

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

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on the 16<sup>th</sup> Day of January, 2020.

By Order of the Tribunal

Assistant Registrar, DRT-II, New Delhi

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VERSUS

MR. AJIT KUMAR &amp; OTHERS Respondents

Whereas the notice that Arbitration Claim is presented by Claimant against you the Respondents in the above case and is registered and pending before the Tribunal. The matter was listed before the Tribunal on 27.12.2019.

Whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of this Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way, therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you the Respondents to appear before the Tribunal on 13.02.2020 at 3:00 PM at D-220 Basement, Defence Colony, New Delhi.

Whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of this Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way, therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you the Respondents to appear before the Tribunal on 27.01.2020.

The case will be heard and determined ex parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, the 29<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2020.

Respondent No. 1 to 4 as per Memo of Parties

1. MR. AJIT KUMAR S/O Mr. Surendra

Residence: House No. 562, Village Darsana Pargana Darsana, Distt. Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201013.

2. MRS. HEMA LATA W/o Mr. Ajit Kumar

3. MR. SURENDRA S/o Mr. Kuldip Ram

4. MRS. CHAMPA W/o Mr. Surendra

ALL RESIDENTS OF:-

House no. 562 situated in Inderganj arising from Kharha No. 262, Village Darsana Pargana Darsana, Distt. Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201013.

SUNNET ANAND SOLE ARBITRATOR

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that KARJEET SINGH S/o HARPAL SINGH R/o L-2/58, 2ND FLOOR, NEW MAHARAJA NAGAR TILAK NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110018 OF AFGHANISTAN is applying to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs for Naturalization and that any person who knows any reason why Naturalization should not be granted should send a written signed statement of the facts to the said Secretary.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that BALINDER SINGH S/o HARPAL SINGH R/o L-2/58, 2ND FLOOR, NEW MAHARAJA NAGAR TILAK NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110018 OF AFGHANISTAN is applying to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs for Naturalization and that any person who knows any reason why Naturalization should not be granted should send a written signed statement of the facts to the said Secretary.

PERSONAL

LOST &amp; FOUND

IT IS notified for the information that my original senior secondary examination passing certificate of the Year 2008 and Roll No. T/4668/09 School St. Francis School, Deoghar issued by CISCE has been actually lost. Shashank Shekhar 9771877272

**Anti-CAA protesters being terrorised: Mamata**

BONGAON (W.B.)

West Bengal Chief Minister

Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday

slammed BJP leaders for

allegedly branding CAA

protesters as "anti-nationals",

and said the recent firings

outside Jamia Millia

University and Shaheen Bagh

were attempts to terrorise

the peaceful agitators. "They

are saying 'goli maro'

(shoot them), how can

you shoot protesters for

peaceful agitation? Is this

acceptable in a democracy?"

Ms. Banerjee said while

addressing a rally at Bongaon

in North 24 Parganas. PTI

**Surrendered militants may enter Assam politics**

Bodo peace accord signatories to hold convention in Kokrajhar

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

GUWAHATI

Leaders of the factions of the

National Democratic Front of

NID puts off convocation after inviting Modi-critic Sarabhai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
AHMEDABAD

The National Institute of Design (NID) has postponed its annual convocation ceremony scheduled for February 7, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vocal critic and noted danseuse Mallika Sarabhai was invited as the chief guest, due to "unforeseen circumstances". Ms. Sarabhai had also criticised the BJP government over the new citizenship law.

The new date of the convocation will be decided soon, an NID official said.

When asked about the invitation extended to Ms. Sarabhai, an official told PTI on Tuesday: "Some people were selected as probable chief guests on the suggestions of various people, and the final decision was taken on the basis of their availability on given dates."

Earlier, in its communication to the graduating students, the NID said, "On behalf of the governing council of the NID, Ahmedabad, we deeply regret to inform you that the 40th convocation scheduled for Friday (February 7) stands postponed due to unforeseen circumstances".

The official said the decision was taken by the governing council of the institute.

# NMMC polls to be MVA govt.'s first political test

Shiv Sena's Dushyant Chaturvedi wins Yavatmal Council seat

ALOK DESHPANDE  
MUMBAI

The tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi may have won the Maharashtra Council election for Yavatmal seat on Tuesday, with the Shiv Sena's Dushyant Chaturvedi defeating Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Sumit Bajoria, but the real test of the coalition is set to be the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) polls, slated to be held in the next two to three months.

The Sena, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), and Congress alliance on Tuesday held their first joint programme in Vashi announcing that the election will be fought unitedly against BJP MLA Ganesh Naik. ■ FILE PHOTO



The Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress on Tuesday held their first joint programme in Vashi announcing that the election will be fought unitedly against BJP MLA Ganesh Naik. ■ FILE PHOTO

ban Development Department minister Eknath Shinde, and local Congress leaders participated in Tuesday's programme in Vashi.

"With the departure of Mr. Naik from the NCP, the party is left with no face to fight the poll. But with the unexpected turn of events at the State level and the party coming back to power, it is still in the contest. Some corporators will come back to the party fold," said a senior NCP leader. The party is ready to give more space to the Sena to ensure Mr. Naik and his family are defeated, he said.

On the other hand, the Sena has been fighting Mr. Naik for over years now. A former Sena leader, Mr. Naik had switched to the NCP and enjoyed a ministerial berth in the previous Congress-NCP governments in the State. He

single-handedly controlled the party and the NMMC, without letting others in the party to grow.

The BJP, despite being in power in 2015 in the State, had not managed to win more than seven seats in the 11-member corporation. "With Mr. Naik's entry into the BJP, it had hoped to expand its base, but the situation has changed yet again. We are determined to defeat him this time," said a Sena leader. Meanwhile, in the State Council election in Yavatmal district, Mr. Chaturvedi of the Sena won 298 votes while Mr. Bajoria managed only 185. The seat had become vacant after former MLC Tanaji Sawant of the Sena contested the Assembly election and won from Osmanabad's Bhoomi-Paranda constituency.

## Goa airport gets in-line baggage screening

Passengers can proceed to check-in counters without waiting near X-ray machines

ADITYA ANAND  
MUMBAI

The Dabolim airport in Goa has got a state-of-the-art in-line baggage screening system, where passengers do not have to queue up near the X-ray machines to scan their baggage before check-in and thus save precious time.

After starting the first leg of the in-line baggage screening on January 31, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) introduced the second leg on February 3. "This will eliminate the need for scanning check-in baggage before check-in counters. Passengers can now go straightaway to the counter thus saving time," an AAI official said.

The in-line baggage screening system installed is in compliance with the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security norms for ensuring safe



**Hassle-free:** The system will eliminate the need for scanning baggage before check-in counters. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

and secure in-line hold baggage screening system. From October 1, AAI Cargo Logistics and Allied Services Company Limited commenced operations on standalone screening system at Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad and Calicut airports, adding airports, in a phased manner.

In the automated in-line

Once a bag goes through the first X-ray scan, the image reaches the screen monitored by the security personnel in the control room. The bag then goes through a second screening. It is mandatory for each piece of luggage to pass through two X-ray machines.

"If the control room clears the luggage, it goes to a designated area in the basement through a conveyor belt. From there, the airline's luggage handlers take over. In the event of the control room doubting the contents of a bag, it is made to pass through a third X-ray machine. An experienced screener checks the image and, if cleared, the bag goes to the basement. If not, it is sent to the fourth level, where the owner is called and the bag manually checked," the official said.

## Teacher held for molesting students in Nanded

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
AURANGABAD

A 30-year-old teacher was arrested for allegedly molesting students at a primary school at Maltekdi in Nanded, the police said on Tuesday. Swapnil Shrungare was held on Monday for allegedly showing pornographic video clips to 10-year-old girl students at a primary school and molesting them, an official said.

The incident came to light on Saturday when one of the students fell ill after going home from school and confided in her parents about Mr. Shrungare, he said. The girl's parents found out that the accused had similarly harassed four other students by allegedly showing them pornographic videos, molesting them, and threatening to throw them from the school terrace, he said.

On Monday, parents reached the school and beat up Mr. Shrungare, following which he was handed over to the police. A case under sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act has been registered, upper superintendent of police Dattaram Rathod said.

**REGIONAL CANCER CENTRE**  
**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM- 695111**

**BHARAT COKING COAL LIMITED**  
**'A Mini Ratna Company'**  
**(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)**

SUB :- OPEN DOMESTIC TENDER WITH REVERSE AUCTION NOTICE NO-64

Online bids are invited from prospective bidders for Procurement of 1200 mm PVC Belting, 9.2 km length against Open Domestic with Reverse Auction Tender No-BCCPL/PUR/619129/PVC BELNING/19-20/64 having estimated value of Rs.178.15 LAKH(Aprox). Bid Submission end date 18-02-2020 & Bid/Tender Opening date is 19-02-2020. Full details of above tender is available on website <https://coалиndertenders.nic.in>, [www.bccweb.in](http://www.bccweb.in) & <https://e-procure.gov.in>. Prospective bidder are advised to visit the aforesaid websites to participation against above tenders and to note time to time the any corrigendum, clarifications etc. (if any).

Sd/-  
Chief Manager (MM-I)

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, RR Nagar Zone, No. 144, 2nd Main, Jagajyothi Layout, Bengaluru - 560 056

Date : 04.02.2020

**INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)**  
(Short Term Tender Notification) - TWO COVER SYSTEM  
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division invites tenders on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP, Bengaluru from eligible tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Approximate Value of Work (in Lakhs)	Amount Put to Tender (in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Comprehensive Development works to be undertaken around Cholanayakanahalli, Tavarekere and Chennenahalli Villages surrounding Solid Waste Processing Unit in Yeshwanthpura Assembly Constituency under PACKAGE-2019-20 KEN-DIV-(05). Annexure-05. Sl. No. 208, 211 & 212.	1,300.00	1,083.27	10,85,000/-
2	Comprehensive Development works to be undertaken around Cholanayakanahalli, Tavarekere, Kodigehalli and Chennenahalli Villages surrounding Solid Waste Processing Unit in Yeshwanthpura Assembly Constituency under PACKAGE-2019-20 KEN-DIV-(06).	1,000.00	833.31	12,50,000/-

**Calendar of Events:** (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from 17.02.2020 from 4:00 p.m. (2) Pre-bid Meeting : 24.02.2020 at 4:00 p.m. Venue : Office of the Chief Engineer, RR Nagar Zone, RR Nagar. (3) Last date & time for receipt of tenders : 02.03.2020 upto 4:00 p.m. (4) Bids will be opened on the website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> in the office of the Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division on 04.03.2020 at 4:00 p.m. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, BBMP

*"Pay Development Charges, Help to Develop Bengaluru"*

## Wardha teacher set ablaze by stalker critical

Specialist doctor flown in; expenses to be borne from CM's Medical Assistance Fund

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI/NAGPUR

The State government on Tuesday flew a burns specialist doctor to Nagpur, where a college teacher from Wardha district who was set on fire by a stalker is battling for life.

Home Minister Anil Deshmukh tweeted that Sunil Keswani, a specialist from the Navi Mumbai-based National Burns Centre, was accompanying him to Nagpur to supervise the treatment of the victim.

Meanwhile, residents of Hinganghat and Samudrapur in Wardha took out a protest march, demanding death penalty for the accused.



**Seeking justice:** Residents of Hinganghat and Samudrapur in Wardha take out a protest march on Tuesday, demanding death penalty for the accused. ■ S. SUDARSHAN

repeatedly explained to relatives and police personnel, the bulletin said.

Wardha's Guardian Minister Sunil Kedar and Hinganghat BJP MLA Samir Kunwar visited the hospital on Tuesday.

Mr. Deshmukh said the incident was a "blot on humanity". "The case will be tried in a fast-track court and the accused would be punished severely," he tweeted.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray asked the police to ensure that the accused was convicted. Mr. Thackeray took a serious note of the incident, a statement from his office said, adding the expenses of the woman's treatment would be borne from the Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Fund. The Maharashtra State Commission for Women on Monday directed the Wardha Superintendent of Police to submit a report on the incident.

An artist does not need a degree: Raj

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PUNE

An artist does not need a degree and nobody ever asked him what formal qualification he possesses as a political cartoonist, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray said on Tuesday.

Every child has talent for one form of art and it should be nurtured, Mr. Thackeray said at the inauguration of a cartoon drawing competition. "I do not know how many of you will become artists but I would like to say one thing, everyone has (talent for one art)," he said.

## Centre grants ₹296 cr. for automated vehicle inspection centres, test tracks

ADITYA ANAND  
MUMBAI

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has sanctioned ₹296.02 crore to Maharashtra for setting up of automated vehicle inspection and certification centres along with automated driving test tracks (ADTT).

The decision came about during a meeting between Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, and State Minister for Transport and Parliamentary Affairs, Anil Parab, on Tuesday.

"Of the remaining 48 centres, we had requested for the Central funding for 10 centres," the Minister said. The centres are to come up at Kolhapur, Aurangabad, Kalyan, Nagpur rural, Mumbai Central, Hingana-Nagpur, Panvel, Diveghat-Pune, and Nanded.

with technical assistance from the Automotive Research Association of India, Pune. The first such centre came up in Nashik in 2015 with a financial assistance of ₹14 crore from the Central government.

The State established the second centre on land owned by the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation, at Kurla (East).

"Since these projects are highly capital intensive in nature, requiring a huge investment for executing in a time-bound manner, we had requested financial assistance for 10 inspection and certification centres along with 22 ADTT at a total outlay of ₹296.02 crore and it has been approved," officials in the State Transport Department said.

### Karjat, नगर निगम हिंसा। कारण बताओ नोटिस

श्री मनोहर कुमार पुत्र श्री राधाकृष्ण, C/o ४०८ इंडेप्रेनर प्रॉप्रॉल स्टॉल नं-४९९ गुरु हाईवे नगर परिवहन विभाग नं-११०८७ को सूचित किया जाता है कि आप द्वारा खस्ता नं-४०२ // २, ४०५, ४०६, ४०८ मोजी दिलाई गई है एवं श्री राधाकृष्ण कर्मचारी गांधी शरीर संस्कार संस्था ९ व एपीएन-से अनुसार आपके द्वारा नार निगम विभाग को द्वारा ऐसा किया गया था, परन्तु आपके द्वारा ऐसा किया गया था। अतः आप इस नोटिस की प्राप्ति के १५ दिन में अन्दर अपनी सूचित स्थान कर अन्यथा आपके द्वारा ऐसा किया गया था। अतः आप इस नोटिस की प्राप्ति के १५ दिन में लाइ जायेगी।

आगुवान, नगर निगम हिंसा।

The government is also planning to set up a number of ADTT for completely computerised testing of drivers. The State in consultation with the Central Institute of Road Transport, Pune, has prepared a proposal for setting up 22 ADTT with an outlay of ₹156.22 crore.

"Since these projects are

highly capital intensive in nature, requiring a huge investment for executing in a time-bound manner, we had requested financial assistance for 10 inspection and certification centres along with 22 ADTT at a total outlay of ₹296.02 crore and it has been approved," officials in the State Transport Department said.

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## IN BRIEF



Gas leak in A.P. village plugged after 42 hours

**UPUDI**  
After struggling for about 42 hours, experts from the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) plugged the gas leak at Uppudi village in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday. Gas started gushing from a closed well around 3 p.m. on Sunday, when the employees of PFH Oil and Gas Private Limited, which had taken the well on lease, opened a valve. The ONGC team was assisted by fire services staff from the State and Mumbai.

## Cases against Karnataka farmers to be withdrawn

**BENGALURU**  
In a relief to farmers who took part in various protests in Karnataka, the Cabinet on Tuesday decided to withdraw 51 cases pending against them. Out of 51 cases, 35 are pending against farmers and their leader and former MP G. Made Gowda of the Cauvery Raitha Hita Rakshana Samiti of Mandy. At a Cabinet meet chaired by Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa it was decided that cases booked in connection with protests seeking Cauvery water would be withdrawn.

## Hospital MD ends life over harassment

**HYDERABAD**  
Karnala Ajay Kumar, the managing director of Vaishnavi Hospital located in LB Nagar here, committed suicide at his office on Tuesday allegedly due to harassment by the owner of the building in which the hospital is located. Mr. Kumar is said to have mentioned the names of seven people "responsible for his death" in his diary. His wife Swetha said building owner Karunakar Reddy had been harassing Mr. Kumar to vacate the premises for the past one month.

# States have to decide on their capitals, says Union Minister

Jagan asserts that A.P. government is committed to developing three capitals

STAFF REPORTER  
VIJAYAWADA

Union Minister of State for Home Nityananda Rai on Tuesday said States had to decide on their capitals within their territory.

Replying to a question by TDP MP from Guntur, Galla Jayadev, in the Lok Sabha, the Minister said the Government of Andhra Pradesh had notified Amaravati as the Capital City in a GO dated April 23, 2015. Recently, reports appeared in the media indicating the State government's plan to create three capitals for Andhra Pradesh. "It is for each State to decide its capital within its territory," he said.

Mr. Jayadev sought to know whether the Centre had taken note of the recent decision taken by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to set up three capitals, and how the Centre would react to the same.

The TDP MP wanted to know whether the Centre



Women taking out a rally in Vijayawada against the three-capital proposal. ■ K.V.S. GIRI

would advise the State government not to resort to such decisions, which would not only vitiate the investment climate but also be a great loss to thousands of farmers who had given their land for construction of Amaravati.

To a question by TDP MP from Vijayawada, Kesineni Srinivas, the Minister said public order and police were State subjects and the State government concerned was primarily responsible for

maintenance of law and order in the State and to take action against the culprits as per law. The Centre monitored the law and order and assisted the State governments during major problems by deploying Central armed police forces on the request of State governments, he said.

## Sops to farmers

Meanwhile, Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday showered sops on farmers of the Ama-

ravati region, even while asserting that the State government was committed to developing three Capitals.

## Justice for all regions'

The Chief Minister suggested that they come up with a wish list of works to be taken up in their villages. The works would be taken up in two to three months. The government would also develop the road network.

"I need to think like a father while sitting in the Chief Minister's chair. The State government will do justice to all regions and people. The Legislative Capital will be continued in Amaravati. The judicial capital will be developed in Kurnool and executive Capital in Visakhapatnam," he said interacting with the farmers. The government would take up the works in capital villages as per the priorities of the farmers. "Identify those eligible for pensions in capital villages through village volunteers," he said.

# FIR against two IPS officers in IMA scam

Nod from Karnataka govt. for probe

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The CBI has booked 10 persons, including Karnataka cadre IPS officers Hemant Nimbalkar and Ajay Hilori, in connection with the ₹4,000-crore I-Monetary Advisory (IMA) scam.

The registration of the case followed the Karnataka government's nod to probe the charges against Mr. Nimbalkar, a 1998-batch officer, who was the Inspector General of Police (CID); and Mr. Hilori, a 2008 batch officer, then the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Bengaluru East).



Hemant Nimbalkar and Ajay Hilori

been arraigned. The CBI had earlier registered three cases against the company, its sister concerns, Khan and others for their alleged role in the scam. It had also filed two chargesheets against the accused persons.

## RBI ignored

The IMA group allegedly collected ₹4,000 crore from thousands of investors offering high rate of returns on the investments since 2013.

The FIR alleges that the police officers received quid pro quo from the IMA group directors for not taking any action against them, despite repeated alerts from the RBI since 2016 about unauthorised collections by the group.

# Syro-Malabar Church firm on its stance on love jihad'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOCHE

The synod of the bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church says it has not approached the issue of 'love jihad' in a way that would affect the longstanding friendship with the Muslim community.

In a statement here on Tuesday, the Syro-Malabar Media Commission said the synod had only expressed its opinion that inter-religious love affairs caused family troubles and that such cases should be inquired into. And, the circumstances in which the bishops raised the demand continued to exist.

The statement comes in the wake of protests against the stance of the synod in the second week of January.

The synod had then called for inquiries into instances of 'love jihad' in which Christian girls fell victims to inter-religious love affairs. In some cases, such girls also joined terrorist organisations such as the Islamic State, the bishops had said.

However, Tuesday's statement from the Church said the Union Home Ministry had issued clarifications on the issue in the Lok Sabha. It had said there were no instances of 'love jihad' or 'love affairs with malicious intentions' reported in Kerala. There was no mention of 'love jihad' in the existing set of laws, the government said.

The Church statement, however, said the synod's opinion on the issue was based on information received from its various dioceses. The synod had expressed its anxiety over the issue based on the information it had received.

# Flower vendor in a fix after finding ₹30 cr. in wife's account

Karnataka police are trying to trace the person who deposited the amount into the account

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

What do you do when you wake up one morning to learn that ₹30 crore has been deposited in your wife's bank account overnight?

That's exactly what happened to a flower vendor from Channapatna in Karnataka who has been scrounging for funds so that he can undergo a medical procedure.

On December 2, 2019, bank officials came knocking on 32-year-old Syed Malik Burhan's door seeking an explanation for "some money" that had been deposited in his wife's account.

"We had only ₹60 in the SBI account, which is in my wife Rehana's name. We were trying to raise ₹2 lakh for an ear surgery I need to undergo, and then suddenly

there's around ₹30 crore in the account," he said.

Since then, Mr. Burhan has been running from one agency to another seeking help from the authorities to probe the source of the money. The bank account has been frozen.

On December 5, he went to the bank and sought details of the account stating that he wanted to file a com-

plaint. "But I was told that account was frozen and was not given any more details. I told the bank officers that a few days before the money appeared, I had ordered a saree for my wife online. The next day, a person who said he was an executive with the online platform called me to inform me that I was the winner of an SUV worth ₹14 lakh. He asked me to pay ₹6,900

towards the insurance of the vehicle following which he would send the car to his address. I told him that I had no money and needed ₹2 lakh for my surgery. The person took bank account details and OTP number and disconnected the call saying that he would get back to me," Mr. Burhan said.

Mr. Burhan said he recently got a call from an unidentified man who claimed that he was the one who deposited the money. "He said I could keep ₹15 crore if I transferred the remaining ₹15 crore back to him," he said.

The police suspect that the account has been misused by online fraudsters and are trying to track down the person who had contacted Mr. Burhan.

■ G. RAMAKRISHNA

## 28 special courts to clear POCSO cases

K.S. SUDHI  
KOCHE

Exclusive courts for clearing the pendency of cases booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in two years will start functioning in Kerala before March.

As many as 28 such courts will be made operational across the State before the end of the fiscal. It is estimated that nearly 7,000 POCSO cases are pending.

Thiruvananthapuram

will have four courts,

the maximum number among all districts.

It has been decided

to set up one court for every 165 pending cases.

All courts will be headed

by District and Sessions Judges.

It is estimated that each court would require ₹75 lakh.

While the Centre will

meet 60% of the ex-

penses, the State will have

to chip in 40%.

# More Bidar school students quizzed in sedition case

80 pupils interrogated so far by police for school play

STAFF REPORTER  
BIDAR/BENGALURU

Plainclothes policemen, led by Deputy Superintendent of Police Basaveshwar Hira, continued to question children at Shaheen School on Tuesday as part of the investigation into the sedition case slapped against the institution over a play staged by the students that was allegedly "insulting" to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Three policemen, along with two female members of the Child Welfare Committee, arrived at the school at 10.30 a.m. with a list of eight students.

## Quizzed for two hours

Mr. Hira, the investigating officer in the case, summoned the students in two batches and questioned them for over two hours.

It is learnt that the investi-



A candlelight vigil held in Bengaluru condemning the police action. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

gating officer asked the same set of questions already put to other students, such as who scripted the play, who wrote the dialogues, whether they had watched the rehearsals.

The police also asked the students if their parents had watched the play when it was staged during the school's annual day

celebrations. In such cases, the police took down details of the parents. Eighty students have been subjected to questioning so far.

The anticipatory bail plea of five persons related to the school, including its head Abdul Qadir, and another petition for interim bail filed by Nazbunnisa, the mother of the child who delivered the controversial dialogues, and Fareeda Begum, the headteacher who supervised the play, are posted for hearing on Wednesday.

Ms. Nazbunnisa and Ms. Farida were arrested on January 30.

In Bengaluru, child rights' activists, lawyers and scholars have condemned the police action and demanded immediate withdrawal of all criminal cases against the accused, and the release of the arrested women.

# 'Healing Christ' statue enters URF book of world records

It took 18 months to make the 2,400-kg sculpture

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PATHANAMTHITTA

A tri-metal sculpture of Jesus Christ, Healing Christ, on the central courtyard of the Believers Church Medical College (BCMC) Hospital in Thiruvalla has entered the Universal Records Forum's (URF) book of world records.

Fr. Sijo Panthappallil of the Believers Eastern Church said URF chief executive officer Saudeep Chatterjee officially communicated the matter to the church.

A URF team adjudged that the 368-cm tall statue, weighing 2,400 kg, is the largest one of its kind in the



The tri-metal statue at the Believers Church Medical College Hospital in Thiruvalla, Pathanamthitta, was unveiled in 2014.

# Yediyurappa promises July reshuffle to buy peace

Legislators from coastal region and Kalyana Karnataka seek better representation in Cabinet

STAFF REPORTER  
BENGALURU

Amid growing discontent in the Karnataka BJP ahead of Thursday's Cabinet expansion, Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa seems to be buying peace by promising a reshuffle in July.

Sources in the party said the Chief Minister has spoken to several ministerial aspirants, including those from Kalyana Karnataka region, who held a series of meetings in the city on Monday and Tuesday over demands for Ministries.

Mr. Yediyurappa is believed to have explained that appointing newcomers as ministers was imperative and that the party high command had only cleared an



B.S. Yediyurappa

expansion, not reshuffle. He also appealed to the disgruntled MLAs to "understand and cooperate", sources said.

During the meetings, Mr. Yediyurappa also reportedly promised that he would reshuffle the Cabinet in July.

Seven seats in the Legislative Council will then become vacant and he has promised to make disqualified MLAs R Shankar and MTB Nagaraj MLCs and Ministers.

## Calls for 'sacrifice'

Notwithstanding the Chief Minister's olive branch, there has been a growing clamour for senior Ministers to "sacrifice" their posts to accommodate others from the party.

Saundatti MLA Anand C. Mamani, in a series of tweets on Tuesday, said "seniors who have enjoyed power in all governments till now refuse to give it up." Basanagouda Patil Yatnal on Monday had said "an evaluation

of ministers was necessary and non-performers removed to accommodate the more deserving."

As ministers at Tuesday's Cabinet meeting expressed concerns over reports of a reshuffle, the Chief Minister assured them there will only be an expansion this week. But he said he may have to go for a reshuffle later this year, a senior minister said.

## Regional balance

Meanwhile, several MLAs from Kalyana Karnataka region and Coastal Karnataka have demanded "adequate representation" in the cabinet.

Of the 40 seats in the Kalyana Karnataka region consisting of six districts, the BJP

won 15 in 2018 and added another to its tally with Anand Singh joining party and winning the recent bypolls. However, the region has only two Ministers in the Cabinet – Prabhu Chauhan and Anand Singh.

Similarly, though the party won 16 of 19 seats in coastal Karnataka in 2018 and added another with Shivaram Hebbar joining the BJP and winning the bypolls, none of the MLAs has found a berth in the Cabinet. Kota Srinivasa Poojary, the sole Minister from the region is an MLC. Mr. Hebbar will now make to the Cabinet.

These MLAs have also opposed a berth for C.P. Yashwant Hegde, as he was defeated in the 2018 Assembly polls.

## IN BRIEF



I-T officials levy fine of ₹66 lakh on Rajinikanth

CHENNAI  
The Income Tax (IT) department recently withdrew all proceedings against actor Rajinikanth for alleged concealment of his income because the penalty to be recovered was less than ₹1 crore. Records show that they had chosen to levy a minimum penalty of ₹66.21 lakh, while the maximum penalty would have been ₹1.98 crore.

## Five antique idols seized in Tamil Nadu

CHENNAI  
In a major operation, officers of the Idol Wing on Tuesday arrested four persons in Keeranur, near Pudukkottai in Tamil Nadu, and seized five antique panchaloha idols and a pedestal from them. The suspects were planning to sell the rare variety of antique idols for ₹20 crore to prospective customers.

## Lawyers take out rally against CAA-NRC-NPR

KOLKATA  
Hundreds of lawyers practising at the Calcutta High Court and some district courts took out a protest rally against CAA, NRC and NPR here on Tuesday. Coming together under the banner 'Lawyers for Democracy', the advocates walked from the HC to Subodh Mallick Square in central Kolkata, covering a distance of 2 km.

## Petrol bunk manager killed in bomb attack

VILLUPURAM  
A gang hurled country bombs inside a petrol bunk in Thiru Nagar in Tamil Nadu's Villupuram district on Tuesday, killing a 50-year-old man, whom it mistook to be the owner. The police identified the deceased as S. Srinivasan, a resident of Panruti in Cuddalore, who was working as the manager at the fuel station.

## Five persons arrested for murder in Odisha

BERHAMPUR  
Five persons, including a panchayat samithi member, were arrested in the Bandhugao block of Odisha's Koraput district on charges of murdering a person. They believed that the victim, Mangudu Huluka, was a practitioner of sorcery.

## Manipur Speaker hears petitions against Minister

IMPHAL  
Manipur Speaker Yunnam Khemchand on Tuesday heard disqualification petitions against State Environment Minister Thounaojam Shyamkumar. However, he reserved the ruling. The Supreme Court directed the Speaker to dispose of the petitions within four weeks.

## Nirbhaya case: HC to decide on plea today

Centre and Delhi govt. had challenged the trial court's stay on the execution of the convicts

## STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court will on Wednesday pronounce its verdict on the Centre's plea challenging the stay on execution of the four convicts in the December 16, 2012 gang-rape and murder case.

Justice Suresh Kumar Kait had on February 2 reserved order on the Centre's plea after holding a special hearing on Saturday and Sunday.

The Centre and the Delhi government had challenged the trial court's January 31 order staying "till further orders" the execution of all the four convicts in the case – Mukesh Kumar Singh, 32, Pawan Kumar Gupta, 25, Vinay Kumar Sharma, 26, and Akshay Kumar, 31.

Earlier in the day, the parents of the victim moved an application before the High Court to expeditiously decide the Centre's plea.

On December 16, 2012, the paramedical student was gang-raped and brutally as-



Long wait: Nirbhaya's parents speaking to the media in New Delhi in 2018. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

saulted by six men in a private bus and thrown out of the moving vehicle along with her male friend. The victim later succumbed to injuries.

## Death sentence

All the four convicts have been sentenced to death. The order has been upheld by the High Court and the Supreme Court. Except Pawan, all convicts have ex-

hausted their legal remedy available to file a curative petition before the Supreme Court. The President has already rejected the mercy pleas of convicts Mukesh and Vinay.

A juvenile convict in the case has been released from a reformation home after serving a three-year term. One of the accused in the case, Ram Singh, died in Tihar jail.

## Hang Nirbhaya convicts at the earliest: AAP leader

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party member Sanjay Singh, speaking in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, sought the intervention of Parliament, the President and the Chief Justice of India to ensure that the convicts in the Nirbhaya gang-rape case are hanged at the earliest.

Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu, concurring with Mr. Singh's submission, said the matter was "very sensitive and serious" and the court judgment must be implemented at the earliest.

## 'Date after date'

Speaking during zero hour, Mr. Singh said though a fast track court was set up and the sentence given, the hanging had been repeated



Sanjay Singh

ly delayed. "Tarikh pe Tarikh (date after date)," he said, in an apparent reference to a famous dialogue from the film *Damini*. "I request you, whether it is President of India or Chief Justice of India, the convicts must be hanged at the earliest," he added.

Observing that people were agitated, Mr. Naidu said those in the system must fulfil their responsibilities.

## 'CJI has to take final call on live-streaming'

## LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to direct the court's administrative side to frame rules and implement a September 26, 2018 judgment to live-stream courtroom proceedings, especially in nationally important cases.

The Bench led by Justice Arun Mishra told senior advocate Indira Jaising, who is the petitioner in the case, and Attorney General K.K. Venugopal that "there cannot be any mandamus from the judicial side of the Court. The decision has to come from the administrative side alone".

Justice Mishra said the Chief Justice of India, as the administrative head of the Supreme Court, had to take the final call on live-streaming of proceedings and the Bench cannot "compel" him.

## WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE &amp; AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

Forecast for Wednesday: Cold wave conditions likely over isolated parts of Punjab and Haryana.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	... 24.9...	07.8	...	Kozhikode	... 34.2...	24.0	...
Ahmedabad	... 28.3...	11.1	...	Kurnool	... 34.1...	19.9	...
Aizawl	... 17.4...	08.0	...	Lucknow	... 22.6...	07.6	...
Allahabad	... 23.1...	09.0	...	Madurai	... 33.8...	22.8	...
Bengaluru	... 31.0...	16.9	...	Mangaluru	... 33.9...	22.5	...
Bhopal	... 24.4...	08.2	...	Mumbai	... 29.2...	18.5	...
Bhubaneswar	... 26.9...	10.6	...	Mysuru	... 31.5...	18.3	...
Chennai	... 31.2...	11.0	...	New Delhi	... 22.2...	06.5	...
Coimbatore	... 32.4...	21.5	...	Patai	... 23.4...	07.6	...
Dehradun	... 20.2...	05.3	...	Port Blair	... 31.4...	24.8	...
Gangtok	... 13.1...	04.4	...	Puducherry	... 31.0...	21.6	...
Goa	... 32.0...	21.5	...	Pune	... 32.0...	16.5	...
Guwahati	... 32.0...	21.5	...	Raipur	... 22.6...	16.6	...
Hubballi	... 31.0...	18.0	...	Ranchi	... 23.7...	08.5	...
Hyderabad	... 32.2...	19.4	...	Shillong	... 14.7...	03.1	...
Imphal	... 21.4...	03.1	...	Shimla	... 08.4...	02.5	...
Jaipur	... 22.3...	11.0	...	Srinagar	... 07.7...	3.0	...
Kochi	... 33.0...	23.8	...	Tiruchi	... 33.2...	20.8	...
Kohima	... 15.6...	06.7	...	Vijayawada	... 31.8...	22.0	...
Kolkata	... 24.8...	10.0	...	Visakhapatnam	... 14.6...	24.2...	22.2

(Rainfall in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing Yesterday

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	CODE
Ahmedabad	55.76	21	181	123	...	■
Bengaluru	13.66	99	...	...	85	■
Chennai	41.26	60	135	...	...	■
Delhi	25	31	395	343	...	■
Hyderabad	01.55	22	71	85	...	■
Kolkata	33.95	22	207	191	...	■
Lucknow	08.59	21	344	59	...	■
Mumbai	05.26	31	219	133	...	■
Pune	67.21	75	94	83	...	■
Visakhapatnam	10.56	79	65	62	...	■

In observation made at 6.00 AM

Pune recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 342 indicating a hazardous level of pollution.

In contrast, Ramagappa, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 46.

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

SO<sub>2</sub>: 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<sub>x</sub>: 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<sub>2.5</sub> & PM<sub>10</sub>: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Several pacts to be signed at Defexpo 2020: Rajnath

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LUCKNOW

Several Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Request for Proposals (RFP) will be signed with several countries during the Defexpo 2020 in Lucknow, De-

fence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday.

The expo is expected to see the conclusion of several cooperative agreements between Indian and foreign companies to manufacture defence equipment in India.

**SOUTHERN RAILWAY**  
Website: [www.sr.indiarailways.gov.in](http://www.sr.indiarailways.gov.in)  
**VENDORS' MEET 2020**  
Southern Railway is organizing vendor meet at Nilgiri Sabha, New Joint Office, Ayanavaram, Chennai - 600023 on **07.02.2020 (Friday)** from **10:00 hrs to 13:00 hrs**. The focus of the event will be on creating awareness on major policy initiatives and particularly on educating the vendors regarding 'Letter of Credit' payment mode and its benefits. On this occasion, critical items having single or limited sources will be exhibited for the attention of vendors to develop more sources. All vendors of the Indian Railways and other potential vendors are invited to attend. For details, contact Shri D. Rajagopal, Dy.CMM/M/PER Mobile No. +919003060776, email - [dycmm@sr.railnet.gov.in](mailto:dycmm@sr.railnet.gov.in) or Shri Lakshmi Pathipati Rao, Ch OS/Joint Office, Phone No.+918417 54916. **PRINCIPAL CHIEF MATERIALS MANAGER, CHENNAI**

**TELANGANA INDUSTRIAL HEALTH CLINIC LIMITED**  
Regd. Office: "PARISHRAMA BHAVANAM" 5-9-58/B, Fathe Maidan Road, Hyderabad- 500 004, Telangana. Phone: 040- 2323 6399, 2329 8799  
**NOTIFICATION**  
Applications fulfilling eligibility criteria in all respects supported by all documents like Qualification, Experience etc., along with passport size photographs (2) as specified in the website of the Company: [www.tihcl.telangana.gov.in](http://www.tihcl.telangana.gov.in), are invited before 20th February 2020 for the post of Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer in "Telangana Industrial Health Clinic Limited", on Contract basis. Soft copy with attachments can be mailed to [erram@tihcl.org](mailto:erram@tihcl.org). Hard copy of the application can be sent before the specified date to the Head Administration, Telangana Industrial Health Clinic Limited marking on the cover as "confidential". No other correspondence or communication with any official of TIHCL will be entertained.  
Place: Hyderabad  
Date: 05-02-2020  
Sd/-  
MD & CEO, TIHCL

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## PUBLIC NOTICE FOR APPROVAL PROCESS 2020-21

AICTE invites applications for approval from all the existing and new Technical Institutions for conducting Technical Programmes/Courses for the academic session 2020-21. Details are available at [www.aictc-india.org](http://www.aictc-india.org)

All applicants are requested to read carefully and thoroughly



## Need of the hour

The Centre must stop privileging religious persecution over other forms

**A**s protests continue to ripple in many parts of the country against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, or the CAA, the National Population Register (NPR) and allied issues, their nature, content and direction have drawn critical attention. The introduction of a religious test for Indian citizenship through the CAA evoked widespread public indignation. Right-thinking people from all walks of life mobilised in a manner befitting a vibrant democracy, and several State governments and Assemblies have expressed reservations. Students have been in the forefront of protests that marked an awakening from a defeatist slumber of the country in the face of creeping majoritarianism. As the protests linger on, however, they appear to be sliding into the control of vested interests that work for religious polarisation. The discriminatory CAA targets Muslims, but the protests were driven by the wider civil society at the beginning. Incendiary speeches and slogans at anti-CAA protests, and even support for Islamist politics, have put non-sectarian opponents of the law in a difficult spot. Muslims have equal rights as all other citizens of India to assemble and protest, but reducing the CAA debate into a question of their rights alone is dishonour of the pluralist, inclusive Constitution of secular India. After the success in kindling a national debate on the issue which is now before the Supreme Court that will litigate its constitutionality, anti-CAA protesters must now hold their fire.

The opportunity that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) snuffed in the protests is not to reach out and reconcile, but to confront and polarise, particularly in the campaign for the Delhi Assembly election. The chilling effect of the party's brazen vilification and dehumanisation of the protesters is no longer an abstract fear. Three separate incidents of firing at protesters, two clearly inspired by Hindutva politics, have been reported in Delhi. Far from condemning these incidents in the strongest terms and ensuring swift and strict police action, the BJP leadership has continued with divisive rhetoric. A Union Minister led slogans calling for the "shooting of traitors". The BJP must immediately adopt a path of reconciliation and resolution. One way is by making a further amendment to the CAA that will not prioritise religious persecution over other forms of persecution. No protester is against welcoming the persecuted from three neighbouring countries listed in the CAA. By amending the law to remove the arbitrary selection of countries and religious groups, the current turmoil can be easily calmed. A small step of reason and vision will serve India well.

## Punish the police

Bidar case involves both misuse of law and police high-handedness

**T**he action taken by the police against a private school in Bidar district of Karnataka must rank among the worst instances of the misuse of the sedition provision in penal law in recent times. Teams of police personnel have been visiting the Shaheen School for some days now, and they have already arrested a teacher and a parent so far, for an allegedly seditious and inflammatory play against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, in which it is claimed some remarks purportedly insulting to the Prime Minister were made. It is unbelievable that the police would waste their time in pursuing a complaint by a right-wing activist about a play performed by children between the ages of nine and 12. That primary schoolchildren are being subjected to sustained harassment with utter disregard for child-friendly laws and procedures is an egregious violation that the police seem to be committing with impunity. The arrest of a teacher who is said to have supervised the performance and the mother of a child on the allegation that she had added words to the script is particularly condemnable. It is a clear case of misuse of the power to arrest, when it is merely a verbal offence and does not require any custodial interrogation. Besides sedition under Section 124A, the provisions invoked concern insult aimed at provoking breach of peace, statements made with intent to incite people against the state and promote enmity between groups on the basis of religion. It is indeed bizarre for the police to believe that all these offences were made at a play involving a group of children.

It was only a few days ago that a Supreme Court Bench observed that words such as 'anti-national' and 'sedition' were being bandied about loosely these days. The incident in Bidar exemplifies this trend. And it also confirms that the law is often used to silence political comment on matters deemed sensitive by the rulers. Sedition, an outdated provision which deserves no place in a modern penal code, has been invoked to portray political dissent as promotion of disaffection. Often forgotten is the fact that it cannot be invoked without the essential ingredients for invoking the section, namely, an imminent threat to public order and incitement to take up arms or resort to violence. It is also noteworthy that the police have deemed the opposition to the citizenship law amendment as something against the state, when the section itself has an explanation that nothing that seeks to get the government to change its policy by lawful means is sedition. There must be something seriously wrong with a police system that believes that everyone who is suspected of committing an offence is to be arrested. Given the pervasive misuse of the sedition provision as well as the power to arrest, it may be time to strengthen conduct rules to provide for exemplary punishment to police personnel who violate constitutional guarantees of free speech and personal liberty in an arbitrary way.

# Continuity and fiscal follow-through

The 15th Finance Commission, by and large, has gone with the approach and methodology of earlier Commissions



M. GOVINDA RAO

**T**he appointment of the Fifteenth Finance Commission by the President of India under Article 280 of the Constitution was notified on November 27, 2017. It was required to submit the report by October 30, 2019 for five years for the period 2020-21 to 2024-25. However, due to various political and fiscal developments, notifications were issued first, on July 27 extending the tenure of the Commission up to November 30, 2019, and again on November 29 requiring it to submit two reports, one for 2020-21 and the second covering the period of five years beginning April 1, 2021 and further extending the tenure up to October 30, 2021. The first report submitted by the Commission was placed in Parliament by the Union Finance Minister before presenting the Union Budget on February 1, 2019.

### Basis for extension

There were good reasons for extending the tenure of the Finance Commission as making medium-term projections in the current scenario would have entailed serious risks. First, the abolition of Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir required the Commission to make an estimation excluding the Union Territory. Second, the deceleration in growth and low inflation has substantially slowed down the nominal GDP growth which is the main tax base proxy; making pro-

jections of tax revenues and expenditures based on this for the medium term could have posed serious risks. Finally, poor revenue performance of tax collection and more particularly Goods and Services Tax combined with the fact that the compensation agreement to the loss of revenue to the States was effective only two years of the period covered by the Commission's recommendations posed uncertainties.

### On projections

The Commission has continued with the approach and methodology adopted by the previous Commissions for tax devolution and revenue-gap grants. It has made projections of revenues and revenue expenditures of the Union and individual States, applied selective norms to the latter, recommended devolution of taxes to the States from the divisible pool, and recommended revenue deficit grants for the States which had post-devolution gaps. Although there were apprehensions that it may deviate from past practice as the terms of reference of the Commission had indicated, "The Commission may also examine whether revenue deficit grants be provided at all", it continued with the past practice.

By stating that, "...stability and predictability of resources is an essential component of good long-term budgeting for both Union and States", the Fifteenth Finance Commission continued with the recommendation of the previous Commission relating to vertical division of taxes, and adjusted the State's share to 41% to exclude the share of Jammu and Kashmir. There were media reports that the share would be reduced and by



GETTY IMAGES

maintaining the share, the Commission has avoided controversy.

However, for the period 2021-25, it has stated: "Our recommendation in the final report would undergo changes and adjustments as appropriate, in the light of subsequent data and analysis". For the horizontal shares, however, the formula has been changed to consider "fiscal needs, equity and efficiency".

### Addressing States' concerns

In addition to income distance, population and area and forest cover, it has used two additional factors – demographic performance and tax effort. It has assigned 15% weight to the 2011 population, reduced the weight of income distance to 45%, increased the weight to forest cover and ecology to 10% and 12.5% weight to demographic performance and 2.5% weight to tax effort. There was considerable controversy over the terms of reference of the Commission requiring it to use 2011 population in its formula by the States that had taken initiatives to arrest population growth.

By keeping the weight of 2011 population at 15% and giving an

additional 12.5% to demographic performance which is the inverse of fertility rate, the Commission has shown sensitivity to the concerns of these States.

In terms of relative shares in tax devolution, among the major States the biggest loser is Karnataka followed by Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Kerala and Andhra Pradesh have post-devolution gaps and hence qualify for revenue gap grants. The major reason for Karnataka and Kerala losing on devolution is that their per capita income growth has been faster than most other States. The difference from the highest per capita income in both Karnataka and Kerala is just about 10% now as compared to 34% and 23%, respectively, for the two States when the Fourteenth Finance Commission made the recommendation.

In the case of Karnataka and Telangana, as the projected transfer (devolution and revenue-gap grants) in 2020-21 were lower than 2019-20, the Commission recommended a special grant of ₹5,495 crore and ₹723 crore, respectively. However, the government has not accepted the recommendation and has asked the Commission to reconsider it.

### Local body grants

The recommended grants for local bodies amount to ₹90,000 crore comprising ₹60,750 crore for panchayats and the remaining ₹29,250 crore for municipal bodies. All the three layers of panchayats will receive the grant and 50% of the grant is tied to improving sanitation and supply of drinking water; the remaining is untied. In the case of municipal bodies, ₹9,229 crore is allocated to cities with a

million-plus population and the remaining ₹20,021 is allocated to other towns. In the case of disaster relief, the Commission has recommended the creation of disaster mitigation fund at the Central and State levels. For disaster management, a total of ₹28,183 crore has been determined of which the Central contribution will be ₹22,184 crore. Inter-State allocation is made based on past expenditures, area and population and disaster risk index.

The Commission has worked out a framework for giving some sectoral grants as well. For 2020-21, it has recommended ₹7,735 crore for improving nutrition based on the numbers of children in the 0-6 age group and lactating mothers. In the main report, it has proposed to give grants for police training, modernisation and housing, railway projects in States taken on a cost-sharing basis, maintenance of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana roads, strengthening the judicial system, and improving the statistical system. The States are required to prepare the necessary grounds. It has also presented a broad framework for recommending monitorable performance grants for agricultural reform, development of aspirational districts and blocks, power sector reform, and incentives to enhance trade including exports and pre-primary education. The challenge, however, will be to design and dovetail sectoral and performance grants with the existing plethora of central sector and centrally sponsored schemes.

M. Govinda Rao is former Director, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) and Member, Fourteenth Finance Commission

## A case of a maritime presence adrift

India's negligible presence and interventions in the International Maritime Organization is affecting its interests



L.K. PANDA &  
M. KALYANARAMAN

**A**s the millennium dawned, the world feared that computers would crash because of the Y2K bug. Twenty years later, as 2020 kicked in, there were fears that merchant ships would sputter to a halt, disrupting world trade.

The reason? The International Maritime Organization (IMO), the United Nations agency tasked with regulating shipping, had mandated that merchant ships should not burn fuel with sulphur content greater than 0.5% beginning January 1.

Before the ban, fuel had a comfortable sulphur content limit of 3.5%, which was applicable to most parts of the world. Despite the industry gradually gearing up to introduce the new fuel, many industry professionals feared that the new very-low-sulphur fuel would be incompatible with the engines and other vessel equipment.

Past mandates on sulphur limits in American waters had led to many technical problems. There have been instances of ships having been stranded after fine particles separated out from the fuel, damaging equipment and clogging up devices.

This has not happened so far. But the global sulphur cap is only one of the many environment-related regulations that have been shaking up the shipping industry;

the industry is generally risk-averse and slow to accept changes. For instance, efforts are ongoing to reduce nitrogen oxides (NOx) and ozone-depleting gases. Further, the IMO has announced an ambitious project to decarbonise shipping in order to reduce carbon emissions. These regulations are triggering massive technological, operational and structural changes; they come at a price which will have to be borne to a large extent by developing countries such as India.

The IMO currently lists India as among the 10 states with the "largest interest in international sea-borne trade". But India's participation in the IMO to advance its national interests has been desultory and woefully inadequate.

### Global regulator

Shipping, which accounts for over 90% by volume and about 80% by value of global trade, is a highly regulated industry with a range of legislation promulgated by the IMO.

The IMO currently has 174 member states and three associate members; there are also scores of non-governmental and inter-governmental organisations.

The IMO's policies or conventions have a serious impact on every aspect of shipping including the cost of maritime trade. The sulphur cap, for instance, will reduce emissions and reduce the health impact on coastal populations but ship operational costs are going up since the new fuel product is more expensive. As refineries including those in India struggle to meet the demand, freight costs have started moving up, with a cascading effect on re-

tails prices.

The IMO, like any other UN agency, is primarily a secretariat, which facilitates decision-making processes on all maritime matters through meetings of member states. The binding instruments are brought in through the conventions – to which member states sign on to for compliance – as well as amendments to the same and related codes.

Structurally, maritime matters are dealt by the committees of the IMO – the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), Technical Cooperation Committee, Legal Committee and the Facilitation Committee. Each committee is designated a separate aspect of shipping and supported by sub-committees. Working groups and correspondence groups support the subcommittees.

The subcommittees are the main working organs, where the proposals from a member state are parsed before they are forwarded to one of the main committees. The main committees, thereafter, with the nod of the Assembly, put the approved proposal for enactment through the Convention, amendments, and codes or circulars.

Prominent maritime nations have their permanent representa-

tives at London and are supported by a large contingent of domain experts from their maritime administration, seafarers and industry associations during the meetings. They ensure that they have representation in every subcommittee, working group and even correspondence groups so that they are clued in. Lobbying is key while event sponsorship generates goodwill and support.

### A feeble voice

To ensure that their maritime interests are protected, the European countries move their proposals in unison and voting or support are given en bloc. China, Japan, Singapore, Korea and a few others represent their interests through their permanent representative as well as ensuring that a large delegation takes part and intervenes in the meetings.

While these countries have fiercely protected their interests, India has not. For example, its permanent representative post at London has remained vacant for the last 25 years. Representation at meetings is often through a skeletal delegation, approved by the Ministry. Participation in IMO meetings is seen more as a junctet. A review of IMO documents shows that the number of submissions made by India in the recent past has been meagre and not in proportion to India's stakes in global shipping.

There have also been obstacles in pushing issues which are of importance to India. A classic case was the promulgation of "High Risk Areas" when piracy was at its peak and dominated media headlines.

The IMO's demarcation resulted

in half the Arabian Sea and virtually the entire south-west coast of India being seen as piracy-infested, despite the presence of the Indian Navy and Coast Guard. The "Enrica Lexie" shooting incident of 2012, off the coast of Kerala was a direct fallout of the demarcation.

The "High Risk Area" formulation led to a ballooning of insurance costs; it affected goods coming into or out of India. It took great efforts to revoke the promulgation and negate the financial burden. The episode highlighted India's apathy and inadequate representation at the IMO. There was also great difficulty in introducing the indigenously designed NavIC (NAVigation with Indian Constellation) in the worldwide maritime navigation system.

In contrast, the European Union has a documented procedure on how to influence the IMO. New legislative mandates, fitment of new equipment and changes to ship structural designs being brought on have been driven by developed countries. They are not entirely pragmatic from the point of view of India's interests. Further, it will not be mere speculation to see them as efforts to push products and companies based in the West.

So far, India's presence and participation in the IMO has been at the individual level. India should now make its presence felt so that its national interests are served. It is time India regained its status as a major maritime power.

Captain L.K. Panda retired as Nautical Adviser to the Government of India and has represented India in the IMO. M. Kalyanaraman is a marine engineer-turned journalist.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

### No debate

It is unfortunate that the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha has repeatedly refused to entertain notices given under Rule 267, on the issue of giving space to the Opposition (Inside pages, "Debate denial irks Rajya Sabha MPs", February 4). Undoubtedly, the nationwide protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the National Register of Citizens were significant events in the recent past, if not post-Independence history. Hence, it would have been imperative to discuss and debate these issues in the Rajya Sabha. On the other hand, it has not been uncommon to find those in the ruling regime

launching into monologues about the CAA and the NRC from time to time. If they have the facts, the logic and reason, it is unclear why they are shying away from a debate in Parliament. A. VENKATASUBRAMANIAN, Tenmuri, Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

**Remarks on Mahatma**  
It is highly condemnable the way the Father of the Nation is being maligned and the sacrifices he had made to achieve freedom trivialised by those in politics (Page 1, "BJP pulls up Hedge for remarks on Gandhiji", February 4). Casting aspersions on the motives and commitment of leaders such as Gandhiji and Jawaharlal Nehru, who put their heart and soul in

the pursuit of freedom, and eulogising those who played insignificant or subversive roles during the freedom struggle have become routine as far as certain political members are concerned. This does not need elaboration. Such thoughtless utterances fabricating the events of the past with ulterior motives will only create a negative impact in the minds of the generations born after Independence; it must be remembered that they do not have any first-hand knowledge of the trials and tribulations of the country and what our selfless leaders underwent during the freedom movement. The reaction of the BJP's leadership in similar cases

in the past does not give any confidence or comfort that it would act with an iron hand to avoid a recurrence of such statements. V. SUBRAMANIAN, Chennai

■ When the 150th birth anniversary of Bapu is in focus, it is unfortunate that a sitting MP of the ruling party makes such disparaging remarks about the Father of the Nation. The Opposition's lack of unity on many critical national issues is what has emboldened the ruling party to think it can get away with anything. It is high time the party in question learnt its lessons. A.V. AKHILESH, Bengaluru

### LIC listing

The Life Insurance Corporation of India today stands in the global market with an unbeatable record and reputation. Even years after opening up the field to private players, it enjoys an enviable market share, which portrays its trustworthiness and performance. Its mega asset base and dividends are its crown jewels. The Central government's decision to have this goos

that lays the golden egg listed in the market is either a proclamation of the government's inefficiency to tackle the financial difficulties of the nation effectively or a blatant display of its commitment to its slogan of 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance'. A.G. RAJMOHAN, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh

that lays the golden egg listed in the market is either a proclamation of the government's inefficiency to tackle the financial difficulties of the nation effectively or a blatant display of its commitment to its slogan of 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance'.

"Divorce sealed, Brexit finally arrives today" (Jan. 31, 2020) erroneously gave the population of Britain as half a billion instead of 66 million. The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300. E-mail: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in



# How to reduce NRC's administrative burdens

Citizens should not be asked to provide the same information more than once to government agencies



**SRINIVAS YERRAMSETTI**

In June 2014, the government set out to change how the government worked. At that time, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke in a meeting of Union Secretaries about "reforming the public service delivery system and bridging the governance deficit" by introducing "self-certification" in place of "affidavits". That event revealed his enthusiasm and commitment to improving the ease of citizen-state interactions. However, there is little public evidence after that, of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances systematically following up with government departments to allow self-attestation of documents and to reduce the use of affidavits.

Mr. Modi displayed the same initiative in convincing the public to embrace Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) reforms. He was successful in reframing technocratic goals in populist terms, thereby enhancing DBT reforms' public legitimacy. Schemes such as Ujjwala demonstrated his government's adeptness at translating 'good governance' into popular politics by expanding market access to cooking gas in rural areas.

#### Compliance barriers

The reliance on centralised technology solutions as part of DBT reforms has enhanced the effectiveness and efficiency in the operations of government agencies and their private partners. But the absence of concerted efforts towards reorganising the government's internal processes to improve the ease of identification, authentication, and verification of policy targets creates risks for the long-term viability of the expansion of such digitalised welfare. The hardships for policy targets arise because each of DBT's inter-linked service conditionals, such as mobile connectivity, banking, and LPG distribution, spanning many policy domains creates its unique set of hurdles. Each conditionality effectively operates as a sieve that filters out those who are unable to fulfil the com-



"Schemes such as Ujjwala demonstrate the Modi government's adeptness at translating 'good governance' into popular politics." ■ KAMAL NARANG

pliance requirements. The legitimacy derived from such welfare expansion can potentially diminish if those who are meant to benefit from such digitalised welfare policies exit those social programmes in the long run, due to the intractable nature of the programme's compliance barriers.

Similarly, in the implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam, the tyranny of administrative rule-making combined with centralised, technology-driven administrative processing has created public discontent. Predictably, after the Citizenship (Amendment) Act was passed, public anger spilled over into the streets even before the detailed implementation guidelines were put in place. Much of the political opposition is against the exclusion categories within the letter of the law. However, it is also fuelled by widespread public concerns about rules determining the category of 'doubtful citizens', the horrors of paperwork, repeated visits to offices, the fear of political misuse of data, and the administrative discretion engendered by the law's vast scope.

Thus, Mr. Modi's challenges are two-pronged. The first is to address concerns about the law's exclusion categories and the second is to reduce public resentment against the IT-driven bureaucracy that, instead of reorganising internal processes to utilise previously submitted citizen data to the government effectively, may likely ask the entire Indian population to resubmit documents to prove their citizenship against the presumption of guilt. However, these protests present an opportunity for Mr. Modi to renew his stalled agenda of making bureaucracy more responsive to the rising expectations of public service quality from its citizens.

#### The Once-Only Principle

The European Union countries, as part of the 2017 Tallinn Declaration on e-Government, have come together to enact the 'The Once-Only Principle (TOOP)'. The EU's Single Digital Gateway Regulation marks an important step towards making governments more responsive to concerns about privacy, the hardships faced by vulnerable social groups, and the lack of proportionality in the policy design for digitalising government. TOOP aims to remove unnecessary administrative burdens on citizens by mandating that citizens are not required to provide the same information more than once to the government. TOOP requires the enacting of the legal and implementation framework that fully realises the individual liberties already bestowed by the Constitution and reiterated by the Supreme Court. However, laying down a legal framework and an implementation pathway for TOOP in

India is only possible with a firm and earnest political leadership.

With its vast majority, this government can easily pass legislation mandating the time-bound implementation of TOOP in India. Adopting such a global best practice will provide the bureaucracy with the vision and direction to strengthen in a time-bound manner the internal processes within government agencies and the coordination within existing Digital India initiatives. Under this law, the government first presents the full details of all the information which is already available with it to the citizen. It then requests that the individual verify and correct any errors, by providing multiple, non-coercive opportunities to furnish only further information or additional documents as necessary.

Further, this requires, as in the case of EU countries, that the Indian government should pass long-pending laws concerning privacy and administrative procedures that are already mandated by the Supreme Court. Such a framework will help to minimise the scope for abuse of excessive bureaucratic discretion that comes with arbitrary rule-making. It will also mitigate growing public apprehension about the permissionless use of personal information by government and private agencies.

The Magna Carta, agreed to in 1215, was the first step in a long-drawn-out journey towards a rights-based democracy. But it led to equal treatment before the law and individual rights becoming the bedrock principles of modern democracies. Similarly, TOOP can set India on a time-bound path towards fulfilling the promise of a procedural rights-based democracy by elevating the rule-of-law standards for everyday governance to match other advanced democracies. Many credit the Congress for deepening democracy's franchise and scope by establishing a liberal Constitution and implementing rights-based laws that secured some substantive rights (employment guarantee and food rations) and procedural rights (right to know). By enacting TOOP, Mr. Modi can lay claim to having made those rights substantial rather than merely symbolic.

Srinivas Yerramsetti is a researcher of public administration and policy

# Navy to the rescue

As natural calamities in the Indian Ocean Region become more frequent, India's regional security role is likely to grow



**ABHIJIT SINGH**

The highpoint of the Navy's 'benign' efforts was the evacuation of over 1,500 Indian expatriates and 1,300 foreign nationals from Yemen in 2015 amid fighting for control of Aden. Three years later, Indian naval ships were in Yemen again, to evacuate 38 Indians stranded in the cyclone-hit Socotra Island.

The Navy's humanitarian impulse stems from a desire to be a linchpin of security in the IOR. At the core of the evolving operations philosophy is the concept of 'first responder', with the capability and willingness to provide assistance. Such an approach has the potential to create an extended sphere of Indian influence in the IOR. Naval leaders recognise that benign missions help project Indian soft power and extend New Delhi's influence in the littorals. Prompt response during humanitarian crisis helps generate political goodwill in the neighbourhood.

#### Cause for caution

Yet, there is cause for caution. While low-end naval assets in humanitarian mode create strategic equity for India, prolonged presence of front-line warships in foreign waters has the potential to make partners anxious. Naval power, experts underline, must be deployed discreetly, shaping perceptions in subtle ways. The key is to not let the underlying intent of a mission appear geopolitical.

To ensure that motives aren't misunderstood, and assistance provided is efficient and cost-effective, it is best to use dedicated disaster-relief platforms. However, unlike the U.S. and China that have in their inventory hospital ships fully equipped for medical assistance, India deploys regular warships and survey ships converted for medical aid. India's improvised platforms do not match the U.S. Navy's medical ship USNS Mercy or the People's Liberation Army Navy's *Peace Ark* that enable specialised medical services on a more visible scale.

The Navy's expanding array of humanitarian missions reveals a need for greater coordination with the Indo-Pacific navies – in particular the U.S. Navy, the Royal Australian Navy and the Japanese Self-Defense Forces – which possess significant experience and assets to mitigate humanitarian threats.

As natural disasters in the IOR become more frequent and intense, India's regional security role is likely to grow exponentially. At the forefront of disaster scenarios, the Indian Navy and Coast Guard would find themselves undertaking demanding missions. Humanitarian operations could serve as a springboard for a larger cooperative endeavour in the maritime commons.

Abhijit Singh is a Senior Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation and a retired naval officer

## Beyond preparedness

Long-term recovery is a key aspect of disaster management, but it is neglected in the Act

VINEETHA NALLA & NIHIL RANJIT

Recent reports suggest that the Union Cabinet will be taking up the proposal to amend the Disaster Management Act of 2005, which largely focuses on improving preparedness, providing immediate relief, and protecting infrastructure. However, it neglects a key aspect of disaster management – long-term recovery.

The Disaster Management Act was enacted to effectively prevent, mitigate and prepare for disasters. It came into being on the heels of three major disasters in the Indian subcontinent: the 1999 super cyclone in Odisha, the 2001 Bhuj earthquake, and the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. The Act mandated the creation of the National Disaster Management Authority, State Disaster Management Authorities, and District Disaster Management Authorities. It laid down the framework, roles and responsibilities of these bodies to formulate and implement disaster management plans at their levels.

The Act rightly emphasises the need to move from responding to disasters to effective preparedness, which has led to most States investing in resilient infrastructure, early warning systems and evacuation. However, steps towards recovery and rehabilitation of disaster-affected people are hardly discussed. How has this imbalance in priorities shaped disaster management since 2005?

#### Fragmented outcomes

The Act's enormous emphasis on preparedness has translated into timely warnings, relief shelters and massive evacuation exercises. All these steps have reduced casualties. Further, the National Disaster Response Fund and State Disaster Response Funds have helped guide immediate relief in the aftermath of disasters. Post-disaster rehabilitation and recovery are left to respective Ministries and Departments. However, only select States like Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Odisha have department-level disaster management plans. This inconsistent manner of implementation is akin to how the National Disaster Management Plan was drawn up in 2016, 10 years after the enactment of the Act.

While integrating post-disaster rehabilitation measures with existing development schemes can be seen as the right step towards mainstreaming disaster management, it is marred by poor implementation and lack of intent from different ministries and departments. For instance, post-disaster housing reconstruction activities in Odisha are aligned with Central and State housing schemes such as the Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. However, evidence from research in Ersama, Odisha, shows that pucca houses built under these housing schemes were dilapidated and uninhabited in several places because of costs associated with reconstruction.

#### Recovery measures

Scholarship on disaster management conceptualises recovery as action taken to rebuild lives once the hazardous situation has passed. However, this has been commonly interpreted as providing food, water and medicines. Even in instances where States have moved beyond this, long-term recovery measures have largely focused on addressing physical vulnerabilities such as the provision of shelter. While these interventions are crucial, long-term recovery needs much more, but it is tricky because everyday vulnerabilities stemming from poverty are accentuated by recurring hazards.

Recovery measures should address inherent vulnerabilities pertaining to livelihoods, education, water, sanitation, health, and ecology of the disaster-affected communities. Intangible losses such as psychosocial needs of the communities should be given equal emphasis. Long-term recovery needs to be thought of alongside development in an integrated and comprehensive manner by combining with health, skill building, and livelihood diversification schemes. This would ensure that communities have, at the very least, recovered to a new normal before the next disaster strikes. This understanding is crucial to the lawmakers looking to the amend the Act.

Vineetha Nalla and Nihil Ranjit are researchers working on Urban Risk and Resilience at the Indian Institute for Human Settlements

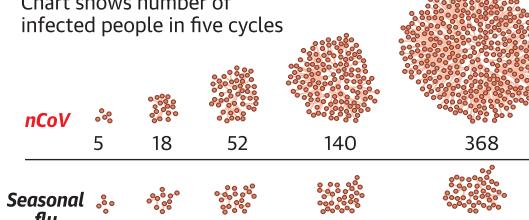


#### DATA POINT

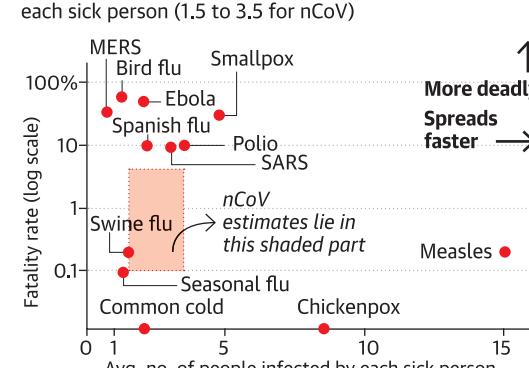
## Anatomy of an outbreak

**Radii of infection |** Each person infected with the nCoV can infect between 1.5 and 3.5 people while the corresponding figure for seasonal flu is 1.3

Chart shows number of infected people in five cycles

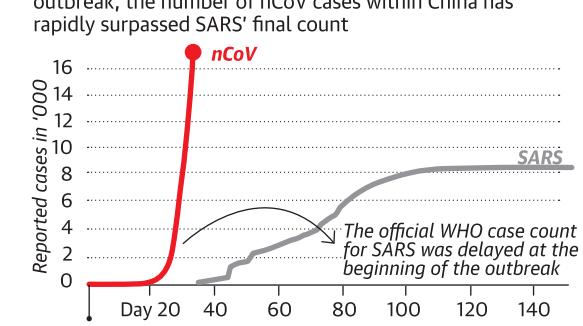


**Deadliness |** While nCoV is as contagious as SARS, early estimates show that it is not as deadly. Chart plots fatality rates (<3% for nCoV) against people infected by each sick person (1.5 to 3.5 for nCoV)



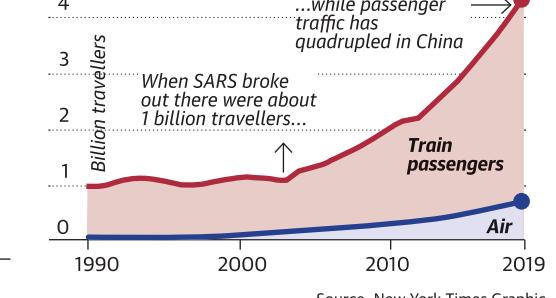
With 17,391 people affected globally by the novel coronavirus (nCoV) and 2,239 placed under surveillance in Kerala as on February 3, the disease has set alarm bells ringing. Analysis shows that it is as contagious as SARS, which affected 8,096 people during its outbreak in 2003. However, the number of nCoV cases reported have skyrocketed, primarily due to the massive increase in connectivity within and beyond China

**SARS vs nCoV impact |** Within the first 25 days of initial outbreak, the number of nCoV cases within China has rapidly surpassed SARS' final count



The first day that WHO received reports of the outbreak

**Connectivity factor |** The fact that Wuhan, where the most number of cases originated, is a major transportation hub contributed to the rapid spread of nCoV. SARS' spread was limited as China wasn't as well connected then



#### The Hindu

#### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 5, 1970

#### Protection of Tamilians in Mysore

The Mysore Chief Minister, Mr. Veerendra Patil, has told the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister that "any recrudescence of trouble" in his State would be "firmly dealt with." This is in reply to Mr. Karunanidhi's message on Monday [February 2] deplored the harassment of the Tamilians in Mysore State and requesting Mr. Patil to protect their interests. In a telegram, Mr. Patil has also assured Mr. Karunanidhi that "protection has been and is being given to all residents in Mysore State, irrespective of the language group they belong to." He said he shared Mr. Karunanidhi's view that the Tamilians in Mysore State and the Kannadigas in Tamil Nadu should live in harmony as they had been doing all along. He had made the position "abundantly clear" when the matter was raised in the State Assembly yesterday, and most of the members of the House fully agreed with his views. Mr. Patil also conveyed his gratitude to Mr. Karunanidhi for the prompt action taken by his Government for the release of Mr. Vatal Nagaraj, M.L.A.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 5, 1920. Indian Viceroyalty. (From an Editorial)

The rumoured appointment of Lord Haig to be Viceroy and Governor-General of India will be viewed with grave misgivings in this country. At time when the much vaunted constitutional reforms are going to be inaugurated, it appears to be a mockery that a Military Officer should even be thought of, to occupy the position of the Governor-General of India. In speaking on the Resolution urging the recall of Lord Chelmsford, at the Indian National Congress gathering at Amritsar, one of the speakers urged that in future the appointments of Governors and Viceroys should be subject to the influence of Indian popular opinion. To the political wiles of the Allahabad Leader this seemed an extravagant suggestion. A writer in the Nation whose remarks we have extracted elsewhere points out that Lord Chelmsford should never have been appointed Viceroy of India and after the disclosures of the Punjab atrocities, there is no excuse for his continuing to hold the office. The appointment of a Military Officer like Lord Haig would be in one sense a fitting sequel to Lord Chelmsford's administration. It may be remembered that the late Lord Kitchener tried very hard to become Viceroy in succession to Lord Minto and the late King Edward was strongly in favour of the appointment.

FROM PAGE ONE

## 'No decision yet on nationwide NRC'

Mr. Rai added that "an instruction manual for updation of NPR 2020 for enumerators and supervisors has been prepared. The NPR updation will be undertaken through house-to-house enumeration for collection of specified particulars relating to each family and individual."

"The respondent has to provide the information true to the best of his knowledge and belief. Aadhar Number is collected voluntarily," Mr. Rai said.

In reply to another question on NPR, Mr. Rai said, "Population Register is a register containing details of persons usually residing in a

village or rural area or town or ward or demarcated area within a ward in a town or urban area. NPR was first prepared in 2010 and [was] updated in 2015. In pursuance of Sub-rule (4) of Rule 3 of the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003, framed under the Citizenship Act, 1955, Central Government decided to prepare and update the population register during April to September, 2020, throughout the country except Assam for collection of information relating to all persons usually residing in village or town."

## SC questions T.N. Speaker's inaction

"Of course, there is nothing we can do about the Speaker deciding to do it [take cognisance of the anti-defection plea] or not... But we must take cognisance if he keeps them pending... Why did you not take cognisance for three years?" Chief Justice Bobde asked Mr. Narayan, appearing for the Speaker's office.

Mr. Narayan replied that multiple forums, from the Election Commission of India (ECI) to the High Court to the Supreme Court, were engaged in the dispute over the past three years. The Speaker had simply decided to wait for the outcome of these litigations.

He explained to the Bench that the Tenth Schedule petitions were filed against Mr. Panneerselvam and the 10 other MLAs, represented by advocate Balaji Srinivasan, for defying the party whip on March 20, 2017. However, before the Speaker could proceed, the ECI recognised Mr. Panneerselvam's faction as a "separate group" on March 23. Subsequently, the Panneerselvam and the Palaniswami (OPS-EPS) factions merged on August 20. On November 23, 2017, the ECI declared the duo as the leaders of the AIADMK.

Meanwhile, the DMK approached the High Court for the disqualification of the 11 MLAs. The writ petitions were dismissed, following which the DMK moved the Supreme Court in May 2018.

"Now all these difficulties are over, now you decide whether to take cognisance

or not," Chief Justice Bobde addressed Mr. Narayan.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for the DMK, referred to a January 20, 2020 judgment of a three-judge Supreme Court Bench led by Justice Rohinton Nariman that directed Speakers to decide anti-defection law petitions within three months maximum.

At this, the Chief Justice Bobde turned to Mr. Narayan to stress that the judgment had made it all the more necessary for Mr. Dharmapal to take cognisance.

But senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, lead counsel for the MLAs, said the Justice Nariman judgment had no validity because the question of whether a constitutional court could judicially review the inaction of the Speaker had been referred to a five-judge Bench way back in 2016 in the Sampath Kumar case.

Mr. Sibal countered that the reference was made by a two-judge Bench in the Sampath Kumar case. Justice Nariman was heading a numerically stronger three-judge Bench, thus cancelling the reference itself.

Besides, Mr. Sibal said, a 2007 judgment by a Constitution Bench in Rajender Singh Rana case had laid down that the "failure of the Speaker to exercise his jurisdiction will attract judicial review". The Rana judgment has been highlighted and reiterated in the January 2020 verdict authored by Justice Nariman at the head of a three-judge Bench.

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"Now all these difficulties are over, now you decide whether to take cognisance

## 2 in quarantine for nCoV flee to Saudi

The advisory from the health authorities says that all those in observation have to remain indoors for 28 days and this gives them "a feel of being ostracised", sources said.

However, additional district medical officer Asha Devi said, "We have to prioritise public health over one's personal freedom in this case. Those who have come from Wuhan after January 15 should get their samples tested and stay in isolation even if they do not show any symptoms... It is best to stay in a bath-attached room with minimal close interaction with other members of the family."

Meanwhile, instances of

families of those who came from China being ostracised and school authorities preventing children from such families attending classes have been reported. Corporation education standing committee chairman M. Radhakrishnan said the Deputy Director of Education had been asked to look into the matter. Sixty persons are under observation in Kozhikode, seven of whom have returned from China while the others are relatives or those who have been in close contact with them. "A classmate and co-traveller of the nCoV-affected student in Thrissur is among them," the DMO said.

## Recovery of lost Kishore Kumar film has buffs agog

He said that the uniqueness of the song had prompted a veritable "treasure hunt" among die-hard Shankar-Jaikishan fans for any surviving prints of *Begunah*.

"I had been approached by several collectors and Indian cinema enthusiasts who firmly believed that rare prints of *Begunah* still existed. Until this thrilling acquisition, we had nothing save a few stills of the film, including one still of that

song," Mr. Magdum said.

Commenting on the fortuitous discovery, he said the NFAI had several enthusiasts across India who helped it source content of rare archival value.

"It was one such contact in Mumbai who gave us the two reels of *Begunah*, which contains around 60-70 minutes of the film with no title credits, but has the classic song," Mr. Magdum said.

# Hegde's harangue rankles Opposition

Pralhad Joshi hits back in the Lok Sabha, saying Congress is now following 'fake Gandhis'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The controversial remarks made on Mahatma Gandhi by BJP MP Anant Kumar Hegde led to slogan shouting, a walkout and an adjournment in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, with Congress members accusing the ruling party of doing "Godse politics".

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi hit back, saying the Congress members were followers of "nakli (fake) Gandhis like Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi", and described the BJP as the real "bhakts" of the Mahatma.

At a public event in Bengaluru last week, Mr. Hegde said: "Freedom fighters who did not sacrifice anything made the country believe that it attained Independence through *Upavas Satyagraha* [hunger strikes] – Gandhi's preferred mode of agitation – and became *mahanapurush* (great person.)"

Mr. Joshi informed the House that though Mr. Hegde had clarified his position, he had been asked to express regret uncondition-



**On their feet:** Opposition members staging a protest in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. ■ PTI

ally. The issue even led to a rare adjournment of the Question Hour.

The Speaker adjourned the House until noon after Congress, DMK and NCP members continued their protest in the Well of the House.

When the House convened in the afternoon, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the BJP leader had insulted the Mahatma. He made a personal remark against Mr. Hegde.

Speaker Om Birla, howev-

er, disallowed it to go on record.

Opposition members led by Congress MPs were in the Well, displaying placards and shouting slogans. They did not heed to the Speaker's request to return to their seats.

"I have no expectations from people who are doing Godse politics," Mr. Chowdhury said and walked out in protest.

During Zero Hour, Nishikant Dubey, BJP member from Jharkhand, demanded

## Never mentioned Gandhi, BJP MP tells party leaders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

BJP MP Anantkumar Hegde has written to the party leadership that he made no mention of Gandhi in his speech and the remarks attributed to him are "incorrect". BJP sources said Mr. Hegde sent a detailed reply to the show-cause notice to party

president J.P. Nadda, and the party's disciplinary committee is studying its content before deciding its next course of action.

There is a view in the party that what the former Union Minister said might be in bad taste but its content was distorted in some media reports, a senior BJP leader said.

"There is such a situation in West Bengal that people are not being allowed to celebrate Saraswati Puja," she said, while Opposition members were protesting against Mr. Hegde's controversial remarks.

To lighten things up a bit, the Speaker asked the members if the House should take a "lunch time" break. "I will go by whatever Mulayam Singhji [Samajwadi patriarch] says," he said. "Lunch is very essential," replied Mr. Yadav to laughter.

## Bhutan ends free entry for Indian tourists

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI

Ending decades of free entry to Indian tourists visiting Bhutan, the government in Thimphu has decided to levy a daily ₹1,200 (\$17) fee for "regional tourists" from India, the Maldives and Bangladesh, beginning July 2020. The fee, called a Sustainable Development Fee (SDF), is meant to help the government deal with burgeoning numbers in tourist traffic, which it is seeking to regulate through a new tourism policy.

The decision was passed by the National Assembly on Tuesday as a 'Tourism Levy and Exemption Bill of Bhutan' 2020. The SDF is considerably lower than the \$65 charged to other foreign tourists, who are also charged a compulsory flat "cover charge" of \$250 per day.

Indians mainly travel to the more developed western region of Bhutan. In a move to promote tourism in Bhutan's eastern region as well, the government has decided to drop SDF charges for tourists visiting 11 of 20 total districts that fall in the east from Trongsa to Trashigang.

## No record of Savarkar's plea in Andaman

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Department of Art and Culture of the Andaman and Nicobar administration has no record of any mercy petitions by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar to the British government, which is why such pleas are not displayed in the light and sound show at the Cellular Jail in Port Blair, Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel told the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

Responding to a question by Ritabrata Banerjee, Mr. Patel said: "As per the information received from Andaman and Nicobar (Directorate of Art and Culture), such mercy petitions are not displayed at Cellular Jail since no record is available with the Department of Art and Culture, Andaman and Nicobar Administration."

## Rajya Sabha functions amid din

No adjournments despite slogans at Anurag Thakur and demand for CAA debate

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Tuesday functioned without adjournments despite renewed demands from the Opposition for a debate on the ongoing protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register for Citizens (NRC). The Opposition members rose in protest every time Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur stood up to speak.

Kicking off discussions on the motion of thanks to the President's address, BJP MP Bhupender Yadav said: "Today, a movement is being run through the people in our Opposition in Shaheen Bagh."

The Congress and AAP had given moral support to the supporters, he said.

However, Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad said the government had brought "destructive" laws that had led to the protests in the country. "Shaheen Bagh is your [BJP] creation," he said.

Leader of Trinamool Congress members trooped into the well of the House and shouted slogans such as *Goli Marna Band Karo, Modi Teri Tanashai Nahi Chalegi, Loka Tantra Ki Hayta Nahi Chalegi* and several others against

the NRC, the CAA, and the National Population Register (NPR).

Mr. Naidu once again explained why he had disallowed the motion under the Rule to suspend the day's business to debate issues of national importance. He said the President's Address had referred to the CAA and any discussion on the issue could happen when the House debated the address. "And then, if you want to criticise it, criticise it. If you want to support it, support it," he said.

In protest, some Trinamool and Congress members shouted slogans such as *Goli Marna Band Karo, Modi Teri Tanashai Nahi Chalegi, Loka Tantra Ki Hayta Nahi Chalegi* and several others against

Best possible provisions in current environment, says Modi



**Ring of petals:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi felicitating BJP president J.P. Nadda at the parliamentary party meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

He spoke after a grand felicitation by the group and by Mr. Modi.

An elaborate list of 240 party MPs from both Houses has been drawn up by Mr. Nadda for deployment in the slum clusters, considered the support base of Aam Aadmi Party chief and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

The MP present at the BJP Parliamentary Party meeting said Mr. Nadda emphasised that the decisions taken by the Modi government, especially that of legalising nearly 40 lakh

## 12,000 cases in Foreigners' Tribunals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Centre informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday that the Assam government has not constructed any detention camp in the State to exclusively detain those who do not have documents proving their citizenship under the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Assam published the final NRC on August 31 last year, in which more than 19 lakh of the 3.29 crore applicants were excluded.

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said a total of 1,381 people were currently in detention centres in Assam.

As per the information furnished by the government of Assam, the number of cases referred to the Foreigners' Tribunals in the last three years are 9,457 cases (2017), 2,051 cases (2018) and 599 cases (2019, up to November), Mr. Rai replied to a written query.

The Minister quoted Assam government data on the number of detainees in the last three years, after they were declared foreigners by the Foreigners' Tribunal: Goalpara has 209 persons; Kokrajhar - 105; Silchar - 79; Tezpur - 661; Jorhat - 286 and Dibrugarh - 41. A total of 761 detainees were released from the centres in the last three years.

The NITI Aayog has come out with draft norms to link existing private medical colleges with district hospitals through viability gap funding, as announced in the Budget 2020-21 for aspirational districts, the Minister added.

## 'No compromise on patient interests'

Minister elaborates on PPP model

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The government will not compromise on the interest of patients while handing over district government hospitals to private medical colleges through public-private partnership (PPP) mode, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

Such experiments have proven to be successes in the past 25 years and even the government think-tank NITI Aayog has taken note of the proposal and come out with draft guidelines, he said during Question Hour.

The Minister said the step was permitted under Section 25(5) of the Medical Council of India (MCI) Act 1999, and made it clear that it was not being done to promote the private sector.

Responding to a supplementary query, the Minister said: "We will offer district hospitals to the private sector without compromising on the interest of patients."

The NITI Aayog has come out with draft norms to link existing private medical colleges with district hospitals through viability gap funding, as announced in the Budget 2020-21 for aspirational districts, the Minister added.

The Minister also dis-

agreed with a CPI member's view that the entry of the private sector into medical education was eroding the quality of education.

"Some of the best medical colleges in the country are of international repute and providing better services," he added.

The government said Clause 2(5) of the MCI's Establishment of Medical College Regulations, 1999, prescribes that the appropriate government may allow utilisation of facilities of a hospital owned and managed by it for establishing a medical college by a person/agency/trust/society/company by entering into a Memorandum of Understanding for this purpose.

The Minister said that the hospital to be linked would be of minimum 300 beds with necessary infrastructural facilities capable of being developed into a teaching institution for the proposed medical college.

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AN-NDNE

**IN BRIEF**



Invest to drive growth,  
FM tells industry

NEW DELHI  
Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday urged industry to "shun hesitation" and make investments to drive the country's economic growth. At a post-Budget interaction at a CII event here, she said the government was there to help the industry. "I don't think in today's condition can be just government spending which can pull economy towards growth. I strongly believe industry will have to come out of hesitation..." she said.

**Pak. to buy more  
Malaysian palm oil**

KUALA LUMPUR  
Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday thanked his Malaysian counterpart Mahathir Mohamad for "speaking up" on the Kashmir issue. He also promised him that he would do his best to buy more Malaysian palm oil after India restricted the imports from the country. "You have spoken for the justice for the Kashmiris, for which we are thankful," Mr. Khan said at a press conference with Mr. Mahathir Mohamad.

**W.B. govt. to provide  
chopper to Dhankhar**

KOLKATA  
In what can be seen as a sign of reconciliation between the State administration and Raj Bhavan, the Mamata Banerjee government has decided to provide Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar with a helicopter for his travel to Santiniketan on Thursday. The Governor's secretariat had requested a chopper from the government for Mr. Dhankhar's travel and, unlike previous occasions, it has been approved. PTI

**BJP defends Nagaland  
Deputy CM Patton**

GUWAHATI  
The Bharatiya Janata Party in Nagaland has defended Deputy Chief Minister Y. Patton, claiming he has always stood for "fairness and meritocracy" in the Nagaland Public Service Commission (NPSC) examination. It said Mr. Patton had since 2017 opposed the appointment of people without a civil service background as members of the NPSC, besides fighting against random marking in the interviews. Mr. Patton had allegedly said on January 28 that he could help NPSC aspirants go through the interview after clearing the written exam.

**New commands  
on the anvil: Rawat**

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

NEW DELHI

The armed forces are likely to collaborate and create an air defence command to cover all operations taking place in Indian airspace, a peninsular command to look after all naval operations in the closer Indian Ocean region, and a logistics command, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat said on Tuesday.

Commanders of such theatres would report to their service chiefs initially, he told reporters here.

No decision had been taken on how many joint commands would be created on the India-China border, he said.

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E-mail: amindiv@iasianetindia.com  
Dt 04.02.2020

**TENDERS FOR  
DEPLOYMENT OF  
OFFICERS ON  
THILAAKKAM**

E-tenders are invited from ship management companies for deployment of qualified officers on 700 MT Product oil tanker Thilaakkam operated by LDCL vide tender no.S/Vessels/Mgmt/THLKM/2020. For details and E-tendering please visit website [www.tenderwizard.com/UTL](http://www.tenderwizard.com/UTL). Tender due on 19.02.2020 at 2.00 PM. For any help in e-tendering, please contact M/S KEOONICS e-tender help Desk: 080-40482000.

Sd/- MD (LDCL)

# Maharashtra tops list of States hit by global medical data leak

Details of 120 million Indians freely available on Internet: Greenbone report

GAUTAM S. MENGLE

MUMBAI

Medical details of over 120 million Indian patients have been leaked and made freely available on the Internet, according to a recent report published by Greenbone Sustainable Resilience, a German cybersecurity firm.

What is even more worrying is that the number of data troves containing this sensitive data went up by a significant number in the Indian context a month after Greenbone's initial report was published. The updated report also places Maharashtra at the top of the States affected by the leak.

The first report was published in October last year, in which Greenbone revealed a widespread data leak of a massive number of records, including images of CT scans, X-rays, MRIs and even pictures of the patients.

The follow-up report, which was published in November, classifies countries in the "good", "bad" and



**Digital distress:** A doctor or a hospital is legally bound to maintain patient confidentiality. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

"ugly" categories based on the action taken by their governments after the first report was made public. India ranks second in the "ugly" category, after the U.S.

The report says that in 60 days after the first report was put out, the number of data troves bearing the patients' information went up from 6,27,000 to 1.01 million, and that the images of patients' details rose from 105 million to 121 million.

"It is a notable fact for the systems located in India, that almost 100% of the stu-

dies (data troves) allow full access to related images," the report states.

As per the follow-up report, Maharashtra ranks the highest in terms of the number of data troves available online, with 3,08,451 troves offering access to 6,97,89,685 images. The next is Karnataka, with 1,82,865 data troves giving access to 1,37,31,001 images.

"The leak is worrying because the affected patients can include anyone from the common working man to politicians and celebrities. In

image-driven fields like politics or entertainment, knowledge about certain ailments faced by people from these fields could deal a huge blow to their image. The other concern is of fake identities being created using the details, which can be misused in any possible number of ways," a Maharashtra cybersecurity officer said.

Medico-legal expert Lalit Kapoor said any communication between a doctor and a patient was privileged one. "A doctor or a hospital is thus ethically, legally and morally bound to maintain confidentiality," he said.

**PACS servers**

Greenbone's original report says the leak was facilitated by the fact that the Picture Archiving and Communications Systems (PACS) servers, where these details are stored, are not secure and linked to the public Internet without any protection, making them easily accessible to malicious elements.

# Six months on, top J&K leaders remain in jail

No respite for Farooq, Omar and Mehbooba anytime soon

PEERZADA ASHIQ

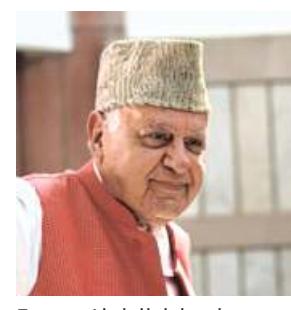
SRINAGAR

As they completed six months in detention on Tuesday, Jammu and Kashmir's top mainstream leaders such as Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah of the National Conference (NC) and Mehbooba Mufti of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) are unlikely to be released anytime soon by the administration.

Medico-legal expert Lalit Kapoor said any communication between a doctor and a patient was privileged one. "A doctor or a hospital is thus ethically, legally and morally bound to maintain confidentiality," he said.

Top government sources said the administration was not immediately reviewing the cases of NC president and Srinagar MP Dr. Abdullah, whose detention was extended for three months in December under the Public Safety Act (PSA) for the second time.

Detained on August 5, the former Chief Minister has been detained in his house, which has been turned into a sub-jail. The PSA dossier



Farooq Abdullah has been detained in his house.

was based on his numerous public speeches made in the past few years.

The sources said the Home Department and the magistrates have not started any process to review the cases of NC vice-president Omar Abdullah and PDP chief Ms. Mufti. Both the former Chief Ministers were being held in separate sub-jails under Sections 107 and 151, which allow detention of people in the cases of apprehension of breaching peace.

A top official said the combined Sections of 151 and 107 allowed preventive detention up to one year without any review, and release in such cases remained the prime prerogative of the local magistrate, who judges the feasibility of their release on the basis of reports of the Home Department and other security wings.

**Iltija Mufti's reaction**

Reacting to the prolonged detention of her mother, Ms. Mufti's daughter Iltija Mufti said, "Ideally putting former elected representatives behind the bars indefinitely shouldn't happen in a democratic set-up. But when you see sedition cases slapped against nine-year-old kids, it's not a surprise."

Meanwhile, the Valley's known businessman, Shafeel Qalander, who was also a member of the C. Rangarajan committee to formulate an employment policy for J&K in 2010-11, was released after six months from the Srinagar Central jail.

PPD former legislator Ajaz Mir was also released.

# No rules were broken, says NCBS

Govt. had ordered probe into study on bats by U.S., China and Indian researchers

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday adjourned to April 14 the hearing of a petition filed by Zakia Jafri, widow of slain Congress MP Ehsan Jafri, against the Special Investigation Team's clean chit to the then Gujarat Chief Minister, Narendra Modi, in the 2002 Godhra riots. A Bench, led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, postponed the hearing at a request from the petitioner's side.

Senior advocate Maninder Singh, for Gujarat, requested the Bench to make it clear in its order that the case was adjourned at the request of the petitioner's side. "If not, it is possible something else will be read into the adjournment."

Judge Khanwilkar said the court could not keep adjourning the case. At a previous hearing, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, for the SIT, objected to the plea made by Ms. Jafri and an intervention by activist Teesta Setalvad.



The 2018 Nipah virus outbreak is thought to have originated from bats.

funded by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) of the United States Department of Defense.

The NCBS said its researchers have been studying bat antibodies in Nagaland since 2012. In 2017, the NCBS and Duke-NUS started a collaboration, in which researchers based at the NCBS collected samples of serum from bats and humans. These samples were tested at the NCBS with the technologies supplied by Duke-National University of Singapore Medical School (Duke-NUS).

Two of the 12 researchers belonged to the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

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Two

# Shaky start for Democrats as Iowa results are delayed

Bernie Sanders, Pete Buttigieg use internal results to claim victory in caucuses

**SRIRAM LAKSHMAN**  
WASHINGTON

Democrats were off to a shaky start of their internal process to pick a challenger to U.S. President Donald Trump, as the results of the Iowa Caucuses were delayed due to technical difficulties around a phone app used to tally the data. The Iowa Democratic Party said it would release results later on Tuesday.

"We found inconsistencies in the reporting of three sets of results," spokesperson for the Iowa Democratic Party, Mandy McClure, said via a statement. "This is simply a reporting issue, the app did not go down and this is not a hack or an intrusion. The underlying data and paper trail is found and will simply take time to further report the results."

Although the State provides just 41 of the 1,991 delegates required to win the party's nomination, every candidate who has won the Iowa Caucuses since Al Gore in 2000 has eventually won the Democratic nomination. The first race provides crucial momentum to its top performers through the primary season.

Candidates had spent



**Caucus chaos:** Bernie Sanders speaking to supporters as they wait for results in Iowa on Tuesday. ■ AFP

large amounts of time and money campaigning to win in the Midwestern state but were left on Tuesday morning without concrete results, leaving some frustrated, and several others indicating they had won, as they moved on to New Hampshire, where the next contest will be held.

**Nation shocked'**  
Thirty-eight-year-old Mayor from Southbend, Indiana, Pete Buttigieg, claimed victory after the night based on his campaign's internal data. "So we don't know all the results, but we know by the time it's all said and done, Iowa, you have shocked the nation. Because by all indications, we are going on to New Hampshire victorious,"

Mr. Buttigieg told supporters in Des Moines.

Bernie Sanders, independent Senator from Vermont and progressive candidate, said he expected to do "very, very well" when the results are announced. Mr. Sanders was leading the polls going into the caucuses.

Mr. Sanders's team put out internal results that it claimed covered nearly 40% of the precincts showing him in first place, followed by Mr. Buttigieg, Vox reported.

General Counsel for former Vice-President Joe Biden, who was second in the polls going into the Caucuses but appears to have slipped in the ranking as per his opponents' data, filed a complaint with the Iowa Democratic Party, citing the "acute fail-

lures" of the reporting system. Nevertheless, he told supporters he would be walking away with his share of delegates. Progressive candidate and Senator from Massachusetts, Elizabeth Warren appeared optimistic.

"When I left Iowa, I said it is too close to call and it still is – but I feel good," Ms. Warren said after landing in Manchester, New Hampshire, as per the *New York Times*.

## Trump wins

Meanwhile, Mr. Trump won all 38 delegates in the Republican Caucuses in Iowa, as expected. He won over 97% of the vote, defeating former Massachusetts Governor Bill Weld and former Illinois Congressman Joe Walsh, who was a member of the conservative and populist Tea Party movement and hosted a right-wing radio show.

Mr. Trump, who is scheduled to deliver the State of the Union address to Congress on Tuesday night and is all but certain to be acquitted at his impeachment trial in the Senate on Wednesday, took to Twitter on Tuesday morning calling the Democrat Caucus an "unmitigated disaster"

# Iran to execute man who 'spied' for CIA

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

TEHRAN  
Iran said on Tuesday that its top court confirmed a death sentence for an Iranian man convicted of spying for the CIA, with State media alleging that he had shared details of the Islamic Republic's nuclear program with the

American spy agency.

Judiciary spokesman Gholamhosseini Esmaili identified the purported spy as Amir Rahimpour and said he would be executed soon. Mr. Esmaili did not elaborate on what Rahimpour was accused of doing, nor on his age or background.

A report by the state-run IRNA news agency alleged that Rahimpour received money from the CIA to share details of Iran's nuclear program.

"While being in touch with the spy agency, he earned a lot of money as wages as he tried to deliver

some information from Iran's nuclear program to the American agency," the IRNA report said.

Two other alleged spies for CIA each received 15-year prison sentences – 10 years for spying and five years for acting against national security.

# I wish to serve all Sri Lankans: Gotabaya

As President, I represent the entire nation irrespective of ethnicity, religion or party, says President

**MEERA SRINIVASAN**  
COLOMBO

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Tuesday said he would look after all citizens and not just "a particular community", in his first Independence Day address to the nation, even as his government dropped the Tamil national anthem from the ceremony.

Weeks ahead of the celebration, the government announced that it would not play the Tamil version of the national anthem – Tamil is an official language in Sri Lanka – departing from a practice reintroduced in 2016 by former President Maithripala Sirisena, who Mr. Rajapaksa succeeded in November 2019. The move drew criticism from citizens



**New message:** Gotabaya Rajapaksa during his Independence address in Colombo. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

who said the omission of the Tamil anthem would impair post-war reconciliation in the country.

Despite last minute calls from some Tamil politicians and local newspaper editors, urging the government

to reconsider its decision, authorities stuck to their position. By rejecting the Tamil national anthem at the Independence Day celebration, in front of local and international community, the government has justified dis-

crimination, and has disappointed patriots, said Mano Ganesan, a former Minister of National Integration, Official Languages, Social Progress and Hindu Religious Affairs. "As a Sri Lankan, I am ashamed and worried," he tweeted.

Addressing a big gathering at Colombo's Independent Square that included senior politicians, military men and diplomats, President Rajapaksa said: "I have the vision that I must serve as the leader of the country looking after all citizens rather than serve as a political leader concerned only about a particular community. As the President today, I represent the entire Sri Lankan nation irrespective of ethnicity, reli-

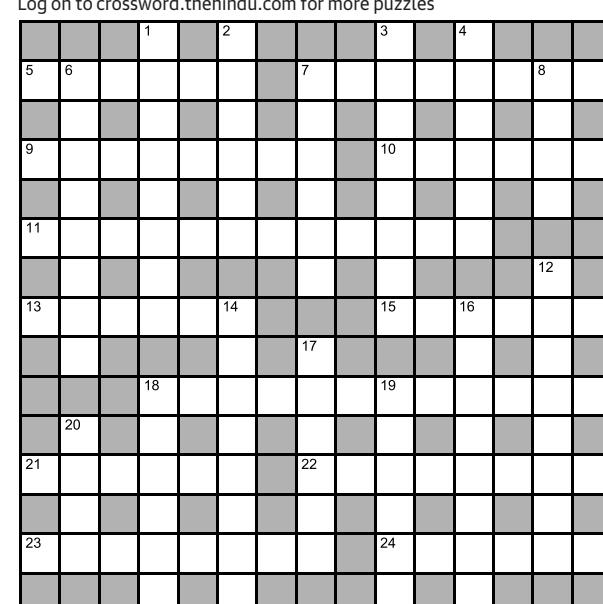
gion, party affiliation or other differences."

President Rajapaksa said a legitimately elected leader in a democracy is for all the people of the country. "During his term of office, he must serve the entire Sri Lankan people. He is not bound to serve only the interests of the people who voted for him."

Further, Mr. Rajapaksa said maintaining the balance of power between the executive, the legislature and the judiciary was very important to "balance equilibrium in democracy". However, he added: "I do not envisage public officials, lawmakers or the judiciary to impede" his "commitment" to fulfilling the needs of the people.

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12850

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



### ACROSS

- 5 Overcoming rejection at the start, man of action pursues a lover (6)
- 7 Energy department's undergoing review having incurred a politician's charge (8)
- 9 Harry came with aid having obtained top grade at college (8)

(set by Bruno)

- 10 Upset that incense's tip reduced in size? (6)
- 11 It can't pass on heat... a large number do not concur, surprisingly (12)
- 13 Sinatra's not popular with Poland's first governor (6)
- 15 Roughly cleanse laundry.. starting to pull out cover (6)
- 18 First note replacing fourth in master's music (12)
- 21 Architecture firms located to the east of Reno's borders (6)
- 22 Shepherd girl's daughter's husband... (8)
- 23 ... is quiet having skill to cover one's burnt heart (8)
- 24 American Catholic Union had people with intelligence (6)
- 1 Manufacturer of stimulant left out cancer (8)
- 2 New President quietly suppressed article on old President (6)
- 3 Record cats playing around plant online (8)
- 17 Spooner asks man coop for bird (6)
- 18 Computer professor starting to make money (6)
- 19 Mist shrouding red tide (6)
- 20 River flows up to the star... (4)

# Hong Kong records first virus death

Toll in mainland China rises to 425 with 64 more dead in 24 hours, a new high

**REUTERS**  
HONG KONG/BEIJING

Hong Kong reported its first coronavirus death on Tuesday, the second outside mainland China from a fast-spreading outbreak that has killed 427 people and threatened the global economy.

The victim in Hong Kong was a 39-year-old man with an underlying illness who had visited China's Wuhan city, the epicentre of the outbreak and now under virtual quarantine.

It was the second death outside mainland China and brought the toll from the fast-spreading outbreak to 427.

Thousands of medical workers in Hong Kong, a semi-autonomous region of China, held a second day of strikes to press for complete closure of borders with the mainland after three checkpoints were left open.

"We're not threatening the government, we just want to prevent the outbreak," said Cheng, 26, a nurse on strike.

On the financial front, global and Chinese markets bounced, with both Europe and metals enjoying their best sessions of the year after Shanghai's main market lost nearly \$400 billion the previous day.

Chinese authorities, meanwhile, reported a record daily jump in deaths of 64 to 425. The only other death outside mainland China was a man who died in the Philippines last week after visiting Wuhan, the virtually quarantined city at the epicentre of the outbreak.

New cases were reported in the U.S., including a patient in California infected via someone in the same household who had been infected in China.

Total infections in mainland China rose to 20,438, and there have been nearly 200 cases elsewhere across 24 countries and China's special administrative regions Hong Kong and Macau.

Thailand's tally of infections



**Rapid response:** Workers arranging beds at a convention centre that has been converted into a hospital in Wuhan. ■ AP

## More hospital beds readied

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
BEIJING

Hundreds of empty beds lined an exhibition centre converted into a makeshift hospital at the epicentre of China's virus epidemic on Tuesday, awaiting coronavirus patients.

State media said the converted exhibition centre in Wuhan will house an extra 3,400 beds and provide "emergency treatment".

## U.K. nationals told to return

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
LONDON

Britain on Tuesday urged all of its citizens in China to leave because of the virus outbreak, while Belgium became the latest nation to announce a confirmed case.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab asked U.K. citizens in China to "leave the country if they can, to minimise their risk of exposure to the virus."

## 3,700 on ship quarantined

**REUTERS**  
TOKYO

Health screening began on Tuesday for some 3,700 passengers and crew aboard a cruise liner held in quarantine at the Japanese port of Yokohama, after a Hong Kong passenger, 88, who sailed on the vessel last month tested positive for the virus. Japan has 20 confirmed cases.

# Pak. Parliament passes resolution on Kashmir

It asks India to undo move on Article 370

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Parliament on Tuesday unanimously passed a resolution expressing "unflinching and unwavering support" to the Kashmiri people and demanding India to reverse its decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

The National Assembly or lower house passed the resolution on the eve of what Pakistan observes as the Kashmiri Solidarity Day on February 5 annually.

The resolution demanded India to immediately reverse its actions of August 5 and October 31, repeal the "draconian laws", withdraw its forces and immediately

lift lockdown in the valley, state-run Radio Pakistan reported.

Tensions between India and Pakistan have spiked since India abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir in August last year.

India's decision evoked strong reactions from Pakistan, which downgraded diplomatic ties and expelled the Indian envoy. India has categorically told the international community that its move to scrap Article 370 of the Constitution revoking the special status of J&K was an internal matter and has also advised Pakistan to accept the reality.

## FAITH

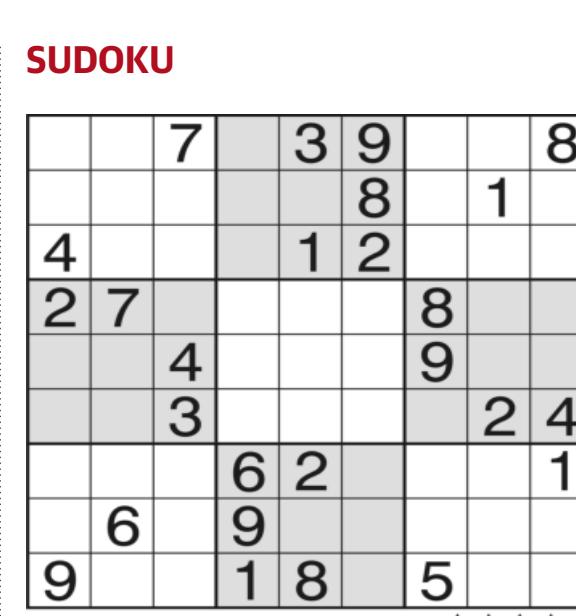
### Inseparable in separation

While describing the scene where Hanuman sees Sita as the very embodiment of virtue in Asoka Vana, Valmiki says his heart immediately leaps back across the ocean to seek Rama's feet in adoration. Sita's life of penance in Asoka Vana makes him exclaim, "Surely He is in her heart and she in His; in truth they are not parted or they could not live." In a discourse, Damal Sri Ramakrishnan and Srimati Perundevi drew attention to the fact that this shows the inseparable union of the Divine couple playing the roles of Rama and Sita, though they get separated by force of circumstances.

Being a brahmachari himself, Hanuman would wonder when seeing Rama give in to excessive outbursts of sorrow on account of being separated from His wife. But seeing the impeccable Sita observing the vow of chastity in the harsh atmosphere of captivity, Hanuman bows down in reverence to Rama, accepting that Rama's grief is justified and His fortitude exceptional. "Who can bear this enormous sorrow, and it is indeed a great feat that Rama still holds on to His life. It will be no wonder if Rama should choose to destroy the universe or transform it for Sita's sake for she is worth all this and more."

Valmiki also shows that Hanuman's veneration for Sita grows to such an extent to surpass his devotion to Rama. He is keen to dispel any doubts in Rama's heart about Sita's life of austere penance in Lanka. So, on his return, even before he alights in the presence of Rama, Lakshmana and Sugriva, he first pays obeisance to Sita in Lanka and then conveys the happy tidings of his successful mission. With the carefully chosen words, "Seen have I the goddess of chastity," that spread auspiciousness and hope to all, he unites Sita with Rama when he hands over the Chudamani to the Lord.

## SUDOKU



**Solution to puzzle 12849**      **Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★

# OPPORTUNITIES

WEDNESDAY • FEBRUARY 5, 2020

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • JOBS • TECHNOLOGY

## The call of the social sector

Senior and middle-level professionals from the corporate world now seem to be responding to it



LIFFY THOMAS

**W**hen Rajasekhar Kaliki, former director of Google Technical Services, moved out of the corporate world and joined Kaivalya Education Foundation, a non-profit organisation working towards making education accessible to all, he was certainly not the odd one out in the new setting.

"Of the 20-member leadership team at the Foundation, at least 10 of them had left the corporate world to join the social-impact sector," says Rajasekhar.

Kaliki joined the Foundation as its chief technology officer. Similarly, all the others from the corporate sector filled specific roles that were in alignment with their core competencies. So, they were doing their same thing – only that the goalposts had shifted.

Professionals at the peak of their careers joining the social sector is the best thing that can happen to the sector. Not only because it gets the best possible talent, but because talent comes paired with zeal.

Kaliki says as a student, he saw his family struggle to pay his fees, and that there is a strong impetus within him to work in this area of the social sector.

There is strong reason

why the social sector needs more Kalikis.

Towards the end of 2019, Careers in Impact, an initiative of Sattva that recruits mid and senior talent for social sector, did a study of positions lying vacant in the social sector. Their findings: 42% of jobs in the 5 to 10 years of work bracket were not taken; and it was 15% in the 10-20 year bracket.

"Sixty seven alumni from our first six batches are currently in the social sector. Of these, 45 are crossovers who did not previously have any exposure to the social sector, the remaining are leaders from the sector itself," says Anu Prasad, founder-director, ILSS. Recently, ILSS completed its 7th programme.

Individuals in the age group of 40-45 years are in the majority. During the last batch, a bank sent its key CSR associate for the programme, says Anu.

Though there are trans-

**Increase in funding** On the positive side, social sector funding has increased by 11% in the last five years, as per Bain & Co Philanthropy Report. This increase has largely been fuelled by contribution from the government, followed by philanthropy.

Murthy says that with more funds coming into the sector, organisations need

specialist skills that will enable these professionals shift to the social sector, there are certain nuances to working in the sector that they should understand, she adds.

"We want them to transition for the right reason. So, we look for people who are committed, and want to contribute towards nation building, and who are open to unlearning things and have the humility to see themselves as a student," says Anu.

**Lower salaries** Prahalathan KK, co-founder, Bhumi, a volunteer organisation, says that while making the switch, mid-level talent would like to see their pay maintained. "They need to understand that most non-profits cannot match the pay," he says.

Hiring managers point out that pay structures in the sector have certainly improved, but still one should be ready for a pay cut.

To get more mid-level talent to join the sector, Satyam Vyas feels funding organisations must invest in people. He says, as per reports, at least 13% of CSR funds are unspent. "Corporates can give funds for capacity-building programmes for non-profits. This will lead to more returns for the organisation."

**We look for people who are committed, and want to contribute towards nation building, and who are open to unlearning things and have the humility to see themselves as a student**

### GENERAL



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Indian Bank invites applications for Specialist Officer Positions in Scale I, II and III in Credit, Forex, Dealer, Legal, Risk Management and Security specializations.

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Place: Chennai

#### General Manager (HR)

Candidates need to submit their applications to IndianBank only through ONLINE mode.

## The collaboration of the titans

When a cross-functional work group gets started on a special project, the focus should be on results as well as relationships

### PRINCE FREDERICK

**W**hat can be worse than a clash between titans? It is: collaboration between them. That explains the unique predicament of any cross-functional work group. It is usually constituted by the *creme de la creme* in an organisation. Its members are stalwarts in their respective verticals, and they have been cherry-picked for a special collaborative project. In a sense, they can be compared to a task force on a mission.

The challenge is that they have to inhabit a paradoxical space. They have to function like the professional titans that they are so that the project receives the full benefit of their expertise. This means they should be willing to speak their mind, and tear into weak ideas. That should not be a problem for most titans. And here is the rub: They also have to reduce themselves to Lilliputian insignificance when the situation demands it, so that other perspectives get distilled into the collaborative work. And that is a tough ask for most titans.

**Different work styles** In a cross-functional work group, conflict can result from varied perceptions about the same situation. "Take a scenario where someone from the hardcore business side – a sales pro-

fessional – and someone from the legal or data protection side are grappling with an issue while being engaged in a cross-functional group project. The issue has been laid out on the table clearly, and there shouldn't be any ambiguity about it. But it doesn't usually pan out that way: Each will view it differently, brining their unique lens to it. Hardcore business guys are natural risk takers, and they will take decisions with minimal information. For them, a challenge is an opportunity that has to be leveraged and monetised. In contrast, for hardcore legal guys, a challenge is a threat and calls for thorough investigation. They will be cautious in their approach. Usually, in such work groups, participants will have hugely contrasting work styles, and sometimes even communication styles. The task before the work-group facilitator is to ensure they understand each other's work styles and are not threatened by the difference," says Vinaya Bansal, workplace behaviour expert.

### Anticipate problems

R. Sridhar, an innovation coach, believes preparing a cross-functional group should have the rigour that goes into laying the foundation of a super-edifice. It is time-consuming work, but non-negotiable.

"Before launching into

the work, it is necessary to brainstorm together and put down possible areas of conflict. It is like an Army operation, and planning includes expecting and being prepared for an ambush," says Sridhar. As a cross-functional team is so unlike a regular team, which has a high degree of interdependence and therefore a natural cohesiveness, an "ambush" can be expected at every turn.

### The human side

Cross-functional work groups may be steeped in specialisations, but that would not detract from their human side.

In this context, T.T. Srinath, organisational and behavioural consultant, says that Gestalt may have some answers to human challenges faced by cross-functional work groups.

"Gestalt is rooted in psychology, but is being increasingly used in organisational development, especially in team-building exercises specially aimed at defusing inter-personal conflict. Gestalt is about 'making whole', and there is a particular need to make a loosely-structured cross-functional work

group, a whole unit. So, before the launch of the project, the group has to be tied together in a uniquely human way; and that brings three dimensions of human dynamics into play. One, the need for the quality of active listening, where listening is born out of curiosity and is geared towards finding answers. Two, empathy, by which there is compassion for self and the other. And three, the quality of positive regard for the other.

He points out that the success of a cross-functional collaborative project, or any team-based pursuit for that matter, should be assessed against something like the Blake & Mouton Managerial Grid: "It is marked by 'x' and 'y' axes, one representing 'task' and the other 'relationship'.

There are four quadrants, and the cross-functional collaborative project should land in the 'high task and high relationship' quadrant. That alone signifies the true success of such a collaborative project."

### GENERAL

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MARKET WATCH		
Sensex	40,789	2.30
US Dollar	71.27	0.15
Gold	41,270	-0.93
Brent oil	54.72	-2.00

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	372.50	5.15
Asian Paints	1891.30	23.65
Axis Bank	715.00	6.05
Bajaj Auto	3162.80	-121.70
Bajaj Finance	9534.90	448.75
Bharti Airtel	518.90	8.85
BPLC	478.50	18.20
Britannia Ind	3232.50	2.45
Cipla	448.45	3.90
Coal India	182.50	3.85
Dr Reddy's Lab	3241.85	97.70
Eicher Motors	19512.65	-370.80
GAIL (India)	118.90	4.40
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Bharti Infralet	240.05	10.75
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UltraTech Cement	4474.25	103.60
UPL	522.60	9.30
Vedanta	138.55	4.40
Wipro	240.25	2.85
YES Bank	34.95	-1.05
Zee Entertainment	244.50	-12.10

## EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 04
CURRENCY TT BUY TT SELL
US Dollar 71.07 71.39
Euro 78.53 78.89
British Pound 92.53 92.95
Japanese Yen (100) 65.17 65.46
Chinese Yuan 10.16 10.20
Swiss Franc 73.36 73.70
Singapore Dollar 51.84 52.08
Canadian Dollar 53.52 53.76
Malaysian Ringgit 17.27 17.37

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI
February 04 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses
Retail Silver (1g) 49.7... (50) 22 ct gold (1g) 3856... (3894)



AirAsia's Tony Fernandes steps aside

## AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

AirAsia's colourful chief executive Tony Fernandes has stepped aside from the company while authorities probe unusual payments at the Malaysian carrier, as the fallout from a \$4 billion bribery fine at Airbus reverberates across the industry.

The shock decision came after Britain's Serious Fraud Office (SFO) released details of a probe that found individuals associated with the planemaker had paid to secure deals with AirAsia and its long-haul unit AirAsia X.

## ₹5 lakh cover on deposits takes effect

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Insurance cover on bank deposits has been increased to ₹5 lakh from ₹1 lakh effective Tuesday, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a statement.

The cover is provided by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the RBI. This, the RBI said, had been done with a view to providing a greater measure of protection to depositors.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had made the announcement on increasing the cover to ₹5 lakh, in her Budget speech.

# Stocks on a roll as crude slides

Positive data on manufacturing, rise in rupee fuel rally; FPIs buy ₹366 cr. shares

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

A firm trend in the global equity markets on the back of lower crude prices propelled the Indian benchmarks on Tuesday to clock their best-ever single day gain in over four months.

The 30-share Sensex gained 917.07 points, or 2.3%, to close at 40,789.38 as 28 of its constituents ended the day in positive territory. Stocks such as HDFC Bank, M&M, Hero Motocorp, Tara Steel, Power Grid Corporation, Bajaj Finance, HDFC and ITC all gained over 3% each.

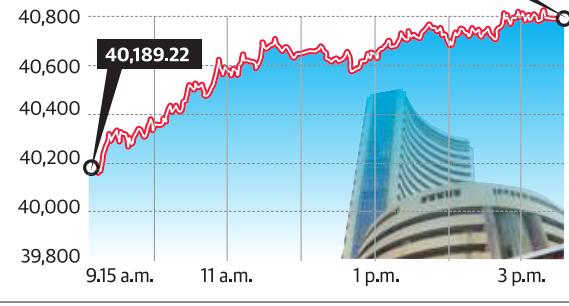
The broader Nifty ended the day at 11,979.65, up 271.75 points or 2.32%.

Market participants attributed the rally to the recent drop in crude prices that fell below \$50 per barrel during intraday trades which, in turn, pushed up equities globally. The fall was on ac-

## Bulls on a rampage

The 30-share Sensex gained 917.07 points, or 2.3%, with 28 of its constituents ending the day in positive territory

40,789.38



count of concerns related to decreasing demand following coronavirus outbreak.

Incidentally, crude prices last touched these levels almost 13 months ago and are currently 20% lower than the highs witnessed in January, thereby entering a bear market by definition.

According to Shrikant Chouhan, senior vice-presi-

dent, equity technical research, Kotak Securities, a combination of factors, including a significant fall in crude prices, a rise in the Indian rupee and positive Asian markets, along with encouraging data points fuelled the rally on Tuesday.

The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) data released on Monday showed that the

country's manufacturing activity expanded in January at its quickest pace in nearly eight years.

Meanwhile, leading indices such as the Hang Seng and Kospi both gained over 1% on Tuesday even as all other Asian markets ended with gains. Chinese benchmarks also ended up over 2%. In India, equities saw broad-based buying as gainers outpaced declines by nearly 2:1. On the BSE, more than 1,600 stocks gained ground as against 892 declines.

Interestingly, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), who had been mostly net sellers in the last few trading sessions, bought equities worth ₹366 crore on Tuesday.

## Bajaj Auto, TVS Motor shares plunge following ban on motorcycles in Lagos

Ban in Nigerian capital triggers anxiety over export prospects for domestic firms

## LALATENDU MISHRA

MUMBAI

A ban on commercial motorcycles and three wheelers in Lagos, the commercial hub of Nigeria, to prevent accidents in the city, is likely to have minimal impact on Bajaj Auto Ltd. and TVS Motor Company Ltd., unless the ban is prolonged and its scope is expanded to many other cities, said analysts.

Bajaj and TVS export a significant volume of their motorcycles to Nigeria, among other African countries, they added. Company officials declined comment on the likely impact on their exports.

However, the stock market reacted to the news of



sentiment will be negative if the ban expands to more cities."

He said because both Bajaj Auto and TVS export to many countries, the impact will be limited.

## 6% of country volume

It is believed that Bajaj Auto exports about 40,000 to 45,000 motorcycles to Nigeria every month and Lagos takes in about 6% of this volume. Nigeria itself is an import export market for Bajaj Auto and accounts for 25% of the total overseas sales. In January, Bajaj Auto reported total motorcycle exports of 174,546 units.

Though the ban in Lagos

has been there for several months now, it was confined to several hundred lanes and by-lanes.

As the ban has now been enforced strictly in most parts of city, it has led to protests, thus attracting global attention.

In Lagos, commercial motorcycles have become popular as they help commuters to easily beat the traffic.

Excess speeding has led to fatal road accidents forcing the city authorities to clamp the ban. Recently, motorcycle ride-hailing apps have become popular in the city and the commercial motorcycle fleet have increased in number.

Meanwhile, following the clarification from the CBDT, it is clear that the 10% TDS would only be levied when dividend income exceeded ₹5,000 in a financial year. Necessary clarification, if required, shall be proposed in the relevant provision of the law.

## 10% TDS only on MF dividends'

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The government has clarified that mutual fund houses must deduct 10% tax at source (TDS) on dividends.

On Tuesday, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) issued a clarification, after the Budget proposal led to concerns whether the 10% TDS would be applicable only on the dividend or whether any capital gains arising at the time of redemption would be taxed.

"Queries have been received to the effect that whether under the proposed section 194K, the Mutual Fund would be required to deduct TDS also on the capital gains arising on redemption of units," a statement from Surabhi Ahluwalia, spokesperson, CBDT, said.

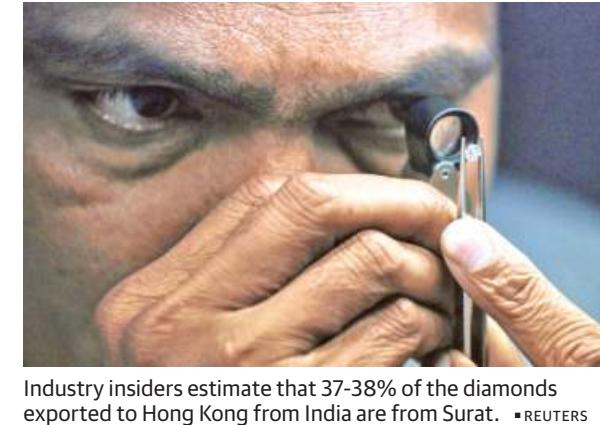
"It is hereby clarified that under the proposed section, a mutual fund shall be required to deduct TDS @ 10% only on dividend payment and no tax shall be required to be deducted by the mutual fund on income which is in the nature of capital gains," the statement added.

"The proposal needed a serious rethink else it could have ended up complicating the investment process for the investor and increase the costs for the asset management company," said Vivek Damani, a SEBI registered investment adviser, adding that the proposal, in the form presented in the Union Budget, seemed clouded with ambiguity.

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Industry insiders estimate that 37-38% of the diamonds exported to Hong Kong from India are from Surat. ■REUTERS

## Surat's diamond trade hit by coronavirus, holiday in Hong Kong

Exports unlikely to go up in Q4

## MAHESH LANGA

AHMEDABAD

The outbreak of the coronavirus in China has adversely affected Surat's diamond industry, which was expecting a spike in volumes following the China-U.S. trade treaty.

But, with the sudden outbreak and rapid spread of the pandemic exports are unlikely to go up in the fourth quarter, as per the assessment of industry players in the diamond city.

"The proposal needed a serious rethink else it could have ended up complicating the investment process for the investor and increase the costs for the asset management company," said Vivek Damani, a SEBI registered investment adviser, adding that the proposal, in the form presented in the Union Budget, seemed clouded with ambiguity.

Industry insiders estimate that as much as 37-38% of the diamonds exported to Hong Kong from India are from Surat, and the jewelry made from polished diamonds is also exported to Hong Kong and thereon to China.

Regional chairman of GJEPC and former chief of the Surat Diamond Association Dinesh Navadiya said that earlier, pro-democracy agitation in Hong Kong had hit the diamond industry and now with the coronavirus scare, losses could run into several hundred crores of rupees.

The overall export of cut and polished diamonds in the first 9 months of the current fiscal was already down 17.14% from a year earlier.

## Bharti Airtel rings in a loss of ₹1,035 crore

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Tele

PRAVEEN SUDEVAN

By fortune or design, 24-year-old Sara Ali Khan's first four films – *Kedarnath* (by Abhishek Kapoor), *Simmba* (Rohit Shetty), *Love Aaj Kal* (Imtiaz Ali) and *Coolie No 1* (David Dhawan), the last two, yet to be released – are an interesting mix. She seems to alternate between stories involving subtle emotions and the ones that play to the gallery.

*Kedarnath*, a romantic film set at the time of the Uttarakhand floods, fetched her the Filmfare Award for Best Female Debut and *Simmba*, a cop flick, was a blockbuster. The trailer of *Love Aaj Kal*, which is slated to be released on February 14, promises an intense romantic drama, a genre that Imtiaz loves. And, *Coolie No 1* is a remake of the 1995 comic caper with the same title by the same director. Sara has also begun preparing for her next, *Atrangi Re*, by Aanand L. Rai, with Akshay Kumar and Dhanush. Here, she chats about her career so far.

#### What do you feel you've learnt in your first two movies?

• *Kedarnath* was the first film set I'd been to. I started very young and I am still at a nascent stage when it comes to learning. I learnt even the basic things, like the fact that you have to do the same shot three times because you shoot from three different perspectives. The most important thing I have learnt is that you have to keep learning. This job is about constantly discovering yourself. And, the time between 'action' and 'cut' is all that you have. You could be hungry, you could be exhausted, you could have had a fight with your mother. It doesn't matter. You have to go there and perform.

#### Since you aren't a formally trained actor, what tools do you rely on?

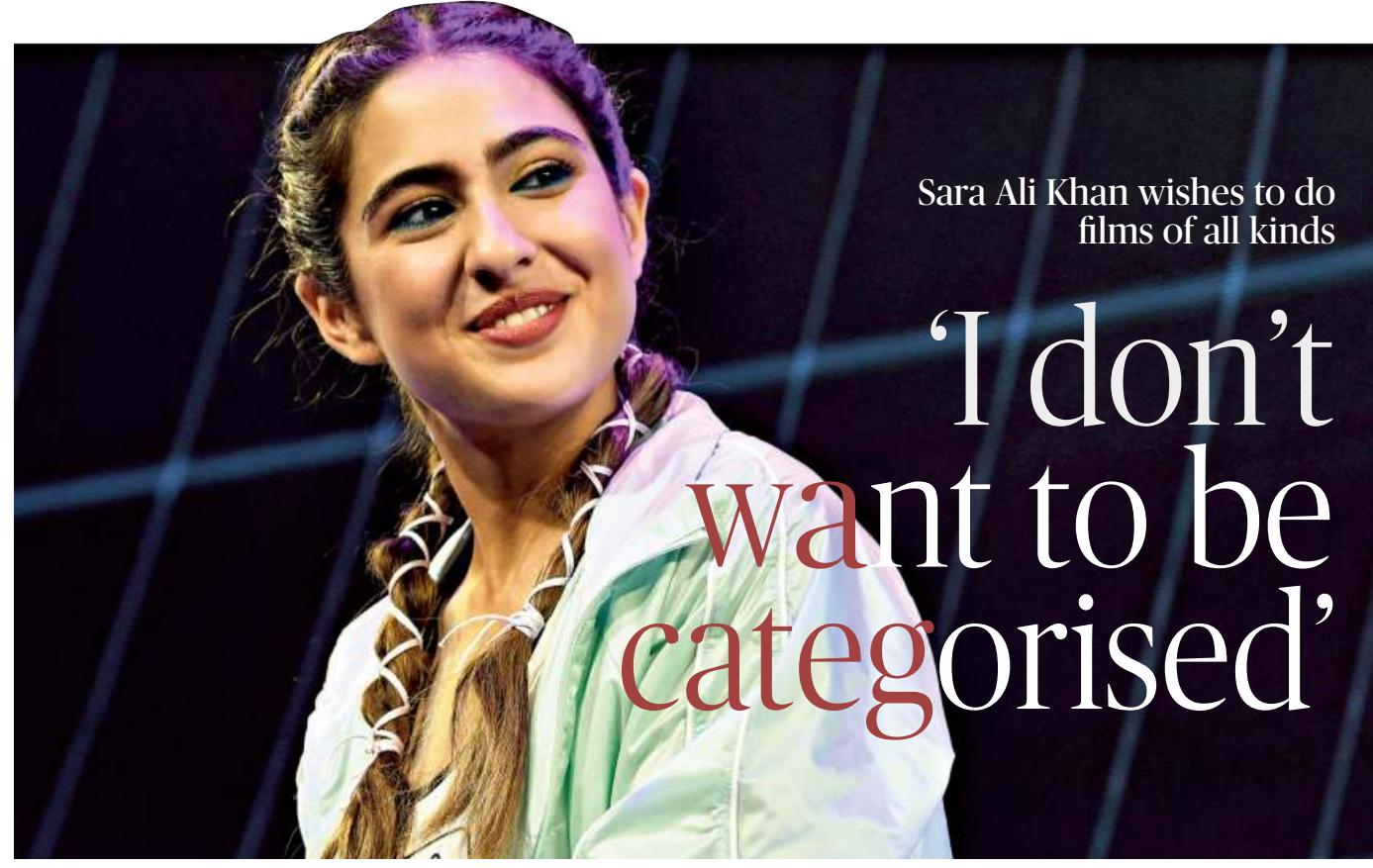
• The only thing that I have to rely on is conviction. Honesty is the only tool I have as an actor. My mom has always told me that if I lie, even the best make-up artist or cinematographer will not be able to hide it because it will show in your eyes.

#### You have been a part of four films now...

• Yes, I have had the privilege of working with very different directors. Abhishek's depiction of human emotions is beautiful. Rohit Sir and David Sir are good in their larger-than-life entertainment. With Imtiaz Sir and Anand ji, I love the way they depict the greyness in their female characters.

#### What kind of movies are you looking to do? Do you want to be a star or an actor?

• I don't ever want to fit within a category. I don't want any filmmaker to say 'Sara cannot do this'. I want to be able to do everything. I



Sara Ali Khan wishes to do films of all kinds

# 'I don't want to be categorised'

know it is a lot to ask for, but like they say, 'Aim for the moon and you may hit a star'. I enjoy everything equally. I like doing an intense romantic scene with Karthik Aryan on an Imitiaz Ali set as much as I enjoy doing a high-energy dance number with Ganesh Acharya, David Dhawan and Varun Dhawan. I can't choose between the two.

We see a change in the kind of films being made in Hindi, especially over

#### the past decade. Do you think it was a good time for you to start your career?

• I think times keep changing. I am not one to judge what changes. I think films are a representation of society, which will constantly change. For example, *Love Aaj Kal* was made in 2009. The same film is coming with the same title in 2020. And, the reason is: society has changed, women have changed, love has changed. Love today is not what love was 11 years ago.

Revisiting love (below) Sarah Ali Khan with Karthik Aryan (left) and Imtiaz Ali at a promotional event of *Love Aaj Kal*

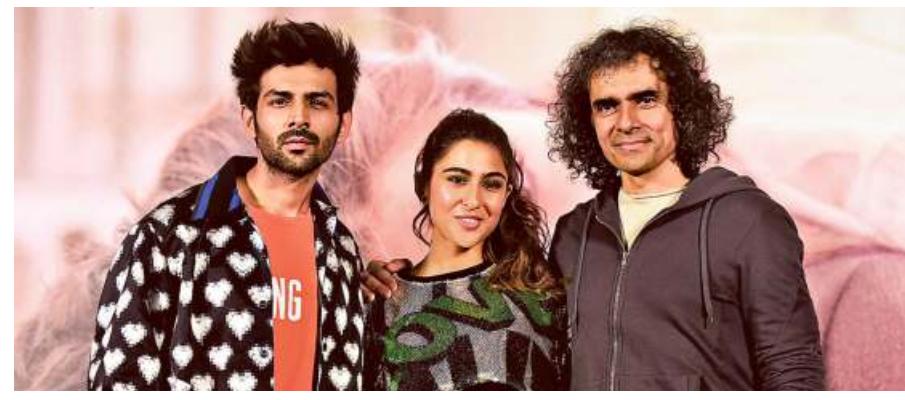
■ SUDHAKARA JAIN AND FILE PHOTO

#### How was working with Imtiaz Ali?

• I think he is the most nurturing director there is. It is a director's job to make you understand the emotion of a character. But I did not ever think that it would be possible to actually feel what the characters feel. For example, despite working with Karthik Aryan, it never felt like I interacted with him. It was always Veer and Zoe. That was the atmosphere he created on the sets.

#### What are the privileges and challenges of being a daughter of two film stars (Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh)? Does the word nepotism bother you?

• There is a privilege. It comes in the form of access. I got *Simmba* even before *Kedarnath* released. That is maybe because of who I am. But I know for a fact that three out of the four actors who I worked with are not from the industry. In order to make it here, you should have something. And, even though I am proud of my parents I didn't choose them. I can't run away from that fact. So, especially since we agree that I have a privilege, it would be a disservice if I am bothered by it. What matters is what I do with it.



#### On Love Aaj Kal vs Love Aaj Kal

"The thing that's the same in the previous version of *Love Aaj Kal* (released in 2009) is that there's a flashback that influences the present-day story. I am not involved in the flashback. But it affects my relationship with Karthik in the film. That's a relatable concept because you are affected by what's within you, what you want, and what people say to you. Imtiaz Sir has beautifully depicted my character's inner conflict."

#### FOOD REVIEW



NAVAL SATARAWALA CHOPRA

The annexe of the iconic The Ashok hotel in Chanakyapuri is perhaps the best spot in space-deprived South Delhi to open a restaurant. It's a standalone, large and leafy spot, separate from the Government-owned hotel, where music is played until the wee hours of the morning. Till recently, the space boasted of Zerruco, a Mediterranean and Italian restaurant that never really took off, and now, restaurateur Akshay Anand of Toy Room fame has taken over and opened the opulent and pumping Ophelia. The cuisine, however, has not changed.

To paraphrase from Hamlet, to go, or not to go: that is the question. My answer: It's an entertaining spot for some drinks and *sheesa*, but I would not go for the food alone.

**The vibe:** Ophelia, named after a character in Shakespeare's play,



*Hamlet*, has a lovely deck area with white cloth swathed cabanas, open flames and perfect mood lighting. Indoors is a stark contrast. The interior designer really went to town – high ceilings, lots of velvet and suede, mahogany type wood everywhere, gilded paintings and crys-

# Shaking up a quiet hamlet

Ophelia at The Ashok is more noisy bar and lounge than relaxing restaurant



tal chandeliers – you feel like you're in an illicit den. You will either love Ophelia or hate it. It is a perfect yuppie spot, and on the evening I visited, the deck area was loud and packed with people dressed to impress. Thumping music was a constant, indoors or out.

#### Mediterranean mix

The food at Ophelia

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**Do try:** From the Mediterranean menu, the Prawn Shish was grilled just right and the meat was plump and sweet. The Balloon Breads were also fluffy and light. On the Italian menu, the Pappardelle with Pulled Pork Ragout was the star of the evening. Full of flavour, the pasta was fresh and the ragout coated each strand pasta perfectly.

**Skip:** The mainstay of any Mediterranean/Turkish menu is hummus, falafel, shawarma and pide (flat bread). Unfortunately, all four were poor. The hummus was too li-



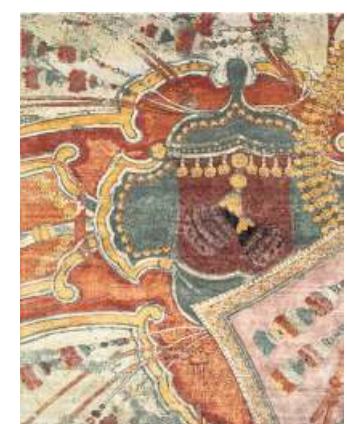
quid, the falafel was too dry and over fried, the shawarmas were closer to *desi* wraps than the Ottoman original, and the pide was flat in terms of texture and flavour.

**Go with:** Over 25s (Delhi's legal age to drink) and under 40s (you just won't fit in if you're older).

**Space bar:** 8,000 sq. ft.; 180 covers indoors and out

**How much:** Unnecessarily expensive at ₹4,500 for two, sans alcohol

**Getting there:** There is valet parking as well as ample parking space. Hire a driver for the evening or cab it – just don't drink and drive



#### PRODUCTS

##### Rug tug

Obeetee that manufacturers hand-knotted and hand-tufted rugs has collaborated with designer Raghavendra Rathore for its third Proud To Be Indian series. This showcases the design aesthetic of some of India's leading fashion designers. The previous two editions were conceptualized by Tarun Tahiliani and Abraham & Thakore. The 2020 collection has three themes: Durbar Gaadi Masand has embroidery in velvet, inspired from the textured royal sette in darbars; Rajasthan Architecture has elements of arches and other structural design elements; and Coat of Arms has emblems of Rajput princely states. Rathore worked on the designs for nearly five years, with the Marwar region, especially Jodhpur, being the core inspiration. The rugs that are 70-80% silk, with 20-30% wool, have been woven by weavers from Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh.

At Obeetee Studio, 145 Sultanpur Mehrauli-Gurgaon Road, Next to Sultanpur Metro Station; ₹8000 per square foot upward

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

#### 5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



EXHIBITION

**Mixed-media**  
Nature Morte has opened two modern and contemporary art shows at the Centre for Contemporary Art. The Idea of Acrobat is a curated group show by 12 Indian as well as international artists, showcasing paintings, sculptures, and photographs. The other, Terranum Nuncius, is a solo show by Jitish Kallat.  
**VENUE:** Bikar House, Pandara Road  
**TIME:** 6 p.m.



DANCE

**Manipuri**  
Sovanabratra Sircar and Nutan Sovan Sircar will present a Manipuri dance recital, this evening. Sovanabratra, a disciple of Guru Bipin Singh and Kalavati Devi, is a noted classical Manipuri dancer and choreographer. His disciple and wife Nutan is associated with Manipuri as well as Kathak and Gujarati folk dances.  
**VENUE:** Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre  
**TIME:** 7 p.m.



FOOD

**New menu**  
Monkey Bar, a restaurant in Vasant Kunj, has introduced an all-new menu which offers 41 new dishes, paired with eight signature cocktails. The dishes on offer include Malabar Mutton Kulcha, Butter Chicken Kulcha, Onion and Cheese Kulcha, Thelawala Mutton Seekh, Bandel and Malai Fish Kebab, Curry Leaves and Pepper Chicken.  
**VENUE:** Plot No 11, Local Shopping Complex  
**TIME:** 12 noon - 12 p.m.



PERFORMANCE

**Flute and Odissi dance**  
Yuvu Shastrya, a two-day series of classical music and dance, begins today. It will feature a flute recital by Rajat Prasanna and an Odissi dance by Arunima Ghosh. Tomorrow will see a Hindustani vocal performance by Sawani Mudgal and Bharatanatyam and Odissi dances by Tanya Saxena and Madhur Gupta.  
**VENUE:** Triveni Kala Sangam, Mandi House  
**TIME:** 5:30 p.m.



GIG

**Blues**  
Be Right Back, a six-piece rhythm & blues band from Delhi will perform at Nowhere Terrace Brewpub Cafe in Gurugram. The band with Kaumudi Malviya and Zachariah Mathew Abraham on the vocals and Sarthak Bhayana on the drums, promises various music genres including jazz, blues and soul.  
**VENUE:** Galleria Market, DLF Phase IV  
**TIME:** 9 p.m. - 11 p.m.

#### PEOPLE

##### Beauty and grace

This calendar features celebrities as women from Raja Ravi Varma's paintings



While shooting his latest calendar, G. Venket Ram had a peculiar problem. He had to find a dog. One that resembled the border collie in one of Raja Ravi Varma's paintings. Titled *There Comes Papa*, the 1893 painting portrays a woman carrying a toddler, with a faithful dog sitting at her feet. The calendar is part of Naam Charitable Trust's fundraiser and 10th anniversary celebrations. The trust, started by actor and director Suhasini Maniratnam, empowers single women from under-served segments of society.

The calendar features women and is inspired by Raja Ravi Varma's works. "We were trying to replicate the works. I had to see how to match them with the paintings and managed to a certain extent," says Ram, who is shooting a calendar after a break of six years.

This one features 11 celebrities from Tamil and Telugu movies including Khushbu Sundar, Ramya Krishnan, Shruti Haasan, and Chamundeshwari, one of the beneficiaries from Naam.

All the jewellery had to be procured or specially created. Even the style in which the saris are draped by the women are different in each painting. One of the crochet chair covers had been created by the women from Naam and is exactly the same as the one in the painting.

One of the bigger challenges, was the lighting. "My inspiration for photography was painting. I used to study them to understand how the artist would analyse light. He is not photographing, but is taking an image in his mind and recreating it on canvas. He improvises on it and can mix colours to get a certain shade," explains Ram. There was a time constraint, considering Suhasini and Venket started work on this project in December last year.

Bookings at 9176307415, ₹1,500

PRIYADARSHINI PAITANDY

## AUTO EXPO 2020

With the 2020 Auto Expo opening its doors to the public on February 7 at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida, we take a look at five of the most important models set to be on display at the show



## Kia QYI compact SUV

In addition to launching the Carnival MPV, Kia will also reveal a compact SUV concept at the Auto Expo. The compact SUV (codenamed QYI) is likely to be launched by August 2020. In the build-up to the Expo, Kia released the first sketches of the compact SUV, which made it clear that the design and styling will be a far cry from that of the Hyundai Venue.

Details of the Kia QYI compact SUV are scarce at this point, but what we do know is that it will share its underpinnings with the Venue. Engine and gearbox options are expected to be identical too; so there will be petrol and diesel options, and the choice between a manual and dual-clutch automatic gearbox. Expect prices to be in the range of ₹7-11.5 lakh.

## Tata H2X micro-SUV

Tata will have a total of 12 passenger vehicles at its Expo stand, with the production-spec H2X micro-SUV being one of the most important displays. The production H2X SUV (codenamed Hornbill) will slot in below the Nexon compact SUV. In terms of size, it will be around the same length as the Maruti Suzuki Swift, and nearly as tall as the Maruti Suzuki Vitara Brezza. The second model to be built on Tata's new ALFA platform, the Hornbill will get a 1.2-litre, naturally-aspirated petrol engine and no option of a diesel.



AMAAN AHMED



## Maruti Futuro-e concept

A big attraction at Maruti's pavilion will be the Futuro-e SUV-coupe concept. Billed as a design study, the Maruti concept previews a mid-size SUV from the brand that'll rival the Hyundai Creta and Kia Seltos. Teasers reveal a coupe-like sloping roofline, along with a high bonnet and a bold, wide face to give it that tough SUV look. The company is likely to ready a petrol engine for the production-spec model but one that could accommodate an electric powertrain. Maruti could also look at bringing back its 1.5-litre diesel with the production version of the Futuro-e, as most mid-size SUVs will continue to offer the option of a diesel engine even after April 2020.



## Next-gen Hyundai Creta

The most important model from Hyundai will be the second-gen Creta, which will make its debut at the Expo on February 6, 2020. Hyundai, however, will only showcase the exterior design of the new Creta, with the interiors and other details set to be revealed closer to its launch around mid-March 2020. Official design sketches confirm the second-gen Creta will retain most design cues seen on the new ix25 revealed in China, but it will get a few styling tweaks that will make it more appealing to Indian customers. In terms of powertrains, the all-new Creta will borrow its engine and gearbox options from the hugely popular Kia Seltos, and could also get the Seltos GT Line's 1.4-litre turbo-petrol engine.



## Skoda Vision IN concept

The big draw at Skoda's stand will be a concept that previews its much-awaited mid-size SUV. The Skoda Vision IN echoes the design of the Kamiq sold abroad, with styling bits such as the trademark Skoda grille – illuminated in the concept – split headlamps and crystal-like LED tail-lights. What's different is that it sports a bolder, more upright nose, plenty of plastic cladding all around, prominent roof rails, and large 19-inch alloy wheels befitting a concept. Measuring 4,256mm in length, the concept has a 2,671mm-long wheelbase, and previews the first model based on the India-specific MQB A0 IN platform. The concept is powered by a 150hp, 1.5-litre TSI petrol motor, and a 1.0-litre TSI option is also expected on the production model. There will be no diesel engine on offer, but a CNG variant could be on the cards. The production-spec Vision IN will be launched sometime between April-June 2021. Also present at the Expo will be its sister model from Volkswagen, the Taigun.



## POOCH CAFE



## PEANUTS



## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



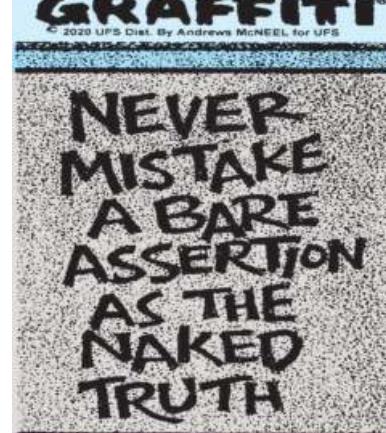
## CALVIN AND HOBBES



## TIGER



## GRAFFITI



## THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13294

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

5 Bolero composer, d. 1937 (5)

6 Short curved naval sword (7)

7 South Pacific island where both Robert Louis Stevenson and Paul Gauguin spent time (6)

8 Causing alarm (11)

14 White rum, first produced in Cuba (7)

15 Specimen (7)

16 Greek mathematician, d. mid-3rd century BC (6)

17 Out-and-out (6)

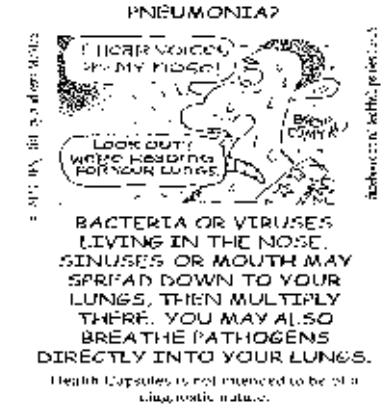
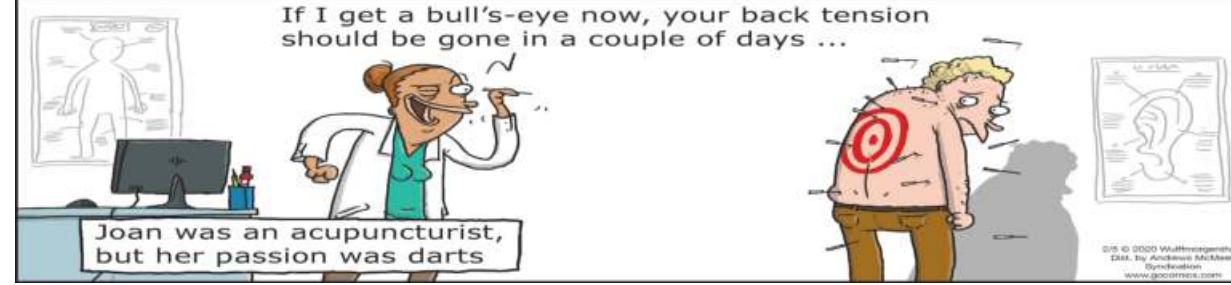
19 Fill with high spirits (5)

21 Discourage (5)

The solution will appear on February 6, 2020.

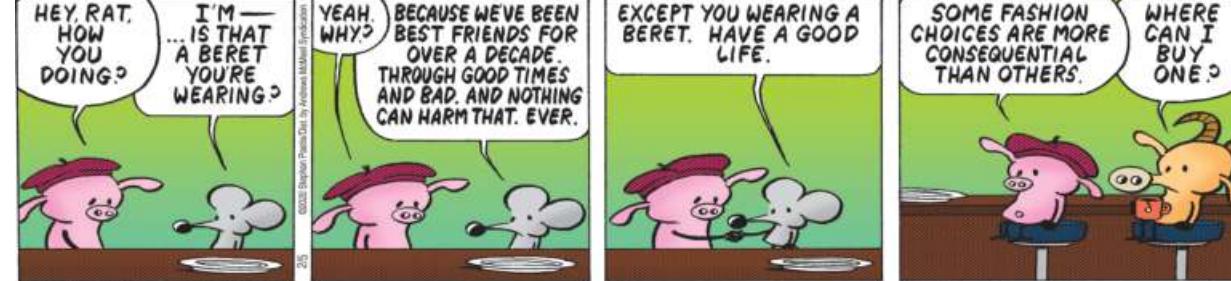
Solution No. 13293

## WUMO



- Across  
 1 Overcast (6)  
 4 German dramatist and poet who wrote The Threepenny Opera, d. 1956 (6)  
 9 Knock down (3,4)  
 10 Climbing plant of the pea family, cultivated as fodder (5)  
 11 Fault (5)  
 12 Dashing and debonair young man (7)  
 13 Regular failure to turn up for work (11)  
 18 Ceremonially impure (7)
- (7)  
 20 Tree of the birch family (5)  
 22 Immature form of an insect before metamorphosis (5)  
 23 Flammable liquid hydrocarbon mixture (7)  
 24 Highly motivated (6)  
 25 Committed to memory (6)
- Down  
 1 Large wader of the sandpiper family (6)  
 2 Possessor (5)  
 3 Varied (7)

## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



S	H	A	N	D	Y	C	O	M	M	A
H	R	O	E	E						
B	E	S	T	O	E	L	I	X	I	R
L	D	N	V	I						
S	L	O	E	P	U	P	E	R	C	U
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S	O	E	S	C	A					
T	E	A	P	A	R	T	E	G	G	Y
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# Ton-up Jaiswal leads India's march into the final

Sushant's three-wicket haul helps the team bowl out Pakistan for just 172

## U-19 WORLD CUP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
POTCHEFSTROOM (SOUTH AFRICA)

Defending champion India cruised to a 10-wicket win over Pakistan here on Tuesday to reach the Under-19 Cricket World Cup final for the seventh time.

India, the record four-time winner of the competition, dismissed Pakistan for 172 in 43.1 overs before comfortably knocking off the runs with 88 balls to spare.

India will play either New Zealand or Bangladesh, which meet in the second semifinal, for the title at the same venue on Sunday.

Pakistan will contest the third-place play-off in Benoni on Saturday.

Yashasvi Jaiswal struck an unbeaten 105 off 113 balls, completing his century and sealing the victory in style with a six over deep mid-wicket.

### Dream come true

"It's a dream come true for me. To be able to do this for my country is a great feeling."

"To score a hundred against Pakistan in a World cup semifinal is something I can't put in words," said Jaiswal.

"They bowled well initial-

ly and we wanted to ride that out and we knew we could dominate them after that."

Left-hander Jaiswal, who was snapped up by the Rajasthan Royals in the 2020 IPL auction, smacked eight fours and four sixes as he took over as the tournament's leading run-scorer.

**Able support**  
He was ably supported in a leisurely chase by Divyansh Saxena who finished 59 not out, his second fifty of the competition.

Jaiswal earlier claimed the key wicket of Pakistan opener Haider Ali (56) with his part-time legspin as Pakistan collapsed from 96 for two in an innings where just three players made double digits.

Ali and captain Rohail Nazir (62) helped Pakistan recover after losing Mohammad Huraira and Fahad Munir cheaply, but only Mohammad Haris, who hit a brisk 21 off 15 balls, provided any additional contribution.

Left-arm seamer Sushant Mishra took three for 28 while right-arm quick Kartik Tyagi and legspinner Ravi Bishnoi collected two wickets apiece.

"The pitch was good, and we didn't put enough runs on the board," said Pakistan skipper Nazir.



**Commanding show:** Yashasvi Jaiswal struck an unbeaten 105 off 113 balls as India raced to a 10-wicket victory. ■ PTI

## SCOREBOARD

### PAKISTAN

Haider Ali c Bishnoi b Jaiswal 56 (77b, 9x4), Mohammad Huraira c Saxena b Sushant 4 (6b, 1x4), Fahad Munir c Ankolekar b Bishnoi 0 (16b), Rohail Nazir c Tilak b Sushant 62 (102b, 6x4), Qasim Akram run out 9 (16, 1x4), Mohammad Haris c Saxena b Ankolekar 21 (15b, 1x4, 1x6), Irfan Khan b Tyagi 3 (9b), Abbas Afridi lbw b

### BISHNOI 2 (3b), Tahir Hussain c Jurel b Tyagi 2 (16b), Aamir Ali c Veer b Sushant 1 (6b), Mohammad Amir Khan (not out) 0 (0b); Extras (b-1, w-10, nb-1): 12; Total (in 43.1 overs): 172.

### FALL OF WICKETS

1-9 (Huraira, 1.6 overs), 2-34 (Munir, 8.5), 3-96 (Haider, 25.3), 4-118 (Akram, 30.3), 5-146 (Haris, 34.4), 6-156 (Irfan, 37.2), 7-163 (Afridi, 38.1), 8-169 (Nazir, 41.4), 9-172 (Tahir, 42.6).

### INDIA BOWLING

Tyagi 8-0-32-2, Sushant 8-1-0-28-3, Bishnoi 10-0-46-2, Akash 7-0-25-0, Ankolekar 7-0-38-0, Munir 4-0-12-0.

### FALL OF WICKETS

Yashasvi Jaiswal (not out) 105 (113b, 8x4, 4x6), Divyansh Saxena (not out) 59 (99b, 6x4); Extras: (lb-2, w-10): 12; Total (for no loss in 35.2 overs): 176.

### PAKISTAN BOWLING

Tahir 6-17-0, Akram 8-0-37-0, Amir Khan 5-1-20-0, Afridi 7-0-50-0, Aamir Ali 5-2-38-0, Munir 4-0-12-0.

### Toss:

**Pakistan.** **Man-of-the-Match:** Jaiswal. India won by 10 wickets with 14.4 overs to spare and entered the final.

Final on Feb. 9 at 1.30 p.m. IST

de Kock scores century, SA wins first ODI

REUTERS  
CAPE TOWN

Captain Quinton de Kock smashed a sparkling century as South Africa eased to a seven-wicket victory against England in the opening ODI here on Tuesday.

After being put into bat, England overcame a top-order wobble to post 258/8 in 50 overs, helped by a well-constructed 87 from Joe Denly in the side's first ODI outing since lifting the World Cup at Lord's last July.

But de Kock (107) and Temba Bavuma (98) put on 173 for the second wicket as South Africa reached 259/3 to secure victory with 14 balls to spare.

de Kock reached his 15th ODI century in 106 balls before he was bowled by the part-time spin of Joe Root.

The second ODI will be played in Durban on Friday, with the three-match series ending in Johannesburg on Sunday.

### The scores:

England 258/8 in 50 overs (J. Denly 87, C. Woakes 40, J. Roy 32, T. Shamsi 3/38) lost to South Africa 259/3 in 47.4 overs (Q. de Kock 107, T. Bavuma 98).

## Prajnesh brings cheer to Indian fans

Defeats Maden in straight sets; Kadhe goes down to Vesely

## TATA OPEN

N. SUDARSHAN  
PUNE

India No.1 Prajnesh Gunneswaran won his first ATP Tour level main draw match at home following a 7-6(4), 7-6(5) defeat of Germany's Yannick Maden in the Tata Open Maharashtra at the Balewadi Stadium here on Tuesday.

Prajnesh's one hour and 38 minute win over the World No. 131 brought some much-needed cheer to the home crowd which had earlier in the evening seen a third Indian crash out when Arjun Kadhe was beaten 6-2, 6-4 by Czech Jiri Vesely.

Prajnesh started the match with three quickfire holds, giving away just two points. Maden was less clinical.

### Wednesday's order of play

**Centre Court:** Stebe (Ger) vs Berankis (Ltu), Daniel (Jpn) vs Sasikumar; Ivashka (Bel) vs Travaglia (Ita); Hoang & Paire (Fra) vs Bobpana & Kadhe.

**Court 1 (last match):** Purav Raja & Ramkumar vs Gerasimov (Blr) & Nagal



**All grit:** Prajnesh kept his cool to oust Maden. ■ R. RAGU

cal but protected his serve equally well. But at 3-4, a bout of nervousness, saw Maden shank a routine forehand and double fault, thereby conceding the crucial break to make it 5-3.

But the home favourite handed the break right back, courtesy a poor service game that saw him double fault twice.

Prajnesh continued to wobble and at 5-5 a string of unforced errors gifted Maden a break opportunity. The fans heaved a sigh of relief when Prajnesh saved it with a fine inside-out forehand.

The match, inevitably, slipped into a tie-break but two backhand errors by Prajnesh allowed Maden to go 3-0 ahead. But the Indian dragged himself back to restore parity and he was

helped in no small measure by his opponent who dumped two forehands into the net. With a huge ace and a service winner Prajnesh went 6-3 up. The set was had two points later when a Maden forehand sailed long.

**Little to separate the two**  
The first game of the second set stretched to deuce with the Maden serve coming under pressure. But for that, there was little to separate the two in the first 10 games.

Prajnesh had a 30-30 on the Maden serve but two wide returns put paid to his hopes. The Indian held to love to stretch the match into another tiebreak.

Prajnesh appeared to have had the contest firmly in his grasp when he gained a 4-2

lead, but let it slip by giving away three points in a row.

What he required at 4-5 were steely nerves and he showed he had them in plenty when he executed a tough overhead and followed it up with an ace.

He sealed the match on his first match point with a crunching forehand winner.

"I held up quite well" Prajnesh said. "I served well, used my forehand well. The wrist and the elbow felt fine. It was much closer to my regular style. I am happy."

In doubles, Leander Paes and Mathew Ebden outplayed second seeds Divij Sharan and Artem Sitak 6-2, 7-6(5).

### The results (first round):

Prajnesh Gunneswaran bt Yannick Maden (Ger) 7-6(4), 7-6(5); James Duckworth (Aus) bt Peter Gojowczyk (Ger) 7-6(5), 6-4; Jiri Vesely (Cze) bt Arjun Kadhe 6-2, 6-4; Egor Gerasimov (Blr) bt Paolo Lorenzi (Ita) 6-2, 6-3; Ilya Ivashka (Blr) bt Evgeny Donskoy (Rus) 6-3, 6-2.

Nikola Milojevi (Srb) bt Antoine Hoang (Fra) 7-6(5), 6-4; Roberto Marcora (Ita) bt Lukas Rosol (Cze) 6-3, 6-2.

**Doubles:** Leander Paes & Mathew Ebden (Aus) bt Divij Sharan & Artem Sitak (Nzl) 6-2, 7-6(5).

**On Monday:** Salvatore Caruso (Ita) bt Ramkumar Ramanathan 3-6, 6-4, 7-5.

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## TV PICKS

**India vs New Zealand:** 1st ODI, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7:15 a.m.  
**PBL:** Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 6:45 p.m.  
**Ranji Trophy:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9:15 a.m.  
**ISL:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7:15 p.m.  
**Tata Open Maharashtra:** SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 3:10 p.m.  
**NBA:** Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 6:30 a.m. & 8:30 a.m.

## IN BRIEF



## Clippers rally to beat Spurs

Paul George, right in pic., found his groove just in time to help the Los Angeles Clippers pull off a 108-105 NBA victory over the San Antonio Spurs on Monday. George, who made just two of his first seven shots, drained four of his last six as the Clippers rallied from a 15-point second-quarter deficit to snatch the win. **The results:** Clippers 108 bt Spurs 105; Hawks 115 lost to Celtics 123; Nets 119 bt Suns 97; Heat 137 bt 76ers 106; Kings 113 bt Timberwolves 109; Grizzlies 96 bt Pistons 82; Hornets 100 lost to Magic 112; Cavaliers 134 lost to Knicks 139; Pacers 103 lost to Mavericks 112; Wizards 117 lost to Warriors 125.

## Basheer stars for Horse &amp; Wagon

**NEW DELHI:** Basheer Ali scored five goals in powering Horse & Wagon to a 8-6 victory over Navy in a league match of the Radha Mohan Rajinder Mohan Gold Vase polo tournament at the Army Equestrian Centre, Delhi Cantonment, on Tuesday. Anant Rajpurohit scored two goals for Navy, which had a four-goal handicap advantage. **The results (league):** Horse & Wagon 8 (Basheer Ali 5, Raghav Kumar 2, Salim Azmi) bt Navy 6 (Anant Rajpurohit 2, handicap 4).

## Sidharth advances

SPORTS BUREAU  
Nonthaburi (Thailand)

Sidharth Rawat beat Vaclav Safranek of the Czech Republic 6-3, 7-6(5) in the first round of the \$25,000 ITF men's Futures tennis tournament here on Tuesday. **The results:**

**First round: \$25,000 ITF men, Nonthaburi, Thailand:** Sidharth Rawat bt Vaclav Safranek (Cze) 6-3, 7-6(5).

**Doubles:** Benjamin Bonzi & Corinthen Denolly (Fra) bt Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam & Manish Sureshkumar 6-1, 6-2; Kim Cheong-Eui (Kor) & Vijay Sundar Prashanth bt He Yecong (Chn) & Jumpei Yamasaki (Jpn) 7-6(4), 4-6, [10-6].

**Women:** Bibiane Schoofs (Ned) & Ankita Raina bt Kammonwan Buayam & Patcharin Cheapchandej (Tha) 6-3, 6-1.

**\$15,000 ITF men, Sharm El Sheikh:** Mehuli Don Ayananda Sibanda (Zim) & Aryan Goovas bt Tristant Boyer (USA) & Oleksandr Ovcharenko (Ukr) 6-4, 6-4.

Shalva Dzhanashiya (Rus) & Aleksei Khomich (Blr) bt Jaime Caldes (Esp) & Sahil Gaware 6-4, 6-4.

+

## Bidhuri and Himmat steady Delhi

The two cut short Gujarat's joy with a century partnership for the sixth wicket

RAKESH RAO  
NEW DELHI

Delhi's top-order batting woes continued, but Kunwar Bidhuri and Himmat Singh cut short Gujarat's joy with a timely 134-run sixth-wicket stand on the opening day of their Ranji Trophy match here on Tuesday.

Put in, Delhi was in a bit of bother at 136 for five when Bidhuri joined Himmat. The duo smashed half-centuries and looked like taking the host to stumps, but in the scheduled penultimate over, Himmat's dismissal ended play at 270 for six.

**Wickets keep falling**  
For the better part of the day, Gujarat called the shots in spite of opener Hiten Dalal (69, 10x4) playing an innings of character.

The fall of wickets at regular intervals continued as inform medium-pacer Roosh Kalaria ended up accounting for the openers. Fellow left-arm Arzan Nagwaswalla sent back skipper Dhruv Shorey (28, 6x4), Nitish Rana (0) and Jonty Sidhu (18) to dash Delhi's hopes of a big first innings total.

But what followed was a rather unexpected act of resistance from Bidhuri (78 batting, 11x4, 1x6) and Him-



**Showcasing the way:** Delhi opener Hiten Dalal came up with an innings of character to notch up a half-century. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

## RANJI SCORES, ROUND 8, DAY 1

## GROUP A

**New Delhi:** Delhi 270/6 in 88.3 overs (Hiten Dalal 69, Himmat Singh 56, Kunwar Bidhuri 78 batting) vs Gujarat. **Toss:** Gujarat.

**Patiala:** Andhra 97 in 39.4 overs (Siddharth Kaul 5/24, including a hat-trick) & 31/4 in 9.2 overs vs Punjab 108 in 35.2 overs (Shaiboh Mohammed Khan 5/46, S. Ashish 5/50). **Toss:** Andhra.

**Jaipur:** Rajasthan 241 in 60 overs (Mahipal Lomror 52, Mukesh Kumar 6/62) vs Bengal 249/8 in 89.1 overs (Jay Bista 43, Sarfaraz Khan 78, Shams Mullanji 59 batting, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 5/90) vs Saurashtra. **Toss:** Mumbai.

**Nagpur:** Vidarbha 239/6 in 84 overs (Wasim Jaffer 57, Ganesh Satish 58, Siddhesh Wath 43) vs Kerala. **Toss:** Kerala.

## GROUP B

**Vadodara:** Baroda 174 in 51.4 overs (Atit Sheth 53, M. Mohammed 7/68) vs Tamil Nadu 135/0 in 31 overs (Abhinav Mukund 73 batting, L. Suryap-

prakash 61 batting). **Toss:** TN.

**Shimoga:** Karnataka 233/3 in 86 overs (R. Samarth 105 batting, K.V. Siddharth 62 batting) vs Madhya Pradesh. **Toss:** MP.

**New Delhi:** Himachal 283 in 82 overs (Rishi Dhawan 70, Nikhil Gangta 72, Mayank Dagar 68, T. Pradeep 4/62) vs Railways.

**Toss:** Himachal.

**Kirkat:** Mumbai 249/8 in 89.1 overs (Jay Bista 43, Sarfaraz Khan 78, Shams Mullanji 59 batting, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 5/90) vs Saurashtra. **Toss:** Mumbai.

**Agartala:** Jammu & Kashmir 280/9 in 89 overs (Jyoti Magrey 66, Shubham Khajuria 40, Aquib Nabi 46, Abid Mushtaq 49 batting, Manisan Kar Murasingh 4/85) vs Tripura. **Toss:** Tripura.

**Dehradun:** Uttarakhand 83 in 25.4 overs & 10/0 in 7 overs vs Services 173 in 52.2 overs (Rahul Singh 45, Mayank Mishra 6/48).

## GROUP C

**Lahli:** Assam 97 in 37 overs (Harshal Patel 4/32, Tinu Kundu 5/35) vs Haryana 198 in 46.3 overs (Rohit Sharma 59, Chaitanya Bishnoi 46). **Toss:** Haryana.

## ana.

**Jamshedpur:** Chhattisgarh 238/4 in 78 overs (Jiwanjot Singh 52, Harpreet Singh 124 batting) vs Jharkhand. **Toss:** Chhattisgarh.

**Pune:** Odisha 220/5 in 88 overs (Shantanu Mishra 84 batting, Anurag Sarangi 41, Rajesh Dhuper 67 batting) vs Maharashtra.

**Toss:** Maharashtra.

**Agartala:** Jammu & Kashmir 280/9 in 89 overs (Jyoti Magrey 66, Shubham Khajuria 40, Aquib Nabi 46, Abid Mushtaq 49 batting, Manisan Kar Murasingh 4/85) vs Tripura. **Toss:** Tripura.

**Dehradun:** Uttarakhand 83 in 25.4 overs & 10/0 in 7 overs vs Services 173 in 52.2 overs (Rahul Singh 45, Mayank Mishra 6/48).

## GROUP D

**Patna:** Arunachal Pradesh 283/6 in 90 overs (Neelam Obi 45, Rahul Dalal 151 batting) vs Bihar. **Toss:** Arunachal.

## PLATE

**Chandigarh:** Mizoram 109 in 41.2 overs (Taruwar Kohli 77, Gurinder Singh 4/18) vs Chandigarh 193/3 in 40 overs (Raman Bishnoi 73 batting, Uday Kaul 62 batting). **Toss:** Mizoram.

**Kolkata:** Pondicherry 363/8 in 85 overs (Paras Dogra 56, Fabid Ahmed 154 batting) vs Manipur. **Toss:** Manipur.

**Mangaldoi:** Meghalaya 174 in 47.3 overs (Puneet Bisht 85, Sanjay Yadav 40, Ishwar Chaudhary 5/48) vs Sikkim 105/6 in 40 overs (Yashpal Singh 44, Abhay Negi 4/32). **Toss:** Meghalaya.

**Dimapur:** Goa 260/5 in 86 overs (Vaibhav Govekar 71, Smit Patel 66) vs Nagaland. **Toss:** Goa.

## Toss: Services.

**Patna:** Arunachal Pradesh 283/6 in 90 overs (Neelam Obi 45, Rahul Dalal 151 batting) vs Bihar. **Toss:** Arunachal.

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## Maxwell back in Australian squad

IANS  
CANBERRA

Despite an outstanding show in the ongoing Big Bash League (BBL), all-rounder Marcus Stonis was not included in Australia's ODI and T20I squads for their upcoming tour of South Africa while Glenn Maxwell has been recalled.

Maxwell, who took a break in October 2019 due to mental health issues, has been included in the both squads and will make his re-

turn in national colours.

## The squads:

**T20I:** Aaron Finch (Captain), Sean Abbott, Ashton Agar, Alex Carey, Pat Cummins, Mitch Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Jhye Richardson, Kane Richardson, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Matthew Wade, David Warner, Glenn Maxwell has been recalled.

**ODI:** Finch (Captain), Agar, Carey, Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, Marnus Labuschagne, Mitch Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Kane Richardson, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Matthew Wade, Warne and Zampa.

## Sanchis through

## SPORTS BUREAU

Arantxa Sanchis (Maharashtra) got past Anupama Ramchandran (Tamil Nadu) 2-1 (31-75, 75-58)-23, 75-64) in a senior billiards women quarterfinals round at the Manisha-Vascon National Billiards and Snooker Championship.

**The results (quarterfinals):** T20I: Aaron Finch (Captain), Sean Abbott, Ashton Agar, Alex Carey, Pat Cummins, Mitch Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Jhye Richardson, Kane Richardson, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Matthew Wade, David Warner, Glenn Maxwell has been recalled.

Claiming that the target of lifting in the range of 203kg-205kg was achieved here, National coach Vijay Sharma gave a more practical target in Kazakhstan.

"There are little things that need to be worked on. I am confident that in Asian championship she will get to 206kg-207kg. Medal will come between 207kg and 210kg (in the Olympics). When three competitors fight for this, gold will come in this range."

Acknowledging the pressure, Sanchis said she needed to work on strength and technical sides. "You live with pressure. I try to relax myself, tell myself I have done it in international level, done it in practice."

She could not lift 210kg in her final clean and jerk attempt, but could not do it due to a slight 'pull' that hindered her receiving.

The former World champion

knew that if she gets to 210kg, then she will give herself a chance to land a medal, including a gold.

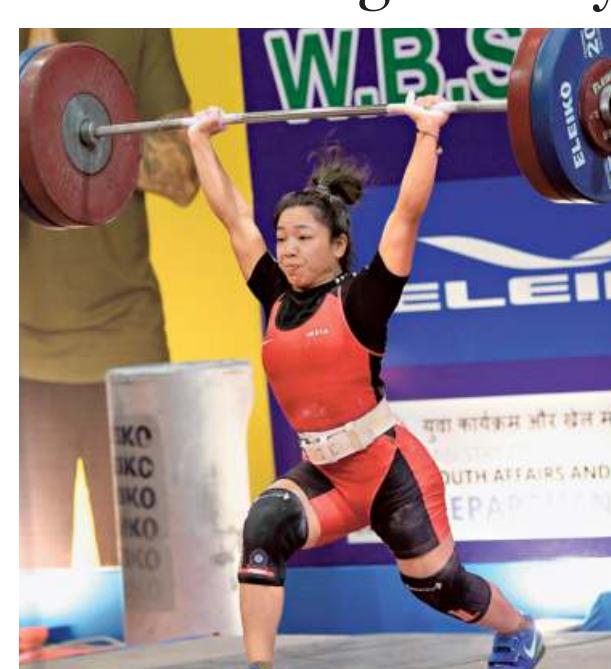
"I am very happy with my best effort. The target is to do 90kg in snatch and 120kg in clean and jerk. I hope to do that in the Asian championships (an Olympic qualifying event), in Kazakhstan in April," said Mirabai.

The Indian was fourth behind Chinese Jiang Huihua (212) and Hou Zhihui (211) and North Korean Ri Song Gum (204) in Pattaya.

Acknowledging the pressure, Mirabai said she needed to work on strength and technical sides. "You live with pressure. I try to relax myself, tell myself I have done it in international level, done it in practice."

The diminutive lifter, who had a forgettable outing in the 2016 Olympics, said, "Rio was a learning experience, have

## Commanding show by Mirabai



**Superwoman:** Mirabai Chanu was at her best in the National weightlifting championships. ■ RAJEEV BHATT

amid loud cheers. She also got past her previous best total of 201kg.

**The results: Men 73kg:** 1. N. Ajith (TN) snatch 140kg [NR, Old 138kg, Achinta Sheuli], clean and jerk 170kg, total 310kg [NR, Old 306, Achinta Sheuli]; 2. Achinta Sheuli (WB) 138kg, 168kg, 306kg; 3. Kanhu Charan Sahu (Odi) 128kg, 162kg, 290kg.

**Women: 49kg:** 1. S. Mirabai Chanu (RSPB) 88kg [NR, Old 87kg, Mirabai], 115kg [NR, Old 114kg, Mirabai], 203kg [NR, Old 201kg, Mirabai]; 2. K. Sanjita Chana (RSPB) 80kg, 105kg, 185kg; 3. T. Priyadarshini (Tel) 70kg, 98kg, 168kg.

**55kg:** 1. Manali莎 Sonowal (AIP) 81kg, 99kg, 180kg; 2. P. Ranibala Devi (Mani) 81kg, 98kg, 179kg; 3. Mandeep (Har) 80kg, 99kg, 179kg; 59kg: 1. E. Deexitha (RSPB) 88kg, 115kg, 203kg [NR, Old 202kg, Popy Hazarika]; 2. Popy Hazarika (Asm) 94kg [NR, Old 88kg, Deexitha], 108kg, 202kg; 3. Davinder Kaur (Pun) 84kg, 114kg, 198kg.

**63kg:** 1. S. Mirabai Chanu (RSPB) 88kg [NR, Old 87kg, Mirabai], 115kg [NR, Old 114kg, Mirabai], 203kg [NR, Old 201kg, Mirabai]; 2. P. Ranibala Devi (Mani) 81kg, 98kg, 179kg; 3. T. Priyadarshini (Tel) 70kg, 98kg, 168kg.