



Cabinet expansion in three days, says Yediyurappa
page 8



WHO declares global virus emergency as death toll hits 213
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Ecstasy for India, agony for NZ in yet another Super Over finish
page 20



Thiem gets past Zverev, meets Djokovic in final of Australian Open
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NEARBY



BJP promises 10 lakh jobs, quality flour at ₹2 per kg
NEW DELHI

The BJP released its "sankalp patra" or the manifesto for the Assembly elections here on Friday, promising "quality flour" at ₹2 per kg to the poor, 10 lakh jobs in the next five years and a "gift" of ₹51,000 to the daughters of poor widows at the time of their marriage, among others.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

U.P. hostage taker's wife lynched by mob
LUCKNOW

Over 20 children were rescued after an armed man, a murder convict who took them hostage after inviting them for a birthday party at his house in a village at Farrukhabad, was killed on January 30 night. His wife was later lynched by a mob.

NATION ▶ PAGE 9

6 suspected coronavirus cases at RML Hospital
NEW DELHI

Six persons, suspected of being affected by coronavirus, are being kept under observation at an isolation ward in RML Hospital here.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

SRIRAM's IAS
IAS
Prelim Test Series (FREE)
Prelim-cum-Main June 2020
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www.sriramsias.com
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CEA sees growth rebounding to 6%

Economic Survey admits to slowdown, seeks end to norms stifling industry's global competitiveness

VIKAS DHOTU
NEW DELHI

The Economic Survey for 2019-2020 seems an exercise driven by 20/20 hindsight, combined with an optimistic 20/20 vision for the year to come, as it expects GDP growth to revive from the 5% estimated for this year to a range between 6%-6.5% next year.

The Survey hints at going easy on fiscal deficit targets to shore up growth and makes a valiant attempt to evangelise wealth creation by entrepreneurs, instead of demonising them.

It also calls for unravelling multiple regulations stifling Indian industry's global competitiveness and urges policy makers to stop being "judgmental" about importing inputs, assembling them and re-exporting them, even if it means little value-added at home. Focusing on just six such 'network' sectors could generate 4 crore jobs by 2025 and 8 crore jobs by 2030 and reverse the country's tepid job creation record, the Survey said.

Blames UPA

While admitting there has been a slowdown with the economy poised to grow at just 5% in 2019-20 – the slowest in 11 years – Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) Krishnamurthy Subramanian, attributed the deceleration to slower global growth and domestic financial sector

Hoping for the best

While the GDP growth in the first half of FY20 slowed to 4.8%, the Economic Survey suggests that the second half will witness an uptick

Some developments which hint at a revival, according to the Survey:

- IP in Nov, 2019 saw a growth of 1.8% compared to a contraction by 3.4% in Oct, 2019
- PMI Manufacturing increased from 50.6 in Oct, 2019 to 51.2 and 52.7 in Nov and Dec, 2019 respectively
- The gross GST revenue collected in Dec, 2019 and Nov, 2019 saw a positive growth rate of 9% and 6% respectively
- NIFTY India Consumption Index picked up for the first time in Oct, 2019

woes that need attention. Mr. Subramanian had projected a 7% growth earlier.

But he added that the seeds for the growth decline since 2017 were sown under the UPA regime in 2013, when private investment began tapering off. While food inflation has spiked, the Survey uses behavioural economics to show that eating a *thali* has become more affordable in recent years.

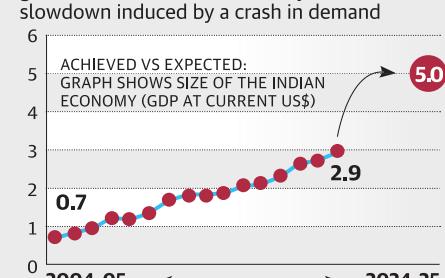
CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

MORE REPORTS ON ▶ PAGES 13 & 14

Size matters | India's economy is estimated to be the fifth largest in the world. The top 5 economies in terms of GDP at \$ trillion in 2019:

SL. No.	Country	2017	2018	2019 (E)
1	United States	19.5	20.6	21.4
2	China	12.1	13.4	14.1
3	Japan	4.9	5.0	5.2
4	Germany	3.7	4.0	3.9
5	India	2.7	2.7	2.9

Vision 2025 | The government had set a goal to make India a \$5 tn economy by 2024-25. But growth suffered a setback this year due to a slowdown induced by a crash in demand



GDP revised downwards for 2018-19

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Statistics Office (NSO) on Friday released revised estimates for economic growth in the last three years, pegging actual GDP growth in 2018-19 at 6.1% instead of the 6.8% provisional estimates reported earlier in May 2019.

The NSO attributed the downward revision in the 2018-19 growth rate to a reduction in numbers from the primary sector (representing farm- and mining-related activity) and the secondary sector (manufacturing, utilities and construction).

said in a statement.

As per the first revision for 2017-18 numbers released last January, real GDP had grown at 7.2%.

In terms of gross value-added (GVA), the economy grew at 6% in 2018-19 as opposed to 6.6% estimated earlier, with primary sector GVA growth pared from 2.7% estimated earlier to 1%.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

duction in numbers from the primary sector (representing farm- and mining-related activity) and the secondary sector (manufacturing, utilities and construction).

Real GDP or GDP at constant (2011-12) prices for the years 2018-19 and 2017-18 stand at ₹39.81 lakh crore and ₹31.75 lakh crore, respectively, showing growth of 6.1% during 2018-19 and 7% during 2017-18," the NSO

CAA fulfils wish of Gandhiji, President tells Parliament

He lauds both Houses for enacting it

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Friday kick-started the Budget session of Parliament with an address to both Houses. He lauded the enactment of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) that, he said, fulfilled the wish of Mahatma Gandhi who had said that Hindus and Sikhs of Pakistan, who didn't want to stay there, could come to India.

In an hour-long address, he spoke at length on the importance of the Constitution, adding that "in a democracy, nothing is more sacred than the mandate of the people of the country have given this mandate to my government for the making of New India".

He said India had always believed in the principle of equal respect for all faiths, but at the time of Partition in 1947, "this very belief of India and of its people came under the most severe attack".

In the environment prevailing in the aftermath of Partition, Mahatma Gandhi had said, "Hindus and Sikhs of Pakistan, who do not wish to live there, can come to India. It is the duty of the



President Ram Nath Kovind addressing a joint session of Parliament on Friday. ■ PTI

government of India to ensure a normal life for them."

Procedure unchanged
"It is our responsibility to honour this wish of the founding fathers of our nation. I am happy that both Houses have fulfilled this wish by enacting the Citizenship (Amendment) Act," Mr. Kovind said.

He clarified that "the procedures which have existed for people from all faiths of the world who believe in India and who wish to obtain Indian citizenship remain unchanged. A person of any faith can follow these processes and become a citizen of India."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Shooter sent to 28-day protective custody

Bone ossification test at RML Hospital ordered to determine if he is a juvenile

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

The young man who fired at a Jamia Millia Islamia student during a protest march against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act on Thursday was sent to 28-day protective custody in a correction home by the Juvenile Justice Board a day later.

Purportedly 17 years old, a bone ossification test would be conducted to ascertain if he is indeed a little over two months shy of becoming an adult. Police said they have approached Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital to form a board of doctors for the test.

No remorse for act
Rajesh Deo, DCP (Crime), confirmed that the young man was presented before a magistrate at the JJB on Friday and sent to a correction home.



The shooter outside Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi ■ REUTERS

protesters as he panicked after seeing them coming towards him.

"A police team has been formed to nab the person who supplied him the firearm. We are also verifying his mark sheets and other documents to ascertain his correct age. His mobile phone is also being scanned to find out about people he was in touch with and if the attack was planned by someone else," said the officer.

The young man revealed during interrogation that he had planned to fire a bullet in the air but fired on the

board also recommended regular psychiatric sessions during his stay at the correction home.

A police officer who interrogated the young man after the Thursday incident said he displayed no remorse for his act. The shooter told the police that he bought the countrymade handgun from a man in his town for ₹10,000 on January 29, a day before using it. He boarded a bus to Delhi the next day and at the Noida-Delhi border, shifted to an autorickshaw and asked the driver to take him to the protest site. "The driver dropped him off outside Jamia Millia Islamia. He was concealing the handgun in the bag he was carrying with him," said the officer.

A police officer who interrogated the young man after the Thursday incident said he displayed no remorse for his act. The shooter told the police that he bought the countrymade handgun from a man in his town for ₹10,000 on January 29, a day before using it. He boarded a bus to Delhi the next day and at the Noida-Delhi border,

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'We are giving pens, they are giving guns'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal said on Friday that while his party was putting pens and computers in the hands of students, "they" are offering guns and hatred, in a veiled attack at the JJB.

"Fabulous! Delhi government school student addressing big IT tech conference! We have put pens and computers in the hands of children and dreams of entrepreneurship in their eyes! They are giving guns and hatred. What do you want to give your children? Tell on Feb. 8!" Mr. Kejriwal said in a tweet in Hindi.

On Thursday, the AAP had hit out at the BJP over a Jamia Millia Islamia student being shot at by a young man at an anti-CAA protest.

Colours of protest



Artists paint graffiti on a wall on Friday during the ongoing demonstration against the amended Citizenship Act and the National Register of Citizens at Shaheen Bagh in New Delhi. ■ PTI

3 truck-borne militants killed in Jammu

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Three truck-borne Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) militants were killed at a toll plaza in Jammu's Nagrota on Friday morning.

One of two persons arrested from the truck is a cousin of suicide bomber Adil Dar, who carried out a deadly attack in Pulwama last year and killed 40 CRPF jawans, the police said.

The incident took place at the Bann Toll Plaza on the Srinagar-Jammu Highway around 5 a.m., and the militants were hiding behind urea bags in the truck. "They were heading for Srinagar," said DGP Dilbag Singh.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Execution of Nirbhaya convicts postponed till further orders

Court to hear their pleas; lawyer says remedies yet to be exhausted

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The execution of the death sentence awarded to all four convicts in the December 16, 2012 Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder case was postponed for the second time on Friday, following an order from a Delhi court.

Additional sessions judge Dharmender Rand directed that the execution be postponed till further orders after considering the pleas by three convicts – Pawan Gupta, 23, Akshay Kumar, 31, and Vinay Sharma, 24.

On January 7, the court had ordered the execution of the death sentence on January 22. This was postponed to February 1. Shortly after the court's

order, the victim's mother said she would continue her fight till the convicts are hanged. During the day, family members of Pawan, Mukesh and Vinay came to meet them in Tihar jail. Advocate A.P. Singh, representing the three, urged the court to postpone the hanging, contending that their legal remedies were yet to be exhausted.

Mercy petition
He told the court that a mercy petition under Article 72 of the Constitution has been filed on behalf of convict Vinay. Advocate Singh said a curative petition filed on behalf of convict Akshay was dismissed on Thursday by the Supreme Court.

Supreme Court asks U.P. govt. to reply on notices to protesters

Petition questions government's 'arbitrary' action

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Uttar Pradesh government to explain its notices to certain persons to cough up money for destruction of public property during protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in December last year.

A Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud issued formal notice to the State government on a petition filed by Uttar Pradesh resident Parwaiz Arif Titu, who said the notices for payment of damages were "arbitrarily" sent to people. They include a person, Banu Khan, who died six years ago at the age of 94, to two others, Fasahat</

December 15 violence: court seeks police reply on plea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI A Delhi court on Friday sought a response from the city police on a plea claiming that the agency was not conducting a fair probe into the violence during an anti-CAA protest near Jamia Millia Islamia last month.

The petitioner also sought a court-monitored investigation into the incident.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Gurmohina Kaur directed Delhi Police to file its reply by February 5.

The plea was filed by All India Students' Association (AISA) secretary Chandan Kumar who was booked in connection with the violence on December 15 last year.

Advocate Adit S. Pujari, appearing for Kumar, had earlier claimed before the court that police were not carrying out a "fair" probe in the case.

Mr. Pujari had also said that Delhi Police's Crime Branch should investigate personnel of the Jamia Nagar police station who allegedly entered the university campus without permission on December 15 and attacked students.

He had said that, according to media reports, 102 arrests have been made so far in the case and police should be directed to produce footage from at least one CCTV camera that shows the arrested were involved in the violence.

Mr. Pujari also claimed that by seizing Mr. Kumar's mobile phone, police violated his fundamental rights.

He claimed that Mr. Kumar was not allowed to consult his lawyer when he was called for questioning by the police.

Case filed for erecting tent in MCD park

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI Delhi Police has registered an FIR against several people for erecting a tent at a Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) park in Malviya Nagar to stage protest against the CAA, the police said on Friday.

Police said that they got information on January 29 that a group of people had gathered at an MCD park and erecting tent to stage protest. A team from Malviya Nagar police station reached the location and tried to convince people not to encroach any public space. But they got into a scuffle with policemen and tore the uniform of one of the Sub-Inspectors.

DCP (South) Atul Thakur said that they have registered a case under IPC Section of obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions. They are in process of identifying the accused.

Anti-CAA protest outside varsity continues despite firing incident

Appeals were issued to people to come out without any fear and protest

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI A day after a student was shot at outside Jamia Millia Islamia, hundreds of people, including students and people from nearby areas, converged at the same spot where the incident took place and continued their protest against the amended Citizenship Act as well as to denounce Delhi Police on Friday.

"They are trying to make us afraid," said Aleena Ariz (21), an engineering student at the university. She argued that they had witnessed worst violence on the night of December 15 than the Thursday's shooting.

Ms. Ariz highlighted that the "incendiary" statements made by Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur had



Students protesting against CAA and NRC outside Jamia Millia Islamia in the city. ■ FILE PHOTO: BIBEK CHETTRI

encouraged the shooter to carry out the attack.

"Since action was not taken against him, people thought it was okay to say such statements... leaders should condemn this," said Ms. Ariz.

Salman Ali, who lives near the university, said that fewer people had come for the

protest given that a fear had been created. "When something like this happens in broad daylight, of course you'd be afraid," he said. Despite being instructed not to step out by his family, he decided to attend the protest.

Amid chants of "Azadi" and "Delhi police hai hai",

Shooting a direct result of call given by BJP Minister: CPI(M)

Party demands filing of FIR against Anurag, Parvesh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI The Jamia Nagar incident in which a student was shot at by a man in full view of a contingent of Delhi Police was a "direct result of the call given by BJP Minister Anurag Thakur", CPI(M) said in a statement on Friday.

The party has reiterated its demand to file an FIR against Mr. Thakur and West Delhi MP Parvesh Sahib Singh.

"His [culprit] terrorist action is a direct result of the call given by a BJP leader and Minister in the Modi government, Anurag Thakur, to



Sitaram Yechury

shoot at the protesters, calling them traitors along with other communal hate speeches and incitement to violence being given by top BJP leaders, led by Home Minister Amit Shah," the CPI(M) Polit Bureau said in a

statement.

The party said that Delhi Police has been ignoring all signs of an impending attack. "It is shocking that although an outfit called the 'Hindu Sena' had given an open call to attack Shaheen Bagh and other protest sites in the Capital on February 2 and put up posters, no action has been taken against them," the CPI (M) said.

The party said that the BJP is sharpening communal polarisation and using hate rhetoric targeting protests against CAA, NRC and NPR due to fear of defeat in the forthcoming Delhi polls.

Added attraction



Dahlia flowers in full bloom at Vijay Chowk in the Capital on Friday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Rapists should be hanged within 6 months: Kejriwal

The Ukrainian, also a cancer patient, was allegedly raped and cheated by a man

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday directed the police to provide security to a Ukrainian woman who is seeking cancellation of bail of a man, claiming to be a yoga instructor, for allegedly raping and cheating her.

Justice Suresh Kumar Kait noted that the woman, who is suffering from cancer, has been receiving threats from the accused and directed Delhi Police to provide her a woman officer round-the-clock to avoid any untoward incident.

The court also directed the Director of All India Institute of Medical Sciences



(AIIMS) to provide her treatment for cancer on priority basis and ensure that she does not face any difficulty.

The court was informed by advocate Alakh Alok Srivastava, representing the woman, that her visa was

going to expire in February and she wanted to go back to her country as she did not have money to get the treatment in India.

The court made it clear that the expenses for her treatment will be borne by the AIIMS and she will not be charged even a penny.

It also directed the Ministry of External Affairs to take steps and get her visa extended till pendency of her case here and no action be taken against her in the absence of her valid visa.

The High Court also sought response of the police and accused Abhishek Singh on the woman's plea seeking cancellation of his

Jamia teachers' body blames Anurag for 'inciting violence'

It appeals to Shaheen Bagh protesters to open one side of the road

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Strongly condemning the shooting of a student of Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) on Thursday, the university's teachers' association put the blame for the incident on "incendiary" comment made by Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur earlier at a rally.

"They want us to get scared and retaliate. But nothing like that happened. Everything is going peacefully," said Mohammed Asif (18).

Wall of art

On the boundary wall of the university where several murals have been painted, a new painting depicting a shooter aiming his gun at Mahatma Gandhi while policemen stood at the background cheering him up, came up on Friday. Adjacent to it was a mural depicting a police personnel beating up a student inside the university library.

Nothing can be more anti-national than a Minister inciting citizens to violence from a public platform, and we severely condemn his words and action

JAMIA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

(JTA) said in a statement.

"Nothing can be more anti-national than a Minister inciting citizens to violence from a public platform, and we severely condemn his words and action," it added.

In an appeal to the protesters opposing the government's moves at Shaheen Bagh, the JMI called for one side of the road to be opened for traffic.

"It would be an act of civic responsibility and sensitivity, and also a gesture of facilitation to all whose destinations would be easier to access," it said.

The association also reiterated its opposition to the CAA, NRC and NPR and argued that if the government cherishes values of inclusiveness and equality, it should undertake a re-think on these. "When thousands across the country have severe reservations about a law and have been vociferously expressing them, it is time for any government that truly respects democracy to take measures to resolve the concerns and fears of its citizens," it said.

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Who paid the shooter, asks Rahul Gandhi

Youth Congress lodges complaint against BJP leader for his 'hate speech'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Asked by the reporters to comment on the Jamia shooting incident as he was entering Parliament, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said, "Who paid the Jamia shooter?"

On Thursday, though he didn't tweet anything on the incident, he had quoted Mahatma Gandhi. "I cannot teach you violence as I do not believe in it. I can only teach you not to bow your heads before anyone, even at the cost of your life," Mr. Gandhi had tweeted quoting the Mahatma.

Meanwhile, Indian Youth Congress president B.V. Srinivas on Friday lodged a cri-



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi arrives on the first day of the Budget Session at Parliament House on Friday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

millia Islamia on Thursday." "When Anurag Thakur made an inflammatory speech, it triggered the perpetrator's mind and he opened fire on students," Mr. Srinivas said.

6 suspected coronavirus cases at RML Hospital

Their test reports are awaited

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Six persons, suspected of being affected by novel coronavirus, are being kept under observation at an isolation ward of RML Hospital here. Their test reports are awaited.

On January 30, five persons self-reported to the hospital, designated to deal with such cases, with respiratory problems and fever, said hospital sources. The sixth case is an old admissions, added officials.

The five men and one woman are under observation at the isolation ward of the hospital, said source.

Senior hospital official said that RML has trained staff, isolation wards and equipment to manage any novel coronavirus case. "We are constantly in touch with the Health Ministry, which is coordinating all operations in the country," the official added.

The five men and one woman are under observation at the isolation ward of the hospital, said source.

India reported its first novel coronavirus case in Kerala on Thursday and the patient has been kept in an isolation ward in the State, Health Ministry said.

All passengers coming in from China are being screened at 21 airports, ports and borders for possible infection and the Health Ministry has urged people to report themselves if they show symptoms of coronavirus such as cold and respiratory distress on the 24x7 helpline: 011-23978046.

The Ministry has asked people to refrain from travelling to China. States bordering Nepal have stepped up vigil.

The death toll in China's coronavirus outbreak on Friday climbed to 213 with the number of confirmed cases reaching 9,692. Hubei province reported 5,806 confirmed cases, including 204 deaths.

With inputs from PTI

Civic body conducts awareness workshop

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on Friday held a workshop to create awareness on Coronavirus among doctors working in North body's allopathic and AYUSH hospitals and dispensaries.

NDMC Chairman Dharmendra, after inaugurating the workshop, said that stress may be given to the prevention of the disease such as what should be done and what should be told to general public to prevent the transmission of the disease.

"Do not disseminate misinformation about Coronavirus through social media and such platforms may be used to sensitise people at large with correct information about this disease," said the North body Chairman.

Court tells Centre to fill vacancies in Delhi Police

10,130 posts are lying vacant

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday said it expected that vacancies in the police force here will be filled by the Central government as early as possible.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar issued the direction after perusing an affidavit filed by the government that said Delhi Police had a sanctioned strength of 91,962 and 10,130 posts were lying vacant.

The government also told the court that the recruitment process to fill up the

vacancies has been set in motion and advertisements have been issued.

The submission was made in an affidavit filed by the government in response to a PIL initiated by the High Court, on a Supreme Court order. The apex order has asked all High Courts to take suo motu cognisance of vacancies in police forces in their respective jurisdictions.

Taking note of the affidavit filed by the Centre, the Bench disposed of the PIL saying, "We see no further reason to monitor the matter as there is hardly 10% vacancy in the Delhi Police".

No issue bigger than national security: Shah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Arnit Shah on Friday asserted that there was "no issue bigger than national security" and slammed the Opposition parties, saying while the BJP was committed to this aim, the Congress and AAP were indulging in "ap-peasement politics" to keep their vote bank intact.

At an election rally in support of the BJP candidate for Shakur Basti, he also alleged that Shaheen Bagh was the vote bank of the Congress and AAP.

SpiceJet's free ticket offer raises eyebrows

JAGRITI CHANDRA
DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

In a move that has raised eyebrows, low-cost carrier SpiceJet has offered air travellers "free tickets" if they plan a trip to Delhi to cast their vote in the Assembly elections. Passengers will have to post their inspiration to vote on social media and will be shortlisted by an internal judges' panel.

Some industry veterans called this a case of "false advertising with the intent to snoop on people's social media account".

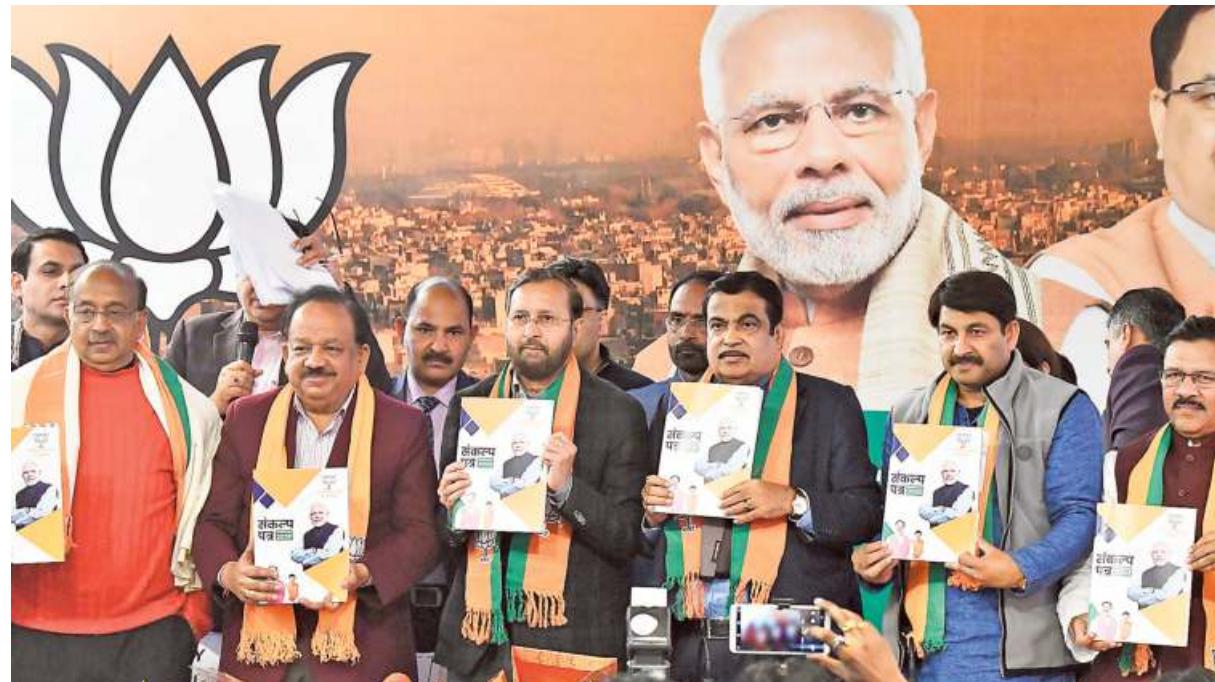
An official of the Election Commission said, "We are seized of the matter."

The booking period opened on Thursday and will be in effect till midnight of February 8, according to the airline's website.

The airline said it will only reimburse the base fare and passengers will have to pay "applicable taxes, surcharges, levies and any other additional costs".

BJP manifesto promises 10 lakh jobs, flour at ₹2 per kg

Delhi needs a BJP govt. to start the bullet train of development, says Gadkari



Union Ministers and senior BJP leaders releasing the party's election manifesto in Delhi on Friday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) released its 'sankalp patra' (manifesto) for the upcoming Assembly elections on Friday in which it has promised to provide "quality flour" at the rate of ₹2 per kg to the poor, 10 lakh jobs in the next five years, and a "gift" of ₹51,000 to the daughters of poor widows at the time of their marriage, among other sops.

The manifesto was released by the party's senior leadership, including Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari; Prakash Javadekar, who is the Delhi elections in-charge; and Harsh Vardhan, who was in-charge of formulating the document on the basis of 11,35,636 suggestions from as many respondents.

Several BJP MPs were also present on the occasion.

"The BJP's politics is not based on falsehood and communalism. It is continuously

BJP's politics is not based on falsehood and communalism. It is continuously working to change the fate of the poor, the workers, the farmers and the country

NITIN GADKARI
Union Minister

working to change the fate of the poor, the workers, the farmers and the country. For starting the 'bullet train' of development, Delhi needs a BJP government," Mr. Gadkari said.

While the issue of conferring Statehood to Delhi – one of the BJP's oldest poll promises – was missing from its manifesto this time, the party said it would not only "allow the continuance" of the flagship power and water subsidies implemented by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Delhi government. The enact-

ment of the Lokpal too, it said, would be "a priority" if the BJP formed the government.

These subsidies, the party argued, would benefit the people of Delhi "more" since they would be in place "for 60 months and will implement them in a better manner". This, even as it promised cheaper power through competition between the two discoms, a city "free from [water] tankers" and "perfect synergy" between all three levels of government from the Centre down to the level of civic bodies in addition to filling up all vacancies in government departments.

Women empowerment
Empowering women and transgenders would also be a priority for the BJP, it said, besides the creation of a Sanskrit Board to promote the language, an All India Institute of Homeopathic Medi-

cine to "boost research in the field of homeopathy" and promoting traditional Indian sports such as kabaddi, kho-kho, malkhamb and kushti. Apart from 10 new colleges and 200 new schools, the party also promised education and health budgets increasing at the rate of 10% per year, 10,000 'green buses', free electric scooters for girls and young women. It also promised the deployment of female home guards to make public places safer for women.

A comprehensive scheme for the development of unauthorised colonies [now authorised] will be framed and now a dedicated Colonies Development Board will be formed... A new 'Prosperous Delhi Infrastructure Scheme' will be started through construction of better roads, flyover and other basic amenities will be done on priority basis," Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari said.

BJP will stop free water, power: AAP

MP Sanjay Singh calls party's manifesto a bundle of lies

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Attacking the election manifesto released by the BJP, Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said that it proved that the BJP will end "free" electricity, water, and bus rides for women if it comes to power.

"Manifesto of BJP proved that if you vote for them, then your free electricity, free water and free bus journey will be stopped. Think and vote," Mr. Kejriwal said in a tweet.

Addressing a press conference, AAP MP and party's Delhi election in-charge Sanjay Singh, termed the manifesto a "jumla patra [a bundle of lies]."

"After having gone through the BJP's manifesto for Delhi, I can confidently say that this is nothing but a *jumla patra* and proof that they are out to cheat the people. This manifesto clearly

leader stood with the traders at that time, while we fought for them, on the streets and in Parliament. Who is going to believe these blatant lies of the BJP?" he said.

Mr. Singh said that the BJP was cheating people by stating that they would regularise safai karamchalis.

"They say that they will regularise safai karamchalis. This is ridiculous. As of now, 'services' is under their jurisdiction. Manoj Tiwari is on record, in a video captured during the campaign for civic polls in 2017, in which he said that the dues for all safai karamchalis will be paid. What happened to that promise? Now again, they have brought this up during the Assembly elections," he said.

"In all, they [BJP] will only take Delhi away from progress and towards regression," he added.

Cong. calls BJP manifesto deceptive

It lacks pronouncements on steps to curb pollution'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Congress on Friday said that the BJP manifesto for the Assembly elections was "deceptive".

Delhi Congress chief Subhash Chopra said that the BJP's 'sankalp patra' for the February 8 polls was a "jhanssa patra [deception paper]" to throw dust into the eyes of people to get their votes".

"The BJP manifesto has promised to provide 10 lakh jobs for the youth of Delhi even after failing to fulfil the

promise of giving two crore jobs to the youth of the country every year, made in its 2014 Lok Sabha election manifesto. The country is now staring at the highest unemployment rate in 45 years and several lakh people have been rendered jobless in Delhi due to the sealing drive," Mr. Chopra said.

Stating that due to the "frequent strikes" by sanitation workers, the Capital had become a "huge garbage dump," Mr. Chopra said: "The BJP is promising to

+ Bar MPs of erstwhile J&K State from Parliament'

They are a drain on exchequer: plea

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A petition moved in the Delhi High Court has sought that MPs from the "erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir", who are allegedly illegally continuing to hold their seats after disbanding of the State, be stopped from entering Parliament.

The petition, filed by separatist leader Abdul Gani Bhat, alleged that 10 MPs – four in the Rajya Sabha and six in the Lok Sabha – from the erstwhile State are "illegally" continuing to hold seats in Parliament.

It also claimed that the MPs, including Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad and Jammu and Kashmir National Conference chairman Farooq Abdullah, are "a drain on public exchequer" as they are enjoying the salary and perks that come with the position.

Presence of the 10 MPs from erstwhile State of J&K in Parliament was immoral, illegal and unconstitutional

PLEA BY SEPARATIST LEADER ABDUL GANI BHAT

quer" as they are enjoying the salary and perks that come with the position.

It further alleged that the "presence of the 10 MPs from the erstwhile State in the Parliament was immoral, illegal and unconstitutional".

On August 5 last year, Parliament had abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution, which granted a special status to the State and had reorganised it into two Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

'AAP MLA made illegal Waqf Board recruitments'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government's Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) is probing 33 alleged illegal recruitment at the Delhi Waqf Board during the chairmanship of AAP legislator Amanatullah Khan, after he was booked by the ACB for suspected misuse of the Board's funds, officials said.

In the FIR, the ACB said, "Despite apparent clear warning and pointing out violation of rules and regulations, the recruitment process was continued and 33 personnel were recruited on contract basis and engagement letters were issued." It also said that Mr. Khan allegedly made an expenditure of ₹5 lakh in violation of the Board norms.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi 190 Gurugram 87
Ghaziabad 207 Faridabad 129
Noida 184 Greater Noida 166

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

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AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY
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Cong. suspends senior leader for anti-party activities

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) on Friday suspended senior leader and former Member of Parliament Mahabir Mishra for "anti-party" activities ahead of the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections.

"Mr. Mishra has been suspended from the Congress with immediate effect for anti-party activities," read a statement issued by AICC Delhi election in-charge P.C. Chacko.

Mr. Mishra's son Vinay Kumar Mishra has joined the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and will be contesting from Dwarka Assembly constituency.

Mr. Vinay had unsuccessfully contested the last Assembly polls from Palam on a Congress ticket.

In 2009, Mr. Mishra was a Member of Parliament from West Delhi.

In Kalkaji, it's a matter of legacy

Shivani Chopra promises to carry forward work done by her father, Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee chief Subhash Chopra, in the constituency

SHINJINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI

Meandering through the narrow bylanes of Bhoomiheen Camp on Friday, Congress' Kalkaji candidate Shivani Chopra promised the slum dwellers that she would make the constituency "number one in Delhi".

Ms. Chopra is an advocate and daughter of Delhi Congress chief Subhash Chopra – a three-time MLA (1998-2013) from the area.

Between assurances of carrying forward the work done by her father and promises of better living conditions in the slums, the first-time contestant introduces herself as *Kalkaji ki beti* (daughter of Kalkaji).

"You all know who my father is and you have seen how he has served you all for 15 years. But in the last five years, did the government do anything for you apart from making excuses for not being able to work?" she asked the



Congress' Kalkaji candidate Shivani Chopra during a campaign in the area on Friday. ■ SHINJINI GHOSH

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

locals. Addressing a group of women, Ms. Chopra said: "Women should be able to step out of the house irrespective of what time it is. If elected, I will ensure that roads improve and CCTVs are installed. I am here for your *sewa* [to serve you] with your *bhagidaari* [participation]."

When asked about the major poll pitches, the 40-year-old said: "Women's safety,

tackling garbage and pollution situations, and improving infrastructure are the issues that I will be concentrating on. The roads across the constituency are not in good shape and need improvement. Also, Govindpuri residents are getting dirty water in the name of free water – we will focus on this issue as well."

She said she wanted to use technology and "probably use an app where people can lodge their complaints direct-

ly. I want to work by involving people and will be available to them always".

A 45-year-old housewife, Sumitra Devi, a resident of the slum cluster, said: "All pre-poll promises are good to the ears but what happens next is important. Mr. Chopra is well known and the councilor from the party also works for us, maybe giving his daughter a chance is not a bad idea. For us, we can be hopeful that the person elected will not forget us."

Ms. Chopra, along with her party workers, has been holding meetings with small groups of people across the constituency for the past few days.

At the Delhi Assembly polls scheduled on February 8, Ms. Chopra will be contesting against Aam Aadmi Party's Atishi (sitting AAP MLA Avatar Singh was denied a ticket) and BJP's Dharamveer Singh.

AAP takes out silent marches against BJP's remark on CM

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party on Friday said they will be taking out silent marches in all the 70 Assembly constituencies here against BJP leader Parvesh Sahib Singh for calling their party's national convener Arvind Kejriwal a "terrorist" during a television interview.

The party said they will conduct door-to-door campaigns to tell people that if they feel that Mr. Kejriwal is Delhi's son then they should vote for him and if they believe that he is a terrorist, then they should vote for the BJP.

Mr. Kejriwal had made the same pitch while addressing a jansabha in Barabpur on Thursday evening. The silent marches, which started on Friday, will continue till Sunday, a statement issued by the party read.

Delhi CEO Ranbir Singh said preparations had been

EC appoints two special observers for Delhi polls

'Focus on law and order in border districts'

made for peaceful polling, including in the border areas.

The review meeting, which is a routine affair ahead of polling, was held a day after the city saw violence in Jamia Nagar, when a young man opened fire on a group of anti-CAA protesters.

After the meeting, the Commission announced it had appointed retired Indian Revenue Service officer B. Murli Kumar as a special expenditure observer and retired Indian Police Service officer Mrinal Kanti Das as special police observer for the upcoming elections.

Mr. Kumar would be supervising the work of the election machinery against the use of cash, liquor and other freebies to induce voters, a statement issued by the ECI read. Mr. Das, who retired as Director-General of Police of Manipur, would oversee the deployment of police and other law and order issues.

Will not tolerate interference by Pakistan: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Friday told a Pakistan Minister any interference by Pakistan, the "biggest sponsor of terrorism", will not be tolerated.

"Modiji is the PM of India and my PM too. The Delhi election is an internal issue of India and we will not tolerate the intervention of the biggest sponsors of terrorism. As much as Pak tries, it cannot attack the unity of this country," Mr. Kejriwal tweeted. He was responding to Federal Minister for Science & Technology of Pakistan, Ch. Fahad Hussain, who tweeted that Mr. Modi was resorting to "ridiculous claims and threats endangering region under pressure to lose another State elections". Mr. Hussain was referring to a news article that read: "PM Modi says armed forces can defeat Pak in 7-10 days".



Poll throttle



AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal with party candidate from Rajouri Garden Dhanwati Chandela during a roadshow in west Delhi's Raghbir Nagar on Friday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

11 candidates move HC for permission to contest polls

'Nomination forms not accepted'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Eleven independent candidates on Friday moved the Delhi High Court challenging rejection of their nominations for contesting in the upcoming State Assembly polls.

The candidates filed their appeal challenging a single-Judge's January 28 order, alleging that the court had declined to entertain petitions

C The candidates filed their appeal challenging a single-Judge's Jan. 28 order, alleging that the court had declined to entertain petitions

The candidates in their earlier plea had sought to contest the upcoming Assembly elections from the New Delhi seat, whose nomination forms were allegedly not accepted by the Returning Officer despite them arriving at the election office within the stipulated time.

On January 28, the single-Judge had dismissed the plea saying it was not maintainable and that under the Representation of People Act, only an election petition was permissible and it would have to be filed after results were declared.

Direction to Centre
They also sought direction to the Centre, Election Commission and Chief Election Officer to forthwith inquire into the January 20 incident when their nominations were allegedly rejected.

Students detained for stir outside police headquarters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The students, who were agitating outside the Delhi Police Headquarters at ITO after a man fired at anti-CAA protesters near Jamia Millia Islamia, were detained on Friday morning, said officials.

The students were protesting since Thursday night against Delhi Police over the incident. The police later closed the road outside the headquarters. "Due to the demonstration in front of PHQ, the road leading from W point to A point towards Vikas Marg has been closed by police. Please refrain from using this route," the Delhi Traffic Police tweeted. A student was injured in the Thursday incident.

DELHI TODAY

Dance: India International Rural Cultural Centre presents a Kathak dance by Sreeparna Chakraborty at Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, No.2, Ghonda, 9 a.m. and Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, No.1, C-Block, Yamuna Vihar, 11 a.m.

Exhibition: "Ye Meri Roti Hai", a solo show by artist Kingson Swargiary at IHC, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Exhibition: "Yuvा Gandhi ki Kahanīyan", a photo exhibition by Janhvi Praasad at CD Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Translating Modernity" a solo show of sculptures by Prodosh Das Gupta, curated by Umar Nair at Shridharani Gallery, Triveni Kalan Sangam, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Exhibition: "Wonder", a solo show of artist Biplab Sarkar, Art District XIII, F-213 C, Ground Floor, Lada Sarai, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Exhibition: "Framed Within" 6th solo show of paintings by Malay Saha at Triveni Gallery, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at www.ireps.gov.in)

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Delhi CEO visits Shaheen Bagh, says no obstructions in polling areas

Police forces, election machinery on extra vigil, says Singh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Five polling stations are in residential zones while the protests are happening on the streets... so the voters would face no problems

RANBIR SINGH
Delhi CEO

was accompanied by the district election officer and nodal police officers during his visit. "I visited Shaheen Bagh today to assess the situation all the time across the national capital. Mr. Singh

the five polling stations are in residential zones, while the protests are happening on the streets. So, there is no obstruction in areas where poll activities will be conducted, and so voters would face no problems," he said.

Shaheen Bagh falls in Okhla constituency. The anti-CAA protests at Shaheen Bagh, on a stretch of the main road on Kalindi Kunj side, have been going on for nearly 50 days in south Delhi. The counting of votes is scheduled on February 11.

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SI. No. 01. Tender No. 04198941 Brief Description : Bogie Centre Pivot top for Boxcar HL Wagon Quantity : 1380 Nos Closing on : 24.02.2020 St. No. 02. Tender No. 03193591 Brief Description : Set of Roller Bearing

Quantity : 238 Set Closing on :

24.02.2020 St. No. 03. Tender No. 11200001 Brief Description : Servo plce. SH-120 Grease Quantity : 4682 Kg Closing on : 24.02.2020 St. No. 04. Tender No. 12350201 Brief Description : 12.7 mm dia plly low relaxation high tensile strands Quantity : 60 MT Closing on : 24.02.2020 St. No. 05. Tender No. 03195011 Brief Description : Trap Chamber Quantity : 125 Set Closing on : 02.03.2020

Participants are required to submit their offer only on-line through the web portal of IREPS www.ireps.gov.in before the closing date and time. Other details regarding Consignee and detailed description of stores are available in tender document in tender notice on the above website before 14 days.

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on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

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3. Up-gradation of Balouni to Nara via Galot Km, 0/0 to 8/410 i/c routine maintenance for 5 years Under PMGSY-II (Batch-I) 2019-20 Package No. HP-03-152

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

Superintendent Engineer

8th Circle, HPPWD, Hamirpur, Pin. 177001

on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

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Timings
DELHI

SATURDAY, FEB. 1	RISE 07:10 SET 18:00
	RISE 11:30 SET 00:00
SUNDAY, FEB. 2	RISE 07:10 SET 18:01
	RISE 12:02 SET 00:31
MONDAY, FEB. 3	RISE 07:09 SET 18:02
	RISE 12:38 SET 01:26

Delhi Weather max min
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Palam 18 06

Delhi Palam Today
20°C Dry weather with shallow fog and mist is likely with a cold morning. The day will be pleasant.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
21°C Dry weather with shallow fog/mist is likely and a cold morning is expected. The day will be pleasant.

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IN BRIEF

3 killed as car hits wall in U.P.'s Sitapur

SITAPUR
Three persons were killed and three others critically injured when their car returning from a marriage ceremony rammed a roadside wall in Uttar Pradesh's Sitapur district on Friday, police said. A two-year-old child escaped unhurt, they added. PTI

195 kg heroin seized in Punjab; 6 held

Foreign national among arrested, role of SSB member being ascertained: CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH
The Special Task Force of Punjab Police seized 195 kg of heroin along with other chemicals from a house in Sultanwind village in Amritsar. Six persons, including an Afghan national, were arrested.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said on Friday that the house in Sultanwind, from which the police seized the contraband on Thursday night, allegedly belonged to Anwar Masih, who was a member of the Subordinate Services Board (SSB) - an appointee of the previous SAD-BJP government.

Investigations were in progress to ascertain Mr. Masih's involvement, who claims to have rented the

M.P. BJP goes for damage control as 700 minority members quit

Party to hold workshops across State to hear out minority cell workers

SIDHARTH YADAV
Bhopal

Stunned by a string of resignations from its Madhya Pradesh minority cell, including 700 members in Jabalpur on Wednesday, over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the proposed nationwide implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), the Bharatiya Janata Party will hold workshops to hear out the cell members on the law in a bid to ward off "bad influence" triggering resignations.

In January, more than a 1,000 members of the cell quit the party in Indore, Bhopal, Khargone, Guna and Satna districts, with former State secretary Akram Khan and State cell media chief Javed Baig setting the ball rolling.

While party leaders, including State president and Jabalpur MP Rakesh Singh, have blamed the resignations on the "misinformation" being spread over the contentious law, and claimed in any case that they didn't turn sour the party's image, Nasir



BJP minority cell members resigning from the party over the CAA, at a meeting in Jabalpur. ■ FILE PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shah, the cell's State vice-president told *The Hindu*, "If we don't understand the law ourselves, how will we make others aware? The NRC hasn't been implemented yet, and the CAA doesn't threaten Muslims."

Beginning Monday, the workshops, aimed at arresting simmering dissent within the party, across the 10 administrative divisions will listen out the cell members' feedback on the law from the grassroots and help make them understand it better, added Mr. Shah.

"The senior leadership for

too long took the resignations lightly," said a senior leader of the cell, requesting anonymity. "It's high time now. If the resignations continue, the cell may collapse and the party will end up hurting its prospects in the upcoming panchayat elections in February."

After bearing 165 resignations in Khargone and 67 in Indore recently, the 700 resignations en masse, by members miffed over derogatory remarks made at a BJP-led pro-CAA rally in Jabalpur district on January 26, the Republic Day, swung the

party into action. With this the cell in Jabalpur stands virtually dissolved, with just 50 members left.

"Party members, including State Yuva Morcha president Abhilash Pandey, hurled derogatory abuses against Muslims, who were part of another rally. Didn't they even think for a second Muslims are there in their party too, and how they'd feel?" asked Shafeek Hira, former Jabalpur's cell president, after resigning from the party.

Muslims targeted

Stating that the party was singling out just one community, he said, "People of all religions are opposing the law, not just Muslims. They say *sabka saath, sabka vi-kas*, but things came to a head on Republic Day when only Muslims were targeted."

Meanwhile, Mr. Shah asserted that making offensive remarks against any community was against the country's interest. "Sentiments of any community must not be hurt," he said.

13 booked for candlelight march at CAA protest site

Activist Deepak Kabir among them

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

Advocate Mohammad Shoaib and theatre activist Deepak Kabir were among 13 persons booked by the Uttar Pradesh police for leading a candle march at the Hussainabad clock tower protest on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

Mr. Shoaib and Mr. Kabir were jailed for the violence that took place in Lucknow on December 19 and recently released from jail on bail.

The candle march was held at the sit-in being held by women at the foot of the clock tower against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act since January 17.

While 13 persons were named in the FIR, hundreds of unidentified others were also charged.

The FIR invoked Sections 147 (rioting), 145 (joining or continuing in unlawful assembly, knowing it has been commanded to disperse), 148 (rioting armed with deadly weapon), 283 (danger or obstruction in public way or line of navigation) and 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty) of the



Activist Deepak Kabir

Indian Penal Code. Section 7 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act was also included.

Uzma Parveen, mother of a seven-month-old baby, a regular face at the protest, was also booked.

Altercation with police

As per the FIR, hundreds of protesters tried to take out a candle march near the clock tower and allegedly got into an altercation with the police on the question of raising a tent at the site.

Police said despite warning the protesters that prohibitory Section 144 was imposed, they continued to lead the march.

Their act created a situation of "chaos" near the clock tower, causing people to run around and also led to a traffic jam, the police said.

Two ex-AMU students extorted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

Two former students of Aligarh Muslim University, including a former AMU Students' Union vice-president, have been extorted for a period of six months by the district administration. The students are former AMUSU vice-president Nadeem Ansari and Mohammad Aamir Minto.

A case under the Uttar Pradesh Control of Goondas Act, 1970, was undergoing in the Additional District Magistrate's (City) court. On Thursday, ADM (City) Rakesh Malpani announced the order.

District Magistrate C.B. Singh told reporters that the two had been extorted as they had become a threat to the general public because of their criminal activities.

An official source said both of them had been booked under serious section of IPC and come under the category of habitual offenders.

Mr. Ansari said he had put his side of the story in the court but it was not accepted.

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Hooda slams Haryana govt.

'Governance has come to a complete halt in the State'

VIKAS VASUDEV
CHANDIGARH

Former Haryana Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda has hit out at the ruling BJP-JJP alliance government, saying that governance has come to a complete halt in the State as both the partners were busy in settling their internal crises.

"It's been over 100 days since they [BJP-JJP] came to power but not even a single decision in public interest has been taken. This government is not just non-performing but a non-functional one," said Mr. Hooda talking to *The Hindu*.

Mr. Hooda said corruption was at its peak in Haryana yet the government was not keen to investigate the allegations.

"Paddy scam is an example. We have been demanding a CBI probe but why the government is reluctant?

The allegations of corruption levelled by the ruling party legislature Devender Babi against his own government is a serious matter. Why is the government afraid of probing these allegations," asked Mr. Hooda.

"My experience is whenever such kind of governments are formed which do not have ideological similarities or any common minimum programme to work on, they eventually fall under their weight," said Mr. Hooda.

"It's been over 100 days since they [BJP-JJP] came to power but not even a single decision in public interest has been taken. This government is not just non-performing but a non-functional one," said Mr. Hooda talking to *The Hindu*.

Mr. Hooda said under the new policy, existing licensees, who attain 12% excess revenue over the Minimum Guaranteed Revenue (MGR), will be allowed renewal for the year 2020-21.

A target of ₹6,250 crore has been fixed as against anticipated collection of ₹5,676 crore for 2019-20, as per the new policy. The ex-

penditure is expected to go up to ₹5,676 crore in 2019-20 from ₹5,150 crore in 2018-19.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Amarinder Singh here.

Retail MGR

In the new policy, the number of groups has been retained at last year's level of 756. The MGR from retail vendors during 2020-21 is to be realised at ₹4

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Naveen inaugurates
barrage over
Baitarani river

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated a 490-metre-long barrage over the Baitarani river at Anandapur in Keonjhar district on Friday.

The barrage, built at a cost of ₹475 crore, will provide irrigation facility to 60,000 hectares of agricultural land in Anandapur, Hatadihi and Ghasipura blocks of Keonjhar and Khaira, Oupada, Nilagiri, Bahanaga, Balasore Sadar, Remuna and Sora blocks of Balasore district.

Mr. Patnaik had laid the foundation stone for the barrage in 2009. The barrage has a capacity of holding 350 lakh cubic metres water.

During the visit, Mr. Patnaik also inaugurated several other development projects and attended the platinum jubilee celebration of a local high school.

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Don't speak to media, Visva-Bharati orders staff

Anything to be expressed should be routed through spokesman'

BISHWANATH GHOSH

KOLKATA
Visva-Bharati University has issued an order prohibiting its staff from speaking to the media "until further order", saying anything they want to express publicly should be routed through Assistant Registrar Anirban Sircar, who is the university's spokesman as well as 'Social Media Champion'.

"To seek the public lime-light and self-importance through media for oneself is unworthy of any teacher or employee of Visva-Bharati. Visva-Bharati itself seeks no publicity," a notification issued on Thursday said.

"No staff members of the university other than the Social Media Champion and the spokesperson shall make any statement/views on the matters pertaining to the university to the press personnel of electronic/print media without prior permission of the competent authority of the university as per Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964," it said.

"In case of violation, the competent authority of the university may take appropriate action," the notification warned.

Visva-Bharati, in the recent weeks, has been in the



Left-wing students shouting slogans while gheraoing Raja Sabha MP Swapan Dasgupta. ■ FILE PHOTO

stitution during a Republic Day speech and his remarks were widely publicised, a student who had recorded his speech was overnight evicted from the hostel. Such unsavoury incidents are usually unheard of on the campus.

How far the gag order will serve its purpose remains to be seen as a teachers' union is all set to challenge it in court.

"The order is clearly against the statutes of Visva-Bharati. The Rules referred to in this order is applicable only to direct government employees. Since the university is an autonomous body, those rules are not applicable here," said Sudipta Bhattacharyya, president of the Visva-Bharati University Faculty Association.

MBBS student
in hospital over
nCoV threat

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

Twenty days after returning home, a medical student from Odisha's Kandhamal district studying in China approached local medical authorities, suspecting that he may be infected by novel coronavirus (nCoV).

The student from Phulbani had returned from China on January 11. He is a final year MBBS student of an institute near Wuhan in China. According to him, after reaching home, he had developed cough and cold as well as chest infection.

Suspecting that he may have got infected by coronavirus, he wrote to Kandhamal Chief District Medical Officer.

On Friday, the youth met Kandhamal CDMO Dr. Rajyashree Patnaik and was admitted in an isolation ward at the District Headquarter Hospital, Phulbani.

State National Health Mission director Shalini Pandit has directed blood and throat swab samples of the youth to be sent to the Regional Medical Research Centre, Bhubaneswar.

If found to be positive for coronavirus, he will be shifted to MKCG medical college and hospital in Berhampur.

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Ajit Pawar assures of benefits to farmers regularly repaying loans

Committee looking into issues of these cultivators to submit report in 15 days

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Assuring farmers that the Maha Vikas Aghadi government would soon come up with benefits for cultivators who regularly repay their loans, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Friday said the committee formed in this regard would submit its recommendations to the government within a fortnight.

While the Uddhav Thackeray-led government has already announced an immediate waiver of loans up to ₹2 lakh per farmer, it constituted a seven-member committee headed by Mr. Pawar earlier this month to finalise benefits to farmers with crop loans of more than ₹2 lakh and those regularly repaying their loans.

"After we announced the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule farm loan waiver scheme, several farmers who regularly repay loans and had never defaulted were left wondering why no benefits had been announced for them. However, I want to reassure them that our committee to look into their benefits has



In the loop: Deputy CM Ajit Pawar is flanked by ministers Chhagan Bhujbal and Dadaji Bhuse at a review meeting in Nashik on Friday. ■ TWITTER/DISTRICT INFORMATION OFFICE NASHIK

already had two meetings. Within the next 15 days, this committee will submit its recommendations," Mr. Pawar said, during his visit to Nashik.

Tongue in cheek
The Deputy Chief Minister, who had a slew of review meetings with officials during his tour of north Maharashtra on Friday, reached Nashik with his customary punctuality well before his first event, a ground-breaking ceremony scheduled at 7

a.m. Mr. Pawar's swift appearance startled officials generally used to 'latecomer' ministers, prompting much hustle-bustle before the start of the event.
Taking a self-deprecating jibe, Mr. Pawar remarked: "I apologise that you all had to come here so early, but I had a number of review meetings planned in Dhule, Nandurbar and other districts today... While one organiser doubted whether I would make it this early in the bitter cold, another reminded him that I

had come very early for my swearing-in as deputy chief minister."

Mr. Pawar's disarming allusion to his temporary defection to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and his early morning coup when Devendra Fadnavis and he were respectively sworn in as the chief minister and deputy chief minister for a brief period, drew peals of laughter from the audience.

No rift with Chavan'
Mr. Pawar also downplayed reports of tensions between him and senior Congress leader Ashok Chavan, remarking that there was no rift between them.

He also expressed confidence in the three-party alliance, regardless of what its detractors said. "The Maha Vikas Aghadi government has been formed by three parties of differing ideologies. But we will complete our full tenure," he said, adding that the government would also strive to eliminate any problems in the implementation of its Shiv Bhajan scheme.

Probe finds irregularities at SARTHI

Institute denies allegations; IAS officer to investigate further, says Minister

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

A preliminary inquiry into the Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Research, Training and Human Development Institute (SARTHI) has found irregularities worth crores in merely eight months after its formation.

SARTHI has denied all allegations of misappropriation of funds in a statement issued on Friday. It said the expenditure was necessary as these were the institute's early days and infrastructure had to be set up.

Formed under the previous Bharatiya Janata Party-led government, SARTHI is registered under the Companies Act, 2013, as a non-profit government company for research, policy advocacy and training for socio-economic and education development of Maratha, Maratha-Kunbi, Kunbi-Maratha, Kunbi communities and families dependent on agriculture.

Soon after coming to power, the Maha Vikas Aghadi government appointed a one-member committee under Relief and Rehabilitation Department secretary Kishor Raje-Nimbalkar to probe alleged irregularities in the institute's operations.

Inquiry ordered into cattle camps

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

The State government on Friday ordered an investigation into alleged irregularities in cattle camps set up by the previous government during drought.

Relief and Rehabilitation Minister Vijay Wadettiwar said the Pune Divisional Commissioner will conduct an inquiry into alleged irregularities in Beed district, while the Nashik Divisional Commissioner will look into cattle camps in Ahmednagar and Osma-



Vijay Wadettiwar

nabad. They will submit their reports to the government within a month.

Mr. Wadettiwar said a

criminal case would be filed against those found guilty. He said 608 cattle camps were set up in Beed district in 2019, while 296 were operational in Solapur and 504 in Ahmednagar. "The government spent around ₹1,200 crore on the camps. Of this, ₹1,042 crore had been disbursed and ₹185 crore is yet to be paid," the minister said. Most complaints regarding bogus camps were from Beed district. He said the remaining payment has been stopped.

on just 13 students preparing for the National Defence Academy exam.

In its statement, SARTHI said it does not require the government's permission for the expenditure. Mr. Wadettiwar, however, said, "SARTHI is a government initiative. It cannot spend money as per its wish. Government permission is a must."

"If other officials or a leader from previous government were involved will be clear after the IAS officer's inquiry," the minister said.

Congress condemns FIR against Goa church wing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PANAJI

The Congress on Friday condemned the FIR filed against a Goa church wing and an NGO over the presence of children at an anti-CAA protest, terming it an "assault on a religious institution".

The Goa Police's women and child protection unit on Thursday filed an FIR against the Council for Social Justice and Peace (a Goa church's wing) and National Human Rights Organisation (Goa Chapter) for using children to protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act at a rally in Margao on January 24.

"The politically dictated FIR by the Goa Police is not only an attack on freedom of expression and speech, but also a direct assault on a religious institution," Goa Congress chief Girish Chodankar said.

Talking to reporters here, Mr. Chodankar accused the BJP-led State government of creating "fear psychosis" among the anti-CAA protesters, who have been fighting to save the Constitution. "When the BJP realised that people are against its ulterior motive of passing CAA, they are resorting to such actions," the Congress leader alleged.

BJP's Goa general secretary Narendra Sawaikar said, "There is no point in dragging children on the street for this issue. The person who has filed the complaint must have found something unconvincing in the rally," he said.

No funds, wind up probe, says Bhima-Koregaon Commission

Letter to Chief Secretary says govt. not serious about it

SONAM SAIGAL
MUMBAI

The secretary of the Bhima Koregaon Commission, which was set up to look into the riots of January 1, 2018, in which one person lost his life, has written to the Chief Secretary recommending that the inquiry be wound up for want of funds.

Matter of survival
The three-page-letter said, "Officials of the commission have not received salaries from November 2019. Salaries and honorarium of all including the chairman are due from December 2019. Peons on the establishment of the commission are required to borrow money for survival. Most of the staff members are hired on a con-

tract basis. They will starve for want of salary."

After the initial budget of about ₹52 lakh, "which was hardly adequate", was exhausted, the government either delayed sanctioning a supplementary budget or sanctioned a lower amount than was required, the letter said. "Salary and other bills were not promptly passed. Advance was never sanctioned for day-to-day expenses," it said.

Staff and officers are spending from their pockets for day-to-day expenses that are not reimbursed for months together, the letter said. "Obstacles were created in sanction of lump sum payment to the staff and professional charges of the advocate of the commission," it said.

Unable to function
When the superintendent of the commission went to the Home Department, the relevant under-secretary asked him to wind up the commission, it said. "The circumstances indicate that the government is not serious about the commission, [which] is unable to function for want of money even for day-to-day expenses," it said.

Waiting for calmer seas



Bidding time: Fishing boats continue to be docked at Malvan in Konkan region on Friday. Turbulent weather and strong wind currents prevented fishermen from entering the sea for the third day. ■ RAJENDRA GAWANKAR

Transport Department to modernise 150 bus depots

Government to begin with Trimbakeshwar, Karjat, Dapoli; cleanliness, infrastructure are priorities

TANVI DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

The State Transport Department wants to modernise 150 ST bus depots, starting with the ones at Trimbakeshwar, Karjat and Dapoli. The plan includes installing digital signboards, vehicle tracking systems, clean surroundings, good toilets and better seating, among other things. The bhoomipujan of the three depots could take place in February, Transport Minister Anil Parab has said.

The ST depots across the State are riddled with poor infrastructure including



Anil Parab

"We want to standardise

poor seating area, lack of good toilets, announcement systems, food stalls and illegal hawkers. Mr. Parab held a meeting with bureaucrats of the department to look at various measures to be taken to modernise the depots. The department has drawn up a list of 150 depots that will be modernised in a phased manner, starting with the three depots. The department chose these first since Trimbakeshwar and Dapoli see a large number of tourists. Mr. Parab is also the guardian minister of Dapoli.

"We want to standardise

lar to screens on airports. Most of all, we want to lay stress on cleanliness. We want the depots and toilets to be clean with enough clean drinking water stations because we lose passengers due to the lack of cleanliness. People don't want to come into depots and prefer private options instead, from outside the depot," said Mr. Parab, who also wants to crack down on unauthorised transport operators.

However, with the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation's finances in poor shape, Mr. Parab said

the department will look at financial models including utilisation of land bank, commercial exploitation of depots as well as public private partnership.

Mr. Parab has called road safety his first priority and has directed his department to submit a report on accidents and what measures can be taken at a policy level to curb them.

Mr. Parab recently visited the site of the Nashik accident where 26 people lost their lives. He wants to bring in an app-based vehicle tracking system for ST buses as well.

Arrest warrant issued against Hardik, Vasoya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MORBI

A court in Gujarat's Morbi district on Friday issued a non-bailable warrant against Congress leader Hardik Patel for skipping a hearing in a 2017 case where he is accused of holding a rally without police permission.

Judicial Magistrate S.N. Punjani at the court in Tarkara also issued non-bailable warrants against Congress MLA Lalit Vasoya, Amit Thummar and Manoj Kalaria. Of the 34 accused named in the FIR, one is dead, while 29 others, including another

Congress MLA Lalit Kagathra, remained present in the court on Friday. The magistrate issued warrants against the four for not remaining present despite a bailable warrant issued earlier, and adjourned the hearing to March 27.

A case was registered against Mr. Patel and others for organising a public gathering at Tarkara in April 2017 without police permission.

Mr. Patel, after spending seven days in jail, was granted bail last week by two courts in different towns.

Gujarat man murdered in Aurangabad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AURANGABAD

A 34-year-old businessman was stabbed to death by three people on Friday afternoon in Aurangabad.

The deceased, Prakashbhai Jaswantbhai Patel, had arrived here from Gujarat some hours before the incident, a police official said. "Three men entered Patel's Nagarkhana Lane office and asked him to accompany them. When Patel refused to go, the trio stabbed him to death and fled," said the official. A case has been registered and CCTV footage is being checked, he said.

780 institutes yet to furnish scholarship disbursement details to ED: RTI reply

Applicant says many students yet to receive funds

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

As many as 780 colleges and educational institutions in Pune district have yet to furnish details pertaining to the disbursement of scholarship fund amounts meant for backward community students, the erstwhile Devendra Fadnavis government had ordered a probe by the ED. The directorate had directed 1,500-odd educational institutions in Pune district to furnish details of the scholarship funds.

On October 4 last year, the ED had accordingly directed the Pune division of the Social Justice and Special Assistance Department to gather details pertaining to the financial transactions involv-

ing the disbursement of the scholarship funds.

A week later, on October 12, the department had issued notices to educational institutions requesting details of students, course names, and money allotted to them from the State's scholarship fund, to be submitted by November 14.

Observing that half of the educational institutions in Pune had yet to furnish details to the Social Justice Department despite the expiry of the November deadline, Mr. Ambekar alleged that several SC, ST and OBC students had yet to receive their scholarship amounts totalling more than ₹1,000 crore over the seven-year period. "These funds are general-

ly given in an 'offline' manner, that is instead of directly being deposited into students' accounts, they are routed by the Social Justice Department to the colleges,

which in turn give it to the students. So, when students petition the department for their scholarships, the department says they have already given the funds to the

respective colleges. Typically, colleges use this money for their development works or divert it in some student activity," alleged Mr. Ambekar, a founding member of volunteer outfit Student Helping Hands, and leader of the student wing of the Loktantrik Janata Dal United.

He said the list of the institutions yet to furnish details include noted ones like D.Y. Patil College, Fergusson College and Bharati Vidyapeeth.

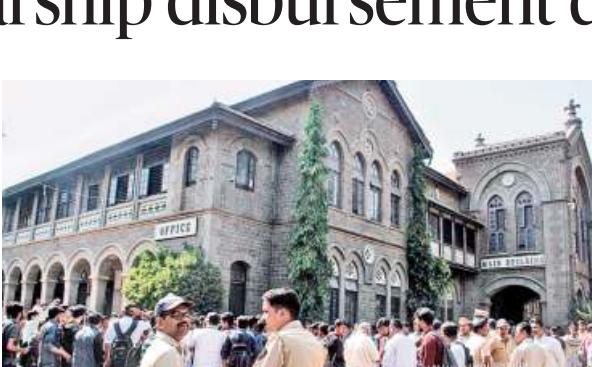
A student, requesting anonymity, said, "When I asked the college authorities to give my due scholarship amount, the authorities told me the funds are with the Social Justice Department. When I visited the department, they said they had already given

the funds to the college. So, we are being tossed about like ping-pong balls."

Mr. Ambekar said he recently met Dhananjay Munde, State Minister for Social Justice and Special Assistance, on this issue and urged him to order an ED inquiry into the matter.

Meanwhile, Vijay Gaikwad, Deputy Commissioner of the Pune division of the Social Justice Department, said they had already furnished details received from institutions that had complied with their directive, to the ED.

"I cannot comment on what the ED's next course of action will be. We have already apprised them from our end," he said.



The RTI applicant has said the list of the institutions yet to furnish details include Fergusson College (pictured above), D.Y. Patil College and Bharati Vidyapeeth. ■ FILE PHOTO

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IN BRIEF



Parked bogie gutted at station in Telangana

ADILABAD
A passenger bogie parked in a siding at the Adilabad railway station got completely burnt early on Friday. According to the Station Superintendent, the bogie was one of the 10 spare ones standing idle. The reason for the fire was not known. Workers at the railway station noticed smoke emanating from the bogie at night and immediately alerted the local fire brigade. The bogie was detached from the others to prevent the fire from spreading.

Women ask portal editor to sing Vande Mataram

BENGALURU
A video of Congress spokesperson Kavita Reddy and two students urging Mahesh Vikram Hegde, editor of portal 'Postcard News', to sing Vande Mataram at the Mangaluru airport on Friday was widely shared on social media. He remained silent throughout the incident. "Mr. Hegde has been at the forefront of spreading fake news that is commonly instigating. I wanted to confront him for a long time," Ms. Reddy said. He has been arrested twice on the charge of publishing fake news.

Temple suspends staffer for 'proselytisation'

VIJAYAWADA
Authorities of a Durga temple in Andhra Pradesh have suspended a sanitary inspector for allegedly resorting to proselytisation. Sources said that Kiran, sanitary inspector working for Sri Kanaka Durga Malleswara Swamy Varaha Devasthanam, was allegedly forcing women workers to visit church and embrace Christianity. Based on a complaint lodged by the women workers, the temple authorities suspended Mr. Kiran.

Condition of coronavirus patient stable: Kerala Minister

Medical Board formed; isolation wards to be set up in all private hospitals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THIRISUR

In relief to Kerala, no new cases of novel coronavirus infection were reported on Friday. Of the 18 results of the samples received so far, 17 reported negative for the virus.

The condition of the medical student, who was tested positive for infection on Thursday, is satisfactory, according to Health Minister K.K. Shylaja. The patient, a student of Wuhan University in China, was admitted with symptoms of novel coronavirus at the Thrissur General Hospital on January 27.

She was shifted to the isolation ward of the Thrissur Government Medical College by 3 a.m. on Friday. Expert doctors are monitoring her condition.

Her relatives and friends have been kept under home quarantine.

Isolation wards will be set up in all private hospitals to face the challenge, the Minister said after a meeting of the managements of private hospitals here on Friday.

Booked for fake message

A Medical Board has been formed for handling the cases. Hospitals should consult with the Medical Board to formulate the treatment protocol, referral to medical colleges, and isolation, the Minister said.

The main task of the Health Department is to trace people arriving from China. The department is also trying to trace those who were in contact with them.

Meanwhile, cases have been registered against three persons for spreading fake messages on social media.



Safety first: A child gets a mask at a hospital in Thrissur. ■ PTI

Two Wuhan returnees moved to isolation ward in Alappuzha

STAFF REPORTER

ALAPPUZHA

At least two persons have been admitted to the isolation ward of the Government Medical College Hospital, Alappuzha, on suspicion of being infected with the novel coronavirus (nCoV).

Sources said here on Friday that the admitted were classmates of the student who had tested positive for nCoV in Thrissur on return from Wuhan in China.

"We have placed two persons in quarantine. Their body fluid samples have been sent to the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, for tests and are awaiting the results. They remain

in a stable condition," said an official.

Meanwhile, Alappuzha Collector M. Anjana said no nCoV case had been reported in the district. "There is no need for panic. We just need to be alert," Ms. Anjana told mediapersons here on Friday.

24-hour control room

She said that suspected cases had been put under observation. "Both the police and Tourism Department officials are engaged in identifying the people who reached Alappuzha from China and other countries since the turn of the year. The Health Department is al-

Samples from Telangana test negative

STAFF REPORTER

HYDERABAD

Seven samples collected from suspected patients admitted in Telangana government hospitals tested negative for the novel coronavirus (nCoV). Results of two more samples are expected on Saturday.

Besides them, four more people with travel history to China and with symptoms such as cold got admitted at the hospitals. Their samples too would be sent for tests.

'T.M. Krishna did not tell us about the scope of his book'

We feel cheated, says Palghat Mani Iyer's family

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

As vocalist T.M. Krishna's book, *Sebastian and Sons*, on Dalit Christian mridhangam makers, is to be released on Sunday, the family of mridhangam maestro Palghat T.S. Mani Iyer said they felt that the author had 'deceived' them by not revealing the scope of the book.



A file photo of Palghat Mani Iyer ■ THE HINDU ARCHIVES

lied that the research was purely academic in nature, because he told them about his visit to slaughter houses, and discussions with those who deal with skin. "But he did not tell us the tone of the book was caste-based. None of our family members is ready to be involved in this controversial issue," he added.

"From whatever we read, we realised that our trust is breached." There were a number of positive incidents that should have been highlighted. For instance, Mani Iyer presented the family of Fernandes with a golden cross one Christmas, and even bore his medical expenses when he fell seriously ill, Mr. Ramprasad said.

Cows were primarily slaughtered for meat. The skin was just a by-product, used to make mridhangams also, he said.

He said the family be-

Toddler falls off van near wildlife sanctuary, rescued

Parents wake up an hour later; Passer-by takes her to police

STAFF REPORTER

SHIVAMOGGA

A three-year-old child, who fell off a moving van in one of the hairpin curves of the Agumbe Ghat Road in Karnataka on Thursday night, was rescued and handed back to her parents, thanks to an advocate who found the child asleep and did not realise.

The child was found weeping on the roadside by Vinay, an advocate who was heading towards Udupi. He took the child in his car and handed her over to the Agumbe police station.

their native place via Agumbe Ghat. When the vehicle reached the seventh hairpin curve at 8.30 p.m., the back door unlocked owing to a technical problem in the sensor system and the child slipped down, the police said. The parents were asleep and did not realise.

In a similar incident in Kerala last year, a one-year-old had a miraculous escape after she fell off a vehicle in a dense forest area.

Cabinet expansion in three days: Yediyurappa

STAFF REPORTER

BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, who met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J.P. Nadda in Delhi on Friday, announced that the list of new Ministers had been cleared by the party's Central leadership. He said that he would expand the Cabinet in the next three days after another round of consultations in Bengaluru.

A jubilant Chief Minister, who has waited for nearly two months to take up the exercise, is said to have got his way with most of the names he had proposed, which includes the party-hoppers who were re-elected from the BJP in the Assembly bypolls and old-timers, according to party sources. The expansion would take place either on Sunday or Monday, sources close to the CM said.

"The meeting has been fruitful. The high command has agreed to most of the recommendations I made. The central leadership has authorised me to expand the Cabinet whenever I want. But I will do it after taking everyone into confidence in the next three days," he told presspersons.

'None will be dropped'
He is said to be keen on inducting 13 Ministers – 10 likely from among those party-hoppers who won the recent byelections and three old-timers.

Presently, there are 16 vacancies in the Cabinet, of which 13 will be filled, sources said.

Amid speculation that some Ministers may be dropped from the Cabinet, a senior Minister said: "The Chief Minister clearly said expansion and not reshuffle. He is unlikely to drop any Ministers."

Grand send-off



Police personnel at a parade at the KSRP grounds in Bengaluru to honour DG and IGP Neelamani Raju on her retirement. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

YSRCP MP meets Amaravati farmers

'Govt. ready to talk to farmers'

SAMUEL JONATHAN

Narsaorao MP Lavu Krishnadevarayulu on Friday visited the landowners who have been agitating for the last 45 days against the Andhra Pradesh government's decision to shift the executive capital out of Amaravati to Visakhapatnam. The YSRCP MP's visit has created a buzz as it is the first by any elected representative of the ruling party.

The visit also raised interest as it comes a day after the young MP, along with former Supreme Court Judge Justice Jasti Chalmaleswar and AP Official Language Commission Chairman Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad, met Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy at the latter's residence.

Tension has been building up in a cluster of villages

in the region with the TDP, the BJP and the Jana Sena Party throwing their weight behind the agitating landowners.

The MP told *The Hindu* that he had visited the region to address the concerns of the farmers who had parted with their land for the construction of the capital.

"I told those who have been undertaking fast that the government is willing to talk to them. I also sought to convey the message that the government is not against the development of Amaravati," Mr. Krishnadevarayulu said.

A section of farmers, however, questioned the purpose of the visit. They pointed out that the MP did not make any attempt to allay their fears over the shifting of the capital to Vizag.

Technology, it is said, is a double-edged sword. This is also the case with pesticide spraying on crops for pest-killing, considering the collateral damage.

Recently, the Union government clarified to one Donthi Narasimha Reddy in a communication over the issue.

lot of problems, he pointed out.

"As you are aware, aerial spraying impacts a larger area, while decreasing the efficacy on the target pests. We

or cannot follow safety precautions under adverse weather and wind conditions. Drift of spray can take the fine hazardous chemical beyond the range of application," said Mr. Reddy.

The Insecticide Act does not allow aerial spraying. Drones and unmanned machines can be hazardous tools for spraying hazardous chemicals in many ways. Allowing aerial spraying, using drones and unmanned, remote controlled vehicles can be catastrophic," he added in his appeal.

There is no scientific validity that drones help in precision spraying, he wrote. "Drone manufacturers, suppliers and the entire network have to be cautioned against using drones for aerial spraying of agro-chemicals. We re-

quest you to issue an advisory to all concerned regulatory authorities against allowing drone usage for agrochemical spraying," he urged.

No approval

In response, the Union Government has clarified that drone-spraying is illegal.

"As per the provisions of Insecticides Act 1968, aerial application of pesticides need approval/ permission from the Central Insecticides Board (CIB). Further, no permission/ approval has been granted by the CIB in the past for the use of drones to spray pesticides," said a communication on December 30, 2019, from the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare.

A.P. govt. to give quality PDS rice in packets soon

Chief Minister examines samples

STAFF REPORTER

VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has directed the officials of the Department of Consumer Affairs, Food and Civil Supplies to supply quality rice in packets under the Public Distribution System (PDS) from April 1.

At a review meeting on Friday, the Chief Minister said that supply of quality rice should be ensured in all 175 Assembly constituencies.

Ensure staff, vehicles

The Chief Minister examined a few samples of rice gathered from Srikakulam, East and West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur and Kadapa districts.

Packing units

He instructed the officials

that 99 packing units (41 by

the department and the re-

maining in PPP mode) be set

up at 30 places with a capac-



Many fears: Aerial spraying of pesticides on a field in Khammam district of Telangana. ■ G.N. RAO

endosulfan fallout
Mr. Reddy, a passionate campaigner of environmental and development issues, in a letter to Rajesh Verma, Additional Secretary (PP), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, in November 2019, highlighted that the use of drones for agro-chemical spraying had increased over the years. This would create a

ND-NDE

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



Forecast for Saturday: Dense to very dense fog very likely at a few places over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi and west Uttar Pradesh. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	3.8	25.1	16.8	Kozhikode	-	35...	23...
Ahmedabad	-	26.3	11.2	Kurnool	-	35...	22.3
Aizawl	1...	16.8	8	Lucknow	-	31.9	8.1
Allahabad	-	25	8.5	Madurai	-	34.5	22
Bengaluru	32.9	19	-	Mangalore	-	32	22
Bhopal	-	8.1	-	Mumbai	-	28.7	15
Bhubaneswar	27.9	20.1	-	Mysuru	-	33.9	19.4
Chandigarh	16.5	8.1	-	New Delhi	-	18	6.2
Chennai	31.7	22	-	Patna	-	23.2	10.2
Coimbatore	32.9	21	-	Port Blair	-	29.9	22.2
Dehradoon	21.6	5.7	-	Puducherry	-	30.9	22.4
Gangtok	15.6	4.1	-	Pune	-	30...	13.1
Goa	30.5	20.1	-	Raipur	-	25.8	14.2
Guwahati	7.5	19.8	3	Ranchi	-	21.8	7.6
Hubballi	-	32	16	Shillong	-	15.8	5.1
Hyderabad	-	30.7	8.3	Shimla	-	11.8	0.7
Imphal	9	18.4	9.8	Srinagar	-	8.6	3.9
Jaipur	-	22.4	8.1	Thiruvananthapuram	-	33.1	22.2
Kochi	31.8	25.4	-	Tiruchi	-	33.5	21.4
Kohima	2	15.8	4.6	Vijayawada	-	32.2	21.8
Kolkata	5.7	24.6	16.8	Visakhapatnam	-	30.6	23.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Yesterday

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE
Ahmedabad	52	44	.91	102
Bengaluru	55	00	.96	124
Chennai	10	103	.119	-	-	...
Delhi	4	46	.34	282	253	...
Hyderabad	3.7	75	.43	144	0	...
Kolkata	.9	64	.21	224	153	...
Lucknow	50	50	.102	198
Mumbai	16	115	.24	123	202	...
Pune	86	40	.79	131	104	...
Visakhapatnam	13	44	.50	96	.113	...

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ballabgarh, Haryana, recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 288, indicating a severe level of pollution. In contrast, Chandigarh recorded a healthy AQI score of 47.

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.
NO_x: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.
CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.
PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

U.P. hostage taker's wife lynched by mob

Gunman shot dead, children rescued

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

Over 20 children, aged between six months and 15 years, were rescued after an armed man, a murder convict who took them hostage after inviting them for a birthday party at his house in a village at Farrukhabad, was killed on January 30 night, police said.

IG Kanpur Mohit Agarwal said the suspect was shot dead in the encounter. "We have found a large cache of guns and gunpowder from him. He was constantly firing at police," Mr. Agarwal said. The wife of the suspect also died after she was allegedly lynched by a mob of angry villagers when she attempted to flee the spot.

However, the exact cause of death was not clear, said police. Mr. Agarwal said when the woman was sent to hospital, she was injured, bleeding from her head. The reason of death will be known in the post-mortem report, he said. "When her husband was firing at the police, the woman tried to flee from there...the villagers were angry and attacked her with bricks and stones," said the officer.

The operation, starting from the negotiations, lasted eight hours. Two policemen were injured in the in-

cident, said DGP O.P. Singh.

The hostage drama began at Kasaria village on Thursday afternoon. Hours later, the accused released a six-month-old girl by handing her over to his neighbour from a balcony, they said.

The DGP said the suspect Subash Batham was engaged in talks by the police and administration "constructively" but he threatened to "blow up" the place many times. "When we felt he was getting aggressive, the police team decided to attack. As the U.P. police team tried to enter the house, he fired on them and in the exchange of fire Subash Batham was killed," said Mr. Singh. Batham's wife was injured in the incident, Mr. Singh added.

CM announces reward
Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced an award of ₹10 lakh for the police team that carried out the rescue operation. "All personnel who took part in the operation will be given a certificate of appreciation," said Additional Chief Secretary Awanish K. Awasthi.

The DGP said Batham was a convicted criminal in a murder case and probably out on parole but other officers said he was out on bail.



Ordeal ends: Parents and family members with children after they were rescued in Farrukhabad on Thursday. •PTI

Death penalty cases: SC admits govt. plea

Centre seeks 'victim and society centric' guidelines to prevent delay in execution

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday admitted the government's plea to issue some "victim and society centric" guidelines to prevent delay in execution of condemned people in death penalty cases but added the rider that it would not consider any plea to alter past judgments or existing rights of death row prisoners.

The government's application delves on the point that the legal process leading finally to the actual execution of the condemned man is labyrinthine and susceptible to be misused by the convict to prolong the day of ex-

ecution. Delay is a ground for commutation of death penalty.

The long-winded process and consequent delay renders stale the expectation of the victim's family and society for justice.

Reason for delay

The government claimed that the reason for this delay is a series of guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in its judgment in the Shatrughan Chauhan case in 2014. These guidelines had primarily held that unexplained delay in carrying out an execution would lead to commutation of death penalty to life imprisonment.

The government called the 2014 verdict "accused-centric" and called for a change to appease the victims and society. "We [Supreme Court] have always rendered judgments with the victims in our mind. Our decisions are for the victims. It is the law of the land," Chief Justice S.A. Bobde reacted to Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for the government.

The three-judge Bench, led by CJI Bobde, questioned the government's *locus standi* in filing the application. The CJI said both the review and curative petitions against the Chauhan verdict already stood dismissed.

The court asked how the

government could file an application now, seeking to modify or add to the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in 2014 as part of a judgment. Undaunted, Mr. Mehta repeatedly expressed the Centre's concern for victims awaiting justice.

He said the government was merely seeking "additional" guidelines to the ones in the Chauhan verdict to balance the scale. Finally, the court agreed to issue formal notice, but the CJI clarified in its written order that the court would not entertain any alteration in the conviction or sentence in the Chauhan case.

I will fight till the convicts are hanged, says victim's mother

Delhi court defers execution of death warrants

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

As a Delhi court put off the execution of Nirbhaya gang-rape case convicts, the victim's mother on Friday said she would continue her fight till four of them were hanged. She said this shortly after the court postponed the execution of death war-

nirbhaya's mother. •PTI

These convicts have no right to live. We keep getting disappointed by the system. I will continue my fight till the convicts are hanged," she said.

were issued on January 17. The 23-year-old was gangraped on the night of December 16, 2012, in a moving bus in south Delhi. She succumbed to her injuries a fortnight later.

ANNA UNIVERSITY

CHENNAI - 600 025

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On-line Tenders in Two Bid System are invited for Supply and Installation of following equipment for the Director, Institute for Energy Studies, Anna University, Chennai-600 025.

Sl. No.	Tender Ref. No.	Name of the equipment	Qty.	Approx. cost
1.	478/PP4/ET/MED-TVC/IES/2020	"Fabrication, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Multi Effect Desalination Unit (MED-TVC)"	1 Unit	₹90,000/-

The tender documents can be downloaded by registering in the website <https://tenders.gov.in> using Digital Signature Certificate and E-Token from 05.30 p.m. on 01.02.2020. The filled-in tender documents can be submitted by uploading in the website up to 3.00 p.m. on 17.02.2020 and will be opened at 03.00 p.m. on 18.02.2020. EMD is to be submitted through the website <https://tenders.gov.in> BY ONLINE MODE ONLY. Other detailed tender conditions, future corrigenda etc., please visit the website (<https://tenders.gov.in>) and any press advertisement will not published in this regard.

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CMYK

THE HINDU DELHI

Saturday, February 1, 2020

THE HINDU

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REG



Unfounded optimism

The Economic Survey's forecast of 6-6.5% GDP growth in FY21 is premised on hope

As a report card-cum-blueprint for the future, Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) Krishnamurthy Subramanian's Economic Survey 2019-20 is a mixed bag of interesting diagnosis combined with some optimistic prognosis. Seven months after his maiden survey, he finds himself again having to assess the economy's health and provide signposts for the agenda ahead. And the CEA, who in July projected real GDP growth rebounding to 7% this fiscal, acknowledges that 2019 was a difficult year for the global economy, including for trade and demand, and by extension a challenging period for the Indian economy as well. The Survey concedes that "a sharp decline in fixed investment induced by a sluggish growth of real consumption" has weighed down growth, which the National Statistical Office now estimates at 5% for the 12 months ending in March. The stress in the non-bank financial industry and decline in credit growth that the IMF flagged in January when it cut its India growth estimate for the current fiscal to 4.8%, from October's 6.1%, find reflection in the Survey. Interestingly, a chapter devoted to "Financial fragility in the NBFC sector" recommends a dynamic health index that policymakers can use as an early warning system to avert incipient liquidity crises in this key credit providing sector.

Listing downside risks to next fiscal's outlook including continuing global trade uncertainties, escalation in West Asian geopolitical tensions, slow pace of insolvency resolution and the possibility of further fiscal pressure crowding out private investment, the CEA, however, takes a leap of faith. In forecasting growth rebounding to a 6.0-6.5% range, he reiterates an expectation from his previous survey: given the government's strong mandate, it ought to expedite reforms. The Survey also makes a political statement on Budget eve. Expect more policy incentives for "Wealth creation". Featuring as a central theme of the first volume, the Survey asserts that India's vaunted historical economic dominance was reliant "on the invisible hand of the market for wealth creation" supported by ethical practices that engendered trust. To ensure smoother functioning of markets as creators of wealth, the Survey makes several policy prescriptions. Contending that government interventions hurt more than they help, it recommends scrapping the Essential Commodities Act – enacted in 1955 when famines and shortages were the concern. Similarly, it asserts that the Drug (Prices Control) Order of 2013 has failed to achieve its aim of making drugs affordable and needs to go. And the CEA wants a complete review of the policy on foodgrains, which he argues has made the government the largest "hoarder" thereby distorting these markets. All are suggestions that traders and market players, a key electoral constituency, will cheer, but may be fraught with risks.

India abroad

Diplomats are spending most of their time trying to keep out negative references to India

The European Union Parliament's discussion recently on India's Citizenship (Amendment) Act or CAA, is more proof of concern, particularly in the West, over the possible repercussions of the law and the protests across India. Parliamentarians in the U.K. and U.S. Congressmen, including Democratic presidential contenders, have asked India to "reconsider" the law and to "engage" with the protesters. The EU parliamentarians went a step further: putting out six different and extremely critical resolutions, including one that spoke of the possible risk by the CAA and the proposed National Register of Citizens, of creating "the largest statelessness crisis in the world". A sixth less critical resolution, but which worried about the "brutal crackdown" on protesters, was dropped. After India's intense diplomatic outreach, the parliamentarians agreed to put off voting on the resolution until after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Prime Minister Modi visit Brussels; according to the EU member requesting the postponement, India will address Europe's concerns. The government has called this a diplomatic victory, blaming Pakistan and also a British MEP with Pakistan occupied Kashmir origins for "strenuous efforts" to attack India in the EU Parliament. The hope is that with the U.K. scheduled to leave the EU on January 31, interest in the anti-CAA resolutions will wane. Finally, the government has held that the CAA is India's internal law.

While the government is right about India's sovereign right, it would be deluding itself if it thinks any of these explanations are passing muster with the EU parliamentarians. The government diluted its own case against foreign interference when it facilitated a visit by EU MEPs to Srinagar last year, when even Indian MPs were not allowed to visit. By engaging the EU MEPs to avoid a vote in the EU Parliament this week, and offering to explain the reasons behind CAA, the government is slipping up further. New Delhi must also consider the impact of its repeated reference to Pakistan as the sole mover of any motion against it at world legislatures and fora. It seems a stretch that Pakistan, which is itself on international notice for terrorism and attacks on minorities, can bring such weight to bear. In the EU Parliament, 626 MEPs of the total 751 were members of the groups that originally drafted the six resolutions, and it seems unlikely that Islamabad could have achieved such a majority. Above all, the government must reflect on the cumulative toll on its diplomatic heft following international alarm over the CAA, plans for an NRC and the dilution of Article 370. Instead of pushing a positive agenda for India or handling global challenges, Indian diplomats seem to be overwhelmed keeping out any negative references to India at official fora.

A sneeze, a global cold and testing times for China

For Beijing, the coronavirus outbreak is more than a health crisis; it is a credibility challenge, domestically and globally



RAKESH SOOD

The Year of the Rat has begun on an inauspicious note for China. A new virus belonging to the Coronavirus family (now named novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV) has claimed over 200 lives in China and the numbers infected have touched 10,000 confirmed cases, as on Friday. The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared it a global emergency, as the outbreak continues to spread outside China. On January 25, China's President Xi Jinping convened a meeting of the top leadership to underline the seriousness of the outbreak. Chinese authorities have been directed to take whatever steps are needed on an emergency footing to deal with "a grave public health crisis". However, for Mr. Xi, it is more than a public health crisis; it is a credibility challenge, with both domestic and global dimensions.

At the epicentre

Ironically, the epicentre of the outbreak is the bustling town of Wuhan, China, which also hosts a number of biotech enterprises. Early on, many of the patients in Wuhan are reported to have had some link to a large seafood and animal market, suggesting animal-to-person spread. However, a growing number of patients reportedly have not had exposure to such markets, which shows that person-to-person spread is occurring.

Normally, coronaviruses is a large family of viruses that are often the source of respiratory infections, including the common cold. Most of the viruses are common among animals and only a small number infect humans. Some-

times, an animal-based coronavirus mutates and successfully finds a human host. Rapid urbanisation that forces animals and humans into closer proximity (as in the "wet market" in Wuhan) creates a perfect petri dish from where such zoonotic outbreaks can originate.

The first official acknowledgement of a new virus outbreak in Wuhan came on December 31 after an outbreak was confirmed. During the past four weeks, the number of those infected and fatal casualties have climbed rapidly. Cases have been reported from different parts of China as well as Hong Kong; cases/suspected cases have been reported from Thailand, Japan, Nepal, South Korea, Taiwan, Australia, the United States, France, Austria, Germany, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia and Singapore. However, about 4,000 Chinese from Wuhan are reported to be still abroad. For India, the most critical is cases being reported in Nepal since India and Nepal share an open border though so far, all tests undertaken in India have been negative. A tweet by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on January 30 said that one positive case of a novel coronavirus patient – a student studying in Wuhan University, has been reported in Kerala. The patient, who is in isolation in a hospital, is stable and being closely monitored.

Decoding the new virus

According to the World Health Organization, during previous outbreaks due to other coronaviruses, human-to-human transmission occurred through droplets, contact and fomites (objects or materials which are likely to carry infection, such as clothes, utensils, and furniture), suggesting that the transmission mode of the 2019-nCoV can be identical. More significant is the new understanding that the virus is contagious even during incubation, that is even before a patient exhibits any symptoms. This characteristic amplifies transmis-



sibility. It also explains the travel bans across China, and the literal isolation of Wuhan, a city of 11 million and the Hubei province with a population of nearly 60 million.

For China, the timing of the outbreak could not be worse. The Chinese Lunar New Year began on January 24 and normally, it marks a week-long holiday, marked by feasting and travel by large numbers to join their families for the celebrations. Undoubtedly, this movement contributed to the rapid transmission of the disease across China and to many countries before the Chinese authorities cracked down.

Holidays across the country have been extended by three days till February 2 in an effort to stagger the returns. Starbucks and McDonalds have temporarily shut down outlets in Hubei; in Shanghai, Disneyland and in Beijing, the Forbidden City are closed; a number of temple celebrations have been called off to prevent large-scale gatherings. In Shanghai, businesses have extended the holiday period till February 10, except for supermarkets, medical suppliers and public utilities. Hong Kong has drastically cut travel between the mainland and the city.

An earlier outbreak

Comparisons are being drawn the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak in 2002-03 which infected around 8,000 pa-

tients and claimed nearly 800 lives. SARS is also a zoonotic case, part of the coronavirus family with clues pointing to horseshoe bats in China as the likely source. The first incidents were reported in Guangdong province in November 2002 but WHO was officially informed only after three months though mysterious flu outbreaks were being widely reported. It quickly became more than a public health issue and later, the Chinese health authorities issued a public apology. It was the first case of a coronavirus family virus developing lethality together with high transmission. The global economic loss was estimated at between \$30-\$100 billion.

This time round, the Chinese government has been more open but the question being asked is whether it has been open enough? The response mechanisms, especially in the early days, evidently fell short, reflective of the 'top down' bureaucratic approach of the Chinese system. The system has kicked in now with the all-of-government approach which characterises the China model. This is embarrassing for the "core leader" Mr. Xi, the author of 'China's rejuvenation' who replaced Deng Xiaoping's advice of "hide your capability, bide your time" with the mantra "demonstrate capability, assume responsibility and claim rightful place", implying that China's time has come. How China manages this challenge will be a test, demonstrating that the Chinese model can deliver when it comes to a crunch and that it is a responsible global player, no longer hesitant about engaging with WHO. For SARS, it took 20 months from the genome sequencing to the first human vaccine trials; for the 2019-nCoV, authorities in the U.S. are working on a deadline of 90 days.

Lessons from Kerala

All this provides an interesting contrast with how the Kerala go-

vernment dealt with the Nipah virus outbreak in May 2018. Nipah is also zoonotic and made the jump from fruit bats to humans. Though there were 17 deaths in India, effective quarantine measures by local authorities prevented the spread. It helped that health is a state subject. A local doctor took the initiative to contact the Manipal Centre for Virus Research which had worked in the northeast (where Nipah is more prevalent and a 2001 outbreak in Siliguri had claimed 49 lives) and had the diagnostic tools to identify the virus. The State health machinery responded with alacrity with many put under observation. No new case was reported after June and a month later, Kerala was declared Nipah-free and travel restrictions removed. Had the district and State authorities not taken the initiative and only reported matters to Delhi and awaited instructions while Delhi sent teams to prepare plans, the outbreak would have taken a higher toll.

Kerala managed to curtail the Nipah outbreak with few casualties. However, infectious diseases including those of the zoonotic variety are on the rise in India. In addition, regions in India suffer from seasonal outbreaks of dengue, malaria and influenza strains. The nation-wide disease surveillance programme needs to be strengthened.

There is an acute shortage of epidemiologists, microbiologists and entomologists which translates into wasteful delays in diagnostics. Given the growth potential of India's biotech sector, it is time to put in place a robust public-private partnership model that can transform the health services sector in the country, covering disease surveillance, diagnostic kit availability and accelerated vaccine development.

Rakesh Sood is a former diplomat and currently Distinguished Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation

Thinking beyond farm sops

India needs well-tailored farm measures to balance the national requirement with farmers' aspirations



NAVEEN P. SINGH & RANJITH P.C.

The year 2019 witnessed a series of interventions and disruptions in the farm sector. The first half of the year saw the launch of a grand farm sop in the form of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) with a record allocation of ₹75,000 crore. The second half, however, was a disaster for the sector as many parts of the country witnessed drought and floods. The economic slowdown and the spiralling onion and vegetable prices burdened consumers (including farmers), providing a short respite to only a section of farmers.

This clearly reflects two things: one, populist measures have a low bearing on the economy. Second, despite several measures to reduce vulnerability of climate-induced disasters, the farm sector and farmers continue to suffer losses. Therefore, taking cognizance of past experience and leveraging on opportunities that exist is a must to boost agriculture.

Focus areas

Agriculture is a crucial segment for inclusive development and provides stimulus to the economy, especially when it is not doing too well. Since the country has several targets and commitments to be

achieved in the next decade, it is imperative to lay a strong foundation by launching measures that can stem falling farm growth. First, the disparity in agriculture expenditure and growth drivers, mainly the subsidiary sectors, must be addressed. Despite higher growth in livestock and fisheries sector, only moderate to low expenditure was recorded. Expenditure on livestock and fisheries must be increased, as they are mainly connected with resource-poor families in rural areas and also to raise the decelerating growth rate. Moreover, the expenditure on research and development in agriculture needs to be raised from nearly 0.40% of agriculture GDP to 1% as it pays huge dividends in the long run in ameliorating poverty and improving livelihoods compared to any other investment. Considering India's dependency on agriculture and recurring climate-induced disasters, it is imperative to expand the implementation of Climate Smart Villages of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) across the nation.

Second, the Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), which are currently facing operational and structural issues governed by different Acts and funded by various sources, may be strengthened by bringing them under one institution, preferably an FPO Development and Regulatory Authority. A structured impetus must be given to build block chain based e-marketing

ket places connecting farmers, traders, agencies, institutions and exporters on a common platform to check price fluctuations and harness decentralisation. Further, affordable technologies must be developed and deployed particularly in rural and remote areas where digital literacy of farmers has improved considerably. Key farm institutions and organisations in the front line of farm service, dealing with perishables and low shelf life commodities, must digitalise so that they are efficiently managed.



Fourth, the government must establish a farm data agency, which can consolidate, collate and maintain farm data available at various platforms. Ongoing efforts of digitisation of land records must also include farmer-centric advisories. The farm data agencies can also facilitate beneficiaries identification, better targeting of subsidies, support systems of various developmental programmes. Access to farm agency data for scientific institutions and all other relevant stakeholders can hasten the process of technology dissemination and aid research systems for better policies.

Fifth, commissioning ease of farming index is necessary to ascertain the progress made by national and State governments on the key indicators of farming. Possibly, the exercise can be done with active involvement of proven private/public institutions or international agencies. This perhaps stands away from the conventional assessment of effectiveness of agriculture policies and programmes that are part of the farm support system. Moreover, the exercise may foster cooperative and competitive federalism besides encouraging States which are lagging behind to catch up.

Private sector involvement

Third, large-scale investment in agriculture over several years have encouraged monoculture, threatening the environment and soil health (mainly in green revolution areas). Thus small-scale investment measures or an incentive-based system is essential to scale up sustainable practices such as agroforestry, climate-smart agriculture, ecosystem services, conservation agriculture and others. Increasing corporate social responsibility will help to tap more private investments besides encouraging private players in potential areas where production sustainability is possible.

Fourth, the government must

convergence of States on key reforms and policies; two, farmers' welfare commissions (both at the Centre and State level), as an independent institutional mechanism which will act as a neutral platform for assessing all agriculture-related issues and schemes. Involvement of centrally-funded research organisations as knowledge partners would help to coordinate and refine existing developmental schemes in agriculture and allied sectors.

In the era of global uncertainty and domestic glitches, we need well-tailored farm measures beyond short-run sops to balance the national requirement with the farmer's aspirations. Moreover, the right mix of direct benefits and price support with focused investment on resource conservation will bring stability in a farmer's income. The promised *achhe din* for all must include farmers too which is only possible with steps engaging all stakeholders and sectors.

Naveen P. Singh is with the ICAR-National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research and Ranjith P.C. is with the ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Coronavirus ready

The novel coronavirus has now entered India (Page 1, "Country's first coronavirus infection confirmed in Kerala", January 31). It would be very pertinent for the government health agencies and other stakeholders to take the requisite and immediate precautions in preventing its further spread. Existing surveillance and screening mechanisms must be strengthened at vulnerable points. Most importantly, the lessons learnt from the earlier handling of other virulent viruses such as Nipah in Kerala and Zika in Rajasthan should ideally

enable India's health agencies to fine-tune their overall preparedness in handling any possible outbreak. The government must also quickly disseminate awareness bulletins and timely health advisories. In view of the dangerous ramifications of the outbreak, the overall strategy requires structured and effective coordination with the World Health Organisation and other apex medical bodies. G. RAMASUBRAMANYAM, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

■ One fails to understand how and why the Ministry of AYUSH issued an advisory

suggesting medication to treat the coronavirus infection (OpEd, "A troubling prescription", January 31). Is it an example of half-baked knowledge at play? Some viral diseases are dreadful, and there are times when all allopathic doctors can do is to maintain vigil using vital data and then attempting symptomatic treatment. J.P. REDDY, Nalgonda, Telangana

No to event

Musician and writer T.M. Krishna's response to the Kalakshetra Foundation's abrupt decision to revoke permission to hold the release function of his book

only sheds more light on the inane arguments put forth by those in the Foundation (Page 1, "Kalakshetra says no to T.M. Krishna", January 31). Their reasons only end up giving more credence to what Mr. Krishna tries to highlight in his book – of a Janus-faced approach and hypocritical mindset of some. The ill-advised move of Kalakshetra cuts at the very root of the cherished freedom of expression. We are still aces removed from that famous line: "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say." AYASSERI RAVEENDRANATH, Aranmula, Kerala

■ There is nothing wrong in Mr. Krishna's defence that the book brings out only the reality of mrdangam makers who have been marginalised for generations. But the writer has exceeded his own brief in his book by unnecessarily including a chapter to take potshots at a community on the ethical aspects of playing an instrument made of skin. Casting aspersions on a community in this manner is totally irrelevant to the cause of marginalised sections that he is trying to espouse in the book. What if the mrdangam vidwans succeed in finding out an alternative way of

making the instrument in deference to his wish, say synthetic, then what would be the fate of these marginalised sections whose very livelihood would be under threat? As a prominent classical singer, he could have tried to find a solution by taking up the case with senior musicians in the field instead of going public. As a government unit, Kalakshetra has made the right decision in disallowing the staging of a function on its premises to prevent communal discord. V. SUBRAMANIAN, Chennai

To read more letters online, scan the QR code

Crisis along the coast

The dust may have settled on the Maradu demolitions in Kerala, but processing the nearly 26,000 cases of suspected Coastal Regulation Zone violations promises to be a gargantuan task. **K.S. Sudhi** reports on the fear among coastal communities, the concerns of ecologists, and the challenges confronting the government

Squatting on the floor of his one-room hut in Nayarambalam, a coastal village in Kochi, Arayakulam Raju rummages through the documents that he has fished out of a steel cabinet. An old pedestal fan, the only luxury he owns, whirs laboriously as he searches for something. The roof of his rickety house is covered with asbestos sheets. The walls are lined with wooden planks. Household utensils are strewn all over a small extension of the room, which doubles up as the kitchen.

A decade ago, the fisherman had bought a three-cent holding on the banks of the Punchayil Canal, which is today a near-stagnant waste ground with overgrown weeds and garbage. Raju pulls out a copy of a building plan. "Though submitted for approval two years ago, it was not considered. The officials say I have to construct the building at least 10 metres away from the canal considering the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) notifications, and submit a fresh plan accordingly. After setting off the mandatory space, only a narrow strip of land will be left," he says. Though Raju's application for financial aid under Mission LIFE, a housing scheme of the State government, was cleared, construction could not begin for want of an approved building plan.

A list of violators

As Raju's wait for a home continues, Kerala is grappling with over 26,000 reported instances of CRZ violations in the State. Billionaire industrialists, hoteliers and riverside resort owners are on the list of violators. The magnitude of the violations and possible legal actions are likely to snowball into a socio-economic and legal crisis in the coastal State, which is yet to recover from the shock of the recent demolition of four skyscrapers constructed at Maradu in Kochi in violation of the CRZ rules, following an order from the Supreme Court. Four illegal apartments, which came up on the banks of the Vembanad Lake, a Ramsar site, were pulled down in two days after evicting its residents.

But things did not end there. On January 10, on the eve of the demolition of two apartment complexes, the Supreme Court struck another blow for CRZ rules by ordering the demolition of Kapico Resorts, 54 seven-star villas built on an island in Vembanad Lake. The nearly ₹600 crore resorts came up by illegally reclaiming Nediyathuruthu, an island in the lake, which has been classified as a Critically Vulnerable Coastal Area.

The ecological significance of the Vembanad Lake system has been reiterated by the CRZ notifications time and again. The 2019 notification too listed Vembanad as a Critically Vulnerable Coastal Area and clubbed it along with the Sundarbans of West Bengal and the Gulf of Khambohat and the Gulf of Kutch of Gujarat. Section 3.1 of the CRZ rules states that critically vulnerable coastal areas should be managed with the involvement of coastal communities, including fisherfolk who depend on coastal resources for their sustainable livelihood.

The present list of violations was drawn up after an affidavit was submitted by the Kerala Chief Secretary in the Supreme Court during the Maradu case hearing. The court was assured that all such violations would be identified, and the officials and builders who facilitated them taken to task. Incidentally, this is the first time there is judicial scrutiny by the apex court of CRZ violations in the State.

Going by the rulebook, Kaduvankasseri Ajeeesh, a traditional fisherman, who has set up a 900 sq ft home on a small holding near Putthen Kadappuram in Vypeen, a coastal village in Kochi, is also a violator. The local body has refused to assign a door number to the house which he constructed using financial aid from Matsyafed, a fishermen's cooperative. The reason? He had not obtained prior CRZ clearance for constructing the house on the holding, which is surrounded on three sides by Pikkali fields, an ecologically important area where paddy farming and fish culture are carried out in turns. A canal flows hardly 20 metres away from his house. There is no direct road access to the holding. A narrow and slushy path that meanders through a thicket of overgrown weeds and mangrove vegetation for about 500 metres leads to the place. "My house was denied the door number as I had constructed it before obtaining CRZ clearance," says Ajeeesh. "We don't have any other place to go to. Half the holding has been assigned to my brother Aneesh, who is also finding it difficult to construct a house. The hitches caused in the name of CRZ clearance are preventing him from fulfilling his dream of having a house," says Ajeeesh.

Categories under CRZ
Since the notification issued on February 19, 1991, the development paradigm of coastal areas has been defined by CRZ norms. The CRZ rules were notified by invoking Section 3 of the Environment



An aerial view of the Kapico Resorts built on an island in Vembanad Lake. The Supreme Court has ordered the demolition of the 54 seven-star villas of the resort. (Below): Raju, a fisherman in Kochi, stands on the banks of a canal that flows next to his hut in Nayarambalam in Kochi. He could not build a pucca house on the holding as the authorities denied him a building permit citing the Coastal Regulation Zone rules. ■ THULASI KAKKAT

Protection) Act, 1986. The notifications were issued "to conserve and protect the unique environment of coastal stretches and marine areas, [the] livelihood security of fisher communities and other local communities, and to promote sustainable development" by taking into account the dangers of natural hazards and sea-level rise due to global warming. The notifications declared the coastal stretches of the country and the water area up to its territorial water limit, excluding the islands of Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep and the marine areas surrounding these islands, as Coastal Regulation Zone.

The CRZ-1 areas are the most environmentally critical. They are further classified as CRZ-1(A) and CRZ-1(B). CRZ-1(A) covers mangroves, corals and coral reefs, sand dunes, biologically active mudflats, inter-tidal zones, and nesting grounds of turtles and birds. It also includes national parks, marine parks, sanctuaries, reserve forests, wildlife habitats and other protected areas, biosphere reserves, salt marshes, sea grass beds and areas or structures of archaeological importance and heritage sites.

The CRZ-1(B) category includes the intertidal zone, the area between the Low Tide Line and the High Tide Line. The High Tide Line is defined as the line on the land up to which the highest water line reaches during the spring tide. The line is demarcated by the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management.

The notification also prescribes restrictions and regulations for construction and development activities in each zone. There are permissible and non-permissible activities in each zone. Prior clearance from the State Coastal Zone Management Authority is to be obtained before initiating any development activity. The third notification, the latest, was issued on January 18, 2019.

A no objection certificate from the State Coastal Zone Management Authority is a prerequisite for a coastal local body for approving a building plan in the CRZ area, explains a senior functionary of the Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority (KCZMA). Maradu demolitions and the Supreme Court order in the Kapico case, he says, are defining moments in the State's environmental history, where the long arm of law caught up with the violators, though a decade later.

The dust may have settled on the Maradu demolitions, but processing the nearly 26,000 cases of suspected CRZ violations will be a backbreaking exercise for the Environment Department. Special teams may have to be formed for scrutinising the list, which was compiled by the district committees formed in the 10 coastal districts.

With local body elections due in the State in another eight months and As-

sembly elections next year, both the ruling front and the opposition are likely to tread a careful path on this sensitive issue. With the list of violations to be submitted before the Supreme Court, the State will have a lot of explaining to do. Tough questions are likely to come up in the courtrooms in the coming days.

Lack of experts?

At the same time, there is criticism over the manner in which the list of violations was drawn up. Though committees were constituted to identify the violations, they didn't have any experts familiar with the CRZ rules, says K.V. Thomas, former head of the Coastal Process Group of the National Centre for Earth Science Studies, Thiruvananthapuram.

Thousands of cases of illegal reclamation of coastal wetlands might have escaped the attention of the committee members as the focus was on the buildings that came up in the CRZ areas. The absence of experts would have helped major violators escape scrutiny, he says.

As the CRZ notifications have classified the coastal areas into different zones based on their ecological significance, the violations should also be classified based on the zones where they have been identified. There should not be any compromise on the violations reported in Zone 1, says Thomas.

Though committees were constituted to identify the violations, they didn't have any experts familiar with the CRZ rules. The absence of experts would have helped major violators escape scrutiny.

K.V. THOMAS
Former head of the Coastal Process Group of the National Centre for Earth Science Studies, Thiruvananthapuram



The violations which are listed as prohibited activities in the CRZ notifications should be treated separately, he says. The list should be critically evaluated by expert teams comprising representatives of the Coastal Zone Management Authority, the Chief Town Planner, and various stakeholders. Also,

the draft list should be put up for a social audit, Thomas suggests. Charles George, the State president of Kerala Mattha Yozhilai Aikya Vedi, who has been in the forefront of many a battle against the CRZ violations, says the list was drawn up mostly by revenue officials. The team was handicapped by the absence of CRZ experts, he says.

Ecosystem people
Trade unions of fishermen and ecologists are now demanding that the traditional coastal dwellers and fishermen be treated as ecosystem people and be allowed to construct houses and other social and livelihood facilities on the shores and waterfront areas.

Earlier, a committee constituted by the KCZMA had recommended that fishermen and coastal communities be permitted to construct homes on the banks of filtration ponds as their lives and livelihood options are inextricably linked to the ecosystem. Such an approach should be adopted in case of CRZ rules for fishermen too, suggests Thomas.

While scrutinising the violations, says Charles George, a distinction should be made between violations by powerful business groups and resorts and those by traditional fishermen. Relaxations should be provided exclusively to ecosystem people. The laws governing the coastal ecosystems need to consider the population density of the coastal areas and the livelihood options of the traditional communities, he says. A people's commission on CRZ violations has started collecting complaints from the general public. It will collect complaints from all the coastal districts, compile them and submit them to the authorities, he says.

Considering the gravity of the situation and the sociopolitical and economic turmoil the actions against the CRZ violations can trigger, officials are taking a guarded approach. They are waiting for the State government to take a call. "We will have to discuss the issue with the State government before proceeding with the list of violators. This is an issue which will have far-reaching consequences," says a senior functionary of the government.

Geographically, Kerala is sandwiched between the hill ranges of the Western Ghats and the sea, says the official. There are many environment laws that cover both the mountain chain and the coastline, placing curbs on the areas available for development. Regarding CRZ violations, the law makes no distinction between small-scale violations and larger ones by commercial groups.

+ Violations by industry and those by the fishermen should not be treated alike. While dealing with violations by fishermen, we need to adopt a humanitarian approach. They should be provided adequate compensation.

BABY JOHN
Former member of the Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority

the homes and structures should be allowed to construct only eco-friendly homes without taxing the environment, Vijayan suggests. At the same time, those at the Authority question the logic behind these arguments as no law empowers the State to take over such buildings. The State can act only in accordance with the provisions of the law, says the official.

P.B. Sahasranaman, a lawyer specialising in environmental law, says the Central government is bound to check how the violations have taken place and decide on remedial measures. Only the Central government can decide whether to demolish the structures or adopt remedial actions as prescribed in the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, he says. A hurried preparation of the Coastal Zone Management Plan, the vision document spelling out the development paradigm in coastal stretches, will lead to improper implementation of the CRZ notifications, and will be blamed for the present fiasco, he says.

Baby John, a former member of the KCZMA, feels that violations by industry majors, hoteliers and resorts and those by the fishermen should not be treated alike. While dealing with the violations committed by fishermen, a humanitarian approach should be adopted. They should be provided adequate compensation and rehabilitation, he says. Though the Authority had earlier identified 65 cases of major CRZ violations by resorts, business houses and others, no action was initiated on these cases. The crackdown should focus on the major violations that were identified earlier, he says. Most of the nearly 12 lakh fishermen of Kerala, including the marine and inland fishermen, reside near the waterbodies and they cannot be thrown out of their dwellings citing the CRZ violations, he argues. Even after the KCZMA decided to act against several instances of CRZ violations, no action was initiated at the ground. The violations continue due to the unholy nexus between politicians and civic officials. This nexus should be broken and the erring officials and politicians taken to task, he says.

The houses that have been built in violation of the rules should be given to the ecosystem people and the homeless. The officials who aided such constructions should be awarded exemplary punishment and those who built

The scrutiny on the CRZ violations could trigger widespread protests and resistance in the state. How the coastal State will tide over the impending crisis remains to be seen.

FROM PAGE ONE

CAA fulfils the wish of Gandhiji, says President

He made a specific mention to the incidents of anti-Sikh violence at Nankana Sahib in Pakistan and said it was the duty of "all of us" to bring such atrocities to the attention of the global community.

He also expressed the view – without a direct reference to the CAA – that mutual discussions and debates strengthened democracy, while asserting that "any kind of violence in the name of protests weakens society and the nation".

The President dwelt on the developments in Kashmir following the dilution of Article 370, saying the government had taken Jan Sangh founder and Commerce Minister in the Nehru government Syama Prasad Mukherjee's words to the

CEA sees growth rebounding to 6%

To make a point about how being pro-crony is different from being pro-business, the Survey refers to the gains made unfairly by stocks of connected companies before the CAG report on the 2G spectrum allocations came out in 2011, again rejuvenating UPA-era malfeasance memories.

While food inflation has spiked, the Survey uses behavioural economics to show that eating a *thali* has become more affordable in recent years, more so for vegetarians.

Since 1 A.D., the CEA said, India has been a dominant economic powerhouse, driving wealth creation in the world for three-fourths of known economic history.

Indicating that it was time to get away from misplaced socialistic instincts to return India to its past glory, Mr. Subramanian called the Survey

vey a synthesis of old ideas with new ones, juxtaposing contemporary evidence with ancient texts.

The Survey delves into texts from 4th century BC and cites Tamil poet Tiruvalluvar's *Thirukural* and Kautilya's *Arthashastra* to espouse the virtues of the invisible hand of the market combined with trust in wealth creation.

It then goes on to tap Wikipedia to identify the 100 largest banks in the world where just one Indian bank figures. The Survey hopes for at least eight domestic entities to join the league so that India can be a \$5 trillion economy.

The higher growth hopes for the coming year are actually based on 'conservative' estimates, asserted Sanjeev Sanyal, Principal Economic Adviser to the Finance Ministry.

GDP growth revised downwards for 2018-19

Manufacturing growth slipping from the 7.5% estimated last May, to 6%. By contrast, services sector GVA growth was revised upward from 7.5% to 7.7% for the same year.

The NSO, under the Statistics and Programme Implementation Ministry, releases revised estimates of national income, consumption expenditure, saving and capital formation, as more accurate data comes in over time.

The first Revised Estimates for the year 2018-19 have been compiled using industry-wise, institution-wise detailed information instead of using the benchmark-indicator method employed at the time of release of Provisional Estimates on May 31, 2019," the Statistics office explained.

"The growth in real GVA (gross value added) during 2018-19 has been lower than that in 2017-18 mainly due to relatively lower growth in

'Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing', 'Mining and Quarrying', 'Manufacturing', 'Electricity, Gas, Water Supply & Other Utility Services', 'Financial Services', 'Public Administration and Defence' and 'Other Services', it added.

The GDP growth rate for 2016-17, the year when demonetisation of high-value currency notes was undertaken, has been raised from 8.2% to 8.3%. The 8.2% growth was based on second revised estimates released last January, that itself represented a significant hike from the 7.1% growth estimated earlier for 2016-17. India's per capita income, at current prices, is estimated as ₹1,15,293 and ₹1,26,521 respectively for the years 2017-18 and 2018-19, while per capita private final consumption expenditure at current prices is estimated at ₹76,794 and ₹84,808, for the two years, respectively.

Six get jail for planting bomb near ex-FM's house**TNLA cadre get 5-year imprisonment**

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

A special court in Poonamallee for exclusive trial of bomb blast cases here has convicted six activists of a Tamil extremist group to five years' imprisonment for planting pipe bomb near former Union Minister P. Chidambaram's house in Nachiyarpuram, Sivagangai district in 2014.

On February 25, 2014, the accused, members of Tamilnadu Liberation Army, left some pamphlets at the backside compound wall of Mr. Chidambaram's residence. The pamphlets had incriminating content against the Central govern-

ment such as its perceived anti-people policies relating to the entry of retail majors into the country and other issues.

The main accused Thiruvelselvan, arrested by Inspector of Othakkadai on March 10, confessed that he and his brother Kalalingam had put the bomb and pamphlets. On receiving the information, police searched and found the place of explosion. The compound wall was damaged. Police also seized fragments of a pipe bomb. The special judge found them guilty for the offence under a provision of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention)Act.

According to three orders issued on Thursday by the new Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla less than a day into his tenure, the silos that will be managed by the Additional Secretaries will range from cultural power, to be managed by Dinesh Patnaik, economic and trade

'A laundry list of wrong laws'

Congress says the President's speech was used to legitimise government's errors

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The President of India's address to both the Houses of Parliament has become a platform to legitimise the government's blunders, the Congress said on Friday.

Opposition leaders from 14 parties, led by the Congress, wore black arm bands, vacated the front row seats and sat in one block during the President's address in the Central Hall of Parliament to protest against the new citizenship law, the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the proposed National Population Register (NPR). Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, however, sat in his designated front row seat.

When President Kovind hailed the CAA in his speech amidst thunderous applause from ruling party MPs, Opposition members shouted "shame, shame" in the Cen-



In black and white: Congress, DMK and NCP MPs staging a protest against the CAA at Parliament House. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

tral Hall at the same time. Opposition parties may also move a motion against the President's address, when both the Houses discuss it next week.

Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Ghulam Nabi Azad said that it was "shameful" that the Union government had included the CAA in President Ram Nath Kovind's speech as an achievement of the government despite massive prot-

ests against the law. Deputy leader of the Congress Anand Sharma accused the government of "lowering the dignity" of the President's office as the validity of the CAA has been challenged in the Supreme Court. He described Mr. Kovind's speech as a "laundry list of wrong laws".

Mr. Azad said the speech did not have any concrete steps on tackling "real" issues like unemployment,

rise in prices of essential commodities, fall in the value of the rupee, or the GDP (gross domestic product).

He said the government's claim of development in Jammu and Kashmir, after "downgrading" the State to a Union Territory, was a "cruel joke" on the people.

"The President's address has become a platform to legitimise the government's blunders," tweeted senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel.

Sonia leads protest

Earlier in the day, top Congress leaders led by Sonia Gandhi staged a protest near Mahatma Gandhi's statue in the Parliament complex to express solidarity with those protesting against the CAA-NPR.

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the Nationalist Congress Party were a part of these protests.

Survey doesn't address ground realities: Cong.

'It's an exercise in obfuscation'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday said the Economic Survey for 2020-21 is disconnected from ground realities and is "an exercise at obfuscation."

The party, in a joint press conference addressed by Rajya Sabha MP Prof. Rajeev Gowda and spokespersons Supriya Srinivas and Gourav Vallabh, said the Economic Survey doesn't provide a roadmap to increase demand and consumption to tackle the current slowdown.

The party also said that the Survey document didn't acknowledge the growing inequalities among different sections, much less offer a solution.

"We are facing the worst economy in 42 years – unemployment is at a historic high, jobs are nowhere be-



Rajeev Gowda

ing created. For the first time in four decades, consumption has fallen and there is great fear of increase in poverty, increase in malnutrition. Revenues are drying up dramatically... The Economic Survey will tell you nothing of this sort because it is an exercise in obfuscation," Prof. Gowda said.

The Congress also objected to the Survey using words like 'Lutyen's Delhi' and examples from Hindi films to make an argument about encouraging small businesses.

Gandhiji was misquoted, says Yechury

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Left parties slammed President Ram Nath Kovind's speech on Friday for the "misquoting" of Mahatma Gandhi to "justify" the amended Citizenship Act.

"Modi government continues to lie by invoking Gandhi's ideas; now in the President's address, on the divisive CAA, their lies stand exposed. Gandhi spoke the exact opposite... Gandhi was killed because he stood for a secular and inclusive India," CPI (M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury tweeted.

Be aggressive on CAA, PM tells NDA partners

Allies JD(U), Akali Dal raise the issue of changes in NPR form with Home Minister Amit Shah



Raise the game: PM Narendra Modi and Cabinet Ministers arriving in Parliament on Friday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

Article 370 that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, the passage of the CAA, the operationalisation of the Kartarpur corridor and the

Bodo and Bru agreements.

"The NDA is one united family, and we stand like a rock behind Prime Minister Modi," said Union Minister Ram

Vilas Paswan, briefing the media about the meeting.

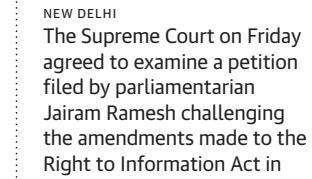
Government sources said Prime Minister Modi told NDA party leaders that the government's moves were not something that any of the partners needed to feel defensive about. He asked them to be on the front foot over the issue, and to take the Opposition head on. An NDA leader present at the meeting said Mr. Modi also reiterated that Muslims have as much rights and responsibilities in India as any other community.

The meeting took place after both Houses of Parlia-



Sharjeel Imam's phone, laptop seized: police

NEW DELHI Activist Sharjeel Imam's mobile phone and laptop along with some anti-CAA posters have been seized from his house in Bihar's Jehanabad and rented flat in Vasant Kunj, the police said on Friday. Imam was arrested by the Delhi Police's Crime Branch from Jehanabad in a sedition case and is being questioned for his alleged inflammatory speeches in Aligarh and at Jamia Millia Islamia here. During the probe, a laptop and a desktop were recovered from his rented flat at Vasant Kunj, police said. PTI

IN BRIEF

SC agrees to study plea on amendments to RTI NEW DELHI The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to examine a petition filed by parliamentarian Jairam Ramesh challenging the amendments made to the Right to Information Act in 2019 which gives the government the power to decide the tenure, salaries and service terms of the Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners according to its "whims and fancies". A bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud has sought the government's response.

PM seeks feedback on J&K from Ministers

NEW DELHI Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sought feedback from the 37 Union Ministers who visited Jammu and Kashmir as part of an outreach initiative from January 18-23. The Ministers have been asked to fill a form comprising six questions on whether the development initiatives of the Centre had percolated downwards and benefited the people. A senior government official said there were strict instructions from the Prime Minister to not give any political speeches in J&K and instead focus on the work done post-August 5.

3 truck-borne militants killed in Jammu's Nagrota**Pulwama attacker's kin arrested**

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR

Three truck-borne Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) militants were killed at a toll plaza in Jammu's Nagrota on Friday morning.

One of two persons arrested from the truck is a cousin of suicide bomber Adil Dar, who carried out a deadly attack in Pulwama last year and killed 40 CRPF jawans, the police said.

"The militants opened fire when a truck was stopped by a police team near the toll plaza, in which one policeman suffered bullet injuries, and is stable now. One terrorist was shot dead in the initial firing. Two others were killed in the combing operation launched in the nearby area, as they made an attempt to escape," J&K Director General of Police Dilbagh Singh said.

The incident took place at the Bann Toll Plaza on the Srinagar-Jammu Highway around 5 a.m., and the militants were hiding behind urea bags in the truck. "They were heading for Srinagar. The six weapons seized show that another group was waiting for them," said DGP Singh.

Preliminary questioning of the two arrested persons – the driver and the conductor – suggest that these militants belonged to the JeM.

"They all appear to be Pakistani terrorists and had crossed the International Border from Dayalchak area on Thursday evening.

They were picked up by the truck on Friday," he added.



Security forces carrying the body of a terrorist killed in a gunbattle at a toll plaza in Jammu's Nagrota.

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"They all appear to be Pakistani terrorists and had crossed the International Border from Dayalchak area on Thursday evening.

They were picked up by the truck on Friday," he added.

It advised parents to immediately take the children home in their "best interest" so that there is "no negative impact on their psyche".

Nazia Khan has two children, ages 6 and 8 years.

While her husband goes to

Parents resist CWC notice to keep children away from sit-in

Students say they want to participate in anti-CAA protest

OMAR RASHID

LUCKNOW

"Who will take care of them? Shall we hand over our kids to Yogi Adityanath?" asked Aisha, a protester at the Hussainabad Clock Tower, where women have been staging a sit-in against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) since January 17.

Tagging along with Ms. Aisha is her three-year-old son. In the crowd of a few hundred protesters, mostly women and children, Ms. Aisha is not the only mother with her child in tow.

On January 29, the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) of Lucknow issued a notice to parents bringing children to the dharna site and asked them to immediately send the children home.

It advised parents to immediately take the children home in their "best interest" so that there is "no negative impact on their psyche".

Otherwise, the CWC warned, action would be taken under Section 75 of the Juvenile Justice Act.

But protesters said they brought their children to the demonstration as they had no other choice. "Our CM does not have children, so he won't understand our daily commitments," said Ms. Aisha.

Nazia Khan has two children, ages 6 and 8 years.

While her husband goes to



Sustained campaign: Women staging a protest against the CAA in Lucknow last week. ■ PTI

work, she comes to the protest and stays back till the evening. "Who will take care of my children at home if I don't take them with me?" she asked.

Several school students also justified their participation. "All I want to ask the government is when papers will be sought and people will be thrown out. Will they let us [children] stay?" asked Zainab

INTERVIEW | SANJEEV SANYAL

'There's more space for intervention on monetary front than fiscal front'

The focus of the Economic Survey 2019-20 is to make a case for wealth creation, says Principal Economic Adviser in the Finance Ministry

VIKAS DHOTI
NEW DELHI

While the central bank has struck a cautious note on further interest rate cuts given a spike in inflation over the last few months, Principal Economic Adviser in the Finance Ministry Sanjeev Sanyal believes there is more room for monetary policy actions to spur growth.

You are optimistic of growth rebounding to 6% to 6.5% from the 5% estimated for this year. Could you elaborate on the reasons for the hopes of an upturn?

■ We have actually been quite conservative – 6% to 6.5% growth is fairly okay given that many of the short-term indicators have stabilised already. They are not strong but they are no longer deteriorating for most parts – be it the PMI or other indicators. So that is definitely going to be the case...

But I think the focus of this Economic Survey is really on making a case for wealth creation. As the Prime Minister has also said, if we cannot create wealth, you cannot redistribute it. So we need to

reconsider our default socialist thing towards redistribution as it seems to be imbibed inside our intellectual frameworks. What we have tried to do is make the case for markets, privatisation and removing interventions where they are needed, and also interestingly, the need for us to take trust systems more seriously. So being pro-business is very different from being pro-crony.

This is what we have tried to show. There is the Essential Commodities Act that may have made sense in 1950s when we had shortages and so on. But today it doesn't as we produce enough food but the problem is of storage. If you are going to call people who store and transport food

'hoarders,' then why should they invest in it? So we need to rethink this whole approach to economics.

Secondly, we have also shown how value is created by privatisation. We have looked at the wall of regulation that Indian businesses face. For restaurants in Singapore, you need four major permits. In Delhi, you need 26 permits and each of those requires many documents – a Delhi Police permit needs 45 documents, while getting a gun requires 19.

There has been some mention of counter-cyclical fiscal measures that can revive growth.. What could they be?

■ I have always said the larger space is still on the monetary side. But there are fiscal things that may be done but I am not in a position to discuss them today.

You feel there is space on the monetary side despite the



Our banking and financial system, having gone through a lot of cleaning up, now needs to go into expansion mode.

high inflation?

■ Yes, I do. It's food inflation (that is rising). The underlying inflation is very well-behaved and there is plenty of space on the monetary side. We have also mooted an im-

portant reform called bilateral netting. Let's assume you and I are banks – I have ₹100 exposure to you and you have ₹90 exposure to me. In the current environment, both of us have to keep ₹190 capital aside to cover this. But the risk in the system is only ₹10 – which is my net position vis-a-vis you. So actually, we should only be keeping ₹10 capital aside.

Worldwide, bilateral netting is accepted, but we don't allow this. We have set these

capital requirements and too much capital is getting stuck that we can release immediately.

Secondly, without such a system, you cannot do much in any kind of derivative instruments... For example, the Credit Default Swaps (CDS) market doesn't exist in India because we don't have bilateral netting. If you don't have a CDS market, you cannot have a corporate bond market. This is a very important reform that we need to do that needs a law at some point. Then the RBI can frame the rules.

How do you converge 'Assemble in India' with Make in India?

■ They are basically the same idea. We have to be competitive... People who manufacture in India manufacture for the world as well. Partly, regulatory and logistic changes are needed – but really, we need a mindset change. Very often in India,

people say: 'Oh, certain product is made, and only a small amount of value addition is made here.' So what?

We have to be willing to get into those parts of the system where the value chain may not be large but there are enormous volumes. China's growth is entirely due to this.

When the first few Maruti 800s came, they were largely imported from Japan. Now we are a global car exporter.

There is no reason for us to be snooty that we haven't got a great amount of the value. You have to be a part of the chain in the first place; then we can talk of how much value you create.

You have included some studies on crony capitalism leading to undue gains for certain stocks involved in the 2G scam. What is the resonance of that today, since we have moved on from such crony capitalism as you suggest?

■ The idea was to make a

point about trust. We talk about creating wealth but within a system of trust. We are unapologetic about pushing wealth creation, but for ethically made wealth, not in any which way. That's why our cover includes trust and markets.

The Survey has talked of built-up demand pressure... In which sectors do you see this?

■ For example, our inventory pipeline is completely bare now. We have had inventory down for almost two years. If demand begins to come back, we will see a significant kick from inventory build-up. Of course, that requires you to be able to back it with working capital from the banking system.

That is why we always keep coming back to the fact that our banking and financial system, having gone through a lot of cleaning up, now needs to go into expansion mode.

Essential Commodities Act is outdated, must go

Stock limits led to onion price volatility

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre's imposition of stock limits in a bid to control the soaring prices of onions over the last few months actually increased price volatility, according to the Economic Survey 2019-20, tabled in Parliament on Friday.

The finding came in a hard-hitting attack in the report against the Essential Commodities Act (ECA) and other "anachronistic legislation" and interventionist policies, including drug price control, grain procurement and farm loan waivers.



provisions to impose stock limits on onions after heavy rains wiped out a quarter of the kharif crop and led to a sustained spike in prices.

Increase in volatility

Although the restrictions on both retail and wholesale traders were meant to prevent hoarding and enhance supply in the market, the Survey showed that there was actually an increase in price volatility and a widening wedge between wholesale and retail prices.

The Survey argued that if the government had not intervened, traders would have stored part of their produce to ensure smooth availability of the commodity at stable prices throughout the year. "In the long term, the Act disincentivises development of storage infrastructure, thereby leading to increased volatility in prices following production/consumption shocks – the opposite of what it is intended for," it said.

The Survey argued that the Drug Price Control Order issued under the ECA also distorted the market and actually made medicines less affordable.

Estimates showed that the prices of drugs that came under the DPCO, 2013, increased ₹71 per mg of the active ingredient, in comparison to just ₹13 per mg for drugs unaffected by the order.

Perspective paper



Looking ahead: Copies of the Economic Survey being stacked up outside Parliament. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

High fees keep poor children away from higher education

Survey points to challenges of affordability and quality

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

High fees at the institutes of higher education push the poor and underprivileged out of the education system, the Economic Survey notes.

The comment comes at a time when a faction of students at Jawaharlal Nehru University have been opposing the fee increase arguing that it will force many poor students to drop out.

Noting that the National Sample Survey 2017-2018 shows an increased participation in the education system in some indicators, the Survey says there are "chal-



As many as 13.6% of those in the age group of 3-35 are never enrolled.

lenges of affordability, quality, distribution of education infrastructure". "As many as 13.6% of those in the age group of 3-35 were never enrolled," the Survey says, citing the NSS. Those surveyed

attributed "financial constraints" among the reasons for not pursuing education.

"The course fee, which is 50.8% at the all-India level (including tuition, examination, development fees and compulsory payments)... accounts for half of the average expenditure of a basic course," says the Survey.

The proportion of the course fee is high in rural and urban areas. This is followed by the cost of books, stationery and uniform, where students in rural areas spend 10 percentage points more than urban residents.

'No evidence of wrong estimation of growth'

Economic Survey dedicates whole chapter to clear the air

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In an effort to put to rest all speculation over the accuracy and reliability of India's GDP data, India's Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) Krishnamurthy Subramanian on Friday asserted that there is "no evidence" of mis-estimation of growth of the Indian economy.

The debates on the issue were kicked off last year after Mr. Subramanian's predecessor, Arvind Subramanian – in a research paper published by Harvard University last year – had said India's GDP growth in the period from 2011-12 to 2016-17 is likely to have been overestimated. The former CEA had argued that GDP growth during that period was 4.5% rather than the 7% presented by the official data.

"Concerns of a mis-estimated Indian GDP are unsubstantiated by the data and are thus unfounded," the CEA said in the Economic Survey, in which an entire chapter has been dedicated to the issue.

The Survey noted that since investors deciding to invest in an economy care for the country's GDP growth, uncertainty about its magnitude can affect investment. "...it is important that GDP is measured as accurately as possible. Recently, there has been much debate and discussion among scholars, policymakers and citizens alike on whether India's GDP is estimated correctly," it said.

The Survey noted that since investors deciding to invest in an economy care for the country's GDP growth, uncertainty about its magnitude can affect investment. "...it is important that GDP is measured as accurately as possible. Recently, there has been much debate and discussion among scholars, policymakers and citizens alike on whether India's GDP is estimated correctly," it said.

completely specified, the Survey claimed.

Further, it added that correctly specified models that account for all unobserved differences among countries as well as differential trends in GDP growth across countries fail to find any mis-estimation of growth in India or other countries.

The Economic Survey also added that since 10% increase in new firm creation increases district-level GDP growth by 1.8%, and the pace of new firm creation in the formal sector accelerated significantly after 2014, the resultant impact on district-level growth and country-level growth must be accounted for in any analysis.

It, however, added that, "The need to invest in ramping up India's statistical infrastructure is undoubtedly," and in that context, a 28-member Standing Committee on Economic Statistics, headed by India's former Chief Statistician, is important.

Needed: fewer regulations for start-ups

Ease of doing business critical: CEA Subramanian

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India needs to work on improving the ease of doing business, especially the ease of starting business, registering property, paying taxes, or enforcing contracts, according to the Economic Survey.

"One of the very important aspects of wealth creation is economic freedom, and here the ease of doing business is really critical. While India has certainly made strides in improving its performance in the ease of doing business..., it lags behind in a few areas," Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian said on Friday.

He pointed out that to open a restaurant in New Delhi, one needs 45 documents to obtain the licence from the Delhi police, whe-

Mixed record

A look at the findings of World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Rankings, 2019, shows that while India has done well in some parameters it is lagging behind in the rest. Graph shows India's rank in various categories

Parameters	'09	'11	2015	2017	2019
Ease of starting a business	169	166	155	156	136
Dealing with construction permits	175	181	183	181	27
Getting electricity	-	98	70	29	22
Registering your property	93	97	138	154	154
Overall Rank	133	132	130	100	63

SOURCE: DOING BUSINESS DATABASE, WORLD BANK

reas for buying a gun just 19 documents are required.

Cumbersome norms

"If you want to start up a firm in India, it takes 18 days on an average with 10 procedures that can be often cumbersome. If we contrast it with New Zealand, which is the best in business, it takes half-a-day to fill up one form, and boom, your business is started... [The Survey]

Guns versus restaurants

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Economic Survey's comparison of procedures required to get police permission to open a restaurant or obtain a gun in Delhi led to an unusual question at Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian's press interaction.

"You had said 45 documents are needed to open a restaurant and just 19 documents to get a gun in Delhi. Is it a fallout that less restaurants are visible in Delhi and guns are more visible," asked a journalist.

Stubble burning incidents come down

Survey raises concerns over farmers continuing this practice every year

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The number of stubble-burning incidents in 2019 was the least in four years, the Economic Survey says.

According to satellite data, there were 61,332 instances of stubble-burning in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh between October and November, 2019. There were 75,532 instances in 2018, 88,948 in 2017 and 127,774 in 2016, according to data sourced from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Significant reduction

"With various efforts, overall, the total number of burning events recorded a significant reduction. However, the continuation of this practice by farmers is reported every year starting winter, and the serious concerns about its impact on air quality are raised," the Survey

noted. The number of fire events peaked from mid-October till the first week of November, 2019.

pectively. In October, the highest level of PM10 was 384 and the highest level of PM2.5 was 306.

In November, PM10 crossed 550 and PM2.5 crossed 510. PM10 and PM2.5 started falling in December 2019 and the lowest levels recorded of PM10 and PM2.5 were 188 and 153 respectively, it emphasised.



Smouldering issue: The number of fire events peaked from mid-October till the first week of November, 2019.

The pollution levels spike when farmers in these three States burn the residue after harvesting paddy to clear the fields of the summer harvest and make way for wheat sowing. The smoke from these fires travels to Delhi, leading to a gaseous cocktail that causes air quality to plummet.

Ban not enforced There has been a ban on burning this agricultural residue, but the State authorities have not been able to enforce it.

Agriculture conservation should be promoted with "low lignocellulosic" crop residues, such as rice, wheat and maize. Crop residue-based briquettes ought to be encouraged and thermal power plants in the vicinity ought to be encouraged to undertake firing of crop residues with coal, the Survey noted.

A chance to chart China-like export trajectory

Integrating 'Assemble in India for the world' into Make-in-India can exploit parts of value chain

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The Economic Survey says India has an unprecedented opportunity to chart a China-like, labour-intensive, export trajectory by integrating "Assemble in India for the world" into the Make-in-India policy and thus can raise its export market share to 3.5% by 2025 and 6% by 2030.

It said such a strategy could help to create four crore well-paid jobs by 2025 and 8 crore by 2030.

Network products

It said India must focus on a group of industries, referred to as "network products", where production processes are globally fragmented and controlled by leading Multi-National Enterprises within



Stitch in time: Such a strategy can help in creating four crore well-paid jobs by 2025 and 8 crore by 2030.

their "producer-driven" global production networks.

The Survey has suggested a strategy similar to the one used by China to grab this opportunity, which is specialisation on a large scale in

the labour-intensive sectors, especially network products.

India must have laser-like focus on assembling operations on a mammoth scale in network products, wherein production occurs across

Global Value Chains operated by multi-national corporations and focuses on exports, primarily to rich countries, it said.

As per the Survey, the incremental value added in the economy from the target level of exports of network products, which is expected to equal \$248 billion in 2025, would make up one-quarter of the increase required for making India a \$5 trillion economy by 2025.

According to the Survey, the gap between China and India in the world market share is almost fully driven by the effect of specialisation. On the other hand, India is catching up with China in diversification across products and markets, it said.

"Overall, high diversification, combined with low specialisation, implies that India is spreading its exports thinly over many products and partners, leading to its lacklustre performance, compared with China," the Survey said.

According to the Survey, in trade balance, India gained 0.7% surplus a year for manufactured products and 2.3% for total merchandise, the Survey said.

Thalonomics: the formula behind one square meal

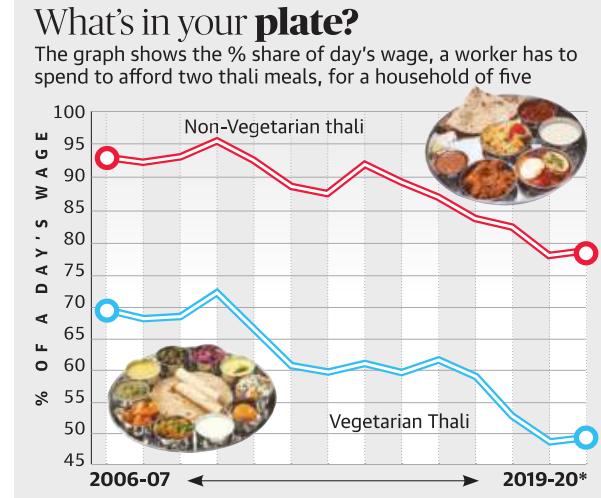
For a worker, a vegetarian thali is 29% more affordable since 2006-07

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

For the average worker in India's organised manufacturing sector, the affordability of a plate of vegetarian food – comprising rice or roti, dal and sabzi – has improved 29% since 2006-07, according to Thalonomics, a take on the economics of food by the Economic Survey. For non-vegetarians, affordability has risen 18%.

However, accelerating food inflation over the last few months has broken that trend, with workers now forced to use an increasing share of their wages on food, the data compiled in the Survey shows.

The thali prices include



SOURCE: SURVEY CALCULATIONS
NOTE: *: CALCULATIONS FOR 2019-20 BASED ON PRICES FOR THE PERIOD APRIL-OCTOBER, 2019

"While it is true that there was a decline in food prices during most of the period since 2015-16, this is also a period of stagnant or declining rural wages and highest unemployment," said Dipa Sinha, a member of the eco-

nomics faculty at Ambedkar University and food security expert. "So where are the incomes for people to buy food? Low inflation is meaningless when real wages falling in rural areas means that the poor are not able to consume more."

The Survey found that a worker who would have spent 70% of their daily wage on two vegetarian thalis a day for a household of five in 2006-07 would only have to spend 50% of their income for the meals in 2019-20. This year, the most affordable meal was in Jharkhand, where two vegetarian thalis for a household of five required about 25% of a worker's daily wage.

The Survey said there was a "shift in the dynamics of thali prices" from 2015-16.

Pro-business policy vital for India to become a \$5 trillion economy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

India's aspiration to become a \$5 trillion economy depends critically on promoting "pro-business" policy that unleashes the power of competitive markets to generate wealth on the one hand, and weaning away from "pro-crony" policy that may favour specific private interests, especially powerful incumbents, on the other, according to the Economic Survey.

The Survey said economic events since 1991 provide powerful evidence supporting this crucial distinction.

"The creative destruction has increased significantly after reform. The liberalization of the Indian economy in 1991 unleashed competitive markets and enabled the forces of creative destruction, generating benefits that we still witness today. Creative destruction brings new innovations in the market that serve people better than the old technologies they displace," it said.

It observed that pro-crony policies, in contrast to pro-business ones, erode wealth in the economy as cronyism fosters inefficiencies by inhibiting the process of creative destruction. Despite impressive progress in enabling competitive markets, pro-crony policies have destroyed value in the economy.

The Survey said wilful default would increase the cost of borrowing for everyone, including genuine businesses with profitable investment opportunities before them. Adverse selection may force genuine borrowers to exit the market, leaving only cronies, resulting in a market failure.

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
Bangalore Rural Co-ordinating unit,
Ground Floor, E-Block, Cauvery Bhavan, Bangalore
No.: KHB/EE/B'llore Rural/Sira/Vadagara/324/2019-20 Date: 29.01.2020

Invitation Call for Quotation

Karnataka Housing Board invite quotations from suppliers / vendors / agencies for NON-SR Items for preparation of estimate purpose only for Proposed Construction of Modern Slaughter house at Cheelanahalli Village, Sirataluk, Tumakuru District.

- Last date for submission of bid: 15.02.2020 upto 4.00 PM.
- Please refer schedule of sealed particulars/NON-SR Items in the KHB website. For further information, contact below mentioned office address:
- Executive Engineer, Bengaluru Rural coordinating unit, KHB, E' Block, Ground floor, Cauvery Bhavan, Bangalore.
- Telephone No. 080-22213511 / 080-22100077.
- Website: www.karnatakahousing.com

DIPR/DDU/2368/2019-20

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER,
SUBBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN,
AT/PO:- LAXMIPOSI, DIST:-MAYURBHANJ
Government of Odisha "e*" PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Bid Identification No.- 2 /19-20 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi

i.	Name of Work	a) Excavation of Paunsi Distributary from RD 8100 M to RD 9300 M with Cement concrete lining, Structures and Inspection road. b) Excavation of Paunsi Distributary from RD 10290 M to RD 11940 M including its Sub-Minor with Cement concrete lining, Structures and Inspection road.
ii.	Estimated Cost (Lakh)	a) Rs.868.70 Lakh b) Rs.827.20 Lakh
iii.	Period of Completion	18 (Eighteen) Calendar Months (each)
iv.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	03.02.2020 at 10 A.M.
v.	Last date / time for receipt of bid in the portal	17.02.2020 up to 5.00 PM.
vi.	Name & Address of the O.I.T.	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/o the CEBM, Subbarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal "<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>".

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager,
Subbarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi.
bid_cebmbsbb@rediff.com

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION
(CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP)
ISRO TELEMETRY TRACKING AND COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC)
Plot No. 12 & 13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Area, Bengaluru-560 058
Ph: 080-28094182, 4541 Fax: 080-28094180

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

1. On behalf of President of India, item rate E-Tenders is invited from Contractors of appropriate class for following works

NIT No.:	ISTRAC/CMG/CON/E/ETN-68/2019-20 Dated: 23.01.2020	ISTRAC/CMG/CON/E/ETN-70/2019-20 Dated: 28.01.2020	ISTRAC/CMG/CON/E/ETN-73/2019-20 Dated: 31.01.2020
Name of Work:	Replacement and Augmentation of Existing Electrical Panels at ILF, ISTRAC, Lucknow (IIInd Call)	Construction of building for Gaganyaan project for Computer Server, Communication, FDO behind MOX-2 campus, ISTRAC, Peenya, Bangalore. (Electrical works - Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of Modular UPS System)	Construction of 11m dia antenna supporting structure and facility building at ILF / ISTRAC, Lucknow (Electrical works - Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 2x60 kVA & 2x80 kVA UPS systems)
Estimate Cost put to Tender	Rs. 120.00 Lakhs	Rs. 189.00 Lakhs	Rs. 84.63 Lakhs
Earnest money deposit (EMD)	Rs.2,40,000/-	Rs.3,78,000/-	Rs.1,69,260/-
Tender Document details	E-Tender	E-Tender	E-Tender
Period of Completion in months reckoned from the 15th Day of date of issue of work order	07 months	04 months	04 months

Period during which the tender document can be downloaded : From 31.01.2020 to 18.02.2020 till 14.00 hrs.

Bid Clarification: From 01.02.2020 to 19.02.2020 upto 16.00 hrs.

Last date and time of reply to Bid clarification : 20.02.2020 upto 16.00 hrs.

Last date and time for receipt of tenders : 22.02.2020 upto 14.30 hrs.

Due date and time of opening of tenders : 26.02.2020 after 11.00 hrs.

Interested Tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO

Bigger banks needed for \$5 trillion economy

Every rupee invested in public sector banks lost 23 paise

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

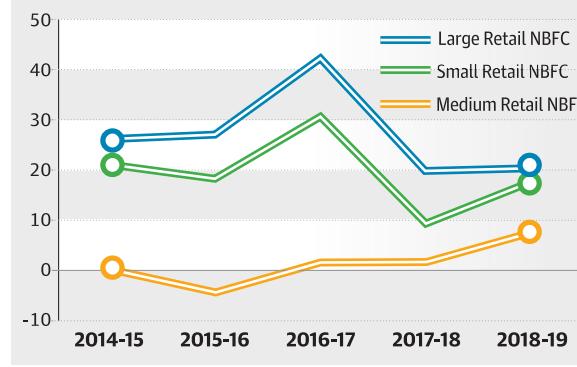
The country will need much bigger banks to become a \$5 trillion economy, the Economic Survey 2019-20 said. In particular, at least eight banks are needed, which are large enough to belong to the top 100 banks globally,

the Survey said, noting there is now only one bank in the country, the State Bank of India, with the 55th rank, in the world's top 100 banks.

"The state of the banking sector in India, therefore, needs urgent attention," the Survey said.

Health check-up

Graph shows health of NBFCs in the recent years. It was calculated based on seven metrics which include indicators such as capital adequacy ratio, operating expense ratio etc



SOURCE: ANNUAL REPORTS OF TOP 15 RETAIL-NBFCs (2014-2019)

Lag in performance

Observing that even though public sector banks are the dominant players in the sector, they lag considerably in performance metrics when compared to their peers, the Survey said, pointing out that these entities have destroyed the capital deployed by the government over the years. "In 2019, every rupee of taxpayer money invested in public sector banks, on average, lost 23 paise. In contrast, every rupee of investor money invested in 'New Private Banks' (NPBs) – banks licensed after India's 1991 liberalisation – on average gained 9.6 paise," it noted.

The report highlighted that while a large economy

needs an efficient banking sector to support its growth, credit growth among PSBs has declined significantly since 2013 and has also been anaemic since 2016. Credit growth for the new private banks, however, remained healthy.

Commenting that anaemic credit growth has impacted economic growth, the Survey called for enhancing the efficiency of public sector banks as they operate in the same market as the new private banks.

Less operating freedom

The report says the decline in the PSB market share has been largely absorbed by new private banks. The re-

port also pointed out that the PSBs enjoy less strategic and operating freedom than private banks. It says the majority ownership by the government also subjects public sector bank officers to scrutiny of their decisions by the Central Vigilance Commission and the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Wary of risks

"With no real restrictions on what can be investigated and under what circumstances, officers of state-run banks are wary of taking risks in lending or in renegotiating bad debt, due to fears of harassment under the veil of vigilance investigations," the Survey added.

INDORE SMART CITY DEVELOPMENT LIMITED, INDORE

Nehru Park Campus, INDORE-452003, Ph. no: 0731-2535572
E-mail: smartcityindore16@gmail.com, Website: www.smartcityindore.org.

NIT No.: 20/ISCLD/2019-20

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Date : 29.01.2020

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost of Work	Cost of Tender Form	Earnest Money Deposit	Completion Period
1	Design Development & Implementation of Rain Water Harvesting / Storm Water Management system based on advanced Rain Water Harvesting Technologies at various Location in Indore City.	₹ 12.0 Crores	₹ 30,000/-	₹ 10.0 Lakh	1 Year+ 3 Years OSM
Key Dates:					
S.No. Description Date and Time					
1.	Last date for Purchase of Tender (Online)	28.02.2020 till 17.30 Hrs.			
2.	Last date for Submission of Tender(Online)	28.02.2020 till 17.30 Hrs.			
3.	Technical bid Opening (Online)	29.02.2020 till 17.30 Hrs.			
4.	Last date for Submission of Hard copy of Technical Bid	02.03.2020 till 17.30 Hrs.			
5.	Pre bid Meeting	14.02.2020 at 15.00 Hrs.			
Note : 1. Tender Document and other details are available on website: www.mptenders.gov.in 2					

WHO declares virus outbreak a global emergency

Our greatest concern is its potential to spread to countries with weaker health systems, it says; toll increases to 213

REUTERS
SHANGHAI

The death toll in China from the new coronavirus reached 213 on Friday, with overall cases worldwide rising rapidly in an outbreak that the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a global health emergency.

The death toll in Hubei, the Chinese province at the centre of the epidemic, had risen to 204 and there were more than 9,800 cases of infection nationally, Chinese health authorities said. More than 130 cases have been reported in at least 25 other countries and regions.

Meanwhile Russia, Britain, Sweden and Italy all reported their first cases.

After holding off as the crisis grew, the WHO said on Thursday the epidemic in China – which originated from animals in Wuhan city – did constitute a public health emergency of international concern.

In response, spokesman Chunying said China

had taken comprehensive and rigorous prevention and control steps. "We have full confidence and capability to win this fight," she said.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO director-general, said the organization "doesn't recommend – and actually opposes" restrictions on travel or trade with China.

Nonetheless, foreign governments have been flying home their citizens from Hubei and holding them in quarantine, while airlines including Air France, American Airlines and British Airways have stopped flying to mainland China.

Airlines are facing mounting pressure by cabin crew to stop all flights due to unease about exposure to the virus.

Stocks around the world have tumbled on fears of the economic fallout from the outbreak in the world's second-biggest economy.

The roughly 60 million residents of Hubei province, where Wuhan is the capital,



Precautionary measure: Health workers using thermal scanners to check the temperature of students at a school in Manila, the Philippines, on Friday. ■ AP

have had movements curbed to try and slow the spread. But some people were leaving and entering the area by foot on a bridge over the Yangtze river, a Reuters witness said, and infections

have jumped in two cities flanking Wuhan.

Delayed action

Wuhan should have taken measures sooner to contain it, the city's Communist Par-

a nationally televised interview.

While Mr. Tedros praised China's response in a news conference in Geneva on Thursday evening, he said the WHO was declaring a global health emergency because it was concerned about the virus spreading to countries that did not have the resources to deal with it.

"The main reason for this declaration is not because of what is happening in China but because of what is happening in other countries. Our greatest concern is the potential for the virus to spread to countries with weaker health systems," he said.

The WHO move will trigger tighter containment and information-sharing guidelines to all countries, but may disappoint Beijing, which had expressed confidence it can beat the "devil" virus.

China's U.N. Ambassador, Zhang Jun, said Beijing was assessing the declaration.

Brexit brings a new dawn for U.K.: Boris

47-year-long membership of EU ends

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Britain on Friday ends almost half a century of integration with Europe, finally making its historic departure from the EU to begin a new – but still uncertain – future, with emotions running high following years of wrangling and several false starts.

At the clocks strike 11:00 pm (2300 GMT) – midnight in Brussels – Britain becomes the first country to leave the 28-member bloc and will go it alone for the first time since 1973.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has backed Brexit since the 2016 referendum vote to leave that triggered deep bitterness and division but he has promised to unite the country in a new era of prosperity.

"Our job as the government, my job, is to bring this country together and take us forward," Mr. Johnson said in a statement to mark the occasion.

"This is not an end but a beginning. This is the moment when the dawn breaks and the curtain goes up on a new act."



Boris Johnson

And while the exit terms have been agreed, Britain must still strike a deal on future relations with the EU, its largest trading partner, which sets out its negotiating position on Monday.

"We want to have the best possible relationship with the United Kingdom, but it will never be as good as membership," European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen said.

Years of tumult

Getting this far has been a traumatic process.

Despite Britain's resistance to many EU projects over the years – it refused to join the single currency or the Schengen free travel area – the 2016 vote to leave was a huge shock.

It unleashed political chaos in London, sparking years of bitter arguments that paralysed parliament and forced the resignations of two Prime Ministers.

Mr. Johnson brought an end to the turmoil with his decisive election victory last month, which gave him the parliamentary majority to ratify the Brexit deal.

In Scotland, which backed remaining in the bloc in 2016, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon called it "a moment of real and profound and sadness... tinged with anger".

75,000 in Wuhan got infected, says study

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

More than 75,000 people – 10 times the official tally of confirmed cases – have been infected with the coronavirus in Wuhan, according to research published on Friday.

"We estimate that 75,815 individuals have been infected in Wuhan as of January 25, 2020," a team led by Gabriel Leung from the University of Hong Kong reported in *The Lancet*.

As of January 31, the Chinese government said the number of confirmed cases

had risen above 9,700 for all of China, including 213 deaths.

A time lag between infection and symptom onset, delays in infected persons getting medical treatment, and the time needed to confirm cases with lab tests "could all affect overall recording and reporting," he said.

The study found that each person infected with the virus, which emerged in December, could have infected two to three individuals on average, and that the epidemic had doubled in size every 6.4 days.

U.K., Russia report cases, Italy declares emergency

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRIZZIE NORTON

Two patients from the same family in England have tested positive for coronavirus, the first such cases in Britain, health chiefs said on Friday as an evacuation flight brought Britons home from the centre of the outbreak in China.

"The patients are receiving specialist National Health Service (NHS) care and we are using tried and tested infection-control procedures to prevent further spread of the virus," said England's chief medical officer,

Chris Whitty.

Russia said on Friday that two Chinese citizens had tested positive for the new coronavirus in the country's first cases since the deadly outbreak emerged in China, and announced new travel restrictions.

The Italian government declared a state of emergency on Friday to fast-track efforts to prevent the spread of the virus strain after two cases were confirmed in Rome.

A Chinese couple visiting Italy from Wuhan had tested positive for the virus.

Do not travel to China, U.S., Japan tell citizens

REUTERS
SHANGHAI/BEIJING

The U.S., Japan and others tightened travel curbs to virus-hit China on Friday while businesses struggled with supply problems from an epidemic that has infected nearly 10,000 people.

"Do not travel to China due to novel coronavirus first identified in Wuhan," the U.S. State Department said, raising the warning for China to the same level as Afghanistan and Iraq.

Japan also advised citizens to put off non-urgent travel to China, while Bah-

rain recommended no travel to any country hit by the virus, and Iran urged a ban on all travellers from China.

Singapore stopped entry of passengers with a recent history of travel to China and also suspended visas for Chinese passport holders.

Mongolia said it will close all ports of entry from and into China until March 2. It will give its citizens currently in China until February 6 to return home, however, though non-Chinese foreign nationals travelling to Mongolia will not be able to do so via China.

Trump likely to be acquitted

Republicans move to block additional witnesses in President's trial in the Senate



Lamar Alexander

about what he did. I believe that the Constitution provides that the people should make that decision in the presidential election that begins in Iowa on Monday," Mr. Alexander said.

Democrats would like to hear testimony from former National Security Adviser John Bolton, who had said,

as per reports of a leaked book manuscript, that Mr. Trump had asked him to withhold aid pending Ukraine's announcement of investigations.

A minimum of four Republican senators would need to vote with their 47 Democrat colleagues to get the 51 votes required to summon new evidence and witnesses. In addition to Mr. Alexander, Democrats were hopeful that three others would vote with them – Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Susan Collins of Maine and Mitch Romney of Utah.

Ms. Collins has said she will vote for new witnesses and Mr. Romney has indicated he is also likely to vote that way.

Up to 64 U.S. soldiers injured in Iran strike

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

The number of U.S. troops injured by an Iranian missile strike in Iraq this month has risen to 64, according to new figures released by the Pentagon.

U.S. President Donald Trump had initially said no Americans were hurt by the missiles fired on a base housing U.S. soldiers on Janu-

ary 31.

The soldiers have been diagnosed with mild traumatic brain injury (TBI).

The Pentagon said on Wednesday that 50 sol-

diers were injured in the Iranian strike on the Ain al-

Asad base. The latest total

is an increase of 14 on those numbers.

Erdogan hits out at Arab 'treason' over Trump plan

He questions their silence on the issue

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ANKARA

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Friday blasted several Arab countries for backing a West Asia peace plan unveiled by the United States, condemning it as "treason."

"Some Arab countries that support such a plan commit treason against Jerusalem, as well as against their own people, and more importantly against all humanity," Mr. Erdogan told his party's provincial heads in Ankara.

Mr. Erdogan, a strong advocate of Palestinian rights, singled out Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman.

"Saudi Arabia in particular, you are silent. When will you break your silence? You look at Oman, Bahrain, and Abu Dhabi is the same," he said.

"Shame on you! Shame on you! How will those hands that applaud (the plan) give an account of this treacherous step?"

U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday unveiled the details of the long-awaited plan aimed at resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Ambassadors of Oman, the UAE and Bahrain were at the White House event in Washington. The three countries do not recognise Israel as a legitimate state.



U.S. support to Ukraine is unwavering: Pompeo

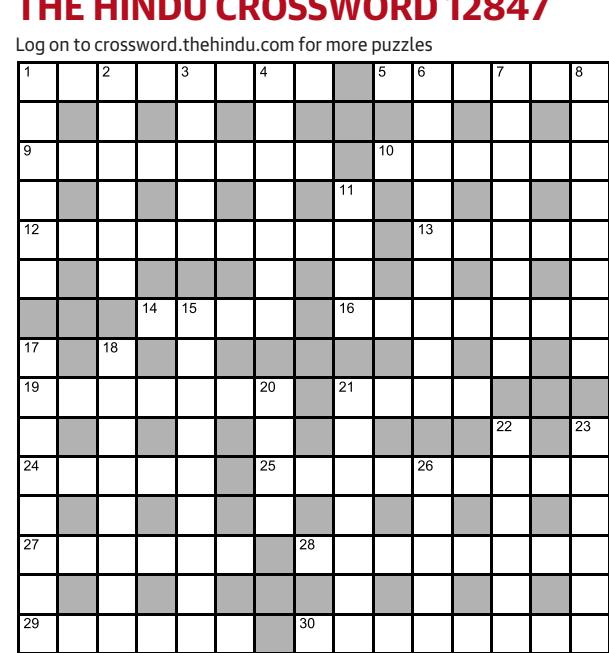
KIEV
U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Washington's support for Ukraine was unwavering during a visit on Friday to the country, which is at the heart of the impeachment trial against President Donald Trump. AFP

'Afghan violence rises amid U.S.-Taliban talks'

KABUL
Violence in Afghanistan's war jumped to record levels in the last quarter of 2019, a U.S. government watchdog said on Friday, underscoring the conflict's continued toll despite a relative calm in Kabul. AFP

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12847

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



ACROSS

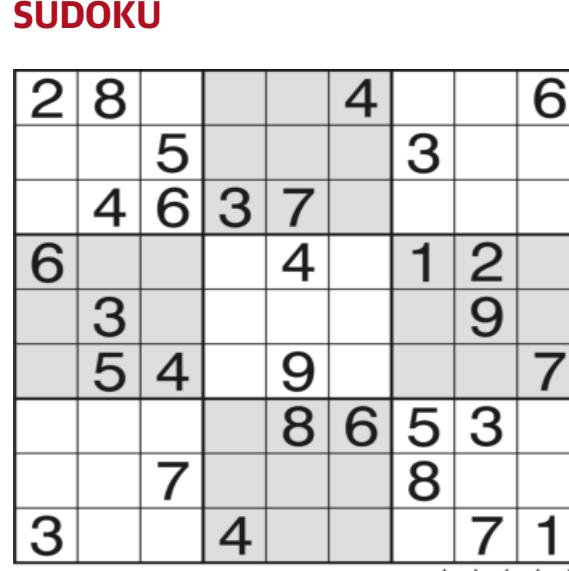
- 1 Controlling reserve player in dugout (8)
- 5 Spooner says character from Athens very crazy (6)
- 9 The male model had to think twice (8)
- 10 Here UN is a force managed by church (6)

(set by Kriskross)

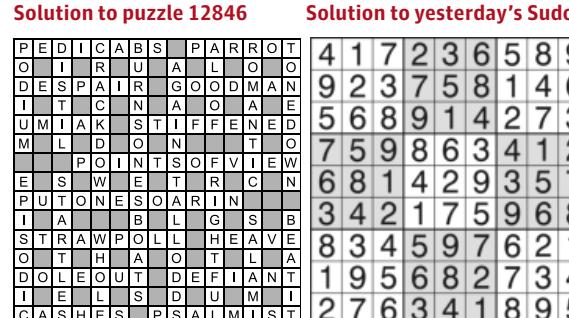
- 12 Settle near a place to make a fresh beginning (6,3)
- 13 Dismiss old soccer player with foot broken (5)
- 14 It is used to raise a fruit (4)
- 16 Soldier crashed lorry carrying case of dynamite (7)
- 19 "Saw" for "see" perhaps (7)
- 21 Terrible bumpy ride (4)
- 24 Nigerian capital of a Rani perhaps (5)
- 25 Fruit bite Ernie prepared (9)
- 27 Wear a false beard (6)
- 28 US State made law a reality, essentially (8)
- 29 It's ultimately arid, with withered trees (6)
- 30 Say, thousand and one regents at war around India (8)

- 1 That man's involved in fraudulent business without a break (6)
- 2 Soup of rhubarb is queer-tasting (6)
- 22 "Constant speed – copy?" (6)
- 23 Soldiers wearing best possible caps (6)
- 26 Delight from uplifting English story (5)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



Solution to puzzle 12847

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

FAITH

Impermanence of life

Tamil literature speaks of the impermanence of life in beautiful verses, said Malayaman in a discourse. To think worldly possessions will last is nothing but foolishness, and this is highlighted by Thiruvalluvar. Early in the morning, we notice dewdrops on blades of grass. But as the day advances and gets hotter, the dewdrops evaporate. Our body is like the dewdrop. It will perish one day, says Naaladiyaar.

If you shoot an arrow from a bow, the arrow goes flying, and with it its shadow goes away too. Just as the arrow goes away without leaving a trace behind, so will the pleasures we enjoy in our youth vanish, says Natrinnai. A person may possess a strong, healthy body. He may have an imposing appearance. That does not mean his youthful joys will last forever, says Kalithogai. There is no soul that is permanently attached to the body, says Nalvazhi. Kuntalakesi also speaks of the temporary nature of life, and wonders why we do not ponder over the nature of life. It points out that when a child is conceived, it spends time in the mother's womb. Thus, are ten months of its life lost. Then it spends some years in childhood. Then the person experiences the pleasures of adulthood. Then old age comes upon him. Thus, every day, we move a step closer to the grave.

Why do we not shed tears over all this, asks Kuntalakesi. We marvel at imposing buildings. But in course of time, they may become dilapidated, says Narunthokai. Does this not mirror our lives on this earth? Kumaraguruparar says youth is akin to bubbles of water, which disappear after some time. Wealth is like the ocean waves, which recede after touching shore. This body is like letters written on water. Why do we not learn from these examples in nature, and turn our thoughts to God, he asks.

MARKET WATCH

	31-01-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	40,723	-0.47
US Dollar	71.32	0.24
Gold	41,453	-0.32
Brent oil	58.19	-0.85

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	369.40	-8.60
Asian Paints	1795.65	-9.35
Axle Bank	729.30	-1.60
Bajaj Auto	3180.05	34.55
Bajaj Finserv	9441.40	-198.25
Bajaj Finance	4365.90	1.60
Bharti Airtel	496.45	6.65
BPCL	456.95	-12.70
Britannia Ind	3200.70	-10.00
Cipla	446.90	-4.10
Coal India	181.70	-6.25
Dr Reddy's Lab	3114.50	-40.35
Eicher Motors	20289.30	-51.00
GAIL (India)	120.45	-2.90
Grasim Ind	778.90	-12.35
HCL Tech	591.40	-16.45
HDFC	2414.00	-1.00
HDFC Bank	1226.30	0.25
Hero MotoCorp	2501.85	19.55
Hindalco	189.35	-4.10
Hind Unilever	2034.25	-23.85
ICICI Bank	525.65	-6.55
IndusInd Bank	1258.85	27.35
Bharti Infratel	248.30	2.15
Infosys	775.95	-4.75
Indian Oil Corp	113.45	-3.70
ITC	235.15	1.10
JSW Steel	250.70	-6.25
Kotak Bank	1691.75	63.50
L&T	1369.30	-0.90
M&M	567.15	-0.70
Maruti Suzuki	6913.50	-106.95
Nestle India Ltd.	15359.45	-161.35
NTPC	112.85	-0.80
ONGC	108.95	-6.65
PowerGrid Corp	186.85	-7.55
Reliance Ind	1411.65	-32.10
State Bank	318.45	7.75
Sun Pharma	434.30	-7.80
Tata Motors	176.60	-9.60
Tata Steel	438.70	-9.85
TCS	2079.05	-58.80
Tech Mahindra	796.60	5.25
Titan	1187.75	8.50
UltraTech Cement	4416.10	-69.90
UPL	526.55	-17.60
Vedanta	137.90	-3.05
Wipro	236.80	-3.90
YES Bank	39.25	0.20
Zee Entertainment	269.15	1.30

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.14	71.46
Euro	78.48	78.83
British Pound	93.32	93.74
Japanese Yen (100)	65.28	65.60
Chinese Yuan	10.25	10.31
Swiss Franc	73.39	73.72
Singapore Dollar	52.08	52.32
Canadian Dollar	53.75	54.00
Malaysian Ringgit	17.35	17.44

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

January 31, rates in rupees per gram with previous rates in parentheses
Retail Silver (1g) 50.3..... (50.1) 22 ct gold (1g) 3883..... (3891)

Privatisation: Survey suggests new vehicle

Economic Survey says public sector units performed better than peers after privatisation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Economic Survey has aggressively pitched for divestment in public sector undertakings (PSUs) by proposing a separate corporate entity wherein the government's stake can be transferred and divested over a period of time.

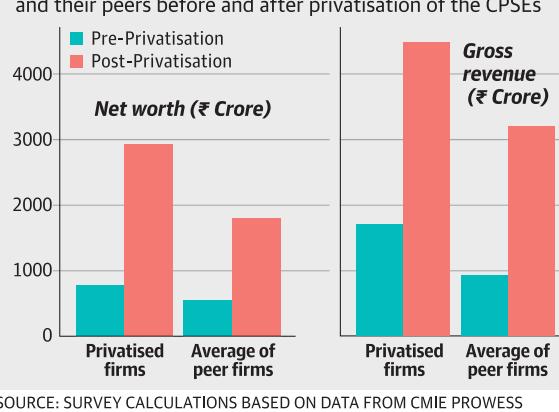
Further, the survey has said privatised entities have performed better than their peers in terms of net worth, profit, return on equity and sales, among others.

Independent board

"The government can transfer its stake in listed CPSEs to a separate corporate entity. This entity would be managed by an independent board and would be mandated to divest the government stake in these CPSEs over a

Impact of privatisation

Graph shows net worth, gross revenue of privatised CPSEs and their peers before and after privatisation of the CPSEs



period of time," stated the Economic Survey presented on Friday.

"This will lend professionalism and autonomy to the disinvestment programme which, in turn, would improve the economic performance of the CPSEs," it added. The survey analysed the data of 11 PSUs that had been divested from 1999-2000 and 2003-04 and compared the data with their peers in the same industry.

"Analysis shows that these

privatised CPSEs, on an average, performed better post-privatisation than their peers in terms of their net worth, net profit, return on assets (ROA), return on equity

SURVEY 2019-20

(ROE), gross revenue, net profit margin, sales growth and gross profit per employee," the Survey said.

"More importantly, the ROA and net profit margin turned around from negative to positive, surpassing that of peer firms, which indicates that privatised CPSEs have been able to generate more wealth from the same resources... The analysis clearly affirms privatisation unlocks the potential of CPSEs to create wealth," it added.

Interestingly, according to the government document,

the recent approval of strategic disinvestment in Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) led to an increase in value of shareholders' equity of BPCL by ₹33,000 crore compared to its peer Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited.

"Aggressive disinvestment, preferably through the route of strategic sale, should be utilised to bring in higher profitability, promote efficiency, increase competitiveness and to promote professionalism in management in CPSEs," stated the Survey.

"The focus of the strategic disinvestment needs to be to exit from non-strategic business and directed towards optimising economic potential of these CPSEs," it added, highlighting there were about 264 CPSEs under 38 Ministries or departments.

Neemuchwala quits

Wipro, analysts say it's good for tech giant

'His tenure was fraught with struggles'

MINI TEJASWI
BENGALURU

Abidali Neemuchwala is exiting as CEO and MD of Wipro after a turbulent period during which the company saw its business growth slide and stock value move at a slow pace compared to those of its peers in the Indian tech services market.

Wipro repeatedly underperformed and fell behind its rivals – Infosys and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).

Also, it lost its third position now and then to a highly aggressive HCL Technologies during Mr. Neemuchwala's tenure, according to market watchers.

"The exit of Abidali, I think, is something positive for Wipro as it has not grown much under his tenure. Temporarily, the company will go through some uncertainty, but the transition will take the company to stability and path of growth," said Shriram Subramanian, founder and MD of InGovern Shriram Research Services.

During Mr. Neemuchwala's tenure, Wipro's stock witnessed a conservative growth at 13%, while the stocks of Infosys and TCS grew 33% and 78%, respectively.

"Stock performance is a direct reflection of the business performance, and the company has been clocking flat or moderate growth back-to-back over many years, with a few exceptional quarters," said another analyst.

However, analysts said Wipro was likely to consider internal leaders such as Wipro president Milan Rao, Rajan Kohli, who is responsible for Wipro Digital, or Rohit Adlakha, chief digital officer and global head, Wipro Holmes., as successor.



"He was keen to bring a start-up mentality to drive more entrepreneurship and creative ideas within the company. He didn't make all the changes he would have liked, but was in a constant battle to instil his ethos. He had some successes, such as the acquisition and expansion of Topcoder and [establishing] Rishad Premji's VC fund," he said.

Peter Bendor-Samuels, founder & CEO of consultancy Everest Group said, "Abid was handed a big task to turn Wipro around. In many ways he succeeded and has laid a strong foundation of good business and strong digital assets. The next CEO must focus on getting growth back..."

To a query from *The Hindu*, Wipro said, "The search process led by the Governance, Nomination and Remuneration committee of Wipro's board of directors will be looking only at external candidates for the position of Chief Executive Officer."

However, analysts said Wipro was likely to consider internal leaders such as Wipro president Milan Rao, Rajan Kohli, who is responsible for Wipro Digital, or Rohit Adlakha, chief digital officer and global head, Wipro Holmes., as successor.

Core sector grows at 1.3% in Dec. 2019

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Growth of the eight core industries recovered to 1.3% in December 2019 after remaining in the negative zone in the previous four months, helped by expansion in the production of coal, fertiliser and refinery products.

The growth was, however, lower than the 2.1% recorded in December 2018.

Production of crude oil, natural gas, and electricity contracted in the month under review. Sectors which recorded positive growth were coal, refinery products and fertiliser.

However, growth rate in the steel and cement sectors slowed down to 1.9% and 5.5% respectively.



due to differential rates of food inflation between rural and urban areas.

"The slide in rural inflation could be because of a fall in the growth of real rural wages," the survey said.

The report further noted that the divergence in rural-urban inflation was not just observed in the food compo-

nent, but also in other components like clothing and footwear.

"The decline in rural inflation in items like clothing and footwear, fuel and light could be due to fall in growth of real rural wages, while rise in rural price index for items like education, health, personal care, etc., also raises the question of affordability of these items to the rural segment," the survey said.

Strong effects

Observing that food and fuel inflation in India have had strong secondary effects leading to persistence in household inflation expectations, the report said one way to check for the presence of secondary effects of food and fuel inflation was to

look at the swiftness with which headline inflation converged to core inflation after the occurrence of a food or fuel price shock.

The report cautioned that if headline inflation did not completely revert to core inflation within a reasonably short span of time, it may indicate the presence of strong secondary effects.

"The reversion of headline inflation to core inflation has considerable implications for the conduct of monetary policy in an inflation targeting framework. In an economy with strong secondary effects, monetary policy may have to be tighter in an event of a food or fuel price shock compared to an economy where such effects are minimal," it said.

SBI posts highest ever net on Essar Steel recovery

Asset quality improves, slippages stay elevated; no big ticket loan going forward, says CMD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

State Bank of India, the country's largest lender, reported its highest-ever quarterly profit of ₹5,583 crore in the October-December period, up 41% year-on-year, mainly due to a lower provision for bad loans and higher interest income.

An ₹1,000-crore recovery from Essar Steel, which was resolved though the bankruptcy courts during the quarter, helped the lender to write back provisions as well as boost its net interest income. Provisions for bad loans dropped 41% to ₹8,193 crore.

"It has been a strong operating performance by SBI in terms of profit, profitability parameters, asset quality, provision coverage ratio and capital adequacy," said Raj-

nish Kumar, Chairman, SBI, in the post-earnings media interaction.

Net interest income grew 22% to ₹27,779 while other income rose by 13% to ₹9,106 crore. Domestic net interest margin (NIM) improved to

3.59% in the third quarter for fiscal 2020, ended December, registering an increase of 62 basis points (bps) year-on-year and 37 bps sequentially.

"During the quarter, [the bank] exercised the option of lower tax rate taking a

pyramid – a district – had a significant impact on wealth creation at the grassroots level. ... a 10% increase in registration of new firms in a district yields a 1.8% increase

Tehmeena Firdos
at Art Centrix

Firdos appropriates images from the media to critique largely accepted ideas of gender identity. She makes miniature models within graphic strips with handwritten bits of text, by incorporating collage and book-making techniques. This is the young artist's debut at the India Art Fair.



Anindita Bhattacharya
at Threshold Gallery

Bhattacharya subverts an accepted sense of beauty. She is a believer in 'slow art', so much so that she even grinds her own pigments. There are some disturbing images, like humans with their innards falling out, but something about how they're woven into the piece, doesn't make them gory at all. Check out The Unbearable Derangeness of Being, made of coffee, gouache, and natural pigment on paper.



Ankon Mitra

at Art Motif
Mitra's Parting of Galaxies is a potential Instagrammer-favourite. Sheer sculptural poetry, the architect-turned-artist uses light to play with light and shade, coming alive as stunning sculptures.



PAPER PERFECT

In between all the installations and canvases, art made out of paper is a calming and consistent presence through this year's India Art Fair

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

The India Art Fair can be many things to those who attend the country's first big art event of the year. A confluence of galleries and artists, the NSIC Ground, where the annual affair takes place, can be a platform for younger artists to get recognition and one that introduces the curious to new practices. It can also be a concentration of retail, and a space for people in the capital to be seen hobnobbing with the 'right' crowd.

The atmosphere is a heady mix of numerous images to consume, "so many that at the end of the day you're left a little imageless," says one curator in passing. It also has the ambient overload of high-pitched greetings, as members of the art world's not-so-big universe, run into one another.

While the fair seems cleaner in the way it is laid out this year, only time will tell how it handles the weekend rush. In the midst of all this, we found some calm in the paper-based art that popped up consistently through galleries in the first two tents (the third is mostly a display nook for partner institutions and artists-in-residence). Simple, stripped down paper was made intricate and complex through carving, origami, and more. Here are some artists to look out for.

At the NSIC Grounds, Okhla, from January 30 to February 2. Details at Indiaartfair.in



Sachin Tekade

at Art Motif

This booth probably has the most number of pieces based on paper work, but Tekade's paper-cut and 3D paper models play with light and shade, coming alive as stunning sculptures.



Priya Ravish Mehra

at Aicon

The late Mehra was a textile artist, researcher, and designer. She was inspired by the memories of skilled darners who would visit her home. In a piece, she fuses a patch of *kantha* embroidered fabric with paper pulp, perhaps playing with the notion of how memory can slightly obfuscate. Last year, the IAF had hosted a memorial lecture on the artist presented by Tunty Chauhan of Threshold Art Gallery, her friend and gallerist.

Harish Ojha
at Art Houz

Ojha's childhood, when he was surrounded by brightly coloured wooden toys, influences his work. But the sense of nostalgia and folk imagery is distilled into a very contemporary aesthetic, working with paper.



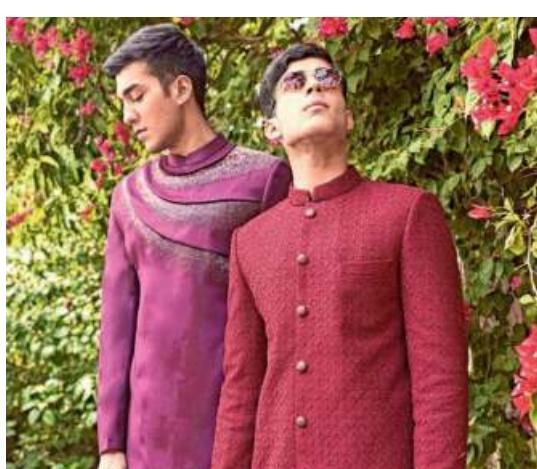
Kulu Ojha

at Zoca

Ojha's work stands out for its expansive scale and the intricacy of carving. So much so that the gallery has even helpfully placed a few magnifying glasses in case you want to spend time being immersed into the ridges, steps, chequered patterns, and the little touches of creamy yellow paper he's used to bring the pieces alive. He says he's inspired by heritage architecture and a sense of wonder, and he doesn't make any designs beforehand.

PRODUCTS

The neoteric man



The menswear brand, formerly known as SS Homme, has rebranded in time to bring out their Summer/Festive 2020 collection. Co-founder Sandeep Gonsalves says, "Many people did not factor in the 'Homme' – it made the brand sound very generic. With my traditional name and Sarah's western one, we felt it would represent what we are trying to create in the menswear market: rooted in Indian culture, with a focus on European tailoring."

Their latest collection, The Neoteric Man, is an extension of this. The Indian groom-inspired line includes couture sherwanis embroidered with beads, pintucked bandghals and bandi sets with fabric manipulation. "We've been catering to an international market over the last couple of years. As we evolved, we realised that we are losing out on a core Indian market. Based on feedback, we created festive and wedding wear with embellishments that also suit our own minimalist aesthetic," explains Gonsalves.

From ₹45,000 to ₹3 lakh, at the Sarah & Sandeep studio in Mumbai. Available online at sarahsandeep.com.

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

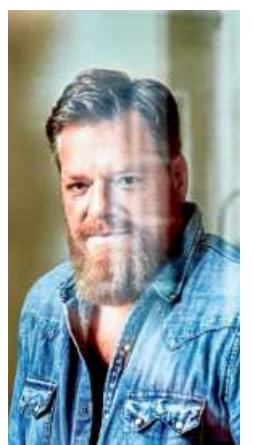
+ The Birk comes to India

With its new store at the Delhi airport, the all-German brand comes at a time of economic downturn, when we need stolid, long-lasting shoes

SUNALINI MATHEW

The Birkenstock brand launch in India is a matter-of-fact affair in a hotel. All the shoes they're bringing to India in their Spring-Summer 2020 collection, called Next Gen, are laid out neatly, with the merchandiser taking us through the range. There is an adjacent room with an AV playing. It is all very functional, stripped of marketing spiel, and has none of the drama of a country launch, much like the sandal itself.

Oliver Reichert, the CEO, in his description of the product, says, "Birkenstock is the perfect combination of function and quality." You can't get a simpler, more stodgy answer. But irrespective of how many collaborations the brand does – with American designer



In steady step Clockwise from bottom: Creatives for the brand; Oliver Reichert ■ ANTOINE DOYEN

ers. If that translates into fashion and offers comfort, we feel this is a good combination," says Reichert.

New age consumers

How does a brand that doesn't feed a particular demographic stay relevant? At last year's Oscars, Frances McDormand wore Birkenstocks in yellow suede custom made by Valentino. *Vogue* called it "couture-meets-comfort", but the folks at Birkenstock say that at its core, it has a health DNA. Holmes says the brand became fashionable because the consumer that bought Birks was, like Gigi Hadid, Alexa Chung and Julianne Moore. And the Next Gen collection has a model called Kyoto (most of its slippers and sandals are named after countries), which is "a modern version of their [forefoot-covering] Zürich", Reichert calls it.

It is also a practical purchase that lasts for years, suddenly relevant in today's ecologically conscious consumer who's disdaining fast fashion.

In India, the only store is at Delhi airport's domestic terminal 3 (prices here start at ₹3,999), and they retail online (birkenstock.in – they don't sell from any other website).

There are no India collaborations yet, though Reichert says they are looking at Bollywood for synergies, since it has a global presence. Also, none of the existing collabs will come to India. Abroad though, American fashion's Proenza Schouler will go to the Paris fashion week in March this year and the premium 1774 collection will be at the Frieze Art Fair in Los Angeles with Matchesfashion, next month.



Rick Owens, Italian designer Valentino, sneaker store Concepts, retailer Opening Ceremony – they are neither pushing for those, nor are they moving into fashion territory. "We don't play in the fashion arena... We didn't push for the fashion dollar, which is a very fickle place to play in," says Lucy Holmes, the regional marketing manager, Middle East and India. In fact, Reichert says the brand has only ever approached Rick Owens. "All other brands have to come to us," he says.

The journey from Frankfurt

The concentration is still on the sole, which began its journey in 1896, with shoemaker Konrad Birkenstock operating two shops in Frankfurt. He developed the first contoured insole to be fitted into custom-made shoes, and later, a flexible arch support for factory-made shoes. In the first decade of the 1900s, he made insoles from a cork-latex blend, giving rise to the term footbed.

It was in 1964 that the Birkenstock sandal was born, with a footbed consisting of a toe grip, an arch and a heel cup – all to help support the foot. There are two layers of jute on

either side of this, and then suede or calf leather insoles, and EVA (ethylene vinyl acetate) on the sole, though the original single-strap Madrid had moss crepe (rubber). While the hard soles are supposed to be orthopaedically good, America prefers the softer version with a latex foam cushioning, available across the world. Worldwide, the double-strap Arizona is the most popular, despite its chunky 'I work in development' like proclamation.

A sixth-generation family-owned company that claims to sell between 25 and 30 million pairs each year, production is still solely in Germany, with 60% in Gorlitz, and raw materials (cork from the oak, latex, and leather) sourced from Europe. Today, collaborations are managed by a creative studio called 1774 Birkenstock, that operates out of Paris. There are no "targets", only "partnerships", and the voice is clear. "Our heritage is about quality and comfort, which is aspired [to] by many design-

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



PERFORMANCE

Hindustani classical
On Sunday evening, India Habitat Centre will host a Hindustani classical vocal recital by Lavanya Sundram, a disciple of Prof. Arun Kumar Chatterjee and Pt. Sarathi Chatterjee. This will be followed by a flute jugalbandi by Rajesh Prasanna and Rishabh Prasanna, sons and disciples of Pt. Rajendra Prasanna.
VENUE: The Stein Auditorium, IHC
TIME: 7 p.m.



EXHIBITION

Group show
An ongoing group show titled Sacred Architecture of Kashmir, organised by the Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage, Kashmir, has trove of photographs depicting the state's architecture. The temples, stupas, mosques, and khanghas reflect an architectural tradition that has evolved over time.
VENUE: Anexe Art Gallery, IIC
TIME: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



FOOD

Kitchens of India
The Westin Gurgaon has rolled out themed Sunday Brunches at its eatery Seasonal Tastes. A series inspired by the Kitchens of India, it is influenced by Rajasthan's royal feast, featuring Dal Baati Churma, Mirchi Baba, Bajra ki Roti, Lehsun Chutney, Mathaniya Murgh, Laal Maas, Kalmi Vada, Ker Sangri, and Moong Dal Halwa.
VENUE: Sector 29, Gurugram
TIME: 12:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.



CARNIVAL

Music fest
DLF Avenue Saket is hosting its first ever music festival called BeGoodTribe this evening. The festival will have a line up of some of the country's best known singers, rappers, and bands, including Midival Punditz, Lifafa, and Taba Chale. The event will also have activities and workshops for attendees.
VENUE: Sector 6, Pushp Vihar
TIME: 2 p.m. - 10 p.m.

THEATRE

Hindi comedy
Bela Theater Karwaan will stage Baap Re Baap, a Hindi comedy this evening. Directed by Amar Sah, the play revolves around Babu Badrinath, a resident of Lucknow, who goes missing from home. When his son announces a cash prize to find his father, a few men bring an identical person who claims to be the real father.
VENUE: M.L. Bhartia Auditorium, Lodhi Road
TIME: 7:30 p.m.

Youdhishthir Mahajan, at Blueprint 12

Mahajan, who had a recent solo with Blueprint 12, works with found material and reclaimed text. At the Fair, check out how he's repurposed and given new meaning to pages from old books, as he laboriously cut-pasted to create flowing streams of paper, with words peeking out just enough to give the whole piece a punch of meaning.

Retrooled Real hosts lacklustre Atletico in Madrid derby

Zidane's squad has hit peak form in recent weeks and will look to preserve its advantage at the top of LaLiga; Simeone's side has lacked attacking ideas this season and needs to win Saturday's game to turn its campaign around

Having opened up a slender lead over Barcelona in LaLiga's title race, Real Madrid will be looking to keep its nose in front when it hosts Atletico Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu on Saturday. Barcelona plays Levante at home on Sunday.

Unlike Barcelona, which has made an inconsistent start under new coach

FORM GUIDE

Real: DDDVVV
Atletico: DWWWD

HEAD TO HEAD:

All competitions
Overall: Real 110 |
Atletico 56 | Draws 57
Last six games: Real 2 |
Atletico 2 | Draws 2

In the league

Overall: Real 87 |
Atletico 39 | Draws 39
At Bernabeu: Real 52 |
Atletico 15 | Draws 15
Last six games at
Bernabeu: Real 0 |
Atletico 3 | Draws 3

3.9 shots per game is a career high; only once before has he managed more than 3 shots per game during a season.

Benzema, who leads both Real's goals and assists charts, has repaid the faith his manager has invested in him. "I can only say that we are working well," Zidane said. "I see many positive things about the team, but we haven't won anything yet and there is a long way to go. In the derby we will have to play well again."

the mentality of a group that for years relied upon Cristiano Ronaldo to provide its punch.

Now the team is more versatile and the goals are shared across the board – as many as 16 players have found the net this league season, with 15 scoring between one and three goals.

Real also has a very deep bench, especially in the midfield, where Zidane can choose from Luka Modric, Toni Kroos, young standout Federico Valverde, Casemiro, Isco and James Rodriguez.

Indeed, the team is playing well without two of its biggest stars contributing very much. Gareth Bale rarely features – injuries have played their part, as has a complicated relationship with Zidane – while Eden Hazard has been limited by injuries. The Belgian is set to miss the derby even as his recovery from an ankle injury gains pace: he has returned to training with the squad but is unlikely to be risked. Zidane reportedly wants his best dribbler in top shape before the Champions League tie against Manchester City in four weeks.

Coming of age
In their place, young Brazilians Rodrygo and Vinicius Junior have been able to grow into real threats alongside Karim Benzema. The French striker, often overlooked despite his all-round talent and unselfish play, has led the charge this season. He has been more active in front of goal: his

This season, however, Atletico is fifth, 10 points behind Real. It must win Saturday's derby to have any chance of turning its campaign around. The club has struggled to score – it has relied too heavily on Alvaro Morata, who has netted almost a third of the club's 22 goals. But at the other end of the pitch, Simeone's famously drilled defence has held its own: only Real has conceded fewer than Atletico's 14 goals.

Bruised morale
The Rojiblancos will make the trip across the city without several important players and with their morale bruised after not winning in four straight games, including a humiliating exit to a third-division club in the Copa del Rey.

Simeone will most likely not be able to count on young Portugal forward Joao Felix, the club's record signing, who has a muscle injury in his right leg. Captain Koke faces a race against the clock to be fit while central defender Jose Gimenez and striker Diego Costa are still out. Right-back Kieran Trippier, one of Simeone's best players in his first campaign with the team, could recover in time. SPORTS BUREAU, AP & AFP

Top-four shuffle in focus

Leicester vs. Chelsea on Saturday and Spurs vs. City on Sunday headline this weekend's Premier League action

It will require a spectacular collapse for Liverpool to be caught this season – Jurgen Klopp's side enjoys a 19-point lead at the top of the Premier League – but things are less certain for the clubs below it on the table.

There remains plenty of intrigue over who will finish in the Champions League slots, particularly the fourth spot. And this weekend's fixtures, with two big games involving sides vying for a top-four finish, will only add to the drama.

Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur, currently fifth and sixth, need to close the gap on fourth-placed Chelsea, but injuries and inconsistency have been hampering their form.

With Chelsea, which has a six-point cushion, facing a tough test away to third-placed Leicester City in Saturday's early game, there is an opportunity for United and Spurs to get closer to Frank Lampard's side.

But United has a tricky encounter against seventh-placed Wolverhampton Wanderers at Old Trafford on Saturday while Spurs have the small matter of hosting Pep Guardiola's Manchester City on Sunday.

Spurs will be hoping to take advantage of Guardiola's injury concerns – City was without defenders Fernandinho, Aymeric Laporte and Benjamin Mendy against United in the League Cup semifinal tie on Wednesday. In their absence, Kyle Walker, Nicolas Otamendi and Joao Cancelo featured in a three-man defence.

The game will see old foes Mourinho and Guardiola match wits again. Although Guardiola dominates the head-to-head record – 11-5, with six draws – these match-ups across Spain, England and Europe have always had plenty of needle.

City hasn't been at its most efficient in front of goal this season, a theme that was in evidence in the second leg of the League Cup semifinal. "We created chances to score a lot of goals and didn't convert," Guardiola said after his side progressed to the final. "We need to learn to be more clinical." It's a lesson that will need to be learnt quickly, for Mourinho sides of the past have punished a lack of ruthlessness.

Chelsea has failed to beat Leicester in their last four league meetings and could be without first-choice striker Tammy Abraham. Lampard's Blues have struggled over the last five weeks, dropping 10 points in six games, and will need to be at their sharpest against a Leicester side that will be hurting after the League Cup semifinal defeat against Aston Villa. Brendan Rodgers will hope that Jamie Vardy, who came off the bench in that game, is fit to start on Saturday. SPORTS BUREAU

& REUTERS

SEASON STATS (individual)

Goals
Real: Benzema 12 |
Ramos 3 | Modric 3 |
Atletico: Morata 7 |
Correa 3 | Costa 2

Assists
Real: Benzema 5 |
Modric 4 | Kroos 4 |
Atletico: Correa 5 |
Trippier 3 | Costa 2

SEASON STATS (team)

Goals per game: Real 1.86 | Atletico 1.05

Shots per game: Real 16.2 | Atletico 12.7

Goals conceded per game: Real 0.62 | Atletico 0.67

Shots conceded per game: Real 8.5 | Atletico 10.6

SEASON STATS (team)

Goals per game: Real 1.86 | Atletico 1.05

Shots per game: Real 16.2 | Atletico 12.7

Goals conceded per game: Real 0.62 | Atletico 0.67

Shots conceded per game: Real 8.5 | Atletico 10.6

STACKING UP

English Premier League Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Real Madrid	24	23	1	0	56	15	41	70
2	Man. City	24	16	3	5	65	27	38	51
3	Leicester	24	15	3	6	52	24	28	48
4	Chelsea	24	12	4	8	41	32	9	40
5	Man. United	24	9	7	8	36	29	7	34
6	Tottenham	24	9	7	8	38	32	6	34
7	Wolves	24	8	10	6	35	32	3	34
8	Sheffield	24	8	9	7	25	23	-2	31
9	Southampton	24	9	4	11	31	42	-11	31
10	Arsenal	24	6	12	6	32	34	-2	30
11	Crystal Palace	24	7	9	8	22	28	-6	30
12	Everton	24	8	6	10	28	35	-7	30
13	Burnley	24	9	3	12	28	38	-10	30
14	Newcastle	24	8	6	10	24	36	-12	30
15	Brighton	24	6	7	11	27	34	-7	25
16	Aston Villa	24	7	4	13	31	45	-14	25
17	West Ham	24	6	5	13	27	40	-13	23
18	Bournemouth	24	6	5	13	23	37	-14	23
19	Watford	24	5	8	11	21	36	-15	23
20	Norwich	24	4	5	15	24	47	-23	17

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Real Madrid	21	13	4	5	50	25	25	43
2	Barcelona	21	13	4	5	50	25	25	43
3	Sevilla	21	11	5	5	27	20	7	38
4	Getafe	21	10	6	5	30	20	10	36
5	Atletico Madrid	21	9	9	3	22	14	8	36
6	Real Sociedad	21	10	4	7	36	28	8	34
7	Valencia	21	9	7	5	32	29	3	34
8	Villarreal	21	9	4	8	36	29	7	31
9	Athletic Bilbao	21	7	10	4	22	15	7	31
10	Osasuna	21	6	10	5	28	25	3	28
11	Granada	21	8	3	10	25	28	-3	27
12	Real Betis	21	7	6	8	29	33	-4	27
13	Levante	21	8	2	11	26	32	-6	26
14	Alaves	21	6	5	10	22	31	-9	23
15	Eibar	21	6	5	10	20	29	-9	23
16	Real Valladolid	21	4	10	7	17	24	-7	22
17	Real Mallorca	21	5	3	13	22	37	-15	18
18	Celta Vigo	21	3	8	10	17	30	-13	17
19	Leganes	21	3	6	12	16	33	-17	15
20	Espanyol	21	3	6	12	17	38	-21	15

Italian Serie A Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Juventus	21	16	3	2	40	21	19	51
2	Inter Milan	21	14	6	1	42	18	24	48
3	Lazio	20	14	4	2	47	19	28	46
4	Roma								

India has the last laugh as Super Over jinx haunts Kiwis again

After Manish takes the visitors to 165, the hosts make a mess of the chase with just 11 runs needed off two overs; Kohli's men go 4-0 up in series



Judicious mix: Manish Pandey accelerated the scoring without taking undue risks, as wickets fell around him, to give India a competitive total. ■ GETTY IMAGES

Action Replay

THE FINAL OVER
Runs needed:

7
7
Bowler: Shardul
1st ball: W
2nd ball: 4
3rd ball: Wkt
4th ball: 1
5th ball: W
6th ball: 1 run + Wkt
MATCH TIED

INDIA IN NZ

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WELLINGTON

India snatched the fourth T20I against New Zealand on Friday after yet another Super Over was needed to separate the two sides as the scores were tied following the regulation 20 overs.

New Zealand, batting first in the decider, made 13 with Tim Seifert dropped twice before he was eventually dismissed.

In reply, India captain Virat Kohli hit the winning runs with a ball to spare.

The third match had also ended in a Super Over with Rohit Sharma hitting sixes off the last two balls to take India home.

"What's happened in the



SUPER OVER: NZ

Batsmen: Seifert, Munro and Taylor
Bowler: Bumrah

1st ball: 2	(Seifert)
2nd ball: 4	(Seifert)
3rd ball: 2	(Seifert)
4th ball: W	(Seifert)
5th ball: 4	(Munro)
6th ball: 1	(Munro)

RUNS: 13

SUPER OVER: IND

Batsmen: Kohli, Rahul, Samson
Bowler: Southee

1st ball: 6	(Rahul)
2nd ball: 4	(Rahul)
3rd ball: W (Rahul)	
4th ball: 2	(Kohli)
5th ball: 4	(Kohli)

RUNS: 16

New Zealand had already suffered a setback with talismanic captain Kane Williamson unable to play, having not fully recovered from a shoulder injury suffered while fielding in game three.

Backbone

It was left to lusty hitting by Colin Munro and Seifert to provide the backbone of the innings with Munro making 64 and Seifert out in the final over for 57.

India, sent in to bat, made 165 for eight on a flat track with the innings anchored by an unbeaten 50 from Manish Pandey and his partnerships with Thakur and Navdeep Saini.

India was six for 88 in the 12th over before Pandey and Thakur arrested the slide with a 43-run stand as Thakur contributed 20.

Saini, who was not out 11 in his first appearance on tour, put on 22 with Pandey off the last 13 deliveries.

Team news

■ Here's how the dugouts changed for the fourth T20I:

■ INDIA

■ In: Samson, Washington and Saini

■ Out: Rohit, Jadeja and Shami (all rested)

■ NEW ZEALAND

■ In: Bruce, Mitchell

■ Out: de Grandhomme, Williamson (injury)

In a slow start to its reply, New Zealand was 23 for one after five overs.

But in the sixth over, Munro found his timing with a six and two fours to get the scoreboard moving.

Munro and Seifert put on 72 off 44 deliveries before the former was run out in a smart piece of relay fielding involving Thakur and Kohli who threw down the stumps.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-22 (Guptill, 4.2), 2-96 (Munro, 11.4), 3-97 (Bruce, 12.1), 4-159 (Taylor, 19.1), 5-163 (Seifert, 19.3), 6-164 (Mitchell, 19.5), 7-165 (Santner, 19.6).

INDIA BOWLING

Shardul 4-0-33-2, Saini 4-0-

29-0, Munra 4-0-20-1, Chahal 4-0-38-1, Washington 2-0-

24-0, Dube 2-0-14-0.

Toss

New Zealand.

Match tied.

Super Over: New Zealand 13/1, India 16/1 (0.5 overs).

Man-of-the-Match:

Shardul. India leads five-match series 4-0.

Final T20I: February 2 (Sunday), Mount Maunganui, 12.30 p.m.

It shows character of the team, says Kohli

"Two Super Over finishes have taught me to bounce back when chance comes"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WELLINGTON

India captain Virat Kohli, on Friday, said he has learnt an important lesson in the back-to-back Super Over finishes against New Zealand.

"There's something new I've learnt in the last couple of games: when the opposition is playing well, you stay calm till the end and try to come back," Kohli said.

He said having come out victorious in two consecutive Super Overs for the first time proves the character of the team.

"We couldn't have asked for more exciting games, we've never played Super Overs before and now we've

won two. It shows the character of the team," Kohli said.

Looking at 5-0: Manish

Crediting India's win to the never-say-die attitude, middle-order batsman Manish Pandey said the team would push for an unprecedented 5-0 series whitewash in the fifth T20I.

"It has been our motto, not only for these two matches, that till the time the last ball is bowled, we won't give up any match."

"If you play with that intent you will get matches like these where you might get a Super Over, and you win from there," he said.



Twist to the tale: The Indian players are a delighted lot after forcing the game into a Super Over. ■ GETTY IMAGES

Thiem surmounts the Zverev challenge

Gives himself another chance to break the stranglehold of the Big Three

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
MELBOURNE

A tireless Dominic Thiem came from a set down to outlast German Alexander Zverev and make his first Australian Open final on Friday, booking a showdown with seven-time champion Novak Djokovic, a man he called the "king".

The 26-year-old fifth seed, the first player from Austria ever to reach the Melbourne decider, battled past seventh-ranked Zverev 3-6, 6-4, 7-6(3), 7-6(4) on a sweltering evening.

"It was an unreal match, two tie-breakers, so tough and so close. It was almost impossible to break him," said Thiem. "Being in the Australian Open final is unreal. What a start to the season for me."

Defending champion Djokovic awaits him after the second seed ended Roger Federer's dreams in straight sets on Thursday to make his eighth Melbourne Park final. "He's the king of Australia," Thiem said of the Serb.

But there is a glimmer of hope for Thiem. Djokovic is 6-4 in their head-to-heads, but the Austrian has won four of the last five.

That experience paid divi-

This is New Zealand's eighth Super Over contest in white-ball cricket and it has lost seven of them

133* No. of runs Manish has scored in his last six T20 innings without being dismissed even once (2*, 22*, 31*, 14*, 14*, 50*)

The fans couldn't have asked for a better finish in two consecutive games. We hadn't played super-over before, and now we have played two back to back VIRAT KOHLI

This is the fifth consecutive T20I Super Over defeat for the Kiwis with Southee at the bowling crease

India has a chance to become the first team to win a T20I bilateral series 5-0

Austrian wins battle of young guns

At the start of the new decade, tennis' tyrants - the Big 3 - were prophesied to lose their grip on the world stage! That hasn't come true as Djokovic continues to be a dominant force while Nadal still owns the red dirt of Paris.

Federer is a regular visitor to the business-end of the Majors though his last triumph came at Melbourne in 2018. Meanwhile, the young superstars, Thiem and Zverev, continue to chip away, hoping to gatecrash the party some day. After blowing out Nadal in the quarterfinal, the Austrian was expected to emerge on top in his clash with German friend. And the fifth seed did just that, but not before walking a tight-rope.

Zverev, who had dropped only a set before the semifinal, began brightly as he took the first set 6-3. The gritty Thiem, who had made quite a few unforced errors in the opening set, tightened his game and gave little away. He also started to find his A-game, putting his opponent on the backfoot with his relentless returns and remarkable consistency - two big weapons that had helped him tame the Spanish bull (Nadal). Once he found a way through in the second set, Thiem showed yet again that he was the master of tie-breakers.

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SCORELINE: 3-6, 6-4, 7-6(3), 7-6(4)

DURATION: Three hours 42 minutes

I was in bed about 5 a.m. two days ago so it wasn't easy to recover. But once the adrenalin kicked in, I still had some trouble in the first set. Both our first semifinal here - it was a tough start for me DOMINIC THIEM

I think he [Thiem] has a chance [in the final against Djokovic]. He is playing the best tennis of his life ALEXANDER ZVEREV



SATURDAY'S PICKS

WOMEN'S SINGLES FINAL

14-Kenin v Muguruza (2 p.m.) followed by

MIXED DOUBLES FINAL

5-Mektic & Krejicikova v 14-Jamie Murray & Mattek-Sands

LIVE ON SONY SIX & SONY TEN 2 (SD & HD), 2 P.M.

COMPILATION BY LALITH KALIDAS

Cleaver and Chapman lift NZ-A

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHRISTCHURCH

Dane Cleaver smashed an unbeaten century as New Zealand-A put India-A in a tight spot by amassing 385 for five in its first innings on the second day of the first unofficial Test here on Friday.

After Will Young (54) completed his half-century, the host suffered a mini-collapse, losing three wickets cheaply but Cleaver (111 off 194 balls) and Mark Chapman (85 off 187 balls) resurrected the innings, adding an unbeaten 99 runs for the sixth wicket.

At stumps, the duo was at the crease with New Zealand taking an overall lead of 169 runs.

Resuming at 105 for two, overnight batsmen Young (54) and Ajaz Patel (38) added 66 runs before the former was sent back in the 49th over by S Sandeep Warrier.

Young's 50 was laced with six boundaries, while Patel hit four fours and three sixes in his 66-ball innings.

The scores:

India-A 216 in 54.1 overs vs New Zealand-A 385/5 in 114 overs (Dane Cleaver 111, Mark Chapman 85).

Sathiyan and Sharath – a picture in contrast

World No. 30 targeting his first National crown; Sutirtha advances; injured Archana exits

TABLE TENNIS

RAKESH RAO
HYDERABAD
G. Sathiyan and Sharath Kamal present a contrasting picture when it comes to being motivated to win the men's singles title in the ongoing National table tennis championship here.

Ranked 30th in the world and favourite for a maiden National title this weekend, Sathiyan is keen to put aside the poor showings in the recent World Team Qualification tournament, for the 2020 Olympic Games, and ensure the crown that eluded him last year.

Impression
Sharath, ranked 33rd and the most successful men's National champion, gives the impression of not being motivated enough to win a 10th title.

Last year, he was lucky to beat Sathiyan and break



Top picks: Like last year, G. Sathiyan (right) and Sharath Kamal are expected to clash in the men's singles final. ■ RAKESH RAO

Kamlesh Mehta's record – set in 1995 – of eight titles.

Sathiyan makes no secret of his resolve to win this

time. "I value the National title. I know, things did not go my way in Portugal recently but I'm confident of

producing my best here."

In contrast, second seed Sharath says, "Though we did not qualify as a team for

PSPB expected to shade Air India

Men's National championship semifinals shorn of big players

HOCKEY

UTHRA GANESAN JHANSI

National championships in any sport are often the pinnacle of performance. The ongoing Hockey Men's National Championship (A Division) here is anything but.

Consider: The national camp currently has 32 players; the junior campers number 35. That's 67 of supposedly India's best players ruled out of the nationals. With little chance of breaking into this elite club – it would take exceptional brilliance for someone to do so – there is little to play for for those here, except bragging

rights for the respective state teams or their employers.

It would be in this backdrop that the semifinals of the tournament would be played on Saturday, with all four being institutional sides. In the absence of four-time winner Railways, suspended by Hockey India last year for not acting in an age-fraud case from 2018, Petroleum Sports Promotion Board would take on former heavyweights but now struggling Air India while the other semifinal would see Services take on Punjab & Sind Bank.

With three wins and a draw, PSPB has been in fine form through the league

stages. It also boasts of several players who have been part of the national set-up till very recently – both youngsters and seniors – either as players or part of the support staff. As such, the team is not just fitter but also more aware of what is required at any point of the game.

Old hands

Air India, on the other hand, continues to bank on old hands, including players like V.S. Vinaya and Adrian D'Souza, the only recognisable names in the line-up. It was lucky to make the cut after eking out a 1-1 draw with Gangpur-Odisha in its final Pool D game. Having

unexpected was the exit of defending champion Archana Kamath.

Despite not having recovered fully from a knee-injury suffered recently in Gondomar (Portugal), the fifth seed played and lost 0-4 to Manushree Patil. Archana's ouster made it easier for fourth seed Aishika Mukherjee in the semifinals.

Serious challenge

From the top-half of the draw, Sathiyan could face some serious challenge Manav Thakkar or former champion A. Amalraj in the semifinal.

For Sharath, a quarterfinal clash with former champion Soumyajit Ghosh, seeded seventh, looks possible. Thereafter, the next rival could be either former winner, left-handed Sanil Shetty or Harmeet Desai.

Among the ladies, where

Manika Batra is the only absentee, top seed and former holder Sutirtha Mukherjee

was the first to sail into the round of 32.

Meanwhile, not entirely

producing my best here."

In contrast, second seed

Sharath says, "Though we

did not qualify as a team for

the semifinals.

The lower half has Sreeja

Akula and Anusha Kumtabale, seeded two and seven, eyeing a last-eight berth. The winner of their clash could

face last year's finalist Krittika Sinha Roy or Prapti Sen, seeded three and six, in the semifinals.

However, going by the inconsistency in the women section, a series of surprises cannot be ruled out.

RACING

Valegro should make amends

MUMBAI: Trainer Pesi Shroff's ward Valegro, who ran second in his last start, should make amends in the Ebcos Livsmart Million, the feature event of Saturday's (Feb. 1) evening races to be held here at the Mahalaxmi race course.

Rails will be placed 3 metres wide from 1400m to 1200m and thereafter 6 metres wide from 1000m upto the winning post.

1 KINGFISHER MAX MILLION (1,800m), Cl. V, rated 4 to 30, 4.30 p.m.: 1. Thunderclap (4) S. John 59, 2. Star For You (3) C.S. Jodha 57.5, 3. Saddle The Wind (12) Kaviraj 57, 4. Tasman (1) Sandesh 56.5, 5. Tenacious (7) Trevor 56.5, 6. Walk The Talk (8) A. Imran Khan 56.5, 7. Cupido (9) Srinath 56, 8. His Master's Vice (6) Nirmal 53, 9. Chezza (2) Merchant 50, 10. Mr. Honey (10) T.S. Jodha 51.5, 11. Sweeping Move (11) Bhawani 51.5 and 12. Big Ben (5) Parmar 50.5.

1. TENACIOUS,
2. TASMAN,
3. CUPIDO

2 MAHALAKSHMI MILLION (2,400m), Cl. III, rated 40 to 66, 5.00: 1. Golden Era (4) Sandesh 59, 2. Fleur De Lys (6) A. Imran Khan 57.5, 3. Gokarna (1) J. Chinoy 57.5, 4. Eagleinthesky (5) C.D. Hayes 56.5, 5. Play Safe (2) O'Donoghue 56.5, 6. Moriseiki (7) Trevor 54 and 7. Goshawk (3) Parmar 53.

1. MORISEIKI,
2. EAGLEINTHESKY

3 GATEWAY OF INDIA MILLION (3,100m), Cl. IV, rated 40 to 70, 5.30: 1. Noble Heir (4) Sandesh 60, 2. Power Of Thor (13) Kaviraj 58.5, 3. Bait And Switch (10) Trevor 54, 4. Fanfare (6) C.S. Jodha 58, 5. Zanzibar (1) T.S. Jodha 57.5, 6. Conscience (7) S. Kamble 57, 7. Allauddin Khilji (12) Dhanu S. Deora 56, 8. Lion King (3) Srinath 56, 9. Guarnerius (5) to be declared later 55.4, 10. Gold Medalist (9) Dashrath 54, 11. It's a Deal (8) Merchant 52.5, 12. Memorable Eyes (11) Imran Chisty 55.2 and 13. One For The Glory (2) Zervan 52.

1. BAiT AND SWiCH,
2. NOBLE HEIR,
3. FAiNFaRE

4 PELICAN MILLION (1,000m), Cl. V, rated 4 to 30, 7.30: 1. Mikey's Pride (5) A. Imran Khan 59, 2. Seniority (12) Zervan 59, 3. Brilliant Gold (7) Nicky Mackay 58.5, 4. Shapath (1) T.S. Jodha 58.5, 5. Dilbar (3) Ayyar 57, 6. Blazing Bay (1) O'Donoghue 56.5, 7. Princess Scarlet (4) Imran Chisty 56, 8. Galloping Star (8) Aniket 55.9, 9. Golden Steal (6) David Egan 55.5, 10. Northern Singer (3) Kaviraj 55.5, 11. Gold Member (10) Nirmal 55, 12. Adams Beginning (11) Santosh 54.5, 13. On Va Danseur (14) J. Chinoy 54.5 and 14. Principessa (9) Dashrath 51.5.

1. BLAZING BAY,
2. MIKAYLA'S PRIDE,
3. DILBAR

Day's Best: VALEGRO
Double: MORISEIKI - BAiT AND SWiCH

Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.

Tanala: All races.

Super Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.

Exacta Place races: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.

David Egan 54.5, 12. Spring Grove (2) Sandesh 54.5, 13. Treasure Hunt (12) C.D. Hayes 54.5 and 14. Zenith (13) Bhawani 54.5.

1. SPRING GROVE, 2. ENDEAVOUR, 3. FINALIST

5 EBCO LIVSMART MILLION (1,400m), Cl. II, rated 60 to 86, 6.30: 1. Valegro (5) Leigh Roche 59, 2. Eyes For You (4) Parmar 56.5, 3. Star Appearance (7) David Egan 55.5, 4. Malwa (1) Trevor 54.5, 5. Questionable (3) C.S. Jodha 52.5, 6. Pablo (9) Sandesh 51.5, 7. Majestic Warrior (6) Kaviraj 50.5, 8. Kariega (8) Nazil 49 and 9. Rainbow Trout (2) Peter 49.

1. VALEGRO,

2. KARIEGA,

3. STAR APPEARANCE

6 TURF AUTHORITIES OF INDIA MILLION (1,200m), Cl. IV, rated 20 to 44, 7.00: 1. Safdar (7) Dhanu S. Deora 62, 2. Odessa (11) Peter 61.5, 3. Thomas Hardy (14) Sandesh 61.5, 4. Jetfire (8) Parmar 61, 5. Run Forrest Run (2) Srinath 61, 6. Steppenwolf (3) Nazil 61, 7. Shivalk Queen (12) Merchant 60, 8. Ustad Pedro (10) Zervan 59.5, 9. Articulate (4) Imran Khan 58, 10. Angels Harmony (1) C.S. Jodha 57.5, 11. Antarctica (5) Bhawani 57.5, 12. Mount Olympus (9) J. Chinoy 55.5, 13. Ame (6) Pranil 54.5 and 14. Red Carnation (13) Kaviraj 54.5.

1. SHIVALIK QUEEN,

2. THOMAS HARDY,

3. STEPPENWOLF

7 KINGFISHER ULTRA SUN DOWNER MILLION (1,200m), Cl. V, rated 4 to 30, 7.30: 1. Mikey's Pride (5) A. Imran Khan 59, 2. Seniority (12) Zervan 59, 3. Brilliant Gold (7) Nicky Mackay 58.5, 4. Shapath (1) T.S. Jodha 58.5, 5. Dilbar (3) Ayyar 57, 6. Blazing Bay (1) O'Donoghue 56.5, 7. Princess Scarlet (4) Imran Chisty 56, 8. Galloping Star (8) Aniket 55.9, 9. Golden Steal (6) David Egan 55.5, 10. Northern Singer (3) Kaviraj 55.5, 11. Gold Member (10) Nirmal 55, 12. Adams Beginning (11) Santosh 54.5, 13. On Va Danseur 56, 14. Candescents Star (14) Zeeshan 54.5, 15. Farahnaaz (8) Zervan 54.5, 8. Finalist (3) J. Chinoy 54.5, 9. Lady Lanette (withdrawn), 10. Lifetime (10) C.S. Jodha 54.5, 11. Sky Fall (10)

1. BLAZING BAY,

2. MIKAYLA'S PRIDE,

3. DILBAR

Ankita in singles semis, doubles final

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU
NONTHABURI
Ankita Raina fought her way past Simona Waltert of Switzerland 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 in the quarterfinals of the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament on Friday.

Ankita made the doubles final as the top seed with Bibiane Schoofs of the Netherlands. The duo will now play the Thai team of Supapitch Kuearum and Mananchaya Sawangkaew.

In the Challenger in France, Purav Raja in partnership with Adil Shamasdin of Canada made the doubles semifinals. The Indian

TV PICKS

Australian Open: Sony Six (SD & HD), 7.30 a.m. & 2 p.m.
NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 9 a.m.
Women's T20I tri-series: Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 8.30 a.m.
Under-19 World Cup: Star Sports 3, 1.15 p.m.
PBL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 6 p.m., 8.30 p.m. & 10.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 8 p.m. & 10.30 p.m.
Serie A: Sony Ten 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Sunday).

IN BRIEF

Bagan wins thriller against CCFC
COIMBATORE
Mohun Bagan kept its top slot intact with a hard-fought 3-2 win over defending champion Chennai City FC in the Hero I-League clash at the Nehru Stadium here on Friday.
The result: Chennai City FC (N. Vijay 64, Jishnu Balakrishnan 69) lost to Mohun Bagan 3 (Papa Babacar 27 & 49, Javier Gonzalez 29).

Diego Carlos gives Mumbai City full points
MUMBAI
Diego Carlos' 44th-minute strike proved the clincher as Mumbai City FC defeated NorthEast United FC in the Indian Super League here on Friday. It moves to fourth in the table. MCFC has 23 points from 15 games while NEUFC has 11 from 13.
The result: Mumbai City FC (Diego Carlos 44) bt NorthEast United FC 0.

Kenkre posts a 3-1 win over Bideh XI
BENGALURU
Kenkre FC registered a 3-1 victory over Bideh XI Sports Club in the Hero Indian Women's League football tournament, at Bangalore Football Stadium here on Friday.

The results: Kenkre FC 3 (Soumya Guguloth 18, Jyoti 54, Puja Karmakar 89) bt Bideh XI 1 (Stessi Cardozo 90); Kryphsa 4 (Roja Devi 57, Anju Tamang 76, Ranjana Chanu 90) bt Baroda FC 0.

Kolkata boys hogged the

SQUASH

SPORTS BUREAU

JAIPIUR

Top seed Abhishek Pradhan beat compatriot Sandeep Ramachandran 11-9, 11-5, 4-11, 11-6.

Pre-quarterfinals:

Abhishek Agarwal bt Amir Amrul (Mas)

11-8, 11-7, 7-11, 11-5, 11-11;

<h4

Harmanpreet steers India home

Women in Blue begin campaign in style with a five-wkt. win over England

TRISERIES

IANS
CANBERRA

India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur starred with the bat and ensured her opposite number Heather Knight's valiant knock was overshadowed as the Indians registered a five-wicket victory over England in the women's triangular series opener here on Friday.

Harmanpreet stayed till the end and remained unbeaten on 42 off 34 balls (5x4, 1x6) to take India over the line with three balls to spare chasing a modest 148. India finished on 150 for five in 19.3 overs.

Besides Harmanpreet, 16-year-old opener Shafali Verma hit 30 while Jemimah Rodrigues scored 26.

Digging deep

India lost wickets at regular intervals but never lost sight of the target largely due to Harmanpreet who held one end up and dug deep into her wealth of experience to take the side home.

It was a tight affair as 17 were needed off 12 balls as England dropped a catch and gave away wides in the penultimate over to hand India the advantage. Harmanpreet smashed a six off Katherine Brunt to win the game for India.

Earlier, put in to bat, England rode on Knight's brilliant 44-ball 67 and a 27-ball 37 from Tammy Beaumont to post 147/7.

For India, Rajeshwari



Leading from the front: Harmanpreet Kaur stayed till the end and remained unbeaten on 42 to take India over the line. ■ MARK NOLAN/GETTY IMAGE

Gayakwad (2/19), Shikha Pandey (2/33) and Deepti Sharma (2/30) grabbed two

wickets apiece, while Radha Yadav accounted for one. The other team is Australia

lia as teams look to put the finishing touches to its T20 World Cup preparations.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND

Amy Jones c Harmanpreet b Rajeshwari 1 (4b), Danielle Wyatt c Shikha b Rajeshwari 4 (5b), Natalie Sciver c Deepi b Radha 20 (18b, 4x4), Heather Knight c Jemimah b Shikha 67 (44b, 8x4, 2x6), Fran Wilson b Radha 7 (11b), Tammy Beaumont st. Bhatia b Deepi 37 (27b, 4x4, 1x6), Katherine Brunt c Smriti b Deepi 2 (3b), Lauren Winfield (not out) 8 (7b), Anya Shrubsole (not out) 1 (1b); Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 147.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-4 (Jones, 0.5 overs), 2-9 (Wyatt, 2.1), 3-38 (Natalie, 3.2), 4-59 (Wilson, 9.6), 5-128 (Knight, 17.3), 6-137 (Beau-

mont, 18.2), 7-140 (Brunt, 18.6).

INDIA BOWLING

Rajeshwari 4-0-19-2, Shikha 4-0-33-2, Radha 4-0-33-1, Deepi 4-0-30-2, Harmanpreet 3-0-23-0, Pooja 1-0-9-0.

INDIA

Shafali Verma c Wilson b Knight 30 (25b, 4x4), Smriti Mandhana c Lauren b Sciver 15 (10b, 3x4), Jemimah Rodrigues c Lauren b Brunt 26 (20b, 4x4), Harmanpreet Kaur (not out) 42 (34b, 5x4, 1x6), Veda Krishnamurthy st. Jones b Ecclestone 7 (10b), Taniya Bhatia c Knight b Brunt 11 (12b), Deepi Sharma (not out) 12 (18b, 1x4); Extras (nb-2, w-5): 7; Total (for five wkts. in 19.3 overs): 150.

ENGLAND BOWLING

Ecclestone 4-0-24-1, Brunt 3-0-33-2, Shrubsole 2-0-13-0, Sciver 4-0-34-1, Glenn 3-0-26-0, Knight 3-0-20-1.

Toss:

India won by five wickets with three deliveries to spare.

India's next match: February 2 (Sunday) vs. Australia, 8.30 a.m.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-27 (Smriti, 3.2), 2-64 (Shafali, 7.3), 3-82 (Jemimah, 10.3), 4-107 (Veda, 14.1), 5-122 (Taniya, 16.6).

FALL OF WICKETS

1-27 (Smriti, 3.2), 2-64 (Shafali, 7.3), 3-82 (Jemimah, 10.3), 4-107 (Veda, 14.1), 5-122 (Taniya, 16.6).

Test ends in a draw

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

HARARE
Sri Lankan opener Kusal Mendis struck an unbeaten 116 as the second Test against Zimbabwe ended in a draw here on Friday. Sri Lanka won the series 1-0. Sikandar Raza was de-

clared the man-of-the-match while the man-of-the-series award went to Angelo Mathews.

The scores:

Zimbabwe 406 & 247/7 drew with Sri Lanka 293 & 204/3 (K. Mendis 116 n.o., O. Fernando 47).

BENONI

Pakistan meets India

der-19 World Cup here on Friday, setting up an exciting semifinal against India on Feb. 4.

The scores: Afghanistan 189 in 49.1 overs (Farhal Zakhil 40, Abdul Rahman 30) lost to Pakistan 190/4 in 41.1 overs (Muhammad Huraira 64 n.o.).

Tai on fire as Raptors down Hunters

Beats Sindhu in three games; Leverdez outlasts Sourabh

PBL

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

Former World No. 1 Tai Tzu Ying served a reminder about her reputation as one of the most complete players in world badminton when she came back from the early blues to stun World champion P.V. Sindhu.

Tai's performance helped defending champion Bengaluru Raptors notch up its first win, a 3-0 verdict over Hyderabad Hunters, in the Premier Badminton League at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium here on Friday.

Sindhu was more dominant after a sluggish start in the first game, coming up with her trademark smashes on either flanks to get the better of Tai whose net game was surprisingly erratic, especially in the closing stages of that game.

Vintage stuff

But what the fans saw in the second and third game was vintage Tai as she pushed Sindhu to the baseline to pick the corners with ease



On the rise: Tai Tzu Ying had the final say against Sindhu.

■ NAGARA GOPAL

and then smashed some stunning cross-court winners. Watching all this was Sindhu's father P.V. Ramana,

who was in the commentary box for a brief period.

In the third game, an awesome body smash from Tai

and a Sindhu return falling in her own court signalled the end of the contest.

Roaring start

In the first match, the men's combine of Chan Peng Soon and Rian Agung Saputro of Raptors got the better of the more experienced and powerful duo of Ben Lane and Vladimir Ivanov, winning the big moments.

Hunters suffered another setback when World No. 28 Sourabh Verma lost the Trump match to World No. 39 Brice Leverdez, paying a heavy price with his erratic returns in the decider.

Hunters' only win came through the mixed doubles pair of Vladimir Ivanov and N. Sikkki Reddy.

The results:
Bengaluru Raptors bt Hyderabad Hunters 3-0 (Chang Peng Soon & Rian Agung Saputro bt Ben Lane & Vladimir Ivanov 15-13, 9-15, 15-12; Brice Leverdez bt Sourabh Verma (T) 15-12, 10-15, 15-6; Tai Tzu Ying bt P.V. Sindhu 11-15, 15-13, 15-9; Chan Peng Soon & Eom Hye Won (T) lost to Vladimir Ivanov & N. Sikkki Reddy 13-15, 11-15; B. Sai Pra-neeth bt Daren Liew 15-11, 15-6).

Rani Rampal promoted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Indian Hockey captain Rani Rampal, voted The World Games Athlete of the Year, was honoured by Sports Authority of India (SAI) with an out-of-turn promotion.

R.P. Singh played for India in 14 Tests, 58 ODIs, 10 T20Is and was part of the Indian team which won the World T20 in South Africa in 2007.

The committee comprises Madan Lal, Rudra Pratap Singh and Sulakshana Naik.

The term of appointment will be for one year.

Madan Lal, member of the 1983 World Cup-winning team, represented India in 39 Tests and 67 ODIs. He was a National selector and also served as coach of the national side.

Sulakshana played two Tests, 46 ODIs and 31 T20Is for India in a career spanning 11 years.



Rani. ■ FILE PHOTO: PTI
is our way of appreciating Rani for all that she has contributed to the country."

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