



Five Supreme Court judges infected with swine flu
page 9



EC announces elections to 55 Rajya Sabha seats, polling on March 26
page 13



Former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak dead at age 91
page 14



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NEARBY



Plea in SC seeks safety of Shaheen Bagh protesters

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court agreed to hear on Wednesday an application for a direction to the Delhi police to ensure the safety of Shaheen Bagh protesters, who are mostly women, in light of the clashes in the Capital. A Bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and K.M. Joseph was approached for urgent orders.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 12

SC defers hearing in Nirbhaya case to March 5

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Tuesday deferred to March 5 the hearing of an appeal filed by the Centre for permission to separately execute the death sentence of the four Nirbhaya case convicts. The trial court had fixed the execution of the four convicts at 6 a.m. on March 3.

NATION ▶ PAGE 9

New excise policy more strict: Haryana Dy. CM

CHANDIGARH
Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala on Tuesday said that stricter provisions have been incorporated in the new excise policy, and now anyone involved in liquor smuggling will not get bail before six months. Earlier, the time period for the same was only 15 days.

NORTH ▶ PAGE 6

OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 2



Free for all: A mob gathers on a street during clashes in northeast Delhi on Tuesday. ■ PTI

Violence continues in Delhi for third day, toll climbs to 13

Curfew imposed in some parts, shoot-at-sight orders issued

HEMANI BHANDARI
SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

Clashes triggered on Sunday by pro- and anti-CAA protesters continued for the third day on Tuesday in northeast Delhi as the death toll mounted to 13. Most of the deaths were due to gunshot wounds, the families of the victims have told *The Hindu*. Mobs carrying lathis roamed the streets of northeast Delhi, attacking shops and burning vehicles even as Delhi police PRO M.S. Randhawa claimed that the "situation was under control". Rioters also opened fire and threw stones at each other.

Late in the evening, cur-

few was imposed at Majupur, Jaffrabad, Chandbagh and Karawal Nagar. Shoot-at-sight orders in parts of northeast Delhi were also issued. Also, police sources said the anti-CAA protest site in the troubled area had been "cleared".

Dr. Sunil Kumar, medical director of Guru Teg Bahadur (GTB) Hospital, said 57 persons had been admitted on Tuesday, taking the total brought there to 150. "About 20 of the injured are in a serious condition. Many have sustained firearm injuries."

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal met the victims at GTB Hospital and MAX Hospital and said the "madness must

end immediately".

Earlier, Mr. Kejriwal met with Home Minister Amit Shah to discuss restoration of peace in the capital. "The meeting with HM Amit Shah was positive and it was decided that all parties will rise above party politics and take steps to restore peace," he told reporters after the meeting. "The police are doing their bit and the HM has assured that whatever force is needed will be provided when we told him about some MLAs saying the police deployment was less than adequate."

CBSE EXAMS PUT OFF ▶ PAGE 12
MORE REPORTS ON ▶ PAGE 5 & 12

Trump renews offer to mediate on Kashmir, but skirts CAA

India, U.S. now 'Comprehensive Global Strategic Partners', ink deals on energy

SUHASINI HAIDAR
KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

India and the United States on Tuesday strengthened their partnership with agreements on healthcare and energy, and issued a joint statement that designated the two countries as "Comprehensive Global Strategic partners".

The statement followed bilateral talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump, during which the latter renewed his offer to mediate between India and Pakistan on Kashmir and discussed the issue of "religious freedom".

The discussions took



Warm welcome: U.S. President Donald Trump inspecting the guard of honour at Rashtrapati Bhavan. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

place at Hyderabad House even as communally charged mob violence in several parts of the city left homes and shops burning.

Addressing a press conference later in the evening,

Mr. Trump, however, said he had not discussed the specifics of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, that sparked the violence as he raised issues of "religious liberty" of "Muslims and

Christians in India" with Mr. Modi.

"We did talk about religious freedom, and Prime Minister Modi told me very strongly that he wants religious freedom in India, and that they have worked very hard for it here," he said.

Mr. Trump also said he had discussed the situation in Jammu and Kashmir with Mr. Modi. Renewing his offer of mediating between India and Pakistan, which India has consistently rejected, he said the issue of Kashmir had "two sides".

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12
MELANIA JOINS STUDENTS FOR 'HAPPINESS CLASS' ▶ PAGE 13
MORE REPORTS ON ▶ PAGE 13

NDA-ruled Bihar passes resolution against NRC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

The Bihar Assembly on Tuesday unanimously passed a resolution not to implement the National Register of Citizens. It also said the National Population Register will be implemented in the 2010 format.

"With this, Bihar has become the first NDA-ruled State to pass a resolution against NRC," said Leader of the Opposition and Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi

Yadav. Mr. Yadav had moved an adjournment motion against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, the NRC and the NPR in the very first session of the Assembly earlier in the day.

Opposition demand

The RJD, Congress and Communist Party of India (Marxists-Leninist) MLAs have led protests over these issues both inside and outside the House. The CPI-ML leaders led a massive rally to the

State Assembly protesting against the CAA, NPR and proposed NRC.

Moving the motion and terming the CAA a *kaala kanoon* (black law), Mr. Yadav said, "When the government has already issued a gazette notification to begin the process of NPR in the State from May 15 to June 28 as Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi had tweeted, the Chief Minister [Nitish Kumar] should now clarify how he has been saying NPR should be imple-

mented in its 2010 format."

Replying to Mr. Yadav, Mr. Kumar said there should be "no confusion" regarding how the NPR exercise would be carried out in the State and asserted that nobody would be asked to furnish information like their parents' birthplace. He said the State government has sent a letter to the Centre seeking omission of contentious clauses from the NPR forms.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

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*According to the report titled "Analysis of Credit Cards Industry in India" dated Nov. 21, 2019 prepared by CRISIL Research, a division of CRISIL. **Market share in terms of total credit card spends as of eight months ended Nov. 30, 2019 and spends in Fiscal 2019 according to RBI. ^Over the past 3 years as per RBI. **According to RBI in FY 2017-2019. ^As of Dec. 31, 2019. SBI Cards and Payment Services Limited is proposing, subject to receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, an initial public offering of its equity shares and has filed the Red Herring Prospectus with the Registrar of Companies, National Capital Territory of Delhi and Haryana at New Delhi. The Red Herring Prospectus is available on the websites of SEBI, Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited, Axis Capital Limited, DSP Merrill Lynch Limited, HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited, Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Private Limited and SBI Capital Markets Limited at www.sebi.gov.in, at www.investment.kotak.com, at www.axiscapital.kotak.com, at www.ml-india.com, at www.business.hsbc.co.in/en-gb/in/generic/po-open-offer-and-buyback, at www.nomuraholdings.com/company/group/asia/india/index.html and at www.sbicards.com, respectively. Investors should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details refer to the Red Herring Prospectus, including the section titled "Risk Factors". This announcement does not constitute an invitation or offer of securities for sale in any jurisdiction, including the United States. The Equity Shares have not been and will not be registered, listed or otherwise qualified in any other jurisdiction outside India and may not be offered or sold in any such jurisdiction, except in compliance with the applicable laws of such jurisdiction. The Equity Shares have not been and will not be registered under the US Securities Act of 1933 ("U.S. Securities Act") or any state securities laws in the United States and may not be offered or sold within the United States, except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act or in accordance with any applicable United States state securities laws. Accordingly, the Equity Shares are only being offered and sold (i) to "qualified institutional buyers" as defined in Rule 144A under the U.S. Securities Act in transactions exempt from or not subject to the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act or (ii) outside the United States in offshore transactions in reliance on Regulation S under the U.S. Securities Act and the applicable laws of the jurisdiction where those offers and sales occur.

OPPORTUNITIES

WEDNESDAY • FEBRUARY 26, 2020

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • JOBS • TECHNOLOGY

Forums to hone one's craft

The call of informal professional groups has never been so irresistible

LIFFY THOMAS

Professional forums demand a level of commitment and sometimes require its members to make smart and quick adjustments in their schedules – for, that long-awaited mega meet-up may come up just when a project deadline looms on the horizon.

Therefore, many professionals either avoid or put off joining such forums despite being aware of the benefits they can bring to their careers.

However, in this digital age, it is difficult to be dismissive of these forums. For, these forums offer the best of two worlds – they will usually have regular meet-ups, and at the same time, offer avenues for more regular online interactions.

Last week, the Facebook pages of the Society of Women Engineers in India ran a campaign – #IntroduceAGirlToEngineering – inviting people to participate in it if they are an engineer.

They could talk about the biggest inspiration in their professional lives.

Lean In India, the official chapter of Lean In, a not-for-profit founded by Facebook chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg to empower women to realise their ambitions, is another example.

One can either join any of the existing circles or start one.

Meetup.com, a platform to organise online groups that host in-person events,

is among such growing professional communities.

From a meet-up on psychometrics to one on entrepreneurship for those aged above 40, these circles are quite varied in their character and offerings.

Besides this, there are many sector-agnostic groups that help with mentorship, career transition or with general workplace-related issues.

Flexibility quotient

The appealing features of these groups include their flexibility in terms of both structure and time.

Hari Kiran and Ganesh Samartham first started a meet-up group, primarily to find a platform to share their insights into Java programming, which they had presented in their joint book. Slowly, this meet-up group was extended to discussing other subjects.

Today, the two run nine meet-up groups with over 40,000 members in Bengaluru. Later, they expanded the scope of these meet-up groups to organise conferences.

Both the meet-up communities and developer-centric conferences serve as platforms for learning new technologies, networking with like-minded professionals and exchanging professional ideas," says Samartham.

depend on how localised they are and how regularly they engage with their members.



Some of the members of the "Lean In India" network; and (below) a snapshot of a cloud computing and DevOps meet-up in Bengaluru.

PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Last year, the tagline for a conference organised by the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) was 'meet locally, learn socially'.

These groups usually work with a sense of social consciousness. For example, among the many initiatives started by SWE in India is the support it extends to

those pursuing careers in STEM, says Suchismita Sanjay, a member of SWE. "By affiliating with colleges, we are trying to bridge the gap

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IN BRIEF



'Have developed system for waste management'

NEW DELHI
The North Delhi Municipal Corporation informed the NGT on Tuesday that it has developed an extensive system for collection, segregation, transportation and processing of solid waste using modern technology and equipment.

DELHI TODAY

Talk: A discussion around the new book titled 'Sikh Heritage of Nepal', written by Manjeet Singh Puri, former Indian Ambassador to Nepal. Chief Guest: Dr. Manmohan Singh. Discussants: H.E. Mr. Nilmbar Acharya, Ambassador of Nepal to India; Naresh Gujral, MP; and Gen. J.J. Singh, PVSM, AVSM, PSM, ADC, former Chief of the Army Staff at Multipurpose Hall, India International Centre (IIC), 6.30 p.m.

Talk: Seminar on 'Air Power: Holding Back the Dragon' by Angad Singh, Project Coordinator, Strategic Studies Programme, ORF at Seminar Room, Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS), Civil Lines, 3 p.m.

Talk: The third day event of Festival of Letters 2020, a national seminar on Regionality, Environment and Literature will feature a presentation on 'Tribal Sensibilities and Mythology', followed by a panel discussion on 'Present Scenario of Playwriting' at Sahitya Akademi, Rabindra Bhavan, 10 a.m. onwards.

Dance: A Bharatanatyam Margam performance by Aishwarya Ananth Karthik, a disciple of Prof. Sudharani Raghupathy at The Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Exhibition: 'Banaras Temples', a solo painting exhibition by Balu Sadage at Convention Centre Foyer, IHC, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

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

S. Srivastava appointed Special CP, Law & Order

He is likely to replace outgoing Delhi Police chief on Feb. 29

JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI



Sachidanand Srivastava

In the midst of the ongoing violence in the Capital, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has ordered repatriation of Sachidanand Srivastava, a 1985-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, to the Central AGMUT cadre here on Tuesday.

Mr. Srivastava, who was posted as Special Director General (Training) in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) prior to his repatriation from central deputation, was, in a subsequent order from the Delhi Home Department, appointed Special Commissioner of Police (law and order) in the Delhi Police.

Sources in the MHA claimed that Mr. Srivastava,

who held various posts in the Delhi Police, including traffic and the elite special cell, was pipped to replace outgoing Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik whose month-long extension in view of the Delhi Assembly elections will end on February 29.

"Mr. Srivastava, currently appointed as special

Commissioner of Police (CP) law and order, would be CP on February 29. He is the same batch as the outgoing Commissioner and is the senior most IPS officer on a three-member panel," the MHA source claimed.

"He has already taken charge of his new role which will put him in a better position to take charge as the Commissioner given the current law and order situation in the city," said a police source.

The other two officers on the panel, according to the MHA source, were Taj Hassan, currently posted as Special Commissioner of Police, Traffic in the Delhi Police and Satyendra Garg, Joint Secretary in the MHA – both of whom belong to the 1987 batch.

Ghaziabad most polluted city in the world: report

India is 5th most polluted country'

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

India was the fifth most polluted country in 2019 with Ghaziabad in the National Capital Region ranking as the most polluted city in the world, according to a global compilation of PM2.5 particulate pollution data by a company that primarily works on air filtration.

On the whole, air pollution in India decreased in 2019 from 2018 though about half of the 50 most polluted cities were in India, the report by IQAir noted.

India launched a 'National Clean Air Programme' (NCAP) in 2019 that commits to reduce air pollution in 102 most polluted cities by a maximum of 30% by 2024. The report, however, noted that the reduction in pollution in 2019 couldn't be attributed to the NCAP

Air Quality of Delhi-NCR	
Delhi	249
Gurugram	201
Ghaziabad	277
Faridabad	218
Noida	254
Greater Noida	246
Good 0-50	51-100
Satisfactory 101-200	Moderate
Poor 201-300	Very Poor 301-400
Severe >400	

Air Quality Index at 4 p.m. yesterday (Average of past 24 hours) Source: CPCB

but rather due to "slowing of the market place." The economic growth rate in India is expected to slow down to 5% in 2019-20 from 6.1% in 2018-19 and 7% in 2017-18, according to the Economic Survey in January.

"Whilst cities in India, on average, exceed the World Health Organisation target for annual PM2.5 exposure by 500%, national air pollution decreased by 20% from 2018 to 2019, with 98% of cities experiencing improvements," the report said.

Sabarmati Ashramul!



Amul
Sabne charkha hai!

daCunha/AB686

Teachers lash out at DU's push for eminence tag

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) on Tuesday lashed out against the university's "hasty and authoritarian move" to push forward with its proposal to get an Institute of Eminence (IoE) status without prior statutory approvals, it said.

"Though the V-C has called an emergency meeting of the Executive Council to get formal approval for the IoE proposal, he has not allowed the statutory authorities any reasonable time to apply their minds and debate the implications of the problematic proposal," DUTA said in a statement.

The union argued that prima facie, the proposal was a "blueprint for steady commercialisation of the university through an undertaking to start self-financing courses and online degree programmes at a massive scale..."

The IoE proposal put forward by DU undertakes to hike student fee, hire up to 20% foreign faculty on an incentive-based differential pay structure, DUTA said.

It also bound the university to an obligation to raise at least ₹95 crore towards meeting recurring expenses like salaries and ₹350 crore towards non-recurring capital expenditure by 2025, the statement read.

Nauroji Nagar redevelopment project gets High Court nod

Bench vacates 2018 order that had restrained NBCC from any further construction

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday gave the go-ahead to the Nauroji Nagar redevelopment project where a commercial hub, including a World Trade Centre, has been planned.

A Bench of Justices G.S. Sistani and Jyoti Singh vacated the August 30, 2018 order by which the National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) was restrained from any further construction at the project.

The court said that once

the issues of water and traffic congestion have been taken care of and there are no objection certificates (NOCs) from the respective departments, it was satisfied that there was no impediment in completion of redevelopment projects at

Nauroji Nagar in south Delhi.

"There is no violation of the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act and there is adequate compensatory plantation in lieu of felling of trees at Nauroji Nagar," the Bench said.

The High Court passed the order on a plea by orthopaedic surgeon Kaushal Kant Mishra challenging the environment clearance granted to Nauroji Nagar project claiming a large number of trees had to be cut.

IIT students develop ways to curb air pollution

Union Minister calls upon everyone to join the national effort to fight pollution

AISHWARYA TRIPATHI

NEW DELHI

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi hosted an exhibition on 'Clean Air Prototypes' developed by pan India IITs on Tuesday. The exhibition was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Human Resource Development (HRD) Sanjay Dhotre.

The exhibition showcased prototypes from IIT-Bombay, IIT-Delhi, IIT-Dhanbad and IIT-Ropar that dealt with issues like filtration of particulate matter, measurement of AQI, how to use agricultural waste to make eco-friendly products and innovations to avoid stubble burning.

Speaking at the event, Mr.

V. Ramgopal Rao

Dhotre said, "We need to abandon our conventional mentality of acting only when the problem directly affects us. We need to thank Delhi for creating an awareness in the country. Today, we know about AQI because of Delhi."

The Minister added that

the government was making serious efforts to drastically reduce pollution levels in the country but it was important for every citizen and every organisation to make concerted efforts by joining in the national effort to fight air pollution.

'Ready for deployment'
IIT Director V. Ramgopal Rao said that all the prototypes are in working condition and ready to be deployed to curb pollution in Delhi so that the impact can be studied. "We have one planet and it's everybody's responsibility to protect it," Mr. Rao said.

Aerogram-Ezio, a start-up incubated at IIT-Delhi said that their prototype was based on the idea that people should know what they breathe. The device uses sensors to depict AQI levels in 100 metre vicinity and has been tested in different pockets of IIT-Delhi campus.

The founders hope that they will be able to create a database of AQI levels in different areas during variable time periods to identify the hotspots. The identification will further help in choosing the course of action.

Another start-up, Kriya Labs, yet again an IIT-Delhi innovation, utilises agricultural waste to make eco-friendly products such as cups, plates, notebooks, pots etc.

Man with ₹24.5 lakh nabbed at metro station

NEW DELHI

A man from U.P. was held by CISF personnel with over ₹24 lakh "suspicious" cash at a metro station, a senior official said on Tuesday. The incident took place at Azadpur metro station on Monday. Rohit Kumar Yadav, 22, a resident of Ayodhya, was nabbed as he was carrying a huge amount of money, the official said. PTI

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CONCEPT

Court seeks police probe report in Jamia attack case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

A court here on Tuesday directed the Delhi police to submit a specific status report on the alleged police attacks on students inside the campus of Jamia Millia Islamia during protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act on December 15 last year.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Gurmohina Kaur asked

the investigating officer to file a report by March 20.

The court also directed the police to come with their case diary on the next date of hearing to show what investigation has been done against the personnel who had allegedly barged into the university campus and lathi-charged the students.

The case is being investigated by the Delhi Police's Crime Branch.

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THE HINDU DELHI
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Opened E-tender based on two Packet system (Technical & financial bid) (Tender notice No. M/C&W/35/2019-20 dt. 21.02.2020) are invited by Divisional Rail Manager/Mech./C&W/Varanasi/N.E. Railway for and on behalf of President of India for following work:- **Description of works:** Out sourcing of comprehensive Housekeeping and mechanized cleaning at SIWAN Station including platforms, yard, washable aprons, tracks, office buildings, reservation office, concourse area, circulating area, waiting halls and rag picking etc. & watering padlocking, sweeping, Toilet Cleaning, Toilet disinfection of 60 coaches of passenger turn round trains daily at SV station for the period of four years. **Approx. Value:** ₹ 5,25,91,036.97, **EMD Money:** ₹ 4,13,000.00, **Cost of tender forms:** ₹ 10,000/- **Completion period from the date of commencement of work:** 04 Years. **Validity of offer:** 180 days. **Date and time of closing of E-Tender:** 23.03.2020 at 14:30 Hrs. **Date and time of opening of E-Tender:** 23.03.2020 at 15:00 Hrs. **Tenders may submit their offers online up to 23.03.2020 at 14:30 Hrs.** • Pl. go to the website www.reps.gov.in to see the complete details and upload the tender. **CPRO/Mech-189 Sr. DME/C&W/BSB**
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TENDER NOTICE
COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT

Tender No. C-481/06/BTE/34/2020

Date 20.02.2020

For & on behalf of President of India Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, WCR, Kota invites open E-tender for below mentioned work. For this tender any offer received manually will not be accepted only e-tenders will be considered. (1) Tender No.: C-481/06/BTE/34/2020, Name of Work: Running of cycle / Scooter / Motor Cycle / Car Parking contract for Five years at Bharatpur Station (Circulating area of PF-1 Side for Four Wheeler 467.48 sq.meter & for Two Wheeler 692.75 sq.meter. total = 1160.23sq.meter.) Assessed Value of Tender (Rs.): 65,54,111/- for 05 Years. (18% G.S.T. extra applicable) EMD (Rs.): 3,27,800/- Time & Date for closure for submission of E-tender document: 18.03.2020 upto 15:00 hrs through online website <http://www.reps.gov.in> only. Tenderer must have Class III DIGITAL SIGNATURE & registration on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderers will be able to bid and all the important mandatory documents need to be uploaded at time of e-tendering. Complete details and information for this tender is available on <http://www.reps.gov.in>.

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager
WCR, KOTA

रेस यात्रा के दैनिक शिकायत हेतु 138 पर एवं सुरक्षा हेतु 182 पर सम्पर्क करें

PUBLIC NOTICE

Urban Local Bodies Department Haryana

In compliance of the directions of Hon'ble NGT, a draft policy for regulating the responsibilities disposal of waste generated by restaurants/Dhabas/Hotels/Motels/Marriage places/others establishments generating solid, liquid waste and drawing ground water has been prepared by the Govt. The draft policy is hosted on the website <https://urbaharyana.gov.in> for your valuable comments/suggestions, if any. You can send your written comments/suggestions on email sde1ngt@bhub@yahoo.com by 09.03.2020 positively. The same may be considered before the finalization of the Policy.

-sd-
Director General
Urban Local Bodies, Haryana
Panchkula
Prdh 80027

Govt. of Jharkhand
Office of the Executive Engineer
National Highway Division, Hazaribagh
South of PTC Ground, Hazaribagh - 825301, Fax - 06546-222474
E-mail :- nhdivisionhazaribagh@gmail.com/eenhhazari-jhr@nic.in

TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE

This is to inform all concern people that the tender published in different news paper by PR No. - 223611 Road (19-20)*D and uploaded on <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure> for the work Widening and Strengthening / Reconstruction of Existing Pavement to Two Lane with Paved Shoulder including Replacement of Culverts, for NH-22 (Old NH-99) from Km-11.200 (Bihar-Jharkhand Border) to Km-30 Km Under NH(O) on EPC mode in the state of Jharkhand (Tender ID - 2020_MoRTH_535203_1) has been cancelled from immediate effect as per direction given by Chief Engineer, National Highway Wing, Jharkhand, Ranchi.

Executive Engineer
NH Division, Hazaribagh

PR 22597 (Road)19-20#D

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one female namely **Shilpa D/o Sh. Dhaneesh Kumar R/o H.No. 230/25E, Gali No.8, Railway Colony, Mandawali, Delhi**, has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Mandawali, Delhi Since 03.02.2020. In this regard, a case vide DD No. 29A dated 07.02.2020 has been registered at P.S. Mandawali Delhi. The description of the missing female is as under:



SHILPA

Age: 25 Years **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Height:** 4'9", **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Sky blue Jarri & Jeans pant. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing female then please inform P.S. Mandawali Delhi at following Tel No. / e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639

Sd/- S.H.O.
P.S. Mandawali, Delhi
Ph: 011-22720808
DP/7278/ED/2020

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified body of a male namely Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, was found on 22.02.2020 at 22:31 Hrs on the footpath, Church wall, near gola Dakkhana, Baba Kharag Singh Marg, New Delhi. In this regard DD No. 25-A, dated 22.02.2020 has been lodged at Police Station, Mandir Marg, New Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: About 45-46 Years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Shallow, ID Mark: "Manoj Mamta MM" tattoo on right hand, Wearing: Black Jacket and Light green shirt.

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

SHO
Police Station, Mandir Marg, Delhi
DP/07/ND/2020 Ph.: 011-23366730, 8750870522, 9891109466

**DIRECTORATE OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION
HARYANA PANCHKULA
PUBLIC NOTICE**

ADMISSIONS IN CLASS 2ND TO 8TH UNDER RULE 134-A

It is for the information of General Public and Private Recognized Schools in Haryana State that in accordance to Rule 134-A of the Haryana School Education Rules, 2003 amended in 2013, all Private Recognized Schools are required to reserve 10% seats for classes 2nd to 8th under Rule 134-A of the aforesaid rules for the admission of meritorious students belonging to Economically Weaker sections of Society and Below Poverty Line (BPL) Category. All Private recognized schools running in Haryana State are hereby directed to display information regarding availability of seats/admissions etc. of their respective schools on their school website and also place the same on the School Notice Boards for Public view by 25.02.2020. List of such reserved seats should also be sent to the District Elementary Education Officer of their District. The schools can also furnish the information online on MIS Portal i.e. haryedumis.gov.in which can be accessed through the link available on departmental website i.e. schooleducationharyana.gov.in (through icon 134-A on "online segment"). The prescribed format and other information can be accessed at the Departmental website [www.schooleducationharyana.gov.in](http://schooleducationharyana.gov.in).

-sd-
Director Elementary Education,
Haryana Panchkula
PRDH 80043

'More violence expected after Trump leaves'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi Minorities Commission (DMC) chairman Zafarul Islam Khan on Tuesday wrote a letter to Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal urging him to imposed curfew in violence-affected areas in north-east Delhi, as further agitation is "expected" after the departure of U.S. President Donald Trump.

Mr. Khan also requested the L-G to order the police to rein in violence and take action against perpetrators.

The DMC has taken cognisance of the violence in the North East district. Mr. Khan issued a notice on Tuesday to DCP (North East) directing him to send more police enforcements to the area to contain violence, impose curfew (Section 144) on affected areas and to escort people wishing to leave the area and to escort the injured to nearby hospitals," a statement by the DMC read.

"Violence and arson has been continuing for 48 hours now. Police, civilians, Hindus, Muslims are injured in large numbers. At least 10 people have died. If police is unable to maintain law and order, why is @AmitShah not imposing curfew? Why is the army not being called in? [sic]" AAP MLA Atishi said in a tweet.

Up in flames: firing, stone pelting continue... no policeman in sight

Two communities clash in Durgapuri; police arrive at spot after an hour

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

At 3 p.m. on Durgapuri's 100 Foota Road – adjacent to Babarpur – in north-east Delhi, members of two communities clashed, pelted stones and fired gunshots with not even a single police officer in the sight for more than an hour.

At the spot which was about a km away from Durgapuri Check Post, a group of men with faces covered and lathis in hand continued to throw stones and bricks at each other.

A group of people, sporting tilak on their foreheads, chanted "Jai Sri Ram and Har Har Mahadev" during the attack while another set of crowd abused them.

Meanwhile, a bike, a mini-truck and a shop – all owned by members of minority community – were set ablaze. Our reporter at the crime spot could hear 11 gunshots in six minutes. It is unclear as to who used the firearms.

At 3.45 p.m., members from the minority community with glasses in their hands were met with those from the majority community, carrying sticks and bricks. "Aamne samne ki la-dai hai... bahar aao... kab tak andar rahoge [It's a face-off... come out... how long



Police personnel at a violence-affected area in north-east Delhi on Tuesday. ■ PTI

will you stay inside your homes]," said a member of the majority community.

Talking about the situation, members of the majority community said they are not clashing because of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act but because they want the roads cleared.

"We want all the roads cleared. They can't turn the entire Delhi into Shaheen Bagh. Our people are facing problems for so many days now. If they want to stay in Delhi, they have to stay with

us," said a man who identified himself as Abhishek Sharma.

In between the violence, there was a rumour – a temple in the middle of the street has been vandalised – which worsened the scenario in the area.

The locals, who were not part of the clashes in the area, stayed indoors. Some of them peaked from their galleries to see the situation.

They said it was peaceful till 11.30 pm but tension escalated afterward, leading

to shopkeepers pulling down their shutters.

Reporters threatened

"The police had come in the morning to disperse the crowd but after they left, it started again," said a resident.

The mob also stopped two journalists of this newspaper from taking out their phones or cameras to record videos. The police after an hour arrived at the spot and tried to pacify the crowd.

Mob vandalises shops belonging to minority community

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

The women protesting against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act vacated a road outside Jaffrabad metro station on Tuesday evening, said a senior officer.

Delhi Police PRO MS Randhawa said all protesters and supporters of CAA have been removed from Jaffrabad and Maujpur areas. This was done after violence broke out in the localities, said an officer.

The women were protesting at the spot since Saturday night against the CAA and the National Register of Citizens (NRC). A protester, Naushad, said: "The outsiders creating problems in the area have also been removed."

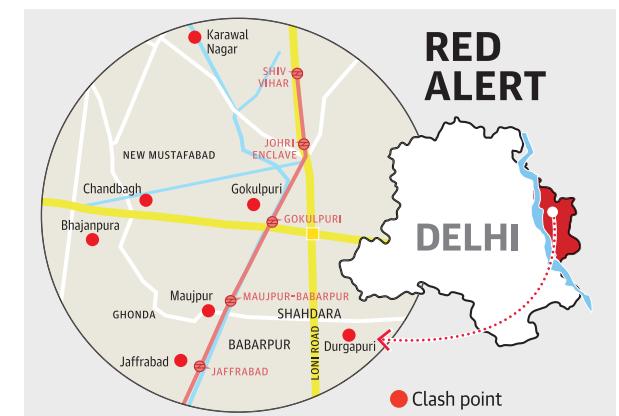
Certain areas in the city – Bhajanpura, Maujpur, Kawaal Nagar, Jaffrabad and Kardam Puri witnessed rounds of stone pelting, firing and arson, the police said.

A group of bikers chanting "Jai Shri Ram" were seen vandalising shops belonging to people from the minority community. The locals in Kardam Puri said the attackers were "outsiders".

A mob attacked the shop that I have rented out to a man from a minority community. The attackers were outsiders. It seems a group of bikers armed with sticks



Items of a shop set on fire in Kardam Puri. ■ SAURABH TRIVEDI



and baseball bats targeted

shops of those from the mi-

nority community," said shop owner Nalin Kaushik.

Earlier during the day, the police conducted flag march in Bhajanpura and Khureji Khas as fresh incidents of

violence erupted in the city.

11 FIRs so far

The police also deployed 10 more companies of para-

ilitary forces in the violence-

an officer.

People were firing from terraces, says injured teen

Many patients admitted to GTB Hospital

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

As violence continued across the city for the third consecutive day on Tuesday, a 13-year-old boy from Noor-e-Ilahi lay injured in Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital.

Resting his head on his mother's lap, Shoib Hussain alias Faizi showed the gunshot wound on his lower back.

Faizi said that a bullet hit him when he was out looking for his brother at 7 p.m. on Monday.

"As I stepped out, I saw a boy, younger than me, bleeding because of a bullet injury. I was helping him when a bullet hit me from somewhere. People were firing from the terraces," the Class 7 boy said.

His family immediately rushed him to a nursing home from where he was taken to GTB Hospital.

Grief and fury grip families which lost loved ones in violence

Unsure of faces behind the killings, kin of victims wait outside GTB mortuary to receive bodies; some blame police for inaction

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

Among the people who lost their lives in the violence on Monday was a policeman who reported for duty despite being unwell, a man whose wife is three-month pregnant, and a brother whose sister is scheduled to get married in April.

Outside Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital mortuary on Tuesday, the families of these three victims were seen waiting to receive the bodies. The victims who have been identified are head constable Ratan Lal, Mohammed Furkan, Shahid Khan, Nazim, Vinod and Rahul Solanki.

An honest officer

Lal's brother-in-law Deepak Bari remembered the constable as an honest officer who did not take a penny of unearned money. "He had a high fever on Monday. His wife asked him to take a leave but he still reported to duty. What else could he do in such



Kin of a victim mourn outside Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital in New Delhi on Tuesday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

a situation and when there were fewer officers?" said Mr. Deepak from Jaipur.

Lal, the sole breadearner in his family, lived in Burari with his wife and three children. Mr. Deepak said Lal's wife received a call at 4 p.m. stating that he has been injured and is critical. "She then called us. We switched on the television when we saw news of his death. We immediately left for Delhi," he said. She does not believe that Lal is no more, Mr. Dee-

pak said on Tuesday afternoon. "She is in a state of shock and is telling me to bring him home. She is waiting. What should I say to her?"

Advised not to cry

Another victim, Shahid, whose wife is three-month pregnant has been advised not to cry. The two got married in September 2019. The 22-year-old victim from New Mustafabad used to drive an autorickshaw for a living.

We kept his [Shahid's] body on the street for an hour not knowing what to do. Elders in the area then suggested to take him to hospital for post-mortem. He was shot in the chest,

IMRAN
Victim's brother

We kept his [Shahid's] body on the street for an hour not knowing what to do. Elders in the area then suggested to take him to hospital for post-mortem. He was shot in the chest," Mr. Imran said, adding that they don't know who shot him. "He had left for work in the morning and that is all we know".

A resident of Dayalpur's Babu Nagar, Hari Singh Solanki, lost his 26-year-old son Rahul in the violence. He blamed the police for his son's death. "The situation near our house was getting tense when I called 112 [emergency helpline number of Delhi Police] at around 3 p.m. twice. I also called a few police officers. They kept assuring me that they would turn up but not even a single officer came to the spot," he alleged.

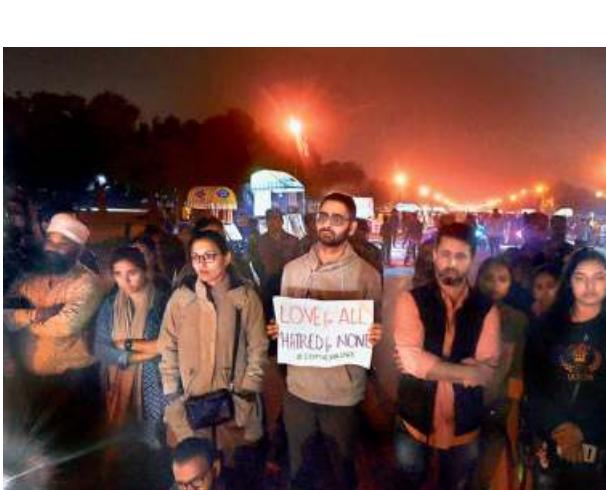
Subsequently, the family was informed that he has been brought to a nursing home close to their residence. The family then went

home but they refused to treat him. We wanted to take him to GTB Hospital straight but the road was blocked due to the clashes. We then took him to a Loni government hospital but we had lost him by then," the father said.

Rahul's sister was due to get married on April 27 but "now what will happen?" the father cried. Another victim Vinod Kumar from Brahmpuri was stoned to death on Monday night, his family said. Vinod's son Monu said they had gone out when stones were pelted at them. "Nobody came to help us," said the son, who also sustained injuries. On Monday, Mohammed Furkan's brother Mohammed Imran said he looked for him in GTB Hospital's Emergency for a while before he could finally find his body. "I asked the doctor if I could take him to a private hospital but he said he was dead," the brother said. Mr. Imran said his brother was not a part of the protest.



JNUSU during a peace vigil at India Gate against the ongoing violence in the city on Tuesday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA



Students, anti-CAA protesters appeal for peace, seek Mishra's arrest

Former JNU students' union president to set up 30 peace committees in violence-affected areas

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Students and anti-CAA protesters under the banner – Young India – on Tuesday appealed for peace in Delhi and called for the active intervention of local MLAs, heavier police deployment and immediate arrest of BJP leader Kapil Mishra for allegedly instigating violence.

"We need to make sure that something like 1984 or 2002 does not repeat,"

said former JNUSU president N. Balaji. He said he will set up at least 30 peace committees near protest sites such as Nizamuddin, Hauz Khas and other areas, especially those near educational institutions, that would speak to locals and appeal for calm. The group also appealed for MLAs to "leave their offices and go meet the public".

Social activist Kavita Krishna attacked the BJP, holding it responsible for the

current environment in Delhi. "The U.S. president is in the country now, perhaps which is why the riots are taking place. We need to send a message to the world that the largest democracy is in danger," she said.

Police doing nothing

Comparing the current state of the city to the 1984 riots, Ms. Krishnan said the police did nothing to end the violence and instead are helping

the mob. An anti-CAA protester, who has been a part of the demonstrations at Eidgah, said the current situation has risen out of statements made by the Prime Minister like "you can identify rioters by their clothes". She also said the anti-CAA protesters were non-violent. "We follow the path of Gandhi... please stop dividing this country," she appealed.

Other anti-CAA protesters were in Wazirabad, a Dalit rights

group from Uttar Pradesh – Blue Panthers – and doctors' association from the across the city also attended the press conference. The group also denounced the CAA, NRC and NPR, calling them "communally divisive and unconstitutional".

To protest the government's moves, Young India has called for "Dekhu Chalo" march from Ramlila Maidan to Parliament Street on March 3.

Eight activists detained outside CM residence

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Eight activists from rights group 'United Against Hate' were detained outside Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's house when they tried to stage a protest against his "silence" on the ongoing communal violence in the Capital. They were later released.

"Mr. Kejriwal, you always claim that you are Janta ka CM but today we some of Janta of Delhi went to meet you and we were stopped thrashed and detained by Delhi Police from 200 mtrs from your residence. Why have you become so inaccessible???" [sic]," the group later said in a tweet.

Khalid Saifi, a co-founder of the group, said: "When we reached the area, the police did let us walk to the Chief Minister's residence. An Assistant Commissioner of Police manhandled me and put me in a jeep. At least 12 of us were detained and released after a couple of hours."



L-G Anil Baijal and Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik pay homage to head constable Ratan Lal in New Delhi on Tuesday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

L-G, police chief, Minister pay tribute to constable

Last rites to be performed in Lal's hometown

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Head constable Ratan Lal who died during the violence on Monday in the city was paid tribute by Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal, Union Minister of State for Home Nitayananand Rai, Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik at a wreath-laying ceremony here on Tuesday.

Scores of police personnel laid wreaths over Lal's coffin, which was placed at the Shaheed Smarak Sthal, and paid him a 24-gun salute followed by a moment of silence.

he Commissioner said: "This is a big loss for us. But this has happened during duty, for the country, it is a sacrifice and in that sense, we take pride in his sacrifice. At this time we are all with his family... And we will always remember his sacrifice in the time to come."

Lal's body, which will be transported to his hometown in Rajasthan, for the last rites.

Timings

DELHI

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26
RISE 06:50 SET 18:19
RISE 08:30 SET 20:40
THURSDAY, FEB. 27
RISE 06:49 SET 18:19
RISE 09:00 SET 21:32
FRIDAY, FEB. 28
RISE 06:48 SET 18:20
RISE 09:30 SET 22:24

Delhi Weather

max	min
Delhi City	26 13
Safdarjang	26 13
Palam	26 13

Delhi Palam Today

27°C Shallow fog is likely in the morning. A warm day with mainly clear sky is expected. While night temperature may rise.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow

28°C A pleasant morning with shallow fog is expected. A very warm afternoon and sunny sky is likely.

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THE HINDU

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Reaction to CAA to be expected: Amarinder

Shiromani Akali Dal demands probe into Delhi violence

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH



Amarinder Singh addressing media persons during the ongoing budget session in Chandigarh on Tuesday. ■ AKHILESH KUMAR

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said that the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government at the Centre was attempting to trample India's cherished democratic ideals of socialism and secularism through "this draconian legislation [CAA]."

"Naturally, there had to be a reaction," he said, adding that the people's angst would not end but would "only grow bigger till the Central government realises its mistake and withdraws the legislation".

"The BJP-led Central government had failed to factor in the possible reaction of the people to its plans to impose the Citizen Citizenship Act, as well as the NRC [National Register of Citizens] and the NPR [National Population Register], on the nation," Capt. Amarinder said outside the Assembly here.

not acceptable at all and the government should find out who was behind the violence. Is it a conspiracy? A probe should be undertaken to find out the cause behind the violence, and whether there is any force behind it or if it is a general normal conflict," said Mr. Badal.

'Mischievous attempt'
On being asked to comment on the allegation levelled by the Congress that the statements made by BJP leaders were responsible for the recent violence in Delhi, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said, "It is unfortunate that this statement by the Congress comes at a time when the U.S. President Donald Trump is on his visit to India. It seems that it is a mischievous attempt."

"The government would get the issue investigated and whoever committed this act of hatred should not be spared," he added.

Kartarpur Corridor will remain open'

Apprehensions stem from Pakistan's bad intent, says CM Amarinder Singh

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH



A decorated gate on the Kartarpur Corridor in Gurdaspur. ■ FILE PHOTO

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said on Tuesday that the Kartarpur Corridor would remain open regardless of security concerns.

His remarks in the Assembly came amid the furore over Director-General of Police Dinkar Gupta's statement on the threat from the Kartarpur Corridor.

'Issue over'
Capt. Amarinder said the apprehensions about a threat were "serious", but they did not stem from the corridor but from Pakistan's "bad intent". "We will not let the Kartarpur Corridor be closed," he said. "The DGP has apologised; everybody makes mistakes; even I make mistakes... This issue is over now. Let us concentrate on peace and ensure that the difficult times that Punjab had gone through do not recur."

Capt. Amarinder said his government was in possession of classified documents

that he could not circulate in the Assembly. "After meddling in Kashmir for long, Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has only one task now: to disturb peace in Punjab," he said. "Pakistan was blatantly trying to prevent trouble in the State."

Showing pictures of Chinese drones, the Chief Minister said these had been seized from a man swimming through the Ravi, but there might be others who had not been caught. "Who knows what their motive is," he added. "What problem the ISI has with the Taliban, Iran or Balochistan, we

don't know. But what they have been doing in India is known to all. Earlier it was Kashmir, and now even Punjab is their target," he said.

The Assembly passed a resolution seeking waiver of passport and a more simple process for visiting the Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan. It urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to talk Pakistan into cutting the \$20 fee charged from Indian pilgrims.

Capt. Amarinder also rejected as baseless former DSP Balwinder Singh Sekhon's charge against Minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu. Members of the Shiromani Akali Dal and the Aam Aadmi Party raised slogans demanding action against Mr. Sekhon and Mr. Ashu. Then they staged a walkout.

Shiromani Akali Dal, Aam Aadmi Party members demanded action against Mr. Sekhon and Mr. Ashu. Then they staged a walkout.

"All cases referred to by Mr. Sekhon had been scrutinised through judicial processes, and no fresh evidence has been filed by the DSP," he said.

Mr. Sekhon on Sunday had accused Mr. Ashu of masterminding a bomb blast at Gur Mandi in Ludhiana in 1992.

Members of the Shiromani Akali Dal and the Aam Aadmi Party raised slogans demanding action against Mr. Sekhon and Mr. Ashu. Then they staged a walkout.

Later, outside the Assembly, SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia demanded immediate dismissal of Mr. Ashu. Leader of the Opposition Harpal Cheema of the Aam Aadmi Party demanded that criminal cases against Mr. Ashu be reopened.

New excise policy more strict, says Chautala

No bail for smuggling before 6 months'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala on Tuesday said that stricter provisions have been incorporated in the new excise policy, and now anyone involved in liquor smuggling will not get bail before six months. Earlier the time period for the same was only 15 days.

Mr. Chautala was speaking during Zero Hour in the ongoing budget session of the Assembly.

He said to put an end to 'Inspector Raj', for the first time, online permits have been provided for serving alcohol during social celebrations. "The duration has been fixed from 6 a.m. to 6 a.m. the next morning and the fee has been increased from ₹500 to ₹1,000," he said.

The new policy includes

Joint exercise



Firefighters demonstrate their skill during a fire safety drill organised by the Municipal Corporation fire brigade and the U.S. fire service team in Bhopal on Tuesday. ■ PTI

Cut in NHM funds to hit primary healthcare services in Rajasthan

Right to Health Act not mentioned in budget speech: experts

MOHAMMED IQBAL
JAIPUR

The ambitious goal of "Nirogi Rajasthan" set by the Congress government is unlikely to be met this year with the State budget for 2020-21, presented last week, making a negligible increase of 6.8% in the allocation for medical, health and family welfare. The massive cut of ₹502.42 crore in the funds for the National Health Mission is also likely to hit primary healthcare services.

Health activists attached to the Jan Swasthya Abhiyan, which functions as the State chapter of the People's Health Movement, here on Tuesday expressed concern over budgetary treatment of the health sector. The activists described the allocation of ₹14,533.37 crore to the health sector as inadequate and wondered why the Right to Health Act had found no mention in the budget speech.

Poll promise

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, who also holds the Finance portfolio, had earlier announced that the Right to Health Bill would be shortly introduced in the Assembly to guarantee common people's access to high-quality healthcare services. This was also one of the significant promises made in the election manifesto of the Congress.



Ashok Gehlot. ■ FILE PHOTO

Chhaya Pachauli, director

of voluntary group Prayas,

said the reduction in NHM budget from ₹2,002.85 crore last year to ₹1,500.43 crore, as well as in the National Rural and Urban Health Missions' funds, would impact a wide range of healthcare services. Some of the crucial health programmes, such as immunisation, adolescent health, community-based interventions and allocation of human resource for healthcare, were linked with these missions.

Moreover, the budget for sub-health centres has been reduced from ₹33.95 crore last year to ₹10.90 crore and that for the primary health centres from ₹335.98 crore last year to ₹309.84 crore.

Intervention needed

"This slash signifies a clear undermining of primary healthcare services which are already in dire shape and are in need of urgent interventions for a thorough revamping," Ms. Pachauli said.

Though Mr. Gehlot laid a lot of emphasis on the "Nirogi Rajasthan" campaign in

his budget speech, it would fail to yield any productive results in the absence of an effective primary healthcare system, Ms. Pachauli said. On the other hand, the State health insurance scheme under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana has got a substantial increase in allocation from ₹631 crore last year to ₹1,241.51 crore.

The flagship free medicine and free diagnostic tests schemes, initiated by Mr. Gehlot during his previous tenure, have witnessed a negligible increase this year.

According to the Jan Swasthya Abhiyan, this indicates a "fast-growing inclination" of the State towards implementation of health insurance scheme rather than promoting universally accessible free healthcare programmes.

Lessons not learnt

Ms. Pachauli said the State government had not learnt any lessons from the recent incident of children's deaths in Kota and was not serious about improving the public healthcare system, which was low on service delivery, poor on quality standards and far from the reach of those who most needed it.

"This would mean that little change is expected in the year to come and a large number of people will still have to depend on private sector and unqualified practitioners," she added.

Senior citizen seeks reward for providing information on fraud

Respondents covering up corruption by shoddy probe'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

A septuagenarian resident of Manesar village here has moved the Punjab and Haryana High Court seeking reward for giving information about alleged leakage of government revenue and the loss of public funds, and demanding action against the erring officials.

The Haryana government has sought time to ascertain the status of enquiry, if any, in the matter.

Ram Avtar Yadav, 73, in his petition before the court of Judge Sanjay Kumar, said that he, duty-bound by Arti-

cle 51A of the Constitution, had provided written information about panchayat funds being siphoned off allegedly by corrupt officials, defeating the purpose of development of village through grassroots democracy.

No case registered

He added the government had directed the State Vigilance Bureau to conduct investigation into the complaints of the petitioner and the Flying Squad of the Chief Minister had also initiated an investigation, but no case was registered after

more than a year. Mr. Yadav, through his advocate Pardeep Kumar Rapria, said the respondents – the Haryana government, the State Vigilance Bureau and the Development and Panchayats Department – appeared to be covering up the rampant corruption by "inaction and shoddy investigation".

Additional Advocate General Rajesh Gaur has sought time to ascertain the status of enquiry, if any, that has been initiated upon the petitioner's representation.

The court has fixed the matter for hearing on March 31.

AMU V-C welcomes HC order on police action

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

The Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University, Tariq Mansoor, has welcomed the orders of the Allahabad High Court regarding the recommendations of the National Human Rights Commission pertaining to the police action on the intervening night of December 15-16, 2019. Welcoming the order of the High Court Bench, Prof. Mansoor said that the university administration had provided all cooperation to the NHRC team which inquired into the chain of events that occurred on the night of December 15.

He said that they provided the inquiry committee with the CCTV footage and other necessary evidence in the unfortunate incidents of violence.

On the directives of the High Court, Prof. Mansoor said that the university administration was making all possible efforts to communicate with the students and create an atmosphere of mutual trust. He added that a detailed report will be presented before the court during the next hearing.

Salman Imtiaz, president AMU Students' Union (2018-19), said the AMU V-C and Registrar should take responsibility and resign.

Vets for mapping poultry farms to tackle antimicrobial resistance

Spreading awareness among the large breeders within the industry could be a start'

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

Veterinarians on Tuesday called upon the Madhya Pradesh government to map and register poultry farms, in effect draw up regulations to track and better guide the industry, in a bid to combat drug resistance in humans caused by excessive use of antibiotics in poultry.

At a workshop for the doctors here, Robin J. Paul, nodal officer, Kerala State Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, highlighted Kerala's regulatory framework wherein all poultry farms were geotagged, enabling

better regulation. "This can be the first step towards tackling antimicrobial resistance. Mapping can help track transportation, use of antibiotics and breeding conditions of the poultry overtime," he said.

Use of growth promoters

Last year, Madhya Pradesh had followed Kerala's lead in chalking out the plan to deal with the resistance, a natural phenomenon accelerated by usage of growth promoters in poultry, use of chemicals, including antifungal chemicals, in agriculture, and unhygienic conditions in hospitals causing infections. This results in prolonged illness, extended therapy duration and a higher mortality rate and cost of treatment. Since 1987, no new antibiotic has been discovered, and developing resistance to the existing ones can prove fatal.

Before mapping farms, spreading awareness within the industry could be a start, said D.P. Ahuja, Principal Secretary, Madhya Pradesh Veterinary Department. "Mapping farms straightforwardly might spook away breeders. First, awareness is necessary among them, that too among the larger breeders so that

the message percolates to others. We need to create a win-win situation wherein incomes are increased and resistance is tackled," he said.

Emerging issue

At the workshop, veterinarians stressed the need to spread awareness about bio-security practices, among farmers especially. Pankaj Shukla, Joint Director, National Urban Health Mission, Madhya Pradesh, had earlier told *The Hindu* antimicrobial resistance, found in agricultural fields, was an emerging issue in the State.

The health community must not preach the use of antibiotics, but exercise restraint, said Pallavi Jain Govil, Principal Secretary, Madhya Pradesh Health department. "Consuming antibiotics creates a false sense of security that a disease won't spread to others then. We need to encourage healthy habits," she said.

Stating that collaboration with different government departments was the biggest challenge, she added, "The West is no more discovering newer antibiotics as they have addressed these problems to a large extent."

AN-ND-E

Proof of burden on person claiming citizenship: Gauhati HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Gauhati High Court said that the burden of proving one's citizenship was on a person claiming the status, while dismissing a woman's plea against the order of a Foreigners' Tribunal (FT) declaring her a foreigner.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Manojit Bhuyan and Justice Parthivijoy Sainia said that the petitioner,

Nur Begum of Habigaon in Golaghat district, could not prove her linkage to any ancestor who lived in Assam before March 25, 1971. The Assam Accord of 1985 prescribes the date as the cut-off for detecting and deporting illegal foreigners.

The court referred to Section 6 of the Foreigners Act, 1946, to make the observation. The FTs have been handling cases under this Act

since the Supreme Court scrapped the Illegal Migrants (Determination) by Tribunal Act of 1983 that had put the onus of proving a person's citizenship on the accuser or the authorities.

8 documents submitted
Ms. Begum, who claimed to have been born in 1986, had submitted eight documents to establish her case. One of these was a school-leaving

certificate of 2000 that stated her father's name as one Raju Hussain, who in another document was found to be included in the voters' list of 1997.

The other documents included the voters' list of 1966 showing the name of one Jenurathdin, who the petitioner had claimed was her grandfather, and a voter ID card belonging to one Jahorun Hussain, who Ms. Begum had

asserted was her mother.

The court, however, ruled that all the certificates rendered themselves as 'inadmissible' in evidence, while referring to the Foreigners Act and the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, to observe that the burden of proving citizenship "absolutely rests" on the petitioner "notwithstanding anything contained in the Evidence Act, 1872".

Chief Engineer, JSRDA 3rd Floor, FFP Building, Dhurwa, Ranchi

Short-e-Procurement Notice

Retender (PR-No.-219836 dated 17.10.2019)

The Government of India has received a loan/credit number "Ln 7995-IN/Cr.4848-IN/Cr-4848-IN" from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/International Development Association towards the cost of Rural Roads Project (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana) and intends to apply a part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contracts for construction of works as detailed in the Invitation for Bids. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the bidding document.

The Chief Engineer, JSRDA, Ranchi, Jharkhand for J.S.R.D.A on behalf of Governor of Jharkhand, invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Bridges, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana under XVIth phase(Batch-II), in the district of Palamu- 1PKg (1 Bridge), Cost Rs. 146.41 Lakh including their maintenance for five years, from the eligible contractors registered in appropriate classes with RCD/ RDD/ R.W.D. Jharkhand, Ranchi/ CPWD/ MES/ in any other State Governments/Central Government.*

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 03.03.2020

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document will be available online from 03.03.2020 and should be submitted online in www.pmgstendersjhr.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) Original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with C.E. J.S.R.D.A. 3rd Floor, F.F.P. Building, H.E.C. Campus, Dhurwa, Ranchi, up to 18.03.2020 till 13.00 hours, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 18.03.2020 upto 13.00 hours (time). For further details please log on to www.pmgstendersjhr.gov.in

Chief Engineer,
J.S.R.D.A., 3rd Floor
FFP Building, Dhurwa, Ranchi

PR 225950 Rural Work Department (19-20)_D

* Non registered bidders may submit bids, however the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.



GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
State Health Society, Punjab
Room No.2, O/o SHA Punjab, Block E, 3rd Floor, PSEB Complex
Sector 62, SAS Nagar, Punjab
Tel. No. 0172-4012011-13, fax : 0172-4012013

No. NHM/PB/2020/DF/45655 Dated:19/02/2020

SELECTION OF AUDITOR - REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

HIRING SERVICES OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT FIRM FOR STATUTORY AUDIT OF STATE HEALTH SOCIETY (SHS), PUNJAB & DISTRICT HEALTH SOCIETIES (DHSS) - FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2019-20) UNDER NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION.

Govt. of India (GOI) in partnership with the States is Implementing the National Health Mission which comprises various programs, with the objective of improving medical facilities in the areas and seeks to provide accessible, affordable and quality health care to the population, especially the vulnerable sections. To facilitate implementation of NHM, State and District level entities (Health Societies) have been registered which work under the administrative control of the Department of Health & Family Welfare. The State Health Society, Punjab, invites "Proposal for audit" from Chartered Accountant firms empanelled with C&AG and eligible for conducting audit of major PSUs for the year 2019-20.

Minimum quote of audit fees for the assignment is Rs. 189111/- including TA/DA and excluding GST.

Detailed RFP: Detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) comprising Background, Terms of Reference (ToR) and Guidelines for submitting the proposal can be either downloaded from the State's website http://www.nhmpunjab.in/nhmwebsite/tender.php or can be collected from the O/o Mission Director, SHS, Punjab between

Important Dates:
i. Last date for collection of RFP from Office of SHS: 09/03/2020
ii. Date for pre-bid conference: 11/03/2020 at 11.00 am
iii. Last date for submission of Proposal to SHS: 18/03/2020 till 12.00 PM
iv. Date of opening of Tender: 18/03/2020 at 3.00 PM

Venue for Pre-bid Conference & Opening of Tender: CR, NHM, Prayaas Building Sector -38 Chandigarh.

Address for Correspondence

Mission Director,
State Health Society, Punjab,
Prayaas Building, 5th Floor, Sector 38-B, Chandigarh.
Email id: accounts.nrhm@gmail.com
FAX: & Phone: 0172-4012012

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Phase III, selection of project staff (on

contract basis) in Regional Analytical

laboratory, Groundwater Department,

Ernakulam. Walk-in-interview on

04.03.2020. For details visit website:

www.groundwater.kerala.gov.in

CM YK

IN BRIEF



Exclusive cargo flight launched from Vizag

VISAKHAPATNAM An exclusive freighter cargo service was launched for the first time from the Visakhapatnam airport on Tuesday. The dedicated cargo service, launched by SpiceJet, connects Visakhapatnam with Kolkata and Chennai, thrice a week and with Surat and Chennai thrice a week. The first 'SpiceXpress' from Chennai arrived here around noon and was received by Visakhapatnam MP M.V. Satyanarayana and others.

ISRO to launch GISAT-1 on March 5

BENGALURU GISAT-1, the country's first earth imaging satellite in a geostationary orbit, will be launched on the evening of March 5 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said on Tuesday that its medium-lift GSLV launcher numbered F10 would orbit the 2,275-kg spacecraft. "GISAT-1 will facilitate almost real-time observation of the Indian subcontinent under cloud-free conditions and at frequent intervals," it said.

Elderly to get rations at doorsteps in Karnataka

BENGALURU The Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs of Karnataka has decided to provide home delivery of ration to 1.4 lakh elderly people across the State in a few days. Minister for Food and Civil Supplies K. Gopalaiyah reviewed the programmes of the department and said food inspectors in the city limits and revenue inspectors in rural areas would be given the responsibility of delivering rations from the PDS shops to homes.

Wary Kerala govt. withdraws proposal for pubs, breweries

Instead, Cabinet gives a fillip to toddy sector that employs thousands of workers

G. ANAND
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government's bid to create a late-night world of pubs and bars to attract global investors and woo the IT workforce will remain a non-starter for now.

The government has walked back from a proposal to implement a relatively non-restrictive liquor policy that entailed breweries, draught beer pubs, reduced number of dry days and enhanced bar timings.

Instead, the Cabinet, which finalised the excise policy for 2020-21 on Tuesday, gave a fillip to the toddy sector that employs thousands of workers who constitute the traditional support base of the Left Democratic Front (LDF). The compulsions of realpolitik appeared to have carried the day.

Excise policy for 2020-21

- Sale of food through toddy shops
- Upper limit of sap from palm: 2 litres
- No distance norms for toddy parlours

Licence fee

Private member clubs	Bar hotels
₹20 lakh	₹30 lakh
Airport bar	

Fee on distilleries that outsource blending



Three-star and above hotels continue to be eligible for bar licence

tions will not apply to buildings from which toddy parlours operate currently.

An estimated 5,071 toddy shops will go under the hammer soon for a lease period of three years. Current licences will get preference for a permit.

Licence fee

The government has upped the liquor licence fee for private member clubs from ₹15 lakh to ₹20 lakh and that for bar hotels from ₹28 lakh to ₹30 lakh. Airport bar fee has been hiked from ₹1 lakh to ₹2 lakh. There is no change in the conditions for grant of liquor licences. Three-star and above hotels continue to be eligible for bar licence. The government also slapped a fee on distilleries that outsource blending to save on import tax.

Liquor is a politically sensitive subject in Kerala, and the ruling front seemed wary of a political backlash from the Opposition, powered by Church-backed prohibitionists. The upcoming local body polls and the Assembly by-election in Kuttanad also may have acted as a brake. The government has given toddy shops considerable latitude in conducting their business in a limited regulatory atmosphere. It has legalised the sale of food through toddy shops. It has increased the upper limit of the legally permissible yield of coconut sap from a palm from the current 1.5 litres to 2 litres. The offset of 200 m from places of worship, burial and educational institu-

Accused runs certificate racket from jail

He used phones of prison staff to contact associates

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
ANANTAPUR

The kingpin of the 'fake certificates racket', lodged in Andhra Pradesh's Gooty sub-jail since his arrest on February 1, continued his operations and maintained contact with his network with the help of two policemen, sources said.

The Anantapur police, during their interrogation of the accused Glenn Bricks, traced links to yet another gang and arrested three persons on Tuesday – the fourth set of arrests in the case this month. As investi-



Wide network: Police officials inspecting the fake certificates and rubber stamps in Anantapur. ■ R.V.S. PRASAD

gations progress, the scale of the racket is growing, said Additional Superintendent of Police G. Ramanjaneyulu.

At a press conference here, Mr. Ramanjaneyulu said S. Venkateswarlu, a Government Railway Police constable at Guntakal, B. Thimmappa, 32, and K. Yellappa, 32, both from Guntakal, were arrested earlier in the day.

Among the materials seized from them were 393 fake certificates, 215 fake

papers related to certificates, 138 fake seals, blank registration stamp papers, fake house site patta, demand drafts, three two-wheelers and some holograms. The fake certificates were related to both government and private institutions.

Details of Bricks' 1,165 calls made from jail had been recovered and details of the persons he had contacted were being gathered, Mr. Ramanjaneyulu said. The two mobile numbers from which the accused had spoken belonged to Special Jail constables Sudhir Reddy and Phanibhushan Reddy. Departmental action was being initiated against them, the officer added.

Doreswamy acts like Pak. agent: BJP MLA

Yatnal's comment triggers outrage

KARNATAKA BUREAU
VIJAYAPURA/BENGALURU

Former Union Minister and Karnataka BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal on Tuesday triggered a controversy by calling centenarian freedom fighter H.S. Doreswamy a "fake freedom fighter" and termed him a "Pakistani agent," drawing the ire of Opposition parties and social movement leaders.

Mr. Yatnal also said those who raise anti-national slogans should be shot and sent to "jannah" (heaven).

His remarks came in response to a statement made by former Chief Minister Siddaramiah, who at a protest rally in Vijayapura on Monday had questioned the role of the BJP and the Sangh Parivar in the freedom movement.

On Tuesday, Mr. Yatnal asked Mr. Siddaramiah: "Has Sonia Gandhi or Rahul Gandhi participated in the freedom movement?" In the same breath, he turned his ire on Mr. Doreswamy, who has questioned the CAA and the NRC, and said: "That old



H.S. Doreswamy

man in Bengaluru [Mr. Doreswamy] is a fake freedom fighter and acts as a Pakistani agent."

Meanwhile, Mr. Doreswamy reacted: "If a dog barks, it won't affect devaloka. He speaks like a stupid. It is better not to react."

Acknowledging that Mr. Yatnal should not have spoken about the centenarian in such language, a BJP spokesperson said he had been advised in the past not to make statements that embarrass the party and the government. Mr. Siddaramiah and JD(U) chief H.D. Kumaraswamy also criticised Mr. Yatnal's statement.

CAT sets aside IRS officer's suspension

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Setting aside the suspension of IRS officer J. Krishna Kishore by the Andhra Pradesh government, the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Hyderabad, on Tuesday said the officer should be repatriated to the Centre.

A Bench comprising Justice L. Narsimha Reddy and member B.V. Sudhakar, gave the verdict on a petition filed by Mr. Kishore challenging his suspension. It, however, said the government was at liberty to pursue the criminal cases registered against him in accordance with law.

Mr. Kishore was working with the A.P. government on deputation as chief executive officer of the AP Economic Development Board. The government suspended him on corruption charges and filed criminal cases against him for alleged violation of rules.

He was accused of misappropriation of funds and issuing advertisements worth crores without the government's permission.

Conjoined twins to write SSC exams on separate hall tickets

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Veena and Vani, conjoined twins from Nalgonda, will appear for the SSC exams at the same centre but on different hall tickets.

The SSC Board has decided to provide them two hall tickets after they expressed their desire to write the exam separately. Since the board practises a jumbling system while allotting the exam centres, the twins could

have got different centres.

But now arrangements are being made for them to write the exam with two hall tickets as they cannot go to different centres. Both will be given two different sets of paper. Officials also assured them the help of scribes but the twins are said to have refused the facility. However, scribes will be kept ready in case they seek help at the last minute. They will also be provided transport facility.



Vani and Veena hail from Nalgonda district in Telangana. ■ FILE PHOTO

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DAY 1 - ENTRY BY INVITE ONLY

February 27th, 2020

Time: 6.00pm – 10.00pm

The Imperial, Janpath Lane,
Connaught Place, New Delhi

DAY 2 - BY REGISTRATION ONLY

February 28th, 2020

Time: 10.00am – 6.00pm

India Habitat Centre, Stein Auditorium,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi
(Near Airforce Bal Bharathi School)

TO REGISTER FOR THE DAY 2 EVENT

www.thehindubusinessline.com/agrisummit

IN BRIEF



Wanted Maoist leader surrenders in Odisha

BERHAMPUR
Kamlu Beti, CPI (Maoist) Area Committee Secretary of the Kangerghati area committee of the Darva division, surrendered in Odisha's Malkangiri district on Tuesday. He hails from Chhattisgarh. The Naxal, for whom a reward of ₹5 lakh had been announced, surrendered before the DIG, southwest range, Shefreen Ahmed K.

Indians to be flown back from COVID-19-hit ship

NEW DELHI
A chartered flight will bring back Indians on board the cruise ship Diamond Princess, docked off the Japan coast, according to the Indian Embassy in Japan. Only those Indians who have not tested positive for COVID-19 will be brought back. The number of infected Indians on the vessel rose to 14 with two new cases.

Godman arrested for raping five sisters

PUNE
Somnath Chavan, 32, a self-styled godman was arrested for allegedly raping five sisters in the 10-19 age group on the pretext of conducting a ritual to help them conceive as well as find hidden treasure in their house in Pimpri-Chinchwad, police said on Tuesday. According to the complaint lodged on Monday, the abuse took place between January and February 2019. PTI

NHRC logs on to Twitter to spread awareness

NEW DELHI
The National Human Rights Commission on Tuesday said it had started a Twitter account to boost awareness on human rights. The Twitter handle - @IndiaNHrc - is not a platform to register complaints of human rights violation, the panel said.

EAC defers nod for Parliament revamp

Apex environmental panel cites petitions pending before the Delhi HC

JACOB KOSHY

NEW DELHI

An apex environmental screening committee has deferred a decision on clearance to the Parliament redevelopment project. This has been done on the grounds that there was a dispute, being heard in the Delhi High Court, regarding the land on which some of the proposed structures were to come up, a person privy to the meeting told *The Hindu*.

The petitioner in the Delhi High Court has pleaded that no environment clearance be given, as the alterations which are proposed will involve land-use change not in conformity with Delhi's Master Plan.

The petitioner also prayed

that no permission be granted to cut trees for the expansion and renovation of the Parliament building, which is part of the Central Vista Redevelopment project and involves redeveloping the 3km stretch from Rashtrapati Bhavan to the India Gate in Lutyens' Delhi.

CPWD's stance sought

Justice Rajiv Shakher issued notice to the Ministry of Housing and the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) seeking their stand on the petition and ordered that the decision of the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) be conveyed to the court "as soon as possible".

The CPWD applied to the environment ministry on February 12 as part of a formal



Legal tangle: The alterations will involve land-use change not in conformity with Delhi's Master Plan. ■ FILE PHOTO

envisages a new triangular Parliament building that is targeted to be constructed by August 2022, when the country will be celebrating its 75th Independence Day.

The CPWD applied to the environment ministry on February 12 as part of a formal

process. The department sought permission to fell 194 trees and plant 250 new trees as compensation.

The department had also asserted that there were no court cases pending against the project and/or the land.

However, two petitions

have been filed in the Delhi High Court against the Delhi Development Authority's proposed land use change of several plots, including for the new Parliament.

Resolutions needed

One of the plots had been earmarked for recreational use in the Master Plan for Delhi-2021, and the Delhi Development Authority had proposed changing it to "Parliament House" on December 20, 2019.

"The land use dispute has to be resolved before the EAC can take a decision," the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said.

"However we don't see a problem regarding the trees, given that the plan involves making good the losses," the person added.

(With inputs from Damini Nath)

WEATHER WATCH



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

Forecast for Wednesday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	... 25.4...	17.4	10.5	Kozhikode	... 35.6...	25.6	10.5
Ahmedabad	... 31.3...	16.8	10.5	Kurnool	... 35.9...	23.6	10.5
Aizawl	... 21.3...	10.5	4.9	Lucknow	... 28.2...	15.1	4.9
Allahabad	... 28.4...	16.0	10.5	Madurai	... 35.4...	22.3	10.5
Bengaluru	... 29.6...	18.0	10.5	Mangalore	... 36.5...	23.8	10.5
Bhopal	... 27.4...	11.6	7.6	Mumbai	... 26.4...	23.2	7.6
Bhubaneswar	7.6 ... 27.9...	17.4	10.5	Mysuru	... 30.9...	19.3	10.5
Chandigarh	... 24.9...	12.0	7.6	New Delhi	... 26.4...	13.0	7.6
Chennai	... 31.8...	24.3	10.5	Patna	... 31.0...	26.5	10.5
Coimbatore	... 33.0...	22.5	10.5	Puducherry	... 32.4...	23.4	10.5
Dehradoon	... 27.4...	12.0	7.6	Pune	... 32.2...	18.4	7.6
Gangtok	3.6 ... 27.4...	8.0	7.6	Raipur	43.6 ... 26.8...	17.4	7.6
Goa	... 32.6...	22.4	10.5	Ranchi	3.0 ... 25.8...	15.1	7.6
Guwahati	... 25.4...	14.7	7.6	Shillong	1.0 ... 19.0...	8.7	7.6
Hubballi	... 34.0...	20.0	10.5	Hyderabad	... 34.2...	20.8	7.6
Imphal	... 19.6...	10.2	7.6	Srinagar	... 17.4...	0.3	7.6
Jaipur	... 33.0...	14.0	7.6	Thiruvananthapuram	... 34.4...	23.4	7.6
Kochi	... 33.0...	24.4	10.5	Tiruchi	... 34.9...	22.6	7.6
Kohima	... 19.6...	11.6	7.6	Vijayapatnam	... 30.6...	24.1	7.6
Kolkata	1.2 ... 26.4...	19.3	7.6	Visakhapatnam	... 30.6...	24.1	7.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	70	112	.24	.129	144	■■■■■
Bengaluru	... 59	158	.107	... 27.0	... 27.0	■■■■■
Chennai	15	19	.90	43	... 27.0	■■■■■
Delhi	64	33	.40	345	276	■■■■■
Hyderabad	21	40	.24	79	110	■■■■■
Kolkata	5	49	.26	258	177	■■■■■
Lucknow	2	38	.57	170	130	■■■■■
Mumbai	14	75	.23	138	230	■■■■■
Pune	63	38	.83	103	.94	■■■■■
Visakhapatnam	.7	.37	.57	62	.72	■■■■■

(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

Five Supreme Court judges infected with swine flu

CJI meets Bar Association chief on steps to prevent spread

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Five judges of the Supreme Court have been affected by swine flu, caused by the H1N1 virus, the Union Health Ministry confirmed on Tuesday.

Five judges were kept in home isolation as soon as the infection came to light and, of these, three judges have already resumed their duty; two continue to be under home isolation/observation and are recovering. The court rooms and residences are being sanitised," a release issued by the Ministry said.

On Tuesday, Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde met with the Supreme Court Bar Association president Dushyant Dave to discuss urgent measures to prevent the spread of infection among judges, advocates, staff and litigants.

Mr. Dave later confirmed that some judges had been taken ill in the past few days. He, however, said he did not



■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

know their exact number. The court itself assembled half an hour late on Tuesday. Some of the judges were on leave. Justice Sanjiv Khanna was seen wearing a mask in the courtroom. Justices Hemant Gupta, A.S. Bopanna and Abdul S. Nazeer did not attend court.

The public relations division of the Supreme Court confirmed that some of the judges had been unwell, but maintained that all of them had recovered fully.

Justice D.Y. Chandrachud expressed concern about the infection spreading. Justice Arun Mishra was heard cautioning people against coming to court if they exhibited traces of infection.

SC defers hearing in Nirbhaya case

Separate execution of convicts sought

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday deferred to March 5 the hearing of an appeal filed by the Centre for permission to separately execute the death sentence of the four Nirbhaya case convicts.

A three-judge Bench led by Justice R. Banumathi was informed at the beginning of the session that the trial court had fixed the execution of the four convicts for March 3 at 6 a.m.

The court decided to watch the unfolding of events over the next few days rather than start hearing arguments on the legality of executing convicts separately before the legal and administrative remedies available to their co-convicts are exhausted.

If the four convicts are indeed executed on March 3, the appeal would become infructuous on March 5, the court reasoned.

End of legal remedies

Except for Pawan Gupta, the other three Nirbhaya convicts – Vinay, Mukesh and Akshay – seem to have come to the road's end of legal and administrative remedies available to them.

Pawan is yet to file a curative petition in the Supreme Court. He has also not filed a plea for clemency with the President. Earlier Solicitor General Tushar Mehra had highlighted how the convicts were trying the patience of the nation.

36 years on, man walks free in murder case tied to a watch

'It is solely based on circumstantial evidence'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has acquitted a convict in a 36-year-old murder case, which hinged solely on the victim's faulty Anglo-Swiss watch.

The prosecution case that Md. Younis Ali Tarafdar of West Bengal killed one Becharam Dhara was entirely built on the surmise that he gave the victim's watch for repair three days after he went missing.

The case dates back to March 1984 when a decomposed body was found inside a well in a garden in Rajarhat. Autopsy revealed that the cause of death was asphyxia.

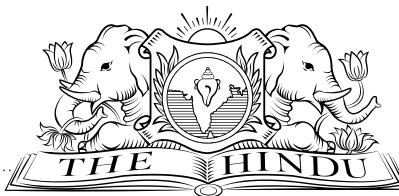
The prosecution said the body was cremated immediately as it was in a decomposed state.

Evidence found

A few days later, Kenaram Dhara visited the police station to report that his brother, Becharam, was missing since March 15.

Policemen showed him photographs of the body they had cremated and Kenaram went on to identify it as his brother's.

Tarafdar and three others were arrested during the investigation. The primary evidence against Tarafdar was a counterfoil of the receipt from a watch repair shop that the police said was found in his house.



A test of governance

The police must clamp down on the communal violence in Delhi

Communal violence in parts of Delhi, an earshot away from the nerve centre of the government of India, has claimed 13 lives and left over 150 injured. Mobs of pro-CAA demonstrators and anti-CAA protesters wielding sticks and weapons have taken over parts of the city and the Delhi police have proved themselves woefully inadequate at best and outrageously partisan and communal at worst, in responding to the situation. There was nothing abrupt or unexpected about the violence that erupted in the city's north-eastern parts on Monday. This has been in the making for weeks. There was arson and violence on December 16, in areas around the Jamia Millia Islamia, to which the police responded by indiscriminately unleashing violence on students inside the university. A group of masked rioters went from room to room in student hostels in JNU on January 5 and the police stood passively. Rioters clearly identified through pictures have not been arrested yet. The Delhi police did nothing when a gunman opened fire at anti-CAA protesters on January 30. This smouldering situation turned into conflagration by Sunday evening as mobs formed on communal lines prepared to take on each other. Both sides complain that calls were made to the police since Sunday but there was no effective intervention. As chaos and arson spread through Monday, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla inexplicably characterised the situation as "fully under control".

The inaction and inefficiency of the Delhi police is linked to varying grades of incitement and silent consent to communal mobilisation by the BJP that is in power at the Centre. Policing and law and order in Delhi are the responsibility of the Union Home Ministry. Speeches of Home Minister Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the recent Assembly election campaign in Delhi were clearly meant to encourage communal polarisation. Lower rung leaders acted on cue and turned Delhi into a communal cauldron over recent months. Union Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy's statement that the Delhi violence is a "conspiracy to shame India globally" during U.S. President Donald Trump's visit is beside the point. The unfailing efficiency claimed by those who control the Central and State governments in Delhi will be proven shallow if they cannot enforce elementary law and order right under their nose. Communal violence any time, anywhere happens only due to the inefficiency or collusion of both those in power. The Prime Minister and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal must prove their efficiency and administrative skills by clamping down on violence, whatever it takes.

Crisis in Malaysia

A power-hungry Mahathir has pushed Malaysia toward political instability

The abrupt resignation of Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Monday has triggered the first major political crisis in the country since the 2018 general election and could upturn the reform process initiated by the coalition government. Though the nonagenarian leader has not said why he submitted the resignation even after the ruling Pakatan Harapan coalition had reaffirmed its support for his premiership, his decision appears to be a calculated move to prevent handing over power to Anwar Ibrahim, his one-time colleague-turned-nemesis-turned coalition partner. Mr. Mahathir, who was in power from 1981 to 2003, and Mr. Anwar, who had once served in Mr. Mahathir's cabinet until he was jailed for sodomy in the late 1990s, joined hands prior to the 2018 election to take on the Malay nationalist United Malays National Organization (UMNO), which had ruled the country for six decades. The Pakatan Harapan coalition consisting of nationalist, centrist and ethnic Chinese parties, represented the diversities of the Malaysian society and promised voters a pluralistic, corruption-free government. After the surprise victory, Mr. Mahathir became the Prime Minister again, but with support from both Mr. Anwar's People's Justice Party and the Democratic Action Party. The understanding: Mr. Mahathir would form the government and hand over power to Mr. Anwar later.

The source of the crisis is this delicate power-sharing deal. Mr. Mahathir refused to give a firm commitment or timeline to hand over power to Mr. Anwar despite requests from the latter's party. The coalition was in trouble as a rival bloc within Mr. Anwar's party had accused him of trying to topple Mr. Mahathir. As the crisis worsened, Mr. Mahathir announced his resignation and his party, the Malaysian United Indigenous Party, quit the coalition. So in effect, the Pakatan Harapan has collapsed. It is not clear what the next moves of Mr. Mahathir and Mr. Anwar will be; neither of them has a majority on their own. A new coalition will need 112 seats for majority in the 222-member Parliament. Mr. Mahathir's party has only 26 lawmakers. Mr. Anwar's party had won 50 seats in 2018, but it is not clear now whether he has the support of all his party lawmakers. This means Malaysia is expected to see some dirty political fights in the coming days. And if neither side manages to win a majority, the country will go to the polls. This crisis could have been avoided had the Pakatan Harapan leaders lived up to the promises they made to themselves and to the voters. The coalition government had a promising beginning with a wider representation of minority groups and its bid to root out corruption in a country that is yet to recover from the IMDB scandal. Ideally, Mr. Mahathir should have honoured the understanding he reached with his partners and allowed the coalition to complete its term. But it does not seem to be his priority any more.

Rights, duties and the Constitution

It is only after a guarantee of the sum of all promised by the Constitution that citizens can be asked to do their duty



GAUTAM BHATIA

At the height of the Emergency, Indira Gandhi's government enacted sweeping changes to the Constitution, through the 42nd Amendment. These changes were intended to entrench the supremacy of the government, permanently muzzle the courts, and weaken the constitutional system of checks and balances which was designed to avoid concentration and abuse of power. And in the Amendment's Statement of Objects and Reasons, one line stands out: "... it is also proposed to specify the fundamental duties of the citizens and make special provisions for dealing with anti-national activities."

"Fundamental duties" and "anti-national activities" came into the world fused at the hip. And while Indira Gandhi's Emergency regime has long been consigned to the dustbin of history, its legacies endure. "Anti-national" has become a boundlessly manipulable word, that, in the spirit of Humpty Dumpty, can mean whatever those in power want it to mean. "Fundamental duties" have been making a comeback as well: at an International Judicial Conference 2020 this weekend, the Chief Justice of India, S.A. Bobde, drew attention to the Constitution's Fundamental Duties chapter. He then went further, and citing Gandhi's *Hind Swaraj*, observed that "real rights are a result of [the] performance of duty."

There is, of course, an intuitive plausibility to the CJI's words. They conjure up the image of the ungrateful and selfish citizen, hap-

py to pluck the fruits of civilisation, but unwilling to do their bit to water the tree. Nonetheless, despite its plausibility, this conflation of rights and duties ought to be resisted.

Webs of duties

The first thing to note is that as citizens, there exists a wide range of duties that bind us in everyday life. These duties are owed both to the state, and to other individuals. We have a legal duty to pay our taxes, to refrain from committing violence against our fellow-citizens, and to follow other laws that Parliament has enacted. Breach of these legal duties triggers financial consequences (fines), or even time in jail. At any given time, therefore, we are already following a host of duties, which guide and constrain how we may behave. This is the price that must be paid for living in society, and it is a price that nobody, at least, in principle, objects to paying.

Our duties and the consequences we bear for failing to keep them therefore exist as a self-contained whole. They follow a simple logic: that peaceful co-existence requires a degree of self-sacrifice, and that if necessary, this must be enforced through the set of sanctions.

The logic of rights

Rights, on the other hand, follow a different logic entirely. This is a logic that is best understood through history. At the time of the framing of the Indian Constitution and its chapter on Fundamental Rights, there were two important concerns animating the Constituent Assembly. The first was that under the colonial regime, Indians had been treated as subjects. Their interests did not count, their voices were unheard, and in some cases – for example, the "Criminal Tribes" – they were treated as less



than human. Apart from the long and brutal history of colonialism, the framers also had before them the recent example of the Holocaust, where the dignity of more than six million people had been stripped before their eventual genocide.

The first role of the fundamental rights chapter, therefore, was to stand as a bulwark against dehumanisation. Every human being no matter who they were or what they did had a claim to basic dignity and equality that no state could take away, no matter what the provocation. One did not have to successfully perform any duty, or meet a threshold of worthiness, to qualify as a rights bearer. It was simply what it meant to be human.

Second, the framers were also aware that they were inheriting a deeply stratified and riven society. The colonial regime had not been the only oppressor; the axes of gender, caste and religion had all served to keep masses of individuals in permanent conditions of subordination and degradation. The second role of rights, thus, was to stand against hierarchy. Through guarantees against forced labour, against "untouchability", against discriminatory access to public spaces, and others, fundamental rights were meant to play an equalising and democratising role throughout society, and to protect individuals against the deprivations visited on them by their fellow human-beings.

The twin principles of anti-dehumanisation and anti-hierarchy reveal the transformative purpose of the fundamental rights chapter: the recognition that true democracy could not exist without ensuring that at a basic level, the dignity and equality of individuals was protected, both from the state as well as from social majorities. It was only with these guarantees could an individual rise from the status of subject to that of citizen. And, as should be clear by now, it was only after that transformation had been wrought, that the question of duties could even arise.

This is not to suggest, of course, that duties are unimportant. As indicated above, duties exist in every sphere of society. Moreover, the language of duties can play an important role in a society that continues to be divided and unequal: in such a society, those who possess or benefit from entrenched structural and institutional power (starting with the state, and going downwards) certainly have a "duty" not to use that power to the detriment of those upon whom they wield it. That is precisely what the guarantees against "untouchability", forced labour, and discriminatory access in the Constitution seek to accomplish.

Issue lies in conflation

The problem, however, lies in the conflation of rights and duties. As Samuel Moyn points out in an illuminating article in *The Boston Review*, "the rhetoric of duties has often been deployed euphemistically by those whose true purpose is a return to tradition won by limiting the rights of others". Moyn's target here are traditions that invoke the language of duty (often

alongside terms such as "community" or "family") in order to subordinate or efface the individual in the face of the collective (whether state or community). In that context, it is always critical to remember Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's words in the Constituent Assembly (which were also cited by the CJI in his speech): that the fundamental unit of the Constitution remains the individual.

If the position of the individual and the Constitution's commitment to combating hierarchy is kept in mind, then the language of duties can be understood in its proper context. Without that, however, we risk going astray. A good example of this is a Supreme Court judgment from the early 1980s, which upheld the differential treatment of male and female flight attendants on the ground that women had a "duty" to ensure the "good upbringing of children" and to ensure the success of the "family planning program" for the country.

The judgment is a stark reminder that without the moral compass of rights and their place in the transformative Constitutional scheme the language of duties can lead to unpleasant consequences. It can end up entrenching existing power structures by placing the burden of "duties" upon those that are already vulnerable and marginalised. It is for this reason that, at the end of the day, the Constitution, a charter of liberation, is fundamentally about rights. It is only after guaranteed to all the full sum of humanity, dignity, equality, and freedom promised by the Constitution, that we can ask of them to do their duty.

Perhaps, then, it is time to update *Hind Swaraj* for the constitutional age: "real duties are the result of the fulfillment of rights".

Gautam Bhateria is a Delhi-based lawyer

More psychological than an empowering voter option

The meagre share of NOTA votes, and NOTA in its current form, are pointers to it being a toothless option



ATANU BISWAS

The recently-concluded Delhi Assembly elections were the 45th Assembly polls since the inception of the none of the above (NOTA) option in 2013. Delhi has now provided data from five elections with the NOTA option: three Assembly (2013, 2015, 2020), and two Lok Sabha (2014, 2019); no other state has yielded this yet. And Delhi, although mostly urban, is widely regarded as the microcosm of India.

However, Delhi's preference to NOTA is less than the national average. From 0.63% in 2013, Delhi polled 0.39% of those favouring NOTA in 2015, a statistically significant reduction indeed. It now increased to 0.46% in 2020; again statistically significant. While 96% of the constituencies had a reduced percentage of NOTA votes in 2015 than 2013, the NOTA percentage has increased in 71% constituencies this year. In the Lok Sabha elections, Delhi polled 0.47% and 0.52% of those favouring NOTA, in 2014 and 2019, respectively. Thus, roughly one in

200 voters of Delhi opted for NOTA in the last six to seven years, with relatively larger support for NOTA in reserved constituencies.

Interestingly, in the 2017 Gujarat Assembly elections, despite being 1.8%, NOTA got more votes than any political party other than the Indian National Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (except the Independents). Again, in the 2019 Maharashtra Assembly election, NOTA became a runner-up in two constituencies – Latur (Rural) and Palus-Kadegaon. Do these cases mark any significant shift in the voter mindset?

Its essence

In 2013, India became the 14th country to institute negative voting through NOTA. However, it is not a "right to reject". NOTA in India is a toothless option; former Chief Election Commissioner of India S.Y. Quraishi, had observed in an article: "Even if there are 99 NOTA votes out of a total of 100, and candidate X gets just one vote, X is the winner, having obtained the only valid vote. The rest will be treated as invalid or 'no votes'." NOTA enfeebles the electorate as it does not empower to "select" either. Certainly NOTA provides democratic means to express resentment anonymously rather than boycotting the polls outright. In her 2017 book, *The Dramatic De-*



cade: Landmark Cases of Modern India, Indu Bhan has given examples such as a group of women activists in Kerala out on the road urging people not to elect any candidate if no woman was present in the fray, and a youth group in Tamil Nadu that campaigned for NOTA as a protest vote against corruption.

There have been pleas to extend the scope of NOTA. In 2018, a former CEC, T.S. Krishnamurthy, had recommended holding elections again in those constituencies where the victory margin is less than the total numbers of NOTA. A PIL has been filed in Madras High Court seeking the full right to reject in place of NOTA.

In June 2018, the Maharashtra State Election Commission (SEC) issued an order that said: "If it is noticed while counting that NOTA has received the highest number of valid votes, the said election for that particular seat shall be countermanded and a fresh election shall be held for such a post." In

November 2018, the SEC of Haryana went a step further and issued an order where NOTA is treated like a "fictional candidate" in municipal polls from December 2018. If NOTA gets maximum vote, none of the "real" candidates will be declared elected, and the elections will be cancelled and held afresh. What is more, the candidates securing votes less than NOTA would be barred from contesting in that re-election. Interestingly, in Makassar, Indonesia, the only candidate in the 2018 election for mayor received 35,000 less votes than NOTA, which forced a repeat election in 2020.

While introducing NOTA, the Supreme Court anticipated that "there will be a systemic change and the political parties will be forced to accept the will of the people and field candidates who are known for their integrity." Thus, its percentage should either increase to enforce the political parties to field candidates with "integrity", or NOTA percentage should consistently decrease if the electorates feel that the system has achieved the desired level of cleansing. In contrast, the share of NOTA votes in India remained around a meagre level of 1% on an average; 1.11% in the 2014 Lok Sabha, and 1.08% in 2019, if we consider constituency-wise averages. This perhaps represents a con-

fused state of mind of the electorate. Has the perceived cynicism of Indian voters regarding the right to reject been exaggerated? What would happen if the ECI empowers NOTA with teeth, for example candidates securing lesser votes than NOTA (and possibly the political party concerned also) are barred from contesting in the next election from that constituency?

Another 'option'

Is NOTA, as the last button of all EVMs in the country, a psychological issue as far as the electorates is concerned? Delbert A. Taebel, in a seminal article in the *American Journal of Political Science* in 1975,

and Jonathan G.S. Koppell and Jennifer A. Steen, in their 2004 article in *The Journal of Politics*, have discussed the possible advantage of the first position in the ballot, at least in the U.S. context. Although there is no such concrete study to gauge the Indian voter's mindset that I know, I wonder whether using NOTB ('none of the below') instead of NOTA – with such an option as the first on the electronic voting machine – might produce a significantly different outcome or not. An experiment, after changing the rule suitably, can be attempted, at least.

Atanu Biswas is Professor of Statistics, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata

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.

Trump in India

U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to India will be remembered for its extravagance. The personal chemistry between the host and the guest has been very evident; both leaders have taken care to make the other feel good. But the grand gala is conspicuous in its absence of substantial output. There has hardly been anything of significance about fighting terrorism too. The results of the mega-event have not matched its rhetoric.

D. D.V.G. SANKARARAO,
Nellore, Andhra Pradesh

Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, by dint of hard work. Mr. Trump found no time to mention his name even once. But praise was heaped on our current leader. Equally jarring was Mr. Trump not mentioning Mahatma Gandhi's name even in the visitors' book at Sabarmati ashram. It is ironic that Mr. Trump could recall the film 'Sholay', Shah Rukh Khan, Virat Kohli but not Nehru or Gandhiji.

V.N. GOPAL,
Chennai

interests first over and above anything else. In as much the same way, the fact that most CEOs of American MNCs, are or were, Indians or of Indian origin, is of no comfort to India as they cannot afford to be India-centric in their business overreach.

SIVAMANI VASUDEVAN,
Chennai

I write to point out the issue of translation in connection with the Trump visit. North Indian bureaus of the daily seem to be extremely comfortable in harbouring the popular myth that all Indians know and speak the Hindi language. In reporting Mr. Trump's tweet in Hindi, the tweet has been reproduced in its entirety without an English translation. One expects sensitivity towards the non-Hindi speakers in this country. Yours in extreme exasperation.

ARJUN CHERIAN KOVOOR,
Kottayam, Kerala

President Trump's visit to India has run into a problem with names: specifically those of the two great cricket players, Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli, whose names are completely mispronounced. There are many names in the world that are difficult to pronounce but not these two, and surely Mr. Trump would have heard their names before and how to pronounce them. If a name is difficult then a pre-apology, 'I'm not sure if I am going to pronounce this correctly', would be a good option.

Since it was obvious that he was reading the names syllable by syllable he should have apologised later. Had an Indian politician introduced the American leader with the gross mispronunciation of his name 'Trump', there would have been a diplomatic incident! I wait to hear his apology.

DENNIS FITZGERALD,
Melbourne, Australia

Judicial conduct

The basic code of conduct for judges need not necessarily be extracted from judicial pronouncements (Editorial page, "The unassailable keywords for the judiciary", February 25).

Public speaking is an art; non-controversial public speaking is a fine art. Judges must be aloof and reticent both on and off the dais since their job demands that. They must keep only their ears and eyes open. When there is a compelling need to speak, especially at gatherings, they should have a prepared mental blueprint of their speech from which they should not veer away from.

That being the case, what Justice Arun Mishra did was unpardonable as it has created an impression that the judiciary has become subservient to the executive.

The absence of the venerable Justice V.R.

Krishna Iyer is felt more now.

V. LAKSHMANAN,
Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

Fenced in

It is shocking that the Archaeological Survey

Two rising powers in two different eras

Comparisons between the rise of China and the rise of imperial Germany are not accurate



STANLY JOHNY

The rise of China is an epochal development that could change the international system drastically. If China was primarily an agrarian, feudal, backward country in 1949 at the time of the revolution, it is radically different today. Decades of economic reforms under the tight control of the Communist Party has transformed the country into an industrial and technological powerhouse. It is only a matter of time before China overtakes the U.S. to become the world's largest economy.

This economic rise has had strategic consequences as well. China, the world's second-largest military spender after the U.S., has established itself as the mightiest force in the Asia-Pacific, with the clear ambition of becoming a global superpower. This rapid rise has upset the existing equilibrium of the global order, which has been largely centred around the U.S., at least since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

These events have historical parallels. The rise of imperial Germany in the late 19th century and the rise of the Soviet Union in the 20th century shaped the global order too. While the roots of the First World War can be traced back to imperial Germany's quest to become a superpower, the Soviet Union challenged the U.S.'s hegemony after the Second World War, pushing the world into the Cold War. With China rising as the next superpower, these comparisons are often brought in, sometimes with alarming warnings.

The German example

Imperial Germany's rise as an industrial and military power after the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 and the subsequent unification of Germany disrupted the power dynamic in Europe, which was dominated by Great Britain and France. Germany's quest for new markets (colonies) for its products, backed by the national big business and the financial oligarchy, heightened tensions between colonial powers. The economic tensions spilled into the military arena, with



"An anti-China strategic alliance is yet to take shape despite the U.S.'s earnest efforts." A wall in Beijing shows a poster of President Xi Jinping. —AFP

Germany adopting Weltpolitik (world politics), its expansive foreign policy doctrine). Threatened by a resurgent Germany, Britain and France joined Russia to form the Triple Entente. This, in turn, heightened Germany's paranoia that its natural rise was being curtailed. To break this 'maximum moment' (where its natural rise had come to a stall), Germany was ready to go to war. The result was the First World War.

Similar to how imperial Germany's rise upset Great Britain, China's rise has upset the reigning superpower, the U.S. And similar to how Britain and France joined hands with Russia to contain Germany, the U.S. is doing its best, through alliances in the Pacific, to contain China.

Then and now

Yet, there are fundamental differences between the rivalries of the 19th and 20th centuries and those of today. The tensions between imperial Germany and Britain were primarily a result of the race for new economic territories between the colonial powers, which Lenin called "inter-imperialist rivalry". Both countries were supported by their national industrial and financial oligarchies, or monopoly capital. Today, it's not a competition between colonial powers. Both China and the U.S. are closely integrated into the global economic system. They are each other's biggest trading partners.

Second, imperial Germany was ready to go to war because it thought war was the only way to break its 'maximum moment'. But in reality, Germany's rise was halted by the

First World War. The country was humiliated internationally. Anger and discontent led to the revolution in Germany, the establishment of the Weimar Republic, the rise of Adolf Hitler and the Second World War. On the contrary, China is still a growing power. In 40 years, it hasn't fought a war. And the path to growth and development is still open for China.

Does this mean that the competition between the U.S. and China could lead to a new Cold War? It's likely, but in a different global scenario. During the Cold War, the U.S. and the Soviet Union were the two pillars of the global system. There was no major third pole. Most countries, including those part of the Non-Aligned Movement, were drawn closer to either of these two blocs. The Cold War was the defining phenomenon of the post-war world.

Today's situation is different. First, China is not seeking to build an ideological bloc against the U.S. Its focus is on its own economic rise and in reshaping the international order. Second, the world is more dynamic today. There are many regional powers on the rise: Russia continues to be a geopolitical hegemon in Central Asia and Eastern Europe with global ambitions; India is a rising big power in South Asia; and Turkey seeks to be a dominant power in West Asia. In effect, the U.S. and China are competing in a multidirectional world, dissimilar to the bipolar world which saw the Soviet-American rivalry.

The U.S. would still want to contain China, like it did the Soviet Union, as China represents the biggest challenge to the western internation-

al order. During the Cold War, the U.S. aided the redevelopment of western Europe, built trans-Atlantic military alliances, forced the Soviet Union into an arms race which hurt its economy, exploited the Sino-Soviet rift, and launched an anti-communist crusade across the globe. Now, it's trying to build a strategic alliance in the Asia-Pacific, mainly with India, Japan and Australia, to tackle China, and has taken the battle into the trade and technological realms. But there are at least three problems with this new containment strategy.

Containment 2.0

First, an anti-China strategic alliance is yet to take shape despite the U.S.'s earnest efforts. Even India is wary of joining an American defence bloc aimed at containing China. This is largely because the global system is multipolar. There's no NATO yet in the Asia-Pacific. Second, even the trade and tech wars launched by the U.S. are not meeting their declared goals. Earlier this year, after months of a tariff war, the U.S. and China agreed to sign phase one of a trade deal. China agreed to buy more American goods and the U.S. suspended upcoming tariffs, while core issues such as technology transfer remained unresolved. The U.S.'s attempts to isolate Chinese tech giant Huawei have also failed with most major economies, including India, the EU, and the U.K., deciding not to ban Huawei from rolling out 5G.

Third, one of the key aspects of the containment during the Cold War was the U.S.'s ability to exploit the rift in the Communist bloc. George Kennan, the author of America's containment strategy, warned in 1954 against the "association of resources" in Europe and Asia against America. He was warning against a potential Sino-Soviet alliance. During the Cold War, it didn't materialise, and the U.S. reached out to China. But today, the Sino-Russian alliance which Kennan had worried about is already in place. Today's Russia is not the China of the 1970s. It is much more powerful and has trans-continental ambitions. It will not be easy for the U.S. to wean the Russians away from the Chinese. In effect, the U.S. is facing a rising China, far from its maximum moment, in a multipolar world. It's an all new challenge.

stanly.johny@thehindu.co.in

Counting birds together

The State of India's Birds Report has two distinctive features that define a new approach



M.D. MADHUSUDAN & UMA RAMAKRISHNAN

large and inspired community of birdwatchers across the country. Only through the efforts of over 15,500 birdwatchers, it became possible to assemble a dataset of over 10 million records, with data points going as far back as the 1970s. Upon this foundation, a large multi-institutional consortium of researchers drawn from both non-governmental and government institutions collaborated to analyse and put together the report.

While the report describes key patterns of change in the populations of certain bird species, answering why these changes have taken place, or developing conservation action that address these changes, are logical follow-up actions that are inconceivable without focused and sustained collective efforts. Just as we have collectively collected, curated, compiled and analysed bird data, we must remain engaged with the results, and continue to further not only an understanding of our avifauna but also actions to conserve them.

Open access to data

Besides collaboration, another key value that the report seeks to acknowledge is the importance of making, not just its outputs, but also the entire process open. The data that has gone into this report are not only collected by thousands of citizens, but are open for any researcher to use. The analyses (and the code) that form the basis of this report are in the public domain. Finally, the report and its results too are entirely open. A better public and scientific understanding of our biodiversity can grow only from wider and open access not only to data, but also from opening the entire process of scientific inquiry to wider peer and public scrutiny and challenge. And we are hoping that, as more and more people come in and examine the data, the analyses and the results, and ask questions, it only adds greater strength to our understanding of our precious birds.

Of all the forms in which humans encounter nature, birds perhaps touch our lives most closely. Birds are nearly everywhere. They are colourful, they sing and they display. They perform vital functions like predation and seed dispersal. They pervade nearly every aspect of our cultural lives. Given our shared bonds in a timeless journey, to paraphrase ornithologist Nigel Collar, we need to continue building and strengthening models by which citizens, scientists, conservationists and managers collaborate not only to understand our birds, but also to enable them to fare better on our fast-changing planet.

M.D. Madhusudan, Uma Ramakrishnan and Suhel Quader, who contributed to this piece, are ecologists and members of a multi-institutional team that worked on the State of India's Birds Report

The politics of Kejriwalism

Castes and religions contribute towards building a new progressive and inclusive urban citizenship

SURYAKANT WAGHMORE

Philosopher of Science Paul Feyerabend's book, *Against Method: Outline of an Anarchistic Theory of Knowledge*, questioned the previously established clarity on methods of science and the idea that new theory must be consistent with already well-established theories and must correspond with well-established facts. We see a similar discernment with Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's victory amongst those who believe in the politics of ideology. The AAP is said to be post-ideology. This should worry those committed to the politics of radical change. Paradoxically, the AAP also promises change, but this is a change of a minimal kind that is achieved in exchange of votes.

An eclectic universalism
'Kejriwalism' could well describe the AAP and Mr. Kejriwal's politics. Kejriwalism mixes odd symbols and ideas to generate a kind of eclectic universalism where castes and religions can contribute towards building a new progressive and inclusive urban citizenship. Anything goes as a method for Feyerabend, and only this can allow a new theory to grow. Same is the case for Kejriwalism. One can use varied symbols that work towards change and welfare-driven, inclusive urban citizenship. The success of Kejriwalism stands out. It also discredits the BJP's aggressive nationalism by usurping the party's cultural nationalist symbols while emphasising a localised politics of justice.

Kejriwalism is the politics of minimum rights (water, sanitation, health, education and electricity) that focuses on achieving everyday dignified urbanism. Reforms in health and education under the AAP have significantly delivered quality health care and education for the urban poor. The seductive value of such politics cannot be undermined for those at the urban margins. Almost the entire Muslim vote has gone to the AAP. Scheduled Castes and lower OBCs too have largely voted for

the AAP. The rate of voting amongst high-caste Hindus for the BJP is much higher than other communities. Mr. Kejriwal is trying a new politics of Hinduism from below. Those believing in revolution or the politics of ideology may find Kejriwalism regressive. However, the strength of Kejriwalism lies in promising a better life for the urban poor without antagonising the privileged urban and keeping the Hindu majority in good humour.

Mr. Kejriwal is also charismatic. However, unlike Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his charisma does not lie in religion or the 'othering' of Muslims for Hindus. It is also not based on a family legacy like that of the Gandhis. Rather it draws from the ethics of modern-day minimalism and is consolidated by his education, non-political background, and emphasis on the politics of truth. He is playing a contemporary Gandhi (who believed in anarchy in terms of *purna swaraj*) who knows well the importance of Ambedkar (education and scientific temper) and Bhagat Singh.

The AAP in its eclectic form resembles many other parties but what works in Mr. Kejriwal's favour is the fact that he cannot be reduced to his caste in Delhi. The incipient urbanism of Delhi allows him to be an Agarwal who is also a casteless Hindu for his public role.

Not for rural India

However, those who predict Mr. Kejriwal's national future may want to pause and rethink. Kejriwalism may be new-age politics that is suited mostly for metropolitan cities where struggle for basic amenities could partly overwhelm caste and religious solidarities, but rural India may not have fertile ground for such eclecticism. In Kejriwalism we have a form of post-ideology politics that promises the best of a local hybrid-Hindu collective for urban spaces as it includes elements of (north Indian) nationalism, welfarism and politics of change in everyday life.

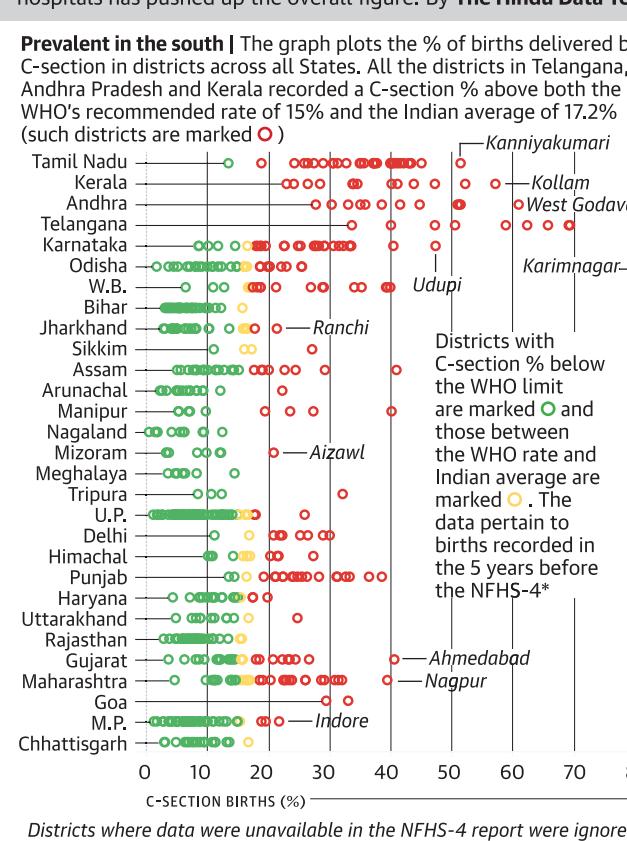
Suryakant Waghmore is an Associate Professor of Sociology at IIT, Bombay



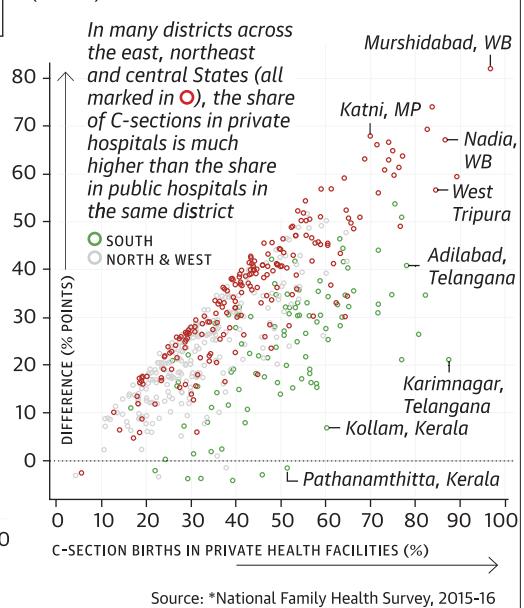
DATA POINT

Too many C-sections

While medically justified caesarean section births help prevent maternal mortality, the World Health Organization (WHO) insists that the rate of C-sections in a region should not exceed 15%. An analysis of C-section rates as of 2016 reveals that most districts in southern States exceed the WHO recommendation by a huge margin. In the north, northeast and central States, the WHO rate is not exceeded by much in public hospitals but a high rate in private hospitals has pushed up the overall figure. By The Hindu Data Team



The public-private dichotomy | The graph plots % share of C-section births in private health facilities against its difference with the corresponding share in public health facilities. For example, in Murshidabad, West Bengal, 96.7% of all private hospital births in the period were C-sections, which is 82.1 percentage points more than the share of C-sections in public hospitals (14.6%) in the same district



The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 26, 1970

Multi-racial Israel not favoured

The Foreign Minister of Israel, Mr. Abba Eban, who is now on an official visit to West Germany, has rejected President Nasser's suggestion that Israel should become a multiracial State, mainly by allowing millions of Arabs to live there as citizens of Israel. In an interview with the French newspaper, "Le Monde," Mr. Eban said that if Nasser's various hypotheses were accepted, Israel would cease to be a sovereign Jewish State. Mr. Eban also rejected the representative character of the various Palestinian guerrilla organisations like the Al Fatah of Mr. Yasser Arafat, which is the largest of them, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The latter is a more militant body. A third guerrilla group is the Arab Organisation for the Liberation of Palestine, and there are one or two more splinter groups as well. Mr. Eban said Israel could deal only with sovereign Arab States but was willing to use "Palestinian leaders" as a channel of communication with the Arab States. At a press conference in Bonn yesterday [February 24], Mr. Eban said that though the bomb attack on airlines was the act of guerrilla organisations, the Arab States must accept part of the blame as they sheltered these organisations.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEB. 26, 1920.
The Parliamentary Manner.
(From an Editorial)

To judge by the replies to interpellations in the Imperial Council the changed angle of vision seems merely to represent a transition from rude rebuke of impudent curiosity to a sort of false candour that is equally effective, the candour of a fraudulent bankrupt trying to explain away discrepancies in his books. The bureaucrat is rapidly acquiring the bland imperturbability of a Minister in Parliament and likewise some of his skill in evading the point of a question. Thus the other day on the topic of "rallying the Moderates" it was gravely explained that what Lord Charmichael meant to recommend was a policy of encouraging not the Moderates as a party but the cause of moderation in general - a distinctly passable imitation of the verbal prestidigitation that only years of practice can render perfect. The same indifference to facts or probabilities was exhibited by the Hon. Sir W. Marrs in his reply to Mr. Patel regarding the Reforms Advisory Committee.

FROM PAGE ONE

Trump renews offer to mediate on Kashmir

"I said I will help, do whatever I can do, because my relationship with both gentlemen [PMs of India and Pakistan] is so good. Anything I can do to mediate, anything I can do to help, I will do," he said, adding that while he understood that the two countries would discuss the issue of Kashmir between them, they had been "at it for a very long time" without results.

Mr. Trump praised Prime Minister Modi as a "very religious and calm man" and thanked India for the welcome he received both in Ahmedabad and in Delhi. When asked specifically about the CAA, he said the issue was India's internal matter, and "hopefully they will make the right decision for the people."

He also referred to the \$3 billion purchases of helicopters and other military hardware as a key takeaway of the visit. "They're buying a lot (of American defence equipment). They're also going to be buying a lot of our energy; we are going to be the number one country in energy, so that will be exciting," Mr. Trump said, referring to an MoU on LNG pipeline infrastructure signed between Indian Oil Corporation, and US companies ExxonMobil and Chart industries.

However, two pending agreements between LNG companies Tellurian and Petronet as well as the Westinghouse agreement for nu-

NDA-ruled Bihar decides against NRC



Opposition MLAs demonstrating against CAA, NPR and NRC in front of the Bihar Assembly in Patna on Tuesday.

■ RANJEET KUMAR

"Besides, the CAA is a central issue passed in both the Houses of Parliament and now it is in the Supreme Court to make it clear whether it's constitutional or unconstitutional...On the NRC, the government is clear that it will not be implemented in the State," Mr. Kumar said. "Our demand is that a caste-based census should be held in the country," he added.

Deputy Chief Minister and senior State BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi who, later, presented Budget in the House, too said that when "the Chief Minister has said NRC will be implemented in its 2010 format then there is no question of not doing so."

In January, Mr. Modi had announced that "the first phase of Indian census 2021 and the process of National Population Register (NPR) in Bihar will be done between May 15 to June 28, 2020".

Speaker Vijay Chaudhury earlier adjourned the House for sometime in the first session as ruling NDA MLAs opposed the Opposition's adjournment motion.

Later, however, the Chief Minister said he had no objections if the House took a unanimous decision not to implement the NRC in the State. Mr. Tejaswi Yadav and other RJD leaders met Mr. Kumar who, later, requested the Speaker to take up the issue again in the second session of the House after lunch.

MLAs caught offguard
When the House resumed, the Speaker asked the members of the House whether they were in support of passing a unanimous resolu-

Paswan hails resolution

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Minister and Lok Janshakti Party patriarch Ramvilas Paswan on Tuesday welcomed the resolution passed by the Bihar Assembly to not implement the National Register of Citizens in the State and to implement the 2010 draft of the National Population Register.

Mr. Paswan tweeted, "I have already said there is no need to panic with the NPR and the Prime Minister already has said that there is no plan to impose NRC."

tion against NRC which caught BJP MLAs off-guard. The Assembly then unanimously passed the two resolutions on not implementing the NRC and rolling out the NPR in the 2010 format, with an amendment for a transgender column in the form.

"It was under pressure from the Opposition RJD and other parties, that the ruling NDA had to succumb to rejecting the NRC...congratulations to the people of Bihar as their expectations from RJD has been fulfilled now," Mr. Tejaswi Yadav told reporters later.

State Congress and CPI-ML leaders also welcomed the decision and said, the BJP which earlier had said it would not budge even an inch on the issue, has to reject it for its implementation in Bihar but the fight will go on to get it rejected from the whole country."

MLAs caught offguard
When the House resumed,

the Speaker asked the mem-

bers of the House whether

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passing a unanimous resolu-

Delhi situation under control, says Amit Shah

Congress appeals for peace, harmony

Adequate forces deployed in the affected areas, says Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, at a meeting on Tuesday, appealed to political parties to rise above party lines and maintain restraint, stating that adequate forces had been deployed in the violence-hit areas of Delhi, and the situation was under control.

"Mr. Shah noted that the professional assessment is that the violence in the capital has been spontaneous. He expressed confidence in the Delhi police and said the force has shown maximum restraint to get the situation under control," a government statement said.

At the meeting attended by Delhi Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Police



Taking stock: Home Minister Amit Shah with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at a meeting on Tuesday. ■ PTI

Commissioner Amulya Patnaik and others, the Home Minister urged the parties to avoid provocative speeches that could exacerbate the situation.

Curb misinformation
He also appealed to the public and the media to avoid spreading rumours and unverified information, also adding that unnecessary and unwarranted criticism of the

police should be avoided. The parties should cooperate with the police to check rumours and dispel fear among the public, Mr. Shah said, urging them to ask their representatives to hold meetings in sensitive areas.

He instructed the police chief to re-activate local peace committees, comprising representatives of all sections of society, religion and eminent local persons. Se-

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress Working Committee (CWC) will meet on Wednesday to discuss the violence in New Delhi. The party on Tuesday appealed for calm, and urged the Centre and the Delhi government to rise above party politics.

"This is Gandhi's, Nehru's and Patel's India. Can any Indian accept this mindless

violence? The Congress appeals to the people of Delhi to maintain communal harmony and thwart all attempts of the forces dividing the country on the basis of religion," chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala told reporters.

"Our appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is: can you

rise to the occasion, leave aside your partisanship and views and become leaders not just of your parties but of society to restore harmony, peace and non-violence," he said.

Former Union Minister P. Chidambaram said the amendment to the Citizenship Act should be abandoned forthwith, and the government should listen to protesters.

taining law and order. After the hour-long meeting, accompanied by Mr. Baijal and Mr. Tiwari, the Chief Minister told presspersons that the parties would take all possible steps to restore peace. He said the Union Home Minister had assured them of providing adequate security.

Currently, 42 companies of security personnel have been deployed in the affected areas.

Court hearing on the citizenship law.

Among those present at the meeting were Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, Intelligence Bureau chief Avind Kumar, State chiefs of the BJP and the Congress, Manoj Tiwari and Subhash Chopra. Mr. Kejriwal also represented the Aam Aadmi Party.

The political parties extended all support in main-



Close watch: Security personnel in the Yamuna Vihar area of New Delhi on Tuesday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Kejriwal urges people to refrain from violence

He meets with Ministers and MLAs

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday met with MLAs and senior officials at his residence and issued instructions to take all necessary steps to establish peace following violence related to the CAA.

"The violence that has erupted in northeast Delhi since a few days is a matter of grave concern for all of us. I want to appeal to the people of Delhi to maintain peace and harmony. All of the problems can be resolved with peaceful discourse on the matter. Violence is never the answer," he said after meeting MLAs and Delhi government Ministers.

"Hospital authorities in the area have been alerted and instructions have been provided to them so that

the injured people can get proper treatment," he said.

The Chief Minister then went to Raj Ghat with Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and other Ministers and MLAs and conducted a prayer for peace. Thereafter the Chief Minister and his Cabinet visited the injured police officers and people in various hospitals.

Gambhir calls for action
BJP MP Gautam Gambhir told reporters that action should be taken against provocative speeches when asked about BJP leader Kapil Mishra.

"No matter who the person is, whether he is Kapil Mishra or anyone else, belonging to any party, if he has given any provoking speech then strict action should be taken against him," he said.

CBSE Board exams put off in 86 centres in northeast Delhi

In the rest of the city, they will be conducted as usual

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education has postponed the Class 10 and 12 board examinations scheduled for Wednesday in 86 centres in northeast Delhi due to the violence that has rocked those areas for the third straight day.

Examinations will be conducted as usual in the rest of the city. The rescheduled date for students in affected areas is yet to be announced by the CBSE.

The decision has been taken "based on the request of the Directorate of Education, Government of Delhi and to avoid inconvenience to students, staff and parents," according to a notification issued by CBSE Secretary Anurag Tripathi on Tuesday night.

Earlier in the evening, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia announced that schools in the violence-



Students can check the CBSE website for details on centres where the exams have been postponed.

affected northeast district of Delhi would remain closed.

He said internal examinations had been postponed and urged the CBSE also to postpone board examinations.

While the board examinations began on February 15, the schedule has so far been mostly restricted to vocational subjects with fewer candidates. On Tuesday, none of the examinations

was scheduled to be held in centres in the affected areas anyway.

On Wednesday, however, Class 10 students are scheduled to write examinations in English Language and Literature and English Communicative. Class 12 students have papers in Media and Web Application.

Full details of the 86 centres where examinations have been postponed are available at cbse.nic.in.

A number of students complained on Twitter that they live in the affected areas, but have examination centres in other parts of the city.

Several pointed out that with curfew imposed in the area, they could not travel to their centres in safety.

Aam Aadmi Party MLA Atishi tweeted that Mr. Sisodia had raised the plight of these students with the CBSE as well. The CBSE is yet to respond.

Deeply disturbed about what is going on in Delhi, says Mamata

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said that she was "deeply disturbed and concerned about the situation in Delhi".

Ms. Banerjee, who left for Bhubaneswar during the day to attend an Eastern Zonal Council (EZC) meeting to be chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah later this week, urged people to maintain peace.

The Chief Minister also said that she was keeping a watch on the situation.

Earlier in the day, senior officers of the Kolkata police held a meeting in the back-

"Ours is a country of peace, it takes everybody along, it is a secular country. There is no scope for any violence... We appeal to all to maintain peace," the Chief Minister said, adding that she not sure what was going on in Delhi.

Meanwhile, there were a few protests organised in the city in connection with the violence in the national capital.

Earlier in the day, senior officers of the Kolkata police held a meeting in the back-

SC to hear petition for safety of Shaheen Bagh protesters

Case on possibility of an alternative site to be heard too

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court agreed to hear on Wednesday an application for a direction to the Delhi police to ensure the safety of the protesters at Shaheen Bagh, who are mostly women, in light of the clashes which rocked the national capital that left several dead.

A Bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and K.M. Joseph was urgently approached by Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Aazad, former bureaucrat Wajahat Habibullah and Bahadur Abbas Naqvi on Tuesday for urgent orders.

The court said it would take up the application on Wednesday along with a pending Shaheen Bagh case in which the court's interloc-

utors have filed a report on the possibility of shifting the protest to an alternative site which would not hamper public and traffic movement.

The application has sought the court to intervene and direct the police to ensure the safety of women at the protest site.

The application, referring to the February 24 violence, said the *modus operandi* of the BJP was to "deploy its

cadre to crush peaceful protesters". The application referred to media reports about how a BJP leader Kapil Mishra, who was known to instigate crowds into violence and vandalism, conducted a pro-CAA rally near the Maupur-Babarpur metro station just two km from the peaceful Jaffrabad protest site on February 23.

The application said police had not acted on the complaints filed by people injured in the violence.

Violence had escalated over the day with incidents of violence and arson.

Anti-social elements crossed the border from Uttar Pradesh in vehicles and entered Delhi to launch an attack on the residents of Delhi. Police refused to act, the application said.

The application said police had not acted on the complaints filed by people injured in the violence.

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Anti-social elements crossed the border from Uttar Pradesh in vehicles and entered Delhi to launch an attack on the residents of Delhi. Police refused to act, the application said.

Marine Drive protesters booked

Police identify 10 people, working on finding others

GAUTAM S. MENGLE
MUMBAI

The police on Tuesday registered an FIR against the protesters who had gathered at Marine Drive on Monday night in solidarity with victims of the violence in Delhi.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone I) Sangram Singh Nishandar said the protesters who had been charged with unlawful assembly under the Indian Penal Code and the Maharashtra Police Act. "We have identified 10 protesters and are working on identifying the others. No arrests have been made or summonses issued at this point," he said.

At least 10 people were confirmed dead by Tuesday evening in the violence against those protesting the Citizenship Amendment Act, the National Register of Citizens and the National Population Register in Delhi since Monday.

On Monday, a group of Mumbai residents had decided to hold a silent candlelight vigil at Gateway Of India from 10 p.m. to midnight. However, the Colaba police barricaded all the roads leading to the venue, after which they relocated to Marine Drive.

Around 11.30 p.m., the police started asking the protesters to disperse. "By this time, they had been con-

ducting the protest without permission for a good 30 minutes and were attracting attention, due to which the crowd was swelling in size. When they did not move despite repeated requests, we had to disperse them physically," an officer said.

Eighty people were taken to Marine Drive police station and released after their details were noted down.



Flashpoint: Police personnel detain a demonstrator near the Gateway of India early on Tuesday. ■ PTI

India, U.S. to upgrade ties, call on Pak. to curb terror

Joint statement at the end of President Trump's visit underscores Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, including security cooperation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India and the U.S. on Tuesday resolved to upgrade their bilateral relationship to a Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership that will include issues such as defence, security cooperation and revitalisation of the Indo-Pacific quadrilateral dialogue.

Both sides also called upon Pakistan to rein in cross-border terror threats and sought justice for the victims of 26/11 attack and the Pathankot terror attack of 2016.

"They called for concerted action against all terrorist groups including Al-Qaeda,

ISIS, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, the Haqqani Network, TTP, D Company, and all their affiliates," said a joint statement issued at the end of President Donald Trump's visit late on Tuesday evening.

South China Sea

Both sides also took note of the efforts of the ASEAN region to create a code of conduct in the South China Sea region. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mr. Trump also agreed to undertake development activities in third countries and intensify cooperation in the space domain

The statement said both sides had resolved to maintain the Internet as a free and secure arena. "India and the United States recognised the need for an innovative digital ecosystem that is secure and reliable, and facilitates the flow of information and data," the statement said.

Earlier in the evening, Mr. Trump said the U.S. was working with Pakistan to defeat terrorism.

Addressing journalists at Hyderabad House, he said the Indo-Pacific region should be free and open for navigation and the 5G technology should be used for spread of freedom and not

for suppression of people. Mr. Modi observed that defence had a major role in the relationship between India and the U.S.

"In the last few years, there has been unprecedented growth in interoperability between our militaries," he said, adding the Indian military undertook the maximum number of exercises with the U.S. military.

Mr. Trump also said the U.S. and India were working to revitalise the quadrilateral initiative consisting of Japan, the U.S., India and Australia. Both countries were also working on cybersecurity and counter-terrorism issues.

The six Apaches and associated equipment will cost about \$800 million



India and the U.S. concluded agreements for the purchase of 24 MH-60R Seahawk and six AH-64E attack helicopters

APACHE

- These helicopters are being procured as replacement for 15 Sea King Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) helicopters de-inducted in 1991 and one Sea King 42B MRH lost in an accident. The current MRHs in service, Sea King 42Bs, were inducted in the 1980s and are in need of replacement
- They are capable of carrying out anti-ship, anti-submarine, electronic warfare, net-centric over-the-horizon offensive and defensive roles
- These will be operated by the Army and deployed with its strike Corps in the western sector
- In September 2015, India contracted 22 AH-64E attack helicopters at a cost of ₹13,951.57 crore for the IAF and the entire fleet will be in service in 2020
- On June 12, 2018, the Defence Security Cooperation Agency notified the U.S. Congress of the possible sale to India
- Apache is a heavy attack helicopter and the most advanced craft currently in service globally
- India is the 16th nation to select the Apache and the AH-64E is its most advanced variant, Boeing said
- The Apache is the most advanced multi-role heavy attack helicopter in the world

Deal done

MH-60R SEAHAWK HELICOPTERS

■ The procurement is through the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) route of the U.S. government and is worth \$2.12 bn

■ MH-60R is the mainstay of the U.S. Navy's Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) capability



Trump urges India Inc. to invest 'billions' in U.S.

He assured industry leaders of reduced regulations for ease of doing business

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday invited Indian industry leaders to invest "billions" in America and promised reduced regulations to enhance the ease of doing business in the country.

"Congratulations on your success. We hope you all come to the United States and invest more billions," he said at an interaction with the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of some of the top Indian companies.

"I view it as jobs. We have great people," the U.S. President remarked, adding that

regulations "will only get better" for investment in America.

Notice period

Prominent among the Indian industry leaders who attended the interaction were Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani, Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra, Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran, Aditya Birla Group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla and the Chairman and CEO of Arcelor Mittal, Lakshmi Mittal.

Responding to a question from B.V.R. Mohan Reddy of Cylent on the regulatory challenges faced by compa-

nies investing in the U.S., Mr. Trump said his administration was working on cutting regulations but that they had to adhere to a notice period to do so.

"Some of the regulations you have to go through are statutory process... We are going to cut a lot more regulations but we have to give a notice... A lot of them will be cut and you will see a big difference and it will only get better," he said.

'Ease regulations'

Mr. Chandrasekaran of Tata Sons sought tax cuts as well as a reduction in regulatory interventions in the U.S.

Mr. Ambani, for his part, informed the U.S. President of the work that his company was doing, including in the telecommunications sector.

"We are the only [telecom] network in the world that doesn't have a single Chinese component," Mr. Ambani asserted, adding that Mr. Trump's policies had also had a rub-off effect on India. Specifically, he mentioned the reduction in tax rates as an example.

Mr. Trump asserted that as per the current trends it was likely that he would win re-election, adding that the U.S. economy had "never been better".

Rajya Sabha polls on March 26, equations not to change

Opposition plans to bring in heavyweights to Upper House

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI



With the Election Commission on Tuesday announcing elections on March 26 to 55 Rajya Sabha seats falling vacant in 17 States in April, the Opposition expects to bring in a qualitative change by nominating many of its heavyweights to the Upper House.

The political arithmetic will largely remain unchanged though.

Gain for Congress

With its improved situation in Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Gujarat, the Congress is set to gain four seats from the three States.

In Rajasthan, three seats, all held by the BJP, are up for grabs. Here the Congress is expected to get two seats. In Gujarat, the party will gain an additional seat. Of the four seats to be filled, the BJP holds three and the Congress one. The Congress will add another seat to its tally from Chhattisgarh. Of the two seats falling vacant in April from the State, the Congress and the BJP holds one each. The Congress is expected to win both.

The Congress leaders expected to be seen in the Upper House include Randeep Singh Surjewala, Jayaprakash Scindia, Mallikarjun Kharge, R.P.N. Singh and Jitin Prasada.

In West Bengal, elections

will be held for five seats. Of these, the Trinamool Congress will retain four. However, the fate of the fifth seat depends on the CPI(M) Polit Bureau's decision. The West Bengal unit of the CPI(M) is backing the renomination of party general secretary Sitaram Yechury. But the Left will need the Congress's support to elect him.

6 seats in T.N.

In Tamil Nadu, where six seats are up for grabs, *status quo* will continue. Both the DMK and the AIADMK will be in a position to send three members each. Sources said the BJP has been putting pressure on the AIADMK to send a BJP leader on its quota. The CPI, meanwhile, is hoping that the DMK would cede one seat to it. If the DMK does agree, CPI general secretary D. Raja could return to the Rajya Sabha.

Poll schedule

According to the schedule, the notification would be issued on March 6, the last date for filing of nominations would be March 13 and polling would be held on March 26, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The votes would be counted at 5 p.m. the same day.

(With inputs from Damini Nath)



Guest of honour: Donald and Melania Trump with President Ram Nath Kovind and his wife, Savita, at a banquet at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Tuesday. ■ PTI

'Dairy sector may have to yield trade-offs to U.S.'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

On a day when Indian and American leaders highlighted that mutual tariff concessions would be part of an upcoming trade deal, a senior Commerce Ministry official said some of those concessions were expected to come from the Indian dairy sector.

"We are not looking at hugely disadvantaging our dairy sector, but without disclosing specific elements [of the negotiations], all I can tell you is that if you can concede a little bit, say a fraction, a very small fraction of dairy, and get something else in return which could be useful for some other section of the industry, then that is what the negotiation is all about," said Sanjay Chadha, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce. "This is the kind of thing that, you want a deal, but you don't want to concede anything. Please understand that a balance has to be struck."

Mr. Chadha, who has led the Indian delegation in bilateral trade talks with the U.S. over the last year, was responding to a question from *The Hindu* during a discussion on the Indo-U.S. economic partnership hosted by ICRER and the American Chamber of Commerce in India on Tuesday.

The Indian trade official acknowledged that the final decision would be based on political factors, given that the dairy sector provides a livelihood to 15 crore Indian farmers, many of whom own just one or two animals. "It's not so much an economic issue as it is a political one... economically, it may make sense to open up a small fraction of it, but it's not going to be a purely economic call," he said. Farmers' groups have been vociferous in their demand that agriculture should be left out of trade deals.

One issue that the Indian side has held its ground on is the requirement that imported dairy products are not derived from animals fed cattle feed containing non-vegetarian elements.

Melania joins students for 'happiness class'

U.S. First Lady spends time at Delhi govt. model school

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI



School day: Melania Trump at the Sarvodaya Government School at Moti Bagh. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

'Prosperity for all' is seeped into the curriculum, the leadership of the teachers and the spirit of enthusiasm in the students'.

Apart from the happiness class, Ms. Trump spent time reading with primary students and watched a yoga class where the students performed Surya Namaskar.

Radhika, a Class VI student at the happiness class attended by Ms. Trump, said the class had meditated together for five minutes and then discussed the concept of gratitude.

The First Lady visited Sarvodaya Co-ed Senior Secondary School at South Moti Bagh, which is one of the Delhi government's model schools.

Prosperity for all

Ms. Trump, who was accorded a warm welcome by the students of the school, said, "I have learnt that your school's name 'Sarvodaya' means 'prosperity for all' and as I walked around, I was able to see how the concept

of gratitude towards my teachers, while Ms. Trump wrote that she feels gratitude towards her family and friends," she said.

Musical welcome

A school band from AG-DAV Model Town that played the bagpipes welcomed Ms. Trump, while students from the primary section of the school showered her with petals. The First Lady interacted with the students and hugged one of the girls.

Although Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Education Minister Manish Sisodia were not part of the event, they tweeted their welcome to Ms. Trump.

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SAINIK SCHOOL BIJAPUR (KARNATAKA) CORRIGENDUM

The notification for Annual Tender for Bulk Supply and Services uploaded on 06 Feb 2020 is hereby cancelled due to technical and administrative reasons. The fresh tender for the publication has been uploaded on www.ssbj.in and the closing date for the same will be 21 Mar 2020. The Principal reserves the right to accept or reject tenders without assigning any reason(s) thereof.

Sd/- Principal
Sainik School Bijapur

Date: 25 Feb 2020

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S.N.	Tender No.	Description
01	CMPDI/MM/GT/19-20/4094/AK/ Adsorption Isotherm	Supply of Adsorption Isotherm Equipment.
02	CMPDI/MM/GT/19-20/4099/AK/ Grinding Machine	Supply of Table Top Grinding Polishing Machine

Estimated Cost:- for Sl.No.(01)- Rs.2,10,00,000/- and for Sl.No.(02)- Rs. 25,820/-, No tender fee is payable for above tender(s). Tender Document and Tender Details of the above tender(s) can be downloaded free of cost from www.cmpdi.co.in, eprocure.gov.in and www.coalindiatenders.nic.in 26.02.2020 onwards. For On-line Bidding, Bidders should possess Class II/ III Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and should email themselves at https://www.coalindiatenders.nic.in. Information regarding the procedure for enrolment, bidding, etc. is available on the same website.

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Virus infections cross 80,000 globally

South Korea has most COVID-19 cases outside China, with 977 infected and 10 dead; Iran toll rises to 16

REUTERS
DUBAI/BEIJING

Iran's COVID-19 death toll rose to 16 on Tuesday, the highest outside China, increasing its international isolation as dozens of countries from South Korea to Italy accelerated emergency measures to curb the epidemic's global spread.

Believed to come from wildlife in Wuhan city late last year, the flu-like disease has infected 80,000 people and killed 2,663 in China. But the World Health Organization (WHO) says the epidemic there has peaked and has been declining since February 2.

Beyond mainland China, however, it has jumped to nearly 40 countries and territories, with some three dozen deaths. Growing outbreaks in Iran, Italy and South Korea are of particular concern.

"We are close to a pandemic but there is still hope," said Raina MacIntyre, head of a biosecurity programme at the University of New South Wales.

Iran faces isolation

Iran's outbreak, amid mounting U.S. sanctions pressure, threatens to leave it further cut off. Several countries suspended flights due to cases in travellers from Iran to Canada, Lebanon, the UAE and Iraq.

Some neighbours also closed borders, while Oman's Khasab port halted imports and exports with Iran.

"It is an uninvited and auspicious visitor. God willing we will get through... this virus," Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said in a televised speech.

Iran cancelled concerts and soccer matches nationwide, and schools and universities closed in many pro-



Mission safety: Two women wearing a protective facemask walk across the Piazza del Duomo in Milan. Italy has reported over 280 cases and 10 deaths from COVID-19 disease. ■ AFP

WHO warns of pandemic risk

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GENEVA

prompting a raft of restrictions on travellers from infected nations.

South Korea, Italy and Iran have logged particularly sharp increases in infections and deaths.

But WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus insisted the virus could still be contained, praising China's drastic quarantine measures in several cities for helping to prevent an

even bigger spread.

"For the moment we are not witnessing the uncontaminated global spread of this virus and we are not witnessing large-scale deaths," Mr. Tedros told reporters in Geneva on Monday.

He added, however, that countries should be "doing everything we can to prepare for a potential pandemic."

vinces. Many Iranians took to social media to accuse authorities of concealing facts.

Authorities say U.S. sanctions are hampering its response to the coronavirus by preventing imports of masks and medicines.

Situation 'very grave'

South Korea has the most virus cases outside China, with 977 infections and 10 deaths, the majority linked to the Shincheonji Church of Jesus in the city of Daegu, where

the outbreak is believed to have begun with a 61-year-old woman.

Authorities were to test all members of the church, estimated by media at about 215,000 people. President Moon Jae-in acknowledged the situation was "very grave".

In Europe, Italy is the front line, with more than 280 cases and 10 deaths, most in the northern Lombardy and Veneto regions but one case emerging in Sicily, the first in the country

south of Rome.

A planned three-week shoot in Italy for Tom Cruise's seventh outing in the *Mission: Impossible* series was also postponed, while Milan cathedral was closed and Venice carnival cancelled.

Airlines began restricting flights to Italy, while prices for masks and gels skyrocketed.

Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait and Oman reported their first new coronavirus cases, all in people who had been to Iran. Swit-

erland, Austria and Croatia also reported first cases.

With dozens of sporting events already hit, Japan, which has had four deaths and 850 cases, said it was premature to talk about cancelling the Tokyo Olympics due to start on July 24.

The U.S. pledged \$2.5 billion to fight the disease, with more than \$1 billion going towards developing a vaccine.

With the pace of new infections slowing, Beijing said restrictions on travel should begin to be lifted.

+ Beijing jails Swedish bookseller for 10 years

Chinese envoy summoned in protest

REUTERS
BEIJING

A Chinese court sentenced Chinese-born Swedish citizen Gui Minhai to 10 years in jail on Monday for illegally providing intelligence overseas, prompting a protest from Stockholm.

Gui, a bookseller previously based in Hong Kong who sold books critical of China's political leadership, was detained by mainland police in 2018. He was seized while with Swedish diplomats on a Beijing-bound train.

Relations between Sweden and China soured in the months leading up to Monday's sentencing, with Chinese officials warning Swedes



Gui Minhai
ish counterparts against meddling in China's internal affairs.

On Tuesday, Sweden summoned the Chinese Ambassador to Stockholm to protest against the court sentence and demand Gui's release.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
CAIRO

Egypt's former President Hosni Mubarak ruled with an iron fist for 30 years before being deposed amid street protests, defending his chequered reign to the end. He died on Tuesday aged 91.

Once dubbed "the Pharaoh" for his long, autocratic rule, he was swept from power, like other regional potentates, by the popular uprisings of the 2011 Arab Spring.

His mixed legacy is that of a strongman who employed emergency powers, led a police state and rigged elections, and of a guarantor of stability who battled jihadists, maintained close ties with the West and kept

peace with Israel.

A former Air Force chief, he became Egyptian Vice-President and then, in 1981, head of state after Islamist militants assassinated his predecessor Anwar Sadat during a military parade.

Survived many attacks

Mr. Mubarak was also wounded, having sat next to Sadat in the attack by jihadists who had infiltrated the Army. He would survive several more attempts on his life, most dramatically in 1995 when militants sprayed his motorcade with bullets at a roadblock in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

He was considered neither an inspirational revolutionary like Gamal Abdel

Nasser, who ruled from 1956 to 1970, nor a charismatic politician like Sadat, who succeeded Nasser and led Egypt until 1981.

But his diplomatic prowess showed on the international stage where he proved to be a deft statesman.

He maintained Egypt's peace treaty with Israel – the reason Sadat was assassinated by militants – and became a main player in the U.S.-sponsored Israeli-Palestinian peace process more than a decade later.

Critics say that during his rule the government and economy were hobbled by rampant corruption, bureaucratic mediocrity and rights abuses.

On the plus side, Mr. Mubarak has been credited with bringing economic reforms in the 2000s.

In the last years of Mr. Mubarak's reign, it was unclear whether he was truly in charge or had devolved many of his responsibilities to his son Gamal, then a senior



Hosni Mubarak

Hosni Mubarak, ousted by Arab Spring in 2011, dies

Dubbed 'the Pharaoh', the ex-President of Egypt ruled the country with an iron fist for 30 years

ELSEWHERE



Assange stripped naked and handcuffed: lawyer

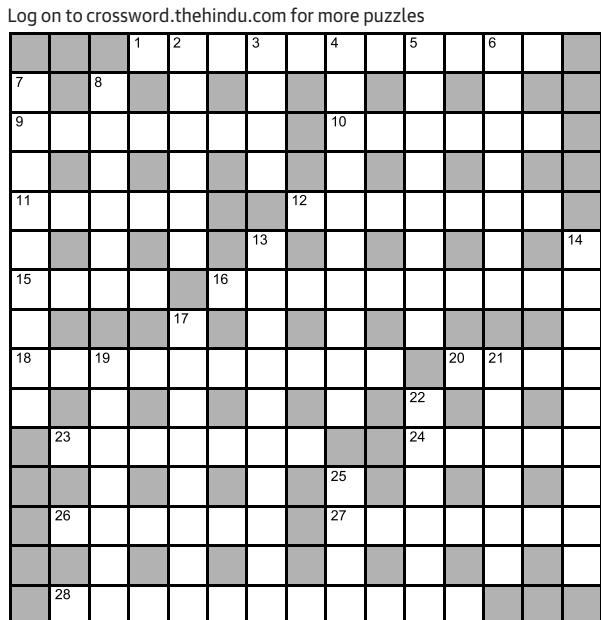
LONDON A lawyer for Julian Assange complained on Tuesday that the WikiLeaks founder was handcuffed 11 times and stripped naked twice on the first day of a hearing on his extradition to the U.S. on espionage charges. AP

Regime bombing kills 19 civilians in Syria: monitor

BEIRUT Regime air strikes in northwestern Syria, including on schools in the city of Idlib, killed 19 civilians on Tuesday, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. Eight children were among those killed in the raids. AP

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12868

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



ACROSS

- 1 Oaf's hair cut oddly in country (5,6)
- 9 Oh! Returned to platform with prisoner (7)
- 10 Look up to Bill in difficulties (6)
- 11 Experiment with case (5)
- 12 Alien leaves, blows up gifts (7)

15 Install end to end bundle (4)

16 United Nations, in chaos, declines those lacking official approval (10)

18 Frightened by wound, journalist's not at home (6,4)

20 Suppress Oriental curse (4)

23 Weigh half of North African at toll (7)

24 Argue when left out from air travel (5)

26 Remove last bit from cocktail for Italian poet (6)

27 Turkish hostels built from broken minarets, missing bit of neatness (7)

28 Those who rent out revile sages mercilessly (5,6)

DOWN

- 2 Prophet first off boat (6)
- 3 Bound to abnormal diet (4)

(set by Anon)

4 Doctor's acclamation (lacks bit of caution) of body structure (10)

5 Aries summons, goes berserk (8)

6 Rugs for dear in vehicles (7)

7 Allow Caucasian to record (9)

8 Help fool regularly in situ (6)

13 Peacekeepers notice object during excavation (10)

14 Promote, bring it back from within counter (9)

17 Abstains from choruses (8)

19 Clipped Adelaide-made instrument (7)

21 Fisherman to turn right (6)

22 Regular half of carnival operation (6)

25 Leaders kept inventing electric vehicles in European capital (4)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12867

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

FAITH

No repeated births

In his Deivamani Malai, Vallalar asks if Brahma can give him another birth, or Yama take his life at will. The answer, obviously, is in the negative, because Vallalar has placed his trust in Muruga. Vallalar recalls past incidents when Brahma and Yama were taught a lesson, said M.A. Manickavelu in a discourse.

Once Brahma went to pay his respects to Lord Siva, but he ignored Muruga. Muruga then asked Brahma a series of questions. To Muruga's questions, Brahma replied that he (Brahma) was the creator, and that he knew the Vedas. Muruga then asked him to explain the meaning of the pranava mantra. Brahma was unable to do so. Kachiappa Sivachariar, in his Kanda Puranam, says that Muruga with his twelve hands, gave hard knocks on all of Brahma's four heads. Muruga also imprisoned Brahma! Vallalar refers to this punishment in Deivamani Malai, and says Brahma could not have forgotten what he received at the hands of Muruga.

Arunagirinatha, in his Kanda Alanakaram, expresses similar sentiments. Muruga is the One who split the Krauncha hill and killed Soorapadman. And it was Muruga who punished Brahma. Will Brahma dare to give another birth to Muruga's devotees? If he tries to do so, he will end up having his hands shackled again, says Arunagirinatha. Another Kanda Alankaram verse mentions Brahma in a different context. Arunagirinatha praises Muruga as the One who is Vishnu's nephew and God of the celestials. He is the One who gives jnana. Arunagirinatha wishes that Brahma, the creator, had given him four thousand eyes to enjoy the beauty of Muruga. Vallalar and Arunagirinatha were jnani, who knew that life on earth can lead to many sorrows. Warning us of the danger of repeated births, they urge us to surrender to God.

CM YK

Widening U.S.-China rift fuels Trump's Modi outreach

The new U.S. approach to China is bipartisan

ANANTH KRISHNAN

A tectonic shift in America's relations with China under Donald Trump's presidency – one that Indian officials believe is here to stay and will outlast the current U.S. President – is providing a new impetus to defence, security, trade and technological cooperation between New Delhi and Washington in the region.

The U.S.-China trade and technology war is the clearest manifestation of the change, and the sense in Delhi is that this widening rift is neither a Trump phenomenon nor transient. The new U.S. approach to China is bipartisan and likely here to stay regardless of the outcome of November's elections. In fact, Mr. Trump is being seen as far from the most hawkish voice on China in Washington, given his well-known proclivity for wanting to "cut a deal".

Shared concerns about China's rise are not new, and have underpinned India's relations with the U.S. going back to the 1950s. On Tuesday, both countries inked a \$2.6 billion defence deal for 24 MH-60 Sea-hawk helicopters, another indicator of growing defence ties, which saw a logistics exchange agreement in 2016 and a communications compatibility agreement in 2018.

"It's no secret that Chinese submarines and warships have begun regular operations in the Indian Ocean over the past decade and this arguably provided some of the impetus behind greater joint efforts on maritime domain awareness, intelligence sharing, and naval exercises, including the first-ever tri-service military exercise last December," said Jeff Smith, South Asia scholar at

the Heritage Foundation,

MARKET WATCH

	25-02-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	40,281	-0.20
US Dollar	71.85	0.18
Gold	43,549	-2.14
Brent oil	56.06	0.64

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	358.40	-3.85
Asian Paints	1826.10	7.15
Axle Bank	728.75	3.30
Bajaj Auto	2947.40	-33.10
Bajaj Finserv	9525.00	58.10
Bajaj Finance	4825.95	22.00
Bharti Airtel	535.25	5.35
BPCL	456.75	-7.90
Britannia Ind	3033.55	-2.65
Cipla	425.80	-4.35
Coal India	175.10	0.25
Dr Reddys Lab	3086.90	-89.40
Eicher Motors	17532.30	-417.65
GAIL (India)	114.00	-2.80
Grasim Ind	720.40	-4.50
HCL Tech	582.45	-12.70
HDFC	2302.60	10.30
HDFC Bank	1200.30	-9.65
Hero MotoCorp	2184.15	-0.05
Hindalco	174.45	-4.60
Hind Unilever	2233.60	18.45
ICICI Bank	530.95	1.10
IndusInd Bank	1153.85	-16.40
Bharti Infra	216.30	0.35
Infosys	798.40	2.55
Indian Oil Corp	110.45	-0.10
ITC	201.80	-1.20
JSE Steel	262.60	3.65
Kotak Bank	1675.80	-2.45
L&T	1242.05	-17.65
M&M	508.95	-4.25
Maruti Suzuki	6414.55	-55.85
Nestle India Ltd.	16380.50	-43.25
NTPC	110.10	0.40
ONGC	97.55	-0.50
PowerGrid Corp	186.15	0.05
Reliance Ind	1416.40	-28.55
State Bank	326.80	3.85
Sun Pharma	388.90	-8.95
Tata Motors	149.90	-0.75
Tata Steel	421.30	5.85
TCS	2156.15	40.80
Tech Mahindra	822.10	2.00
Titan	1260.10	-19.80
UltraTech Cement	4344.00	-51.00
UPL	566.35	-6.90
Vedanta	132.70	-0.50
Wipro	244.10	-0.10
YES Bank	35.15	0.20
Zee Entertainment	251.90	2.80

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.68	72.00
Euro	77.67	78.02
British Pound	92.96	93.37
Japanese Yen (100)	64.83	65.15
Chinese Yuan	10.22	10.26
Swiss Franc	73.28	73.61
Singapore Dollar	51.23	51.46
Canadian Dollar	53.93	54.17
Malaysian Ringgit	16.93	17.01

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

February 25 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses		
Retail Silver (1g)	52.4	(53.3)
22 ct gold (1g)	4092	(4166)

+ February 25 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

IN BRIEF



Blue Star eyes smaller towns for market share

CHENNAI Air-conditioner maker Blue Star Ltd. will enter small towns and cities with a view to increasing its market share in the coming years, a top executive said. "We might end the current fiscal with a market share of 12.75% and are targeting 13% for the next fiscal," B. Thiagarajan, MD, Blue Star Ltd., said. "By FY24, we would like to have a market share of 15%, for which we will be expanding into tier-III, IV and V towns and cities in the coming months," he said.

Bandhan Bank: RBI lifts network expansion ban

NEW DELHI The Reserve Bank on Tuesday allowed Bandhan Bank to expand its branch network after considering the efforts made by the private lender to comply with the licensing conditions. The central bank, in September 2018, had barred Bandhan Bank from expanding its network as the lender failed to reduce the promoters' stake to 40% from close to 82% within the stipulated three-year time frame of commencing operations. Currently, the promoters' holding in the bank is 62%. PTI

RBI announces two LTROs early next month

MUMBAI The Reserve Bank (RBI) on Tuesday announced two long-term repo operations (LTROs) for three-year tenors worth ₹25,000 crore each to be conducted on March 2 and March 9. The reversal date of LTRO on March 2, 2020 is March 1, 2023 while for LTRO to be conducted on March 9, 2020, it will be March 7, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India said. LTROs are aimed at helping banks to reduce their lending rates, thereby quickening the monetary policy transmission. PTI

BS VI fuel cess may be on cards

Refiners want to recover ₹35,000 crore invested in upgrading units

PIYUSH PANDEY

MUMBAI

Even as India is gearing up to switch over to the world's cleanest fuel from April 1, 2020, Indian OMCs (oil marketing companies) have made a representation to the government to recover about ₹35,000 crore invested in upgrading their refineries to produce BS VI fuel.

The OMCs plan to recover this money by imposing a cess of ₹0.70 to ₹1 on every litre of petrol, diesel.

When asked for comments, R. Ramachandran, director (refineries) at Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) told *The Hindu*, "Our (OMCs) aspiration is that we should be compensated to tune of ₹0.70 to ₹1.30 on every litre of BS VI fuel sold. This should be built into the final retail



Black gold: OMCs want to recover investments by levying cess of ₹0.70 paise to ₹1 on every litre of petrol, diesel. ■ R. RAJU

price of the fuel.

"We are engaging with the government for an assurance that we will be allowed to recover the investments made in upgrading our refineries to BS VI over a period of time. This may be in the form of a cess."

BPCL alone has invested about ₹7,000 crore in upgrading its refineries to pro-

duce BS VI-compliant fuels.

Sulphur content

India adopted Euro-III equivalent (or Bharat Stage-III) fuel with a sulphur content of 350 ppm in 2010 and then took seven years to move to BS IV that had a sulphur content of 50 ppm. Transition from BS IV to BS VI took just three years. In, BS VI, petrol

and diesel contain just 10 parts per million (ppm) of sulphur.

"All our refineries are already producing BS VI fuels and it's being sold at many retail outlets now. Today, there is no extra pricing as there is no recognition in the market. We have made industry representation to the government to recover the money. Any life cycle of a project is minimum 15 years and a reasonable payback period is 8 years," said the director of an OMC.

When asked why the OMCs were seeking government nod for recovering the investments when prices of petrol and diesel had been de-regulated, a senior OMC official told *The Hindu*, "[The] Government still continues to be the majority shareholder of the companies."

Regulator had placed the island nation in 'grey list'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has clarified that foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) from Mauritius will continue to be eligible for registration as foreign investors in India but subject to increased monitoring.

The regulatory clarification was necessitated after the island nation was placed in the list of 'jurisdictions under increased monitoring' – commonly referred to as the grey list – leading to apprehensions that the Mauritius-based FPIs will not be able to trade in the Indian capital market.

"... FPIs from Mauritius continue to be eligible for

securities Depository Limited (NSDL). In January 2020, Mauritius-based FPIs had total assets under custody (AUC) of ₹4.37 lakh crore, second only to that of the U.S. with ₹1.63 lakh crore.

Meanwhile, the capital market regulator further clarified that the FATF website mentions that when a jurisdiction is placed under increased monitoring, it construes that the country has committed to swiftly resolve the identified strategic deficiencies within agreed time frames and is subject to increased monitoring.

"The FATF encourages its members to take into account this information in their risk analysis," stated the SEBI release.

FPI registration with increased monitoring as per FATF norms," stated a release by SEBI. On February 21, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) placed Mauritius in the grey list.

This assumes significance since Mauritius accounts for the second-largest chunk of foreign investments, as per data from the National Se-

urity

have bought 5 cargoes in the last one month at discounted rates and are going to buy more.

The price of crude has already come down to around \$55 a barrel from \$70 a barrel due to coronavirus spread and we are further getting discounts as Chinese have cut down their refining capacity."

Meanwhile, Iraq has become India's top crude oil supplier by exporting 26 million tonnes to India during April-September 2019, overtaking Saudi Arabia, which sold about 20 million tonnes of crude oil to India during the first six months of the current fiscal.

India has imported 111.4 million tonnes of crude oil from April to September 2019.

R. Ramachandran, Director (Refineries) at Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) told *The Hindu*, "We

India can seal trade deal with U.S. much faster, says Goyal

Both countries will engage on a fast track basis, he says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Free Trade Agreement between the U.S. and India may not take years, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday. The two countries had decided to engage on a fast-track basis, given that the two nations can trust each other, he said.

"I think with the U.S., I would personally think that we can do a much larger trade deal much faster...we're both democracies with a rule of law. I think that's very important... secondly, we both are transparent," Mr. Goyal said at an



Piyush Goyal

event organised by the CII and the U.S.-India Business Council.

"It's not that something is going to suddenly spring out somewhere, which was unknown to us. It's not as if

there is something hidden at the back of somewhere, which would never have been on the table. We can trust each other and talk with openness and fairness. And in that spirit, the two nations have decided to engage on a fast track basis. So, I certainly don't see that this will be like one of those earlier Free Trade Agreement negotiations going for decades and years altogether."

He added that whatever would be done would be in the best interest of both countries. "It will be, at least from our side an offer that I hope that the U.S. cannot refuse," he stated.

"It's an opportunity for us. In the spot market, we are getting a discount anywhere between \$3 and \$5 per barrel of crude. The price of crude has already fallen to \$55 from \$70 in early January due to spread of coronavirus. We have contracted for certain varieties

of crude for as low as \$49 a barrel," a director of a state-owned oil firm told *The Hindu*. India is the world's third largest crude importer and meets 83% of its crude re-

quirements through imports. "China has rejected a significant amount of crude due to spread of coronavirus. This offers a great opportunity for Indian refiners as certain grades of African and Latin American crude oil are available at deep discounts. The freight rates have gone down by almost 50%," said the head of another refiner.

India has imported 111.4 million tonnes of crude oil from April to September 2019.

R. Ramachandran, Director (Refineries) at Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) told *The Hindu*, "We

IndiGo drops 5% on SEBI probe 'finding'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

InterGlobe Aviation Ltd. (IndiGo) shares plunged 5% on Tuesday after media reported about Securities & Exchange Board of India finding undisclosed related party transactions between promoter InterGlobe Enterprises and IndiGo, in its preliminary inquiry.

However, the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) stated that brokers can take client securities only as 'margin pledge' and more importantly, such transfers cannot be made to the demat account of the broker.

"With effect from



Sonequa Martin-Green on how her *Star Trek* series role broke new ground and how she deals with the fandom for the franchise

GAUTAM SUNDER

Earlier known for her role as Sasha on *The Walking Dead*, life changed dramatically for Sonequa Martin-Green in 2017 when she was cast as the first black female lead in a *Star Trek* series. Headlining *Star Trek: Discovery* as Michael Burnham, Sonequa has since endeared to millions of fans across the world with her interpretation of the coveted role, as well as the show that has broken new ground constantly.

2020 promises to be a big year for the actor, as apart from her television role, she also starts filming for the much-anticipated sequel to *Space Jam*, the live-action animation film, in which she will share screen space with LeBron James and Don Cheadle.

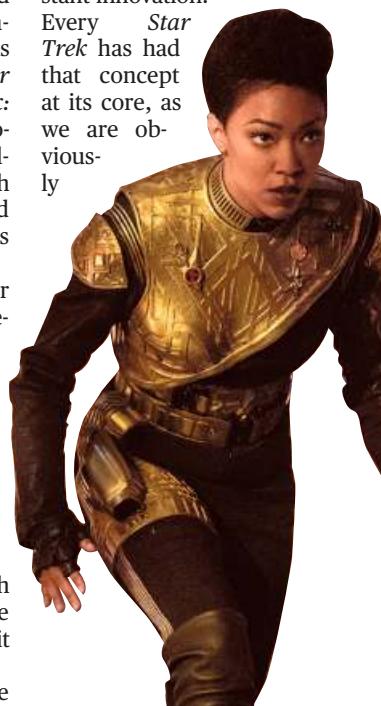
Two seasons into *Discovery* and preparing for the next, Sonequa is fully aware now of not just the responsibilities that come with being part of an iconic franchise like *Star Trek*, but also the impact it has had on her career.

"Yes, from the beginning, the

The path to discovery

creators have always been really progressive, ensuring that the series focussed on diversity and constant innovation.

Every *Star Trek* has had that concept at its core, as we are obviously



catering to a massive fan base. There's so much respect I have for the writers and directors, as they want the show to reflect society, as well as use the potential of the franchise in the right manner," she begins.

Discovery has become more complex as the show has progressed in terms of sci-fi references on the show, technical plot points and so on. With an ardent following that will not forgive the slightest of logical loopholes or discrepancies, actors have to be on point with their understanding of the storylines, however intricate they may be – something that Sonequa acknowledges ardently. "Be it quantum physics or wormholes or time crystals, I'm always doing my research to satisfy my curiosity. It's important for me, as an actor, to have at least an idea of everything my character knows and talks about on the show. This essentially means that I'm Googling all these terms and concepts on the Internet when we get our scripts, until the

time when I can't process anything more!" (laughs)

While the response to the first two seasons have been largely positive, it goes without saying that there will always be the 'purists' who criticise some part of the enterprise... how does she deal with that?

"We were clear from the beginning that our show was going to keep the legacy of *Star Trek* alight, but definitely have its own clear identity. Fans have strong opinions purely because of their love for the franchise, and their feedback comes from a place of pure passion as they hold it so close to their hearts. We want them to keep feeling this way, and we take it all in our stride. But at the same time, we have understood that while it may be difficult to accept, the right changes are accepted wholeheartedly," she quips.

One of the funniest and weirdest moments on the show happened with Sonequa's real-life husband (Kenric Green) played her father! Looking back at the moment, the actor laughs, "It was actually such a hoot for both of us! Even though he was on the show only for a little bit, now I can always say that my husband is my dad" (laughs).

(From top) A file photo of the producers and actors at the CBS Television Critics Association Summer Press Tour; and Sonequa Martin-Green

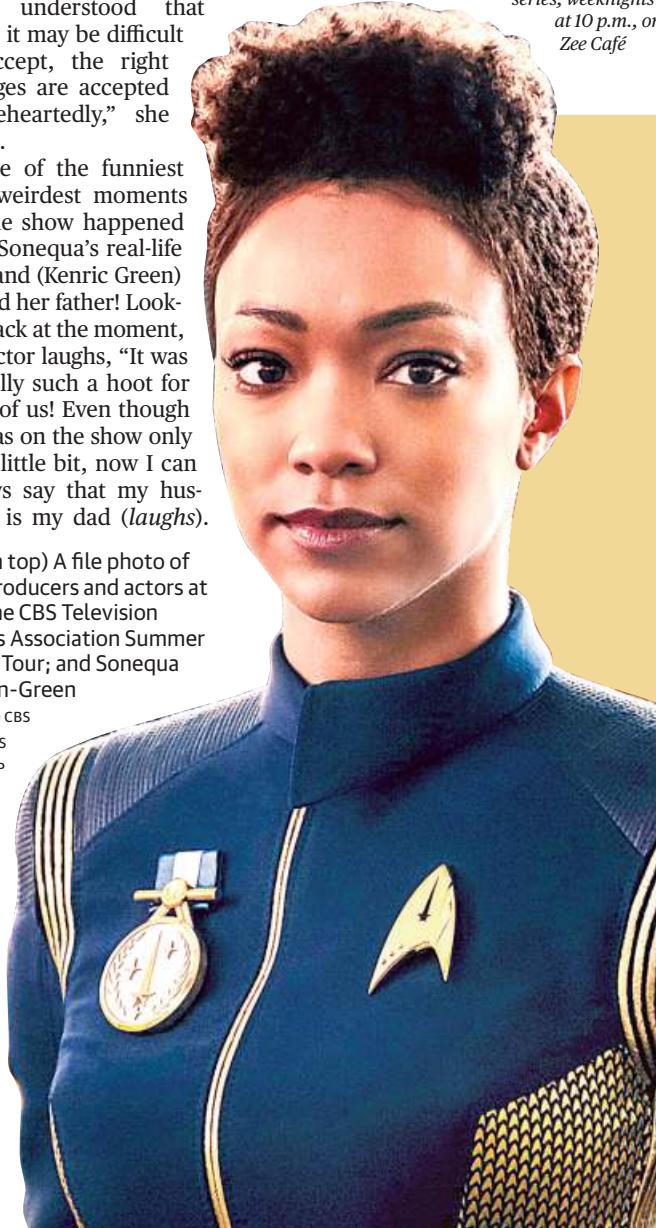
■ 2020 CBS STUDIOS INTL; AP

When the opportunity came our way, we loved it and didn't have to think twice about going ahead with it."

With production of the next *Star Trek: Discovery* season underway, Sonequa, who can't reveal much about where her character is headed towards, signs off saying that she's always "trying to find a balance" and responds to a last query on if she is aware of *Discovery*'s fandom in India.

"We love India! The culture, the fans, the ideology of the viewers is something I'm absolutely fascinated by. It'd be my dream to visit someday," she concludes.

Watch *Star Trek: Discovery*, part of the 'Greatest Of All Time' series, weeknights at 10 p.m., on Zee Café



PEOPLE

Stuart not so little

Illustrator Adrija Ghosh talks about her new book, *Rats Bigger Than Cats*



"If you go out in the night on the streets of any city, you will see these large bandicoots that look even bigger in the dark. The cats look much smaller and so, maybe they are of the same size. But when a rat runs across the street and a shadow of it is cast on the wall (as shown on the book cover), it looks huge and scary," says Bengaluru-based Adrija Ghosh (below), the illustrator of *Rats Bigger Than Cats* written by Magan Dobson Sippy. Written in playful verse and illustrated in mixed media, the book is a story of two unlikely groups coming together. One of the main points that Adrija had to keep in mind while illustrating was

the size of the rats and making sure that they were, in fact, bigger than the cats. "I got feedback multiple times from the publisher (Karadi Tales) saying that the rats on this page are not big enough, they have to be larger," she laughs.

"But also not completely

real, it's not realistic. It can be a possibility but also if you give way to imagination, which is, I think, a very important part of

children's books or picture books, you can actually have anything. You can have a giant rat in front of a cat and it will still make sense," she adds. Born in Kolkata, the 26-year-old decided to bring her love for the city to the page. "When I went through the manuscript I realised it could be placed in a particular geographical location that I was very familiar with. Because it's such an old city, you see cats and rats going about. I researched by checking old photographs of the city. Anyone who has grown up in Calcutta or has any knowledge of the city would recognise it, I hope."

Rats Bigger Than Cats is priced at ₹250 and is available on Karaditales.com and Amazon.in

APARNA NARRAIN



PRODUCTS

Nicobar X Kulavoor

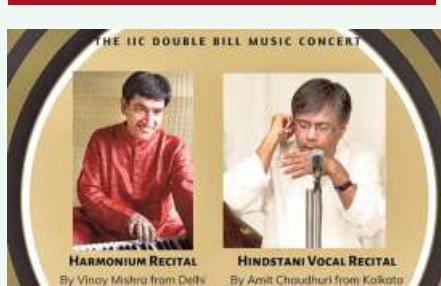


Nicobar, the lifestyle brand, has collaborated with Mumbai-based artist Sameer Kulavoor for their new collection Musafir. The limited edition collection is in sync with the idea of travelling and journeys, on which Nicobar usually bases its collections. Kulavoor was also in the spotlight recently for creating the mammoth facade for the India Art Fair, which concluded in early February in the capital. While for the Fair, he made murals of ordinary people and their lives, for Nicobar's garments, he's done minimalist line drawings that resemble travellers in a tropical landscape. There are influences of an Indian Mughal figurative style, Indian folk patterns, Memphis patterns, block prints, geometry, and the works of artists Paul Klee and Bruno Munari. Musafir has shirts and kurta for both men and women; cushions, mugs, and bowls; and a range of bags and organisers.

Available at select Nicobar stores and on Nicobar.com; upwards of ₹550

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



CONCERT

Harmonium and vocal

There are two performances lined-up this evening, as part of the IIC Double Bill Music Concert. The first is a harmonium recital by Vinay Mishra, a disciple of Ustad Mehatab Khan and Pt. Appa Shaheb Jalgaonkar. This will be followed by a Hindustani vocal recital by Amit Chaudhuri, a disciple of Pt. Govind Prasad Jaipurwale.

VENUE: C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC

TIME: 6 p.m.



EXHIBITION

Israel art

As a part of the celebrations of 28 years of diplomatic relation between India and Israel, Bruno Art Group has put up *Shining Brightly*, a group exhibition by Israeli and international artists. The show features a selection of more than 30 artworks in different mediums which include acrylic and mixed-media paintings.

VENUE: Visual Arts Gallery, IHC

TIME: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



DINING

Food fest

All-day dining restaurant Café G at Crowne Plaza Today Gurugram has organised a 10-day North West Frontier Food Festival. On till 28th February and curated by chef Nishesh Seth, the menu offers veg and non-veg dishes made with spices and recipes that were used in the kitchens of Baluchistan, Peshawar and Sindh region.

VENUE: Sector 29, Opposite Signature Towers

TIME: 6:30 a.m. - 12:30 midnight



PAINTINGS

Dot and lines

An ongoing solo show titled *Miscellaneous and The Mute*, showcases the recent works by artist Josh P.S. Fascinated with time and history, in this show, his art pieces are done in several dots and line paintings. They speak the language of exploitation and resistance, of non-violence and bondage and the righteous desire for freedom.

VENUE: Gallery 1000A, Lado Sarai

TIME: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



FAIR

Fundraiser

Akshya Pratisthan is organising its annual Crafts Bazaar at British High Commissioner's Residence today. This one-day bazaar will offer a wide range of products which include paintings, handicrafts, handlooms, apparel, kitchenware. The proceeds from the sale will be used for the upliftment of differently-abled children.

VENUE: 2, Rajaji Marg, Chanakyapuri

TIME: 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

CMYK



CMYK

CMYK Awards

CMYK Awards is a platform to showcase the best in the industry. The awards are given to individuals and organisations who have contributed significantly to the growth of the industry.

VENUE: C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC

TIME: 6 p.m.

A Nexon feels like a well-engineered SUV with a suspension that handles bumps very well and feels stable at highway speeds too

SOHAM THAKUR

Given the state of many of our congested city streets, investing in a used compact SUV does make a lot of sense. You get the benefit of an SUV's higher ground clearance to traverse over potholes and speed bumps, without the drawback of their large proportions. The Tata Nexon then comes across as a good used option, as it is stylish, spacious and a practical compact SUV. However, there are a few things you should know before you add one to your garage.

The Nexon comes with either a 110hp, 1.5-litre turbo-diesel or a 110hp, 1.2-litre turbo-petrol engine. Both engines can be had with either a 6-speed manual or an AMT-auto gearbox. The turbo-petrol engine is refined but it doesn't excite with its performance and tends to be jerky at low speeds. While the AMTs make for good city cars, the manuals also feel fine, thanks to the light clutch-and-gearshift action.

However, the diesel engine has a wider breadth of abilities and suits the characteristics of the Nexon better. The unit is refined, and pulls well from as low as 1,400rpm up to 4,000rpm in a linear manner. The AMT gearbox works well in traffic and is relatively smooth in its shifts, as long as you are not driving with too heavy a foot. The manual also complements the diesel engine well and makes for great highway cruising. When we tested the manual variants of both engines, the petrol delivered 9kpl in the city while the diesel did 14kpl. Out on the highway, the petrol returned 13kpl and the diesel did 18kpl. Expect similar efficiency from the AMTs.

Inside, the Nexon's dash looks contemporary and has multiple high-grade textured plastics that lend it a premium feel. There's plenty of space in the cabin for front and rear passengers, and the swooping roofline doesn't affect headroom either. It is also practical, thanks to the generous amount of cubby space in the cabin and the fairly large 350-litre



Invest In a used Nexon since it is a relatively new model
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Buying a used Tata Nexon

SPECIFICATIONS

YEARS PRODUCED 2017-2020

PRICE WHEN NEW From ₹5.85 lakh (ex-showroom)

ENGINE 4 cyl, 1497cc, turbo-diesel / 3 cyl, 1198cc, turbo-petrol

POWER 110/110hp

TORQUE 260/170Nm

GROUND CLEARANCE 209mm

BOOT SPACE 350 litres



boot. The Nexon's suspension handles bumps very well and can tackle even the worst of Indian roads. It feels stable at highway speeds and has good body control around corners. Even the steering feels impressive, as it is light at low speeds and weighs up well as you

pick up the pace. All in all, it feels like a well-engineered SUV.

Being a Tata, the Nexon is relatively reliable and spare parts prices are also on par with its rivals; but there are some things to look out for. First, get the car's electrical systems examined by a profes-

sional, as a few Nexon owners have faced issues like a constant switching between drive modes and flickering of the infotainment screen. Furthermore, check for clutch wear on manual variants as a new clutch and pressure plate assembly, along with the labour

HOW MUCH TO SPEND?

₹6-9 lakh

You can find multiple well-kept examples of the Nexon in all its various configurations for sale in the ₹6-9 lakh bracket. Prices for the petrols usually hover around ₹6-8 lakh, depending on the variant and transmission, while the diesel versions can be had for around ₹7.5-9 lakh. Also, the recent launch of the Nexon facelift can help you lower the asking price.

charges, could end up costing you upwards of ₹10,000. On the AMT variants, test to see if the creep function in the automatic gearbox performs well.

A few owners have also faced an issue where the steering becomes really heavy and gets jammed, so when on a test drive, check if the steering weighs up unnaturally while turning. This could be an expensive fix.

On the whole, a used Nexon is good value, since it is a relatively new model and you will rarely find examples that have covered more than 30,000km.

tion or take it more seriously and convert your bike into a café racer, flat tracker, or whatever your preferences are. There are a number of custom houses based in Pune who can help you with what you want to achieve, and the limit generally lies in how much money you're willing to spend. Be aware that extensive visual or mechanical changes may not be acceptable to the local police.

Try the Hyundai Creta

Sudhir, Guntur: I want a good automatic car as I will be driving 30-40km every day in the city. It should have good pickup, mileage (12-15kmp), and shouldn't jerk during acceleration, like an AMT. I love the Toyota Yaris' pickup and suspension, but I have heard its 1.5 petrol CVT gives a mileage of below 10km in city use. My family already owns a Vento diesel DCT, so can you suggest another brand? What's your opinion on the Glanza? I am 5ft 11in and slightly on the healthier side.

We would recommend the Hyundai Creta automatic, which has a smooth torque converter transmission. There are some great deals on it, as it is being phased out, but it's still a very good car, offering you decent space, refinement and performance.

Triber or Dzire

Arvind Sharma, Delhi: I am looking for a new family car and have a budget of ₹7 lakh. I will mostly use it for city driving and occasional getaways. Which one should I choose between the Maruti Dzire, Swift and Renault Triber? I am interested in the Triber, but I am worried if its power will be inadequate for the highway.

The Triber is a good package as you say, and its main advantage over the others is that it has three rows of seats, which gives a lot of flexibility when you travel with your family. However, if you don't need a third row of seats, the Dzire is a much nicer car to drive and is more comfortable too. The Triber's weak link is the engine, which is noisy and could do with more power.

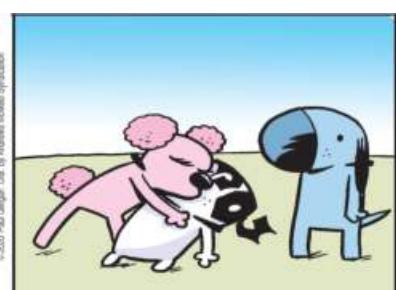
A new look

Saurabh Sharma, Pune: Please suggest some useful modifications for the Hornet 160R. I have been using it since 2016 and would love to get a breath of fresh air!

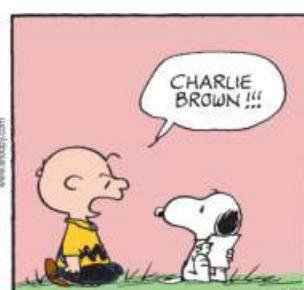
The first thing to consider is whether your bike is still in its warranty period, because most modifications void your warranty. Modifications generally fall in the category of design and performance. You could do some light visual customisa-

Hormazd Sorabjee is the Editor of Autocar India. Mail your feedback and queries to roadshow@thehindu.co.in

POOCH CAFE



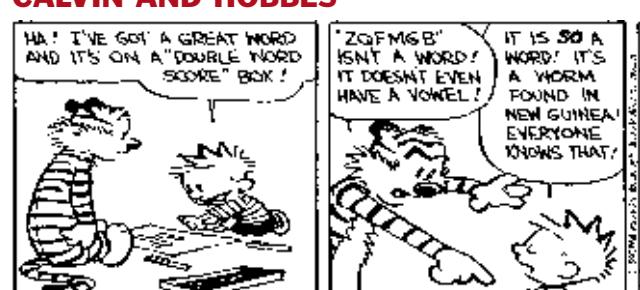
PEANUTS



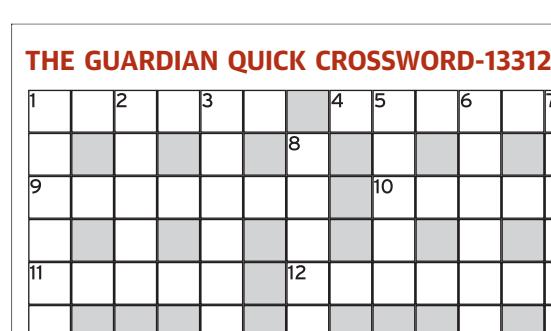
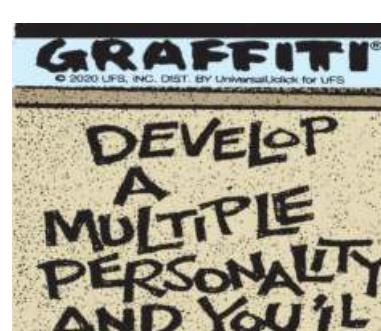
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CALVIN AND HOBBES



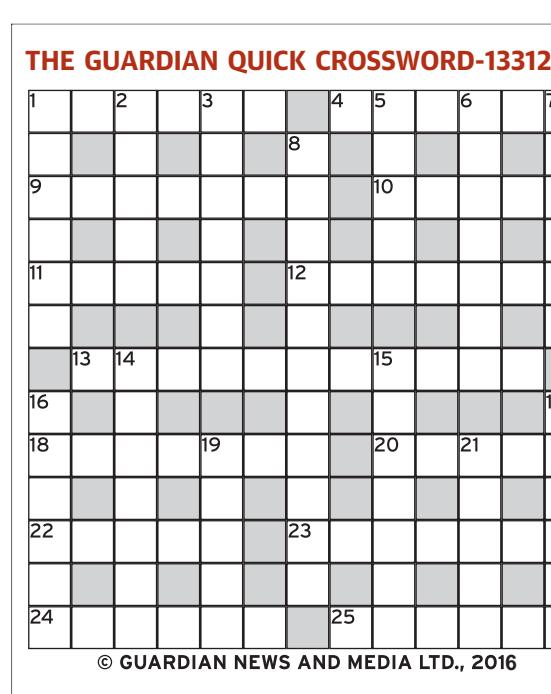
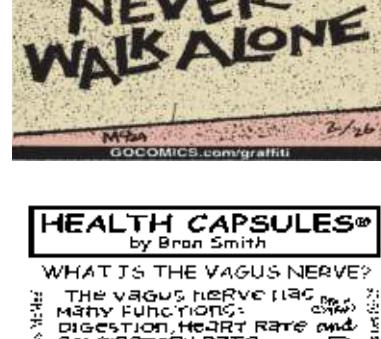
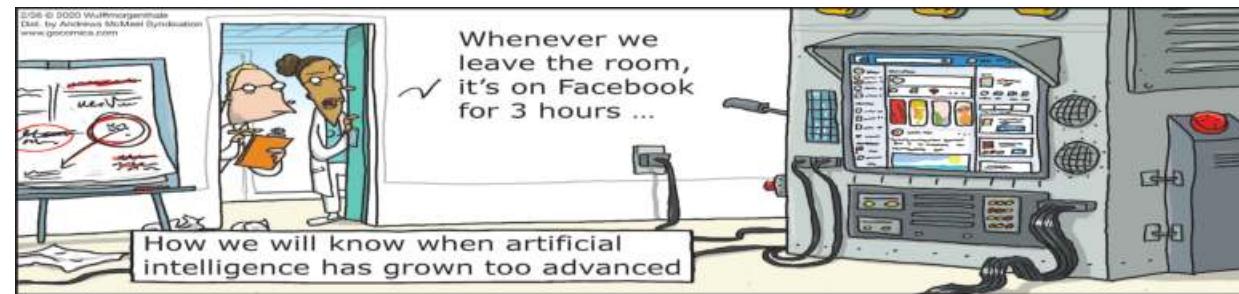
TIGER



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

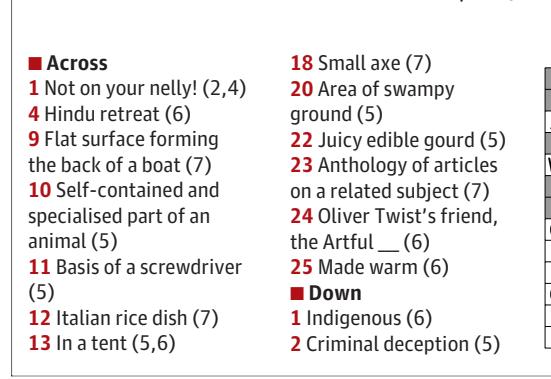
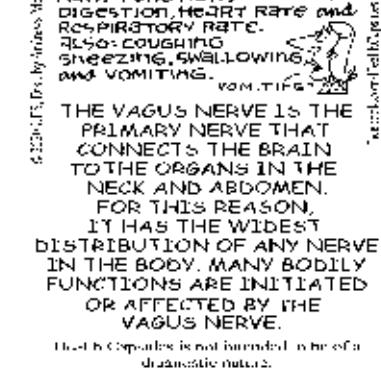
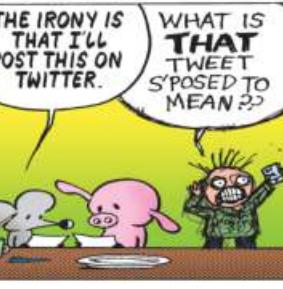
- 3 Mitigate – alay (7)
- 5 Retail outlets (5)
- 6 Races for boats (7)
- 7 Very small fish (6)
- 8 Liquid rubbed into the skin (11)
- 14 Irritated (7)
- 15 Chosen candidate (7)
- 16 Dishonoured (6)
- 17 Pursued (6)
- 19 For this reason (5)
- 21 Someone who appears to have no emotions (5)

WUMO



The solution will appear on February 27, 2020. Solution No. 13311

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



RECKON CLOUD
ERI LVE
ASSIGN CAVERNS
PNT SRU
WING MISHEARD
TEKELE
ENDING IT ALL
OI TNP
PARTISAN PITTS
TVN YLI
OPAQUE DEACON
UNI IUN
TOAST SPADES

- 18 Small axe (7)
- 20 Area of swampy ground (5)
- 21 Juicy edible gourd (5)
- 23 Anthology of articles on a related subject (7)
- 24 Oliver Twist's friend, the Artful (6)
- 25 Made warm (6)
- 1 Down
- 2 Indigenous (6)
- 3 Criminal deception (5)

Harnessing the wind is where Kiwis scored

New Zealanders exploit Indians' lack of knowledge of the intricacies of local conditions

INDIA IN NZ

S. DINAKAR
WELLINGTON

In New Zealand, cricket has a complex relationship with nature. Foreign teams fail to understand its dynamics and stumble in the process.

You don't have to look further than India's capitulation in the first Test at the Basin Reserve. The side did not make use of the conditions like the New Zealanders did.

Subtle variations

Take for instance the breeze factor. When the Southerly blows behind the back of the bowlers, the Kiwis know the ball will swing.

So when the Southerly arrives, they pitch the ball up, get it to move around. The batsmen are lured into drives, and the swing either finds the edges or pierces the defence.

The Kiwis also know that when the Northerly blows, it does not quite encourage swing. The Northerly is generally a rough wind and it often blows across the pitch.

The ball does not generally swing and even if it does, controlling the movement becomes a huge ask. So this was the period the Kiwis bounced at the Indians and there was reward for them, too. They also operated cross-seam to flummox the Indians.

Trent Boult and Tim Southee are masters in these conditions. They complement each other and this time the Kiwis had Kyle Jamieson's height – he's 6'8" – off-stump line and bounce, to



When the breeze blows...! Gentleman-cricketer Kane Williamson may well be giving India skipper Virat Kohli some tips on how to tackle the conditions. ■ REUTERS

lend the attack more teeth.

Hunting pack

The New Zealanders hunt as a pack, with the fielders working in tandem with the bowlers. They stifle the run-rate, have men in both catching and single-saving positions, with just a couple hidden away in the deep.

Enter someone such as Colin de Grandhomme who

can bowl over after over of clever and accurate medium-pace – around 120kmph – not giving anything for the drive, the cut or the pull.

And, as Virat Kohli admitted, the New Zealand bowlers enter the minds of the batsmen to make them play the way they want them to, building up pressure all the time.

Once the batsmen do that, they fall into a defensive rut and the trap.

The Kiwis were essentially playing a mind game, using the conditions, choking up the runs, and making inroads.

That Mayank Agarwal's 58 in the second innings was the highest individual score by the Indians tells the story. And Kohli's men fell short of 200 in both the innings.

Worse, the Indian bat-

smen were poor in their judgement around off. When the ball was pitched up, they did not use their feet to get to the pitch of the sphere. They were caught at the crease.

On surfaces such as the Basin Reserve – the pitch for the second Test at Christchurch is likely to be similar – a batsman, before entering the arena, has to be clear in his mind as to what shot he is going to play and what strokes he isnt.

Unless a batsman can control the hook, this is not a shot he should attempt. Big drives through covers are best avoided. Patience, even while staying positive with low risk strokeplay, is the key to frustrating the Kiwi pacemen.

And when they decide to essay the bigger strokes, the batsmen have to hit with the wind, not against it. Here again nature tangos with cricket in these parts.

The Kiwi shackles can be broken with technique and intelligent strokeplay, not by brash methods.

Toss factor

Of course, winning the toss here and bowling first has its advantages. The Indians were unlucky with the spin of the coin at the Basin Reserve but until they work on the key aspects of their cricket and understand the conditions better, they may not be able to cash in on bowling first.

India has some serious issues with its bowling as well, particularly its inability to get past the tail. More about that later.

India needs to find answers quickly'

Former India coach Wright says Kohli's men looked rusty

S. DINAKAR
WELLINGTON

Former New Zealand captain John Wright believes the Indians were "a bit rusty" during the first Test at the Basin Reserve.

He told *The Hindu*, "India looked out of sorts. It had two new openers and the middle-order found the going tough. It has to find answers quickly."

Wright, a popular former India coach who led the country to a historic Test and ODI triumph in Pakistan in 2004, said: "The good thing for the Indians is that their 'A' team played in Christchurch recently and Kohli's side would not be short on inputs about the conditions."

Words of praise

Wright had words of appreciation for New Zealand captain Kane Williamson. He observed: "Kane has done enough to have the term 'Great' attached to his name. He has real quality and has the footwork and the balance to succeed in different conditions."

Williamson is one of those rare batsmen who goes about his task unobtrusively, he said. "You look at the scoreboard and he is already 40. You had not realised he had scored all those runs. That's the quality of a very good player."

Wright noted: "And he's also very humble, that's very good for a player of his stature. Plus, Williamson is not even halfway through his career."

Asked about Jasprit Bumrah's struggles in the Wellington Test, Wright, who



Top pair: Trent Boult, left, and Tim Southee make a very effective left-right pace combination because they complement each other, says John Wright. ■ AP

has seen the paceman up close at Mumbai Indians, said: "He's coming back after an injury. He's finding his feet and rhythm again. It can happen to most players. After the highs, there is a plateau."

Under the scanner

Wright noted: "Teams must have seen endless videos of him. Once you become the lynchpin of an attack, the opposition teams really put you under the scanner and look for methods to cope with your best."

Wright said: "Sometimes, they just play you off, not give wickets to you. Bumrah is an intelligent person, and I am sure he will find a way out. He has to fight his way through such periods."

And Wright continues to be affable. A true blue Kiwi, he certainly is.

The influencers in Indian cricket in the last half century



BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

Virat Kohli must be one of the most influential cricketers to have played for India. 'Influential' is not a word used often in a sporting context. It has more than one aspect to it, though – influence within the team, and influence on the larger public outside it.

Many players have influenced one of the groups, but few both. If youngsters in the 1970s, for example, went around with thick sideburns and long hair, they were paying a tribute to the likes of Farokh Engineer, Tiger Pataudi, B.S. Chandrasekhar, S. Venkatraghavan and Salim Durran. Bollywood stars and cricketers

set the fashion then. When schoolboys walked around with their collars raised, they were hoping to attract some of M.L. Jaisimha's wonderful gifts as a batsman, too.

Then came Sunil Gavaskar – his influence was deeper, longer-lasting and often coloured the thinking of a whole nation. But more of that later.

Respecter of the game

When Kohli was in contention for the leadership role, many assumed he would have a negative effect. It was easy to make this mistake. It failed to take into account two important elements in his evolution. One, that his occasional boorish behaviour on the field came in the days when he was too young to know better and two, he was always a respecter of the game and its traditions.

Critics found it difficult to reconcile the two Kohlis – the aggressive player and the long-standing traditionalist. But the rough edges were easily smoothed

out and India had a captain they could be proud of.

When the Kohli beard changed shape and size, so too did those of his teammates and a good chunk of the 20-to-32 demographic in the country. But it wasn't just that, of course. Kohli's fitness and his example brought about some of the fittest teams to have taken the field for the country. No longer were fielders escorting the ball to the boundary or sharp chances being allowed to die.

In the 1960s and 70s, perhaps even later, the cricket captain tended to represent the Indian people. Or perhaps it was the other way around.

Tiger Pataudi, the Oxford-educated Nawab was an aspirational figure, seemingly a notch or two above the rest of his team or indeed the rest of the country. He made the former difference work for him (it was easier to command from a height) while the latter dissimilarity ensured that he twice lost the elections to

the Lok Sabha.

Bishan Bedi whose influence on the field was considerable as bowler and later as captain, often reminded everybody, player and public, what 'cricket' stood for.

The Great Influencer

With Gavaskar came the middle-class, English-educated player with one quality the previous generation of similar players lacked – self-belief. Not for him the standard response to the question asked of touring cricketers in England, for example, which was usually answered thus: "We have come here to learn." Gavaskar went to teach, even if he didn't actually say that.

Two months after the One-Day International was born out of rain and boredom in Melbourne, Gavaskar made his Test debut and finished the series in the West Indies with 774 runs. Indians who laid great store by orthodoxy – and not just in cricket – welcomed him. They

loved what he loved, and dismissed what he dismissed. Gavaskar set the agenda: Love the straight bat, love Test cricket, look down upon the cross bat, ignore limited-overs cricket. And India listened. One-day cricket was anathema to Gavaskar, and by extension, to the nation. The format might have disappeared had India not won the World Cup in 1983.

Gavaskar's influence on the team, straight bat apart, was in instilling a sense of their commercial worth in the players.

He was – and continues to be – the Great Influencer in Indian cricket, with lessons absorbed by Kapil Dev and the Sachin Tendulkar generation.

Tendulkar could not be paid the tribute of imitation for he was imitable. But he was the poster boy of the 'New India' with its greater disposable income.

His colleagues, Sourav Ganguly and Mahendra Singh Dhoni, were influen-

cers who helped spread the game beyond the traditional centres in the big cities. One came from the lap of luxury, the other from the opposite end of the economic spectrum, yet both played key roles in demonstrating that 'India' included 'Bharat' too.

Kohli's focus

Kohli is focused on winning, on retaining India's position at the top of the points table, and taking the team into the final of the World Test Championship next year. Like Gavaskar, he sees the five-day Test as the best the game has to offer, but is modern enough and gifted enough to make a mark in the shorter formats too.

Kohli might well be the most powerful man in the game today, influencing the Board of Control for Cricket in India which is chief influencer of the International Cricket Council. And he has 34 million followers on Twitter – a new element in the whole equation.

Kohli named in Asia squad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DHAKA

Virat Kohli was named in the Asia squad for the T20s on March 21 and 22 to celebrate the birth centenary of Bangladesh founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The squads: Asia XI: K.L. Rahul, Rahul, Shikhar Dhawan, Virat Kohli, Rishabh Pant, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Thisara Perera, Lasith Malinga, Rashid Khan, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Mustafizur Rahman, Tamim Iqbal, Mashfiqur Rahim, Liton Das, Sandeep Lamichhane and Mahmudullah.

World XI: Alex Hales, Chris Gayle, Faf du Plessis, Nicholas Pooran, Brendan Taylor, Jonny Bairstow, Kieron Pollard, Sheldon Cottrell, Lungi Ngidi, Andrew Tye and Mitchell McClenaghan.

Innings win for Bangladesh

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

DHAKA

Spinner Nayeem Hasan claimed a match haul of nine wickets as Bangladesh thrashed Zimbabwe by an innings and 106 runs inside four days in the one-off Test on Tuesday.

The scores: Zimbabwe 265 & 189 in 57.3 overs (Craig Ervine 43, Timmy Maruma 41, Nayeem Hasan 5/82, Tajul Islam 4/78) lost to Bangladesh 560/6 decl. in 154 overs.

Smith, Warner return to scene of 'sandpapergate'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

CAPE TOWN

Australia's Steve Smith and David Warner will return to Newlands on Wednesday, less than two years after they were central figures in one of cricket's biggest scandals at the ground.

They will be playing in a series-deciding third T20I against South Africa in front of an expected capacity crowd where "maximum security" will be in operation to prevent any abuse of players.

Nearly two years on, Smith and Warner have played in front of packed houses in Johannesburg and Port Elizabeth in the first two matches of the series without being subjected to

undue abuse.

"We've been pretty much overwhelmed by the support we've had from fans," Warner said.

"Port Elizabeth was outstanding. They were very respectful. I didn't cop anything (fielding) on the fence. The kids were yelling out for autographs and we obliged. It was a great atmosphere."

"Being back in Cape Town, it is one of the most picturesque grounds in the world, the ground's always in good condition, we've had success here as a team and me as an individual."

"I'm chomping at the bit to go out there and share it with the rest of the guys," said Warner.

'Super King' Dhoni to train from March 2

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

CHENNAI

M.S. Dhoni will start training for his much-anticipated return to action in the Indian Premier League (IPL) from March 2 amid never-ending speculation on his career, which has been on hold since last year's ODI World Cup.

The talismanic Chennai Super Kings captain, who led India to two world titles, will start his training at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium from March 2. He will practice with players who are available at that time," said CSK CEO K.S. Viswanathan.

"The full camp will begin on March 19 when all the players will join the squad," he added.

IPL 2020 begins with CSK taking on defending champion Mumbai Indians in Mumbai on March 29.

Dhoni is expected to practise for a couple of weeks with the likes of Suresh Raina and Ambati Rayudu among others. He will then take a break before returning, a source said.

The 38-year-old has not played since the World Cup semifinal loss to New Zealand last year and has maintained a stoic silence on



Ready for action: M.S. Dhoni will practise with the CSK players at the MAC Stadium for about two weeks. ■ PTI

IPL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 8.30 a.m.
Women's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m. & 1.30 p.m.

Khelo India University Games: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 10 a.m.

West Indies vs Sri Lanka: 2nd ODI, Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 2.30 p.m.

South Africa vs Australia: 3rd T20I, Sony Six (SD & HD), 9.30 p.m.

Champions League: Sony Ten 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Thursday).

IN BRIEF



Middleton helps Bucks survive Wizards push

LOS ANGELES Khris Middleton scored 40 points to help Milwaukee Bucks withstand a 55-point push from Washington's Bradley Beal in a 137-134 NBA overtime victory on Monday. **The results:** Cavaliers 125 bt Heat 119 (OT); 76ers 129 bt Hawks 112; Bucks 137 bt Wizards 134 (OT); Magic 115 bt Nets 113; Rockets 123 bt Knicks 112; Mavericks 139 bt Timberwolves 123; Suns 131 bt Jazz 111; Clippers 124 bt Grizzlies 97. AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

Wilder likely to seek rematch with Fury

LOS ANGELES Deontay Wilder plans to activate his rematch clause for a third fight with Tyson Fury after his seventh-round TKO loss to the Briton. Yahoo Sports reported Wilder would seek a rematch — and that he says a miscalculation with his ring-walk costume proved costly in the first defeat of his career. AFP

Leander moves up

SPORTS BUREAU

DUBAI Leander Paes and Mathew Ebden of Australia knocked out second-seeded Ivan Dodig and Filip Polasek in the pre-quarterfinals of the \$2,950,420 ATP-500 tennis tournament on Tuesday.

In quarterfinals, Leander and partner will play qualifiers Henri Kontinen of Finland and Jan-Lennard Struff of Germany, who won their first round against Mate Pavic and Bruno Soares.

The results: \$2,950,420 ATP-500, Dubai: First round: Dennis Novak (Aut) bt Prajesh Gunnswaran 6-4, 6-3. Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Mathew Ebden (Aus) & Leander Paes bt Ivan Dodig (Cro) & Filip Polasek (Svk) 6-4, 6-3.

Delhi beats TN

MUMBAI Lalita Sharma's three-wicket haul helped Delhi beat Tamil Nadu by six wickets in the BCCI senior women's tournament on Tuesday.

The scores: BCCI senior women's tournament: Tamil Nadu 83 in 38.3 overs (Lalita Sharma 3/25) lost to Delhi 87/4 in 26.5 overs (Vandana Chaturvedi 27). BCCI women's u-19 one-dayers (Rajkot): Tamil Nadu 164/9 in 50 overs (K. Yogyaasi 36, S. Swathi 58, Vedant Salodkar 3/25) lost to Vidarbha 167/8 in 47.5 overs (Riddhi 75 n.o., K.B. Vamsi 3/39).

Panther Shergill on the prowl

NEW DELHI Simran Shergill smashed home eight goals to help Jindal Panther register a 9-7 victory over Sujan-Sona in a league match of the Maharaja Jaiwali Rao Scindia Gold Cup 12-goal polo tournament here on Tuesday.

In another match, Cavalry-Army Service Corps (ASC) beat Sona-Sujan 6 1/2 goals to 6.

The results (league):

Cavalry-ASC 6 1/2 (Ravi Rathore 4, Vishal Chauhan 2, handicap 1/2) bt Sona-Sujan 6 (Gerardo Mazzini 5, Dhananjay Singh).

Jindal Panther 9 (Simran Shergill 8, Gaurav Saghal) bt Sujan-Sona 7 (Dhruvpal Godara 4, Siddhant Sharma 2, Salim Azmi).

Manchester City targets role reversal

Real Madrid's record is the envy of Europe; Lyon locks horns with Juventus

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID

Manchester City will be up against both Real Madrid and its reputation on Wednesday as the Champions League's biggest winner plays one of its biggest underachiever at the Santiago Bernabeu.

After City's win over Leicester on Saturday, Pep Guardiola said: "We will try to be ourselves. We can win and we can lose but we must try to be ourselves."

Yet in some ways, City will seek a role reversal too.

Real's record is the envy of Europe but in particular by teams like City, whose financial might and technical talent has translated only into disappointment outside domestic competition.

In the time City has won three Premier League titles and five domestic cups, it has gone past the Champions League's quarterfinals only once, reaching the last four in 2016, only to be beaten by Real.

Zinedine Zidane's side, meanwhile, have surren-

dered dominance in La Liga to Barcelona but made amends for one Spanish league title in seven years by winning four Champions Leagues out of the last six.

Extraordinary'
Anthony Lopes described Cristiano Ronaldo as "extraordinary", and the Lyon goalkeeper knows how big a job he faces keeping his Portuguese international colleague quiet when the French side faces Juventus.

"I have been lucky enough to play alongside him. He is the captain and an extraordinary personality, a great man," Lopes said when asked about playing with Ronaldo.

"I have gone to major tournaments with him, the Euro and the World Cup, where you have to develop links to those around you, and to do what he does every day is quite incredible," Lopes added.

Ruthless
Real believes this tournament is its own, a conviction based on historic success

that makes it assured under pressure and ruthless in the decisive moments.

"When you have a history of the (Alfredo) di Stefano period, winning five or six European Cups at that time, it means a new player that comes to Real Madrid and puts on that shirt knows 'we have to defend our history,' said Guardiola.

European Heavyweights
Real Madrid face tough opposition in Manchester City, coached by old rival Pep Guardiola. Spanish giants made at least semi-finals in eight of last 10 seasons, but suffered last 16 elimination in 2019.

Champions League: Most matches in knock-out stage
Real Madrid Appearances: 24* 97
Bayern 22 92
Barcelona 21 91
Man Utd 18 68 *Including Juventus 16 64 2019/20 season
Sources: UEFA, Gracenote Picture: Getty Images

UEFA Champions League 2019-20

LAST 16, 1ST LEG – FEB 26 CL form W D L

LYON vs JUVENTUS Parc Olympique Lyonnais

Head-to-head Won 0 Drawn 1 Won 3

9/8 Form Goals for / against 12/4

Competition statistics (per match)

5.00 Shots on target 5.33

5.17 Shots wide 4.50

433 Passes 581

6.00 Corners 5.00

51% Possession 56%

REAL MADRID v MAN CITY Santiago Bernabéu Head-to-head Won 2 Drawn 2 Won 0

14/8 Form Goals for / against 16/4

Competition statistics (per match)

8.17 Shots on target 6.67

8.17 Shots wide 6.33

589 Passes 639

6.50 Corners 6.83

55% Possession 61%

RIVAL NATIONS: Only two Premier League teams have defeated Real on home soil — Liverpool (2009) and Arsenal (2006)

Real: Home against English opposition

L2 W8 D6

© GRAPHIC NEWS



Karim Benzema Real Madrid

Picture: Getty Images

Daruvala gears up for a big challenge

S. DIPAK RAGAV
CHENNAI

India's Formula One hopeful Jehan Daruvala's career got a huge boost last week after Red Bull signed him for the junior driver programme and also confirmed his participation in the FIA F2 championship for 2020 with Carlin.



Jehan Daruvala

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Daruvala said, "It is a big thing for me. This is the biggest stepping stone for a driver to be part of the Red Bull programme." The Red Bull programme has produced drivers like Sebastian Vettel, Daniel Ricciardo, Max Verstappen, Carlos Sainz Jr.

At the same time, the programme run by Dr Helmut Marko, a former racing driver known for being a taskmaster, is a tough one with no place to hide.

The Indian, though, is unfazed by the tough approach Red Bull employs saying, "It is a good balance of pressure because they give you the opportunity."

"It is only if you are no longer the right person for them, they drop you."

Divij named as reserve

DAVIS CUP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The All India Tennis Association (AITA), on Tuesday, nominated a five-member team for the Davis Cup World Group qualification tie to be played against Croatia on indoor hard court in Zagreb on March 6 and 7.

Prajnesh Gunneswaran, Sumit Nagal and Ramkumar Ramanathan will be the singles players, while Rohan Bopanna and Leander Paes will be the doubles specialists.

Divij Sharan, who had won the Asian Games gold with Bopanna in 2018 and is tipped to compete in the Tokyo Olympics with him, has been named as a reserve.

The team would look at various combinations before finalising the five players ahead of the draw ceremony to be held on March 5.

Ghosal and Joshna in squad

SPORTS REPORTER CHENNAI

Saurav Ghosal (13 times national champion and World No. 13) and Joshna Chinappa (18 times national champion and World No. 12) will lead the Indian men's and women's contingents for the 20th Asian team squash championship, to be held in Malaysia from March 25 to 29.

The other members of the squad include Abhishek Pradhan, Harinder Pal Sandhu and Abhay Singh in the men's section, and Tanvi Khanna, Sunayana Kuruvilla and Sanya Vats in the women's.

The selection was based on the players' performance in the 77th National championship. The team officials will be David Palmer, Surbhi Mishra and Dimple Kamalakannan (Physiotherapist).

Vaishnavi rallies to beat Akanksha

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Vaishnavi Adkar overcame an erratic start to defeat second seed Akanksha Nitture 3-6, 6-3, 7-5 in the girls' semifinals of the Roland Garros junior wild card tennis tournament on Tuesday.

The free-stroking Vaishnavi recovered from 0-3 and 3-5 in the decider to get past Akanksha who played smart but could not close out the contest.

In the final, Vaishnavi will play Sanjana Sirimalla, who overcame a spirited challenge from top seed Reshma Maruri 6-4, 7-5.

One-sided contests
In contrast to the tight fight in both the girls' semifinals, the boys' matches were one-sided, as top seed Dev Java and third seed Chirag Duhani raced to the final, dropping four games between them.

The boys' and girls' champions will compete in the play-off in Paris with those from Brazil, China and Mexico, for the wild card into the main draw of the Roland Garros junior event.

"We will monitor the situation in China till the end of March.

"If there is no change in the situation regarding the Coronavirus, we will try to invite the best-ranked boy and girl from China for the event in Paris," said Lucas



Stunning win: Vaishnavi Adkar defeated second seed Akanksha Nitture in three sets. ■ KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Mohit Bondre 6-1, 6-0.

Girls: Sanjana Sirimalla bt Reshma Maruri 6-4, 7-5; Vaishnavi Adkar bt Akanksha Nitture 3-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Boys: Dev Java bt Nitin Jaipal Singh 6-2, 6-1; Chirag Duhani bt

three years when I was 13. We could live and eat. Train and travel for tournaments. I don't think I could have made it without that support", said Pierce.

She also pointed out that once the players took care of the equipment and court, they could develop by playing even against the wall, as having coaches would require paying for them.

Pierce said playing on clay developed the young players, "physically, mentally, technically and tactically."

Inspiring
She also observed that the juniors will be inspired and motivated while competing in the same tournament as the top stars of the game, and would learn a lot especially by watching the professionals practice.

Conceding that the game needed to be affordable to ensure the wide participation of people from different economic backgrounds, Pierce said she was lucky to have had a sponsor from the age of 13.

"When I won the first match on the centre court, it was an incredible experience. It was my first win on centre court.

"I had a special feeling inside of me. I told myself, this could be the year for me. I didn't tell that to anyone. I kept winning match by match, reached the final and my belief came true", recalled Pierce, who had to wait for six years to win Roland Garros, after having lost the final to Arantxa Sanchez in Paris in 1994, when she was 19.

Pierce said playing on clay developed the young players, "physically, mentally, technically and tactically."

Expressing happiness about being part of the promotion for clay court tennis, and Roland Garros, "the Mecca of clay court tennis", Pierce said she could not believe that it was already 20 years since she won the Roland Garros.

"To feel at home in Grand Slams, you need the experience. You keep getting better each time. Everyone feels nervous the first time.

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Indians have potential to win multiple medals in Tokyo: Bindra

India's best show at the Olympics remains the two medals at London in 2012

SHOOTING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Olympic champion Abhinav Bindra says Indian shooters have the "potential" to win multiple medals, including gold, at the upcoming Tokyo Games.

The 37-year-old Bindra remains India's only individual gold medallist at Olympics but heading into the next Games, he is extremely hopeful of welcoming new entrants into what has so far been a "lonely club."

"Going into the Olympic Games we have the potential to win multiple gold medals, a realistic shot at winning medals at the Olympics," Bindra said.

The number of Olympic quotas in shooting currently stands at a record 15 after a highly successful 2019 that saw Indians top all the Rifle-Pistol World Cups and the season-ending World Cup Finals.

This was after they drew a blank at the 2016 Rio Olympics, following which radical changes were recommended by a committee, headed by Bindra himself.

Incredible performance
Taking into account the Indian shooters' incredible

performance in recent years, Bindra is optimistic of returning from Tokyo with a rich haul. "There are chances of coming back with a good haul. I have my fingers crossed," he said.

Indian shooting's best show at the Olympics remains the two medals won at London in 2012, but if the exploits in recent months are anything to go by, the country can easily emulate or better than in Tokyo.

Bindra is also very impressed by the young shooters' ability to compete at the highest level with such remarkable consistency.

At the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Bindra made history by winning a gold medal in the 10m air rifle event and ended India's excruciating wait for an individual gold medal at the Summer Games.

It was also the country's first Olympic yellow metal since 1980 when its men's hockey team returned home after finishing top of the podium.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach recently thanked Bindra and Niccolo Campriani for their project 'Taking Refugee', under which they are helping refugee athletes to qualify for the Tokyo Games.



Optimistic: Abhinav Bindra is impressed by the young Indian shooters' ability to compete at the highest level. ■PTI

TT Worlds postponed over virus scare

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SEOUL

Table tennis's world team championships, due to take place next month in South Korea's Busan, were postponed on Tuesday following a leap in novel coronavirus cases.

The International Table Tennis Federation said the event, originally planned for March 22-29, had been provisionally rescheduled for June 21-28 following an emergency meeting with local organisers.

South Korea's K-league had already postponed the start of the new football season on Monday as the virus causes chaos in the country's sporting calendar.

Similar measures

Volleyball, basketball and handball have taken similar measures as confirmed cases of COVID-19 rose to 893 in South Korea, with eight deaths. "In light of the emerging situation in Korea Republic and to best preserve the health and safety of players, officials and fans, the Hana Bank 2020 World Team Table Tennis Championships in Busan have been postponed with the dates of 21-28 June provisionally reserved," said an ITTF statement.

Jordan commemorates Bryant

NBA legends and other celebrities attend public memorial

NBA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LOS ANGELES

A tearful Michael Jordan remembered his "little brother" Kobe Bryant at a star-filled memorial here for the basketball great and his daughter Gianna, who died with seven others in a helicopter crash last month.

"When Kobe Bryant died, a piece of me died, and as I look in this arena, across the globe, a piece of you died," the NBA legend said on Monday with tears streaming down his face.



Tears of the giant: Michael Jordan cannot control his emotions as he speaks at 'The Celebration of Life for Kobe & Gianna Bryant'. ■AFP

even though "we fought, bantered or insulted each other with off-handed remarks," there was mutual respect.

"Make no mistake," O'Neal said.

"Folks thought we were on bad terms, (but) when the cameras were turned off, he and I would throw a wink at each other."

Beyonce, backed by a choir, opened the ceremony with one of Bryant's favourite songs "XO," from her 2013 album, followed by "Halo."

"I'm here because I love Kobe," said the 70-time Grammy-nominated singer, who was dressed in a golden suit -- the color of the Los Angeles Lakers, Bryant's team for two decades.

Another basketball legend, Shaquille O'Neal, also spoke at the ceremony, drawing cheers as he recalled the three NBA titles that he and Bryant won together.

"Kobe and I have pushed

one another to play some of the greatest basketball of all time and I am proud that no other team has accomplished the three-peat the Lakers have done since Shaq-and-the-Kobe Lakers did it," O'Neal said.

She spoke of her heartbreak at not being able to watch Gianna -- who was 13 and one of four daughters the couple had -- grow up and missing important moments of her life.

"I won't be able to tell her how gorgeous she looks on her wedding day," she said through tears, receiving a standing ovation for the tribute.

"I'll never get to see my baby girl walk down the aisle, have a father-daughter dance with her daddy."

A visibly shaken Jimmy Kimmel, who officiated at the ceremony, said he saw Kobe and Gianna's faces and jersey numbers everywhere in Los Angeles and beyond.

Grateful

"All we can do is to be grateful for the time we had with them," said the late night talk show host and comedian.

Among other celebrities attending the memorial were filmmaker Spike Lee -- who was close friends with Bryant and directed a documentary on his life -- and rapper Snoop Dogg, an avid Lakers fan.

Many of the fans lucky enough to nab one of the much sought-after 20,000 tickets for the memorial wore the gold and purple colours of the Lakers as they headed for the two-and-a-half hour ceremony being held amid tight security.

Those attending the memorial were given a 24-page program with pictures of Bryant and his family.

Pugilists in Italy turn down early fly-out offer

BOXING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Indian boxers training in Italy for next month's Olympic qualifiers were given the option of flying out early due to the novel Coronavirus threat

there but the team has decided to stay put as its training base in Assisi is "far" from the epicentre of the outbreak.

The Indian team, comprising 13 boxers and about the same number of support staff, is currently in Assisi, a hill town in the central Ita-

lian region of Umbria. The coronavirus outbreak in Italy has so far affected the northern Lombardy region, leaving seven dead and 229 infected.

"We are staying put in Assisi, we have a scheduled training tomorrow. We were a bit worried when we heard

news of the outbreak but as we understand now, the outbreak is quite far, near Milan, while we are in the central region," India's high performance director Santiago Nieva told PTI from Assisi.

"We have spoken to the Italian authorities and realised that there is no need for

concern right now. There is no early fly-out. We will depart as scheduled on Friday," he asserted.

The Indian team, comprising M.C. Mary Kom, Amit Panghal and Vikas Krishan among others, is scheduled to leave for Jordan from Rome on Friday.

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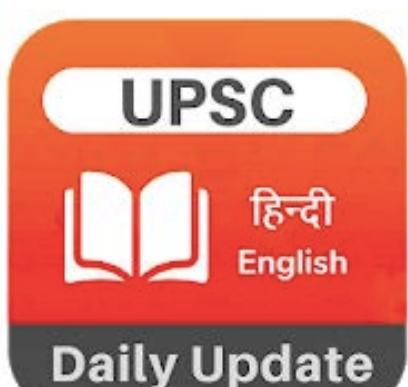
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