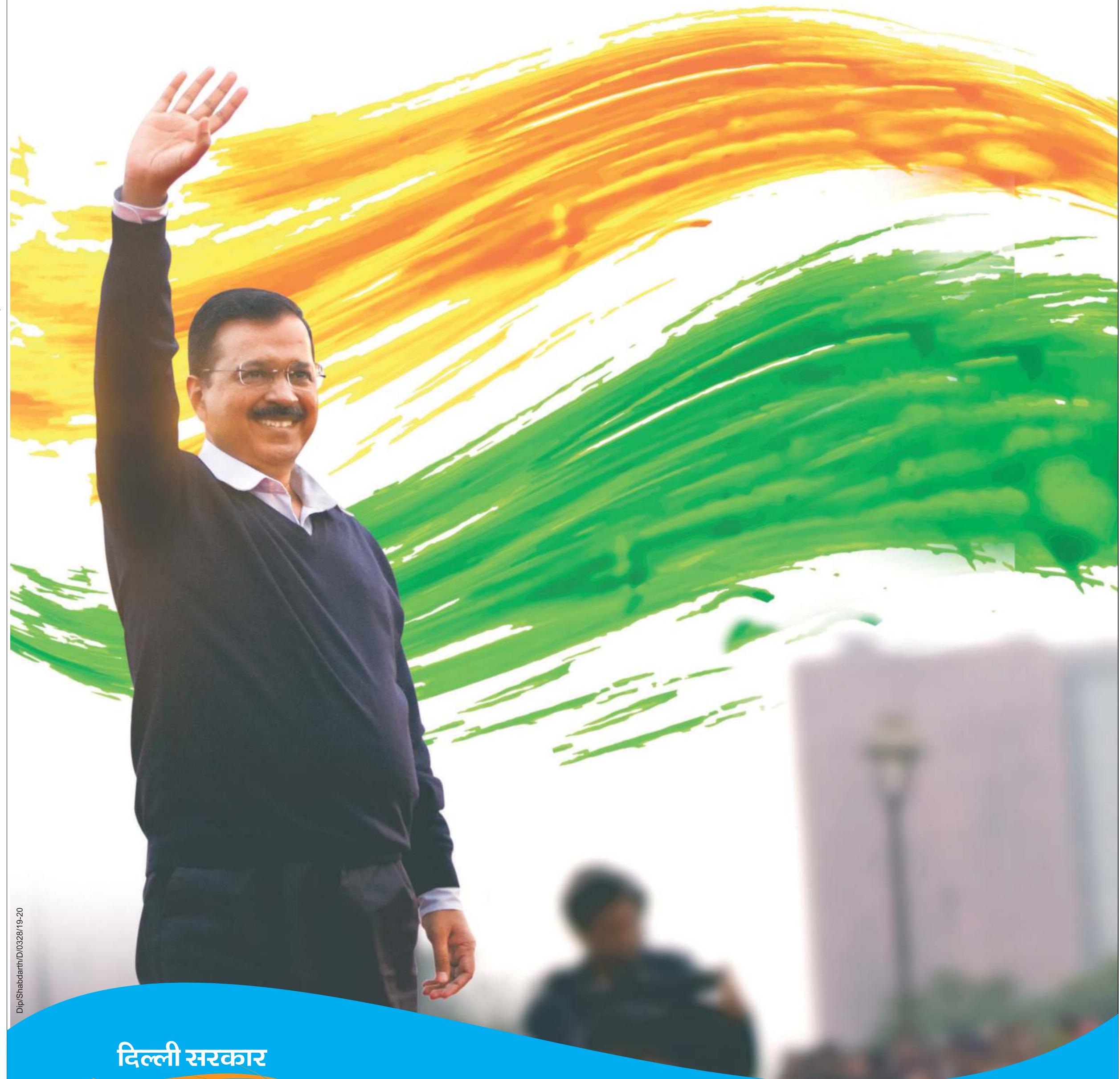


THANK YOU DELHI!

You are cordially invited for
the oath taking ceremony of
Chief Minister Shri. Arvind Kejriwal

on Sunday, 16 February, 10 a.m.
at Ramleela Maidan



दिल्ली सरकार

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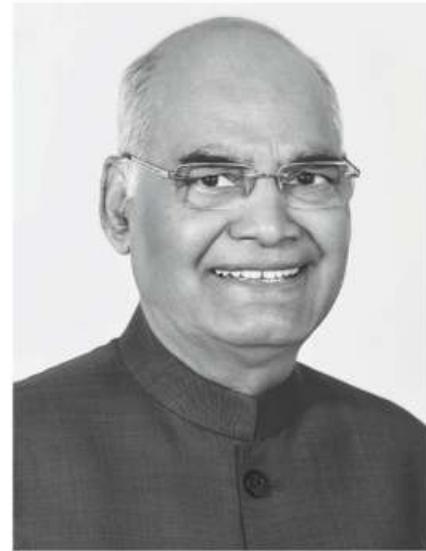


Dialogue • Debate • Discussion

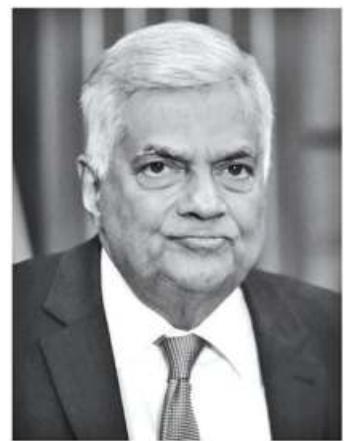
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February 22 & 23, 2020
ITC Gardenia, Bengaluru



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Hon'ble President of India



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Former Prime Minister of Sri Lanka



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Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh



M K Narayanan
Former National Security Adviser



Manish Tewari
MP & Congress Party Leader



Rajeev Chandrasekhar
*Member of Parliament,
Rajya Sabha*



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Foreign delegates meet civil society groups in Jammu

page 12



Many loose ends hamper probe into Pulwama attack

page 13



Rishi Sunak is U.K.'s new Chancellor of the Exchequer

page 14

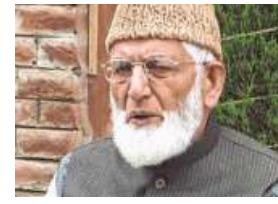


Chance for India to get its combination right ahead of Test series

page 18

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NEARBY



Security bustle over Geelani health worries

SRINAGAR

The wish of ailing Hurriyat chairman Syed Ali Geelani, 90, to be buried in the Martyrs' Graveyard here has sent the security agencies into a tizzy as the J&K administration had to stop Internet services on Wednesday night.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 12

CAA is a result of Assam fiasco: Chidambaram

NEW DELHI

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act is a "direct result of the Assam fiasco", said former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram on Thursday while addressing students at Jawaharlal Nehru University.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

FRIDAY REVIEW ▶ 4 PAGES

Publish criminal history of candidates, SC orders parties

The judgment is applicable to organisations both at the Central and State levels

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday ordered political parties to publish the entire criminal history of their candidates for the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections along with the reasons that goaded them to field suspected criminals over decent people.

The information should be published in a local and a national newspaper as well as the parties' social media handles. It should mandatorily be published either within 48 hours of the selection of candidates or less than two weeks before the first date for filing of nominations, whichever is earlier.

A Bench led by Justice Rohinton F. Nariman, in the judgment, ordered political

Cause for concern

The Supreme Court on Thursday flagged the alarming increase in incidence of criminals in politics

MPs with pending criminal cases:

2004	24%
2009	30%
2014	34%
2019	43%

■ The 2018 Constitution Bench judgment that formed the basis for Thursday's verdict said: Rapid criminalisation of politics cannot be arrested by merely disqualifying tainted legislators but should begin by "cleansing" political parties

■ No political party offers an explanation as to why candidates with pending criminal cases are selected as candidates

JUSTICE NARIMAN, on February 13, 2020

like rape and murder, encroaching into the country's political and electoral realms.

Detailed information

The published information on the criminal antecedents of a candidate should be detailed and include the nature of the offences, charges framed against him, the court concerned and the case number.

A political party should explain to the public through its published material how the "qualifications or achievements or merit" of a candidate, charged with a crime, impressed it enough to cast aside the smear of his criminal background.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

parties to submit compliance reports with the Election Commission of India within 72 hours or risk contempt of court action.

The judgment is applicable to parties both at the

Central and State levels. The judgment by the Bench, also comprising Justice S. Ravindra Bhat, signified the court's alarm at the unimpeded rise of criminals, often facing heinous charges

Cloud over trade talks as U.S. official puts off trip

Hopes fade for deal during President Trump's visit to India

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Robert Lighthizer has put off his trip to India this week, at least two official sources said, amid signs that the India-U.S. trade talks have hit a rough patch just ahead of President Donald Trump's visit.

According to the sources, who are aware of the negotiations, no reason has been given for the change of plans in the USTR's visit that was expected on Thursday, but that there is still a considerable chance that he would visit as part of Mr. Trump's entourage to finalise a trade package or a "mini-trade deal" with his counterpart, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, on



Robert Lighthizer

items that the two sides have been negotiating for more than two years now.

'Missed opportunity'

The two chief negotiators have been speaking on the phone quite regularly, the sources added.

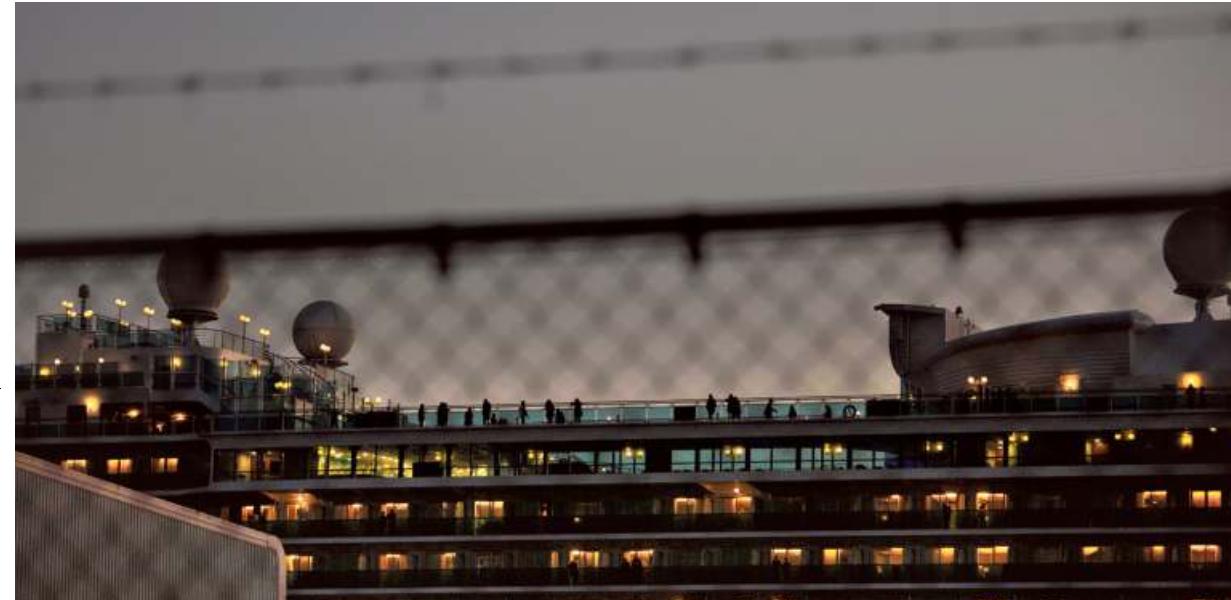
"If [President Trump and Prime Minister Narendra

Modi] fail to bring even a modest agreement forward, it will be a missed opportunity to make progress that can benefit both countries and strengthen economic ties," said Nisha Biswal, president of the U.S.-India Business Council at the U.S. Chambers of Commerce. She was speaking at an interview during a visit to India this week.

However, Ms. Biswal said she remained "optimistic" that a "limited trade deal" would be finalised as part of the visit. Mr. Trump and his wife Melania are travelling to Delhi and Ahmedabad on February 24 and 25, and are expected to visit Agra as well.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Stuck on a liner



Getting fresh air: Tourists quarantined on the cruise ship Diamond Princess due to fears over the spread of the new coronavirus are seen on the top deck on Thursday in Yokohama, near Tokyo. ■ AP (MORE REPORTS ON PAGES 9 & 14)

Coronavirus deaths spike in China

Toll soars as a record 242 die in one day in Hubei; Japan records first fatality

REUTERS

SHANGHAI/BEIJING

The Chinese province at the centre of the coronavirus outbreak reported a record rise in deaths and thousands more infections using a broader case definition on Thursday, while Japan became the third place outside mainland China to suffer a fatality.

Japan confirmed its first death – a woman in her 80s living in Kanagawa prefecture near Tokyo – adding to two previous fatalities in Hong Kong and the Philippines.

In Hubei province, in central China, officials said 242 people died on Wednesday, the biggest daily rise since



Laboratory technicians testing samples in Shenyang. ■ AFP

bal stocks rally. But it appeared in large part to be due to methodology.

New case definition

Hubei had previously only allowed infections to be confirmed by RNA tests, which can take days. RNA, or ribonucleic acid, carries genetic information allowing identification of viruses.

But it has also begun using computerised tomography (CT) scans, which give images of the lungs, the Hubei health commission said, to identify cases and isolate them faster.

As a result, 14,840 new cases were reported in the province on Thursday, from 2,015 new cases nationwide

a day earlier. But excluding cases confirmed using the new method, the number of new cases rose by only 1,508.

"It is our current understanding that the new case definition widens the net, and includes not only lab-confirmed cases but also clinically diagnosed cases based on symptoms and exposure," World Health Organization spokesman Tarik Jasarevic said.

The new method is only being used in Hubei. About 60,000 people have been infected in total, the vast majority of them in China.

NEW HUBEI CHIEF PLEDGES TO CONTAIN VIRUS ▶ PAGE 14

Slapping Sec. 144 during CAA protests 'illegal': HC

Court raps Bengaluru police chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court on Thursday declared as "illegal" the order passed by the Bengaluru City Police Commissioner imposing Section 144 of the Code of Civil Procedure (Cr.P.C.) from December 19 to 21, 2019, ahead of a series of pro- and anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) rallies.

The court held that the order did not stand judicial scrutiny in terms of the parameters laid down by the Supreme Court.

However, the Bench said that its order was confined only to the December 18, 2019, order passed by the District Magistrate and it had only examined the decision-making process while invoking Section 144, and had not examined the correctness of the decision.

The Bench also said the order should not be construed to mean that the State is helpless to invoke the prohibitory order if the situation so warrants.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

CRPF jawan's family yet to come to terms with loss

Lamba was killed in Pulwama attack; his family is organising blood donation camp on death anniversary

MOHAMMED IQBAL
GOVINDPURA BASRI

Oblivious of the tragedy that struck his family a year ago, toddler Dhruv approaches his father's large picture in the courtyard of his house and bows his head with folded hands and eyes closed. The one-year-old boy has learnt the ritual from his mother.

One year after the Pulwama attack, the family of slain CRPF jawan Rohitash Lamba is yet to come to terms with the loss. Lamba, 27, of Govindpura Basri village, was the youngest of the five CRPF personnel from Rajasthan



Rohitash Lamba's brother Jitendra and son Dhruv at his half-built memorial in Govindpura Basri village. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

who lost their lives in the suicide attack.

Lamba's wife Manju Devi and parents take care of Dhruv, who was born two months before his father's

death. Ms. Devi affirms that though she knows the challenges in her life, she would like to see her son following in the footsteps of his father.

"He was an ideal husband,

In our short married life of two years, we never fought over anything. He cooked food for me when he came home during my pregnancy," Ms. Devi said, with tears swelling in her eyes.

'Unfulfilled promise'

Though the Rajasthan government has allotted one bigha land in the village for building a memorial for Lamba and provided a package totalling ₹50 lakh to the family, the jawan's father, Babulal, expects better recognition for his son. The promise to name a public place, such as school or park, after the CRPF bus.

Statements may have cost BJP dearly: Shah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The BJP's performance in the Delhi Assembly elections may have suffered due to certain statements, said Union Home Minister Amit Shah at an event organised by a news channel on Thursday.

"Certain slogans should not have been raised. It is possible that our performance may have suffered because of this," he said.

Mr. Shah said the BJP has "accepted its defeat with humility".

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

Experts' meet to discuss restoration of Sun temple

Archaeologists, engineers to review safety of 800-year-old structure in Konark

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

A plan to restore and preserve the nearly 800-year-old Konark Sun temple in Odisha would be drawn up soon, after a two-day conference of experts at the end of the month, Union Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel said.

The 13th century temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, had been filled with sand and sealed by the British authorities in 1903 to stabilise the structure, an Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) official said. A scientific study was



An ASI official said the scaffolding at the Sun temple in Konark would be taken down by the end of the month. ■ AFP

scaffolding erected around the temple for the study, the official said, adding that it would be taken down by the

end of the month. Among the potential choices before the government would be to fill

in more sand or to remove all the sand and put in place alternate support for the structure, sources in the Ministry of Culture said.

Taking stock

Mr. Patel had visited the temple on January 24 to review the preservation plans, a Ministry statement had said.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, the Minister said the conference of experts, including archaeologists and engineers, would be held in Odisha on February 28 and 29 to take a call on the future restoration plan.

"A decision will be taken after the conference," Mr. Patel added.

11K trees to be cut for Jewar airport

Central nod comes with afforestation clause and green cess

JACOB KOSHY

NEW DELHI

An apex committee of the Union Environment Ministry has cleared the cutting of 11,182 trees for the proposed Jewar airport in Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh. The afforestation would cost ₹2.3 crore and be separate from the green cess.

Village development The cess would be spent in villages such as Rampur Bangar, Nilaouni, Dungarpur Rilkha, Chandpur and Achheja Buzurg. Funds would be spent here on construction of toilets and community water tank as part of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, construction of a health centre, organising health camps, refurbishing existing schools,

strengthening the technical training institute at Jewar, solid waste management and improving village roads as well as infrastructure.

A survey by

Air Quality of Delhi-NCR	
Delhi 243	Gurugram 154
Ghaziabad 254	Faridabad 154
Noida 226	Greater Noida 218
■ Good 0-50	■ Satisfactory 51-100
■ Poor 101-200	■ Very Poor 201-300
■ Severe 301-400	■ Moderate 400+ (Average of past 24 hours) [Source: CPCB]

HC seeks I-T Dept. stand on Bhandari's plea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday sought response of the Income Tax Department on a plea by arms dealer Sanjay Bhandari who has challenged the proceedings initiated against him, under the black money law, for attempted tax evasion and non-disclosure of foreign assets.

Justice Anu Malhotra issued notice to the tax department and sought its stand on Bhandari's plea by February 24. The court also directed the agency to place before it all records pertaining to the case.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal told the court that for proceedings for attempted tax evasion to be initiated, first there has to be an assessment. "But till date there has been no assessment," he told the court.

Use OTP to avert misuse of Aadhaar data: HC

'Keep in mind amicus suggestions'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday directed the Centre to "keep in mind" the suggestions like having OTP authentication, instead of using biometrics, given by a court-appointed amicus curiae to prevent misuse of Aadhaar information.

"You [Centre] keep in mind the suggestions given by the amicus," a Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar said.

The court also directed the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), which issues Aadhaar numbers, that in instances of misuse, it should take action in accordance with the law and facts of each case.

With the direction, the Bench disposed of a PIL initiated by the High Court on its own while hearing a criminal case wherein a mobile shop owner had misused Aadhaar details of unwary customers to issue fresh SIM cards for use in fraudulent activities.

The shop owner, during Aadhaar verification of a SIM, used to make the customer give his thumb impression twice by saying it was not properly obtained the first time; the second round of authentication was then used for issuing a fresh connection to some third party, the High Court had noted while initiating the PIL.

Subsequently, the High Court had appointed senior advocate Dayan Krishnan and advocate Rushab Aggarwal as amicus curiae (friends of the court) to assist it in the matter.

The amicus, during the hearing, suggested that UIDAI should consider having OTP authentication instead

Protesters unveil song for Modi, invite him to Shaheen Bagh

Demonstrators to pay respects to families of Pulwama attack martyrs today

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Inviting Prime Minister Narendra Modi to come to Shaheen Bagh and speak to the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act protesters, a song "Tum Kab Aaoge" was launched at the protest site on the eve of Valentine's Day.

"We are not going to celebrate Valentine's Day. This is just an invitation to the PM to come here on some excuse, if not other... To talk of love if nothing else," a speaker announced to the crowd.

While the song was meant to be released on Friday, it was advanced to Thursday since February 14 also marks one year of Pulwama attack. Protesters, on Friday, will pay respects to the families of soldiers who were killed in the attack.

On Thursday, there were back-to-back performances. A rock band played a song with the chorus of "Modi Tum Kab Aaoge", which was joined in by many in the audience. The song paid tribute to the protests against the CAA and the NRC as well.



With love: Shaheen Bagh protesters extend a heartfelt invitation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of Valentine's Day, on Thursday. ■ BIBEK CHETTRI

"Everyone has been sitting here for nearly two months now," said Karishma, an organiser speaking to the crowd. "The sound of this protest has reverberated not just in the city but in the entire country. People across the world are talking about it. Media has come. Elections have come and gone. But the person we want to come has not come here," she said. She prompted the crowd to answer "Should he come or should he not come to Shaheen

Bagh?" To this, scores of protesters present there cheered in the affirmative.

Gift for Modi

Following the performance, some old women who have been part of the protest unveiled a "gift" for the Prime Minister, a giant red stuffed teddy bear. Organisers said they would install the stuffed toy here for the Prime Minister to come and collect when he arrives to talk to the protesters.

Earlier, the protesters had

also organised a "Postcard to the PM" exercise wherein hundreds of people wrote postcards to Mr. Modi, highlighting their opposition to the CAA and inviting him to come to Shaheen Bagh.

Almost two months since protesters here started their demonstration, occupying a national highway and cutting off the road to traffic, a senior government official or leader is yet to meet them despite this being a demand they have been making since demonstrations started.

Plea seeks court-monitored CBI probe into college harassment case

Petitioner for preservation of CCTV footage from campus

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A plea moved before the Delhi High Court on Thursday has sought a court-monitored CBI probe into the alleged molestation of students during a cultural festival at the all-women Gargi College here last week.

Earlier during the day, the Supreme Court had refused to entertain the plea and told the petitioner, a lawyer, to move the HC instead.

Advocate M.L. Sharma, in his petition, has sought preservation of all video recordings and CCTV footage of the college campus. It has also sought arrest of the people



behind the "planned criminal conspiracy".

Ten people were arrested by the Delhi police on Wednesday in connection with the incident.

Over 11 police teams were looking at technical details and also visited various sites

in NCR in connection with identification of the suspects and investigation of the case, the police has said.

The police had registered a case on February 10 after it received a complaint from the college authorities.

A case was registered at Hauz Khas police station under IPC Sections 452 (house trespass after preparation for hurt, assault or wrongful restraint), 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) and 34 (acts done by persons in furtherance of common intention).

college premises by damaging a gate but they do not have any video or CCTV footage to establish that these persons were also involved in molestation," the officer added.

He added that around nine students have recorded their statements to police about the incident. The case is under investigation. They are approaching students to provide them any mobile video or any pictures that could lead them to the accused persons.

"We have CCTV footage where the arrested persons were seen barging into the

Harassment incident dampens festive mood at DU colleges

Women colleges work to strengthen security system

SREEMOYEE MUKHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Miranda House will possibly have a closed fest this time, Maitreyi College Union has requested for additional security from their administration and Lady Sri Ram College has allegedly deferred their annual fest altogether.

C The incident [Gargi College] has only strengthened our resolve to not hold the fest and organise separate society events instead

ISHAAN
Cultural secretary, LSR

Gargi College incident have been felt for a while.

Women students from these colleges spoke about how they usually avoided evening fests altogether unless they were surrounded by friends. A western music society member from LSR who has been performing in different fests said that girls chose to carry pepper sprays for the evening events.

Aparijita Saha, president of Mathematics department at Miranda House spoke about how each of the 400 participants for their fest were sent confirmation mails and that the organising committee decided to stop spot registrations.

Document scanners

They have set up document scanners for keeping a track of ID cards at the gates, and decided time-bound passes would only be issued half an hour before events.

Safety concerns that were brought to the fore after the

Singh, said that while they were getting active support from their administration for additional security, women students in DU have always faced such incidents, but people never spoke up. What happened at Gargi College has pushed colleges to strengthen their security system for their fests.

Former LSR students recalled how in 2016 when Kenny Sebastian had come for a performance, the crowd had become unruly and the administration had to intervene. Since then, fests have been more strictly regulated.

Deferment decision

The current cultural secretary of LSR, Ishaan said: "Students wanted to use art as a form of protest, but since any kind of opinion brings counter opinions and we really did not want the security issues to come up, we took a call to defer our annual cultural fest 'Tarang' before the Gargi incident happened. The incident has only strengthened our resolve to not hold the fest and organise separate society events instead."

10 arrested in Gargi College assault case released on bail

No CCTV footage to establish that they were involved: police officer

SURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

A day after the Delhi police booked 10 people for their alleged role in molestation of students during a cultural festival at Gargi College last week, all of them were released on bail by Saket court on Thursday, said a police officer.

A senior police officer said that the accused were booked under charges of trespassing only because they did not have evidence of these persons involved in molestation.

"We have CCTV footage where the arrested persons were seen barging into the

sons in connection with the alleged molestation of students at Gargi College.

The accused are students of various colleges in Delhi-NCR areas. They had gathered outside the college, vandalised a car and then broke in. They jumped over the barricades, outnumbered the college security staff and then misbehaved with the students.

The police suspected that the two identified persons, who seemed to be in the same age group, could also be from the colleges in Delhi and NCR areas, they said.

Packed like sardines



Students travelling to school on a rickshaw near Delhi Gate. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Panel formed to assess compensation by builder

Construction carried out in green area

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has constituted a committee to assess the enhanced compensation to be paid by a builder for carrying out construction in the green area of a Gurugram housing complex.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel constituted the panel comprising representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Central Pollution Control Board and the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal.

The Bench directed the panel to look into the aspect of whether the revised plan of the area which was enforced, "illegally deprived the applicants of their right to ecological services as per the original plan".

The panel was also asked to assess the liability of compensation on account of violation of law "prohibiting change of common area to the detriment of environment only to advance private profit".

Petitioners' contention

"Open areas in the colony are shrinking... The builder had undertaken construction on designed open spaces, blocking fresh air and sunlight

the tribunal was hearing a plea moved by a group of residents who alleged that the construction of a commercial tower was not a part of the original sanctioned plan.

The panel was also asked to assess the liability of compensation on account of violation of law "prohibiting change of common area to the detriment of environment only to advance private profit".

Interim compensation

Earlier, the Bench had imposed an interim compensation of over ₹68 lakh on Ambience Developers & Infrastructure Private Limited for carrying out construction in an area meant to be a green space in the Ambience Lagoon Apartments.

The orders came when

NGT calls for coercive steps against Ministry official

Bench directs Ministry of Defence to provide name of the official concerned

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Expressing displeasure over failure of an official from the Defence Ministry to appear before the National Green Tribunal (NGT), the green panel has said that "coercive measures" against the official concerned was necessary.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel had earlier summoned the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence to appear before the Bench

and furnish a report on a plea seeking scientific disposal of waste generated by weapons, hospitals and other establishments of the armed forces.

Unheeded court order

"The order [to be present] was duly conveyed by email but no response has been received nor has the Joint Secretary concerned cared to appear. In view of repeated failures, coercive measures have become necessary against the concerned

Joint secretary, including attachment of salary and issuance of warrant," the Bench observed.

Further, the Bench directed the Ministry of Defence to provide the name of the official concerned to the tribunal within two weeks.

Earlier, the green panel had directed the Ministry to file a status report on the plea after taking into account the relevant facts and status of compliance of environmental norms.

According to the plea filed by Anil Chopra, a retired Air Marshal, some of the establishments under the armed forces lacked the requisite knowledge on ecological issues and solution to the environmental challenges. The plea contended that the waste generated by military weapons, domestic, industrial, biological, hospital and electronic activities needed to be scientifically disposed in the interest of public health and environment.

The orders came when

DELHI TODAY

Talk: Chinese Life and Culture Through the Poetic Lens. A discussion on the Chinese poet, Tianxin's work Toiling for a Grain of Paddy. Translations in English and Hindi by Rita Malhotra and Sadhana Agrawal. Guest Speaker: Mr. Zhang Jianxin, Cultural Counsellor, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, New Delhi and the discussants are: Prof. Hemant Adlakha, Centre for Chinese and South-East Asian Studies, JNU; and Dr. Shreepana Roy, Head, Chinese Studies, Dept. of East Asian Studies, DU at Conference Room - 1, India International Centre (IIC), 6-10 India International Centre, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi.

Music: Alliance Française de Delhi presents Khushboo: An Evening of Indo-French Music and Dance performed by talented musicians and dancers from France and India. Participating artists include Mahua Shankar (Kathak dance), Gulabo Sapera (Sapera dance), Murad Ali Khan (sarangi), Titi Robin (compositions, bouzouki, guitar), Sheeb Hasan, Dino Banjara (percussion) and Aman Ali Khan (tabla) at M.L. Bhartia Auditorium, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi.

6.30 p.m.

Music: Disciples of tabla exponent Dr. Kumar Rishtosh will present Guru Tarpan (tabla ensemble) as a tribute to tabla maestro late Pt. Anokhe Lal Mishra of the Banaras Gharana. This will be followed by a violin recital by Pt. Santosh Nahat at Amritas Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Art for Concern", an exhibition of contemporary Indian art of works by both masters as well as upcoming artists at Open Palm Court Gallery, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Art of the Automobile", a solo show of paintings that honours automobiles as moving pieces of art by artist Vidita Singh at Bloomfield, First Floor, Bikarni House, Pandara Road, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Exhibition: "Trails of Materials", a group show of paintings and sculptures by Satish Sharma, Anju Kaushik and Rubikrat Vohra at Triveni Kal Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

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

Assembly to meet next week for lawmakers to take oath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI
The newly-constituted Delhi Assembly is likely to meet for two days next week for lawmakers to take oath, said sources on Thursday.

The Assembly is likely to meet on February 18 and 19, they said. One of the senior-most legislators will be sworn-in as pro-tem speaker to oversee the oath process, they said. The term of the previous Assembly will end on February 22. The seventh Legislative Assembly of Delhi was constituted on Wednesday.

Shadara MLA Ram Niwas Goel, Speaker in the sixth Legislative Assembly, is one of the senior-most lawmakers. On asking whether Mr. Goel will retain the post in the new Assembly, an Aam Aadmi Party functionary did not rule it out but said a decision has not been taken.

'No CMs, leaders from other States in Kejriwal's oath-taking ceremony'

AAP will invite President, PM and the political parties in Capital, says Gopal Rai

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party will not invite Chief Ministers or political leaders from other States for the oath-taking ceremony of party national convener Arvind Kejriwal along with his Cabinet on Sunday, said senior AAP leader Gopal Rai on Thursday.

However, AAP will send invitations to political parties in Delhi. "Invitations will also be sent to the Prime Minister and President as it is the official process," Mr. Rai told *The Hindu*.

He said the huge mandate was given by the people of Delhi and the idea is to give importance to them. Mr. Rai said the party had done the same in 2015. The party had swept the Delhi Assembly election by winning 62 out of the 70 seats. Party sources on Wednesday had said they will repeat the seven-member Ca-



Preparations under way at Ramlila Maidan on Thursday for the swearing-in ceremony of AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

binet. On Thursday, Mr. Kejriwal also held a review meeting on the eight seats the party lost and senior leaders and candidates of these seats were also present in the meeting. "During this, Mr. Kejriwal instructed all the leaders to keep in touch with the public in the seats where the party has lost. Their work and problems should also be resolved promptly. A closer relationship with the public should be established," an official statement said.

Mr. Kejriwal also urged party leaders to be in touch with people who are benefiting from different government schemes and also talk to them about work done by

AAP. A party insider said they will do a micro-level review of each booth to understand the results better. "We will look at booth-level data to understand which are our strong areas and in which areas we are lacking. This will help us to prepare better for the municipal election," the insider said.

CAA is a result of the Assam fiasco: Chidambaram

Former Finance Minister says a 'broad humane law on refugees' required

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act is a "direct result of the Assam fiasco", said former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram on Thursday while addressing a group of students at Jawaharlal Nehru University.

"Today we have a triple assault on India's sense of citizenship. That is why we say that all three must be opposed," he said.

Elucidating on how the CAA, National Register of Citizens (NRC) and National Population Register (NPR) are interlinked, in contrary to what the BJP government had said, Mr. Chidambaram said the CAA was brought about after over 19 lakh people were excluded in the NRC, which took place in Assam.

The initial identification exercise showed some 40 lakh people. Then after a review, it showed 19 lakh people which is also a humongous number. What made it difficult for them is that broadly 12 lakh were Hindus and 7 lakh Muslims. So what does the poor



Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram addressing students in JNU on Thursday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Hindutva-driven government do? Therefore they thought about the CAA. The only way to get out of the Assam fiasco was to make a law by which the Hindus will be allowed to stay and Muslims allowed or forced to go," he said.

While asking as to where the people excluded "were supposed to go", Mr. Chidambaram said instead a "broad humane law on refugees" was required. Stating that the BJP was "distorting" the Opposition's reservations against the CAA, the Rajya Sabha MP said: "We are not against those being included. We are opposed to the exclusion of equally placed categories. These are

all people who are being persecuted so include all of them. We are arguing for a larger law." "Do we have only three neighbours? What about Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal? When you only choose three you deliberately exclude the rest. Why should it be based on 'religious' persecution only when there are linguistic, political and racial persecutions as well? What about the other people who are treated worse than the minorities?" he asked.

Stating that opposition to CAA gave rise to the NPR, he said: "They say it's a benign idea to count people. But the census is there. But you will see the mischief when you see the draft questions. It asks where your parents were born. Why do you want to know that? The idea is to somehow take you back and somehow connect you to Bangladesh or Pakistan. Many people don't even have documents. In a country with status deprivation, poverty, natural calamities and internal movement how can you ask for evidence about where his parents or grandparents were born?"

On detention centres
Questioning the construction of detention centres, Mr. Chidambaram said, "Detention centres are an outrage against decency and humanity." While stating that the Congress party refrained from going to Shaheen Bagh to "avoid falling into the BJP's trap" of politicizing the protest, he said, "From Shaheen Bagh to Park Circus in Kolkata to a village in TN and millions who gathered in Hyderabad, we are confident that we can defeat the NPR politically and CAA legally."

all people who are being persecuted so include all of them. We are arguing for a larger law." "Do we have only three neighbours? What about Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal? When you only choose three you deliberately exclude the rest. Why should it be based on 'religious' persecution only when there are linguistic, political and racial persecutions as well? What about the other people who are treated worse than the minorities?" he asked.

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BJP's performance suffered due to statements: Shah

Home Minister accepts defeat, but defends party's stand on Shaheen Bagh protests

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The BJP's performance in the Delhi Assembly elections may have suffered due to certain statements, said Union Home Minister Amit Shah at an event organised by a news channel on Thursday.

"Certain slogans should not have been raised. It is possible that our performance may have suffered because of this," he told *Times Now*. Talking about Shaheen Bagh protests, he said: "We stick to our stand on the Shaheen Bagh protests. These are not democratic protests...if those protesting have the democratic right to say what they are, so do we."

Mr. Shah said the BJP "accepted its defeat with humility". Arguing that the party

We stick to our stand on the Shaheen Bagh protests. These are not democratic protests...if those protesting have the democratic right to say what they are, so do we.
AMIT SHAH, Union Home Minister

viewed elections as an opportunity to "widen its ideological base", the BJP did not contest elections "solely to win" them.

For some parties, elections may be an opportunity to form government or re-

place an incumbent government but for the BJP, which is an ideology-based party, victory or loss certainly have their respective meanings but these are not the reasons for which the BJP contests elections," he said.

To do next

"Since I entered national politics, I have hit the ground and contested them with all I have...this is not the first time we have lost an election...or...results have been the opposite of what was expected...I accept this defeat with all humility and we will ensure that we sit in opposition responsibly and ensure that the government functions properly," he added.

Elections were a combination of "several factors in-

AAP invites 'Chhota Kejriwal' to Sunday's swearing-in function

The one-year-old was unable to meet AAP chief on Tuesday

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party on Thursday invited one-year-old Avyaan Tomar, who had dressed up as party national convener Arvind Kejriwal, on the result day of the Delhi Assembly election, to the oath-taking ceremony on Sunday.

The Hindu had reported that Avyaan and his family left the party headquarters on Tuesday after failing to meet Mr. Kejriwal after hours of waiting. Avyaan was dubbed as "baby muffler man", "chhota Kejriwal" and "baby Kejriwal" after photos of him sporting a black muffler, an AAP topi, a moustache and a pair of spectacles went viral.

"Big Announcement: Baby Mufflerman is invited to the swearing in ceremony of @ArvindKejriwal on 16th Feb. Suit up Junior! [sic]" AAP tweeted along with a photo of Avyaan. Interestingly,



Avyaan at AAP headquarters on Tuesday.

■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

ly, the Tomars had dressed up their elder daughter as "little Kejriwal" when Mr. Kejriwal won the election in 2015.

Message on social media

"Today, they messaged my wife in social media whether we will be able to come for the event. Once we confirmed, they made the invitation public. We would have gone even without the invitation," Avyaan's father Rahul Tomar said.

When asked about the idea behind dressing up his children as Mr. Kejriwal, Mr. Tomar had said, "When they understand that their parents have a role model, then they will also be interested in it from an early age."

On Tuesday, the Tomars left their house in Mayur Vihar around 5 a.m. for the Chief Minister's residence in Civil Lines. From there, they reached the party headquarters at ITO at 10 a.m. and stayed till around 5 p.m. Avyaan was the centre of attraction at the headquarters, with many queuing up to click selfies. However, by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Avyaan got tired and started crying. "The guards had told us that 'Sir [CM] wants to meet him' and we were waiting for it. My son is very tired now," his mother had said. By 4.50 p.m., after failed attempts to meet Mr. Kejriwal, the family left the party office.

'BJP lost State election as contest became bipolar'

Nadda holds review meeting with Tiwari

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The BJP increased its vote share in the Delhi Assembly polls but lost out to AAP as the contest became bipolar, said party sources after a review of its performance on Thursday.

BJP chief J.P. Nadda held the review meeting with the party's Delhi unit head Manoj Tiwari and general-secretary (organisation) B.L. Santosh.

The ruling AAP won 62 of the 70 Assembly seats while the BJP bagged the remaining eight seats. The Congress failed to win a single seat.

The meeting that lasted for over two hours, was attended by almost all BJP general secretaries.

strength and reached voters across the Capital, said sources. "In future, the party should prepare itself for bipolar contest in the Capital," a source said.

Vote share

"It was felt that though the BJP's vote share, along with that of its allies, increased by 8% but the contest became bipolar which cost the BJP," the source added. For further analysing the elections, a number of meetings will be held at the party's Delhi office on Friday, the sources said.

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"Certain slogans should not have been raised. It is possible that our performance may have suffered because of this," he told *Times Now*. Talking about Shaheen Bagh protests, he said: "We stick to our stand on the Shaheen Bagh protests. These are not democratic protests...if those protesting have the democratic right to say what they are, so do we."

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viewed elections as an opportunity to "widen its ideological base", the BJP did not contest elections "solely to win" them.

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place an incumbent government but for the BJP, which is an ideology-based party, victory or loss certainly have their respective meanings but these are not the reasons for which the BJP contests elections," he said.

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"Since I entered national politics, I have hit the ground and contested them with all I have...this is not the first time we have lost an election...or...results have been the opposite of what was expected...I accept this defeat with all humility and we will ensure that we sit in opposition responsibly and ensure that the government functions properly," he added.

Elections were a combination of "several factors in-

cluding ideology", Mr. Shah said, adding that the results of the Delhi Assembly polls did not mean that the BJP's "ideology had been rejected".

"It would be erroneous to say that the election results seek to convey that the BJP's ideology has been rejected...by that logic [AAP national convener] Kejriwal came third in the Lok Sabha elections – does that mean the people had rejected him? And if that was the case what explains the Delhi results?" he asked.

"...since the party was formed in 1950, we sat in opposition till 1977 but never abandoned the party's ideology...we demanded that Article 370 be removed then and we believe the same now," Mr. Shah added.

India will become developed nation with this 'positive politics'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia on Thursday called for a "time-bound" campaign by the States and the Centre to improve the quality of learning in government schools to make India a developed country, saying this is "positive politics".

Governments shutting down schools are obstacles in the path of developing

the nation, he added. His remarks came in response to a tweet by his party's Rajasthan unit claiming government schools in the Congress-ruled State will be developed on the lines of those in Delhi.

"This is positive politics. All the States and the Centre should run together a time-bound campaign on facilities and quality of learning in government schools. Only India

will become a developed nation..." he tweeted.

To take oath on Sunday
Mr. Sisodia, who was in charge of the Education Department and the Deputy Chief Minister in the previous AAP government in Delhi, will take oath along with Chief Minister-elect Arvind Kejriwal and other members of his Cabinet in a ceremony at Ramlila Maidan on February 15.

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IN BRIEF

Major fire breaks out in Mundka factory

NEW DELHI A major fire broke out at a factory in outer Delhi's Mundka area on Thursday, officials said. A total of 30 fire tenders were rushed to the spot after the police received a call about the blaze at 10.37 a.m. at an auto parts manufacturing unit. No casualty has been reported so far, a senior fire official said. "It was a two-storey building. It was a major fire. We managed to bring the fire under control by 8 p.m.," said a Delhi Fire Service officer. Further details were awaited, he further said.

Jeweller shot at inside shop during robbery in Noida

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Three armed men barged into a jewellery shop in the city on Thursday and decamped with valuables after shooting at the shop owner, the police said.

The incident took place around 12.45 p.m. The accused had come to the shop in Sector 12 on two motorcycles, they said.

A purported CCTV footage showed the three men wearing helmets leaving the shop after the crime.

Three bullets were fired in the air and two bullets were fired at victim Naresh Pawar, a police officer said.

DCP (Noida) Sankalp Sharma said the jeweller is currently stable.

We are yet to ascertain the exact amount of jewelry and cash that have been looted. The culprits will soon be identified and arrested. An investigation is under way, Mr. Sharma said.

Meanwhile, following the robbery, some city traders and jewellers briefly staged a sit-in demanding better policing in Noida and the Sector 12 market was shut for some time.

Relative arrested for killing five of family in Bhajanpura

Police say the accused committed the murders over a monetary dispute

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A day after five members of a family, including three children, were found murdered at their house in north-east Delhi's Bhajanpura, the Delhi police on Thursday arrested a relative for allegedly committing the murders over a "monetary dispute".

On Wednesday, decomposed bodies of e-rickshaw driver Shambhu Chaudhary (43), his wife Sunita (37) and their children Shivam (17), Sachin (14) and Komal (12) were found at their rented house in Bhajanpura.

Joint CP (Eastern Range) Alok Kumar said that the accused has been identified as Prabhu Nath (26), who is a relative of the family and lives in the same area.

According to the police, they inquired about the three children in their schools and it was revealed that they had been absent since February 3. The call details of Shambhu were analysed and it was found that his mobile phone was active till February 3 evening.

The CCTV footage of the day were checked and in one of the cameras, the accused was caught entering the house of the deceased around 3.30 p.m., the police



Accused Prabhu Nath in police custody. ■ PTI

said. Thereafter, he was apprehended and during interrogation, he confessed to have committed the crime.

Victim lent money

"Nath said he works at a coaching institute in Laxmi Nagar and also works as an agent for some money lender. He had borrowed ₹30,000 from Shambhu and had lent out the same in the market for earn some interest on the amount," Deputy Commissioner of Police (North East) Ved Prakash Surya said.

On the day of the incident, Nath had called Shambhu at 3.36 p.m. and asked him to come to Laxmi Nagar. When Shambhu went to Laxmi Nagar, the accused went to his house

where Sunita was alone. An altercation ensued between the two over returning the money, Mr. Surya said.

Furious, the accused throttled Sunita and hit her on the head with an iron rod. Thereafter, when Komal returned home from tuition, the accused killed her in the same manner. Nath killed Shivam and Sachin in the evening after they returned from school, the DCP added.

He committed the four murders in four hours, the police said. Nath then locked the house from outside and went to meet Shambhu. Both of them consumed liquor somewhere in Bhajanpura and later returned to Shambhu's house where Nath attacked him on his head with the

same iron rod, Mr. Surya said.

Nath then left the house after locking it from outside. The key of the house has been recovered from his possession, the police said, adding that the investigation is still on and they are yet to recover the weapon of offence.

A police officer said that during investigation, it was revealed that the accused used to visit Shambhu's house in his absence. He was staying in the same area even after committing the crime, the officer added.

The five bodies were found in a locked house in gali number 10 in Bhajanpura on Wednesday after the police were informed by neighbours about a "foul smell" emanating from the house.

"The police reached the spot and broke open the door of the house and found the five bodies in badly decomposed state," Mr. Surya said.

The bodies were shifted to GTB Hospital and a case under Section 302 (murder) of the IPC was registered at Bhajanpura police station. The bodies were putrefied and it seemed that the murder had been committed around a week ago, the DCP said.

Bookie sent to 12-day custody in 2000 match-fixing case

Sanjeev Chawla has been extradited to India after 20 years

SAURABH TRIVEDI

NEW DELHI

Delhi's Patiala House Courts on Thursday sent Sanjeev Chawla, who was allegedly involved in cricket match-fixing, to 12-day police custody.

Ram Gopal Naik, DCP (Crime Branch), said that Mr. Chawla has been extradited to India after 20 years. He was wanted in an infamous match-fixing case of 2000.

"Mr. Chawla has joined the investigation for the first time. There are many questions in the investigation that need to be answered by him. He will be taken to the locations – basically five star hotels in India – where he held a meeting with his gang members to fix a match," said Mr. Naik.

A police officer said that they may ask former Indian



Sanjeev Chawla coming out of the Patiala House Courts in New Delhi on Thursday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

India-South Africa cricket test series to be played during February-March, 2000, in connivance with the Captain of the South Africa cricket team, Hansie Cronje. A case was registered and an investigation taken up by the Crime Branch.

Accused Rajesh Kalra, Krishan Kumar and Sunil Dara were arrested. Accused Mr. Chawla, Mammooh Khattar and Hansie Cronje were also actively involved in the case, but they left India.

Mr. Chawla had been absconding and hiding in the UK since then. Mr. Khattar had left for the USA. Hansie Cronje expired in June 2002.

A chargesheet was filed in the Patiala House Court in 2013. The case has been pending trial in the Patiala House Courts.

players and BCCI officials to join the investigation, if needed. Mr. Chawla's extradition will help them identify more people involved in the match-fixing ring.

In 1999, Anti-Extortion Cell of the Crime Branch was investigating an extortion case. During investigation, it was revealed that some people were planning to fix the

CRPF refuses to share 2019 Pulwama attack inquiry report

Force says it is outside the Right to Information ambit

ASHOK KUMAR

GURUGRAM

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Director General has refused to reply to an RTI query seeking the photocopy of the inquiry report into the Pulwama terror attack on February 14 last year in which around 40 paramilitary personnel were killed and details of alleged connivance, if any, of the officials, saying that the force could only provide information regarding the violation of the human rights and the corruption cases.

Panipat-based RTI activist P.P. Kapoor, had in two separate RTI applications dated January 9 and 10, sought the photocopy of the inquiry report into the attack, the details of the CRPF officials found guilty of dereliction of duty or anomalies and the

ranks and names of those punished. Besides the ranks and the names of the CRPF personnel killed in the attack, Mr. Kapoor also demanded to know the details of the financial assistance and other facilities provided to the families of the deceased. He also asked whether the CRPF officials killed and details of alleged connivance, if any, of the officials, saying that the force could only provide information regarding the violation of the human rights and the corruption cases.

However, the CRPF DG, the Central Public Information Officer, refused to reply to any of the queries citing Para 24 (1) of Chapter 6 of the Right to Information Act, 2005, which he said exempted the force from providing any information except the matters concerning the human rights violations and

corruption. Mr. Kapoor has now made an appeal to the First Appellate Authority in this case against the denial of information. He has argued that the death of the CRPF personnel amounted to the violation of their human rights and the fact that explosives in large quantities reached Pulwama showed that it involved high-level corruption. Mr. Kapoor demanded that the said information be immediately made public free-of-cost in the larger public interest.

"The attack rocked the conscience of the masses and was an important election issue. It is surprising that the information about the attack is not being made public. Every Indian has the right to know the facts of the case," he said.

Case filed against one for molesting woman in metro

The woman shared details of incident on Twitter and posted his picture

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi police have registered a case after a woman was allegedly molested inside a metro train on Wednesday night.

The woman shared the details of the incident on Twitter. In a series of tweets, she alleged that a man flashed his private

parts to her inside a metro train coach.

"I was sitting on the 2-seater at the end of 7th coach returning to Gurugram on yellowline, & this man was standing facing me for quite sometime. I don't know when he turned to bring his right profile to face me. I just saw his penis outside of his

pant directed at me," the woman said in her tweet.

The woman also posted a photo of the man who was standing near the door.

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation officials replied to the woman's tweet and said that they were looking into the matter and advised that passengers must im-

mediately report such cases to the DMRC or on the CISF helpline or contact metro staff.

On Thursday, the police said that a case was registered on the complaint of the woman under IPC Sections 509, 354 A and 294.

The matter is being investigated, the police also said.

Monkeying around



A motorcyclist offering bananas to a group of monkeys on a sunny winter morning in New Delhi. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Woman found dead at home, man's body found in farmland

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NOIDA

A woman was found dead at her rented accommodation in Noida, while a man's body was recovered from a farmland in Greater Noida in separate incidents, the police said on Thursday.

The woman's body was found at Chaudhary village, under Sector 24 police station, Noida on Wednesday, they said.

In the second incident, a 35-year-old man was found dead in a farmland near Gulavali village under Knowledge Park police station area on Thursday morning.

The bodies have been sent for a post-mortem and investigation is under way.

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivani, Society for Mental Health: 011-4076 9002, (Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.)

FIR against 106 property owners in Gurugram

They have allegedly been breaking seals of unauthorised buildings over last 5 yrs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GURUGRAM

A first information report has been registered against 106 property owners for allegedly breaking the seals to unauthorised buildings over the past five years in Zone-II of the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG).

The case has been registered on charges of disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant and house trespass of the Indian Penal Code on February 11 after a complaint was received from the Executive Engineer of the MCG a week ago. The said properties are spread across Rajendra Park,

Roshan Pura, Mianwali Colony, Palam Vihar, Sai Kunj, Ganga Vihar, Ratan Vihar, New Palam Vihar, Sai Kunj and others.

'No action taken'

RTI activist Ramesh Yadav said that he had made complaints to the Police Commissioner in this regard on October 21 and had sought registration of an FIR against the 106 people with all relevant documents, but no action was taken.

The case has been registered on charges of disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant and house trespass of the Indian Penal Code on February 11 after a complaint was received from the Executive Engineer of the MCG a week ago. The said properties are spread across Rajendra Park,

called up Police Commissioner on February 6 seeking the registration of the case and informed the officer that they were going to file a case in the district courts in this connection. "When we said that we would move the court over the matter, the police finally swung into action and a case was registered," said Mr. Yadav.

He said that illegal construction and sale of flats was rampant in Gurugram and the MCG had sealed 106 buildings from 2015-19, initiating action against unauthorised construction all these years. Mr. Yadav said he would make an appeal to the Police Commissioner in this connection.

He lamented that an FIR has been registered now, but still no action was initiated against the "corrupt" officials who had turned a blind eye to the illegal construction. "But the building owners broke the seals and conti-

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1	Annual Surfacing on Bankhet Dhami & Kharai road under AMP 2020-21 (Rural Road) (SH- Providing and laying 30 mm thick bituminous concrete km. 0/0 to 6/00)	1404600/6200	25/02/2020	1729100	05/03/2020 up to 03:00 P.M.	Three Months	Class "D" & "C"
2	Annual Surfacing on Kuddi to Rohter road under AMP 2020-21 (PMGSY Road) (SH- Providing and laying 30 mm thick bituminous concrete km. 10/0 to 2/0)	1158240/00	25/02/2020	23170/00	05/03/2020 up to 03:00 P.M.	Two Months	Class "D" & "C"
3	Annual Surfacing on Chawali to Lahl road under AMP 2020-21 (Rural Road) (SH- Providing and laying 30 mm thick bituminous concrete km. 0/0 to 1/0)	24280/6400	25/02/2020	43930/00	05/03/2020 up to 03:00 P.M.	Two Months	Class "D" & "C"
4	Annual Surfacing on Chambi to Lahl road under AMP 2020-21 (Rural Road) (SH- Providing and laying 30 mm thick bituminous concrete km. 0/0 to 1/0)	1138114/00	25/02/2020	22770/00	05/03/2020 up to 03:00 P.M.	Two Months	Class "D" & "

Timings DELHI		
FRIDAY, FEB. 14	RISE 07:01 SET 18:10	
	RISE 23:47 SET 10:36	
SATURDAY, FEB. 15	RISE 07:00 SET 18:11	
	RISE 00:00 SET 11:16	
SUNDAY, FEB. 16	RISE 07:00 SET 18:12	
	RISE 00:50 SET 11:58	

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	28	12
Safdarjung	28	12
Palam	27	10

Delhi Palam Today
25°C Mist/shallow fog in the morning. A windy day with sunny sky.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
24°C A cool morning with shallow fog. A warm afternoon with moderate winds and sunny sky.

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Deoband administration asks residents to remove Tricolour

SDM admits to issuing oral instructions, locals ask for order in writing

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GHAZIABAD

The Deoband administration is making announcements in Muslim colonies advising residents to take down the national flag hoisted on rooftops.

"They want to see stones in the hands of the Muslim youth. When we hoist the national flag, they feel scared," said a local resident, requesting anonymity.

Many residents in the communally sensitive town, which is seeing a sit-in protest against the Anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act for the last 17 days, haven't removed the Tricolour after Republic Day.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate Rakesh Kumar admitted that he has asked the municipal corporation to make such announcements. "We



A view of the Deoband skyline. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

don't want people to remove the national flag but they should follow the flag code, which expects people to respect the flag and hoist it only from sunrise to sunset," he said.

When reminded that the Supreme Court had said citizens have a fundamental right to fly the national flag on their premises throughout the year provided they don't undermine the dignity

of the Tricolour, Mr. Kumar said it was not a "big" issue and that he had received "oral" complaints from some people that the Tricolour was not being respected.

No notices issued
He further said no notices had been issued and that the announcement was not community specific.

However, locals allege no

such announcement is made during the annual Kavad Yatra where the national flag is very casually used by some pilgrims.

This comes even after Union Minister Giriraj Singh described Deoband as a hub of terrorism during a recent visit to Saharanpur.

"I have asked the SDM to give us in writing or file an FIR against us for flying the national flag," said Mavia Ali, former MLA and Samajwadi Party leader.

"We are being told not to raise the national flag at the protest site in Idgah ground. The anti-CAA movement is a nationalist movement and the Tricolour is used in any such movement," said Mr. Ali. "Deoband played an important role in the freedom movement and we aspire to be wrapped in the national flag on our last journey."

cused them of misleading people on the issue of CAA and the proposed nationwide NRC, friends of those arrested, under the banner of Team Nagrik Satyagraha, accused the police of trying to "shrink and divert the objective" of the yatra.

"In [the] FIR they said our yatra is against CAA and NRC. This is an attempt of police and administration to divert the whole agenda of this journey. Our yatra is against every form of violence and hate which exists in society and to spread [the] idea of Gandhi," the group said in a statement.

No response
District Magistrate of Ghazipur and superintendent of Ghazipur jail did not respond to phone calls made to inquire about the hunger strike.

"We have been put in jail without a proper reason," they said in the letter accessed by this paper.
"This is not just a violation of our human rights but also it is putting us to serious mental torture," they said. "To oppose this and to avail our human and citizen rights, we will fast until we are free."

While the police have ac-

Sub-Divisional Magistrate court issued them notices for bail bonds of ₹2.5 lakh each, and two Gazetted persons per individual as guarantors.

The students, mostly associated with the Banaras Hindu University, along with the journalist and social activists, were leading a foot march from Chauri-Chaura near Gorakhpur to Rajghat in Delhi. On the ninth day of the march, after completing 250 km, the ten persons were arrested in Ghazipur under Sections 107/16/151 of the CrPC and sent to jail on Tuesday, said Team Nagrik Satyagraha, the organisers.

Those arrested were identified as Pradeepika Saraswat, who is a journalist, Manish Sharma, Sheshnarayan Ojha, Priyesh Kumar Pandey, Anant Shukla, Atul Yadav, Neeraj Rai, Raj Abhishek, Ravindra Kumar Ravi and Murali Kumar.

Stand against NPR unchanged: M.P. govt.

A notification enabling NPR update issued before CAA was passed still in force

SIDDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Law Minister P.C. Sharma on Thursday reiterated the Congress government's resolve against carrying out the National Population Register (NPR) update, even though the enumeration exercise in the State remains scheduled from May.

According to a State government notification dated December 9 and published in the gazette on December 13, a day after the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) received the President's assent to come into force, the update of the NPR will be undertaken along with houselisting exercise from May 1 to June 14, 2020, a plan still in play.

Yet, Mr. Sharma told *The Hindu*, "We've not issued any fresh notification relating to the update. The Congress government's stand against the CAA and the NPR remains unchanged."

On February 5, the State



CM Kamal Nath

Cabinet passed a resolution exhorting the Centre to abrogate the contentious law, and begin the NPR update only after withdrawing the plan to seek new information, in a bid to quell apprehensions.

Resolution against NPR
Earlier on January 11, the Congress Working Committee (CWC) had demanded the law be withdrawn, and the "process of NPR be stopped forthwith", a resolution later adopted by Assemblies of Congress-led Rajasthan, Punjab and Puducherry.

Madhya Pradesh Congress

media chief Shobha Oza said, "We stand by the Cabinet's decision, and further steps will be taken based on it. We have apprised Chief Minister Kamal Nath of the earlier notification." Meanwhile, officials of the Home Department refused to comment, stating it was a political matter.

Namit Yadav, Deputy Director, State Directorate of Census Operations, confirmed the dates for the houselisting exercise, along which the NPR update would be undertaken, were finalised after consultation with the State Home Department, which deploys staff for it.

As for the proposed new questions relating to the NPR, he said, "So far, we've not received any direction relating to any new set of questions to be asked during the update."

According to the notification, in pursuance of sub-rule (4) of Rule 3 of the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens

and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003, the State government declared that "the field work for updation of the Population Register and for house-to-house enumeration for collection of information relating to all persons who are usually residing within the jurisdiction of Local Registrar shall be undertaken from 1st May 2020 to 14th June 2020 in the State of Madhya Pradesh."

Review notification'
"In the light of the Central government's political agenda to change the plurality of citizenship in India, the State government should review its earlier notification and issue a fresh one saying that they'll either not implement the NPR or it should be restricted to the earlier questions," said Madhuri Krishnaswamy, of the Madhya Pradesh Democratic Rights Front, which mobilises the State's people against the law, the NPR, and the proposed NRC.

The SP was protesting against the "oppression" unleashed by the BJP government on women and other protesters demonstrating "peacefully," holding national flags, to save the Constitution and democracy, Mr. Chaudhary said.

Ram Govind Chaudhary, the SP's leader in the House, said the BJP had brought up the issues of CAA, NRC and NPR to "divert attention" from the questions of livelihood.

Anti-CAA protesters slapped with fines to move High Court

53 held guilty of damaging public property in Muzaffarnagar

ANUJ KUMAR

After a panel headed by the Additional District Magistrate held 53 guilty of damaging public property during an Anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act protest in Muzaffarnagar on December 20, 2019 on Wednesday, the lawyer representing 17 of them has decided to move the Allahabad High Court.

ADM (City) Amit Kumar has directed the revenue department to recover ₹23.41 lakh from the guilty.

"The administration is working towards instilling fear among the marginalised. Most of those held guilty are rickshaw-pullers and

daily wage earners. They cannot afford legal fees, how would they pay the fine? We will move the High Court," said advocate Manan Balyan.

He hopes to get a stay as the Allahabad High Court has granted ad-interim protection to a petitioner from Kanpur who was served recovery notice by the U.P. government to compensate the damage caused to public property.

"Such notices were issued across the State in an arbitrary and random manner," said advocate Ali Qambar Zaidi, who argued for Mohd. Faizan in the High Court.

Mr. Zaidi said in a pre-

vious judgment the Supreme Court had provided the power to compute damages and investigate liability for the destruction of public property to a serving/retd District Judge or a Claims Commissioner. "So, the Additional District Magistrate is not the competent authority," he said.

Notice to U.P. govt.
Moreover, he said, the apex court had issued notice to the U.P. government on January 31 in a writ petition which argued that the procedure being followed by it didn't conform to the guidelines which were enunciated in the decisions of the court.

Punjab Sports Minister Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi on Thursday said the State government will soon sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.K.-based Loughborough University to get latest sports facilities and techniques in a bid to create a world-class sports infrastructure in Punjab.

Mr. Sodhi, who is leading a delegation of the State government to Loughborough University, said in a statement that the University Vice-Chancellor Robert J. Allison and Associate Provost Elizabeth Peel have given their consent to provide technical support to the Bhupinder Singh Sports University.

MoU soon for sports infrastructure'
tirelessly to safeguard, preserve and protect India as a secular democracy. This is the legacy we inherited from the great Guru Sahib and seers. And this is the legacy we must leave for the coming generations," he said.

Embrace of love'

Mr. Badal said governments and political parties must work to bring Hindus and

Muslims as well as others in an embrace of love and understanding.

'Centre and States should preserve and protect India as a secular democracy'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH

Former Chief Minister and Shiromani Akali Dal leader Parkash Singh Badal on Thursday accused the ruling Congress government in Punjab of not fulfilling the promises made to farmers, youth and the poor during the 2017 Assembly election campaign.

"Chief Minister Amarinder Singh should either fulfil the promises or quit," said Mr. Badal, addressing a party



Former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal

protest rally against the State government at Raja Sansi in Amritsar.

The former Chief Minister

also expressed concern over the social and political climate in the country.

Mr. Badal said those in power at the Centre and States should ensure that the country was run strictly in accordance with secular democratic ethos as enshrined in the Constitution.

"Any deviation from the sacred principles of secularism can only weaken our country. Those in power at the State as well as others must work with unity and

Arrested students, scribe go on hunger strike in U.P. jail

They were on a foot march from Chauri-Chaura to Delhi

OMAR RASHID

LUCKNOW

A group of ten students and activists, including a female journalist, who were arrested under the banner of Team Nagrik Satyagraha, accused the police of trying to "shrink and divert the objective" of the yatra.

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'Centre and States should preserve and protect India as a secular democracy'

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Aishe denied permission to enter CU campus

STAFF REPORTER

KOLKATA

Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) president Aishe Ghosh was denied permission by Calcutta University authorities to enter the campus on Thursday to address a seminar on autonomy of universities.

Later, she stood on a chair, in front of the university gate, to address a few



JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh outside CU on Thursday. • PTI

understand which side we are taking," she said.

Brutal attack

Arguing that universities were free spaces to share ideas and that the Constitution was under "brutal attack", Ms. Ghosh said that Hindutva forces were "branding all those speaking against their diabolical game plan as anti-nationals".

"They are carrying out at-

tacks on campuses. They are attacking girls. We must stand united against them," she said.

Later, she led a rally alongside Left Front chairperson Biman Bose and CPI (M) State secretary Surjya Kanta Mishra. The CPI(M) has planned to organise many programmes in the State during Ms. Ghosh's week-long stay, which commenced on Wednesday.

hundred students.
In the fight against the BJP and the RSS, we have to

Assam's move to shut madrasas, Sanskrit tuls draws criticism

Hindu, Muslim organisations reject decision, ask govt. to focus on regular schools

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

The Assam government's decision to shut down all State-run madrasas (Muslim theological schools) and tuls (ashrams teaching Sanskrit and religious scriptures) and convert them into high schools and higher secondary schools has come in for sharp criticism.

State Education and Fi-

nance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had on Wednesday said that madrasas and tuls run or funded by the government would be restructured as regular schools within five months. This was because

"it's not a secular government's job to provide religious education". He, however, made it clear that the decision would not affect the madrasas and the tuls run by

Assam Education Minister
Himanta Biswa Sarma

individuals or NGOs. He also said teachers handling scriptures and other religious education in these institutions would continue to be employed till retirement but not teach the subjects.

The decision has not gone down well with the minority and Hindu organisations.

"The BJP-run government is trying to show its secular face by washing its hands off

Sanskrit tuls along with madrasas. Leave apart madrasas, we are not in favour of such treatment towards Sanskrit, the mother of most languages on earth," said Anuvin Islam, general secretary of All India United Democratic Front. Mr. Islam said the government should rather think about regular schools that are dying because of lack of students and filling up of the 47,000 vacant posts of teachers across the State.

Against Constitution'

The All Assam Minority Students' Union said Mr. Sarma's move was in keeping with the agenda of "harassing Muslims and denying them basic rights" guaranteed by the Constitution.

"Madrasas don't only teach Islamic scriptures and Arab-

ic, they also teach subjects like any regular school," it said in a statement.

A group of satradhikars (monastic heads) on Majuli have criticised the decision too. Majuli has 32 saras or Vaishnav monasteries adhering to the teachings of the 15th century saint-reformer Srimanta Sankaradeva and 10 of these have Sanskrit tuls.

"Sanskrit is part of our culture. We cannot accept this decision," said Janardhan Deva Goswami, the satradhikar of the Dakhinpatra Satra in Majuli, which is also Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal's Assembly constituency.

The State Madrasa Education Board recognises 614 madrasas in Assam. The State has more than 900 Sanskrit tuls but only 97 are government-aided.

Centre-State tussle mars metro project opening

Mamata, TMC Ministers skip the event



A metro train at the inauguration of the phase-I of the East-West Metro, at Salt Lake on Thursday. • PTI

vitation card of the project.

Mr. Hakim said the project and other metro projects in the city were conceived by Ms. Banerjee herself. The invitation card, however, had the names of Barasat MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, MLA of Salt Lake and State Fire Minister Sujit Bose and Mayor of Biddu Nagar Municipal Corporation Krishna Bose who also did not turn up.

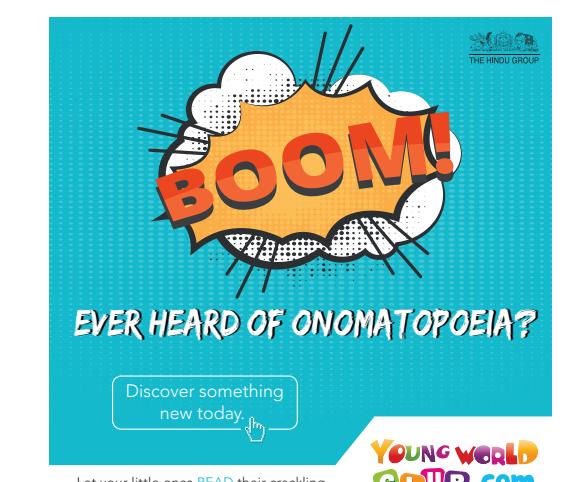
Former Odisha MLA held on murder charge

STAFF REPORTER

BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Pattnaik on Thursday removed former MLA Anup Sai from the post of chairman of Odisha State Warehousing Corporation after the Chhattisgarh police arrested him for his alleged involvement in the murder of a mother and daughter.

The bodies of the mother (32) and her daughter (14) were found in Raigad district of Chhattisgarh in 2016. It was alleged that the bodies were dumped there to muddle the investigation.



APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this person Named: Sunny, S/o: Kuldeep, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 23 Years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: White Shirt, Brown Colour Sweater and Blue Colour Jeans was found lying unconscious on Jai Singh Road, Footpath, New Delhi. He was admitted in Rajan Babu TB Hospital Kingsway

Camp on 04.02.2020. During the treatment doctors declared him dead on 09.02.2020.

In this regard a DD No. 10A, dated 10.02.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Connaught Place, New Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S. Connaught Place, New Delhi
DP/2222/NDD/2020 Ph.: 011-8750870525, 011-23364139

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EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), East Central Railway, Dhanbad invites e.tender under two packet system for execution of the following work. e.Tender No. C-733-ENQ-DHN-20.

- Name of the work with its location & completion period : Tender for manning of enquiry offices at 18 stations and handling of twitter cell & Rail Madad Portal in Commercial Control at Dhanbad over Dhanbad division for 1095 days (3 years).
- Reserve Price for three year (in ₹) : ₹5,28,14,096.50.
- Earnest Money : ₹4,14,100/-
- Date & Time for closing and opening of the tender : Date of closing of e-tender at 15.00 hours on 05.03.2020. Date of opening of e-tender from 15.30 hrs. on 05.03.2020. (Packet 'A' Technical bid) 5.
- Website particular : <http://www.irps.gov.in>. No manual tender will be accepted against e-tendering. Railway Administration reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.
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- Reserve Price for three year (in ₹) : ₹5

10 yrs on, German Bakery blast continues to haunt relatives of victims

Some survivors want government to help rehabilitate those who suffered physical disabilities, others feel betrayed as some suspects are yet to be arrested

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PUNE

Ten years after a blast at the German Bakery in Pune claimed 17 lives and left over 50 people injured, the wounds are yet to heal as the survivors and families of those killed have still not come to terms with the losses they suffered in the tragedy.

While some survivors want the government take steps to rehabilitate those who suffered physical disabilities after the blast, others feel the victims have not got justice as some perpetrators of the crime are yet to be arrested.

Some of the survivors, family members of the killed and injured, and locals gathered outside the bakery on Thursday to pay tributes to the blast victims on the 10th anniversary of the incident.

A powerful bomb exploded at the famous eatery, located in Koregaon Park area here, on February 13, 2010.

While nine people died on the spot, eight others succumbed to injuries later in hospital. Over 50 people were injured in the blast.

Foreign nationals from Italy, Sudan, Nepal and Iran were among those killed and injured in the incident.

Amit Tulsiani, whose younger brother Vikas died in the blast, visited the bakery along with his parents for the first time on Thursday and paid tributes to the victims.



School students pay tribute on Thursday to victims on the 10th anniversary of German Bakery blast at Koregaon Park in Pune. ■ JIGNESH MISTRY

"Vikas was a young engineering graduate and had gone to meet his friend at

German Bakery to discuss some courses. While he was sitting at a table and his

friend went to place an order, the bomb exploded," Mr. Tulsiani recalled. His

brother succumbed to his injuries eight days later, he said.

"All these years, me and my parents never visited the blast site, but this time we decided to come here and pay our tributes," said Mr. Tulsiani, who is a musician.

He said though the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) made a couple of arrests in the case, the victims are yet to get justice as some of the accused are still at large.

The ATS, while investigating the blast, had arrested Mirza Himayat Baig, who was awarded death sentence by a Pune court in 2013. However, the Bombay High Court set aside the death sentence in 2016 and

converted it to life imprisonment.

The ATS had also arrested Indian Mujahideen (IM) operative Yasin Bhatkal, who is currently in Tihar jail in other terror-related cases. The trial against him is still going on in a Pune court.

"Even after ten years of the incident, I am still not physically fit due to the injuries I sustained. This is affecting my ability to earn a livelihood," he said.

Shankar Kharose, co-owner of German Bakery, said a board with names of all the victims was placed outside the bakery where people paid floral tributes.

"School children, survivors and family members of the victims were among those who offered tributes today," he said.

MVA to replicate three-party formula in Aurangabad

Polls to municipal corporation due in April; currently Sena has the most corporators

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

The Maha Vikas Aghadi coalition of the Shiv Sena, the Nationalist Congress Party and the Congress is likely to jointly contest the crucial election to the Aurangabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) to be held in April.

Shiv Sena MLC and the party's Aurangabad district chief Ambadas Danve on Thursday said a preliminary meeting of the top district leaders of the three parties was held in which it was decided that the Sena, the Congress and the NCP would fight the 115-ward AMC poll together under the tentative banner of Sambhajinagar Maha Vikas Aghadi.

The AMC poll will be a litmus test for the three ideologically-opposed parties as it will be the first major election for them since their coming together to form the government in Maharashtra.

"Given that an MVA government is working well at the State level, we [Sena, Congress and the NCP] have decided to contest the AMC polls together. However, there was no discussion on seat-sharing as yet in today's



Shiv Sena MLC and Aurangabad district chief Ambadas Danve celebrates his election to the Council last year. The AMC poll will be a litmus test for the three parties in the ruling coalition in the State. ■ FILE PHOTO

meeting. It was only a preliminary round of discussions with the Congress and NCP leaders which was held in a spirit of bonhomie, especially as we had been contesting against each other for the past several years," Mr. Danve said.

The potentially thorny seat-sharing matter would be ironed out in subsequent discussions, he added.

While acknowledging that it would be tough to drop sitting corporators, Mr. Danve said that the candidates of each of the three parties would contest from those wards where their respective parties were the strongest.

While acknowledging that it would be tough to drop sitting corporators, Mr. Danve said that the candidates of each of the three parties would contest from those wards where their respective parties were the strongest.

The Sena, meanwhile, has dismissed the MNS with Mr. Danve saying it was a "negligible force" in the city.

Future training of marine engineers must be tailored to evolving technologies: President

Awards the President's Colour to INS Shivaji, the country's premier naval training institute

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

While maintaining core competence in their vocation as engineers, the training of marine engineers in the near future must be tailored to rapidly evolving technologies, President Ram Nath Kovind said on Thursday.

He was speaking after awarding the President's Colour to INS Shivaji, the country's premier naval training institute, at a ceremonial parade in Lonavala, 75 km from Pune city.

"Technology is leapfrogging to produce autonomous vessels. Artificial intelligence and machine learning are being deployed for decision-making and warfighting. The training of marine engineers will also need to be tailored to train them to work with evolving technologies, while maintaining competence in the core engineering profession," Mr. Kovind said.

'Greater vigilance'

The geopolitical situation in the world today and in the Indo-Pacific region, in particular, demanded greater vigilance, the President noted and asserted that the Indian Navy had adopted mission-based deployments in the Indian Ocean region.

"Hence, high quality training of marine engineers is crucial for sustained deployment and presence in our



President Ram Nath Kovind reviews ceremonial parade at INS Shivaji, Lonavala on Thursday. ■ JIGNESH MISTRY

armed forces," he stated.

Mr. Kovind lauded the energetic parade that preceded the awarding of the President's standards. He also praised the high standard of training being imparted at INS Shivaji.

"It's a proud moment for me to present the President's Colour to INS Shivaji. This establishment was first commissioned in 1945 as His Majesty's Indian Ship (HMIS) 'Shivaji'. Since then, it has dynamically evolved into a premier technical training institution of the Indian Navy with state-of-the-art training facilities," he said.

The President's Colour ranks high among the honours bestowed upon a military unit in recognition of the exceptional service rendered to the nation, in peace or war.

"The institution has kept pace with the rapidly changing technologies in all aspects of marine engineering. I am glad to note that more than two lakh officers and sailors of the marine engineering branch of the Navy, Coast Guard and friendly foreign countries have been trained in this fine institution till date," he said, addressing the parade.

Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh and Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari were present on the occasion.

Irrigation scam: HC says no to including CBI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NAGPUR

ets and the BJP in the Hindu-dominated wards, said sources.

The long-pending demand of renaming of Aurangabad to Sambhajinagar is likely to feature as an emotive issue in the contest.

The renaming affair has been a hobby horse of the Shiv Sena, with a proposal regarding the same mooted in the AMC as early as 1995.

Despite Uddhav Thackeray promising the name change in 2015, the Sena has not made any headway on the issue despite Mr. Thackeray now being CM.

This has prompted the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) to seize on the Sena's 'failure'.

MNS chief Raj Thackeray on Thursday reached Aurangabad to shore up his party's organisation.

Banners and posters hailing him as a *Hindutva naik* (defender of the Hindutva ideal) have mushroomed throughout Aurangabad city, along with strident calls to rename the city.

The Sena, meanwhile, has dismissed the MNS with Mr. Danve saying it was a "negligible force" in the city.

Friends, well-wishers bid adieu to Wendell Rodricks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PANAJI

Hundreds gathered on Thursday to bid adieu to renowned fashion designer Wendell Rodricks, who passed away at the age of 59, at his home in Colvale village in north Goa.

A prayer meet for Rodricks, who died on Wednesday evening, was held at the St Francis de Assisi church.

Leader of Opposition Digmbar Kamat was among the politicians who arrived to pay homage.

Bollywood actor Arshad Warsi also attended the funeral. "He was very dear friend of mine. I will miss him a lot. It is really sad.

When we went to Bhutan for the literature festival, that was the time when I really came to know him properly," the actor told reporters outside the church.

and gay rights activist.

Rodricks was working on his passion project Moda Goa Museum, which is dedicated to the history of Goan costumes, and had posted about it just three days ago.



Family friends and well-wishers at the last rites of fashion designer Wendell Rodricks at St. Francis of Assisi Church, in Colvale on Thursday. ■ ATISH POMBURFEKAR

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IN BRIEF



Sabarimala temple opens for five-day rituals

PATHANAMTHITTA
The Sabarimala Ayyappa temple opened on Thursday evening for the five-day rituals in the Malayalam month of Kumbham that begins on Friday. The holy hillock witnessed heavy rush. Head priest A.K. Sudheer Namboodiri opened the sanctum sanctorum in the presence of chief priest Kandararu Maheswaran Mohanararu and Travancore Devaswom Board officials. The temple will be closed on February 18 evening.

Minister's letterhead, signature forged'

VIJAYAWADA
Andhra Pradesh Minister for Women Development and Child Welfare T. Vanita on Thursday alleged that a person from Kadapa district had forged her official letterhead and signature to fraudulently obtain a favour from the district administration. Seeking a probe, Ms. Vanita said M. Reddeppa of Devalampeta had submitted the forged document to the Collector seeking 1.2 acres of government land in the village to establish a small-scale industry.

Kerala student recovers from coronavirus attack

ALAPPUZHA
A China-returned student who had tested positive for novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was discharged from the Government Medical College Hospital, Alappuzha, on Thursday. Authorities said the latest samples collected from him tested negative for the disease. He will, however, remain under observation at his house till February 26. As of Thursday, 2,397 are under surveillance in the State. Of them 2,375 are on house quarantine and 22 are in hospital isolation wards.

Travancore royal family upset with AG's submission in SC

'We never staked claim to the valuables in Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The royal family of erstwhile Travancore has taken strong exception to the submission by Attorney General K.K. Venugopal in the Supreme Court last Friday that it had committed a mistake by claiming ownership of the wealth of Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple here.

Referring to Mr. Venugopal's statement while representing Kerala during the hearing of the Sabarimala Thiruvabharanam case, a press note issued by the royal family said they had never staked claim to the valuables in Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple.

"It is unfortunate that he has made the statement. Right from the start when Sri Moolam Tirunal Rama Var-



The royal family reiterated that the valuables of Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple belong to the deity.

ma intervened as a member of the royal family in Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple treasure case, in written and many oral submissions of senior advocates, including Mr. Venugopal himself, the stand of the royal family has been made crystal clear that the wealth always belongs exclusively to the deity of the

temple," the press note said. The royal family's position on the issue had been accepted by the top court in 2011, the press note said.

During the hearing on the Thiruvabharanam case, the Supreme Court had asked the State's opinion on the measures to be taken to keep Lord Ayyappa's ornaments

safe and secure. Arguing for a detailed inventory of the ornaments, Mr. Venugopal had drawn the court's attention to how the 'lakhs of crores' worth of valuables at the Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple had been secured.

However, senior advocate R.K. Radhakrishnan, representing some members of the Pandalam royal family, had objected to the inventory as an "indirect" intrusion by the State on the private property of the royal family.

Reacting to this observation, Mr. Venugopal said this was the same mistake made by the Travancore royal family in the Padmanabhaswamy temple case. "They had claimed that all the valuables belonged to them and petitions were filed," he had said.

Shady deals worth ₹2,000 cr. detected, says I-T department

Several entities, including 3 infra groups in A.P., TS searched

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA

In its search and seizure operations in Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Pune, Kadapa, Visakhapatnam and Delhi on February 6, the Income-Tax Department detected the siphoning of more than ₹2,000 crore through transactions layered across multiple entities.

The turnover of those at the end of the chain were found to be less than ₹2 crore to avoid maintenance of books of accounts, tax audits etc., an official release said.

The release said the in-

frastructure companies subcontracted works to several non-existent/bogus entities. Such entities were either not found at their registered addresses or were found to be shell entities.

Several sub-contractors were controlled by the principal contractors; their I-T return filing and other compliances were done from the IP addresses of their main corporate offices.

Foreign direct investment receipts amounting to several crores related to a company were suspected to be a part of round-tripping.

Use LS voters' list for civic poll: Kerala HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Thursday directed the State Election Commission (SEC) to prepare the electoral rolls for the coming local body polls taking into account the voters' list prepared for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections as revised till February 7, 2020.

The Bench of Chief Justice S. Manikumar and Justice Shaji P. Chali issued the directive while quashing the State Election Commission order to revise the voters' list based on the list prepared for the 2015 local body elections.

IPS officer moves CAT against suspension

Seeks release of salary, other benefits

MARRI RAMU
HYDERABAD

Senior IPS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre A.B. Venkateswara Rao moved the Central Administrative Tribunal here on Thursday, challenging the suspension order issued by AP government on February 8.

Observing that his suspension was in violation of Rule 3 of the All India Service (Discipline and Appeal)-Rules of 1969, Mr. Rao requested the tribunal to set it aside. He submitted to the tribunal that the AP government had withheld his salary and other monetary benefits since May 31, 2019 and appealed to the tribunal to instruct the government to release the same.

While the suspension order violated the principles of natural justice, withhold-

ing salary and other monetary benefits was not only arbitrary but also deprivation of fundamental rights, the petitioner said.

Mr. Rao, who worked as the Chief of the AP Intelligence wing in the rank of Addl. DGP, was promoted as DGP on March 10, 2019 and posted as the A-CB DGP 10 days later.

On May 30, 2019, he was transferred and directed to report to the General Administration Department. Mr. Rao said complying with the order, he reported to GAD the next day. He said in the petition the government did not post him anywhere thereafter. Salary was also not paid. The transfer and withholding of salary coincided with the change of guard in the State government, the petitioner said.

While the suspension order violated the principles of natural justice, withhold-

Flower of the day



Scent of love: A seller arranging roses on the eve of Valentine's Day in Erode district, Tamil Nadu, on Thursday. ■ M. GOVARTHAN

Fire sweeps through high ranges of Kottayam

Extreme heat, dry wind render forest fringes vulnerable

STAFF REPORTER
KOTTAYAM

After a series of low-intense landslips that rocked the region during the monsoon, the vast swaths of forests, grasslands, and plantations in the high ranges of Kottayam have now been taken over by numerous wind-driven fires, giving locals and fire-fighting officials sleepless nights.

According to officials with the Fire and Rescue Services, the fast-moving flames, accompanied by extreme heat and spells of dry wind, have turned the forest fringes on the foothills of the Western Ghats incandescent.



Fire and Rescue Services personnel and the 16 fire tenders across the eight fire stations in Kottayam stretched to their limit.

300 acres destroyed
A fire that broke out at Moonnilavu two days ago has so far destroyed crops on over 300 acres.

This is in addition to the embers on the hilltops being reported from Myladumpara, near Pala, and the Vattapara forest area near Erumeli, among others. "The fires have left the for-

ests and plantations reduced to charred stumps in many locations. Despite concerted efforts involving our personnel and the public, the fire has found unexpected ways to persist," said Shinoy, district fire officer, Kottayam.

According to him, the inci-

'Time running out to reduce greenhouse gas emissions'

The 'Future of Earth, 2020' report enlists key global risks

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Five global risks that have the potential to impact and amplify one another in ways that may cascade to create global systemic crisis, have been listed by 'The Future of Earth, 2020,' which was released here on Thursday by the South Asia Future Earth Regional Office, Divecha Centre for Climate Change and the Indian Institute of Science.

However, senior advocate R.K. Radhakrishnan, representing some members of the Pandalam royal family, had objected to the inventory as an "indirect" intrusion by the State on the private property of the royal family.

Reacting to this observation, Mr. Venugopal said this was the same mistake made by the Travancore royal family in the Padmanabhaswamy temple case. "They had claimed that all the valuables belonged to them and petitions were filed," he had said.

Alarm bells

These risk factors have been identified in the 'Future of the Earth 2020' report jointly released by the South Asia Future Earth Regional Office, Divecha Centre for Climate Change and the Indian Institute of Science



they point out.

As many as 222 leading scientists from 52 countries conducted the survey by Future Earth, an international sustainability research network. The Bengaluru launch was among similar parallel ones across other parts of the world scheduled between February 13 and 21.

The report was prepared with the aim of reducing carbon footprint and halting global warming below 2 degree Celsius by 2050.

Interrelated factors

Offering examples of how the interrelation of risk factors play a role, scientists say extreme heat waves can accelerate global warming by releasing large amounts of stored carbon from affected ecosystems, and at the same time intensify water crises and/or food scarcity.

The loss of biodiversity also weakens the capacity of natural and agricultural systems to cope with climate extremes, increasing our vulnerability to food crises and/or impacts.

Humans have now "significantly altered" 75% of our planet's land area; about a quarter of species in assessed plant and animal groups are threatened, writes Cornelia Krug, Department of Geography, University of Zurich, Switzerland, in the chapter on biodiversity.

"This has inspired declarations of a climate crisis or climate emergency by the leaders of more than 700 cities, States and governments. Yet, during 2019, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere reached more than 415 ppm, and the five years from 2014 to 2018 were the warmest recorded

Abolish 'black' sedition law: Brinda

CPI(M) leader meets Bidar detainees

STAFF REPORTER
BIDAR

CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat and Janwadi Mahila Sangathan leader K. Neela, visited Bidar jail on Thursday and met two women jailed in connection with a school play that allegedly had remarks "insulting" Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Nazbunnisa, the single mother of a 11-year-old girl who allegedly delivered the dialogues, and Fareeda Begum, head teacher of Shaheen School where the play was staged, face sedition charges as do authorities of the school.

Speaking to reporters outside the jail, Ms. Karat termed Section 124A (Sedition) of the Indian Penal Code as a "black law" brought by the British to against Indian freedom



CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat leaving Bidar jail after meeting the detainees.

fighters and demanded its abolition.

"BJP leaders are abusing, using communal language and inciting people, but not even an FIR is filed. But, here a child saying some words in innocence in a play leads to the arrest of her mother and teacher. It is worse than what the British did," Ms. Karat said.

Going energy neutral, 13 SCR railway stations tap the sun

SPV panels on rooftops are integrated with solar plants

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

The South Central Railway (SCR) has become the first in Indian Railways to come up with the concept of 'Energy Neutral' stations, capable of meeting 100% energy requirements by tapping natural solar power through Solar Photo Voltaic (SPV) panels commissioned at the 13 station buildings.

The Fire and Rescue Services plans an awareness campaign in association with the administration. "The situation has been brought to the notice of the Kottayam District Collector. Directives will be issued on creation of fire lines and clearing of dry shrubs and leaves from plantations to manage flames," said A.R. Arun Kumar, divisional fire officer.



Solar panels installed at the Kadriyam railway station in East Godavari district.

Senior officials said a railway health unit service building at Parli Vaijnath under the Secunderabad division in Maharashtra is also in the same category. This eco-friendly concept is based on the principle of developing station buildings with total solar power tapping capabil-

ities commensurate to exact load requirements of those particular stations.

This is done by installation of SPV panels on the rooftops which are integrated with the on-grid (or) off-grid solar energy plants to

derive power supply to the entire station. The total capacity of solar panels installed at the 13 'energy neutral' stations is 99 kWp with the cost incurred, being around ₹50 lakh.

The anticipated energy generation from these stations comes to around 1.3 lakh units annually and it is expected that solar power will also lead to savings of ₹13 lakh each year. In addition, the generation of clean solar energy will help reduce carbon footprints to the tune of 1,170 tonnes per annum, they explained.

All the power needs of 13 stations like lighting, fans, pumps are met through the solar energy generated.

Coronavirus: Centre reviews preventive steps

Minister says there is enough medicine stock; infected student out of hospital

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

One of the three medical students, who had tested positive for novel coronavirus infection, has been discharged after recovery, said Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Thursday. He added that the other two have also shown significant reduction in "viral load".

"We are still waiting for confirmatory results before discharging them," he added.

The Minister said that on Thursday, a high-level Group of Ministers held its second meeting to review the current status for prevention efforts for the novel coronavirus, named COVID-19 by the World Health Organisation.

"A total of 2,51,447 per-

sons travelling in 2,315 flights have been screened so far. Also, 15,991 people across the country have been kept on community surveillance. Of them, 497 have been identified as symptomatic cases and isolated while 41 have been hospitalised," the Minister said. "The country is well-stocked [medicines, protection equipment] for the next two-three months," Mr. Vardhan said.

"Previously, India had evacuated 645 people, including seven Maldivians, from China's Wuhan city and quarantined them in two special camps ... A discharge protocol is in place," explained Health Secretary Preeti Sudan.

Meanwhile, an Indian was identified as a suspected



Growing fears: Tourists in New Delhi wearing masks amid fears over the coronavirus outbreak on Thursday. ■ PTI

case of coronavirus after he landed at Indira Gandhi International airport on a SpiceJet flight from Bangkok at 6.35 a.m. "The passenger was quarantined by the Airport Health Officer," said a SpiceJet spokesperson.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also praised the teams

of Air India that operated two flights on January 31 and February 1 to evacuate 640 Indians from Wuhan, the epicentre of the outbreak. "The Prime Minister has issued a letter of appreciation to the team members of the evacuation operations," said a press statement.

Crew on quarantined ship long to return home

SHIV SAHAY SINGH KOLKATA

"The situation is turning worse with every passing day. We want to return home as early as possible," Binay Kumar Sarkar, crew member on-board cruise ship *Diamond Princess*, which has been docking in Yokohama, Japan, over the past two weeks, told *The Hindu*. Among the 3,700 passengers on board, 175 people have been infected with the novel coronavirus, making it the biggest cluster of cases outside China.

Mr. Sarkar, who hails from north Bengal, said that crew members can only leave after the quarantine period ends on February 19.

Mr. Sarkar said that while there were reports of two Indian crew members testing positive for COVID-19 on Wednesday, there have been no new reports on Thursday.

"According to the information available to us, the two Indian crew members who tested positive have been quarantined and are being provided treatment," he said.

The fear of viral contamination is creating panic among those on board. On Wednesday evening more than 30 people had tested positive, said Mr. Sarkar. Another crew member, Swaroop Chopardar, also expressed similar concerns.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

Forecast for Friday: Strong winds (speed reaching 45–55 kmph) likely over south-west & west-central Arabian Sea. Fishermen are advised not to venture into these areas. Cold wave conditions likely in isolated places over Odisha.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.0	12.0	Kozhikode	—	34.0	25.0
Ahmedabad	—	33.0	16.0	Kurnool	—	33.0	20.0
Aizawl	—	20.0	8.0	Lucknow	—	26.0	12.0
Allahabad	—	27.0	11.0	Madurai	—	35.0	24.0
Bengaluru	—	30.0	19.0	Mangaluru	—	37.0	22.0
Bhopal	—	28.0	12.0	Mumbai	—	33.0	23.0
Bhubaneswar	—	31.0	14.0	Mysuru	—	30.0	19.0
Chandigarh	—	24.0	9.0	New Delhi	—	28.0	12.0
Chennai	—	31.0	23.0	Patna	—	25.0	12.0
Coimbatore	—	32.0	22.0	Port Blair	—	32.0	23.0
Dehradun	—	28.0	10.0	Puducherry	—	31.0	22.0
Gangtok	—	15.0	7.0	Pune	—	31.0	15.0
Goa	—	35.0	23.0	Raipur	—	29.0	14.0
Guwahati	—	28.0	12.0	Ranchi	—	27.0	12.0
Hubballi	—	32.0	19.0	Shillong	—	17.0	7.0
Hyderabad	—	31.0	18.0	Shimla	—	19.0	8.0
Imphal	—	24.0	7.0	Srinagar	—	8.0	3.0
Jaipur	—	29.0	13.0	Tiruvananthapuram	—	34.0	25.0
Kochi	—	33.0	25.0	Tiruchi	—	34.0	23.0
Kohima	—	18.0	8.0	Vijayawada	—	30.0	22.0
Kolkata	—	27.0	15.0	Visakhapatnam	—	29.0	21.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Yesterday

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	64	.57	17	.196	.180	■■■■■
Bengaluru	14	.24	62	.51	.72	■■■■■
Chennai	46	.41	49	.151	—	■■■■■
Delhi	.9	172	82	.304	.189	■■■■■
Hyderabad	.3	.74	35	.156	—	■■■■■
Kolkata	12	.80	24	.279	.220	■■■■■
Lucknow	.8	.56	46	.316	—	■■■■■
Mumbai	14	128	40	.125	.198	■■■■■
Pune	.74	.23	78	.108	.90	■■■■■
Visakhapatnam	.9	.67	54	.165	.147	■■■■■

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Muzaffarpur, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 324 indicating a severe level of pollution. In contrast, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 54.

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.

PM2.5 & 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

IN BRIEF

Shah calls for strict drug control measures

NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday that doctors, scientists and others should take up research to see that narcotic substances are not used in medicines. At a conference on combating drug trafficking, organised for BIMSTEC partner nations, Mr. Shah said India has adopted a zero tolerance policy towards narcotics.

Crude bomb 'attack' in Lucknow court complex

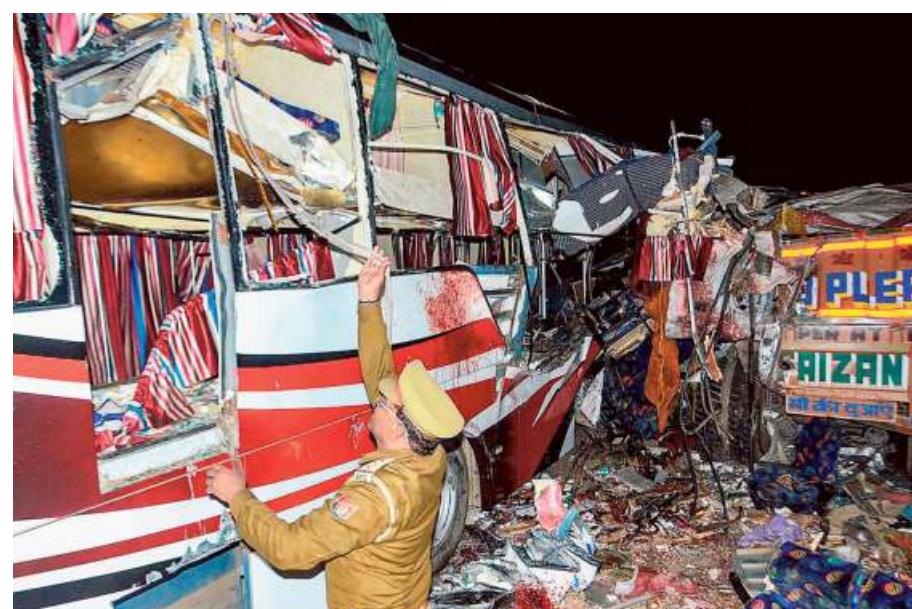
LUCKNOW

A crude bomb reportedly went off in a Lucknow court compound on Thursday, 'injuring' three lawyers. The police said the incident was triggered by a rivalry between two groups. Two live bombs were recovered, but nobody appeared to have seen or heard the blast, which a lawyer claimed took place outside his chamber, said the police. An inquiry has been launched. ■ PTI

Ten injured in railway ramp collapse in Bhopal

BHOPAL

Ten people were injured when part of a ramp collapsed at the Bhopal Railway Station on Thursday morning. While some sustained critical injuries, no deaths have been reported, said an official. The Railways has given a compensation of ₹5,000 each to the seven grievously injured, and ₹500 to others, said I.A. Siddiqui, Railways Public Relations Officer. The cause of the collapse is not known yet.



Highway tragedy: Police inspecting the bus which collided with a truck on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway in Firozabad on Thursday. At least 14 people were killed in the accident. ■ PTI

L&T to deliver first patrol boat to Vietnam

11 more vessels will be ready by 2021

DINAKAR PERI NEW DELHI

The first high-speed patrol boat being built for Vietnam under the \$100-million Line of Credit (LoC) will be delivered by September, said J.D. Patil, whole time director & senior executive vice-president defence & smart technologies, Larsen & Toubro. Hanoi is procuring 12 such boats under the LoC extended in September 2014.

"We should be delivering the first boat this September. Five boats will be built by L&T while the remaining

will be built in Vietnam. We are trying to finish the boats by mid-2021," said Mr. Patil.

In 2016, India had extended another \$500 million defence LoC to Vietnam and discussions are underway to identify the equipment. Defence Sources said Vietnam has expressed interest in Akash surface-to-air systems and Dhruv advanced light helicopters.

India has also extended a defence LoC to Bangladesh and part of that is also for naval vessels. "We expect something from that as well," said Mr. Patil.

Have filed an RTI request, says Vinay's lawyer

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday reserved its judgment on a plea by the Nirbhaya case convict, Vinay Sharma, against the rejection of his mercy petition.

Sharma's lawyer, A. P. Singh, argued that the rejection of the mercy plea amounted to a gross miscarriage of justice. The file sent to the President did not have the signatures of the Home

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Rajinder K. Pachauri, former Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), died on Thursday. He was 79.

Dr. Pachauri was the founder and chief executive of The Energy Resources Institute (TERI). In 2002, he was elected Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, established by the World Meteorological Organisation and the United Nations Environment Programme.

He received the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the IPCC, with former U.S. Vice President Al Gore, in 2007.

Dr. Pachauri had to step down as executive vice-chairman of TERI after he was accused of sexual harassment by a woman colleague in 2015.

Though he denied the allegations, the Delhi Police, in 2016, framed charges against him.

"Dr. Pachauri's contribution to global sustainable development is unparalleled," said chairman, TERI, Nitin Desai.

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A Delhi court appointed a lawyer to represent Pawan Gupta, one of the four convicts, as he refused to

take legal aid offered by the Delhi State Legal Services Authority.

Pleas seeking fresh death warrants against the convicts will be heard by the court on Monday.

hearing a challenge against the President's rejection is limited.

"You cannot argue here like how you are arguing a first appeal," he observed.

SC reserves judgment on plea by Nirbhaya case convict

SC reserves judgment on plea by Nirbhaya case convict

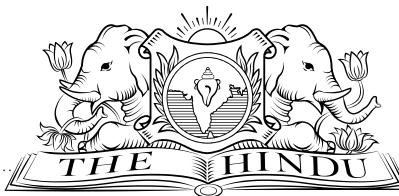
Delhi court appoints lawyer for convict

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

An Delhi court appointed a lawyer to represent Pawan Gupta, one of the four convicts, as he refused to

take legal aid offered by the Delhi State Legal Services Authority.

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Managing perceptions

What should worry India is the ground reality in Kashmir, not the views of other countries

The Centre's decision to take another group of envoys on a guided tour of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), and the stated hope of the Ministry of External Affairs that these tours will become a regular feature, point to a belief that these visits have been productive. Clearly, the government, which has been under considerable international pressure to lift restrictions in the former State, has managed to arrange these three visits without any incident. The delegations have been taken to meet with local groups, and shown a glimpse of 'normalcy' in the Kashmir Valley, with shops open, people out on the streets, and boating on the Dal Lake. After these tours, no envoy has come forward with any negative account, which indicates that at least for the moment, the government's narrative has prevailed. The visits have also smoothed other diplomatic exchanges. U.S. Ambassador Kenneth Juster's trip to J&K paved the way for President Donald Trump's upcoming visit, and the latest visit by European Ambassadors was timed just before Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar travels to Brussels to prepare for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's trip next month for the EU-India summit. However, the government must recognise that these gains in the immediate present are superficial in the absence of a change in the situation in Kashmir.

It would not have escaped anyone's attention that these tours are tightly controlled, and the people meeting the foreign guests in the confines of the Raj Bhavan are handpicked by the government. In fact, European delegates who accepted New Delhi's invitation on this trip had earlier opted out in order to request freer access and meetings with leaders in detention, but the government refused to relent. The chimera of 'normalcy' seems patently fragile: the visit had to be postponed by a day due to a bandh call in the Valley; and just a day after the visit, the Internet was snapped once again due to security concerns. It is also puzzling how the government, which has repeated often that J&K is an "internal affair", squares it up with this new policy of conducting tours for the international community. The truth is, managing India's image is important, but the government's primary responsibilities still lie within its borders – responsibilities to the people of J&K, who have yet to see a return to normalcy; to those detained in and outside J&K, including sitting Member of Parliament and octogenarian Farooq Abdullah, against whom little evidence of wrongdoing has been furnished; and to the people of India as a whole, who are yet to see a credible path to the peace and prosperity that was promised when the momentous decision on Article 370 was announced last August. It is their legitimate expectations, not those of the international community, that must be a priority for the government.

Terror and punishment

Pakistan must give up its strategy of using terrorism for geopolitical leverage

The Pakistani government, which for years tried to protect Hafiz Saeed, the alleged mastermind of the 2008 Mumbai attacks, finally got a conviction and a jail term for the cleric in two terror financing cases. The Jamaat-ud-Dawa chief and his close aide Malik Zafar Iqbal have been sentenced to five-and-a-half years by an anti-terrorism court, vindicating India's years-long position that Saeed had been using his organisations to finance terrorist activities. While the conviction is a welcome step, Pakistan has to do more if it wants the international community to take its self-declared resolve to fight terror seriously. This is because Pakistan's actions in the past against terrorist outfits have hardly been convincing. It started cracking down on Saeed's groups in 2018 only after it was threatened to be put on the "grey list" of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an inter-governmental body fighting money laundering and terror financing. The government endorsed the UN ban on these organisations in February 2018, just a few days ahead of an FATF meeting. Despite these actions, Pakistan was placed on the grey list.

Unsurprisingly, the conviction of Saeed and Iqbal comes a few days ahead of another crucial FATF meeting. In the 2019 October meeting, the organisation had warned Islamabad to take "extra measures" for the "complete" elimination of terror financing and money laundering. And if the FATF is not satisfied with Pakistan's actions, the country faces the risk of being downgraded to the "black list", which could bring tough sanctions on its financial system. So, Pakistan is evidently under international pressure. The question is whether its actions are half-hearted steps aimed at avoiding the wrath of the international community or part of a genuine drive against terror. One can't blame if India, Afghanistan or any other country doubts Pakistan's intentions, given that Islamabad had avoided taking action against Saeed and his groups for years. Saeed was put under house arrest several times, only to be released once the international attention turned away. The fundamental problem is Pakistan's policy of exporting terrorism to its neighbours for geopolitical leverage. Historically, Pakistan has adopted a dual policy towards terrorism – fight it at home but export it through proxies to its neighbours. Unless it changes this policy and joins the regional drive against terrorism, peace and stability would elude the region. This remains a critical issue in Indo-Pak ties as well. So, the international community shouldn't let up its pressure on Pakistan. Islamabad should be asked to take, not just legal action against terror financing, but also hard measures against terror groups and infrastructure.

Towards a new world order

Effective safety nets; free education and healthcare; and high taxes on the rich need to form part of the system



R.K. KRISHNA KUMAR

The World Economic Forum (WEF), held at Davos last month, has become a Mecca for all forms of new capitalism. It started in 1971 with the noble objective of improving the state of the world, but now serves as a platform for world leaders, billionaires, professionals at the top of the business pyramid, senior government ministerial delegations, and others, who gather to change the world. This is the 49th year of the congregation, which now resembles an ice circus. The messages from Davos drift like snowflakes, on the agendas of the developed world.

If you tear aside the screen that covers all the events at the conference, you could be staring at some of the world's most complex and intractable problems, with no end in sight. All the issues can be condensed into just one, relating to survival of the planet itself. Social inequalities and the grim problems of stark and continuing poverty are at the epicentre of the new world. The latest Oxfam Report presented at Davos points out that 2,153 billionaires have more wealth than 4.6 billion people. The emergence of billionaires and oligarchs in different parts of the world coincides with increased poverty among the already poor people, especially children. These realities make observers question the tenability of stakeholder capitalism as a concept.

The ugliest face of this capitalism was visible during the 2007-2008 economic crisis, first in the U.S. and thereafter across the Eu-

ropean Union. At that time, it appeared as if the global economy was on the verge of collapse.

One of the chief characteristics of economic development is the intensification of energy use. There is an unprecedented concentration of high energy density in all economic development strategies. The bulk of the energy continues to be generated from non-renewable sources. The developed world's, and China's, central objective is to capture energy-generating resources from across continents and put them to use to push GDP growth to greater heights. In the process, sustainability is becoming a casualty.

How do we define energy? In physics, energy is defined as 'work done' or, in other words, the force that moves all objects. It is important to understand the philosophical implications of one of the great laws of physics – the Laws of Thermodynamics.

The first law states that energy can neither be created nor destroyed, it merely changes form and is always conserved. The second law states that when 'work is done', only a part of the energy is consumed, the balance is lost. The lost part is called 'entropy' and it is proven that entropy always maximises. This whole phenomenon also leaves behind inert material as waste. The higher the use of energy, the larger the amount of waste generated. Entropy, like time, is always unidirectional, it only goes forward.

Excess consumption

Egregious consumption of energy by the developed world has been accompanied by the disposal of residual products ('e-waste') on the shores of many African and Asian countries. As a result, the poor in the developing world are, unwittingly, drawn and exposed to toxic, hazardous materials like lead,



cadmium and arsenic. Hence, the 'globalisation' phenomenon has turned out to be nothing other than exploitation of the developing world, with most countries being treated as a source of cheap labour and critical raw material.

Most, if not all, transactions are based on the arbitrage between price and value difference, from which only the 'middleman' gains, not the primary producer. Countries in the developed world, and China, are ferociously using up finite raw materials without care or concern for the welfare of present and future generations. Certainly, there has been significant technological progress which has brought about revolution in the fields of healthcare and communications, but there is also a dark side to this. High expenses and Intellectual Property Rights load the system further in favour of the rich. To demonstrate how the rot is, one can look at the pernicious plan to set up a carbon credit system. Under this, countries with high energy consumption trends can simply offset their consumption patterns by purchasing carbon credits, the unutilised carbon footprint, from poor developing countries.

To sum up, these are tough issues and solutions are not easily

available. We will, however, do well to probe and understand the 'Nordic Economic Model', which pertains to the remarkable achievements of the Scandinavian countries comprising Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden, Norway, and allied territories. The total population of the Nordic countries is estimated at almost 27 million people. These nations are among the richest in the world when measured in terms of GDP per capita. They also have large public sector enterprises; extensive and generous universal welfare systems; high levels of taxation; and considerable state involvement in promoting and upholding welfare states. UN reports also indicate that the Nordic countries are the happiest countries in the world. The U.S., in contrast, is in 19th place.

Taking the Nordic model as a template, there are some ingredients that could be part of a new 'enlightened global order'. These should include – effective welfare safety nets for all; corruption-free governance; a fundamental right to tuition-free education, including higher education; and a fundamental right to good medical care. This also has to involve shutting off tax havens. In Nordic countries, personal and corporate income

tax rates are very high, especially on the very rich. If a just, new world order is to arise, taxes everywhere should go up.

Holding companies responsible

When it comes to the corporate sector, there are some new perspectives. In traditional business accounting, 'bottom line' refers to the financial year's profit or loss earned or incurred by the company on pure financial parameters. However, following vigorous debates, a new format has emerged under which a company's performance is measured through four 'Ps'. The first is 'P' for 'profit'. The second 'P' is for people – how the company's actions impact not only employees, but society as a whole. The third 'P' is for planet – are the company's actions and plans sensitive to the environment? The fourth 'P' is for purpose, which means the companies and individuals must develop a larger purpose than 'business as usual'. They must ask: what is the larger purpose of the company, apart from generating profits? Using big data and text analytics, a company's performance can be measured in terms of all the four 'P's and a corporate entity can be thus held accountable. Market capitalisation need not be the only way to measure the value of a company.

I recognise that much work is yet to be done to uplift the global economic order, but the important point is that new tools are now emerging. What is required is a global consensus and the will to make the planet more sustainable, so that all individuals can live with justice and equality, ensuring that not a single child is hungry or seriously unwell because of poverty or lack of affordable medical help.

R.K. Krishna Kumar is a trustee at Tata Trusts

Heralding a politics of change

The Delhi verdict was reflective of the city's, in particular the youths', resistance to the BJP's divisive, hate-filled approach



HARBANS MUKHIA

As we get used to the spectacular victory of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the Delhi election, it is important to also take note of the characterisation of the win by its leaders as an endorsement of what they term as their 'politics of change'. They insist that this model of policymaking has marked a shift from the politics of vacuous promises to one of work on the ground. However, even as one grants the AAP leaders this boast, it is equally important to note that the change in politics began a little earlier and for a different set of reasons. But let us first have a look at the salient meaning of the Delhi poll.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal realised early that his strong electoral plank was his government's accomplishments in the area of social welfare – provision of affordable education, healthcare, water and electricity – and that his party's chief rival, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), had nothing to offer on this front. The BJP, he understood, would thus seek to draw him into an agenda which has given it several victories: a pro-

gramme featuring communal hatred masquerading as nationalism. The passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the project of National Register of Citizens/National Population Register set the background for the BJP's characteristically aggressive campaign. The protests against these, symbolised by Shaheen Bagh, gave it further context. Mr. Kejriwal wisely chose to fight the election on his own, rather than on the BJP's, terms.

Support across sections

It is remarkable that the AAP received support from affluent colonies like Greater Kailash, Vasant Vihar, as well as colonies of the underprivileged, like Govind Puri and Seelampur; the party gained approval of both the highly educated voters in New Delhi and South Delhi and the supposedly illiterate villagers. Clearly, voters in the richer areas did not choose Mr. Kejriwal for giving them free water and electricity but over something bigger. These were issues that concerned them, but not them alone, in defining the nation.

This concern began with a visible, almost forcible, redefining of the nation by the BJP along the path of 'Hindu Rashtra'. This was not the path Indians had inherited from their history, which had always celebrated their civilisation's pluralism. There was also concern



over the BJP's brazenly partisan use of the state apparatus, including police and bureaucracy.

Unprovoked thrashing of students at Jamia Millia Islamia by policemen and the latter's protection to goons with masked faces who entered the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) were widely witnessed on TV channels for days, and met with public condemnation. Incidentally, there has not been a single arrest over the JNU incident so far.

Protests against the CAA, as well as in response to police action and inaction, took place in civil society – in the form of silent, passive, non-violent satyagraha marches and sit-ins, especially with women at the forefront. Shaheen Bagh became a marker for such acts of resistance. That the protests became widespread all over the country, from the invisible corners of small towns to other metros, brought the larger issue to the forefront. These protests were unconnected with either political parties or

electoral battles and therefore left the government resourceless.

It is this attempt by the Narendra Modi-Amit Shah duo to fundamentally alter the character of the nation, and the civil society's resistance to their designs, that has brought about a change in the pursuit of politics. Shaheen Bagh formed the centrepiece of the BJP's campaign in Delhi, with hate-filled slogans by its top leaders and second-rung politicians like Anurag Thakur and Parvesh Verma acting as a counter to Mr. Kejriwal's focus on social welfare. The BJP clearly made the election a referendum for its CAA/NRC/NPR and for its communal vitriolic, in other words its version of nationalism. The voters responded with their verdict.

The youth deserted the BJP

The biggest loss to the BJP's support base in this election was from the youth. Until a year ago, a portion of India's young generation formed the unquestioning, adoring fan base of Mr. Modi even if they were not committed to the BJP or trained in Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) shakhas. However, the CAA has made them aware of the unabashedly divisive politics of the government headed by Mr. Modi and they have refused to fall for it.

Here, a very interesting indicator is the fact that the BJP's vitriol

in public is now being met with roars of disapproval from the crowd. The youth are at the forefront of this condemnation of the BJP's 'divide and rule' policy. And, they have voiced their disapproval through ballot power.

Will the Delhi elections persuade the BJP to abandon or even modify its strategy of spreading hatred for mobilising electoral support? The party can adopt a different approach if it has an alternative economic or social vision. But generating an alternative vision will require it to change its fundamental character, its organising principle.

It is noticeable that far from cautioning its leaders against the use of vitriol during the Delhi campaign, the BJP's top leaders extended full support to them through their eloquent silence. Now, after the party's resounding defeat, a line of argument propagated in BJP circles is that the Delhi voters neglected grave issues of religion and nationalism for the sake of freebies.

It is the tension between this inability of the BJP to change and the growing urge and energy for change at the ground level among the voters that will constitute the political and social dynamics of India in the next few years.

The author taught history at Jawaharlal Nehru University

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

AAP 3.0

The Narendra Modi-Amit Shah juggernaut was, yet again, stopped by Arvind Kejriwal. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)'s emphatic victory is an endorsement by Delhi voters of the political culture established by the party. The results come as a fitting acknowledgement of the political will and commitment displayed by the AAP government in fulfilling its major election promises. The government endeared itself to the electorate by providing free water, cheap electricity and door delivery of 40-odd services to citizens. The highly personalised, negative campaign targeting Mr. Kejriwal, and excessive confidence in the 'Modi wave' boomeranged

on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Given the string of setbacks in recent State elections, it needs to groom State-level leaders and focus on local issues rather than relying solely on the charisma of the Prime Minister. The complete wipe-out of the Congress Party added insult to injury for a party that is in a state of free fall and struggling to recuperate from the drubbing received during the general elections. To sum up, the message of the electorate was loud and clear – their priority continues to be bread and butter issues.

B. SURESH KUMAR,
Coimbatore

■ That the voter has cast his valuable vote for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)'s good

work for the poor and the underprivileged is definitely a positive sign for electoral democracy. It will encourage leaders to think that sincerity will pay. Mr. Kejriwal's victory speech brings to my mind Jawaharlal Nehru's words, "I stand before you not as your first Prime Minister but as your first servant." That people have thought beyond divisive agenda, which is disastrous to constitutional polity, is a positive feature of this election.

N.G.R. PRASAD,
Chennai

■ The repeat victory for Mr. Kejriwal's AAP in the Delhi Assembly elections amply demonstrates the voters' political maturity in refusing to be swayed by the vitriolic campaign led by Home

Minister Amit Shah. It is also a triumph of good governance over any kind of polarisation. It speaks of Mr. Kejriwal's amazing grace that he refused to be provoked even when he was called a "terrorist" by some members of the BJP. Reduced once again to a single digit in the Assembly, the lesson the BJP needs to learn is that boasts do not necessarily ensure electoral success, issues do. S.K. CHOURDHURY,
Bengaluru

C.G. KURIAKOSE,
Kothamangalam, Kerala

Archbishop's apology
The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby has shown admirable candour and courage to call his Church "deeply institutionally racist" and apologise for Britain's treatment of black people and other minorities since

Second World War (World War II), "Anglican leaders called his Church deeply racist," Feb. 13. The British government owes a forthright answer for not giving documents confirming citizenship, and denying basic rights, to the Windrush generation that moved from Caribbean colonies to the United Kingdom to help rebuild it from the ravages and ruins of war. The

C.G. KURIAKOSE,
Kothamangalam, Kerala

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS: >>Ashmolean museum is part of the University of Oxford, U.K. The location of the museum was wrongly mentioned as London in a front-page story headlined "Missing Idol traced to London museum" (Feb. 13, 2020, some editions) and an inside page story headlined "Azhivar idol traced to London museum" (Feb. 13, 2020, some editions). Consequently, both the headlines were wrong.

>>The headline of a Business page report on Royal Enfield's expansion plans (Feb. 11, 2020) has been corrected to say: Royal Enfield eyes global markets for apparel business. Mr. Puneet Sood, who has been quoted in the report, is actually the head, Apparel Business at Royal Enfield.

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Should women be given command posts in the Army?

PARLEY

Like men, women should be judged on the basis of their professionalism and merit

Last week, in response to an ongoing hearing in the Supreme Court on permanent commission for women officers, the government cited "physical" and "physiological limitations" in granting command positions to women officers in the Indian Army. To this, the Supreme Court responded that there is a need for administrative will and "change of mindset". In a conversation moderated by Dinakar Peri, Lieutenant General Syed Ata Hasnain and Lieutenant General D.S. Hooda discuss this question. Excerpts:

Could you provide an overview of the reasoning behind the government's stand?

Lt Gen Hasnain: Till September 2019, permanent commission for women was restricted to only two departments: the Army Education Corps and the Judge Advocate General's branch. In September, the Defence Ministry announced that it is opening this up to eight other arms and services from April this year, for women already selected for the Short Service Commission. So, permanent commission now is open in 10 departments, or what you call arms and services. Now, women's careers can be furthered only if they get what are called command assignments or criteria appointments. The question is, how do you define a criteria appointment? The Indian Army is what is called a command-oriented Army. That is, anyone who has to be given further positions up the chain of command has to first be experienced in command at the level of a full Colonel, a unit command. So far, this was denied to women. That is the main issue.

My opinion is that the time has come for us to at least experiment, if nothing else, and that experiment needs to be done first with the Services – Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps and Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. In all these there are women who have been commissioned for the last 30 years as Short Service Commissioned officers. Many of them have commanded workshops. Some of them are in a position to be selected. The focus is on the word select-

ed because they have to be selected through their confidential reports, a board of officers, a promotion board, which will determine whether they are fit to command. Only then will they command a unit.

Gen Hooda, apart from the point about gaining acceptability from other soldiers, the government has argued that there are other issues such as motherhood and domestic obligations. Do you believe that these are stumbling blocks in women holding command positions? For the last 30 years we have had women in the Army.

Lt Gen Hooda: There are challenges – domestic issues, fitness, pregnancy – all that has been quoted by the government in its affidavit. But this is an argument we had 30 years ago when we were inducting women into the Army. All these issues have been handled by the Army in a very mature manner over the years.

Coming specifically to the issue of whether they should be given command or not, there is very little justification in saying that while women officers can be company commanders, platoon commanders, second in command, [they should be excluded] when it comes to command appointments, commanding a unit, only on the basis that they are women. This argument doesn't hold water. As Lt Gen Hasnain said, there is a board of officers to decide whether promotions to the rank of Colonel can take place or not for a particular officer. It's not as if all male officers get automatically promoted as Colonels. In some cases, in some services, less than 30% of male officers are promoted to the rank of Colonel. The decision is made by a board of officers. Let the same board of officers decide whether a woman officer is fit to command a unit. Women should be judged on the basis of their professionalism and on the basis of merit.

The Commanding Officer holds a very significant position in the Army. What distinguishes the command positions and



what's the way forward to have women in these roles?

Lt Gen Hasnain: Let's understand it from a career management angle as well as a functional angle. What are criteria appointments which someone has to fulfil before they can be promoted to even higher ranks? These appointments can be directly in command of troops or many times they are also not in command of troops. For example, there can be appointments in the Army Education Corps and the Judge Advocate General's branch or such things where you have a certain responsibility, but you are not directly commanding troops. There are arms and services such as the Army Service Corps and Electrical and Mechanical Engineers where you have resources under your command and you have a large number of personnel under your command. In the Engineers Corps, a criteria appointment could be to set up an appointment such as the Commander Works Engineer who is responsible largely for projects of maintenance, of a lot of construction assets, and things like that, and very little responsibility for the personnel under you. So, there is a whole range of such responsibilities.

But the one important aspect is that the difference between a sub-unit command and the command by a Commanding Officer is that the Commanding Officer is the place where the buck stops. So the question many are asking is, do women have it in them to be able to accept that kind of responsibility? And will they be able to exercise that authority over male personnel under them? Now, this has only been experienced in sub-units where there could be 100-120 men serving under

C The time has come for us to at least experiment, and that needs to be done first with the Services – Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps and Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

LT GEN HASNAIN

a lady officer of rank of a Major or Lieutenant Colonel and they have done extremely well in those appointments. So there is nothing wrong in giving them command assignments. That is why I said let's experiment with it. Give it a five-year period, and if you find something drastically wrong, which I'm sure you will, then maybe you can give it a review. But on the face of it, denying them this opportunity only on the basis of their gender is not legally correct, I think, though of course the Supreme Court will decide that. I don't think it is morally correct. Because now that you have given them permanent commission, you've given them this on the basis of the assumption that they are equally good [as men], they're responsible, and they can be developed to become better, I think it's incumbent on the organisation to actually repose a certain level of trust in them and give them these command responsibilities.

Gen Hooda, you had written that there is some merit in not having women in combat roles. Can you elaborate on this?

Lt Gen Hooda: I think there is some justification in not permitting women in combat roles at this time. There are issues about soldiers and officers living on the front lines. Officers and their men all live together

in, say, one bunker along the Line of Control. So, there are issues and if you are going to induct women in Combat Arms, try and shield them from some of these more difficult roles. At this stage, it could only invite more resentment regarding why we are having women in Combat Arms. We should keep that debate for later. Let's start with mainstreaming those arms and services where women already are present.

You had mentioned stressful conditions like working in close proximity on the front lines. Now we're talking about command positions, but combat roles in front line combat will come up after that. How can these issues be addressed?

Lt Gen Hooda: We need to look at things in a more practical manner. We've already started inducting women as permanent commission in some of the supporting arms and services. We need to completely integrate all the people in the Army, and that includes women officers. It's ridiculous that we are fighting battles in court. The Supreme Court might give some judgment based on its wisdom. But within the Army, if we can internally resolve these issues, that will be a much better approach. So let's look at both sides of the debate. And the fact is, you have to integrate women better in the Army, you have to give them their professional aspirations, their personal aspirations have to be met. Let's start debating this and see how everyone can be pulled together. Frankly, some of the arguments that have been made in the Court – I dare say I'm using this word with a little caution – are regressive, and don't reflect the reality on the ground today.

What were your efforts in this direction?

Lt Gen Hasnain: That's a good question. I admit that I started with a negative mindset myself, way back in 1991. But my mind changed very early because of the demonstrated capability on the ground. In almost every arm and service, I visited in my own division on the Line of Control, I saw a detachment of engineers working feverishly on a particular operational track and the

person commanding that detachment and spending time on the deck of the bulldozer at night, for three to four weeks with the men, was a lady officer. Thereafter, there have been many occasions where I've seen young women, convoy commanders, who've done a marvellous job under the most challenging circumstances in cases of ambushes on the Uri-Baramulla road.

Lt Gen Hooda: I will give you two stories. In 2005, I took over command of the Brigade from Lt Gen Hasnain, and we had this earthquake in September 2005. My Brigade Major wasn't there [in Uri]. The officer below him, the captain who is called the G3, was injured. And we had no officers there, we were completely cut off. The Education Officer, Captain Rosie, performed the role of Brigade Major and she handled the whole operational side. Hats off to the way she handled it. So, I have no doubts about women officers handling responsibilities during a crisis. Then we had Colonel Santosh Mahadik, Commanding Officer of a unit, when I was the Army Commander, who was killed while fighting terrorists in September 2015. When my wife went to pay condolences, his wife said she wanted to join the Army. She was 35 years old, 10 years older than anybody who can get commissioned into the Officers Training Academy. We took up her case. She got commissioned in 2017 as a Lieutenant in the Ordnance (Corps). Now, the inspiration we get from her story is beyond words.

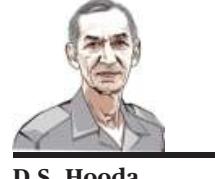
Generals, in retrospect, would you have taken orders from a woman officer?

Lt Gen Hasnain: Without blinking an eye, if someone above me, whether man or woman, was someone who demonstrated capability and leadership qualities, there is no question that I would not accept directions, orders. In the Army, we are trained to do that. It's just a mindset [regarding women], we need to overcome that. I would have overcome it almost immediately.

Lt Gen Hooda: Soldiers respect professionalism, good leadership, irrespective of whether it is demonstrated by a male or female officer.



Syed Ata Hasnain is former GOC 15 Corps and is now the Chancellor of Jammu University



D.S. Hooda is a former Northern Army Commander



Scan the QR code to listen to the full interview online

A marriage story for everyone

The Kerala High Court has an opportunity to make the concept of marriage less exclusionary

SHRADHHA CHAUDHARY

The only thing that is 'special' about the Special Marriage Act of 1954 is that it allows and facilitates the registration of inter-religious marriages. In that sense, it is a legislative tool for social change, an attempt to remove a social barrier to the exercise of individual autonomy. In the last few years, the Supreme Court has championed the cause of individual autonomy in matters of love, sex and marriage, including in *Shafin Jahan v. Asokan* (2018), *Shakti Vahini v. Union of India* (2018) and *Navtej Johar v. Union of India* (2018). In *Navtej Johar*, not only did the Court hold Section 377 of the IPC to be unconstitutional, it explicitly recognised the rights of the LGBTQ+ community to express their individuality, sexual identity and love on par with heterosexuals, as fundamental to Articles 14 (right to equality), 19 (right to freedom), and 21 (right to life) of the Constitution.

Discrimination

A petition recently filed in the Kerala High Court by a male same-sex couple challenges the constitutionality of the Special Marriage Act on the ground that it discriminates against same-sex couples who want to formalise their relationship through marriage. At one level it seems a simple and logical extension of the rights already recognised by the Supreme Court in *Navtej Johar* – the right of same-sex couples to express their sexual identity, right to privacy and non-interference in the conduct of their personal affairs, and the right to be recognised as full members of society. To refuse their plea would cause them very real, tangible damage, considering that marriage carries a range of legal rights and protections, available during the marriage as well as on its dissolution by divorce (the right to seek maintenance) or death (the right to inherit property).

A more esoteric, but no less devastating, deprivation caused would be the inaccessibility of symbols that are germane to how people visualise their identities and envisage their relationships. For better or for worse, marriage continues to be the cornerstone of social legitimacy and family

in India. For most people, marriage, commitment and family are not abstract legal concepts, but stages of human development and aspiration which give meaning to their personal lives. They represent the sanctification and extension of the deep emotional and spiritual bonds that may often accompany sexual intimacy.

Aside from blatant homophobia, which the law ought not to legitimise, the reasons commonly cited as to why these symbols should be preserved of opposite-sex couples do not stand scrutiny. Purportedly, the social purpose of marriage is to provide stability, financial, physical or emotional care and support; sexual intimacy and love to individuals; and to facilitate procreation and child-rearing. Aside from procreation, none of these objectives are dependent on the gender of the parties concerned, so much as on the bond they share and their ability to make the relationship work. And if procreation were quite so central to marriage, opposite-sex couples would be required to prove their fertility and, indeed, commit to having children before being allowed to register their marriage. As we know, that is not the case. The right or the legal ability to marry, it would appear, has little to do with the reasons commonly cited to deny marriage to same-sex couples. Therefore, any consideration of the law of marriage ought to be completely divorced from the mould that marriage is socially expected to fit.

A unique opportunity

The petition before the Kerala High Court represents a unique opportunity – potential first step towards making marriage, as an institution, as a legal concept, more accessible and egalitarian, less arbitrary and exclusionary. It gives the High Court the chance to prioritise the fundamental and human rights of the petitioners over the abstract heteronormative tendency of the majority to deny legitimacy to relationships that challenge oppressive social structures and established hierarchies. In other words, it's high time love and logic are given a chance to triumph over homophobic tradition.

Shradhha Chaudhary is a Senior Research Associate, Jindal Global Law School, Sonipat



NOTEBOOK

The Kashmir despatch before the Internet

Communication links were open even in the worst days of militancy in J&K

AMIT BARUAH

On October 31 last year, after many years I waited in queue to email a news story to *The Hindu*. The place was a government-designated media centre in Srinagar and it was on the day the State of Jammu and Kashmir was formally reduced to a Union Territory.

Scores of reporters thronged the Information Department's media centre on Residency Road, hoping that one of the dozen-odd computers would be free. It had almost become a habit given that nearly three months had passed since Internet services had been snipped in the Valley.

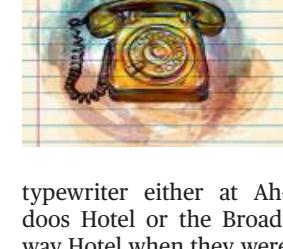
For me, there was a sense of déjà vu with a twist. It took me back to the scary days of December 1989, when I first travelled to the Kashmir Valley to cover the turmoil and violence in the region as a young reporter for *The Hindu* and *Frontline*.

In those days, the fax machine was pretty revolutionary technology. You even got a 'transmission' report once the pages were received on the other side. But it was a tough job to dial and connect to Madras, as Chennai was called then, or to Delhi.

The telex machine was more reliable and, when all else failed, there were alert 'teleprinter operators' of the newspaper who would take down our stories on the telephone. It was part of their job.

Most of my visits (1989-1995) to Srinagar began with navigating the curfew and hiring a vehicle to move around, a task in itself. The only good thing was that Kashmiri leaders not in detention were always to be found at home.

After a day of newsgathering, I would go to the Central Telegraph Office and begin the arduous task of sending my story for the day, which was written on a



typewriter either at Ahdoos Hotel or the Broadway Hotel when they were open during the early days of militancy.

Even in the worst days of militancy and curfew, the Central Telegraph Office was open to all journalists who could access it. The administration never shut it down; it was one mode of communication available to all. Landline services were not shut down either, in Srinagar or the rest of the Valley. The fact that in the worst period of militancy communication links were open is testimony to the commitment of previous governments to the freedom of press. Today's frequent Internet shutdowns are a blot on our democracy.

the story had reached his desk.

There were other occasions when we went to a friendly police officer's house to file copy if there was a big rush at the Central Telegraph Office. I am ever grateful to those friendly civil servants. The day only ended when I was able to send my story.

Even in the worst days of militancy and curfew, the Central Telegraph Office was open to all journalists who could access it. The administration never shut it down; it was one mode of communication available to all. Landline services were not shut down either, in Srinagar or the rest of the Valley. The fact that in the worst period of militancy communication links were open is testimony to the commitment of previous governments to the freedom of press. Today's frequent Internet shutdowns are a blot on our democracy.

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 14, 1970

69 no-balls in a Test

"One unusual feature of the second Test (Durban) match (between South Africa and Australia) was the number of no-balls. There were 69 in all, which must mean either that the two umpires are men of unusual perspicience (a view with which Lawry would not agree) or that almost all other umpires are lax in their interpretation of the law." John Woodcock, cricket correspondent of the Times, London, covering the tour, continues, "The fact that there's a slight rise or ramp at each end just behind the bowling creases at Kingsmead might have had something to do with it; but they have always been there and there has never before been such a surfeit of no-balls." The no-ball is now declared with reference to the front foot, if it lands clear beyond the popping crease, or with reference to the back foot if the umpire is not satisfied that the bowler's back foot has landed within and not touching the return crease or its forward extension. The reason behind this rule is if there is a restriction on the landing of the front foot it will prevent the bowler from dragging his back foot, down the pitch, beyond the bowling crease, an evil prevalent with fast bowlers.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEB. 14, 1920.

The Common Sense of Coercion.

Mr. Bernard Houghton -- writes to the New Statesman. "Let not a prince," declared Machiavelli, "complain of the faults of a people under his rule, for they are due to his own negligence or his own example." Perhaps, in modern conditions, we may substitute "blunders" for "example." If a Government finds it necessary to shoot, the first question we should ask is, Why is the shooting necessary? Without cause men do not collect in mobs and loot. What is the cause of the riots? In particular, why have Indians, admittedly peaceful, quietistic, and law-abiding to a fault, resorted to mob violence? The silly talk of Bolshevism, officially repudiated, merrily shows the crudity of the Anglo-Indian mind. The only thing Bolshevik in the Punjab events was the ferocity with which the Government repressed the riots. Their real cause is well known. They were due to the Rowlett Act, coming as it did in the Punjab on a population irritated by a series of tyrannical war measures, the immediate cause being the arrest under *lettres de cachet* of Drs. Satyapal and Kitchlew, coupled with the forcible exclusion of Mr. Gandhi.

FROM PAGE ONE

Publish criminal history of candidates, says SC

A party would have to give reasons to the voter that it was not the candidate's "mere winnability at the polls" which guided its decision to give him the ticket.

"It appears that over the last four general elections, there has been an alarming increase in the incidence of criminals in politics. In 2004, 24% of the Members of Parliament had criminal cases pending against them; in 2009, that went up to 30%; in 2014 to 34%; and in 2019 as many as 43% of MPs had criminal cases pending against them," Justice Nariman wrote.

The four-page judgment

Cloud over trade talks as U.S. official cancels visit

Informed sources have said that talks thus far have brought some agreement on contentious issues including medical device price caps levied by India, a rationalisation of tariffs levied by both sides, and greater market access for U.S. agricultural and dairy products.

A full restoration of GSP (Generalised System of Preferences) status appears unlikely at present, given the USTR's notice this week that aims to treat India and a number of other countries as "developed countries", coupled with President Trump's strictures against giving those defined as developed countries any GSP assistance. Instead, the U.S. might offer a partial restoration of GSP concessions to Indian exporters, but only in sectors where U.S. importers are "dependent" on Indian goods, the sources said.

Multiple factors
Officials said the U.S.'s stand on GSP, as well as certain provisions in the Indian budget had made the talks, that have continued nonetheless, more difficult. In particular, the government's new "health cess" will impact pricing for medical devices, and the raising of tariffs on several items including electric vehicle (EV) components, dairy products, shelled walnuts, edible vegetable oils, infant foods, and soy products may also become an issue, U.S. government websites have noted.

According to Ms. Biswal, who led a delegation from the Washington-based USIBC to meet with government officials in Delhi, the

bigger commercial expectations during the visit would be in the field of defence, including a \$2.4 billion deal for helicopters and an air defence system, and energy.

"Despite the fact that the new budget did not contain increased spending for defence, the Indian government is expected to announce some defence deals on the margins of the visit," Ms. Biswal, who was earlier the Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia in the Obama administration, said.

India is also expected to discuss an increase in LNG imports from the U.S. during the visit. An MoU for India's gas importer Petronet to invest \$2.5 billion in U.S. company Tellurian Inc's LNG project, that was signed during Mr. Modi's visit to Houston, is likely to be formalised during Mr. Trump's visit, news agencies have reported.

The announcement of the start of formal free trade agreement negotiations will generate considerable interest, but could take several years to complete.

The major defence deals in advanced stages are for 24 MH-60R multirole helicopters for the Indian Navy and a quick reaction air defence system to protect Delhi.

The deal for helicopters, worth around \$2.4 billion, is now awaiting final approval of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS). India and the U.S. are also in discussions for armed drones, six more P-8I surveillance aircraft and two Raytheon IS-TAR aircraft among others.

(with inputs from Dina-kar Peri)

Slapping Sec. 144 during CAA protests 'illegal': HC

The HC said the City Police Commissioner, discharging his duty as the District Magistrate (DM) had failed to give "reasons" in his December 18, 2019, order invoking Section 144 in contravention to the parameters laid down by the Supreme Court in the cases of *Anuradha Bhasin Vs Union of India* and the *Ramlila Maidan Incident Vs Union of India*.

A division Bench comprising Chief Justice Abhay Shreenivas Oka and Justice Hemant Chandangoudar passed the order while partly allowing a batch of petitions, in which legality and correctness of imposition of prohibitory order was questioned as several permissions for holding rallies and protests were cancelled due to invoking of Section 144.

Also, making it clear that it has not gone into the grounds on which the prohibitory order was passed, the Bench said even assuming that there were valid reasons for imposing Section 144, the order passed on December 18, 2019, by the DM can't stand to scrutiny of law in view of Supreme Court's orders.

Observing that the DM is

expected to form an opinion citing reasons in his order for imposing Section 144, the Bench said that in the present instance, the DM has only referred to the recommendations made by eight Deputy Commissioners of Police to invoke Section 144 and "there was no indication of independent application of mind by the DM."

Referring to a communication issued by the Director-General and Inspector General of Police emphasising the need for imposing Section 144 in various parts of the State, the Bench said Section 144 cannot be imposed merely relying upon opinion of superior officer as the DM has record reasons on subjective satisfaction about the need for such prohibitory orders.

The Bench also said the DM, after receiving inputs from DCPs, should have conducted an enquiry and suggested that the parameters of the enquiry could have been different as the inputs he had received were from DCPs. The Bench also pointed out that barring a few, communications from the DCPs were identical.

Sources said the order followed a year-long inquiry after an anonymous complaint about Mr. Ha-san's Facebook posts.

The order says he has "failed to maintain political neutrality" under the Central Civil Services Conduct Rules, 1964, which has stringent provisions against participation of officials in political activity.

Envoy meet Jammu groups

Politicians and members of civil society apprise delegation of situation

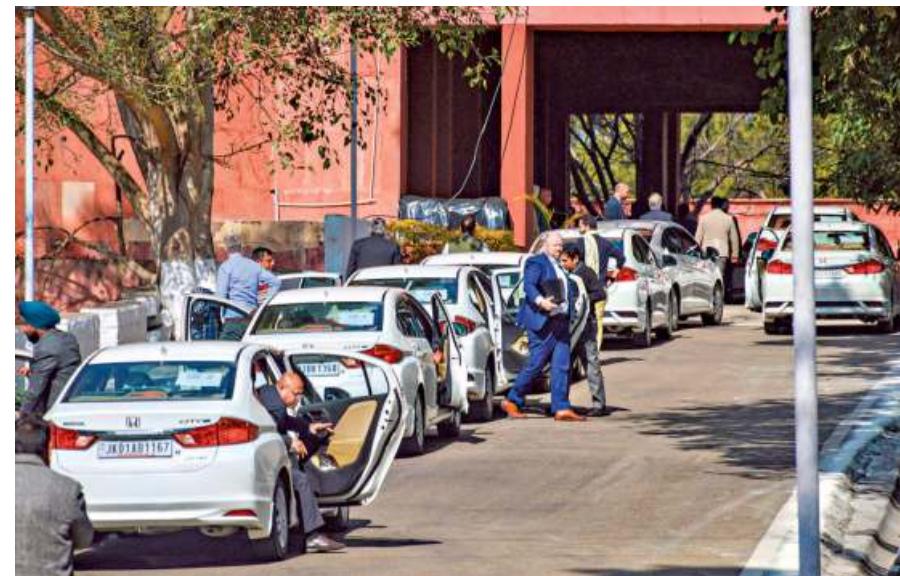
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAMMU

Twenty-five Ambassadors, on the second day of their visit to J&K, met senior officials, Army officers and groups supporting the revocation of Article 370 and the introduction of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in Jammu.

As many as 33 delegates, including politicians and members of civil society groups, called on the visiting envoys and apprised them of the situation following the revocation of J&K's special status and the introduction of the CAA.

"After the abrogation of Article 370, the neglected community of West Pakistani Refugees got citizenship rights and voting rights after 70 years," Laba Ram Gandhi, head of West Pakistani Refugees, told the envoys.

"In this judgment (2018), this court was cognisant of the increasing criminalisation of politics in India and the lack of information about such criminalisation among the citizenry," Justice Nariman observed.



Fact-finding trip: The delegation of 25 Ambassadors arriving at the High Court in Jammu on Thursday. They later met Chief Justice Gita Mittal. ■PTI

Kashmir (PoJK) displaced persons and Kashmiri Pandit migrants shared their opinions and expressed satisfaction over ending J&K's special status by diluting Article 370 on August 5.

Earlier, the Army apprised the envoys at a meeting in Srinagar of Pakistan's attempts to foment trouble and push in militants, officials said.

The envoys, including 10 Ambassadors from European Union countries, met Chief Justice Gita

Mital at the Jammu and Kashmir High Court and discussed the prevailing situation. They were also briefed by Lieutenant-Governor Girish Chander Murmu, Chief Secretary B.V.R. Subrahmanyam and J&K police chief Dilbagh Singh.

Important information'
"We got a lot of important information," an envoy said in Jammu, as the team left for Delhi. "The two-day visit of foreign envoys to J&K con-

cluded. We have had interactions with some groups of civil society, traders, political representatives, media outlets, military units and some local government officials about the current situation and their prospects for the future. Jammu visit will widen our perspectives of the region. Unlike Srinagar's snow-capped mountains, here seems flat, green and warm," tweeted Afghanistan's Ambassador Tahir Qadri.

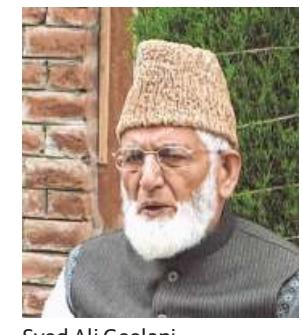
Security bustle over Geelani health worries

Internet shut down over rumours

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

The wish of ailing Hurriyat chairman Syed Ali Geelani, 90, to be buried in the Martyrs' Graveyard here has sent the security agencies into a tizzy as the J&K administration had to stop Internet services on Wednesday night in the wake of rumours that the separatist leader's health had deteriorated.

Sources in the J&K police said Mr. Geelani's wish, circulated online from across the border, "does pose a security challenge".



Syed Ali Geelani

stration was dealing with divided opinion whether to allow a burial in Srinagar or not. A section of the security agencies was for "convincing the family to bury him at his ancestral graveyard in the Dooru area of Sopore".

No health bulletin

A team of doctors visited Mr. Geelani for a check-up at his residence here. They decided against issuing any health bulletin. He has been bed-ridden for many weeks now, with acute chest congestion and bouts of dementia.

The Internet was restored on Thursday afternoon, with the police warning of action against those spreading rumours.

Row over AIUDF MLA's remarks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

An Assam MLA has sparked a controversy with his alleged attempt to unite the State's various Islamic communities while claiming that the Miya (Bengali-speaking Muslims) people in the State were more indigenous than the Ahoms.

The Ahoms ruled Assam for more than 600 years before the British annexed the territory in 1826.

MLA slammed

Assamese Muslim groups, which often distance themselves from their Bengal-origin counterparts, have slammed MLA Aminul Islam for asking all categories of Muslims to unite in the name of religion. Mr. Islam of the All India United Democratic Front represents the Dhing constituency.

U.P. govt. targeted one community: activists

Harsh Mander

and also to chase and shoot both protesters and innocent bystanders with an intent to kill," the report noted. It accuses Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath of indulging in "culpable hate speech" and "inciting revenge against the Muslim citizens".

The activists said the conclusions were based on the testimonies by victims and fact-finding reports heard by a "jury" of former Supreme Court judges and civil servants.

The U.P. police "have been found to sometimes behave like a lynch mob,

J&K panchayat bypolls to start on March 5

No dates announced for Ladakh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Despite a likely wet spell, cold temperatures and snow covering many parts of Jammu & Kashmir, the Election Commission on Thursday announced that by-elections to 11,639 vacant panchayat seats will be held in eight phases from March 5 to 20.

It will be the first democratic exercise to be held in the new Union Territory of J&K, after its special status and Statehood were revoked on August 5, 2019.

"By-elections in snow-bound areas of Marwah and Wadwan of Kishtwar district and Gurez of Bandipora will be conducted later on," Chief Election Officer Shailendra Kumar said in Jammu. However, no dates have been announced for the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Unlike the previous panchayat polls, which were

held in October-November in 2018, these by-elections will be contested on party basis, and ballot papers will be used instead of electronic voting machines (EVMs).

For Kashmiri migrants, postal ballot will be available, officials said.

"Keeping in view snowfall and the winter season in Kashmir, we have decided to hold elections as the weather conditions are improving in the Valley too," Mr. Shailendra said.

The polls will be held in 128 blocks in the Kashmir Valley, involving 887 panchayat halqas (an area comprising a village or some contiguous villages), where a total number of 11,457 panchayat constituencies are vacant.

In the Jammu division, by-elections will be held in 182 vacant panchayat seats in 146 blocks, involving 124 panchayats halqas.

Supreme Court to hear plea of Omar's sister today

New Bench formed after judge recused himself from case

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Sara Abdullah Pilot's petition challenging the booking of her brother and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah under the Public Safety Act (PSA) is listed before a Bench of Justices Arun Mishra and Indira Banerjee on Friday.

This follows the recusal of Justice Mohan M. Shantanagoudar from the case on Wednesday.

A short order on Wednesday said the case would be listed "before another Bench since Mr. Justice Mohan M. Shantanagoudar expressed his inability to participate in the hearing of the matter".

Counsel's request
The court had also agreed to a request made by senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appear-



Omar Abdullah

ing for Ms. Pilot, to list the case again on February 14.

Ms. Pilot has urged for issuance of a writ of *habeas corpus* to the authorities to produce Mr. Abdullah forthwith before the court and set him at liberty.

Ms. Pilot, also represented by senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan in the case, has said she was gravely concerned about the welfare, safety and security of her brother.

BJP has promoted tainted leaders: Cong.

Party points to Karnataka Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Welcoming a Supreme Court order directing parties to upload online the details of pending criminal cases against their electoral candidates, the Congress on Thursday accused the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of going against the ruling.

Congress chief spokesman Randeep Surjewala tweeted a news report on Anand Singh, who is accused in mining and forest crimes, being appointed Minister for Forest, Environment and Ecology in Karnataka.

"Modiji & BJP again come to the rescue of 'Bellary Gang'! SC gives reasons for giving tickets to tainted Netas... Modiji says make tainted netas not MLAs alone but Ministers..." he said.

Congress spokesperson Jaiveer Shergill said that on August 27, 2014, the Supreme Court had issued an advisory not to appoint as Minister any person facing charges of serious offences.

The Prime Minister is in violation of the advisory of the Hon'ble Supreme Court not to induct any Minister facing serious charges of crime or having a charge-

Randeep Surjewala

et in the trial court," he said.

Opinions, however, were divided over the court order.

"The courts decision, despite its lofty motivations, is yet another instance of judicial farce in matters essentially political. The objection on principle is to the court treating the accused persons at par with those finally convicted as far as their public and political standing is concerned," former Law Minister Ashwini Kumar said.

"The Supreme Court has not defined what crimes. Can a person be debarred from contesting if he was arrested for participating in a political agitation," CPI general secretary D. Raja asked, adding the order needs to be studied before making a detailed comment.

A delegation of women leaders submitted a memorandum to the Petroleum Ministry.

When the delegation was stopped at the gate of the Shastri Bhawan by the security personnel, the leaders resorted to a protest.

Priyanka slams U.P. government

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday slammed the Yogi Adityanath government over law and order after a crude bomb went off at a Lucknow court injuring three lawyers.

"The U.P. government should now clearly state that it lied to the public for three years. In the capital, lawyers are being attacked with bombs in the court," Ms. Vadra tweeted.

Rahul flays LPG price hike

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday slammed the BJP over the LPG price hike by tweeting a throwback picture of BJP leaders protesting against the hike during the UPA era.

A delegation of women leaders submitted a memorandum to the Petroleum Ministry.

When the delegation was stopped at the gate of the Shastri Bhawan by the security personnel, the leaders resorted to a protest.



Name of Patient: Rohith Ningaraju Kurugodi, 8 months.
Hospital Name: Columbia Asia Hospital
Diagnosis: Suffering from Congenital Heart disease, Tetralogy of Fallot.
The estimated cost of the surgery is Rs. 3,00,000/-
We request Kind-hearted Philanthropists to save him.
Poor Lives and on the back of Cheque write A/c: Rohith Ningaraju Kurugodi S/B Account No.2000913487, State Bank of India, Rajaji Annamalaiapuram Branch and IFSC Code: SBIN001855, which is exempted under 80G of I.T. Act.

Contact: SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED CHARITABLE TRUST, ADMIN DIVISION
Flat No. A1, Ceobus Garden, Ground Floor, Old No.76, Kamraj Salai, Rajaji Annamalaiapuram, Chennai - 600 028 Ph: 04

CPI(M) to ask people not to participate in NPR: Yechury

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

The CPI(M) said it would send its cadres to every household persuading people not to participate in the National Population Register (NPR) survey which, it said, would lead to implementation of a National Register of Citizens.

"A door-to-door campaign will begin from March 1 and culminate on March 23. Our cadres will appeal to people not to cooperate with surveyors on NPR scheduled to begin from April 1," CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said.

"Our generation had participated in anti-Emergency movement to restore democracy in the country. There is a misconception about today's generation that they live in cyberspace and don't have anything to do with reality. But they are now out on the street holding national flags in their hands. They swear by the Constitution. We need to carry the momentum forward," he observed.

"Home Minister Amit Shah had tried to explain the chronology to countrymen that the NPR will come first, then the NRC and finally the CAA. The non-Muslims who do not have any proof would get citizenship automatically. Now, I will tell you what the real chronology is. First the NPR will be implemented. There will be doubtful marks labelled against names of many people. These people will have to show papers to prove their citizenship. Detention camps are coming up everywhere and those who fail to prove their citizenship will go to these camps," said Mr. Yechury.

Walls rise ahead of Trump trip

Ahmedabad Municipal Commissioner denies it is part of plan to hide slums

MAHESH LANGA
AHMEDABAD

From resurfacing roads and planting palm trees along the streets to building a wall apparently to hide slums, the Gujarat government is pulling out all the stops to impress U.S. President Donald Trump, who will be the city's guest for a few hours on February 24.



Gearing up: Workers constructing a wall in front of a slum in Ahmedabad on Thursday. ■ PTI

were getting damaged," Mr. Nehra said.

The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) has also ensured that no stray dogs or cattle – a routine presence on city roads – will be seen on the stretch from the Ahmedabad international airport to the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Stadium, better known as the Motera stadium, where the high-

profile Kem Chho Trump (Howdy Trump) event will be held.

Trees have been trimmed, fully grown palm trees have been planted and even electric poles and pillars of the under-construction metro system have been painted while special cameras have been installed along the roads for enhanced security.

As part of its beautifica-

Complaint lodged against Hajela

Former Assam NRC Coordinator tampered list: NGO

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

A complaint has been lodged against Prateek Hajela, the former National Register of Citizens (NRC) Coordinator in Assam, for allegedly tampering with the records associated with updating the citizenship exercise whose complete list was published in August 2019.

Almost simultaneously on Wednesday, the office of the NRC Coordinator lodged an FIR against Apuri Baruah, a former associate of Mr. Hajela, for resigning without surrendering the password to the NRC data records system.

In its complaint to the CID

office in Guwahati, the Assam Public Works (APW) asked the Deputy Inspector General of police to register a case against Mr. Hajela for "tempering (sic) the valuable public records, i.e., NRC final list of Assam". It also sought an inquiry for the former Coordinator's involvement in "cybercrime in the whole process of NRC". APW is the NGO whose petition in the Supreme Court in 2009 led to the NRC updating exercise.

Mr. Hajela had relinquished charge on November 11, 2019, after the apex court, which has been monitoring the NRC exercise, ordered his transfer to his

home State Madhya Pradesh. The role of Ms. Baruah, who quit as project manager of NRC on the same day as Mr. Hajela, has also come under a cloud with Chandana Mahanta, NRC's Executive Director, lodging a complaint against her at the Palanbazar police station in Guwahati.

Password not shared' According to Ms. Mahanta's complaint, Ms. Baruah resigned and handed over charge on November 11 last year but did not share the password of the official email IDs cpm.nrc.assam@gmail.com and pmpnrc@gov.in.

+ 'Saeed arrest part of Pakistan's obligation'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The arrest of terror mastermind Hafiz Saeed by Pakistan is part of its long pending international obligation, a government official said.

The statement indicates that South Block would prefer Pakistan to take more verifiable actions against terror outfits and individuals.

"The decision has been

made on the eve of the FATF [Financial Action Task Force] plenary meeting, which has to be noted. Hence the efficacy of this decision remains to be seen," said the source indicating that a Lahore anti-terrorism court's decision has to be viewed in the context of the Paris meeting of the FATF beginning February 16.

At the FATF's last meeting

in November 2019, Pakistan was warned that it would remain on the greylist if tough actions were not initiated against terror outfits and terror financing individuals in the country. The official maintained that India expected Pakistan to take similar actions consistently.

Saeed, who received a five-and-a-half year sentence for being part of a terror outfit, has been asked by the anti-terror court to pay ₹15,000. The FIR against him was registered in July 2019 on charges of terror financing at the Counter Terrorism Department in Gujranwala.

The court also handed the same sentence to Zafar Iqbal, a close aide of Saeed.

U.S. WELCOMES SAED'S CONVICTION ▶ WORLD PAGE

Rajiv Bansal is new CMD of Air India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

The government on Thursday appointed Rajiv Bansal Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Air India, in which the Centre plans to divest its stake soon.

Mr. Bansal takes over from Ashwani Lohani, whose one-year term ended on Thursday.

The Modi administration also appointed Secretaries for several key departments.

A Gujarat-cadre IAS officer, Raj Kumar, was named Secretary of Defence Production. Debasish Panda was appointed Secretary, Financial Services. Both are 1987-batch officers.

Mr. Panda will take over from Rajiv Kumar.

With Mr. Panda's appointment, speculation has ended on whether Mr. Kumar would get an extension as he was the Finance Secretary and the Budget is yet to be passed in Parliament.

The government has given another year's extension to Parameswaran Iyer, a retired IAS officer serving as Secretary, Drinking Water and Sanitation. He will continue in the same post.

Two get death for rape, murder of girl

CORRESPONDENT
AGARTALA

A court in south Tripura on Thursday handed out the death sentence to two men accused of raping and murdering a 14-year-old girl. The verdict was announced within 14 months of the gruesome incident in Gomati district.

CMK

THE HINDU DELHI
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2020

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
TNIAM PROJECT
REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)**
BID INVITATION EXTENSION NOTICE
IN THE NEWS PAPER OF THE HINDU (ENGLISH)

The issue of Bidding document and receipt of Bidding document for Two works invited in this office Bid Invitation No.: 08/PBC/T.V.Malai/2019/2020/F.307/JDO/2 Dated: 08.01.2020 is extended due to the Administrative reasons as are follows : i) Last Date for issue of Bidding document fixed on 13.02.2020 upto 05.45 P.M. is extended upto 02.03.2020 till 05.45 P.M., ii) Last date for receipt of Bidding document fixed on 14.02.2020 till 12.00 Hours (IST) is extended upto 03.03.2020 till 12.00 Hours (IST). iii) Date of opening of Bidding document for SLNo. (1) on 14.02.2020 at 12.30 Hours (IST) is extended to 03.03.2020 at 12.30 Hours (IST), and for SLNo. (2) on 14.02.2020 at 14.30 Hours (IST) is extended to 03.03.2020 at 14.30 Hours (IST). All other information and conditions are as per in Original Bid Invitation already published. Other information available in Web site only.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PWD., WRD., PENNAIYAR BASIN CIRCLE, TIRUVANNAMALAI 606 603.

DIPR/887/TENDER/2020

Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture
(MPEDA, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India)
3/197, Poompuhar Road, Karaimedu Village,
Sattanathapuram Post, Sirkali - 609109,
Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu. Phone: +91 4364 265200.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NAME OF THE WORK	1. FABRICATION AND SUPPLY OF FRP TANKS FOR AQUACULTURE PROJECT (AQF).
	2. SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENTS AND MACHINERIES FOR AQUACULTURE PROJECT (AQF).

MPEDA-RGCA Govt. of India, Invites sealed tenders from Reputed and Experienced Manufacturers/Fabricators/Authorized dealers and suppliers satisfying the eligibility criteria for the above said Works. The details of the eligibility criteria are published in the RGCA website www.rgca.org.in

PROJECT DIRECTOR

Two get death for rape, murder of girl

**DELHI JAL BOARD
OFFICE OF THE EX. ENGINEER (NE)II
R-POCKET DILSHAD GARDEN DELHI-95**
PRESS NIT No.57(2019-20)

S. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender to Tender	EMD Amount	Tender Fees	Date of release of tender in eprocurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through eprocurement solution
1	P/L House service sewer connections under Mukhyamantri Muli Sewer Connection Yojna in Ward No.47-E in Ghonda AC-66 Tender ID No.2020 DJB 187911_3	93,31,625.00	1,87,000.00	1000.00	13.02.2020	28.02.2020 upto 02:30 P.M
2	P/L House service sewer connections under Mukhyamantri Muli Sewer Connection Yojna in Ward No.47-E in Ghonda AC-66 Tender ID No.2020 DJB 187911_4	89,60,458.00	1,80,000.00	1000.00	13.02.2020	28.02.2020 upto 02:30 P.M

All the terms and conditions including technical specification and special conditions is available on Delhi Govt. Website <https://delhi.govtprocurement.com>.

**ISSUED BY P.R.O.(WATER)
ADVT. NO.J.S.V. 804/19-20**

EX. ENGINEER (NE)-II

Many loose ends hamper probe into Pulwama attack

NIA unable even to trace source of explosives

VIJAYITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

A year after the Pulwama terror attack that killed 40 CRPF personnel, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has not been able to trace the source of high-grade explosives used by the car-borne suicide bomber.

In Motera, a middle-class locality in the northwestern side of the city, all roads including inner streets have been resurfaced and refurbished. "We are thankful to President Trump for making this trip, which has ensured a complete makeover of our area," said Ratnabhai Rabari, a resident and cattle breeder in Motera village.

With the sprawling Motera stadium on the bank of the Sabarmati, the entire area has been cleaned and sanitised several times over with repeated spraying by fogging machines to free the locality from mosquitoes.

tro-glycerine and RDX".

The investigation has hit hurdles and the NIA could not file a chargesheet as all key suspects are dead.

Two main suspects, Mudasir Khan and Sajjad Bhat, were killed in encounters with security forces last year in March and June, respectively. Kamran was killed on March 29 last year. Qari Mufti Yasser was killed in an encounter on January 25 this year.

A senior government official said the explosives could not have been bought off the shelf as it was "warfare ammunition generally found in military stores". A forensic report said around 25 kg of plastic explosives were used.

An NIA official said the explosives packed in the car were "ammonium nitrate, ni-

trite, the explosives, the NIA said.

A senior government official said the "engine block" of the vehicle could not be recovered as it blew apart and could have been swept away after falling in a river near the blast site.

"There are many unanswered questions as all the perpetrators who could have helped in piecing together the investigation were killed in encounters. The car used in the attack had changed hands several times. The last person to own the vehicle, Sajjad Bhat, went on to join the Jaish hours before he could be caught. He was later killed in an encounter," the official said.

"We do not know the financial trail, how the car was arranged. Where did Dar procure the explosives from," the official said.

Jaishankar spars with Jairam on Nehru

Minister praises book that posited former PM did not want Patel in his Cabinet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar exchanged sharp messages on social media on Thursday with Rajya Sabha member Jairam Ramesh, after the Minister praised a book for arguing that Jawaharlal Nehru had planned to exclude Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel from the first post-independence Cabinet.

"Learned from the book that Nehru did not want Patel in the Cabinet in 1947 and omitted him from the initial Cabinet list. Clearly, a subject for much debate. Noted that the author stood her ground on this revelation," said Mr. Jaishankar, praising



S. Jaishankar

the book on late bureaucrat V.P. Menon who was part of the transition of power.

The Minister was referring to the biography of V.P. Menon by historian Narayan Basu, titled *V.P. Menon: The Unsung Architect of Modern India*. He highlighted the section where Mr. Menon

said that Nehru's government began a "deliberate campaign" to erase Patel's memory after the latter died.

Quick response
Mr. Jaishankar's comment drew a quick response from Congress leader Jairam Ramesh.

"Problem with this very accomplished and erudite Foreign Minister is that he wishes to forget the books he read before becoming Foreign Secretary in January 2015," Mr. Ramesh posted, attaching scanned copies of letters from Volume Three of *Selected Works of Jawaharlal Nehru* to contradict the view that the Minister had sup-

ported. He cited Nehru's letter written on July 19, 1947, where the former Prime Minister placed Patel on the top of the list of members for the first Cabinet.

The list showed Patel at the top of the nine-member Cabinet and Nehru's name at the bottom. Mr. Ramesh also cited Nehru's letter of August 14, 1947, where he placed Patel as second in the Cabinet.

Historian Ramchandra Guha tweeted describing Ms. Basu's argument as a "myth".

Mr. Jaishankar retorted, "Some Foreign Ministers do read books. Maybe a good habit for some Professors too."

Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET)

(Scientific Society, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Govt. of India)

IDIA PHASE - III, CHERLA PALLY, HCL (P.O), HYDERABAD - 500 051

Phone: +91-40-27265587, 27267006 Fax: +91-40-27261658 Web: www.cmet.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Date: 13.02.2020

Sealed Tenders are invited for procurement of "Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) with EDS". Last Date for Receipt of Tenders: 12.03.2020 up to 17:00 Hrs. For Details & Tender Document, please visit our website: www.cmet.gov.in & also CPPortal.

Sd/- DIRECTOR

ANDHRA PRADESH STATE SKILL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (APSSDC)

Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) invites EOI for selection of qualified and reputed Architecture Firms for Designing campuses of "Skills University (Academic & Residential)" and "Skill college (Academic & Residential)" in Andhra Pradesh.

For further details please Visit: apssdc.in website. Further updates if any will be posted in <a href="http://www.ap

Global threat

The coronavirus that emerged in central China at the end of last year has now killed more than 1,300 people and spread around the world

We will minimise epidemic's impact, maintain the momentum of economic development, and strive to achieve development goals — XI JINPING, President, China

VELOCITY OF VIRUS

For the first thousand people to be infected, MERS took 903 days

SARS 130 days

Coronavirus 48 days

FATLITY RATE

- For every 50 infected people, MERS killed 17 people
- SARS killed five
- Coronavirus killed one



CHINA DEATHS
1,367
Cases 60,000

PHILIPPINES Cases 3
Death 1

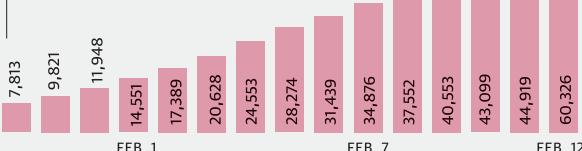
Japan Cases 28
Death 1

GRAPHIC: KARTHIK S.T.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES

580	845	1,317
2,015	2,800	4,581
6,058	7,813	9,821
11,948	14,551	17,389
20,628	24,553	28,274
31,439	34,876	37,552
40,533	43,099	44,919
49,326	50,000	60,326

The UN health agency on Thursday said a sharp rise was reported in COVID-19 cases in China, due to a change in counting method



New Hubei chief pledges to contain virus

Top leaders are taking greater control, removing officials for 'shirking duties'

REUTERS

BEIJING/SHANGHAI

The new Communist Party chief of Hubei province, the epicentre of the coronavirus outbreak in China, said on Thursday he would contain the virus but that the situation remained severe.

Shanghai Mayor Ying Yong was brought in as party head in Hubei after his predecessor and the party chief of the province's capital, Wuhan, became the most high-profile officials to be dismissed following the outbreak.

The removal of Jiang Chaoliang, the leading Communist Party official of Hubei province, and Ma Guoqiang, party chief in Wuhan, followed the dismissal of two provincial health officials on Tuesday, and is part of a wider effort by Beijing to remove bureaucrats it accuses of shirking their duties.

The central government has set up a special Cabinet task force under Premier Li Keqiang to handle the crisis, and the new appointments in Hubei suggest China's senior leaders are taking greater control.

Defending Wuhan

Reporting Mr. Ying's appointment as the new secretary of the Hubei Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China, the official Xinhua news agency did not explain why Mr. Jiang had been removed.

In remarks reported in the official *Hubei Daily* following his appointment, Mr. Ying said he would not fail the party or the people and that he bore a very heavy responsibility.

"At present, the virus situation is still extremely severe," the paper cited him as saying.

"We will definitely win the battle to defend Wuhan, the battle to defend Hubei, and the battle to prevent and control the disease."

Mr. Ying worked closely with Chinese President Xi Jinping during the latter's time as party boss and Governor of Zhejiang province, which neighbours Shanghai.

Jinping during the latter's time as party boss and Governor of Zhejiang province, which neighbours Shanghai.

Mr. Ying, in the same report in the *Hubei Daily*, cited Mr. Xi as saying that controlling the virus was directly related to social and economic stability and China's opening up, and was the biggest priority at the moment.

Wuhan party chief Mr. Ma has been replaced by Wang Zhonglin, party boss of Jinan, the capital city of eastern Shandong province, Xinhua reported separately.

Virus cases on Japan ship jump to 218

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE YOKOHAMA

Japan said on Thursday it would allow some elderly passengers off a quarantined cruise ship and into government-designated lodging, as the number of new coronavirus cases on the vessel jumped to 218.

Thousands of passengers and crew on the Diamond Princess — the single largest cluster of infected people outside China — face several days more of quarantine, with many taking to social media to voice their concerns.

"The situation on board is getting worse day by day," 24-year-old ship security officer Sonali Thakkar told AFP.

"This morning they told us that 44 people have been infected and everyone is really scared and wanting to get off as soon as possible," she added.

"All we want is tests to be done and to be separated from those who are positive. We don't want to stay on board."

With passengers mostly confined to their cabins, crew members have to go door-to-door to deliver food and other supplies, and some fear this has reduced the effectiveness of the quarantine.

He said also that some elderly passengers would be allowed off the ship if they test negative for the COVID-19 virus.

5 in serious condition

Those who opt to leave will be moved to government facilities to wait out a quarantine that is set to last until February 19.

Health Minister Katsunobu Kato said five people from the ship were in serious condition in hospital — four who have tested positive for the virus.

Rishi Sunak appointed Britain's Finance Minister

The three-time MP succeeds Sajid Javid

REUTERS

LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has appointed Rishi Sunak as his new Finance Minister, the government said in a statement on Thursday.



member of the Conservative Party, Mr. Sunak has been used by the government to defend their policies in television interviews — a sign of trust from Mr. Johnson, who has a fraught relationship with Britain's media.

'Excellent choice'

David Jones, a former Brexit Minister, described Sunak as "very bright" and an "excellent choice".

"Delighted to be appointed," Mr. Sunak said. "Lots to get on with."

The three-time Member of Parliament takes control at a critical juncture for Britain's \$2.7 trillion economy. He will have to steer the economy through the turbulence of leaving the European Union and the forging of new trade links that will define Britain's new relationship with the world.

Mr. Sunak's father was a doctor and his mother ran a chemist shop. Before entering politics, he worked for Goldman Sachs and a hedge fund, then co-founded an investment firm. He also has an MBA from Stanford University in the U.S.

Ultra-loyal Alok Sharma, a former Minister for international development, was appointed as Minister for Business and also the head of the COP26 climate change summit in Scotland in November, due to be attended by world leaders.

Hope Hicks set to return to White House

She will be working for Jared Kushner

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

WASHINGTON

Hope Hicks, a former close adviser to Donald Trump who resigned almost two years ago, will return to the White House as the president's re-election campaign heats up.

"She will be Counselor to the President and Senior Adviser, working for Jared Kushner's office," White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham said.

Mr. Kushner is President Trump's son-in-law and a senior adviser in his administration.

Ms. Hicks, 31, joined Mr. Trump's 2016 presidential early on and rose to become



the White House communications director.

Ms. Hicks resigned on March 1, 2018, a day after her closed-door hearing before Congress in the probe on Russian interference in the 2016 presidential race,

U.S. welcomes Saeed's conviction, calls it key step ahead of FATF meet

Pakistan to present its case to escape being blacklisted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON

The U.S. has welcomed the conviction of the 2008 Mumbai attack mastermind and JuD chief Hafiz Saeed, describing it as an "important step forward" for Pakistan in meeting its international commitments to combat terror financing and not to allow non-state actors to operate from its soil.

The statement of a top State department official came after Saeed, a UN designated terrorist whom the U.S. has placed a \$10 million bounty on, was sentenced to 11 years in two terror financing cases on Wednesday,



four days ahead of a crucial meeting of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in Paris, where Pakistan will present its case to escape from being blacklisted.

According to Acting Assistant Secretary of State for

South and Central Asia Alice G Wells, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has said it is in the interest of his country's future that it does not allow non-state actors to operate from its soil.

She said in a tweet: "Today's conviction of Hafiz Saeed and his associate is an important step forward — both towards holding LeT accountable for its crimes, and for Pakistan in meeting its international commitments to combat terrorist financing".

The 70-year-old fiery cleric is lodged at the high-security Kot Lakhpat jail in Lahore.

Residents said the assai-

Family burnt alive as 'bandits' kill 21 in Nigeria

Six children were among those killed

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

KANO

Armed attackers burned 21 people alive, including 16 members of the same family, in a revenge attack by criminal gangs on a village in northern Nigeria, residents said on Thursday.

Gummen on motorcycles raided the village of Bakali in Kaduna state on Tuesday, shooting and burning homes and vehicles to avenge a raid on their hideout by local vigilantes, inhabitants said.

"They killed 21 people in the attack," Bakali's community leader Sani Nuhu told AFP.

Local communities have formed vigilante groups to protect themselves but this has failed to end the violence.

lants burned alive 16 members of the same family, including six children, and five members of a local self-defence group after locking them in a house.

A police spokesman said the force had "received report of an attack by bandits on Bakali village" but was "still awaiting details".

The area where the attack happened has in recent years been a haven for criminal gangs, who steal cattle and kidnap people for ransom.

Local communities have formed vigilante groups to protect themselves but this has failed to end the violence.



ELSEWHERE

Jeff Bezos buys estate for \$165 million: report

SAN FRANCISCO

Billions Amazon chief Jeff Bezos has purchased a Los Angeles-area estate for \$165 million, setting a new record for the region, *The Wall Street Journal* reported on Wednesday. The Warner Estate spans nine acres in Beverly Hills. AFP

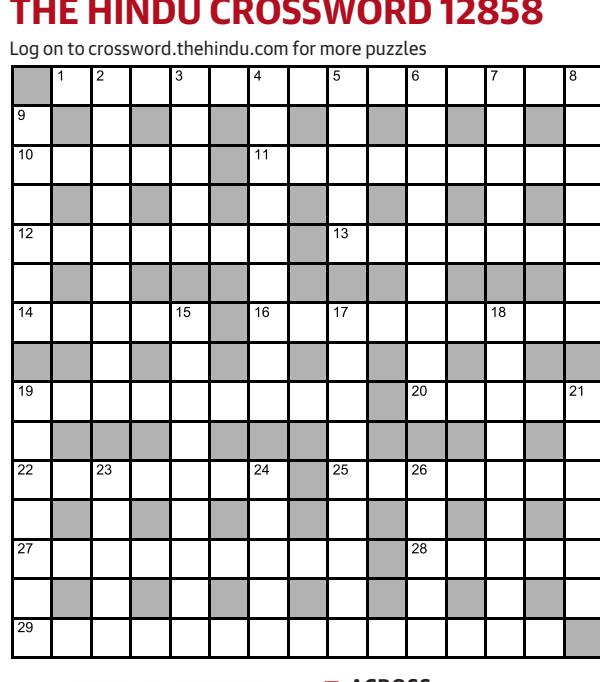
Myanmar school hit by mortar, 20 children hurt

YANGON

Around 20 children were injured on Thursday when mortar fire hit a school in Rakhine state, where the military is locked in a battle with Arakan Army rebels. AFP

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12858

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



ACROSS

- Chartered men to play the game (5-4,5)
- Snake dance? (5)
- Site for bric-a-brac (9)
- Bedtime, get home — it will protect your head (7)
- Carries everyday — what's inside the wind catcher? (7)

(set by Arden)

- Expect to take note over time (5)
- Stop a child playing inside canopy (9)
- One who likes milk takes part in making cheese (9)
- Go ahead — secret tips for a rendezvous (5)
- One did have choice over operating system (7)
- In a defensive position — becomes enraged (2,5)
- A no man's island, right? Wrong, it's landlocked (3,6)
- Throughway in view (5)
- Managed to cheer him — see, he is enamoured by it! (4,6,4)
- Both sides receive praise from French composer (5)
- It's dangerous to denigrate the worker (9)
- Money raised — taking somewhat contrarian view (5)
- Character's speech disorder shows up in time (7)
- Solid book, worn out (6)
- Doctor's in, work at hospital later... (9)
- ...doctor is home, let's get supper (9)
- They don't have time to change poster — happens suddenly (3,6)
- Vintage drink, to be taken in small quantity (7)
- Drill bit in the centre panel (6)
- Material dug up from below (5)
- Key fault with tenor (5)
- 100 on 9 for an artist (9)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 12857

|<td
| |

MARKET WATCH

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	41,460	-0.26
US Dollar	68.44	-0.27
Gold	41,484	0.65
Brent oil	56.37	0.93

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	369.10	-5.00
Asian Paints	1874.05	-19.65
Axis Bank	747.80	-7.45
Bajaj Auto	3136.40	-9.90
Bajaj Finance	9717.20	-54.65
Bharti Airtel	539.95	0.35
BPLC	469.00	-5.75
Britannia Ind	3135.20	-1.60
Cipla	443.40	-3.40
Coal India	177.80	-2.50
Dr Reddy's Lab	3324.60	128.90
Eicher Motors	19355.30	77.45
GAIL (India)	130.30	-0.05
Grasim Ind	752.25	-3.10
HCL Tech	612.45	-1.65
HDFC	2403.65	-33.95
HDFC Bank	1241.40	-7.60
Hero MotoCorp	2408.95	-14.10
Hindalco	195.25	1.60
Hind Unilever	2283.40	23.05
ICICI Bank	541.00	-8.30
IndusInd Bank	1230.75	-46.65
Bharti Infralet	244.85	1.50
Infosys	792.25	11.20
Indian Oil Corp	114.75	-0.35
ITC	211.90	-1.15
JSW Steel	293.35	-0.35
Kotak Bank	1689.80	-25.10
L&T	1292.25	-5.05
M&M	533.60	2.60
Maruti Suzuki	7005.05	-38.25
Nestle India Ltd.	16412.20	114.50
NTPC	115.15	-1.65
ONGC	105.35	-1.35
PowerGrid Corp	190.55	1.20
Reliance Ind	1474.15	3.85
State Bank	327.45	7.25
Sun Pharma	418.95	4.35
Tata Motors	169.50	-1.45
Tata Steel	441.25	-6.70
TCS	2191.95	21.20
Tech Mahindra	828.00	6.50
Titan	1298.10	29.10
UltraTech Cement	4450.50	-3.25
UPL	578.75	4.85
Vedanta	142.50	0.95
Wipro	243.75	-0.70
YES Bank	37.20	2.00
Zee Entertainment	237.15	5.10

	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.12	71.44
Euro	77.26	77.60
British Pound	92.66	93.08
Japanese Yen (100)	64.82	65.11
Chinese Yuan	10.18	10.23
Swiss Franc	72.66	72.99
Singapore Dollar	51.19	51.42
Canadian Dollar	53.63	53.89
Malaysian Ringgit	17.15	17.25

Source: Indian Bank

	BULLION RATES CHENNAI
February 13 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses	
Retail Silver (1g).....49.7.....(49.4)	
22 ct gold (1g).....3889.....(3862)	

Source: Indian Bank

USTR takes India off developing country list

Amends lists of developing, least-developed countries eligible for preferential treatment with respect to CVD investigation

SIRRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

The U.S. government has changed an administrative rule making it easier for it to impose countervailing duties (CVDs) on goods from India and certain other countries.

The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) has published a notice, amending lists of developing and least-developed countries that are eligible for preferential treatment with respect to CVD investigations.

Country classification
To harmonise U.S. law with the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM) Agreement, the USTR had, in 1998, come up with lists of countries classified as per their level of develop-

ment. These lists were used to determine whether they were potentially subject to U.S. countervailing duties. The 1998 rule is now 'obsolete' as per the USTR notice.

Countries not given special consideration have lower levels of protection against a CVD investigation.

A CVD investigation must be terminated if the offending subsidy is *de minimis* (too small to warrant concern) or if import volumes are negligible.

The *de minimis* thresholds and import volume allowance are more relaxed for developing and least-developed countries.

India was, until February 10, on the developing country list and therefore eligible for these more relaxed standards. It has now been taken off of that list.

S&P retains India's rating with 'stable outlook'

'GDP growth rate to gradually recover'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Global ratings agency Standard & Poor's on Thursday affirmed India's sovereign rating at 'BBB-' with stable outlook, saying the country's GDP growth is likely to gradually recover towards longer-term trend rates over the next two to three years.

'BBB' rating refers to adequate capacity of the rated entity to meet its financial commitments.

"Despite a notable deceleration in India's economy in recent quarters, we believe its structural growth outperformance remains intact. Real GDP growth is therefore likely to gradually recover toward longer-term

trend rates over the next two to three years," S&P said in a statement. It expects economic growth rate to improve to 6% during 2020-21, 7% in the subsequent fiscal and 7.4% thereafter.

"We expect India's economy to continue to outperform peers at a similar level of income, despite a recent slowdown in real GDP growth. Supportive monetary, fiscal, and cyclical factors should support economic recovery, with real GDP growth averaging 7.1% in fiscals 2020-2024," it said.

The agency also pointed out India's fiscal position remains precarious, with elevated fiscal deficits and net government indebtedness.

Talking business

- India was in the 'developing country' list till February 10, eligible for relaxed norms
- Country was taken off the list, as were Brazil, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam
- New lists include 36 developing, 44 least developed nations
- In 1998, U.S. had come up with lists of nations classified as per level of development
- Lists helped determine if they were subject to U.S.' CVDs (countervailing duties)

The new lists consist of 36 developing countries and 44 least developed countries.

The USTR used the following criteria to determine whether a country was eligible for the 2% *de minimis* standard: (I) Per capita Gross

- A CVD probe was to be terminated if offending subsidy was too small
- 1998 rule is now 'obsolete' as per USTR notice



The U.S. and India are trying to finalise a trade package before the U.S. President's arrival

large shares of global economic output and trade, G20 membership indicates that a country is developed," the USTR notice said.

Not linked to Trump visit

U.S. President Donald Trump has repeatedly complained about the WTO's classification of developing countries.

Mr. Trump is due to visit India on February 24 and 25 and the U.S. and India are trying to finalise a trade package before the U.S. President's arrival. The timing of the USTR announcement is not linked to the visit, a former trade official told *The Hindu*.

"The timing is mostly coincidental and mostly related to dynamics at the WTO on developing country treatment," the official said.

RBI appoints five executive directors

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has elevated five officials to the executive directors' post.

The officials will be taking charge during the year.

Those elevated are Indrani Banerjee, Regional Director, Nagpur, Saurav Sinha, chief general manager-in-charge, Vivek Deep, CGM in-charge, J.K. Dash, CGM in-charge, and P. Vijayakumar, the senior most RBI ombudsman.

At present, RBI has 12 executive directors, and five of them are due to retire in 2020.

In January, Michael Patra was elevated to the post of Deputy Governor. Janak Raj replaced Mr. Patra as the executive director in charge of monetary policy.

Soon, a panel to address fiscal policy issues

To be set up by the Fifteenth Finance Commission, it will present consolidated fiscal debt road map



Another group on defence and internal security will be chaired by Commission Chairman N.K. Singh. ■PAUL NORONHA

India, the Ministry of Finance, the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) panel and some of the States.

Robust legal framework

Mr. Singh, however, added that there wasn't a need for a new legal framework as the FRBM already gives a robust legal framework, "except for the fact the States need to align their own FRBM with the new FRBM enacted by the Union Government with the amendments to the earlier one in 2018. Also, we need to ensure there is strict compliance on the issues of off-Budget borrowing, contingent liabilities..."

The panel will be headed by Mr. Singh and have representation from the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, the Reserve Bank of

India, the Ministry of Finance, the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) panel and some of the States.

On Thursday, the Advisory Council to the 15th Finance Commission held its sixth meeting, at which many suggestions were given concerning the GST, he said, adding that generally, it was felt the room for improvement in GST was significant.

"They all realise the future of revenue policy is basically tied to GST. So, quite some time was spent on this. They also wanted a more systematic dialogue between the Finance Commission and the GST Council since we are also very much stakeholders."

Vodafone Idea Q4 loss widens to ₹6,438.8 crore

Finance costs surge, depreciation up

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Vodafone Idea on Thursday reported widening of losses to ₹6,438.8 crore in October-December 2019 against ₹5,004.6 crore in the year-ago period.

Finance costs of the company surged almost 30% to ₹3,722.2 crore, while depreciation went up by 23% to ₹5,877.4 crore.

Compared sequentially, the company's losses are substantially lower than the ₹50,922 crore suffered in the September quarter.

Wheels India profit slides 39.75% on weak demand

Echoes slowdown in auto sector

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Wheels India Ltd. has reported a 39.75% dip in its standalone net profit for the third quarter ended December 2019 to ₹9.2 crore on weak demand in automotive and industrial components, echoing slowdown in the automobile sector.

Revenue from operations slid 25.79% to ₹583.24 crore. Cost of materials contracted

SEBI devises system to track client securities

Aims to detect misuse of collateral

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has developed an in-house system to track the movement of client securities that are collected as collateral by brokers.

"SEBI has developed the in-house capabilities to track, online, the movement of client securities collected by the broker as collateral and raise alerts with exchanges if diversion of clients' securities is noticed," SEBI said in a release.

"This system is likely to detect the misuse of clients' securities collected by brokers as collateral or received in pay-out of securities," the release added, while highlighting the fact that three 'mismatch reports' had already been forwarded to the stock exchanges for reconciliation with members.

There had been instances of brokerages using client securities to raise funds for themselves. The most high-profile case was that of Karvy Stock Broking, which has been barred from getting new clients on board.

In the recent past years, it has been observed that some brokers have misused

Shell, RIL win against Centre in U.K. court



SRAVASTI DATTA

At Cubbon Park, Bengaluru, plant music technician Tritone Crisantemo shows how he holds a plant to a MIDI interface, called Symphony. The plant's electrical resistance from a leaf to the root system is transformed into music.

A crowd gathers around while Tritone demonstrates how it works. "The technology we use enables us to listen to the electrical resistance in the plant. If there is a higher resistance, there is a higher note, if there is a lower resistance there is a lower note. The plant can then choose the note within the human musical system. The device amplifies the vibrations already present in the plant, translating the vibrations into the human musical system, which is a subdivision of all the vibrations present around us all the time."

Green music

Tritone adds: "Any plant can play music, though it shouldn't be too dry or dusty. Since we measure the electrical signals within the plant, plants that have more water in their bodies conduct better and so the plants are able to musically express themselves better." Earlier, they performed in a school and at a police station in Bengaluru.

As people sit in silence, listening to the sweet music emanating from the plants, Tritone, Benjamin Andersen, who plays many instruments, and Chiyo Kaiga, a singer from Japan, trace the history of plant music and of their band.

"We are two entities working from Damanhur: one is the sister company called Music of the Plants that produces these devices and the other is our collective, The Masterplants Orchestra, where we are more on the field, pushing the limits of what can be done with the

Using specialised technology, MasterPlants Orchestra, from Damanhur, Italy, creates music from plants



SUDHAKARA JAIN, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Even plants play music



technology, and figuring how to spread awareness on this in the best way possible," says Tritone.

Tracing the history of plant music, Tritone says: "In the 1970s in Damanhur (a community in Piemonte Italy) a group of researchers began to develop a technology that could bridge the ancient and intrinsic connection that humanity has to plants, nature and life.

Inspired by Damanhurian mythology and by Oberto Airaudi, the

founder of Damanhur, the team began to create the technology called Music of the Plants."

He says through the years various iterations of plant music technology have been developed. Music of the Plants was created in 2000.

Developing devices

Tritone said the MasterPlants Orchestra was started three years ago within the Damanhur community. "Benjamin started to play with the

older devices that could allow one plant to play music. We decided to create better devices that can allow more plants to play music with more complex compositions. In that moment, something lit up in us and everything fell into place." But when they tried to create a new device, they faced some difficulties. They met a technician in Denmark, Martin Luckmann, who was the first builder of the Masterplants Symphony device.

"Then half a year later we needed some upgrades and so we currently have a lead engineer from Greece, Spiros Makris. We are now working on developing Symphony 2.0, which is a larger device and a more affordable one, because right now plant music technology is somewhat expensive. Symphony 2.0 will allow the plants to not only control the notes, but we are also studying how plants can control the settings of the device," Tritone says, of the future of this unique style of music.

The India experience

Benjamin, who plays the electric guitar and various percussion instruments in Masterplants, also knows how to play the tabla.

"I taught myself the tabla for about two years. When I was presented to a master in Varanasi, I played for maybe 10 seconds and he said, 'Stop, stop! You have to start all over!' So I learnt the tabla from him and now I play a mix of what I teach myself and what I have

learnt from my master."

Chiyo says she met Tritone and the spiritual community of Damanhur. "It is a sacred place and since then my life has been changing, spiritually and emotionally. This is my first visit to India. I consider MasterPlants as a door to the next, higher dimension."

Speaking about some of the challenges they have faced, Benjamin says: "One thing we did when we made the device was that we enabled the plant to play within the musical system of rhythm. The plants have a rhythmic pattern according to how quickly we measure them. So what we did was to translate that into what is being used in music, beats per minute (bpm). In the older devices, that was just in seconds. But this was not reasonable for musicians so we made it more compatible with human music. We have found different ways of incorporating different scales, ragas, and musical options."

This interspecies concert also raises awareness on nature. Tritone adds, "We are bridging the gap between humans and nature."

At Taj Vivanta, Yeshwanthpur on February 14; and on February 16 at Band Stand in Cubbon Park, Bengaluru, 10 a.m. onwards; entry free; call 9880370925 for details

Green beats Tritone, Chiyo and Benjamin at Cubbon Park; and the Masterplants Symphony device (below) ■ SUDHAKARA JAIN, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In this interview, she talks about her journey of running a niche lifestyle-brand, run exclusively by deaf people and why the Hear+Art Project is not just for the deaf and mute. Edited excerpts.

POP-UP

Forging connections

The inclusive Hear+Art Project 5.0 brings together craft-lovers and artists with a hearing impairment



Atulyakala, a Delhi-based social enterprise founded by Smriti Nagpal, is hosting its annual event the Hear+Art Project tomorrow. The event, which first took place in 2015, is now in its fifth year, and is a platform to bring together people with hearing and visual impairments to connect with each other as well as the community at large through an activity-filled fest.

The event will have sign language workshops, jam sessions, DIY and other group activities. "We make the environment conducive for people to break the ice with one another, learn [sign] language, and some art. It is an inclusive, fun event," says Nagpal, whose enterprise employs 15 full timers, 13 of whom have a hearing impairment. The organisation is a for-profit e-commerce platform, where bags, journals and notebooks, wallets, posters, and other accessories made by artists who are deaf, are sold. Atulyakala has also started opening brick and mortar stores across multiple cities in India. "We have just opened one in Mumbai, the second one in Noida, and we have a store in Connaught Place too. This year, we also want to at least open up four more stores," says Nagpal.



In this interview, she talks about her journey of running a niche lifestyle-brand, run exclusively by deaf people and why the Hear+Art Project is not just for the deaf and mute. Edited excerpts.

Can you tell us a little about the Hear+Art Project?

This is our annual event; we do this as a part of our awareness and CSR project, where we try to bring together a lot of deaf and mute people, through a platform for the arts. So we have workshops, events where people can create something. It's a place to learn some art, some sign language, while having fun.

What activities can we expect on the day?

We team up people in a way that there is one deaf and one non-deaf person together. We also have interpreters [on site] who will help in communicating. But it has never happened that anyone has asked for an interpreter. We will also have our sign language crash course going on, and a DIY workshop where people can come create their own bags that they can take away from the event. We will also have a jam session in which one person will be singing and the other will be signing, the song.

How is your organisation different from others working in the space?

Firstly, we are not an NGO. Secondly, we are like any other small scale lifestyle brand or startup, in that we research, brainstorm, and set sales targets. We do not run on charity and donations. Our sales targets give salaries to the employees and keep us going. We do a lot of collaborations with various other organisations too, and that's something that really helped in growing. Like we did one collaboration with Google, where we made a Google Doodle in the Indian Sign language.

At The National Crafts Museum & Hastkala Academy, Pragati Maidan; February 15, 11 a.m. onwards, entry free

ARYAVRAT PANGHAL

PRODUCTS

Four-legged love

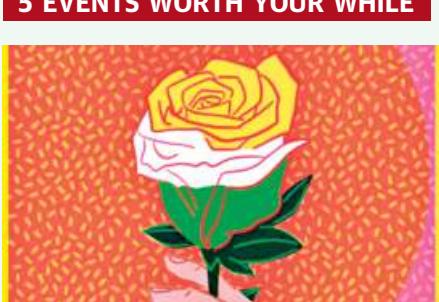


For Valentine's Day, Brooklyn's Boutique, an e-commerce dog-wear brand, has introduced matching sets for pets and their humans. The brand claims that the pyjamas sets in the collection are made from premium mercerised cotton. You can choose from a range of designs and sizes. There is a special Valentine's Day discount of 20%, which is available at the online portal today.

Shopatbrooklyns.com, upwards of ₹999

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



CULTURE

India my Valentine
An evening of music, poetry, stand up, spoken word, story-telling to celebrate India, as our homeland, our birthplace, our family, is being organised by a group of citizens under the umbrella platform, India My Valentine. The participants include Swara Bhasker, Fahad Ahmad, Ratna Pathak Shah and Richard Jacob.

VENUE: JNU and Nizamuddin East

TIME: 5-9 p.m. Nizamuddin East 7-11 p.m.



DINING

Manga style Valentine
Celebrate Valentine's Day in Manga comic style at Asian-cuisine Youmee today. Their menu offers a playful blend of multicultural cuisine influences from South East Asia. Items include Pumpkin Karaage, Chicken Star Anise with Crispy Horeno, Tuna Truffle Tartare, Crazy Cajun and Prawn Tempura Roll.

VENUE: Youmee, Greater Kailash II

TIME: 11 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.



FOOD

Valentine special menu
Zambar, a speciality regional South Indian restaurant, is celebrating Valentine's Day with a special menu. A mix of veg and non-veg offerings, the menu has items like Hyderabadi Paneer Nizami, Andhra Fish Curry, Coriander Fish Fry, Syrian Veg Biriyani and Pooni Rice and desserts like Rava Kesari and Mysore Pak.

VENUE: Ambience Mall, Gurugram

TIME: 12:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. and 7-10:30 p.m.



MEAL

Valentine spread
Enjoy V-Day at Rooh that has a view of the Qutub Minar. Their chef Sujan Sarkar has curated a seven-course meal which will have Black Rice Papad with Young Strawberry, Grilled Avocado with Fish Bonda, Wrapped Paneer in Savoy Cabbage, Alleppey Neer Dosa and Malai Chicken Roulaide.

VENUE: Kalka Das Marg, Mehrauli

TIME: 7:30 p.m. onwards

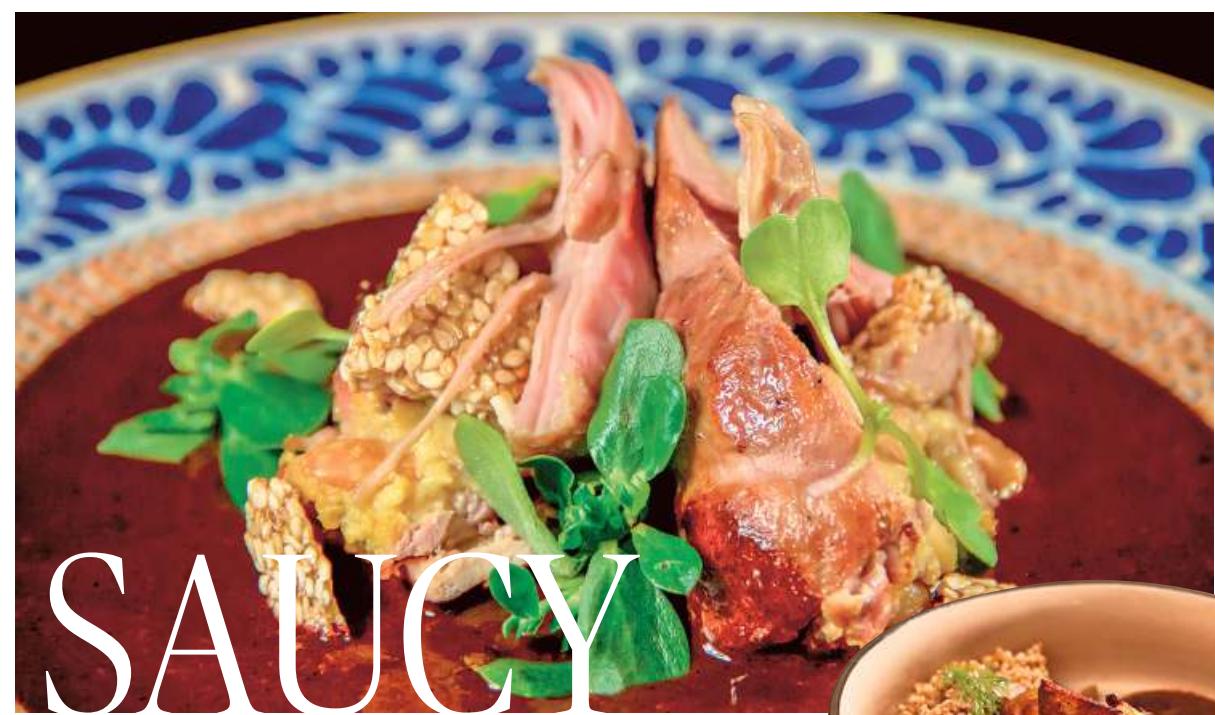


F&B

Valentine buffet
Celebrate the day of love at Punjab Grill, which offers a candle light dinner along with exotic cocktails and mocktails. The menu has dishes such as Kasundi Broccoli, Zaitooni Paneer Tikka, Kathal Kofta, Himalayan Herb Chicken Tikka, Kadhai Jhinga, Dum Chicken Biriyani and Hibiscus Chur Naan.

VENUE: All Delhi/NCR outlets

TIME: 11.30 a.m.-3.30 p.m. and 7 p.m.-11 p.m.



SAUCY experiments

Sriracha and aioli are old news. Chefs across the country are using desi ghee, pomegranate and more to whip up sauces of their own, highlighting both local flavour profiles and overseas traditions

MINI RIBEIRO

A Hollandaise to add richness to your eggs Benedict; a smooth, tangy lemon dill sauce to add zest to a grilled chicken; a luscious sauce to turn your bland heap of boiled noodles into a rich spaghetti Bolognese. Sauces can elevate a dish instantly, introducing complementary or contrasting flavours, enhancing visual flair, adding moisture or even improving texture.

In busy restaurant kitchens, however, convenience is key and time is premium. Despite that, chefs find cooking their own sauces a worthy investment, in their endeavours towards creating well-rounded flavours. Today's discerning consumers are concerned about ingredients – especially sugar, salt and artificial flavourings – that go into a sauce. So, although the variety of sauces available on shelves is mind-boggling, chefs are exercising restraint when it comes to ready-made sauces.

Saurabh Udnia, corporate executive chef at Massive Restaurants (which runs restaurants like Masala Library, Pa Pa Ya, Farzi Café and Made in Punjab), says, "All the sauces we serve or use are made in our own kitchens. It is time-consuming, but it gives us the

freedom to modify, use the right produce, know the source of each ingredient, keep our knowledge of exact allergens in mind and make sure that they are preservative and additive-free. Desi ghee hollandaise, bell pepper ketchup, mustard ketchup, and pomegranate are just a few of the many in-house sauces we make."

Fresh is flavourful

Chef Nagraj Bhat of London Taxi, Mumbai, opines, "In-house sauces are always healthier, because we use fresh ingredients, don't add any additives or preservatives. Our sauces have lower sodium content than the store-bought ones and are made fresh daily. Most importantly, we can alter the taste of



each sauce depending upon the dish and guests preference."

Nagraj's raspberry jalapeño and fennel sauce, he says, "tastes like tamarind chutney. We serve the raspberry sauce along with our jalapeño cheddar chicken tikka."

While Nagraj prioritises the blending of flavour, for Rohan Hastak, founder of Ground Up, Pune, the context of the ingredients is vital. He likes them locally sourced, as far as possible. "We believe that being able to influence every aspect of the condiment is not only fun and challenging for a chef, but also the best way to create food that really feels like our own. When a chef decides to make something from scratch, the process is much more rewarding." From a milk-and-egg mayonnaise to a tahini, and a Mexican mole sauce to various salsas, all sauces are freshly made at Ground Up.

Chef Nagraj adds, "The flavour of the main ingredient should complement the sauce and the sauce should add depth, colour and enhance the overall taste of the dish. Sauces differ in each cuisine and even geographically, according to ingredients that are locally available and seasonal." Intriguingly, his barbecue sauce is made with Gran-

Game of flavour notes (Clockwise from left) Roasted pork with adobo; specialty dishes by Ground Up and Masala Library • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ny Smith, an apple cultivar that has its origins in Australia but has been gaining ground in India over the past few years. "It is for our pork ribs, as apple-and-pork is a classic combination. The sharpness of the apples cuts through the richness of the pork without overpowering it," he says.

Evolutionary tale

Marie-Antoinette Carême, one of the fathers of classical French cuisine, identified the original 'mother sauces': Béchamel, Espagnole, Velouté and Allemagne. Chef Auguste Escoffier then replaced Allemagne with Hollandaise in the 1900s. These sauces still hold an important place in many kitchens, but with the introduction of sauces from around the globe, the concept of sauces has changed and there are several modern variations.

Chefs unanimously agree that consumers are discovering cuisines, as they travel more, and are constantly seeking something new. Pasta sauce, BBQ sauce, salsa, are no longer exceptional, and newer gourmet sauces are beginning to make their presence felt.

Adobo, a cooking sauce from the Philippines which uses five ingredients – soy sauce, vinegar, garlic, peppercorns and bay leaf – is fast catching the fancy of chefs. So is the Korean ssamjang, a spicy, thick sauce made with gochujang, doenjang soy bean paste, sesame oil, garlic and sugar or honey for sweetness. Concentrated and potent, a sticky ketchup-like sriracha has long been known to elevate Thai food and can be added to scrambled eggs on toast, as well. Yet, chefs are now opting for the closest relative of sriracha – sambal oelek, with a more vinegary tang and less garlicky sweetness, to add flavour to any dish that calls for a bite of heat. The punchy horseradish sauce is another one gaining popularity, and brings a sharp focus to the rich flavours of meat.

Says chef Nagraj, "At London Taxi, our smoked apple BBQ sauce is paired with our slow braised pork ribs as apple and pork is a match made in heaven."

A masterful combination of flavours, sauces are often the final piece of the puzzle. No wonder chefs give sauces, so much thought.

she loved in the 1990s have faded away. "It's more difficult to find the simple, everyday folk cooking that I used to adore, including duck braised with konnyaku tofu and really good versions of the classic fish-fragrant pork slivers. In recent years, there's been a craze for new, imported ingredients such as okra and ice plant." But luckily, "local heroes are doing their utmost to honour and preserve their gastronomic heritage for another generation."

This is not a book for someone looking for a quick fix or easy recipe, though some are simple to make. The first 60 pages introduce the reader to the cuisine, the kitchen, the larder and the table. The recipes are divided into 14 sections and each recipe has a note attached, some long and comprehensive. Fuchsia also dives into the MSG controversy. "I think many westerners have a paranoia about MSG that is unjustified," she muses. "There is no scientific evidence that it is harmful, and the compound appears naturally in ingredients like parmesan cheese. Many excellent Chinese chefs use MSG to cook delicious food."

Fuchsia Dunlop • ANDI SAPEY

In her introduction to the revised edition of her 2001 classic (*Sichuan Cookery*), Fuchsia talks about living in Chengdu in the 1990s and studying at the Sichuan Higher Institute of Cuisine (she was the first Westerner to study here). For this version, she "restored every single recipe and made many alterations to make them (I hope!) even better. I also wanted to add recipes that reflected the regional diversity of Sichuan itself, so I travelled around and ended up including 70 new recipes, including specialties from places like Leshan and Zigong." She mentions the changing culinary landscape and how dishes

said that, she adds that she doesn't use it. "I don't think it's necessary if you use good ingredients. I also think constantly eating food heavily seasoned with MSG can blunt the palate and make it harder to appreciate delicate tastes."

Given that China is much like India in its regional food variations, I ask if she has a favourite. "Sichuanese," comes the answer. "One of my favourite dishes of all time (and the most popular recipe in my book) is fish-fragrant aubergines."

+ + +



The nice spice

Just like her favourite cuisine, Fuchsia Dunlop's book *The Food of Sichuan* is fresh and lively, and delves deep into lesser-known treasures of China

R KRITHIKA

Most restaurants that serve 'Chinese' food around India will have some 'Schezwan' items on the menu. Non-vegetarian or vegetarian, the dish is identified by its oily, spicy nature. But Fuchsia Dunlop's book *The Food of Sichuan* tells you that, while the use of red chillies and Sichuan pepper does increase the heat quotient, the food is "both sophisticated and amazingly diverse".

Her introduction to this regional cuisine came when two friends in Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province, took her out to lunch at a small restaurant in the city. "It was the best Chinese food I've ever tasted," she recalls. "The dishes included stir-fried pig's kidneys, fish-fragrant aubergines and a fish braised in chilli bean sauce. That meal was one of the main reasons I decided I wanted to return to live in Chengdu. All the snack shops around the university served inexpensive food with spectacular flavours: fried guokui pastries, dan dan noodles and spicy wontons... It was addictive."



Fuchsia Dunlop • ANDI SAPEY

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POOCH CAFE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



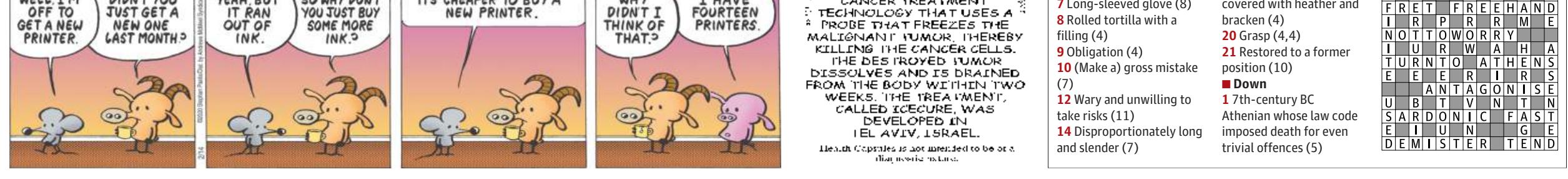
TIGER



WUMO



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



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ACROSS

- 1 Carefully thought out (10)
- 2 Weariness (7)
- 3 Papal edict (4)
- 4 Hustlers (anag) – like 1 down? (8)
- 5 Saturn's largest satellite (5)
- 6 Consent to receive (6)
- 11 Short official statement (8)
- 12 One who hunts down and confines another (6)
- 13 Descriptive word or phrase (7)
- 15 Audacity (informal) (5)
- 17 Dish of raw vegetables (5)
- 18 Satirical sketch (4)

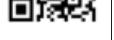
DOWN

- 16 One-sided inclination (4)
- 17 Stretch of open land covered with heather and bracken (4)
- 18 Rolled tortilla with a filling (4)
- 19 Obligation (4)
- 20 Grasp (4,4)
- 21 Restored to a former position (10)
- 22 Down
- 23 7th-century BC Athenian whose law code imposed death for even trivial offences (5)

The solution will appear on February 15, 2020.

Solution No. 13301

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



- 2 Weariness (7)
- 3 Papal edict (4)
- 4 Hustlers (anag) – like 1 down? (8)
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- 6 Consent to receive (6)
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The solution will appear on February 15, 2020.

Solution No. 13301

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ND-NDE

Openers' lone spinner's spots in focus

Taking on New Zealand XI in a warm-up match, India will look to get line-up right for first Test

INDIA IN NZ

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HAMILTON

Clarity on opening combination, a call on whether R. Ashwin's variations can trump Ravindra Jadeja's all-round skill-set will be the focus for India in its three-day warm-up game against New Zealand XI starting here on Friday.

After the harsh reality check of 0-3 drubbing in the just-concluded ODI series, a red-ball warm-up game will be the most welcome distraction for Virat Kohli and his men as a precursor to the two-match Test series starting next week.

Ideal practice game

India could not have asked for a better practice game as the opposition team is full of New Zealand senior and A-team players, including leg-spinner Ish Sodhi, allrounder Jimmy Neesham and wicketkeeper Tim Seifert, in its ranks.

The inclusion of white ball pacers Scott Kuggeleijn and Blair Tickner will be the kind of test which both Prithvi Shaw and Shubman Gill will relish as they make a case for their inclusion in the playing XI for the first Test starting in Wellington on February 21.

Shubman will be itching to show his skipper that he is ready for the big debut which is eagerly anticipated

among his growing legion of fans, despite his international career being two-match old.

Test for spinners

A flat track like the one at Seddon Park will also be a test for the two frontline spinners with Ashwin and Jadeja getting a chance to test the likes of Daryl Mitchell, Tom Bruce and Seifert in action.

For the New Zealand XI, there is Dane Cleaver, who has had scores of 196 and 53 in the two A 'Tests' against India.

He would like to impress the selectors and get into the first team for the Test series. India is looking to get its combination right for the Test series which is a part of the World Test Championship.

The teams (from):

India: Virat Kohli (Capt), Mayank Agarwal, Prithvi Shaw, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane (Vice-capt.), Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Hanuma Vihari, Ravindra Jadeja, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav, Ravichandran Ashwin, Rishabh Pant, Navdeep Saini and Shubman Gill.

New Zealand XI: Daryl Mitchell (Capt), Finn Allen, Tom Bruce, Dane Cleaver, Henry Cooper, Scott Kuggeleijn, James Neesham, Rachin Ravindra, Tim Seifert, Ish Sodhi, Blair Tickner, Will Young, Jake Gibson and Scott Johnston.

Match starts at 3:30 a.m. IST.



Toss up: R. Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja will vie for a berth in the playing XI for the Test.

* FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

'Dhoni is India's best captain'

Now we have that same aura in our dressing room: Raina

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Veteran India batsman Suresh Raina feels M.S. Dhoni is the best captain India ever had. Raina and Dhoni play for the same IPL franchise – Chennai Super Kings – which is also led by the latter.

"I think we have the best captain who has changed the Indian team like anything. Now we have that same aura in our dressing room," Raina said on 'The Super Kings show' on Star Sports Tamil.

The 38-year-old Dhoni has retired from Test cricket but

his future in the limited-over formats is a subject of intense speculation.

The two-time World Cup-winning former captain took a break from cricket after India's exit from the 2019 World Cup in England. He is set to be back in action at the IPL, where he will captain the CSK, starting March 23.

With three restricted stands at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai finally being reopened, Raina urged the fans to fill the venue in every CSK home game. "We have all the seats available. Hopefully, we'll

have more fans now so that there is more energy on the field," the 33-year-old Raina said.

Raina, who last played for India in 2018, also expressed his excitement about the prospect of playing with CSK's latest acquisitions.

"This year we have a lot of new talent in our team. Piyush (Chawla) is there, then we have Hazelwood, Sam Curran, Sai Kishore from Tamil Nadu, he has been bowling really well for them. So, I think we have a lot of mixture of youngsters and seniors."

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Fifth seed Gargi Pawar beat lucky loser Liang Shuang of China 6-2, 6-2 in the girls' quarterfinals of the ITF grade-5 junior tennis tournament at Pokhara, Nepal, on Thursday.

In the boys' section, Aman Dahiya, Krishan Hooda and Jaishvin Sidana made the semifinals.

Other results:

Boys (quarterfinals): Shogo Sanada (Jpn) bt Aryan Lakshmanan 6-7(4), 6-0, 6-4; Aman Dahiya bt P. Albrecht (Ger) 6-3, 6-3; Krishan Hooda bt Satoru

Bharat Ratna demand for Dhyan Chand

Tarak Kumar Parkar insists the hockey great deserves it

HOCKEY

UTHRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI

The demand for a Bharat Ratna for Major Dhyan Chand has been an ongoing one for several years now. Apart from concerted efforts by various groups including his own family, there have been several instances of individuals seeking the same.

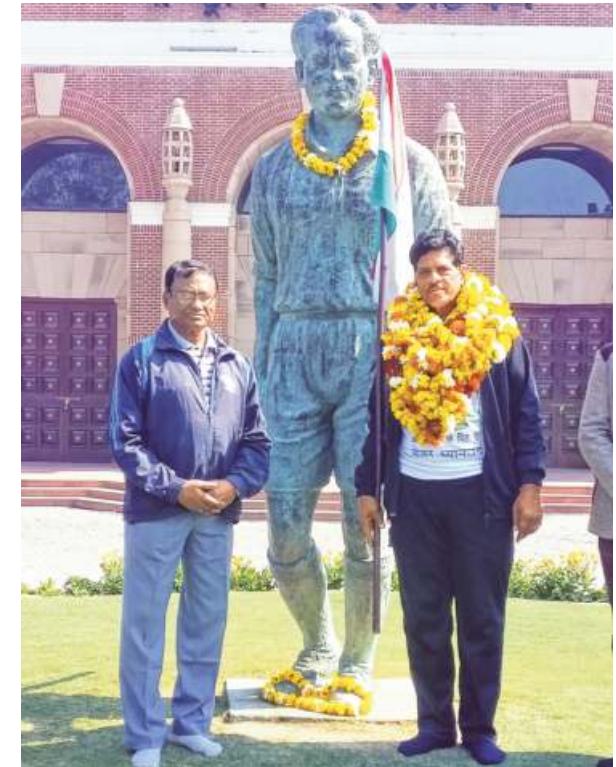
On Thursday, Tarak Kumar Parkar reached the city to pay homage to the hockey legend, demanding the same after a 1,250km long padyatra from Khargone in Madhya Pradesh.

Parkar, who belongs to Burhanpur, insists that the man who was synonymous with Indian sports from pre-independence era deserves the highest civilian honour in the country.

"I had been planning this since 2010 but Ashok Kumar (Dhyan Chand's son and World Cup winner) kept asking me to postpone it saying it was not good for my health. But I finally started on December 15th and managed around 50-60km per day to reach here," Parkar told *The Hindu*.

drugs and encourages them to get involved in sports. I keep travelling for that. During one such tour in 1978, en route to Nepal, I met Dhyan Chand in Jhansi and stayed with him. The simplicity of such a great man continues to amaze me," said the former fingerprint expert in the forensic sciences department of MP Police.

Ashok Kumar said a delegation had managed to meet Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju on January 8 to repeat the request for a Bharat Ratna



Ashok Kumar, left, with Tarak Kumar Parkar ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

for Dhyan Chand.

"He was cordial but admitted that the PMO had the final say. Counting him, three other Sports Ministers (Ajay Maken, Jitendra Singh, Vjay Goel) over years, through both the Congress and BJP governments, have recommended the honour to PMO but there has been no response. It's disappointing but we know he will always be an inspiration to every Indian. Still, something on record would be good," he said.

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Gargi Pawar enters last four

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

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Nakajima (Jpn) 6-4, 6-3; Jaishvin Sidana bt Torus Rawat 6-2, 6-1.

Doubles (semifinals): Aditya Vardhan Roy Chowdhury & Jaishvin Sidana bt Satoru Nakajima & Shogo Sanada (Jpn) 3-6, 6-1, [10-8]; Aman Dahiya & Heerak Vora bt Yoshinobu Nakatsui & Takumi Watanae (Jpn) 4-6, 6-2, [11-9].

Girls (quarterfinals): Prerana Koirala bt Saloni Tamang (Nep) 7-6(5), 6-4; Deanne Choo (Sgp) bt Zhang Huayi (Chn) 7-5, 6-2; Abhilasha Bista (Nep) bt Aoka Nagasawa (Jpn) 6-1, 6-4.

Doubles (semifinals): Gargi Pawar & Hrudaya Shah bt Hui Yi Soo (Mas) & Saloni Tamang (Nep) 6-4, 6-3; Erica Kanna Haagi (Hkg) & Riya Uboveja bt Abhilasha Bista & Ira Meheriissa Rawat (Nep) 6-3, 6-2.

(Nep) 6-4, 6-3; Erica Kanna Haagi (Hkg) & Riya Uboveja bt Abhilasha Bista & Ira Meheriissa Rawat (Nep) 6-3, 6-2.

₹1,00,000 AITA men's ranking, Gurugram: Singles (quarterfinals): Lakshay Gupta bt Kunal Anand 0-6, 6-1, 6-4; Raghav Jaisinghani bt Anurag Nandwani 7-5, 7-5; Chirag Duhan bt Gurav Gulia 6-1, 6-2; Bikramjeet Singh Chawla bt Akash Nandwani 4-6, 6-4, 6-1.

Doubles (semifinals): Aaditya Tewari & Ankit Chopra bt Harshit Yadav & Kshitij Kamal 6-2, 6-3; Vilasier Khate & Anurag Nandwani 6-1, 6-4.

Doubles (semifinals): Gargi Pawar & Hrudaya Shah bt Hui Yi Soo (Mas) & Saloni Tamang (Nep) 6-4, 6-3; Erica Kanna Haagi (Hkg) & Riya Uboveja bt Abhilasha Bista & Ira Meheriissa Rawat (Nep) 6-3, 6-2.

FIH award for Manpreet

Delhi in a commanding position

Bidhuri and Kshitiz help themselves to tons



Cashing in: Rajasthan spinner Rahul Chahar gained from Delhi's decision to bat on by finishing with a five-for.

* FILE PHOTO: SUDHAKAR JAIN

looking to score 474 and avoid the possibility of being asked to bat again, Delhi bowlers made early inroads. Seemers Simarjeet and Bidhuri along with spinners Shivam and Vashisht scalped one wicket each to leave Rajasthan reeling at 80 for four.

Thereafter, the experienced duo of Ashok Menaria and Rajesh Bishnoi prevented further damage following their ongoing 35-run stand.

The scores:

Delhi – 1st innings: Anuj Rawat c (sub) b Choudhary 45, Hiten Dalal lbw b Chahar 102, Dhruv Shorey lbw b Haq 1, Nitish Rana c Choudhary b Haq 24, Jonty Sidhu c Maneria 92, Himmat Singh c Manender Singh b Lomror 100, Kshitiz Sharma c Bishnoi 111, Shivam Sharma c Haq b Chahar 29, Shivank Vash-

isht (not out) 2, Simarjeet Singh lbw b Chahar 5; Extras (b-1, lb-12, nb-5, w-1); Total (in 147 overs): 623.

Fall of wickets: 1-142, 2-147, 3-158, 4-189, 5-336, 6-372, 7-568, 8-615, 9-618.

Rajasthan bowling: Choudhary 32-6-92-1, Haq 26-2-122-2, Rituraj 28-4-126-0, Chahar 31-161-5, Lomror 16-1-69-1, Maneria 12-0-26-1, Khan 1-0-14-0.

Rajasthan – 1st innings: Ramnivas Golada Rawat b Simarjeet 8, Manender Singh b Vashisht 21, Mahipal Lomror c Shorey b Shivam 18, Yash Kohlari lbw b Bidhuri 0, Ashok Menaria (batting) 38, Rajesh Bishnoi (batting) 23; Extras (b-5, nb-2); Total (for four wkts. in 32 overs): 115.

Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-37, 3-38, 4-80.

Delhi bowling: Simarjeet 6-2-14-1, Bidhuri 7-2-17-1, Shivam 10-2-42-1, Vashisht 7-0-25-1, Rana 2-0-12-0.

RANJI SCORES, FINAL ROUND, DAY 2

GROUP A

At New Delhi: Delhi 623 in 147 overs (Anuj Rawat 45, Hiten Dalal 102, Jonty Sidhu 92, Himmat Singh 90, Kshitiz Sharma 103, Kunwar Bidhuri 111, Rahul Chahar 5/161) vs Rajasthan 115/4 in 32 overs.

Nadiad: Andhra 177 vs Gujarat 354/6 in 94 overs (Parthiv Patel 57, Chirag Gandhi 80 batting, Axar Patel 89).

Hyderabad: Hyderabad 272 in 94.5 overs (Buddhi Rahul 52, T. Ravi Teja 44, Prateek Reddy 83, Yash Thakur 4/55) vs Vidarbha 242/4 in 75 overs (Faiz Fazal 126 batting, Ganesh Satish 65).

Patiala: Bengal 138 & 199/9 in 66 overs (Arnav Nandi 51, Manoj Tiwary 65, Krishan Alang 5/53) vs Punjab 151 in 56.5 overs (Rohan Marwaha 48, Anmol Malhotra 44, Shahbaz Ahmed 7/57).

GROUP B

Bengaluru: Baroda 85 & 208/5 in 67 overs (Ahmadnoor Pathan

90, Deepak Hooda 50) vs Karnataka 233 in 72.5 overs (Karun Nair 47, Abhimanyu Mithun 40, Soyeb Sopariya 5/83).

Mumbai: Mumbai 427 in 108.3 overs (Akash Arora 122, Samratayan Yadav 43, Sarfaraz Khan 177, Gaurav Yadav 4/101) vs Madhya Pradesh 200/7 in 58 overs (Venkatesh Iyer 87 batting).

Rajkot: Tamil Nadu 424 in 128.4 overs (Abhinav Mukund 86, N. Jagadeesan 183, M. Mohammed 42, Jaydev Unadkat 6/73) vs Saurashtra 107/3 in 41 overs.

Jammu: Jammu & Kashmir 340 vs Haryana 291 in 89.1 overs (Ankit Kumar 63, Pramod Chanda 119, Rohit Sharma 41, Mujtaba Yusuf 6/49).

Baramati: Maharashtra 207 & 140/2 in 46 overs (Swarnil Ranjan 95, Iqbal Abdulla 4/67, Ishwar Chaudhary 5/92) vs Sikkim 272 in 78.4 overs (Yashpal Singh 140, Iqbal Abdulla 40, Ashutosh Aman 5/77).

Cuttack: Odisha 436 in 146.2 overs (Anurag Sarangi 65, Debasish Samantray 74, Ashish Kumar 6/79

India loses
to MalaysiaPRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MANILA

The Indian men suffered a 4-1 loss to a young Malaysian side in its second group B match of the Badminton Asia Team Championships here.

The result: Malaysia 4 bt India 1 (Lee Zii Jia bt B. Sri Praneeth 21-18, 21-15; Aaron Chia & Soh Wooi Yik bt M.R. Arjun & Chirag Shetty 21-18, 21-15; Cheam June Wei lost to K. Srikanth 14-21, 21-16, 21-19; Ong Wee Sin & Teo Ee Yi bt Dhruv Kapila & Lakshya Sen 21-14, 21-14; Leong Jun Hao bt H.S. Prannoy 21-10, 21-15).

Road Safety
World series
cricket

MUMBAI: Sachin Tendulkar will take guard at his home turf – the Wankhede Stadium – on March 7, leading India Legends against Brian Lara's West Indies Legends in the opening match of the Unacademy Road Safety World Series.

Divyansh juggling books and
Olympic preparation

SHOOTING

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

After dominating the European circuit, preparing for the season, by winning six gold medals from seven competitions, Divyansh Singh Panwar is busy juggling books and preparation for the Tokyo Olympics.

Coach Deepak Dubey who has been guiding Divyansh, a 12th standard student, for the last five years had accompanied the boy on the European circuit and was quite pleased with the work done and results accomplished.

Very keen

"The board exams are coming up. But, Divyansh has to shoot at the Delhi World Cup in March. He did not make the final last time, so he is keen. Moreover, all the Olympic quota winners

from around the world will be competing.

"It will be good for him to take part and learn more about nurturing the right temperament. Equally, it is important in the perspective of selection of the Indian team for the Olympics," said Deepak.

Divyansh will be appearing for two papers for the Board exam, and a request to the Central Board of Security Education (CBSE) has already been routed through the National Federation and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) to help him have his other exams at a later date, when he does not have any international competition.

Ground work done

Even as Divyansh is going through the High Performance training camp at the Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS) of the Jindal Sports Foundation (JSW) in Vijaya-

Divyansh Singh Panwar.
• FILE PHOTO

nagar, Deepak observed that the ground work for the season had been done well.

"Divyansh shot three high scores 633.9, 632.2 and 632.4 in three different competitions in Austria, Germany and the Netherlands.

"It was important to compete with the European shooters, to become more tough mentally and to get

more information about the technical aspects of the rifle.

"It was a great experience to train at the oldest range in the world in Munich. It was good to work out in different climates and time zones," recalled Deepak.

Once he finishes training in Vijayanagar on February 16, Divyansh will be spending more time with the books.

The technical aspect of preparation for the Tokyo Olympics in July has already been addressed.

"After the H&N Cup in Munich, in which Divyansh won gold, the Walther company has assured all support for the rifle," said Deepak.

Deepak is impressed with the clarity of approach of Divyansh. "He is very clear about his goal.

"He is hard working, especially when he is on the firing lane. He is very sharp and focused," said Deepak.

Road Safety
World series
cricket

MUMBAI: Sachin Tendulkar will take guard at his home turf – the Wankhede Stadium – on March 7, leading India Legends against Brian Lara's West Indies Legends in the opening match of the Unacademy Road Safety World Series.

AIFF launches Football Management Program

It is a specific football masters course, says Kushal Das

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Thursday launched its Football Management Program (FMP) by signing an MOU with Spanish La Liga SmartBank co-leader Cadiz CF.

The IFMP will enable students to study in three cities over the course of a year – New Delhi, Mumbai and Cadiz (Spain).

According to AIFF general secretary Kushal Das, "such a program was needed keeping in mind the significant growth of football."

"It is a highly governed sport and requires the stakeholders to have a thorough knowledge of how to administer. It is a specific football masters course. The emphasis is clearly on professionalism in football."

"The program," insisted Das, "will be the first to be conducted by any sports federation in India. It will give a structured insight into governance of world foot-

ball as laid down in FIFA and AFC statutes and an understanding of the plethora of rules and regulations for managing football in India in line with best practices across the world."

The AIFF will conduct a Common Admission Test to ensure that every interested candidate gets an equal opportunity to enroll in the limited seats on offer each year.

It will also have a strong line-up of global football faculty to share their knowledge and experience.

AIFF president Praful Patel observed: "Football is without any doubt the number one global sport and is

growing very quickly in India. We felt that such a program was much needed to help students understand the nuances and global practices involved in managing football not only in India but across the world."

"With the curriculum combining theoretical and practical knowledge, there will be a paradigm shift in football management in the country."

The fee for the one-day course will be ₹2 lakh with Das promising "very good placements."

Nisus well prepared for a repeat

BENGALURU: Nisus, who is in fire

lancease (5) Nisus 56, 7. An-

torini Secret 9 (Chetan G 55.5,

Zehnaseeb (2) T.S. Jodha 55.5,

Optimisticapproach (10) Kiran Rai

55.5, Spirit of London (1) Ajeet

Kumar 55.5, 9. Ice Floe (11) David

Allan 54.5, 10. Poseidon (8) Dar-

shan 53.5 and 11. Whizzo (4)

Vinod Shinde 53.5.

1. ICE FLOE, 2. POSEIDON, 3.

5 BANGALORE JUVENILE MIL-

ION (1,400mm), 3-y-o only,

(Terms), 4-15; 1. Al Buraaq (1) T.S.

Jodha 55.5, 2. Caballin (3) Suraj 55.

Shreyas 60, 4. Tokyo Rose (9) Tre-

vor 59, 5. Birchwood (10) Kiran

Rai 58, 6. Flat Out (5) Arshad 57.5,

Darahasini (3) Chetan G 57.8,

Simone (4) John 57, 9. Tarini (7)

Saddam H 57, 10. Varcasva (12) Ir-

van 57, 11. Aceros (1) Srinath

56 and 12. Singhasab (2) T.S. Jodha

53.5.

1. SIMONE, 2. ACEROS, 3.

SINGHASAB

4 GODOLPHIN BARB TROPHY

5 DASHMESH STAD PLATE (DIV.

3, (1,200mm), rated 30 to 50, 2.5-

p.m.; 1. Country's Spirit (1) Arvind

Kumar 60, 2. Fierce Fighter (6)

A.S. Peter 58.3, 3. Eco Friendly (4)

M. Naveen 58, 4. Winx (7) Md.

Akram 58, 5. Only Prince (3) Ankit

Yadav 57, 6. Bazinga (5) Chetan G

56.5, 7. Noble Splendor (8) Ajay

Kumar 54.5 and 8. Turf Pros-

pector (2) Naveen Kumar 54.

1. TURF PROSPECTOR, 2. BAZINGA,

3. ECO FRIENDLY

6 DASHMESH STAD PLATE (DIV.

6, (1,200mm), rated 30 to 50, 5-

y.o & over, 2.5-y.o & over, 1. Benedition (8)

I. Chisty 60, 2. Big Boon (1) Dar-

shan 60, 3. Caballo Rapido (6)

A.S. Peter 58.3, 4. Winx (7) Md.

Akram 58, 5. Birchwood (10) Kiran

Rai 58, 6. Flat Out (5) Arshad 57.5,

Darahasini (3) Chetan G 57.8,

Simone (4) John 57, 9. Tarini (7)

Trevor 55, 5. Nicus (2) Naveen

56.5, 6. Arrogance (4) S. Hussain

56.5, 7. Chula Vista (2) Ankit Ya-

dav 56.5, 8. Naayab (10) Arshad

56.5, 9. Tylo Alto (1) Ajeet Kumar

56.5, 10. Industrialist (11) P. Surya

55 and 11. Perfectgoldenera (8) Ir-

van 54.

1. GIN DAISY, 2. PARADISO, 3.

PREF-QUALIFICATION NOTICE

SRI Infra Management Solutions Pvt. Ltd. invites Pre-Qualification applications on behalf of State Bank Institute of Consumer Banking (SBICB), Hyderabad for proposed interior, electrical, HVAC and AV works at SBICB, Hyderabad. The details are as under:-

Sl.No. Name of the work Tender ID Estimation in Rs. From To

1. Interior, Electrical, HVAC works etc HYD202002592 7,89,96,798.00 14.02.2020 05.03.2020

2. Audio, visual works HYD202002593 3,17,16,223.00 14.02.2020 05.03.2020

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Vice President, SEIMS, Hyderabad

Ahlawat takes two-shot lead; Mari Muthu sizzles

GOLF

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Veer Ahlawat opened up a two-shot lead after the third round of the Tata Steel PGTI Players' Championship here on Thursday. The Gurgaon professional returned a card of seven-under 65 for the second straight day – a total of 19-under 197.

Aman Raj (199), who had shared the lead overnight, shot a five-under 67 to slip two strokes behind the leader. Mari Muthu (201), who

sank two eagles in his round of 66, was third.

Aditya's distinction

Aditya Raj Kumar Chauhan, meanwhile, became the first player on the PGTI to achieve the feat of making consecutive eagles. He closed the day tied-16 at six-under 210.

Top scores (after round three): 197: Veer Ahlawat (67, 65, 65); 199: Aman Raj (65, 67, 67); 201: Mari Muthu (68, 67, 66); 202: Udayan Manu (68, 67, 67); 203: S. Chikkarangappa (67, 69, 67); 204: Gaurav Pratap Singh (70, 64, 70).

JFC splits points with HFC

HYDERABAD: Sumeet Passi 93rd minute strike helped Jamshedpur FC pull off a draw against Hyderabad FC in the Hero ISL here on Thursday.

The result: East Bengal 1 (Ansumana Kromah 9) drew with Jamshedpur FC 1 (Girish Khosa 90).

7. Emidio (3) Naveen Kumar 56.5, 8. Areca Angel (9) B. Darshan 56, 9. Habanero (8) Toufik Khan 56, 10. Black Whizz (12) T.S. Jodha 55.5, 11. Capstone (5) Rakesh 55 and 12. Tanoura (7) Darshan 55.

1. SECRETSUPERSTAR, 2. LUCKY ISABELLA, 3. BOLD MOVE

7 CLASSIC STORY PLATE (DIV. I, 1,100mm), rated 15 to 35, 5-y-o & over, 5-15; 1. Princess Pride (9) Arvind Kumar 60, 2. Gin Daisy (3) S. John 59.5, 3. Paradiso (6) T.S. Jodha 55.5, 4. Halfies (7) D. Patel 58.5, 5. Revan Star (5) R. Pradeep 58, 6. Arrogance (4) S. Hussain 56.5, 7. Chula Vista (2) Ankit Yadav 56.5, 8. Naayab (10) Arshad 56.5, 9. Tylo Alto (1) Ajeet Kumar 56.5, 10. Industrialist (11) P. Surya 55 and 11. Perfectgoldenera (8) Ir-

van 54.

TV PICKS

Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m.
ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
South Africa v England: 2nd T20I, Sony Six (SD & HD), 9.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 1 a.m. (Saturday)
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Saturday).

IN BRIEF



Red-hot Lakers beat Nuggets in overtime

LOS ANGELES Anthony Davis scored a team-high 33 points as the Los Angeles Lakers beat Denver 120-116 in overtime in the final game before the all-star break for two of the top teams in the West.

The results:
Denver 116 lost to Lakers 120 (OT); Dallas 130 bt Sacramento 111; Brooklyn 101 bt Toronto 91; Indiana 118 bt Milwaukee 111; New York 96 lost to Washington 114; Phoenix 112 bt Golden State 106; Utah 116 bt Miami 101; Memphis 111 bt Portland 104; Minnesota 108 lost to Charlotte 115; Cleveland 127 bt Atlanta 105; Orlando 116 bt Detroit 112 (OT). AFP



PSG's Neymar doubtful for Dortmund CL trip

DIJON PSG's Neymar is facing a fitness battle to feature in next week's Champions league last 16 first leg tie at Borussia Dortmund, coach Thomas Tuchel said. "I can't say that he will be 100% to play against Dortmund," Tuchel said on Wednesday. "We will discuss and decide on Friday, the latest possible time to do so. We can't risk his fitness," Tuchel added. AFP



Easy outing: Joshna Chinappa dispatched Sachika Balvani of Maharashtra. ■ R. RAGU

Ngidi scripts remarkable South Africa win

Helps beat England by one run

ENGLAND IN SA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
EAST LONDON

Fast bowler Lungi Ngidi took three wickets in his last two overs as South Africa snatched a thrilling one-run win in the first T20I against England.

Jason Roy and captain Eoin Morgan hit half-centuries for England and they looked well on the way to chasing down South Africa's total of 177 for eight. But the match changed dramatically in the last three overs as England lost six wickets for 24 runs to finish on 176 for nine on Wednesday.

"You run in as hard as you can and hit your length. All of a sudden their team was on the back foot," said Ngidi who was Man-of-the-Match for his 3/30.

England needed just seven to win off the last over but Ngidi dismissed Tom Curran and Moeen Ali while

conceding only five runs. Adil Rashid was run out off the last ball, trying for a second run which would have tied the scores.

The scores: South Africa 177 for eight in 20 overs (T. Bavuma 43, Q. de Kock 31, H. van der Dussen 31, J. Smuts 20, Jordan two for 28) bt England 176 for nine in 20 overs (J. Roy 70, J. Bairstow 23, E. Morgan 52, Ngidi three for 30, Phehlukwayo two for 32, Hendricks two for 33). **Toss:** England.

SA won by one run and leads three-match series 1-0.



Lungi Ngidi. ■ REUTERS

Paes lights up an otherwise dark day for Indians

Singles players falter in the third round

CHALLENGER

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

Leander Paes' fireworks lit up an otherwise dark day for Indians at the \$1,62,000 Bengaluru Open ATP Tennis Challenger here on Thursday.

The Indian singles players – Prajesh Gunnswaran, Sumit Nagal, Saketh Myneni, Sidharth Rawat, Ramkumar Ramanathan and Niki Poonacha – all faltered in their third round matches. It was left to Paes to lend some cheer to the goody KSLT crowd, and he did not disappoint.

It would not be an easy quarterfinal outing for Paes and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden, however, as they took on Tata Open Maharashtra champions Christopher Rungkat and Andre Goransson.

With Paes off-colour early in the encounter, Ebden carried the burden to help the pair claim the first set 7-5.

Rungkat-Goransson fought back to take the second set without losing a game.

Pumped up

The stage was set for a dramatic super tiebreaker finish. Paes-Ebden did not start well, with Ebden making two unforced errors. A timely volley winner from Paes evoked a rallying cry from the veteran, who was keen to get the crowd involved. The move worked, as a pumped-up Paes then took control, putting away two crisp volleys and one overhead smash.

His serves – right down the 'T' – proved to be too hot to handle as well. Rungkat and Goransson, now reeling under pressure, threw in the towel a short while later.

Paes, who entered his first semifinal since the 2019 Hall of Fame Open in Newport (USA), said, "we just beat a pair which won a ATP Tour 250 series event (Maharashtra Open) a few days ago. That's pretty cool. You have to create your own momentum. There will be doubters

Rungkat-Goransson fought back to take the second set without losing a game.

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Short work: Rola outclassed Nagal. ■ V. SREENIVASA MURTHY

through life, but you have to shut the noise out and keep going."

Drawing a blank

In singles, the Indian hopefuls – watched by Davis Cup coach Zeeshan Ali – drew a blank. The tournament is

now set for a foreign winner for the first time in three editions.

Defending champion Prajesh went down 6-7 (5), 0-6 to unseeded Benjamin Bonzi. Nagal, Myneni and Ramkumar were similarly outclassed, going down without

final on Friday will be between Tanvi and Sunayna.

The results (quarterfinals):

Men: Saurav Ghosal (TN) bt Rutvik Rau (Mah) 11-3, 11-3, 11-1; Abhay Singh (TN) bt Abhishek Agarwal (Mah) 11-7, 11-5, 13-11; Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu (TN) bt Yash Fadte (Goa) 11-7, 11-2, 11-7; Abhishek Pradhan (Mah) bt Gaurav Nandrajog (Del) 11-6, 11-6, 11-6.

Women: Joshna Chinappa (TN) bt Sachika Balvani (Mah) 11-4, 11-2, 11-4; Sanya Vats (Del) bt Urwashi Joshi (Mah) 11-5, 9-11, 8-11, 11-8, 11-3; Tanvi Khanna (Del) bt Aparajitha Balamurukan (TN) 11-5, 11-3, 11-8; Sunayna Kuruvilla (TN) bt Sanika Choudhari (Mah) 11-5, 11-2, 12-10.

much of a fight.

Impressive wildcard Poonacha – equipped with a strong serve and powerful groundstrokes – did well to record his best performance in a Challenger event.

Poonacha's fine run came to an end at the hands of third seed and World No. 82 Yuichi Sugita.

The results (Indians unless mentioned):

Singles (third round): Thomas Fabbiano (Ita) bt Saketh Myneni 6-4, 5-7, 6-2; Ilya Ivashka (Blr) bt Ramkumar Ramanathan 7-6 (2), 6-1; Blaz Rola (Slo) bt Sumit Nagal (Fra) bt Prajesh Gunnswaran 7-6(5), 6-0; Yuichi Sugita (Jon) bt Niki Poonacha 7-5, 6-3; Julian Coppel (Ita) bt Sidharth Rawat 7-5, 6-4.

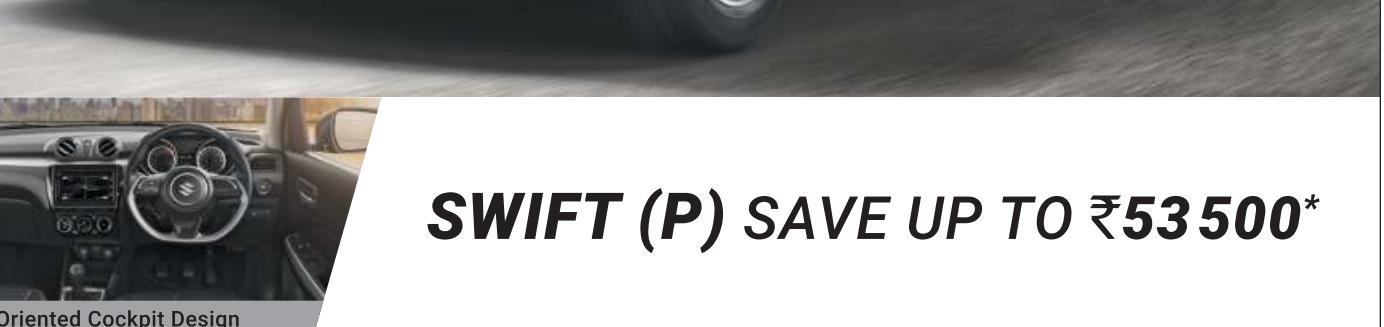
Doubles (Quarterfinals):

Saketh Myneni & Matt Reid (Aus) bt Cheng-Peng Hsieh (Tpe) & Denys Molchanov (Ukr) 3-6, 6-4, 10-8; Matthew Ebden (Aus) & Leander Paes bt Andre Goransson (Swe) & Christopher Rungkat (Ina) 7-5, 0-6, 10-7; Purav Raja & Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Frederico Ferreira Silva (Por) & Nikola Milojevic (Srb) 6-4, 6-4.

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