



No one need fear CAA,  
NPR, says Uddhav after  
meeting PM Modi  
page 12



U.S.-Taliban accord  
likely to be signed on  
Feb. 29: Mike Pompeo  
page 14



India's top-order falters  
against Kiwi pacers on  
truncated opening day  
page 19



Poonam Yadav bowls  
India to a remarkable  
win over Australia  
page 19

PRINTED AT • CHENNAI • COIMBATORE • BENGALURU • HYDERABAD • MADURAI • NOIDA • VISAKHAPATNAM • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • KOCHI • VIJAYAWADA • MANGALURU • TIRUCHIRAPPALLI • KOLKATA • HUBBALLI • MOHALI • MALAPPURAM • MUMBAI • TIRUPATI • LUCKNOW • CUTTACK • PATNA

## NEARBY



Court acquits eight in Jhabua conversion case

BHOPAL A sessions court in Ratlam has acquitted eight Christians accused of kidnapping and forcibly converting 60 children from Jhabua district in May 2017. As the six men and two women escorted the children to a Bible camp near Nagpur on May 23, 2017, the railway police, tipped off by right-wing Hindu outfits, detained them at the Ratlam railway station.

NATION ▶ PAGE 9

NRC seeks details on 'ineligible persons'

GUWAHATI The National Register of Citizens authority has indicated at an erroneous updating exercise by asking the district heads in Assam to provide details of "ineligible persons" in the final list of citizens published on August 31, 2019. On February 19, NRC State Coordinator Hitesh Dev Sarma wrote to the Deputy Commissioner and District Registrar of Citizen Registration of all the districts, seeking details within 24 hours.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 13

Govt. to deploy 'mohalla marshals' across Capital

NEW DELHI Women and Child Development Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam on Friday said that the Delhi government will deploy 'mohalla marshals' and set up 'SC/ST Women Welfare Cell' to ensure safety of women. The appointment was a promise in the 10-point 'guarantee card' released by AAP in the run-up to the Assembly elections.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

**SRIRAM SIALS IAS**  
Prelim Test Series (FREE)  
Prelim-cum-Main June 2020  
Interview Guidance  
WhatsApp DAF to 9871737522  
[www.sriramsials.com](http://www.sriramsials.com)  
011-42437002, 09811489560

## SC must ensure our security if road is opened: protesters

Police admit to barricading area around Shaheen Bagh site

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Shaheen Bagh protesters told the Supreme Court-appointed interlocutors on Friday that if the road parallel to the protest site was opened, the apex court should pass an order ensuring their security.

"When several adjoining roads are open, why are they insisting that we move from this road? This is not the only road connecting Delhi to Noida," a woman protester told senior lawyers Sanjay Hegde and Sadhana Ramachandran on the third day of discussions. "We keep hearing about the inconvenience to people but no one asks about our inconvenience here," said another protester.

The interlocutors called the police to the spot to discuss the matter with the protesters. The police admitted that the protesters



A protester greets Sadhana Ramachandran and Sanjay Hegde at Shaheen Bagh. ■ BIBEK CHETTRI

hadn't blocked the parallel road. An officer told the interlocutors and protesters that they had barricaded the parallel road as well as certain other roads adjoining the area as a security measure for the Shaheen Bagh protest site. "If the road is opened for commuters, we will ensure double security to protesters," the police officer said.

A woman protester told the mediators, "If the police

could not stop the men who fired at us, how are they claiming that they will protect us if the parallel road is opened?"

Another woman protester said, "We want in writing that if there is a single incident of attack or firing, the police officers, from the SHO to the Police Commissioner, should be shunted out."

(With inputs from PTI)

SEE ALSO ▶ PAGE 4

## Foggy climb



Heavy rush: Devotees thronging the Shankaracharya temple on a hillock overlooking Srinagar on the occasion of Mahashivaratri, or Herath in Kashmir, in Srinagar on Friday. Devotees held special prayers since early morning across Kashmir. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

Rajamouli and Madhan Karky launching the website.

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SRINIVASA RAMANUJAM  
CHENNAI

Remember Kiliki, the language of the Kaalakeya tribe in Rajamouli's superhit film *Baahubali*? Now, an effort is on to popularise it.

Marking International Mother Language Day on February 21, the filmmaker and Madhan Karky, the man behind the language, launched a website to help anyone learn the "world's easiest language". The website ([www.kiliki.in](http://www.kiliki.in)) has a 3,000-word English-Kiliki-English dictionary, a tool to convert names, videos and vocabulary games.

"After the release of *Baahubali*, a lot of people appreciated the language we developed for the film," Mr. Karky told *The Hindu*.

"In schools and colleges,

students would ask me to speak a few lines in Kiliki. I saw that as an opportunity to develop it," he said.

Part of the project was challenging himself: could he develop the world's easiest language? "I wanted this to be as simple as possible, without any complications. We dread learning new languages because of the many complications that come along with it, in terms of writing style and pronunciation," he says.

The lyricist-dialogue writer created symbols for numerals and alphabets. After two years of work, he had a system to learn the entire alphabet in an hour through 22 easy-to-recall symbols.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

According to the directive, the workers must ensure that at least 5 to 10 men sought sterilisation at camps in the districts.

sterilisations and pay cuts by the National Health Mission came to Chief Minister Kamal Nath's notice, the order was cancelled," said Tulsi Ram Silawat, Health Minister, sharing the cancellation order issued by interim Director J. Vijaykumar.

According to the National Family Health Survey - 4 (2015-2016), just 0.5% of men opted for the procedure in the State. The directive stated that the workers must ensure that at least 5 to 10 men sought sterilisation at camps in the districts.

While 1.35 lakh women underwent sterilisation in eight months until December, just 1,254 men opted for the birth control surgery, despite being offered a higher standard incentive, according to the NHM.

Kiosk set up at Anand Vihar railway station to promote 'Fit India' campaign

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Thirty squats in front of a machine can now get passengers at the Anand Vihar railway station here a free platform ticket. They can

also avoid long queues.

In a first-of-its-kind scheme aimed at promoting the 'Fit India' campaign, the Railways has set up a 'Fit India Squat Kiosk' near the entry point of the station.

The machine will generate a free platform ticket after a passenger performs 30 squats.

"It aims to engage, excite and enable people towards their health and well-be-

ing," said the official release.

The Railways has also opened a 'Dawa Dost' store at the station, which will offer generic medicines for passengers at up to 80% discount, according to an official release.

Generic medicines

"Dawa Dost" aims to make it easier for Indians to take care of their health and help them make substantial

savings on their health bills by providing high-quality affordable medicines. The firm has 10 stores in Rajasthan and Delhi, and plans to expand rapidly," the release said.

Additionally, a pulse health machine which can measure health and wellness parameters, such as body composition and blood pressure, has also been placed at the station.

It will, in minutes, gener-

ate a detailed report on indications of a potential lifestyle disease, with personalised recommendations for improving one's health and wellness.

Massage chairs

"The most advanced body massage chairs, which have 3D massage rollers with longer massage track line giving the maximum massage coverage, are also available in the concourse area of the

station," the statement said.

The Railways said there would be an 'Eat Right Station' with certification mandated by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.

To be implemented with Hindustan Unilever Limited, the project aims to help passengers make healthy food choices.

The station is the first 'Eat Right Station' in Northern Railway.

## Pakistan retained on 'grey list' of anti-terror financing watchdog

FATF gives Islamabad stern warning to comply with terror finance action by June

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI

Pakistan has been retained on the 'grey list' of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for four more months with a stern warning from the global watchdog that met in Paris (February 19-21) to complete the 27-point action plan it has been given by June 2020 or face being put on the 'black list'.

"All deadlines in the action plan have expired. While noting recent and notable improvements, the FATF again expresses concern, given Pakistan's failure to complete its action plan in line with the agreed timelines and in light of the terror financing risks emanating from the jurisdiction," said a statement issued by the FATF's plenary session on Friday.

According to the FATF summary report released in

### No reprieve

Pakistan has been retained on the 'grey list' of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for four more months

- Pakistan was given a September 2019 deadline to shut down access to funding of UN Security Council-designated terrorist groups and prosecute their leadership
- In November 2019, after Pakistan was judged to have complied with only four points, the FATF extended the
- A 'black list' refers to countries for whom there has been a "call to action" or strict banking and international finance sanctions

the evening, Pakistan needs to continue to work on eight specific areas, including demonstrating it is "identifying and investigating" all terror-financing activities in the country, freezing the funds

of all designated terrorists and its prosecutions result in "effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions" against all terror entities.

Pakistan was given a September 2019 deadline to

complete the tasks that included shutting down all access to funding of United Nations Security Council-designated terrorist groups, including the Taliban, al-Qaeda, the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammed and prosecuting their leadership for any access to finance, as well as tightening laws and banking security norms.

### Deadline extended

In November last, after Pakistan was judged to have complied with only four points of the plan, the FATF extended the deadline to February, where its statement noted it had been cleared of 14 points. The FATF urged Pakistan to "swiftly complete" the remainder of the list.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12  
IRAN ON BLACK LIST ▶ PAGE 14

## Ahmedabad Mayor chairs panel holding 'Namaste Trump' event

It was formed to felicitate U.S. President: Rupani

MAHESH LANGA  
AHMEDABAD

Ahmedabad Mayor Bijal Patel is the chairperson and two parliamentarians, the president of the Gujarat Chambers of Commerce and Industry and other eminent citizens and Padma recipients are the members of a newly formed Donald Trump Nagarik Abhivadan Samiti, which is holding the 'Namaste Trump' event at Motera stadium here on February 24.

The group is the organiser of the mega event in which the U.S. President and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address a gathering of 1.25 lakh people at the newly built cricket stadium.

On Thursday, Ministry of External Affairs spokesman Ravesh Kumar said the event was being organised by the Samiti, which decided whom to invite for the event. Even in Gujarat, there



"A committee has been formed under the Mayor to felicitate President Trump," Chief Minister Vijay Rupani told journalists on Friday.

According to insiders, the idea of forming a committee to host the event was an "afterthought" after it was decided not to inaugurate the stadium.

NO PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN, SAYS CONGRESS ▶ PAGE 13

## Clampdown on Kashmir social media users, 2 held

They were booked for spreading fake news and rumours

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
SRINAGAR

The police have started clamping down on social media users in Kashmir and arrested two persons in the Valley.

A police officer said Waheed Majed Dar, a resident of Handwara's Waskura area, was arrested after "strenuous efforts for posting objectionable content" on social media platforms.

"The police acted after it came to know that some youth were circulating fake pictures of vandalism by security forces in Kupwara district. According to the police, Kawa, a driver by

profession from Srinagar's Saida Kadal locality, was booked under Section 505 of the IPC. Kawa's Facebook post is three months old.

"The post was aimed to incite violence. The accused was absconding," the police said. The Kupwara police said the youth was "maliciously spreading fake news and rumours."

In a separate case, another youth, Imtiyaz Ahmad Kawa, was arrested on Wednesday for allegedly posting fake pictures of vandalism by security forces in Kupwara district. According to the police, Kawa, a driver by

station," the statement said.

The Railways said there would be an 'Eat Right Station' with certification mandated by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.

To be implemented with Hindustan Unilever Limited, the project aims to help passengers make healthy food choices.

The station is the first 'Eat Right Station' in Northern Railway.

## 30 squats for a free platform ticket at this railway station

Kiosk set up at Anand Vihar railway station to promote 'Fit India' campaign

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Thirty squats in front of a machine can now get passengers at the Anand Vihar railway station here a free platform ticket. They can

also avoid long queues.

In a first-of-its-kind scheme aimed at promoting the 'Fit India' campaign, the Railways has set up a 'Fit India Squat Kiosk' near the entry point of the station.

The machine will generate a free platform ticket after a passenger performs 30 squats.

"It aims to engage, excite and enable people towards their health and well-be-

ing," said the official release.

The Railways has also opened a 'Dawa Dost' store at the station, which will offer generic medicines for passengers at up to 80% discount, according to an official release.

Generic medicines

## Timings

DELHI

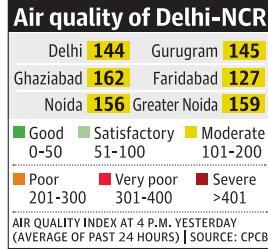
SATURDAY, FEB. 22
RISE 06:54 SET 18:16
RISE 06:14 SET 17:09
SUNDAY, FEB. 23
RISE 06:53 SET 18:17
RISE 06:52 SET 18:03
MONDAY, FEB. 24
RISE 06:52 SET 18:17
RISE 07:27 SET 18:57

**Delhi Weather** max min  
Delhi City 20 16  
Safdarjung 20 16  
Palam 20 14

**Delhi Palam Today**  
24°C Mist or shallow fog is likely in the morning. A partly cloudy sky is likely.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
26°C A comfortable morning is likely. A partly cloudy sky is expected.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019  
All rights reserved.



**Services to be curtailed on Delhi metro's Yellow Line**

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Friday said that services on a stretch of the Yellow Line of the metro network will be curtailed from 9.30 p.m. on Saturday to 7.30 a.m. on Sunday owing to maintenance work.

"To undertake planned track maintenance work on the up line between Vishwavidyalaya to Kashmere Gate section, trains will be run on a single line after 9.30 p.m. till end of revenue services on February 22 and from the start of revenue services till 7.30 a.m. on Sunday," the DMRC said in a statement issued.

To ensure seamless travel for commuters, the DMRC said, feeder buses will be deployed from Vishwavidyalaya to Kashmere Gate metro stations.

"Passengers can avail this service free of cost. The frequency of trains between Vishwavidyalaya and Kashmere Gate metro stations will be 15 minutes. Announcements will also be made at the stations and inside the trains on the Yellow Line about destination of trains and respective platforms for changeover during this period," the DMRC further said.

## AgustaWestland case: ED, CBI oppose Christian Michel's bail pleas

He has a nexus with powerful people and can influence witnesses, investigating agencies tell HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) have told the Delhi High Court that Christian Michel, an alleged middleman arrested in connection with the AgustaWestland VVIP chopper scam cases, should not be granted bail as "he has a nexus with influential people and can influence witnesses".

The investigating agencies, in their written submissions opposing the bail pleas of Mr. Michel, have contended that he was extradited to India with unprecedented difficulty and there is all likelihood of him fleeing from justice, if enlarged on bail as he had no roots here.

Justice Anu Malhotra listed

## Dwarka sub-city: interdisciplinary body sends recommendations

Sub-group formed on L-G's orders focuses on regional connectivity, women's safety

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Friday said that an interdisciplinary sub-group constituted on the directions of Delhi Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal, to prepare a "strategic plan" for the Dwarka sub-city has made several recommendations pertaining to regional connectivity of Dwarka, parking issues and women safety.

### Main issues'

"Main issues being faced by the Dwarka sub-city are that Dwarka is not seen as an investment destination, projects are fragmented, women safety is a big concern and the entry and exit points to Dwarka are congested," DDA officials said.

Stating that inefficient public transport is another major concern in the area, the

### Recommendations

- Increasing metro services on the Airport Express Line and decreasing fares
- Developing metro stations in Dwarka as a Metro Boulevard
- Making areas within 500 metres of metro stations approachable to pedestrians and provide direct access through walkways
- Developing co-working spaces, entertainment facilities, service apartments, etc.



SOURCE: DDA

committee recommended an increase in the frequency of trains on metro Airport Express Line and decrease in the fares.

"New metro link [is] required to minimise interchange [Sector 21-Palampur-Cant-Sarai Rohilla railway station]. Travel time can be decreased to 45 minutes through rail connectivity by running high-quality Elec-

tric Multiple Unit on the existing railway line which will connect Dwarka to Bijwasan and to Old Delhi and Ghaziabad," the urban body said in a statement.

In a bid to tackle the issue pertaining to Dwarka not being considered as a "desired destination for investors," the DDA said, "It was suggested that all metro stations in the Dwarka sub-city along

the Blue Line be developed as a metro boulevard. Reduction of the dependency of the users on private vehicles by making the areas within 500 metres of metro stations approachable to pedestrians with easy six-minute walk was also suggested."

The land-owning agency added, "Design of an 'integrated scheme' shall ensure ease of amalgamation of plots, freedom to mix uses and flexibility to build edge-to-edge and to create active frontage and finally to provide direct access to metro through pedestrian friendly passages or walkways."

Officials said that recommendations on developing co-working spaces under the Transit Oriented Development schemes, service apartments, rental housing, entertainment facilities and so on were also suggested.

## Gargi case: Maliwal, students discuss future course of action

Students had alleged molestation at college fest on Feb. 6

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

A meeting between the students of DU's Gargi College and the Delhi Commission of Women (DCW) chief Swati Maliwal concluded on Friday.

A further course of action regarding the probe in the alleged incident of molestation on the third day of the college annual cultural fest on February 6 was discussed at the meeting, a student said.

A number of students of Gargi College located in south Delhi had alleged manhandling, molestation and sexual harassment on the third day of the college fest.

A third-year student of the college said over the phone that the students were willing to file an RTI and are looking for a "relevant person" in this regard.

A fact-finding committee (FFC) which is conducting an independent enquiry in the



Swati Maliwal •

incident recorded and examined testimonies of more than 600 of the students, sources in the university said in a statement.

Two more persons were arrested by the Delhi Police on Tuesday in connection with the alleged molestation. They were arrested under Sections 452, 354 and 509 read with Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code, the police said on Tuesday.

So far, the Delhi Police has arrested a total of 17 people in connection with the case, of which 10 have been granted bail by Delhi's Saket Court.

## IIMC students call off hunger strike

Administration has agreed to meet their demands

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Students of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), who were on an indefinite hunger strike demanding that the institute make course fees for PG Diploma courses "affordable", called off their protest after four days as the administration agreed to meet their demands.

Students said that the administration had agreed to extend the last date for submission of second semester fees till March 31 or till the finalisation/notification of the new fee structure, whichever is later. "This means the new deadline for submission of second semester fees is the arrival/notification of new fees structure in IIMC. We hereby request all students not to pay fees till the new fee structure is notified/finalized," the students, who were on a strike, said in a statement.



The students ended their strike after four days. ■ FILE PHOTO

It added that the committee which has been set up to decide the new fee structure will have representation from the students. "The administration has agreed to share details of that committee with students and also ensured students' participation in the committee," the students said.

The administration, the students said, has also revoked the suspension of the students who had gone on a strike earlier. "We are all thankful to our fellow stu-

dents for their constant support and encouragement. Also, we are thankful to IIMC administration for giving their decision in favour of the students. However, we expect that the administration will not repeat what had led us to go on an indefinite hunger strike," said Jagriti Trisha, a student of Hindi Journalism at IIMC, New Delhi.

The student had gone on a strike alleging that the institute was increasing its course fee by 10% every year since 2010.

## IIT-Delhi to launch 2 master's programmes in July

MSc in Cognitive Science and MSc in Economics will have 25 seats each

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Delhi on Friday announced that it was launching two full-time master's programmes — MSc in Cognitive Science and MSc in Economics — in the Department of Humanities & Social Sciences in July this year.

The institute said that the two new Masters programmes are designed to provide learning opportunities so that they may positively contribute to the ongoing transformation of the

higher education in India.

### Aims

The institute added that it aims to capitalise on the expertise of its faculty members, to promote teaching and research while also establishing the critical links with industry.

The MSc in Cognitive Science programme at IIT-Delhi is highly interdisciplinary in nature, building on theories and methods from psychology, linguistics, neuroscience, artificial intelligence, philosophy

and, anthropology, the institute said.

The coordinators of the Masters in Cognitive Science Programme Samar Husain and Yashpal Joginder said that the programme curriculum is research-based and will familiarise students with diverse theories, methods, and tools to understand the architecture and functioning of the human mind.

The MSc in Economics programme aims to impart advanced training in economics with a focus on quantitative skills. The curriculum is designed so as to give exposure to broader issues related to developmental challenges in India and beyond, the institute said.

The two programmes will have 25 seats each.

quantitative skills. The curriculum is designed so as to give exposure to broader issues related to developmental challenges in India and beyond, the institute said.

The coordinators of the Masters in Economics programme, Sourabh Paul and Ankush Agarwal said, "The programme will inculcate in the students the skill of dealing with emerging issues and will encourage them to cope up with out-of-the-box solutions."

The two programmes will have 25 seats each.

## Yemeni man with disfigured face undergoes successful surgery in city

A mobile phone had exploded in his mouth in Nov. 2018

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

A 26-year-old Yemeni man, whose face was disfigured after a mobile phone exploded in his mouth, regained normal facial features one-and-a-half years after he underwent a reconstruction surgery at a city hospital here.

The phone had exploded when the man, Saad, was holding it between his teeth while doing some work in November 2018, a senior doctor said.

Mr. Saad received some first aid in Yemen but the accident severely disfigured his face and he lost the ability to eat and speak normally.

He wanted to go for a reconstruction surgery to recover but due to the severity of the damage, a complex surgery was required and doctors in Yemen refused to do it. Ajaya Kashyap, Medical Director, KAS Medical Centre, said.

During the reconstruction surgery on February 6, the oral cavity was reconstructed using flaps from inside of the cheeks. The lip muscles which had been split apart were repaired and flaps were used to close it, Preeti Pandya, a consultant at the hospital, said.

Mr. Saad said he was happy after the successful surgery got him his normal facial features back.

## NGT tells govt., CPCB to file report on chemical pesticides petition

Plea says its use has harmful effects on people's health

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to furnish a report on a plea seeking directions to restrict the use of chemical pesticides.

A Bench headed by NGT chief Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel directed authorities to submit the report on the

strategies to be adopted, within two months.

The directions came when the green panel was hearing a plea moved by Shailesh Singh who sought directions to restrict the use of chemical pesticides citing adverse effects on public health due to contamination of soil.

Referring to a study carried out by King George Medical College, Lucknow, the plea contended that the use of pesticides had harm-

ful effects on the soil and subsequently people's health.

**'No identified violators'** "Though the issue raised here is significant, there are no identified violators against whom the proceedings may be initiated. In view of the above, without expressing any opinion on the merits at this stage, we require the MoEF&CC and the CPCB to furnish a report," the Bench said.

## Sisodia asks Sitharaman for Central funds

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Manish Sisodia met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman here on Friday.

In a series of tweets, Mr. Sisodia said, "After taking on the post of Finance Minister of Delhi, I met the Hon'ble Union Finance Minister, N. Sitharaman and discussed ways to bring about economic development in Delhi with mutual cooperation [Sic]."

"I have also requested funds for Municipal Corporations of Delhi in the same way the Central government provides funds to corporations of other States. Looking at the current scenario, the MCDs do not receive funds from the Centre. I have also urged the Union Finance Minister to share a part of the Central taxes with Delhi to expedite the process of establishing more schools and hospitals and facilitate work to ensure adequate water and electricity supply around the city," Mr. Sisodia said.

## Govt. to deploy 'mohalla marshals' across Capital

Plans are afoot to form SC/ST Women Welfare Cell: Minister

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Women and Child Development Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam on Friday said that the Delhi government will deploy 'mohalla marshals' and set up 'SC/ST Women Welfare Cell' in the city to ensure safety of women.

Appointment of 'mohalla marshals' was a promise in the 10-point 'guarantee card' released by the Aam Aadmi party in the run-up to the Assembly elections. 'Mohalla marshals' will be a security layer between the police and citizens to help women and senior citizens feel safer.

The Minister met the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chief Swati Maliwal and asked her to set up a special SC/ST Women Welfare Cell that will work towards the welfare of women and girls from the community.

"We welcome the idea of WCD Minister and will add a special cell which will work towards the welfare and protection of women from the



Rajendra Pal Gautam

In our guarantee card, women's safety is the topmost priority. The plan is to deploy 'mohalla marshals' and strengthen mahila panchayats in the coming months."

### Protection of children

Mr. Gautam also met members of Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) and said that curbing drug abuse and protection of children will be the priority areas. "Women and children are the most vulnerable groups in our society. Special attention should be given to child protection as they are more prone to child labour and drug abuse," he said.

Mr. Gautam also said that they have decided to focus on early identification and prevention of disabilities. "Priorities will be given for screening, evaluation and vocational training programmes for persons with disabilities in the State," he said.

## 'Study on real-time sources of air pollution can be done across city'

Washington varsity model to be functional by June: Rai

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Friday visited a Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station near India Gate and said that a study being done by the Washington University in St. Louis to find out real-time sources of air pollution in the city could be replicated across different locations in the Capital.

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has been collaborating since March 2019 with the university to undertake real-time source apportionment study of air pollution in the city. "Once we establish that the model is a success, the study can be replicated across various locations in the city," said Mr. Rai.

"We [Delhi government] have 26 pollution monitoring centres across various locations in Delhi. The mechanism in these centres monitor AQI [air quality index] at a particular point of time in a span of one hour. But the mechanism cannot detect sources of pollution," he added.



We will launch a targeted campaign based on the findings of the report which will help us in identifying the real sources of pollution...

GOPAL RAI  
Environment Minister

Mr. Rai said that an interim report will be submitted by the university by March 2020 and the model will be functional by the month of June 2020.

### Targeted campaign

"We will launch a targeted campaign based on the findings of the report which will help us in identifying the real sources of pollution and to work on reducing the existing pollution levels in the city. Once we are able to identify the real sources, we will be able to take immediate action and balance our efforts in reducing the pollution generated daily by two crore people of Delhi," the Environment

Minister said. On Thursday, the Minister after conducting a review meeting of the situation in Delhi had said that the government will work to make the fight against air pollution a mass movement, which he reiterated on Friday.

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

Implementing the promises in the guarantee card is being done on a priority basis by the government.

### IN BRIEF

#### Mercury settles below normal in the city

NEW DELHI It was a windy day in the Capital on Friday with the mercury settling at four notches below normal. "The maximum temperature was recorded at 20.9 degrees Celsius, four notches below normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 15.8 degrees Celsius, five notches above normal," a Met official said.

#### Clarification

A report in *The Hindu*'s city edition dated February 21, 2020, titled 'Rare turtles rescued in city handed over to Delhi zoo' stated that three of the four turtles rescued are listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1962. The Act was actually passed in 1972. The error is regretted.

### TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT

Mr. N SELVA KUMAR  
PH: 9820350726  
selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

Mr. MANOJ KUMAR KUSHWAHA  
PH: 9999490055  
manoj.kushwhaha@thehindu.co.in

THE HINDU  
India's National Newspaper

## Matia Mahal MLA Iqbal appointed pro tem Speaker

He will oversee oath-taking of newly-elected members of 70-member Assembly on Monday

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal has appointed Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Matia Mahal legislator Shoib Iqbal as the pro tem Speaker of the Delhi Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Iqbal, who has been elected to the Seventh Delhi Assembly for what will be his sixth term as an MLA, will oversee the oath-taking of the newly-elected members of the 70-member Assembly here on Monday.



Shoib Iqbal

According to the list of business for a three-day Assembly session to commence

here on February 24, the new Speaker is scheduled to be elected after the oath-taking ceremony.

"Whereas the office of the Speaker will fall vacant immediately before the commencement of the first meeting of the Seventh Legislative Assembly of Delhi on February 24, 2020 and the office of the Deputy Speaker has already fallen vacant..." the gazette notification stated.

"Now, therefore, I hereby appoint Shoib Iqbal, a member of the newly-elected Legislative Assembly, to perform the duties of the Office of the Speaker from the commencement of the said meeting and until the new Speaker is elected..." the notification stated.

Mr. Iqbal, who first got elected on a Janata Dal (United) ticket and became a member of the Delhi Legislative Assembly in the year 1993 remained a member till 2013 before he lost the Assembly elections conducted

that year to the then AAP Matia Mahal candidate Asim Ahmed.

According to a government source, outgoing Speaker and Shahdara MLA Ram Niwas Goel is most likely to be re-elected.

"The motion for the election of the Speaker will be given to the Secretary of the Delhi Legislative Assembly on Saturday; the election of the Speaker will be held from 2 p.m. onwards on Monday," the source said.

## SHIRT TROUSER & JEANS SALE

Wedding Collection

upto  
**60% off**

MEN & WOMEN  
By Economy Sales: 4506168

ARROW → ColorPlus PARK AVENUE LOUIS PHILIPPE  
•PUNCHKUAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.)  
•WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)  
•JANAKPUR B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543  
•NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP  
•LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

### Close look



A man searching for useful items from a heap of garbage accumulated on the Yamuna in the city on Friday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

## Sisodia shares Delhi education model with Maharashtra Minister

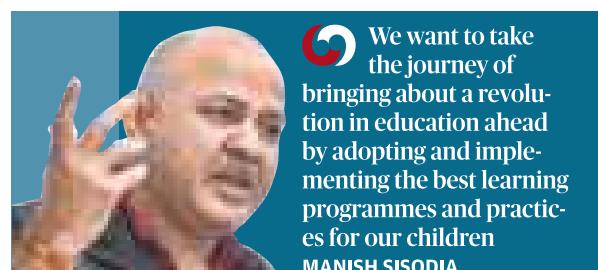
Uday Samant hints at a tie-up between the two States

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Education Minister Manish Sisodia on Friday met Uday Samant, Minister of Higher and Technical Education, Government of Maharashtra, to discuss the programmes adopted by the Delhi government in improving the education sector.

Speaking after the meet, Mr. Sisodia said: "The Maharashtra government has started some new programmes in the field of education and I would like to learn and adopt it here. We want to take the journey of bringing about a revolution in education ahead by adopting and implementing the best learning programmes and practices for our children."

He added that it was important to collaborate with



We want to take the journey of bringing about a revolution in education ahead by adopting and implementing the best learning programmes and practices for our children  
MANISH SISODIA,  
Education Minister

### Mayor writes to CM to release funds

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

North Delhi Mayor Avtar Singh on Friday wrote to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal demanding that funds be released to the civic body immediately.

The Mayor highlighted that many departments of the municipal body were facing financial problems due to the non-release of funds by the Delhi government as a consequence of which they weren't able to perform upto a "desired level", he said in a statement. He appealed to the CM to "stand above party politics" and release the corporation's funds on time.

The Mayor also carried out a review meeting on the status of regularisation of safai karamcharis and on the progress of trolleybusing work at the Bhalswa landfill site.

DELHI POLICE  
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

### DELHI POLICE WEEK

16 TO 22 FEBRUARY, 2020



WE'RE ALWAYS THERE

FOR YOUR SAFETY



Use  
Helmet  
Always



Don't  
Drink &  
Drive



Drive In  
Your Lane



Don't  
Jump  
Red Light



Don't Use  
Mobile  
While  
Driving



Always Wear  
Seat Belt



Avoid  
Triple  
Riding



Avoid  
Dangerous  
Driving

BE A TRAFFIC SENTINEL

Download App from

24 HRS. TRAFFIC HELPLINE

011-25844444/1095

Follow us on :

<https://www.facebook.com/dpttraffic>

<https://twitter.com/dpttraffic>

E-mail to CP, Delhi at:

cp.amulyapatnaik@delhipolice.gov.in

Write to CP, Delhi at:

P.O. Box No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090

DP/92/2020

M ND-NDE



## Celebratory firing: MLA's son booked

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BULANDSHAHR (U.P.)

The son of a BJP MLA has been booked for allegedly opening fire during a wedding ceremony in Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr despite a ban on the practice, police said on Friday.

The FIR against Vikas Khatik, the son of BJP's Khurja MLA Vijendra Singh Khatik, was registered after a video of the incident, purportedly showing Vikas Khatik firing multiple shots from a gun, surfaced on social media on Thursday.

An FIR under section 336 of the Indian Penal Code for doing an act endangering life or personal safety of others has been registered against him and investigation taken up, Bulandshahr (Rural) Superintendent of Police Harendra Kumar said.

The probe would be concluded soon and report submitted after due legal proceedings, he said.

# J&K land encroachers become owners of large tracts of land

High Court expresses shock over misuse of now-defunct Roshni Scheme

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH  
NEW DELHI

The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has expressed shock over the manner in which land encroachers in the Union Territory have become owners of large tracts of public land under the now defunct Roshni Scheme.

A Bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Tashi Rabstan directed the Union Territory administration to calculate the value of the public land which has been illegally encroached under the scheme.

The Jammu and Kashmir State Lands (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Act, 2001, known as the "Roshni Scheme" was enacted in 2001 by the then State government.

The objective of the Act was "to provide vesting of ownership rights to the occu-

pants of the State land for the purposes of generating funds to finance power projects in the State".

### CAG report

A 2014 CAG report had stated that the "principle objective of the Act viz. raising of resources for investment in the power sector was not achieved though the State has lost sizeable land".

The CAG report said that the government had set a target of around ₹25,000 crore for the power project by selling 20,64,972 kanals State land. However, by 2013 it had collected only about ₹76 crore in the actual transfer of 3,48,160 kanals of land.

"Further, after transfer of 3,48,160 kanals under the Act, new encroachments are continuing unabated as the area of public land under encroachment was 20,46,972

kanals in March, 2013 as against 20,64,972 kanals in November, 2006," the CAG report said.

Subsequently, the scheme was repealed in November 2018 by the State Administrative Council (SAC) led by the Governor after concluding that it had not served "its purpose" and was "no longer relevant in the present context".

### List of beneficiaries

The High Court, which was hearing a petition filed in public interest by a law student seeking recovery of the illegally encroached land, has also indicated that it will order publication of the names of all the beneficiaries under the Roshni Scheme, which now runs at 29,500.

The complete list of beneficiaries were furnished before the High Court only after

it had warned that the Secretary, Revenue Department, shall remain personally present in court.

"This status report reveals shocking state of affairs which had prevailed and the manner in which the land encroachers in Jammu and Kashmir have become owners of large tracts of public land by the operation of the Roshni Scheme," the High Court remarked.

It also noted that the plea for a CBI inquiry into the case "cannot be ignored under any circumstances and shall be examined on the next date of hearing" on March 12.

The petitioner Mr. Ankur Sharma has cited CAG report claimed that implementation of the Roshni Scheme has resulted in a loss over ₹25,000 crore to the public exchequer.

# AMU teachers take umbrage at Adityanath's statement

CM had said that AMU students wanted to burn Aligarh city

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ALIGARH (U.P.)

The AMU Teachers Association has taken a serious umbrage at Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's allegation that over 15,000 varsity students protesting against CAA on December 15 last year had wanted to burn the Aligarh city.

While speaking on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor's address in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly on Wednesday, the Chief Minister had said, "I had alerted the Aligarh administration after the violence at Jamia Millia Islamia university. There were 15,000 students of AMU, who took to streets, wanted to burn Aligarh city but their game plan was averted by an alert police."

The AMU teachers described the Chief Minister's statement as "highly irresponsible" and "travesty of truth".



Policemen on the campus of Aligarh Muslim University after the December 15 clashes. ■ FILE PHOTO: PTI

In a letter to President of India Ram Nath Kovind, AMUTA secretary Prof Najmul Islam on Thursday demanded that the Chief Minister's statement should be expunged as he has tarnished the image of a leading institution of higher education without verifying facts.

The AMUTA in its letter said the entire issue is sub-judice and any person occupying such a high office should refrain from issuing such inflammatory statements.

## Home alone



An owl sits in its nest on a tree in Ajmer on Friday. ■ PTI

# Man brutally beaten in Barmer

Incident comes days after assault on two Dalits in Nagaur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BARMER (RAJASTHAN)

A chilling video of a man being beaten up brutally allegedly for committed a theft has gone viral here, prompting the police to arrest a man and detain another on Friday for their alleged roles in the crime.

The video in Barmer surfaced on Thursday, close on the heels of a similar video of brutal assault of two Dalit youths on similar allegation of theft going viral recently in Nagaur.

The Barmer incident occurred on January 29.

Following surfacing of the

video, the Barmer rural police swung into action and lodged an FIR on the complaint of victim Mohammad Khan's brother Murad Khan, who alleged that three persons beat up his brother with an iron chain and threatened him not to enter the village after accusing him of having committed a theft.

Murad also alleged in his complaint that the accused inserted an iron rod in the private parts of his brother.

Barmer Superintendent of Police Sharad Chaudhary, however, discounted the allegation, saying no such act was visible in the video and

it was a matter of investigation.

Mr. Chaudhary said a man has been arrested for thrashing the victim.

### Main accused held

Barmer rural police station SHO Deep Singh said the main accused Moti Singh has been arrested and another was detained for interrogation while efforts are on to nab the third accused.

The victim is a truck driver and he is not in Barmer now. The allegations levelled in the FIR by his brother will be confirmed when he returns, he said.

# Killing of engineering student: one arrested

Victim was stabbed to death in Lucknow

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LUCKNOW

One person was arrested on Friday in connection with the killing of an engineering student in the Gomti Nagar locality of Lucknow, police said on Friday.

The arrested man, Aman Bahadur, is the son of a former BSP MLA, they said, adding Lucknow Police chief Sujit Pandey has constituted a team to crack the case and nab the other accused.

Prashant Singh (23), an undergraduate engineering student of a local college,

who hailed from Varanasi, was allegedly stabbed in the chest on Thursday by five to six people at Alaknanda Apartment gate in Gomti Nagar area where he had gone reportedly to meet an acquaintance.

**CCTV footage**  
CCTV footage from the area showed a group of men stopping a car and attacking two men who are sitting in the front. A few seconds later, Singh, who was stabbed several times, was seen rushing out of the car.

# Punjab govt. signboards to be in Gurmukhi

Regulations will not apply to National Highways and Central govt. departments

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab government has decided to make it mandatory for all government and semi-government institutions, boards and corporations to write all signboards in Punjabi language (Gurmukhi script).



Languages Minister Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa

Act-1967 under Section 4. "As per the orders signboards in all government and semi-government institutions, boards, corporations and road milestones would be written at the top in Gurmukhi script and if the need arises to write in any other language it would be written below in smaller font," he said.

### Separate notification

The Minister further said to implement this decision in private business, industrial and educational institutes, the Languages Department has written to the Labour De-

partment to issue a separate notification in this regard, which is expected to be issued soon.

Higher Education and Languages Department Secretary Rahul Bhandari has written a letter to the heads of all State departments, Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, District Sessions Judges, Punjab Vidhan Sabha Secretary, Punjab and Haryana High Court Registrar, chairmen of boards and corporations and all semi-government organisations, to implement this decision in true spirit, the statement said. (With PTI inputs)

# TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED

TNPL, a well known Paper Manufacturing Company with a turnover of over ₹ 4100 Crores requires the following personnel:

Sl. No.	Name of the post	No. of posts	Location	Reservation	Scale of Pay (Pay Scales are under revision) ₹	Monthly CTC at the minimum of Pay Scale as of 01/02/2020 ₹
1)	Chief General Manager (Finance) /	3	Paper Mills at Kagithapuram, Karur District, Tamil Nadu / Corporate Office at Chennai	GT-2 & BC-1	73200-2200-95200	Factory: Rs.2.60 lakh; Chennai: Rs.2.66 lakh
	General Manager (Finance) /				63500-1910-82600	Factory: Rs.2.32 lakh; Chennai: Rs.2.37 lakh
	Deputy General Manager (Finance)				53700-1620-69900	Factory: Rs.2.07 lakh; Chennai: Rs.2.13 lakh
2)	Assistant General Manager (Marketing) /	1	Mumbai Branch (Paper Division)	GT-1	43400-1310-56500	Rs.1.88 lakh
	Senior Manager (Marketing) /				37300-1120-48500	Rs.1.59 lakh
3)	Senior Manager (Marketing) /	1	Bangalore Branch (Board Division)	GT-1	37300-1120-48500	Rs.1.59 lakh
	Manager (Marketing) /				33600-910-42700	Rs.1.42 lakh
4)	Senior Manager (Marketing) /	1	Bangalore Branch (Paper Division)	GT-1	37300-1120-48500	Rs.1.54 lakh
	Manager (Marketing) /				33600-910-42700	Rs.1.39 lakh
5)	Manager (Marketing) /	1	Kolkata Branch (Paper Division)	GT-1	33600-910-42700	Rs.1.39 lakh
	Deputy Manager (Marketing) /				28200-710-35300	Rs.1.22 lakh
6)	Deputy Manager (Marketing) /	1	Kolkata Branch (Paper Division)	GT-1	28200-710-35300	Rs.1.22 lakh
	Assistant Manager (Marketing)				23400-590-29300	Rs.1.01 lakh

For details relating to age, qualification, experience, etc., please visit TNPL's website: [www.tnpl.com](http://www.tnpl.com). Bio-data format is available in our website.

Candidates who conform to the job requirements as given in the website may apply in the prescribed format by post in strict confidence superscribing the name of the post (both in Bio-data and top of the Envelope) within 30 days from the date of release of this advertisement to:

CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (HR)

TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED

NO.67, MOUNT ROAD, GUINDY, CHENNAI - 600 032, TAMIL NADU

giving full details of age, qualification with year of passing, experience, community, salary drawn and position being held along with copies of testimonials towards proof for the same.

Applicants should enclose documentary proof for Date of Birth, Community, Educational Qualifications, Class & Percentage of Marks, Experience, Salary drawn, etc, along with the Bio-data form. Bio-data form with insufficient documentary proof will be summarily rejected.

DTP/297/Display/2020

# TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED

TNPL, a well known Paper Manufacturing Company with a turnover of over ₹ 4100 Crores requires the following personnel:

Sl. No.	Name of the posts	No. of posts	Reservation	Monthly Stipend / Scale of Pay* / Monthly CTC ₹
1	Graduate Engineer Trainee (Chemical)	9	GT-1; BC-3; MBC/DNC-2; SC-3	For Trainees:- Training Period - 2 Years:- I <sup>st</sup> year Stipend : ₹ 22,500/- p.m. II <sup>nd</sup> year Stipend : ₹ 25,350/- p.m.
2	Graduate Engineer Trainee (Mechanical)	7	GT-1; BC-1; BCM-1; MBC/DNC-2; SC-2	(After completion of training, candidates will be absorbed as Junior Shift Engineer / Junior Plant Engineer in the pay scale of ₹ 13900-320-17100)
3	Graduate Engineer Trainee (Electrical)	7	GT-1; BC-3; MBC/DNC-2; SC-1	Shift Engineer (Chemical) / Assistant Manager (

**Five killed as car hits dumper in West Bengal**

KOLKATA  
Five persons were killed and one injured after their car collided with a dumper truck at Birpara area in West Bengal's Alipurduar district on Friday, police said. The MUV they were travelling in was left in a mangled state following the accident that took place around 3 a.m., they said. All the six men were rushed to a hospital, where four were declared brought dead and another succumbed to injuries later, a police officer said. The condition of the injured person is stated to be critical, he said. PTI

**Odisha offers free space to banks for branches**

This would help extend banking services, disburse wages under MGNREGA

**STAFF REPORTER**  
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government has decided to provide space in Bharat Nirman Gandhi Sewa Kendras (BNRGSK) free of cost to both banks and post offices to open their branches which would help extend banking services and disburse wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

The State government, however, made it clear that the

facility will be made available to banks only in gram panchayats where there is no brick and mortar branch.

**Cost of interiors**

As per the condition put forward by the Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water department, about 200 sq ft area in BNRGSKs would be provided to banking institutions.

Banks and postal departments will bear the cost of interiors and electricity charg-

es. Agreements will be executed between banks and concerned gram panchayats.

As per National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, as many as 37 commercial banks (3,926 branches), two regional rural banks (987 branches), Odisha State Cooperative Bank (14 branches), 17 District Central Cooperative Banks (340 branches) and two small finance banks (40 branches) and 2,708 Primary Agriculture Cooper-

ative Societies operate in the State.

Out of the total branches, 2,814 and 1,426 branches are located in rural areas and semi-urban areas respectively and 1,053 branches are in urban areas. However, many gram panchayats lack brick and mortar branch.

In interior pockets, people travel long distance to withdraw wages from their account as banks are not available in their panchayats.

**'Special panels to detect, deport illegal immigrants'**

Committees formed in three districts: Mizoram Minister

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

AIZAWL

The Mizoram government has formed "special task force committees" – both at the district level and the subdivisional level – to detect and deport illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, State Home Minister Lalchamliana told the Assembly on Friday.



Chief Minister Zoramthanga. ■ FILE PHOTO

port immigrants who have illegally entered India from the neighbouring country.

Mizoram shares 318-km-long border with Bangladesh.

**No report filed yet**

Mr. Lalchamliana said that the committees were yet to submit any report on their findings.

He further claimed that the State government had no intention of setting up any foreigners' tribunal for now.

des border, in accordance with a directive by the Centre.

He said that the Union Ministry of Home Affairs had in November 2009 directed the State government to de-

part from the task force committees, State police officers have also been asked to be on the lookout for illegal immigrants, the Minister added.

**Car of Bodoland council chief's wife attacked by miscreants**

Stone-pelting believed to be linked to the BTC polls scheduled for April



BTC chief Hagrama Mohilary. ■ FILE PHOTO

scheduled for April.

The incident took place in a dark jungle area. We have examined some suspects but have not been able to establish their involvement," said Anurag Agarwal, Inspector General of Police for the Bodoland areas.

creants had attacked the car from both sides in a forested area immediately after the escort vehicle passed by.

"The incident happened in a dark jungle area. We have examined some suspects but have not been able to establish their involvement," said Anurag Agarwal, Inspector General of Police for the Bodoland areas.

The BTC has been wielding power in the BTC since its creation in 2003 and is expected to face a stiff challenge in the upcoming polls.

Leaders of all factions of the disbanded extremist group, National Democratic Front of Bodoland, which signed the third Bodo Peace Accord with the Centre in January, are likely to float a political party or join BPF's rival United People's Party Liberal soon.

**Three-member committee to probe Class XI question paper leak**

It will find out if there were lapses on the part of COHSEM

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

IMPHAL

A three-member committee has been set up to inquire into the alleged leak of question paper of Class XI final examination conducted by the Council of Higher Secondary Education Manipur, officials said on Friday.

The committee will find out the facts and circumstances leading to the leak of the question papers.

Education (Schools) and the Deputy Secretary in the Education department as the other two members, a statement issued by the Education department said.

The committee will find out the facts and circumstances leading to the leak of the question papers.

It will also probe whether there were any procedural lapses on the part of the COHSEM or any individual

**Kolkata pays tributes to Ghalib**

The celebrations include a tour of places where he lived and visited



A poster titled 'Bayaad-e-Ghalib'. ■

that an international seminar on Mirza Ghalib will be held.

The five plays also includes 'Ghalib Aur Kolkata' recreating the poetic congregation that was held at Calcutta Madrasah in 1828.

Dabir Ahmed, professor of Urdu at Kolkatta's Maulana Azad College, said that Mirza Ghalib's visit to Kolkata remains a little known aspect of his life. Ghalib arrived in Kolkatta on February 20, 1828, and left the city on October 1, 1829. During his stay, he visited a number of places and even read at three poetic symposiums (mushairas) where the Calcutta Madrasah is located," Prof. Ahmed said. He said that the poet wrote a prose, known as 'Qate Burhan' which is on the literary differences he had with other poets.

Experts like Prof. Ahmed said that Ghalib visited important landmarks, including

the Governor's House, the Writer's Building, and also National Library that used to be the residence of senior British officials.

**Bengali translation**

Other events include a recitation of Bengali translation of 'Charagh-e-Dair' written by Ghalib in Benaras and eight short story writers of Urdu and Bengali presenting their fictionalised version of Ghalib life in form of short stories.

Syed Md. Shahabuddin Haider, vice-chairman of the West Bengal's Urdu Academy, said that grand tribute to Ghalib by the people of city was due for a long time. "The celebrations will involve people from all walks of life, from academicians to students and common people. This is the least we can offer him," he said.

Mirza Asadullah Khan Ghalib was born in Agra on December 27, 1797, and died in Delhi on February 15, 1869.

Reflecting on the Ghalib's love for the city, Mr. Haider quoted the famous lines of the poet about the city. "Kalkatte ka jo zikri kiya tu ne hum nasheen, Ikrer mere seenay mein maa kray haye haye (Ah me, my friend! The mention of Calcutta's name, has loosed a shaft that pierces my heart."

**CLASSIFIEDS MART**

TO ADVERTISE:  
[www.thehinduads.com](http://www.thehinduads.com)

011-43579738 • 43579797

**EDUCATIONAL**

**ALS | IAS**  
हिन्दी माध्यम डॉ. मुखर्जी नगर

# सामान्य अध्ययन

**EXTENSIVE FOUNDATION 2021-22**

Programme Director  
Manoj Kumar Singh  
Managing Director: Alternative Learning Systems (ALS)

सामान्य अध्ययन बैच प्रारंभ

**FEB 25 11:30am**

VENUE: ALS, Vardhman Plaza, Nehru Vihar  
9999343999, 9910602288, 27651110

**भूमि IAS**

## PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

*The Best optional of decades among other options (Bilingual Batch at Mukherjee Nagar Center)*

by Abhay Kumar

**25 Feb. 8 AM**

**सामान्य अध्ययन-IV एथिक्स (UPPCS) (MAINS)**

by अभय कुमार

**2 मार्च**  
सायं: 6:00 बजे

**राजनीति विज्ञान**  
वेस्टर्न थिंकर्स के साथ बैच प्रारंभ...  
by अभय कुमार

**25 फरवरी प्रातः 10:15 बजे**

**9870309939**

**VEDANGA INSTITUTE FOR IAS ACADEMY**

**CSE MOCK INTERVIEW**  
Feb- 20, 22, 23, 26 March-15

Minimum 2/3 Former UPSC Board Members in Each Mock Interview

Call/WhatsApp DAF @ 8287776460 or Email Your DAF - chahalacademy@gmail.com

B-7, Apsara Arcade, Karol Bagh, New Delhi.

**CHAHAL ACADEMY**

**CSE MOCK INTERVIEW**  
in UPSC CSE 2017, 2015 & 2013 Results audited

**8882-120-120**  
[www.careerlauncher.com/upsc](http://www.careerlauncher.com/upsc)

**UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD.**  
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking) (Corporate Identity No. U40109UP2001SCC025872358)  
Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun-248001  
Phone No.: 0135-2763672-75, Fax: 0135-2763830, Website: [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in)

**DATE EXTENSION OF e-TENDER NOTICE-I**

In reference to this office e-tender specification no. 17 /SE(MM)/2019-20 for sale of various size of empty drum of cable on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" available in Haridwar Zone. Due to unavoidable circumstances the tender will be opened on dated 02.03.2020 at 16:30 hrs. Last Date & time of online request for purchase of tender document on dated 02.03.2020 at 13:00 hrs & submission of tender in online and offline mode will be on dated 02.03.2020 upto 15:30 hrs.

All other terms and conditions will remain same as per original tender notice. For further details, please visit website [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in).

No. 144/EE(cm)/UPCL/A-2 Date 20.02.2020 Superintending Engineer(MM)

SAVE ENERGY IN THE INTEREST OF NATIONS Use LED Bulb Save Electricity. (Toll-Free: 1912)  
"Pay Electricity Bill Online 24x7 from [www.upcl.org/](http://www.upcl.org/)" (For information on Electricity Theft, Inform may report to Toll Free No. 1800 180 4185/Fax No.: 0135-2760911)

**EDUCATIONAL****UPSC PRELIMS 2020**

Worried about information overload??

**LEARN  
ELIMINATION TECHNIQUES  
INTELLIGENT GUESSING**

IMPROVE YOUR PRELIMS SCORE BY 30+ MARKS

BATCH STARTS: 22nd February 20 CLASSES 2 BATCHES: 11:00 - 01:00 PM 05:00 - 07:00 PM COURSE FEES: Rs 3000/- Offer for first 50 students: Rs 2000/-

AL2A 011-25721883, 40109834 9821805141, 9868560857  
G.F. Old Rajendra Nagar, Market, Delhi-60  
[www.l2a.in](http://www.l2a.in) / Email: [l2adelhi@gmail.com](mailto:l2adelhi@gmail.com) / [info@l2a.in](mailto:info@l2a.in)

**IAS ASPIRANTS GET READY FOR INTERVIEW - 2019**

**Sri Chaitanya IAS Academy**  
Shaping India's Next Generation Leaders

Evaluate yourself before UPSC evaluates you

**INTERVIEW GUIDENCE PROGRAMME**

By

**PANEL OF SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS**

under the esteemed guidance of

**Amb. Surendra Kumar, IFS Retd.**

(Formerly Dean Foreign Service Institute, Secy. Ministry of External Affairs)

**V.K. Agnihotri, IAS Retd.**

(Former Secretary General, Rajya Sabha)

**M. L. Kumawat, IPS Retd.**

(Former director general BSF, Former Chairman, Rajasthan Public Service Commission)

**Alexander Daniel, IPS Retd.**

Highlights:

Customised inputs based on your bio data/service preference/personal profile

Get valuable tips and techniques to face the interview

Enjoy the advantage of early preparation for best results

Admission or prior registration only

**SRI CHAITANYA IAS ACADEMY**

22-B, Rajender Nagar Right Side, Main Bazar Marg, Pusa Road, Near Metro Pillar-112, New Delhi-60.

Ph: 01145609516/17, 9667402779

www.vaidicscs.com

# Programme, not opportunism, is alternative to BJP: AAP MP

Home Minister is dangerous for country's law and order, says Sanjay Singh

ALOK DESHPANDE  
MUMBAI

Senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh on Friday said Union Home Minister Amit Shah is dangerous for the country's peace as incidents of violence have increased manifold since he assumed office. The AAP leader also said an alternative to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has to be based on a programme, not political opportunism.

"There have been instances of firing at lawyers, students have been beaten up, professors manhandled. The government, which was sympathetic towards Muslim women during the triple talaq debate, is not even talking to women at Shaheen Bagh. Crime in Delhi has peaked since the time he became India's Home Minister," Mr. Singh said, during an interaction with the media at the Mumbai Press Club.

"Look at the issues he has



**Quiet caution:** Aam Aadmi Party leader Sanjay Singh at a press conference in Mumbai on Friday. • VIVEK BENDRE

brought to the fore. The entire country's attention is diverted to a non-issue like CAA instead of unemployment, lack of education, inflation, slowing economy. I wonder what his understanding is. He is a dangerous person for the country's peace and for its law and order," he said.

Asked about the party's thumping victory in Delhi against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) despite the latter's campaign with religious overtones and controversial

statements, Mr. Singh said his party did not fall a prey to the BJP's agenda. "The BJP is not good for India. The party does not want to work on anything except communal politics," he said.

On whether the AAP can provide an alternative to the BJP across the country, Mr. Singh said the alternative can be raised based on programme, not political opportunism. "The Maha Vikas Aghadi government is formed on the basis of a common minimum pro-

gramme, which is good. A similar thing has happened in Jharkhand. There should not be a repeat of what happened in Karnataka. Cases like Karnataka paint anti-BJP parties as political opportunists and it will only help the BJP," he said.

Reiterating that AAP will be contesting the civic polls in Maharashtra, starting with the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation, Mr. Singh said it will only concentrate on areas where there is a strong organisational build-up. "In 2014, we fought over 450 Lok Sabha seats but lost deposits in most. We have learnt our lesson. We will contest only where an organisational structure is being created," he added.

The AAP leader welcomed Maharashtra Power Minister Nitin Raut's statement that the government is thinking of giving 100 units of free power to consumers and said if asked, the Delhi government is ready to provide assistance.

## HC allows Bhim Army meeting near RSS headquarters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NAGPUR

The Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court on Friday allowed the Bhim Army to hold a meeting of its workers at Reshimbagh ground here on February 22, but imposed certain conditions.

A division Bench of Justices Sunil Shukre and Madhav

Jamdar said the petition of the Dalit outfit, seeking permission for the conclave, is allowed with conditions. Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad is scheduled to address the meeting.

On Tuesday, HC had issued notices to the Maharashtra government and the

Nagpur police commissioner on the petition filed by a Bhim Army functionary. The sprawling ground is close to the RSS headquarters and the Kotwali police had earlier denied permission for the gathering, citing law and order issues.

In its operative order on Friday, the court said, "Per-

mission granted with conditions. It will be a workers' meet only. It shall not be converted into a demonstration or protest. There should be no inflammatory speeches and the atmosphere should be peaceful. Besides, Chandrashekhar Azad should give an undertaking agreeing to the conditions."

## Koregaon-Bhima judicial panel urged to summon Sharad Pawar

His statements are within the purview of this commission'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PUNE

The Koregaon-Bhima judicial inquiry commission has received an application seeking that NCP president Sharad Pawar be summoned in view of certain statements made by him about the 2018 caste violence near here.

Sagar Shinde, a member of the Vivek Vichar Manch, a social group, has filed the application before the panel through his advocate Pradip Gawade, seeking that Mr. Pawar be asked to depose before the two-member commission.

In his plea, Mr. Shinde cited a press conference by Mr. Pawar on February 18 where he alleged that right-wing activists Milind Ekbote and Sambhaji Bhide had created a "different" atmosphere in Koregaon-Bhima, located on outskirts of Pune city, the application said.

"In the same press conference, Mr. Pawar also alleges that the role of Pune city police commissioner is doubtful and must be investigated.



Sharad Pawar.

These statements are within the purview of the terms of reference of this commission and therefore they are relevant," Mr. Shinde said in the plea.

The applicant said he has reasons to believe Mr. Pawar has relevant and additional information, apart from what he has already shared in his earlier affidavit filed before the panel on the violence and other related matters.

The former Union minister, in his affidavit, had stated, "I would not be in a position to factually point out the chronology of the said events as that would be the domain of the existing Law and Order machinery."

He had also stated, "I would not be in a position to specifically make allegations against any particular organisation."

Mr. Pawar's affidavit said, "However, it is unfortunate that the State government and law and enforcement authorities failed to protect the interest of the common man residing at Koregaon Bhima and its vicinity."

furnish additional information he has so that the commission can arrive at its findings in a just and fair manner," he said.

Mr. Pawar had, on October 8, 2018, filed an affidavit before the commission, headed by former Bombay High Court Justice J.N. Patel. Former Maharashtra chief secretary Sumit Mullick is the other member.

The former Union minister, in his affidavit, had stated, "I would not be in a position to factually point out the chronology of the said events as that would be the domain of the existing Law and Order machinery."

He had also stated, "I would not be in a position to specifically make allegations against any particular organisation."

Mr. Pawar's affidavit said, "However, it is unfortunate that the State government and law and enforcement authorities failed to protect the interest of the common man residing at Koregaon Bhima and its vicinity."

"Therefore, in the interest of justice, this applicant makes a prayer to the commission to issue a summon to Mr. Pawar and require him to depose in person and

defame Goa, and on vetting of scripts.

Subhash Faldesai, vice-chairman of ESG, told PTI that a serious thought has been given by the body to the frequent maligning of the State through movies. Mr. Sawant, who is also ESG chairman, last week had taken strong objection to certain scenes in *Malang*.

The Mohit Suri-directed romantic thriller was shot in Goa and hit the theatres on February 7. The film, featuring Aditya Roy Kapur and Disha Patani in the lead, has scenes of drug and rape parties in Goa.

The ESG is the nodal agency which regulates film shootings in the State.

"If there is any scene

which directly or indirectly maligns Goa, then the ESG will not allow it. Wrong perception should not be created about Goa by labelling it as a drug, liquor or prostitution destination," Mr. Faldesai said.

The ESG is contemplating

## Raising their voice



**Hear us:** People from all sections of the society gather in large numbers at Azad Maidan in Panaji on Friday to raise voices against the Citizenship Amendment Act, the NRC and the NPR. • ATISH POMBURFELKAR

## Malang effect: Goa to frame guidelines for filmmakers

If there is any scene which directly or indirectly maligns the State we will not allow it: ESG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PANAJI

The Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG) is upset with films that seek to portray the State as a "drug or prostitution" destination and is working on guidelines for filmmakers to curb attempts to malign the image, officials said on Friday.

The trigger for the move is the just-released Hindi film *Malang* which was slammed by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant for projecting Goa in a poor light.

The ESG, a State-affiliated body, has decided to come out with a set of measures, including getting an undertaking from filmmakers that they will not



Aditya Roy Kapoor and Disha Patani in *Malang*. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

getting an undertaking from movie producers that they will not portray the State in a negative light before allowing them to shoot, he said.

"We believe in protecting creative freedom of filmmakers, but not at the

## AIMIM is 'B team' of BJP, says NCP

Parties unite to criticise 'divisive' remarks by former Byculla MLA Waris Pathan

ALOK DESHPANDE  
MUMBAI

A day after All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) leader and former MLA Waris Pathan made a controversial statement pitching two communities against each other, the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) slammed the party calling it Bharatiya Janata Party's 'B team' which is trying to disturb communal harmony in the country.

Reiterating that AAP will be contesting the civic polls in Maharashtra, starting with the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation, Mr. Singh said it will only concentrate on areas where there is a strong organisational build-up. "In 2014, we fought over 450 Lok Sabha seats but lost deposits in most. We have learnt our lesson. We will contest only where an organisational structure is being created," he added.

The AIMIM's State unit has distanced itself from the statement and has sought explanation from Mr. Pathan.

"Due to ongoing and fearless democratic protests against the CAA and NRC, the BJP is losing the battle for our unity and has helplessly activated their B-Team. We urge people to be aware and avoid such inflammatory separatist ideology," said NCP's Maharashtra unit chief and State Irrigation minister Jayant Patil.

The Congress said AIMIM and BJP are two sides of the same coin. "It has been proven time and again that the AIMIM works on its agenda of communal polarisation on the orders of the BJP. Extremism of any religion is harmful to the country and therefore both the BJP and the AIMIM should be opposed strongly," said Maharashtra Congress committee spokesman Sachin Sawant.

Mr. Sawant said Mr. Pathan's statement is similar to those by BJP leaders such as Amit Shah, Anurag Thakur, Yogi Adityanath and others.

"The intention behind all these statements is to ensure communal polarisation and to break the country's unity," he said.



Members of Hindu organisations protesting in Pune over the recent remarks by AIMIM leader Waris Pathan. • MANDAR TANNU

Bala Nandaonkar issued a video message warning Mr. Pathan against making similar statements in future. "You will face the consequences. Forget Byculla, we will ensure that you are thrown out of the State," Mr. Nandaonkar said.

Workers of the BJP also held a protest against Mr. Pathan at Byculla, the constituency he represented from 2014 to 2019.

Speaking to reporters in Nagpur, former chief minister and senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis said, "Mr. Pathan should apologise to the nation and the Hindu community. If he doesn't apologise, the government must take action against him."

## AIMIM to seek explanation from Pathan

Party does not support the statement, says State unit chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
AURANGABAD

The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) will seek an explanation from its leader Waris Pathan over his alleged '15 crore Muslims can be heavy on 100 crore' remark he Karnataka, a party leader said here on Friday.

Mr. Pathan had made the purported remarks while addressing an anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) rally at Kalaburagi in North Karnataka on February 16.

"We have to move together. We have to take azaadi (freedom), things that we don't get by asking, we have to take it by force, remember it... (We may be) 15 crore, but are heavy on 100 (crore), remember it," Mr. Pathan can be heard purportedly saying in a video of his speech that has gone viral.

Talking to reporters here, AIMIM's Maharashtra

unit chief and Aurangabad MP Imtiyaz Jaleel said, "Our party does not support the statement made by Waris Pathan. The party will seek an explanation from him."

"If needed, we will come out with a set of dos and don'ts for the party workers to follow while giving speech," he said.

"BJP leaders Anurag Thakur and Yogi Adityanath had also given some hateful statements, but none questioned them about it," Mr. Jaleel added.

Meanwhile, workers of the BJP and the Raj Thackeray-led MNS held protests in Aurangabad against Mr. Pathan, seeking stern action against him.

## 19-year-old national-level boxer ends life

### Helplines

BMC mental health helpline:  
022 24131212 (24x7)

Vandrevala Foundation:  
18602662345/  
18002333330 (24x7)

I Call:  
022-25521111  
(8 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
Monday to Saturday)  
The Samaritans Mumbai:  
8422984528/  
8422984529/  
8422984530  
(3 p.m.- 9 p.m. all days)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NAGPUR

A 19-year-old national-level boxer from Nagpur allegedly ended his life in his hostel room in Akola on Friday, his coach said.

The deceased, Pranav Bhatt, had represented Maharashtra at a national boxing championship held in Delhi earlier this year, his coach Satishchandra Bhatt said.

Raut, a resident of Nagpur, was undergoing training at a sports academy in Akola, where Mr. Bhatt was his team's coach, and stayed in its hostel.

On Friday, he was supposed to participate in a tournament in Akola.

"Yesterday, he had not come for training due to health reasons. However, on Friday morning he was found dead in his room," Mr. Bhatt said.

## Mahadayi: Goa to move SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PANAJI

Goa will file an application in the Supreme Court on the Mahadayi river water dispute pleading that Karnataka be not allowed to go ahead with construction on the Kalasa Banduri project, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said on Friday.

## 'No space for more retail liquor outlets'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PANAJI

Liquor traders in Goa on Friday asked the State government to stop issuing any more licences for retail sale of alcohol as the industry has reached "saturation point".

"We are also consulting our legal team before framing guidelines for filmmakers," he said.

The ESG, affiliated to the Goa Information and Publicity Department, is the nodal agency for organisation of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in the State.

The main aim of the ESG is to frame policies to help cultivate Goa into a world-class international entertainment nerve centre of the country.

hike in excise duty on various liquor brands, including local brew feni. Mr. Naik said 2,000 retail liquor outlets already exist for a population of 15 lakh which is sufficient to meet the requirements in Goa.

"There is no space for more outlets in the state.

The State government should stop giving fresh licences for the next three years as the industry has reached "saturation point", he said.

He claimed the liquor trade industry is slowly slipping out of the hands of Goans due to "faulty" policies of the State government.

रोजाना सुबह कोई न्यूज पेपर. पीडीएफ में डाउनलोड  
करने के लिए [www.DailyEpaper.in](http://www.DailyEpaper.in) को विजिट करें।  
या फिर आप  [Click Here](#)

---

### ENGLISH

The Hindu  
The Indian Exp  
Business Standard  
Hindustan Times  
The Telegraph  
Deccan Chronicle  
Business Line  
The Pioneer  
The Financial Exp  
The Times Of India  
The Economic Times  
Mint

### HINDI

Dainik Jagran  
Dainik Bhaskar  
Jansatta  
Amar Ujala  
Pioneer  
Hindustan  
Prabhat Khabar  
Rajasthan Patrika  
Business Standard

### GUJRATI

Sandesh

### TELEGU

Eenadu  
Sakshi  
Nava Telangana

### MARATHI

Loksatta  
Sakal  
Lokmat

### Weekly News

Employment News  
Karmasangsthan  
Karmakshetra

## Daily Update All Indian Newspaper in PDF

---

For Download Daily Newspaper in PDF, Please Visit [DailyEpaper.in](http://DailyEpaper.in)

[Click Here](#)  [www.DailyEpaper.in](http://www.DailyEpaper.in)

or

IF You Are Preparing For IAS, PCS, SSC Exam Then Just Download UPSC IAS All in One App From PlayStore. You will get here UPSC Complete Solution Free (All Study Material, Video Lecture, Magazines, Newspaper & The Hindu Analysis Video



UPSC IAS All in One - Mission 2020  
Web360 Education  98

3+  
You don't have any devices.  
 Add to Wishlist

[Download](#)

[Click Here](#)





## IN BRIEF



AIADMK against seeking certain details for NPR

CHENNAI

The ruling AIADMK, under criticism for backing the Centre on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, said the State had urged the Centre to avoid gathering certain details from the residents for the National Population Register (NPR).

Church council to pray for COVID-19-hit China

GUWAHATI

The Nagaland Baptist Churches Council (NBCC) has organised a special prayer on February 23 for China, which is affected by COVID-19. The NBCC appealed to all churches in Nagaland to hold a special Sunday prayer for China and other countries affected by COVID-19.

15 land parcels attached in bogus import case

NEW DELHI

The ED has attached 15 land parcels in Surat, taking the value of total attachment in a case of bogus import to over ₹34 crore. The funds were allegedly routed using more than 3,000 companies. The land measuring about 3,849 sq m belongs to one Madanlal Jain.

Man acquitted of rape, forced prostitution

NEW DELHI

A man has been acquitted of the charges of raping his wife, having unnatural sex with her and forcing her into prostitution as she died before her testimony could be recorded. He was acquitted as the medical examination reports also did not prove the allegations. PTI

Drug tests for pilots, cabin crew proposed

NEW DELHI

Pilots, cabin crew and air traffic controllers may have to undergo drug tests, according to a proposal by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. It has proposed conducting random tests on aviation personnel such that 10% employees of each organisation are covered in a year's time.

## WEATHER WATCH

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



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD; POLLUTION DATA: CPCB; MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)  
Forecast for Saturday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Bihar, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry



## Asleep at the wheel

The Tiruppur accident shows that the Centre and States are yet to take road safety seriously

**E**n in a country inured to death and mayhem on its roads everyday, Thursday's crash that killed 19 bus passengers on a national highway, at Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu, comes as a shock. Every day, thousands board government-run and private buses for inter-city travel, placing their lives in the hands of transport operators and the authorities whose duty it is to guarantee road safety. Unfortunately, Central and State officials feel little compulsion to do their duty when it comes to road safety. Those whose lives were snuffed out on the journey from Bengaluru to Ernakulam in a Kerala government bus should not become faceless additions to the list of fatalities on Indian roads. In 2018, that toll was a staggering 1,51,417 lives. A preliminary inquiry points to human error involving the container lorry driver who is suspected to have fallen asleep at the wheel. The probe is also looking at whether the container was overloaded, and lacked an assistant. It is reasonable to assume that a helper would alert a driver to danger. Whatever the proximate factors, the Tiruppur crash highlights the gap that India must bridge before it can hope to bring down road fatalities by at least half during the current decade. In fact, India is committed to achieving such a reduction under the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the promise was reiterated by Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari recently, at the Third Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety, at Stockholm.

In spite of amendments made to the Motor Vehicles Act, and new engineering standards enforced for vehicle safety, the risk on the roads is on the rise. State governments responsible for enforcement remain apathetic and their derelict bureaucracies ignore safety laws in cities and highways. The cost of such indifference is borne by families of victims in the form of bereavement, loss of income and enduring trauma. Moreover, the economy is deprived of productivity and output. The latest World Bank assessment of India's loss from road accidents, which was released at the Stockholm meet, points out that road users between 18-45 years constitute 69% of fatalities. Also, 54% of deaths and serious injuries occur mainly among vulnerable groups: pedestrians, cyclists and two-wheeler riders. In the Bank's estimate, it will take an additional \$109-billion of investment in 10 years to achieve a 50% reduction in road deaths. Mr. Gadkari has focused on removing dangerous 'black spots' on highways, making consultants and contractors liable for road conditions, and imposing stiffer penalties for traffic offences. The amended MV Act makes all this possible, but many State governments have balked at enforcing it. It is imperative that the Centre forms an empowered Road Safety Board at the national level to advise States on all related concerns as envisaged under the MV Act, and makes State enforcement agencies accountable for safety.

## Terror in Germany

The rise of far-right groups poses a serious threat to peace and security in Europe

**W**ednesday's bloody rampage in Hanau town near Frankfurt by a suspected far-right extremist has heightened concerns over recurrent hate crimes in Germany, home to the largest number of immigrants from the recent refugee crisis. The incident, coming just days after 12 men were arrested for plotting attacks on mosques, is a chilling reminder of the threats to peace and stability in a European powerhouse. In separate attacks, the perpetrator gunned down nine people, including a pregnant woman and youngsters, in two local shisha bars, before killing himself and his mother. Authorities have established the gunman's extreme xenophobic beliefs using online evidence, where the 43-year-old attacker had advocated the elimination of people across continents. Crucial to investigators is the similarity of the lethal weapon wielded on Wednesday to that used in the 2016 Munich mall shooting. The comparison has brought into focus the role of Germany's intelligence agencies. While the latter have often stressed the growing number of actual and potential incidents they deal with, rights groups have called into question their level of efficiency.

The latest violence must awaken those who take the complacent view that the threat from the far-right is concentrated in Germany's eastern regions. The State of Hesse, where Wednesday's attack took place, was witness last year to the brutal murder of a Christian Democratic Union (CDU) official by a neo-Nazi; Walter Lübcke was targeted for his courageous defence of Chancellor Angela Merkel's liberal refugee policy. In 2017, the mayor of Altena, in North Rhine-Westphalia province, known for admitting a larger share of asylum-seekers, narrowly escaped a knife attack. These are evidently not isolated crimes, as the Alternative for Germany (AfD), the country's largest opposition in the Bundestag, has stepped up its anti-Islam and anti-immigration campaign. But the recent political developments in Thuringia State have exposed divisions within the CDU on the approach to ward off the threat from the far-right. The local unit's move to side with the AfD to keep the left-wing Die Linke party out of power forced the resignation of the party chief and the country's Defence Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer. A party that is otherwise a staunch champion of liberal democratic values in the EU can ill-afford to dither on a question of key importance to unity within Germany and across the EU. Moreover, as a principal constituent of the European People's Party in the EU Parliament, the German CDU must wean the group away from hardline forces, especially in Hungary and Poland. These are lessons to be learnt from the Hanau massacre.

# Forging a new India-U.S. modus vivendi

New Delhi needs the superpower's support to move towards a more organic rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific



AMITABH MATTOO

**I**t is easy to be contrarian about U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to India early next week, given his idiosyncrasies, his often-unpredictable, rambunctious ways and the roughshod manner in which he seeks to put America first. And yet, it is clearer than perhaps ever before in recent times, that New Delhi needs the continued support of the U.S. government on almost everything substantial that matters to India in its quest to be a power of substance in the international system.

The acceptance of this admittedly parsimonious explanation then accords a new gravitas to the Trump visit. While the elaborate festive arrangements for the American President's 36 hours in India may seem over the top, they are part of an investment in an 'unbridled' (after the failed impeachment and the surge in his approval ratings) Mr. Trump that he could quickly return – even during the trip itself – given his reputation as a sharp deal-maker who often beats the odds.

### Preparing for Trump 2.0

Moreover, on present evidence, not limited to the fratricidal war between Democratic presidential hopefuls, the world may have to deal with Mr. Trump for four more years after the end of his present term this year. From a fairer trade regime; to accessing cutting-edge technology; to the fight against terrorism; to stabilising our region, New Delhi stands to benefit from

constructive ties on all issues, given a more sensitive United States. India must therefore seek greater understanding and engagement should there be a Trump 2.0.

Asymmetrical partnerships, as we know from history, are rarely easy. Partnerships with superpowers are even more difficult; in international politics, as in life, even the best of unequal relationships results in a loss of some dignity and autonomy. It took all of Winston Churchill's weight, foresight, wisdom, and the frightening imagery of communism invading Europe, to convince the U.S. of the need of a special relationship across the Atlantic, after the Second World War; and even then the British had to accept that London would be just another city in Europe, and Washington would consult London only when deemed necessary. But as Churchill realised on that fateful day in March 1946 in Fulton, Missouri, when he delivered his 'Iron Curtain' speech, the consequences of not arriving at a modus vivendi with the U.S. would be disastrous.

Today, the Indo-Pacific has arrived at an 'Iron Curtain' moment in its history. Without the United States, the region could become willy-nilly part of a new Chinese tributary system; with a fully engaged United States, the region has at least the chance of creating a more organic rules-based order.

In New Delhi's case, the history of, what diplomat Dennis Kux described as, "estrangement" with the United States, during the Cold War, has had consequences for vital national interests that continue to cast their shadow on the present. Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), nuclear non-proliferation, the festering of the Pakistan "problem", the Chinese humiliation of 1962, are just a few examples.



But much of course has changed today. Anti-Americanism, once the conventional wisdom of the Indian elite, seems outdated. New Delhi has, over the decades, gone on to align itself more closely with Washington. More important, outside the Left, both within India and in the U.S., the consensus across the mainstream of political opinion favours stronger relations between the two countries.

This is notwithstanding the recent concerns expressed in Congress about the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and about the internment of political leaders in J&K.

### Foreign policy's pro-U.S. tilt

In 2008, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, in a gesture that seemed uncharacteristic for him, effusively praised President George W. Bush and told him that the people of India "deeply love him". According to the latest Pew Surveys of Global Opinion, support for Mr. Trump in India is high enough to suggest a great deal of public affection for the American President. That itself is a marker of the way India and Indians now see the world.

The reason for the change in New Delhi's geostrategic outlook can be summarised quickly. If the 1971 Friendship Treaty with the Soviet Union was a response to the

continuing U.S. tilt towards Pakistan and the beginnings of a Washington-Beijing entente, at present, it is the prospect of a potentially hegemonic China in the Indo-Pacific region is helping to cement the relationship. Beijing has managed to alienate nearly all its neighbours and allies, except North Korea and Pakistan.

It is often tempting also to dismiss the gains made bilaterally during the last three years of the Trump Administration. A recent book, *A Very Stable Genius*, by Philip Rucker and Carol D. Leonig, suggests that Mr. Trump almost wrecked the partnership with New Delhi because of his ignorance, insolence and by going against the advice of his own (former) Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson. There is, however, little other evidence to support this claim.

Indeed, two of the best informed American analysts suggest otherwise. In *Foreign Affairs*, strategic affairs analyst Ashley Tellis writes about the "surprising success" of the partnership and argues that Mr. Trump and Mr. Modi have "deepened" the defence cooperation. And Jeff Smith of the Heritage Foundation lists the accomplishments India-U.S. ties have made over the years, including "a foundational military agreement that allows for the sharing of encrypted communications and equipment; a change in U.S. export control laws that places India in a privileged category of NATO and non-NATO U.S. allies; a new 2+2 foreign and defense ministers dialogue; an exponential increase in U.S. oil exports to India; the inauguration of the first India-U.S. tri-service military exercise and an expansion of existing military exercises; the signing of an Industrial Security Annex that will allow for greater collaboration among the

two countries' private defense industries; the inclusion of India and South Asia in a U.S. Maritime Security Initiative..."

But, as Mr. Tellis points out, much work needs to be done for the two countries to fulfil the potential of the relationship, especially in the area of defence. This, together with other key issues including trade, is on the centre-piece of the Trump-Modi agenda for the visit.

### Bipartisan consensus

There is, of course, a chance that we may have a Democratic President next year. In those circumstances, we can only hope that the bipartisan consensus on engaging India – which has continued from Bill Clinton's second term will prevail. To be sure, however, a new President will seek to put his/her own imprimatur on the relationship. The Democrats will clearly be more proactive on human rights and on issues of inclusion and diversity, which would make a greater demand on South Block and test its capacity and creativity.

New Delhi must, of course, continue engaging with its strongest source of support in the United States: the Indian diaspora. Fortunately, there is a near consensus on the need to strengthen this constituency.

In any case, there is little doubt that whoever is the next occupant of the White House, a retreat from multilateralism (especially on trade-related issues) and concern about China will continue to be the two main pillars of contemporary American foreign policy. If for only those reasons, Mr. Trump's re-election has undeniable significance.

Amitabh Mattoo is a Professor of International Relations at the Jawaharlal Nehru University

## Litmus test for a judicial clean-up order

The next Assembly polls will prove whether the Supreme Court stand on criminal candidates has the desired effect



NAVIN CHAWLA

**L**ast week's Supreme Court judgment, on February 13, 2020, by Justices R.F. Nariman and S. Ravindra Bhat, marks an important and possibly far-reaching step towards reining in the political establishment as far as fielding candidates with criminal antecedents is concerned. This judgment goes well beyond the Court's earlier orders of 2002 and 2003 that made it obligatory for all candidates to provide self-sworn affidavits of criminal cases pending against them in any court of law.

By virtue of this order, the Court has also shifted part of the onus on political parties, ruling that they must do much more to publicise the criminal antecedents of candidates that they have selected to contest both parliamentary and State Assembly elections.

It would no longer be sufficient to cite "winnability" as the criterion.

Citing figures of the alarming increase in the number of such persons selected as candidates across the political spectrum, the order asks parties contesting elections to henceforth explain why persons without criminal blemish could not have been chosen instead. While the judgments of 2002 and

2003 were important, and emanated after a prolonged struggle by the Association for Democratic Reforms, they did not have the desired impact on either the political establishment or indeed on voter choices: the present Lok Sabha has an all-time high of 43% of its members having one or more criminal cases against them.

As Election Commissioner and subsequently Chief Election Commissioner, and in the years thereafter, I have frequently expressed myself against "muscle" and "money" power, which have become the bane of our political system. Indeed "money" power has moved us in the direction of a plutocracy.

Both these two ills need urgent course correction, preferably from within the Executive itself. It surely cannot augur well for us that criminality within Parliament grew from 24% in 2004 to 30% in 2009, to 34% in 2014 and 43% in 2019. Almost half these cases were/are for alleged heinous offences such as murder, attempt to murder, rape and kidnapping.

**Extent of offence**  
In turn, political parties and candidates have often voiced their concern that cases tend to be foisted on them by political opponents. When the Election Commission of India (ECI) recommended to the government that legislation was warranted to exclude those candidates against whom charges had been framed by a court of law for heinous offences punishable by

imprisonment of five years and more, the Parliamentary Committee that had been set up to examine the proposal unanimously ruled against the ECI recommendation; perhaps the most vociferous voice was that of the late legal luminary, Ram Jethmalani, who was a member of the committee. He pointed out that he had dealt with many such cases arising out of political vendetta. Even when we met after I had retired from the ECI, I was unable to convince him of my point of view.

Of course, not all first information reports lodged against political players are criminal in intent. The violation of Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure as a result of civil protest is one such example. The case of a Medha Patkar or other social activists can hardly be considered criminal. Which is why the ECI, for over two long decades, has addressed various Prime Ministers to pass legislation on the ground that charges framed by a court of law for only heinous offences, and cases registered (not on the anvil of elections, but up to one year prior) would amount to a "reasonable restriction" and that such a person be barred from contest. But so far to

no avail.

### Voter behaviour

Although the recent judgment has decreed that political parties will give much wider publicity to the criminal antecedents of their candidates, it is possible that this alone may not suffice. Voter behaviour is most often conditioned by their own immediate needs. The distribution of "freebies", for instance, was often a one-way street, of candidates "offering" money and goodies. Voter behaviour has since begun to change. Voters now often tend to demand money and freebies. With our criminal justice system clogged with cases and lawyers fees often far beyond what many can afford, the local "don" standing for elections, who promises delivery of rough and ready justice, is often seen as the messiah on hand. All too often these cases involve bread and butter issues, from land and irrigation dispute resolution, to matters involving family honour. In such cases this "Robin Hood" contestant is actually a preferred choice, which helps to explain that where muscle and money get combined in the rural landscape, they often win by large margins. This was not always the case. In the 1970s and 1980s, the "don" was content to support the local political bigwig with his muscle, crowd-pulling capacity and money, hoping that once elections were over, the elected leader would help the "don" in turn, not least to help wipe out his string of cases. By the 1990s the muscle

man decided that this was not good enough. He decided to instead help himself to the fruits of political power by entering the electoral fray. Not all such players were men: witness the life and death of Phoolan Devi who came into political power on the power of a gun, and faded out too in the same manner.

### Wait and watch

So far whatever significant electoral reforms have taken place have emanated from the Supreme Court. For critics of this present order, I would remind them of None of the Above (NOTA) and the July 10, 2013 Order in the Lily Thomas vs Union of India case, wherein a parliamentarian or legislator convicted of an offence that leads to a sentence of two years and more will be debarred from contesting an election for six years after his or her prison term ends.

It is therefore prudent to await the next important Assembly elections on the anvil – in Bihar and West Bengal. No doubt the political parties will once again bat for the "winnability" factor in their selections. It remains to be seen how the recent judgment will affect the choices of the political establishment and whether it will have the desired effect in eliminating or significantly purging criminality from future legislatures.

Navin Chawla was India's 16th Chief Election Commissioner. He is the author of *'Every Vote Counts: the Story of India's Election'*

## 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.

### Road accidents

Major road accidents take place during nights ("19 killed as container falls on Kerala-bound bus in Tiruppur," and "Seven pilgrims from Nepal die in Salem accident," Feb. 21). It has been suggested by the public time and again that lorries must not operate during certain hours after midnight since drivers, having spent long hours at the wheels, tend to doze off. Wider roads only encourage vehicle users to drive at higher speeds. Dazzling headlights, increased power in engines, etc. are a menace. Speed governors must be fixed for all vehicles and speed guns must be installed to discourage speeding. Road safety measures should be strictly implemented.

V. LAKSHMANAN,  
Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu

### Keeping poverty away

The Indian government is doing a significant amount of window dressing to make sure that U.S. President Donald Trump's gaze does not fall on anything deemed unsightly. The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation is building a huge wall to keep a slum out of sight of the U.S. President. The Uttar Pradesh government has released water into the heavily polluted Yamuna river to get rid of foul smell. These involve spending crores of rupees and upending the lives and livelihoods of people who struggle to make ends meet. Instead of trying to whitewash India's poverty, the government must show its will and commitment to bring real change.

VENU G.S.,  
Kollam, Kerala

### No deal on the cards

This refers to the editorial, "Trump cards" (Feb. 21). While Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants to make Mr. Trump's forthcoming visit to India a memorable one, the U.S. has signalled its desire to drive a hard bargain on trade, making a deal unlikely during the trip. The U.S. decision, just days before the visit, to strip India of its status as a "developing" country is unfair to India on trade. There is also no possibility of the U.S. restoring the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) beneficiary status. India should not enter into a trade deal with the U.S. just for political optics. Aside from giving the two adulteration-hungry politicians garner more attention, the policy goals

of Mr. Trump's trip are unclear at present.

S.S. PAUL,  
Chakdaha, Nadia, West Bengal

### Future epidemics

With increasing environmental disruptions, the possibility of another health epidemic cannot be ruled out. And India, owing to its high population density, coupled with starkly non-uniform healthcare infrastructure distribution among States, definitely needs to be prepared ("Gearing up to face the next big viral outbreak," Feb. 21). Any future epidemic will have three consequences – one, loss of human capital; two, negative impact on economy; and three, embarrassment before the international community. Kerala managed the 2018 Nipah outbreak efficiently;

but other densely populated States like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar may struggle if confronted with such a situation. A nation-wide plan is needed.

PRIYANKA SRIVASTAVA,  
Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh

### ART legislation

While the legislative moves concerning Assisted Reproductive Techniques (ART) and abortion are noteworthy, there is also a need to review the archaic laws covering guardianship and adoption rights. Easing of adoption procedures; encouraging couples to adopt older children, not simply infants; and expanding ambit of reproductive laws to cover unorthodox relationships are a few steps that will lay down a non-exclusionary and progressive legal framework recognising the

legitimacy of new, emerging forms of family.

TANVI SONI,  
Jalandhar, Punjab

# In Tripura, a clash among the displaced

Following the agreement allowing some 35,000 displaced Bru tribal people to settle permanently in Tripura, tension is brewing between the Brus and the non-tribal Bengali residents who worry that they will become refugees in the State. **Rahul Karmakar** reports on the challenges to secure suitable land for both

**A**nandabazar, a commercial centre in northern Tripura's Reang tribal domain, means Market of Happiness. Given by Bengali refugees from present-day Bangladesh during the Partition of India, the name perhaps reflected their state of mind on receiving a piece of land to rebuild their lives.

But Anandabazar is far from the picture of happiness it was once, since December 10, 2019, when some 150 "miscreants" ransacked and looted the shops and houses of 93 Bengali families. These families have since been living in the barracks, official quarters, and the second floor of the Anandabazar police station.

"This is not the first time we have had to vacate our houses. We became refugees following a series of violent incidents from 2000 to 2003. Some of us left Anandabazar for good. Aren't we humans enough to deserve a fear-free life and a rehabilitation package similar to that of the Brus," asked Rathindra Kumar Roy, general secretary of Anandabazar Displaced People's Committee.

On February 19, Kanchanpur's Sub-Divisional Magistrate Chandrani Chandra visited the displaced Bengalis to break the news that the Tripura government has decided to stop their free rations and close down the camp in the police station. "Peace has prevailed since the incident that made them leave their homes. The compensation issues can be worked out after they leave the camp," she said.

Anandabazar is 23 km from Kanchanpur, the headquarters of one of three divisions of North Tripura district. These families, now numbering 117 with more from nearby villages taking refuge, have refused to budge until the State government compensates their losses and ensures safety for them back home.

The homes of the displaced Bengalis are within a 300-metre radius of the Anandabazar police station that has been virtually under siege for more than 70 days. Apart from the barracks, the quarters of some 20 police personnel accommodate some displaced families. "The government has asked them to leave but we cannot use force. We hope these families heed the government. We are trained to take the pressure of policing, but it is difficult when you hardly have a place to take rest," the police station's in-charge Keshab Ranjan Jamatia said.

But Sudhir Roy and Ashutosh Das are scared of becoming "soft targets" again. Roy's house, partly damaged with almost everything from his wife's jewellery to poultry and goats gone, is barely 50 metres from the police station. "What is the guarantee that the refugees, emboldened by the government's largesse, will not attack us again," Roy asked. By refugees, he meant the Bru community displaced from Mizoram and living across seven relief camps in north Tripura for more than two decades now, which places them in close contact with the Bengalis. Although the December attack on the non-tribal people was the fallout of the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019, Bengali organisations believe the "outsider" Brus, not their local tribespeople, have been targeting them to occupy their homes.

#### New refugees seen as villains'

The Brus, referred to as Tuikus by other tribes in Mizoram, are called Reangs in Tripura. They number about 2 lakh across Tripura and form the majority of the 1,09,648 Scheduled Tribes (2011 Census) in North Tripura district, followed by the Chakma and Tripuri communities. The district has 3,34,931 non-tribal people but they are fewer in number across the Kanchanpur subdivision, where Anandabazar is located, and in Damcherra block of the Panisagar subdivision that are under the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAACD).

Four of the seven Bru refugee camps are in Kanchanpur subdivision and three in Damcherra block. The largest of these, housing about 3,000 families, is Naisingpara and the smallest is Nabojipara with some 300 families. Both are in Kanchanpur subdivision. Nabojipara derived its name from the "new-comers," Brus who fled a second round of ethnic tension in Mizoram in 2009. Their arrival added to some 32,000 refugees who had come after the first wave of violence in 1997.

"Every problem needs a villain. The internally displaced people, removed from their roots and with nowhere else to go, are easy to blame for every ill," said A. Sawibunga, president of the Mizoram Bru Displaced People's Forum. He stays at the Naisingpara camp. "We were blamed in Mizoram; we are being blamed now. If extremist groups in Tripura were behind the attacks on Bengalis in 2000, the December incidents were the fallout of the anti-CAA protests where some of our youth may have been involved without our knowledge."

The Mizoram Bru Displaced People's Forum was one of the five Bru organisations that signed the resettlement plan



Brus in the Naisingpara refugee camp in Kanchanpur sub-division in Tripura. (Below): Bengalis have been living in the barracks, official quarters, and the second floor of the Anandabazar police station ever since their



in which some Bru refugees were responsible.

#### Land for Bengalis

The Mancha has blamed TIPRA (The Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance), a newly formed "apolitical party," for the plight of the Bengalis. TIPRA is headed by Pradyot Manikya Debbarma, former State Congress president and scion of the Tripura royal family as well as a signatory to the agreement for resettling the Brus in the State. According to the Mancha, Debbarma's political ambition was making him undo what his grandmother, Queen Kanchan Prava Devi, had done for the Bengali Hindu victims of Partition. On February 9, the Mancha lodged an FIR against Debbarma for allegedly whipping up sentiments against the Bengalis.

"Much of the Tripura kingdom was lost to East Pakistan but the royalty had a soft corner for the Bengali refugees of 1947-49, most of whom were its subjects. The Queen took the initiative to form the Swasti Samabay Samiti (cooperative society), one of India's oldest cooperative societies, and let the Partition-affected Bengalis settle on 1,000 drune of land in the hills of northern Tripura," said Agartala-based Pannal Roy, a researcher and author.

The Mancha allows its 3,500 members to settle on specified plots within the 1,000 drune, equivalent to 4,026.06 acres, without ownership. Members are also allowed to transfer land by paying the Samiti a fee. The arrangement, members said, somewhat insulates the non-tribal people from Sixth Schedule restrictions on land. In a letter to Governor Ramesh Bais on January 21, the Samiti's chairman Kamal Krishna Nath outlined how the Bengalis have been bearing the brunt of the Bru refugee pressure since 1997. He sought delimitation of the land for non-tribal people besides restoration of land vacated by the Bengalis because of years of violence and intimidation.

"Not only did the government not act on a series of attacks on Bengali people since 2000-2001, it has also not handed over the 1,000 drune of land to the Samiti. A survey done in 1954 revealed that 803 drune had been handed over, which was later recorded in the local administration's report in 2008. And of the allotted land, our members effec-

tively have 650 drune because of spaces provided for roads, government offices and schools," Nath said. The Samiti also claimed to have provided about 30 drune for helping the government set up some camps for the Bru refugees.

At Dasda, midway between Kanchanpur and Anandabazar, about 290 Bengali families have been living in a makeshift colony since being displaced by the violence in 2000. "We helped the Brus in many ways when they came but they made us flee our homes. We have somehow managed to survive despite the government stopping relief after six years. Whether the Left Front earlier or the BJP now, the government has shown it does not care for us," said Arun Chandra Nath of the Udbastu (displaced) Unnayan Samiti on the outskirts of Dasda.

The pressure of the refugees, locals of Dasda said, was felt by the tribal Lushais of the area too. About 60 families of the Lushais – Mizoos of Tripura – relocated to North Tripura district's Jampui Hills during the violence in 2000 fearing a backlash from the Brus who had fled retaliatory violence in Mizoram after a Bru extremist group killed a Mizo forest department employee in 1997.

#### Who are the outsiders?

"We have no conflict with the local Reangs and other tribes but the government must scrap the agreement and make the Brus return to Mizoram so that we can live in peace again. We have endured the outsiders for too long and can understand why the Mizoram government was happy to let Tripura rehabilitate them," the Mancha's general secretary, Diptanu Nath, said.

"Who said they are outsiders? The Brus are our very own people displaced by the Dumboor dam (in Gomati district) that submerged 70 sq miles of prime agricultural land for a power project in 1974 that gave us only 2 MW of electricity. Fate was cruel to them and they were displaced again two decades later from Mizoram," Debbarma said.

He trashed the Mancha's allegation that he was fomenting communal tension by consolidating the 19 Scheduled Tribes of Tripura and pitting them against the Bengalis on the pretext of opposing the CAA. The royal family belongs to one of these tribes. "The SC, ST and general caste people have been

staying together and there is no reason why they cannot continue to do so despite the Bru resettlement issue. I am not trying to create communal riots, but at the same time, I don't think it is wrong to fight for your own people. The past 70 years have given the indigenous people nothing. What we need to do is create unity so that we can demand our economic and land rights first and then strive for political rights," Debbarma said. "Unlike all leaders who have made speeches against me, I have donated ₹1.5 lakh to the affected Bengali people. I am not into divide-and-rule like them."

The IPFT believes the Bru resettlement would not have been much of an issue had the CAA not come at this juncture. "The tribal groups think exempting the tribal areas from the CAA would not help as a sudden increase in the population of the non-scheduled areas (beyond TTAADC) may eventually impact the resources of the State, including the areas under TTAADC," said the president of the IPFT, N.C. Debbarma.

The fear is because of the demographic shift over the years in Tripura. In 1941, the tribes made up 50.09% of the population in present-day Tripura while the non-tribal people, mainly Bengalis, were 49.91%. By 1951, the tribal population fell to 37.23%. The 2011 Census showed a dip in their population to 31.8% compared to 68.2% of the non-tribal people.

The Bengalis see a design in the resettlement of Brus to bridge the population gap at least in some tribal areas. "But our people are relocating to non-tribal areas. This is evident from the voters list of the Kanchanpur Assembly constituency that had 5,000 Bengali voters more than tribal voters in 1993. Today, there are 5,000 more tribal voters and we suspect the increase is because of the inclusion of Brus in the electoral roll," said Shailendra Nath, a Bengali leader of Satnala area near Kanchanpur.

Officials in Tripura denied having included the refugees as voters. Besides, Mizoram is yet to delete the names of some 12,000 Brus who would be resettled in Tripura.

#### The way forward

What matters most, tribal leaders said, is the determination of the Central and State governments to adhere to the schedule of resettlement of Brus by ensuring the local tribes and the Bengalis do not feel threatened.

But social wounds are taking some time to heal, and the local Reangs seem to be feeling the heat too despite belonging to the same ethnic group as the refugees. There are reports of the local tribes, outnumbered where the Bru relief camps are located, taking bank loans to erect boundary walls around their lands. The police recorded some minor clashes between the refugees and the local Reangs.

"The locals were not consulted about the resettlement plan, but we can share our resources with our less fortunate brothers and sisters from Mizoram. We cannot say what will happen in the future, but the original inhabitants must not be affected," said Jogendra Reang, former president of the Anandabazar

Committee. He admitted some cultural differences with the Brus "who have some Mizo traits".

A big concern is the lack of adequate space in some parts of TTAADC, specifically in North Tripura district where the population density is higher than the State's average. The Tripura government has assured local tribes and Bengali settlers that their lands would not be touched while honouring the Bru demand of being settled in clusters of not less than 500 families across the State.

"We are looking at slightly degraded forest land and places where they can practice agriculture as well," said Chandran, the Kanchanpur SDM. On February 18, she issued an order identifying four locations with a combined area of 2,302.6 hectares for tentatively settling 1,950 of the 4,744 families in the relief camps of Kanchanpur subdivision. "During the physical verification, the teams have been told to avoid patta land and ensure the land has road connectivity besides being free from encumbrances," she said.

A similar exercise has been undertaken in the adjoining Panisagar subdivision where another 1,000 families have taken refuge. The authorities in the two subdivisions have already conducted the physical verification of the Brus living in the camps to find out their actual number. Officials have not recognised families who do not have any document establishing their stay in Mizoram. The population of the refugees is believed to be "much more than the estimated 35,000" but the data is expected to be made public at the time of allotting the land to beneficiaries within 150 days of signing the agreement.

For the likes of Laldinpua, a 57-year-old inmate of the Naisingpara camp, the final resettlement would be the end of his dream of returning to Darla, his village in Mizoram about 100 km away. He wished the 40,000 Brus of Mizoram, including the 328 families who took the rehabilitation package to return till November 2019, well. "This place has been our home for more than 20 years. We picked up the pieces with refugees from different parts of Mizoram, many of whom were strangers. We are happy with how things have panned out but the sad part is many of us would have to live far apart," he said.

"It is a pity the Mizoram government could not change its attitude and make us feel wanted and safe unlike in Tripura. We are grateful to the BJP government at the Centre and the State and Bubagra (king in Kokborok language, meaning Pradyot Manikya) for finding a solution to our problem. We have at times been accused of biting the hands that fed us, but we want to move forward, co-existing with the local tribal people and the Bengalis. Having suffered as displaced people, it is unthinkable for us to make others refugees," said Bruno Msha, general secretary of the Mizoram Bru Displaced People's Forum.

The locals were not consulted about the resettlement plan, but we can share our resources with our less fortunate brothers and sisters from Mizoram. We cannot say what will happen in the future, but the original inhabitants must not be affected," said Jogendra Reang, former president of the Anandabazar



FROM PAGE ONE

## Pakistan retained on grey list of FATF

"Otherwise, should significant and sustainable progress, especially in prosecuting and penalising terror financing not be made by the next plenary, the FATF will take action, which could include the FATF calling on its members and urging all jurisdiction to advise their financial institutions to give special attention to business relations and transactions with Pakistan," it said in its strongest warning yet.

A high-level team from Pakistan was present at the plenary to defend Pakistan's record, while delegations of security and diplomatic officials from the 39-member body, which includes India, attended the meeting.

The "black-list" refers to countries for who there has

been a "call to action" or strict banking and international finance sanctions, a list which at present includes Iran and North Korea. Pakistan is one of the 12 countries on the "grey list" or "other monitored jurisdictions" that are being reviewed for actions to stop terror financing and money laundering.

Pakistan has been lobbying to get off the grey list, citing actions already taken, and reportedly has the backing of Turkey to be removed from the list entirely.

Significantly, even Indian government officials said placing Pakistan on the black list might prove counter-productive, as it would not be incentivised to complete the action plan under a deadline.

## Baahubali's Kiliki language evolves online



**From screen to script:** A still from *Baahubali* shows the Kalakeyas who spoke Kiliki. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Explaining the rationale behind a new language, Mr. Karky says, "It expands your thinking ability. Also, all languages in the world are associated with a race, community or caste. I want Kiliki to be a language that has the potential to connect the world without any barriers."

Mr. Karky, who is now working on the dialogues of Rajamouli's upcoming

RRR and director Vijay's Thalaivi, also plans to create job opportunities and evolve new art forms based on Kiliki. Plans to release new songs, comics and grammar books are in the works. "We want to create a new world around this language. Someday in the future, we might even see an entire film in which characters speak only Kiliki."

## Giriraj's fresh remark triggers row

'We paid a heavy price as our forefathers did not send Muslims to Pakistan'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PATNA



Giriraj Singh, Union Minister and BJP MP from Begusarai, has made yet another controversial statement. The BJP allies – the Janata Dal (United) and the Lok Janshakti Party – have urged him not to make such comments.

"Our forefathers committed a mistake. Had they ensured that all our Muslim brothers were sent to Pakistan during Partition in 1947 and the Hindus were brought here [from Pakistan], the need for the Citizenship (Amendment) Act would not have arisen. But this did not happen, and we paid a heavy price for it. When our forefathers were fighting for independence,

PMO gets two new advisers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday appointed two retired bureaucrats, Bhaskar Khulbe and Amarjeet Sinha, as his advisers for two years.

Mr. Khulbe earlier served as the PM's Secretary in the PMO. Mr. Sinha retired as Secretary-Rural Development and Panchayati Raj in the government. Both are 1983 batch IAS officers belonging to West Bengal and Bihar cadre, respectively.

Former Cabinet secretary P.K. Sinha is serving as Principal Adviser to the Prime Minister. He was appointed in the PMO when Nripendra Misra, the then Principal Secretary, resigned. The Principal Secretary post is now occupied by P.K. Misra.

Opposition leaders, barring those of the Rashtriya Janata Dal and the Congress, met poll strategist Prashant Kishor in Delhi on Thursday night, fuelling speculation on a third front taking shape ahead of the Bihar Assembly election due in October-November.

Mr. Kishor has announced that he would not support any party, but will reach out to 10 lakh youths in 100 days to support his 'Baat Bihar Ki' campaign aimed at the development of the State.

Jitan Ram Manjhi of the Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular), Upendra Kushwaha of the Rashtriya Lok Samata Party and Mukesh Sahni of the Vikas Insaan Party met Mr. Kishor at a hotel.

## Bihar Opposition leaders meet Kishor

Manjhi, Kushwaha and Sahni hold talks with poll strategist in New Delhi

**Local flavour:** Prashant Kishor has launched a campaign 'Baat Bihar Ki' for the State's development. ■ RANJEET KUMAR

They did not reveal what transpired at the meeting, but party sources told *The Hindu* that they urged Mr. Kishor to launch a third front, taking the Congress on board. "But Mr. Kishor told them that he was not going to launch or support any party, but if they want to join his campaign for the deve-

lopment of Bihar, they are welcome," a party leader close to Mr. Kushwaha said. The leaders discussed the current political situation and the emerging possibilities, he said.

On Friday, these leaders met Loktantrik Janata Dal leader Sharad Yadav in Delhi. Mr. Sharad Yadav has

ruled himself out of the race for leader of the Mahagathbandhan, or Grand Alliance.

"Tejaswi Yadav [of the RJD] is the leader, and the Mahagathbandhan will contest in the election under his leadership," he said.

Senior RJD leader Shiva-

nand Tiwari

said he failed to understand the urgency for these leaders to meet Mr. Kishor and others when the election was months away.

Instead, they should focus on strengthening their parties.

However, the other leaders of the Mahagathbandhan said Mr. Manjhi, Mr. Kushwaha and Mr. Sahni were meeting Mr. Kishor, Mr. Sharad Yadav and Pappu Yadav to keep the pressure on the RJD and the Congress for a larger share of the seats.

## GoM meet discusses Juvenile Justice Act

Smriti Irani steered the meeting

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

A Group of Ministers (GoM) chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah met on Friday to discuss proposed amendments to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) JJ Act, 2015. Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani steered the meeting.

The 2015 Act addressed

two key issues – "apprehension, detention, prosecution, penalty or imprisonment, rehabilitation and social re-integration of children in conflict with law" and "procedures and decisions or orders relating to rehabilitation, adoption, re-integration and restoration of children in need of care and protection".

Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Health Minister Harsh Vardhan attended the meeting.

## 'CPI will support Amaravati stir'

STAFF REPORTER

VIJAYAWADA

Members of the Amaravati Parikrshana Samithi JAC on Friday submitted a memorandum to CPI national general secretary D. Raja urging him to extend his support to their agitation against the State government's decision to shift the capital from Amaravati to Visakhapatnam.

Responding to their request, Mr. Raja said, "Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has 30 advisers, apart from five Deputy Chief Ministers and other Cabinet colleagues. It is a big question as to who has given him such an advice."

Mr. Raja said CPI would extend its support to the nationwide protest if required.

## After meeting PM, Uddhav allays fears over CAA

The NPR is not going to throw anyone out of the country, says Maharashtra CM; he also called on Sonia and Advani

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

No one need to fear the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the National Population Register (NPR) will not push anyone out of the country, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said on Friday after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In his first trip to Delhi after taking over as the Maharashtra Chief Minister, Mr. Thackeray also called on Congress president Sonia Gandhi as the Congress is part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in the State.

He also paid a courtesy visit to BJP patriarch L.K. Advani at his house. "I had a good discussion



**Delhi tour:** Senior BJP leader L.K. Advani being greeted by Uddhav Thackeray, right, and Aaditya Thackeray. ■ PTI

with the Prime Minister over issues concerning Maharashtra. I also discussed the CAA, NPR and NRC with the Prime Minister. No one need to fear about the CAA. The NPR is

not going to throw anyone out of the country," he told reporters after meeting Mr. Modi.

The Chief Minister also said the Prime Minister had

assured him of extending all cooperation to the Maharashtra government. His son Aaditya Thackeray was also part of the meetings.

State issues

In a series of tweets after the meeting, Mr. Aaditya Thackeray, who is also a Minister, said the issues of GST compensation to Maharashtra, crop insurance scheme, the Central Road fund, the Balraja Sanjivani Yojana as well as the PMC bank were discussed with Mr. Modi.

Accompanied by Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut, the Maharashtra Chief Minister also made a 'courtesy call' on Ms. Gandhi at her residence.

Congress' Maharashtra in-

charge Mallikarjun Kharge was present in the meeting that went on for more than 45 minutes.

Though Mr. Thackeray didn't speak, Mr. Kharge claimed that the NPR issue didn't come up and will be taken at the State level.

The Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party are reported to be upset with Mr. Thackeray over his stand on the NPR and the CAA.

But at the press conference that was held before his meeting with the Congress chief, Mr. Thackeray denied any friction among the constituents of the "Maha Aghadi" and asserted that the Maharashtra government would complete its five-year term.

"There is no friction among the allies. We are going to run the government for five years," the Chief Minister said.

When asked about the Congress supporting the anti-CAA protests in Delhi, Mr. Thackeray said he didn't know about them as he was not in Delhi. He claimed that people were protesting against the citizenship law and the NPR after being 'provoked' but stopped short of naming those behind such provocation.

On NRC, the Maharashtra Chief Minister said the Centre had already 'clarified' that the National Register of Citizens was only limited to Assam and will not be a pan India exercise.

## Construction will begin in six months: Trust chief

Gopal Das stresses on people's help

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

GWALIOR/NEW DELHI

President of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teertha Kshetra Trust, Mahant Nritya Gopal Das, on Friday said the Ram temple in Ayodhya would come up where the deity dwells and it would be on the lines of the model displayed earlier.

"The temple will be built where Lord Ram dwells in Ayodhya. It will be on the lines of the model shown earlier. It [temple] might see a slight change. Neither will the temple be built on *chanda* [offerings] nor with government finance. It will be constructed with people's help," he told reporters here.

He said the date of construction would be finalised in the next meeting of the trust, adding that it would start in the next six months.

He said heads of 'akharas' in Ayodhya would meet shortly in connection with the temple construction.



A model of the proposed Ram temple on display at Karsevakpura in Ayodhya.

## No leadership crisis in Cong., says Sharma

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

A day after Shashi Tharoor tweeted to press for a "leadership election", Congress leader Anand Sharma said the party has a President. In what appeared to be a snub to Mr. Tharoor without taking his name, Mr. Sharma said that it was only the Congress Working Committee that could decide on such issues.

When reporters asked Mr. Sharma about many Congress leaders voicing their concerns on the issue, he said, "It is clear that those in the Congress express their opinions... But the view of the Congress is decided by the CWC, which takes key decisions."

## Language of the people



**In unison:** Film director Adoor Gopalakrishnan and children of Malayalam Pallikkudam reading the board of a KSRTC bus as part of the World Mother Language Day in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday. ■ S. GOPAKUMAR

## GoM meet discusses Juvenile Justice Act

Smriti Irani steered the meeting

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

A Group of Ministers (GoM) chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah met on Friday to discuss proposed amendments to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) JJ Act, 2015. Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani steered the meeting.

The 2015 Act addressed

two key issues – "apprehension, detention, prosecution, penalty or imprisonment, rehabilitation and social re-integration of children in conflict with law" and "procedures and decisions or orders relating to rehabilitation, adoption, re-integration and restoration of children in need of care and protection".

Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Health Minister Harsh Vardhan attended the meeting.

## 'CPI will support Amaravati stir'

STAFF REPORTER

VIJAYAWADA

Members of the Amaravati Parikrshana Samithi JAC on Friday submitted a memorandum to CPI national general secretary D. Raja urging him to extend his support to their agitation against the State government's decision to shift the capital from Amaravati to Visakhapatnam.

Responding to their request, Mr. Raja said, "Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has 30 advisers, apart from five Deputy Chief Ministers and other Cabinet colleagues. It is a big question as to who has given him such an advice."

Mr. Raja said CPI would extend its support to the nationwide protest if required.

## Prashant Kishor launches 'Baat Bihar Ki'

Manjhi, Kushwaha and Sahni hold talks with poll strategist in New Delhi



never support any statement that divides society," LJP leader Chirag Paswan told journalists in Patna before starting on his 'Bihar First, Bihari First' yatra.

JD(U) spokesperson Arvind Nishad said, "It seems Mr. Giriraj Singh has been ignoring directives from BJP president J.P. Nadda who had asked him to desist from controversial statements and comments."

Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) leader Jitam Ram Manjhi asked Chief Minister Nitish Kumar whether or not he agreed with Mr. Giriraj Singh's comments.

CPI leader Kanhaiya Kumar said, "Mr. Giriraj Singh should learn a lesson from the Delhi Assembly election and desist from making such statements hurting others... I'll

agree with Mr. Giriraj

Singh's comments.

Senior RJD leader Shiva-nand Tiwari said he failed to understand the urgency for these leaders to meet Mr. Kishor and others when the election was months away. Instead, they should focus on strengthening their parties.

However, the other leaders of the Mahagathbandhan said Mr. Manjhi, Mr. Kushwaha and Mr. Sahni were meeting Mr. Kishor, Mr. Sharad Yadav and Pappu Yadav to keep the pressure on the RJD and the Congress for a larger share of the seats.

The 2015 Act addressed two key issues – "appreh

# Ivanka, Kushner to accompany Trump

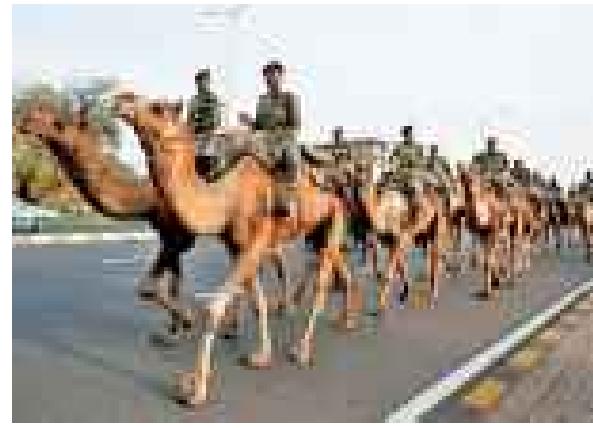
Bilateral agreements on counter-terrorism, IPR, space, and medical cooperation on the cards

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI

U.S. President Donald Trump and his wife Melania Trump will be accompanied by his daughter Ivanka Trump and her husband Jared Kushner, senior government officials confirmed, making his India visit beginning on Monday, one of the few times that Mr. Trump has travelled officially with so many members of his family. According to the officials, Mr. Kushner was already scheduled to travel as he is an adviser on international relations and Ms. Trump was a "welcome" addition, given her dual role as a presidential adviser as well as a member of the family.

The accompanying family members are expected to make an appearance on stage at the Motera stadium in Ahmedabad, then travel with President Trump to Agra on Monday evening, and would also be present during delegation-level bilateral talks on Tuesday.

A series of agreements and MoUs would be exchanged after talks between



**Getting ready:** BSF soldiers riding their camels during a rehearsal for a road show in Ahmedabad on Friday. ■ ANI

Mr. Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, including an accord on Homeland Security that would cover the setting up of a "counter-terrorism training centre" and a research centre for cyber-security, according to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity. An agreement on space cooperation, a medical cooperation and information sharing pact, which will be particularly relevant in light of the current Chinese coronavirus pandemic, and an accord on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), which has long been an area of discord for the U.S. and India, are also on the anvil, the officials added.

#### Strategic issues

On strategic issues, the two sides are expected to upgrade their 2015 Joint Vision Statement for the Indian Ocean Region and Asia-Pacific, which is now referred to as the Indo-Pacific. Mr. Trump's visit will come days before the signing of a U.S.-Taliban agreement on February 29, and the two sides

are expected to discuss future plans for Afghanistan. However, officials said they did not expect an American request for India to be involved militarily, a suggestion that Mr. Trump has made in the past. However, India is expected to press the U.S. to not make a complete pullout of troops from Afghanistan.

Separately, several defence purchase deals, totalling about \$3 billion, are expected to be inked. Officials also said that the third defence logistical agreement BECA, which has been delayed, was likely to be taken forward in March at a meeting in Washington.

In addition, several major energy accords are likely to be signed as India has stepped up purchases of U.S. oil and LNG. Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette is expected to be part of the entourage along with senior officials like Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and National Security Agency (NSA) Director Gen. Paul Nakasone.

An agreement by Petro-

net to invest \$2.5 billion in U.S. LNG company Tellurian, for which two MoUs were signed last year, and an MoU between Exxon and Indian Oil for LNG pipeline infrastructure are also likely to be highlighted.

Officials said they hope to see Westinghouse close its MoU that dates back to 2009 to construct six nuclear power reactors in Andhra Pradesh as well, but there may be changes in the "responsibility" structure given the U.S. company's issues with the liability for nuclear risks.

Officials conceded that there was some disappointment that the U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer was not expected to travel to India, but said that a "limited trade deal is ready" even if it isn't likely to be announced during the visit.

"There is a definite change in the interest from Mr. Trump since Mr. Modi's re-election," one official said, explaining that this would be the eighth meeting between the two leaders.

# Assam NRC authority seeks details on 'ineligible persons'

Many illegal immigrants made it to the register, say locals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

The National Register of Citizens (NRC) authority has indicated at an erroneous updating exercise by asking the district heads in Assam to provide details of "ineligible persons" in the final list of citizens published on August 31, 2019.

On February 19, NRC State Coordinator Hitesh Dev Sarma wrote to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) and District Registrar of Citizen Registration of all the districts. The letter sought the details within 24 hours.

The NRC office did not respond to questions but a DC in southern Assam confirmed receiving the letter on Friday afternoon.

Indigenous groups believe many illegal immigrants have made it to the NRC in the three Bengal-dominated southern Assam districts - Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj

Referring to the raising of



**Wait continues:** A file photo of a woman outside a NRC verification centre in Morigaon district. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

the matter in a video conference on October 31, Mr. Sarma wrote: "...it has come to your end... you are requested to share the details of such persons who are ineligible for inclusion in the NRC but whose names got included in the NRC in addition to the list shared earlier..."

The ineligible persons were specified as DV (doubtful voters), DF (declared foreigners), PFT (cases pending in Foreigners' Tribunal), DVD (descendants of DV),

DFD and PFTD.

"A list of such persons has already been shared from your end... you are requested to share the details of such persons who are ineligible for inclusion in the NRC but whose names got included in the NRC in addition to the list shared earlier..."

The ineligible persons were specified as DV (doubtful voters), DF (declared foreigners), PFT (cases pending in Foreigners' Tribunal), DVD (descendants of DV),

# India, Maldives agree to take on terrorism, radicalisation

Home Ministers discuss security, law enforcement issues

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah met his Maldivian counterpart on Friday and discussed bilateral cooperation in the fields of counter-terrorism and counter-radicalisation, among other things.

A statement issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said Mr. Shah and the Home Minister of Maldives, Sheikh Imran Abdulla, discussed issues of mutual interest in the area of security and law enforcement cooperation.

"Welcoming the strengthening of India-Maldives Partnership, the Ministers welcomed the expansion of bilateral cooperation between India and Maldives in diverse fields, including policing and law enforcement,



**Common goals:** Home Minister Amit Shah with his Maldivian counterpart Sheikh Imran Abdulla in New Delhi on Friday. ■ PTI

counter-terrorism, counter-radicalisation, organised crime, drug trafficking and capacity building," the statement said.

The meeting was also attended by Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla and other senior officers from both sides. The delegation also met chiefs of the National Investigation Agency

, the Narcotics Control Bureau, the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate. "Prior to arriving in Delhi, the delegation also visited the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNA), Hyderabad, and the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University (GFSU), Gandhinagar," the statement said.

## Trump claims 10 mn will welcome him

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump has made yet another tall claim about the size of the crowd that will welcome him in Ahmedabad, saying Prime Minister Narendra Modi had told him that there will be 10 million people to greet him on his arrival. Mr. Trump and First Lady Melania are scheduled to travel to Ahmedabad, Agra and New Delhi on February 24 and 25.

Speaking to reporters at the Joint Base Andrews in Maryland on Tuesday, Mr. Trump said that Mr. Modi told him that "we'll have 7 million people between the airport and the event."

On Thursday, Mr. Trump upped the crowd size by three million at a 'Keep America Great' rally in Colorado.

## 'It shouldn't be part of poll campaign'

Extravagant welcome goes against the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The 'Namaste Trump' mega event planned to welcome United States President Donald Trump in Ahmedabad should not become an extension of the U.S. Presidential campaign, the Congress said on Friday.

Deputy Leader of the Congress in the Rajya Sabha Anand Sharma described the visit as an important step in Indo-U.S. strategic partnership but maintained that the outcomes would determine its success.

**GSP status**  
Speaking to reporters at the party headquarters, Mr. Sharma raised concerns over the U.S.'s withdrawal of the General System of Preferences (GSP) status to India, reduction in H-1B visas, and settlement of social se-

**We don't become an active party in the elections in another country. This mistake was made at the 'Howdy Modi' event and Mr. Modi ought to be careful as these are setting wrong precedents**

ANAND SHARMA  
CONGRESS LEADER

curity deposits made by Indian professionals in the US.

"This visit should not become an extension of the U.S. presidential campaign for the Indian diaspora. We do not become an active party in the elections in another country. This mistake was made in Texas at the 'Howdy Modi' event and the Prime Minister ought to be careful as these are setting wrong precedents," he said.

"We hope... our country will hear [of] enhancement of H-1B visas, restoration of GSP for India, which provides preferential market access for Indian produce to America, and also reversing the present association and recognising India as a developing country," Mr. Sharma said. "There should be an agreement on the refund of the social security contributions that are regu-

larly being made by Indian IT professionals over the years and they run into billions of dollars. These are outstanding issues."

#### Arbitrary decisions'

"There have already been many arbitrary decisions which have affected our engagement with other strategic partners. We are a sovereign country and have the right to engage with our other partner countries on our terms," he said.

The "extravagant and unprecedented welcome" is being planned for Mr. Trump, said the Congress, goes against the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, whose 150 birth anniversary is being celebrated in the country. Mr. Sharma also raised questions on the organisers of the 'Namaste Trump' event.

## Scientists oppose study into 'qualities' of indigenous cows

DST proposal drafted unscientifically from start to finish

JACOB KOSHY

NEW DELHI

At least 400 scientists have petitioned the Department of Science & Technology (DST) to withdraw a proposal that solicits research into indigenous cows.

As *The Hindu* reported on February 17, SUTRA-PIC or 'Scientific Utilisation Through Research Augmentation-Prime Products from Indigenous Cows', has five themes: "Uniqueness of Indigenous Cows, Prime-products from Indigenous Cows for Medicine and Health, Prime-products from Indigenous Cows for Agricultural Applications, Prime-products from Indigenous Cows for Food and Nutrition, Prime-products from Indigenous Cows-based Utility Items", according to a concept note on the DST website.

#### Extremely perturbed'

In an online petition to Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, DST, and K. VijayRaghavan, Principal Scientific Advisor to the government, the scientists write that as "concerned scientists and science communicators of the country, [they] are extremely perturbed by the recent call for research proposals".

Their key concerns were that the research programme appeared to endorse the belief that indigenous cows had "special"



**Voicing concern:** Some 400 scientists have called upon the authorities to drop the proposed study. ■ K.K.MUSTAFAH

and "unique" qualities and that this opened the possibility of money being "wasted to investigate imaginary qualities derived from religious scriptures".

#### Worth pursuing'

Dr. Sharma told *The Hindu* that he had not received the petition but was aware of "news reports" that had reported scientists' concerns. He said that all research proposals by scientists under the programme would be vetted by qualified scientists and each one of them accepted – or rejected – on merit.

"Concerns on apparent bias or widening the ambit to include more bovines could be passed on to the scientist committee evaluating the proposals. However, this is a programme that could unearth new information and new ideas and was certainly worth pursuing," he said.

The proposal ought to be withdrawn and restated to encourage open inquiry and encumbering investigators to also "cross check" if effects were seen in indige-

## SC dubs lawyers' strikes a 'joke'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Strikes by advocates for "flimsy reasons", like bomb blast in a Pakistan school and earthquake in Nepal, on all working Saturdays for more than the past 35 years in three districts of Uttarakhand have caught the attention of the Supreme Court, which rapped them for resorting to such a "joke".

The top court was hearing an appeal against the verdict of the Uttarakhand High Court, which had held as "illegal" the strikes or boycotts of work on all Saturdays by lawyers in Dehradun and in several parts of Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar. The High Court had noted that such strikes were seldom for justifiable reasons. "To mention a few, blast in a Pakistani school, amendments to Sri Lanka's Constitution, inter-State river water disputes, attack on/murder of an advocate, quake in Nepal... and even for kavilmelans," it had said.

The appeal against the HC verdict came up for hearing before a Bench of Justices Arun Mishra and M.R. Shah on Thursday.

"The HC order is fully justified. We cannot permit things like this... You are doing a joke. Family member of advocate dies and the entire bar will go on strike?" the Bench said while reserving its order on an appeal filed by a lawyers' body of Dehradun.

## THE ANDHRA PRADESH STATE SEEDS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

D.No. 4-150, Prasadanpadu, Ramavarapadu Post, Vijayawada – 521108.  
CORRIGENDUM-1

Due to technical reasons, the dates for uploading, pre-bid meeting and submission of bids are revised for the RFP called for 5 works through Tender Notice No. APSSDC/ENG/SMP-RKVV/2020-2, Date: 17-02-2020, Date of Uploading Tenders:- 22-02-2020. Date of Pre-Bidding Meeting:- 26-02-2020 at 11.00 AM, Last date for submission of bid:- 28-02-2020 up to 4.00 PM. For further details please visit [www.tenders.apssdc.gov.in](http://www.tenders.apssdc.gov.in) and for information please contact mail: apssdcengg@gmail.com & Phone No.6309265455 and website [www.apssdc.in](http://www.apssdc.in). Date: 19.02.2020 Sd/- VC & MANAGING DIRECTOR

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

Issued by P.R.O. (Water)  
Advt.No.J.S.V.853/19-20

Executive Engineer (East)-I

DELHI JAL BOARD GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (EAST) I  
M 16 MAYUR VIHAR PKT E PHASE II NEW DELHI 110091

#### PRESS NOTICE TENDER NIT NO.63/ EAST-I/ (2019-20)

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Contract Value (ECV) / Amount put to tender	Earnest Money (EMD)	Tender Fess	Date of Release of tender in E-Procurement Solution & Tender ID No.	Last Date/ Time of receipt of tender E-Procurement Solution
03	Improvement of water supply by replacement of deep and damaged water line Gali No 1,2,3,4,5 & 6 in Mullia Colony AC-56 under East-I	44,79,956.00	89,600.00	500.00	19.02.2020 2020_DJB_188358_3	09.03.2020 at 03:15 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

Issued by P.R.O. (Water)  
Advt.No.J.S.V.853/19-20

Executive Engineer (East)-I

SOUTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE No. M\_M\_W271\_GASCUTTING\_TNPM3 Dated 20.02.2020.						






</

# U.S., Taliban to sign agreement on Feb. 29

The pact would be sealed after a week-long period of reduction in violence in Afghanistan

REUTERS

KABUL/WASHINGTON/PESHAWAR

The U.S. and the Taliban will sign an agreement on February 29, the end of a week-long period of violence reduction in Afghanistan, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and the Taliban said on Friday.

The agreement could represent a chance for peace after 18 years of war and a U.S. troop presence that dates back to 2001, as well as boosting U.S. President Donald Trump's hopes of pulling U.S. forces out of Afghanistan.

However, past attempts at negotiating peace agreements have been scuttled by Taliban attacks on international forces.

The reduced violence period, to be observed by Afghan, international and Taliban forces, will begin at midnight (1930 GMT, 1:00 am IST), an Afghan official and Taliban leaders said.

"Following lengthy negotiations between the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and the United States of America,



**Critical test:** A U.S. soldier at the site of a suicide attack along the Afghan-Pakistan border crossing in Torkham, Nangarhar province, in this file photo. ■ AFP

both parties agreed to sign the finalised accord in the presence of international observers," a Taliban spokesman said in a statement.

#### Prisoners' release

Both sides would also make arrangements for the release of prisoners, spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said.

Separately, Mr. Pompeo said in a statement that the U.S. and the Taliban have been engaged in talks to fa-

cilitate a political settlement in Afghanistan and to reduce the U.S. presence in the region.

The agreement will be signed in Doha between Taliban representatives and U.S. special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad.

Mr. Trump, who has vowed to stop "endless wars" as he seeks re-election in November, has long sought to withdraw U.S. troops from Afghanistan.

NATO, which currently has 16,000 troops in Afghanistan, welcomed Friday's announcement, calling the reduced violence period a critical test of the Taliban's willingness to contribute to peace.

The period could pave the way for sustainable peace and negotiations among Afghans, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said in a statement.

U.S. and Taliban negotia-

tors have been meeting in Doha since 2018 even though fighting has raged in Afghanistan and thousands of civilians and combatants have been killed as the insurgents have expanded territory under their control.

"Based on the plan, the reduction in violence (RIV) will start between the Taliban and international and Afghan security forces for one week," Javid Faisal, spokesperson for the Afghan National Security Advisor, told Reuters.

"We hope it is extended for a longer time and opens the way for a ceasefire and intra-Afghan talks," he added.

One Taliban leader based in Doha told Reuters that the period could not be called a "ceasefire."

"Every party has the right of self defence but there would no attacks on each others positions in these seven days," the Taliban leader said.

Afghan forces will keep up normal military operations against other groups such as Islamic State, during the RIV period, Faisal said.

# Russia is meddling to re-elect Trump, lawmakers warned

President replaces U.S. intelligence chief with a loyalist

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

WASHINGTON

Russia is interfering in the 2020 campaign to try to get Donald Trump re-elected, U.S. intelligence officials have warned lawmakers in a briefing that infuriated the President, who then replaced his intelligence chief, U.S. media reported.

U.S. intelligence chief Joseph Maguire, whom Mr. Trump replaced on Wednesday with a loyal partisan lacking direct experience in the field, warned lawmakers of Russian interference in a classified briefing last week.

U.S. intelligence community publicly concluded that Russia intervened in 2016, including by manipulating social media, but Mr. Maguire reportedly revealed that Moscow wanted Mr. Trump to be re-elected and was meddling in the Democratic Party's primaries.

Mr. Trump, who has repeatedly shown irritation at assertions that Russia



Donald Trump

helped him win the White House, denounced the latest assertions as the work of the rival party.

#### Trump slams Democrats

"Another misinformation campaign is being launched by Democrats in Congress saying that Russia prefers me to any of the Do Nothing Democrat candidates who still have been unable to, after two weeks, count their votes in Iowa," Mr. Trump tweeted, referring to the debacle in releasing results from the Democrats' first contest. "Hoax number 7!"

In Moscow, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the allegations were "like the usual paranoid announcements, which unfortunately will multiply as we get closer to the election." "Of course, they have nothing to do with the truth," he said.

Few Republican lawmakers immediately spoke out, although Mr. Trump's allies in the past have questioned why Russia would favour him.

The *New York Times*, quoting anonymous sources, reported that Mr. Trump lashed out not at the purported Russian interference but at Mr. Maguire for allowing his staff to brief lawmakers – particularly Adam Schiff, the House intelligence chief who also led the impeachment drive.

Mr. Trump replaced Mr. Maguire with Richard Grenell, the outspoken U.S. Ambassador to Germany with no direct intelligence experience.

#### ELSEWHERE



Ireland's PM resigns, assumes caretaker role

DUBLIN  
Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar resigned on Thursday, but stayed on as interim leader while the country's three main parties battle out coalition talks after an inconclusive election. Mr. Varadkar tendered his resignation to President Michael Higgins after the first sitting of Ireland's lower house of Parliament. ■ AFP

#### Iranians vote in general election

TEHRAN  
Iran went to the polls on Friday for a general election that conservatives are expected to dominate amid voter apathy after an economic slump and the disqualification of thousands of candidates. The 11th parliamentary election since the 1979 Islamic Revolution comes after steadily escalating tensions between Iran and the U.S. ■ AFP

#### 6 students die, 5 missing in Indonesia flood

YOGYAKARTA  
At least six students drowned and five others are missing after being caught by a flash flood in torrential rain while trekking near a river in Indonesia. Around two dozen students from a group of 250 were injured in the incident and taken to hospital in Yogyakarta, the country's cultural capital on Java island. The students were from school scout clubs. ■ AFP

## Virus cases jump beyond epicentre

Spike in South Korean infections linked to church; vaccine trial set for April

REUTERS

BEIJING/SEOUL

The new coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, has infected hundreds of people in Chinese prisons, authorities said on Friday, contributing to a jump in reported cases beyond the epidemic's epicentre in Hubei province, including 100 more in South Korea.

The 234 infections among prisoners outside Hubei ended 16 straight days of declines in new mainland cases excluding that province, where the virus emerged in

December in its locked-down capital, Wuhan.

State television quoted Communist Party rulers as saying the turning point in combating the outbreak had not yet been reached, and more than 30 cases in a hospital in Beijing highlighted a sharp jump in the tally there.

Total cases in the capital of the disease – known as COVID-19 – were at 396 with four deaths, out of an official mainland toll of 75,400 cases and 2,236 deaths.

Vice Science and Technology Minister Xu Nanping

said China's earliest vaccine would be submitted for clinical trials around late April. That timetable is in line with a World Health Organization estimate of a vaccine reaching the market in 18 months.

As international authorities seek to stop the virus from becoming a global pandemic, public health officials are hoping for signs that the arrival of warmer weather in the northern hemisphere might slow its spread.

The spike in cases in two jails outside Hubei – in the northern province of Shan-

dong and Zhejiang in the east – made up most of the 258 newly confirmed Chinese infections outside the epicentre province.

The virus has emerged in 26 countries and territories outside mainland China, killing 11 people.

South Korea reported 100 new cases, taking its total to 204, most in Daegu, where scores were infected in what authorities called a "super-spreading event" at a church, traced to an infected 61-year-old woman who attended services.

## Apple CEO stalked by Indian-origin man

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

SAN FRANCISCO

Apple has been granted a temporary restraining order against an Indian-origin man, who allegedly stalked its CEO Tim Cook and showed up at his residence in Palo Alto twice.

According to reports, Rakesh 'Rocky' Sharma, carrying a bottle of champagne and flowers, showed up at Mr. Cook's residence. He returned a month later, entering the property without permission and ringing the doorbell.

Those interactions –

along with phone calls, making what Apple describes in a legal filing as "threatening statements" – led the company to request a restraining order this month against Rakesh Sharma, a 41-year-old San Francisco man, the CNET reported on Thursday.

He has been ordered to stay away from Mr. Cook's home in Silicon Valley, the CEO's security guards as well as the company's Apple Park headquarters. The order lasts through March 3, when a hearing is scheduled, the report added.

## FATF places Iran on black list

REUTERS

PARIS

A global anti-money laundering watchdog placed Iran on its blacklist on Friday after it failed to comply with international anti-terrorism financing norms, a move that will deepen the country's isolation from financial markets.

The decision came after about three years of warnings from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), urging the Islamic Republic to enact terrorist financing conventions.

## Julian Assange may seek French asylum: lawyer

It will be on humanitarian, health grounds

REUTERS

PARIS

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, who is jailed in Britain fighting extradition to the U.S. for espionage and computer hacking, may seek asylum in France, his lawyer Eric Dupond-Moretti said on Friday.

Mr. Dupond-Moretti said that Mr. Assange's legal team would be in contact with French President Emmanuel Macron to make the case for Mr. Assange to get asylum in France. Mr. Assange has said that his young son and the child's mother are French.

Mr. Assange's lawyers

noted the request for asylum was "not an ordinary demand" as Mr. Assange is not on French soil. He said the request would be based on humanitarian and health grounds, arguing that Mr. Assange was showing signs of "psychological torture".

The President during the

## Erdogan urges Russia to restrain Syria regime in Idlib

He called on Macron, Merkel to mount diplomatic pressure

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

ANKARA

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan urged his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin to halt the Syrian regime's violence in Idlib on Friday as efforts intensified to avoid more bloodshed in the final rebel holdout.

Russian air strikes in the northwestern province of Idlib are bolstering a Syrian government offensive that has forced nearly one million civilians to flee – the biggest wave of displacement of the nine-year conflict.

The President during the

call stressed that the regime should be restrained in Idlib and that the humanitarian crisis must be stopped," the Turkish presidency said in a statement after the two leaders spoke by phone.

Mr. Erdogan told Mr. Putin the solution was to return to the Sochi agreement they signed in 2018, which allowed Turkey to establish military posts across Idlib designed to prevent a regime assault. That deal has been increasingly set aside as Syrian forces advance steadily into the region.

Turkey, which backs

some rebel groups in the province, has lost 16 military personnel this month in clashes with Syrian troops. It has reinforced its positions and called on President Bashar al-Assad to pull his forces back.

Mr. Erdogan also held a three-way call with French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, in which he called for "concrete actions to prevent a humanitarian crisis".

Turkey is determined to prevent a fresh influx of displaced people.

## Donald Trump scoffs at Parasite's Oscar win

'What the hell was that all about?'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

COLORADO SPRINGS

President Donald Trump on Thursday scorned the Best Picture Oscar for South Korean film *Parasite*, a dark comedy exploring class divides, asking how a foreign movie could get the honour.

"How bad was the Academy Awards this year?" Mr. Trump asked the crowd at a packed re-election campaign rally in Colorado Springs, Colorado. "What the hell was that all about?" Mr. Trump said.

"We've got enough problems with South Korea with trade. On top of that, they give them best movie of

the year. Was it good? I don't know."

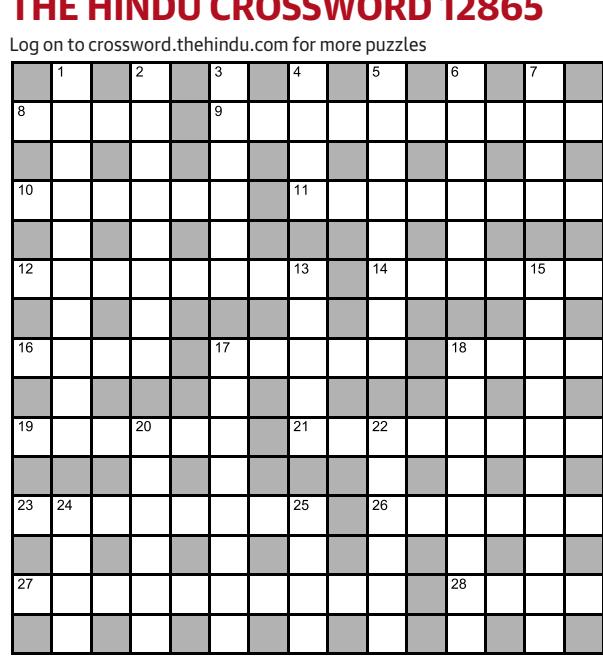
Neon, the U.S. distributor for *Parasite*, shot back on Twitter, saying it was "Understandable, he can't read."

Mr. Trump said it was time to bring back classics from Hollywood's golden age. "Let's get *Gone With the Wind*. Can we get *Gone With the Wind* back please? *Sunset Boulevard*?" he said.

He also took a crack at Best Supporting Actor winner Brad Pitt, calling him "a little wiseguy." Mr. Pitt used his award speech to support the impeachment of Mr. Trump.

#### THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12865

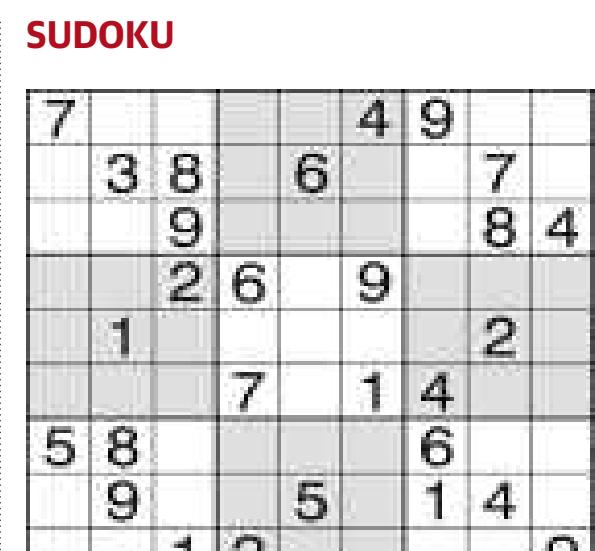
Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



#### ACROSS

- 8 So-called fiddler toured Reno (4)
- 9 Sketch a spanner and get a contraption installed over the moat (10)
- 10 Untidy torn cloth label (6)
- 11 Think of English face (8)
- 12 Take back engineers, sailors, and other ranks before beginning of battle (8)
- 14 Some money for a horse (6)
- 16 Leer at old girl student with enthusiasm at first (4)
- 17 Roman poet without a right to produce watch (5)
- 18 Port bottle stopper (4)
- 19 Juliet and Roman girl return getting travel fatigue (3,3)
- 21 Small note is accompanied by Middle Eastern currency for monument (8)
- 23 Pull car back with energy for an auto competition (4,4)
- 26 "Richard, that is Lord Mountbatten's pet name" (6)
- 27 Daily has extraordinary grit about commencement of expose... results in a harmless threat (5,5)
- 28 Sees spots on coconuts (4)
- DOWN
- 1 High flying lawyer? (5,5)
- 2 Wine is fit; can be transported (8)
- 3 An American lawman and soldier at ball give instructions to go slow (6)
- 4 Model has mimic's measuring device (4)
- 5 Firstly, over everything ... (5,3)
- 6 ... fellow initially incorporating a small business can be a failure (6)
- 7 Very eager in a synagogue (4)
- 13 Ask for monetary dole with hesitation for a married Muslim lady (5)
- 15 Descriptions about locals having a couple of rupees (10)
- 17 Virginia permits bums (8)
- 18 Hundred prophets' boats (8)
- 20 Made an entry about dogleg manoeuvring (6)
- 22 Latest method followed by Royal Navy (6)
- 24 Widen a hole for 480, 500 or 516 sheets of paper (4)
- 25 Placing Director General between Edward and Elizabeth gives an advantage (4)

#### SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12864

B	L	A	P	I	A	W
</

Forex reserves rise to record \$476 billion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

The country's foreign exchange reserves swelled by \$3,091 billion to a lifetime high of \$476,092 billion in the week to February 14, mainly due to a rise in foreign currency assets, according to RBI data.

In the previous week, the foreign exchange reserves had increased by \$1,701 billion to \$473 billion.

Foreign currency assets, a major component of the overall reserves, rose by \$2,763 billion to \$441,949 billion in the reporting week.

Gold reserves rose by \$344 million to \$29,123 billion. The special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were down by \$6 million to \$1,430 billion.

"There is a rise in risk aversion again due to fears that the COVID-19 disease will spread further. The virus poses a major risk for the glo-

# Gold jumps to 7-year high on fears virus will hit global growth

Risk aversion raises metal's safe-haven appeal; silver also joins club with 1% rise

REUTERS

Gold rose 1% on Friday to its highest in seven years as the spread of the coronavirus intensified concerns about its impact on economic activity and global growth, increasing the metal's safe-haven appeal.

Spot gold rose 1.1% to \$1,636.60 per ounce as of 18:26 IST, after hitting its highest since February 14, 2013 at \$1,636.66 earlier this session. U.S. gold futures jumped 1.2% to \$1,639.60.

Bullion has risen 3.3% so far this week, on track for its best week since early August.

Meanwhile, China reported an uptick in new cases of COVID-19, boosted by over 200 people testing positive in two prisons outside of Hubei



**Return of the shine:** Bullion has risen 3.3% so far this week, on track for its best week since early August. ■ REUTERS

ported the first fatalities from a cruise ship which accounted for the biggest cluster of infections outside China.

Further spread of the disease could derail a "highly fragile" projected recovery in the global economy in 2020, the International Monetary Fund said on Wednesday.

Silver was up 1% at \$18.53 and was set to register its strongest week since end-August. Platinum edged up 0.6% to \$983.86 and was on track to post a weekly gain.

province, the epicentre of the outbreak.

The increase in number of new cases hit stock markets around the world, putting them on course for their worst week in four.

Among other safe havens, the U.S. government bonds gained as the benchmark 10-year treasury yields fell to its lowest since September.

Further spread of the disease could derail a "highly fragile" projected recovery in the global economy in 2020, the International Monetary Fund said on Wednesday.

Silver was up 1% at \$18.53 and was set to register its strongest week since end-August. Platinum edged up 0.6% to \$983.86 and was on track to post a weekly gain.

M&M arm to sell stake in 3 firms to CLP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Mahindra & Mahindra on Friday said its wholly owned arm Mahindra Renewables will sell its entire stake in 3 subsidiaries to CLP India, a part of Hong Kong-based CLP Group, for nearly ₹340 crore.

Mahindra Renewables Pvt. Ltd. (MRPL) on Friday agreed to sell its entire stake aggregating 100% of the paid-up equity share capital in Cleansolar Renewable Energy Pvt. Ltd. (CREPL), Divine Solren Pvt. Ltd. (DSPL) and Neo Solren Pvt. Ltd. (NSPL), wholly-owned subsidiaries of MRPL, to CLP India Pvt. Ltd. (CLP), Mahindra & Mahindra said in a regulatory filing.

The transaction is expected to be completed by May 31, 2020.



However, it is not unusual for Indian banks to change their name due to a merger, or otherwise. Most recently, after IDFC Bank and Capital First, an NBFC, merged, the name of the merged entity was IDFC First Bank.

Also, erstwhile Ratnakar Bank was renamed as RBL Bank and Catholic Syrian Bank is now known as CSB Bank.

The government expects all the mergers of public sector banks, which were announced in 2019, to become effective from April 1.

Apart from PNB, UBI and OBC, the government had also announced three other sets of mergers – Union Bank of India, Corporation Bank and Andhra Bank; Al-lahabad Bank and Indian Bank; and, Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank.

The government is yet to announce the scheme of amalgamation for these mergers for which Cabinet approval is required. Once the scheme of amalgamation is announced, there will be clarity on the name of the new entities.

In the case of the BoB, Vijaya and Dena merger, the scheme of amalgamation was announced in early January last year and the merger came into effect from 1 April, 2019.

UBI, OBC want a new name for merged entity

PNB disagrees with the proposal

MANOJ SAHA

MUMBAI

With Punjab National Bank (PNB), Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) and United Bank of India (UBI) set to merge, OBC and UBI have requested the Finance Ministry to consider a new name for the merged entity.

If the Ministry agrees to the request, then this will a departure from the precedent set by the merger of Bank of Baroda (BoB), Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank that took effect this financial year. In that merger, BoB, which was the transferee bank, retained the name. Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank were transferor banks.

## Pan-India presence

In the case of PNB, OBC and UBI merger, PNB will be transferee bank. The other two banks are of the view that the name of the merged entity should reflect a pan-India presence and not have a localised name.

Hence, OBC and UBI have requested the Ministry to consider a new name.

However, the idea of a new name does not seem to have gone down well with PNB – the largest bank in the merger. The lender took to social media a few days ago to clarify there was no proposal to change the name of the bank.

## Regulatory clearances

In fact, during the BoB-Dena-Vijaya merger, Dena and Vijaya also proposed a name change. However, many regulatory clearances are required for a name change, including from the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

Since the process would have been time-consuming, the Ministry refrained from approving a name change.

Govt. may bundle power sources for grid stability

Plan offers hope for stressed assets

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

In what may be good news for stranded power assets, the government plans to bundle renewable with conventional power to address the issue of grid stability.

Over 20,000 mega watts (MW) of power assets in Indian have been stranded since the last one year for various reasons, including uneconomic operations, according to the Central Electricity Authority data.

Institute of Energy Economics and Financial Analysis estimates that India's thermal generation sector alone is carrying \$40-60 billion in non-performing, or

stranded assets, supported by the troubled banking sector.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has announced a draft renewable-based, round-the-clock (RTC) hybrid tender by virtue of which conventional and non-conventional resources complement each other and provide sustainable power to the grid.

"This would provide relief to bankers as it would offer opportunity for stressed thermal assets also to participate and thereby reduce NPAs in excess of ₹1 lakh crore," Kavita Sharma, head, energy, at Assocham told *The Hindu*.

The NDA government scrapped the Ranganjan Committee recommendations soon after it assumed office in 2014, instituting its own formula for domestic APM gas prices in India by linking them to 12-month averages of U.S., Canada, Russia and Europe prices. Soon, the Administrative Price Mechanism (APM) prices rose



Imports by India, Pakistan and Bangladesh rose 19% in 2019, pointing to emerging growth countries in Asia. ■ SHANTANU DAS

to \$5.6/mmmbtu from the \$4.2 they were at between 2010 and 2014 when they were linked to Reliance's KG-D6 price, but have been soft since. The prices fell 12.5%, in the last half-yearly reset in October 2019 to \$3.6.

The prices of APM gas are set to fall another 45% over the next two resets in April and October 2020 to 10-year lows of \$2/mmmbtu. "Sharply lower EU prices on softer LNG are largely to blame, but prices are sub-

dued in gas surplus U.S., Canada and Russia too," Jefferies said in its research report.

## Bad for E&P firms

Analysts believe that lower gas prices would be bad for exploration and production (E&P) firms, while users like Indraprastha Gas Limited, Mahanagar Gas Limited and GAIL would benefit.

According to Shell's LNG Outlook 2020 report, global gas prices softened in 2019 and LNG demand growth in south Asia was notable.

India, Pakistan and Bangladesh imported 36 million tonnes in 2019, an increase of 19% over last year, pointing to emerging growth countries in Asia.

## + ITC eyes big bite of chocolate market

FMCG major ropes in top global cocoa suppliers, to work with cocoa farmers

MINI TEJASWI

BENGALURU

FMCG conglomerate ITC aims to garner a dominant share in the country's ₹11,000 crore chocolate market.

The company said it was chasing 'big' success in the chocolate business, similar to what it had already seen in categories such as *atta*, noodles and biscuits.

In an exclusive chat with *The Hindu*, Anuj Rustagi, chief operating officer – Chocolates, Coffee and New Categories – Food Division, ITC Ltd., said, "We did proper due diligence and study of the market before we debuted, with Fabelle. Our view in the near term is to have a dominant market share, similar to what ITC has achieved in many food categories."

According to Mr. Rustagi, a market analysis identified a set of consumers who look at



**Taste of heaven:** India's chocolate market is valued at ₹11,000 crore, of which premium chocolates contribute 10-15%. ■ PTI

chocolates for self-indulgence, while some may look at it as a gifting or a snacking option. "While we are currently operating in the self-indulgence and the gifting space, in the near future, we wish to be present in as many segments as possible and cater to every chocolate loving consumer's needs."

He said the company had initially invested ₹100 crore to set up a greenfield choco-

mained efficient without downtime.

To ensure supply of prime-quality cocoa, ITC has roped in top global cocoa suppliers from Ghana, the Ivory Coast, Venezuela, Madagascar and India. It has plans to work with cocoa farmers directly in future.

Mr. Rustagi said chocolate connoisseurs in the country had been appreciative of chocolate from ITC. "The overwhelming response we received, after launching Ruby Gianduia in the luxury segment, prompted us to extend the experience of Ruby Chocolate to the larger consumer base and hence the launch of Fabelle Choco Deck Milk and Ruby Chocolate varieties."

India's chocolate market is pegged at ₹11,000 crore, of which premium chocolates can be sized anywhere between 10% and 15%.

**ALL delivers vehicles from new platform**

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Ashok Leyland Ltd., the flagship company of the Hinduja Group, delivered the first batch of vehicles built on its new modular platform. It would enable its customers to configure vehicles based on their applications and business needs.

The modular platform is said to be the first-of-its-kind in the commercial vehicle industry with multiple options of axle configuration, loading spans, cabins, suspensions and drive-trains on a single platform for a range of trucks, tippers and tractors, the company said in a statement.

These vehicles are supported by the i-alert fleet management system with remote diagnostics on BS-VI technology.

**19... AN AGE WHEN YOU DREAM OF BECOMING AGELESS!**

**CHANGING THE PACE OF THE GAME**  
Pat Cummins doesn't go through the motions of pulling the ignition cord to rev up something like Brett Lee. But the unassuming speedster is every bit as disciplined in chat with the Aussie.

**THE BIG-LEAGUE BECKONS**  
The NBA Academy's Sanjana Ramesh, the Most Valuable Player (MVP) in the first year of the program in India, became the second Indian after Kavita Akula to earn a scholarship from a Division 1 college in 2019. A special feature.

**GRAB A COPY**

**SPORTSTAR**

March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Price ₹75

To subscribe to Sportstar, visit [www.thehindugroup.in/subscribe](http://www.thehindugroup.in/subscribe) or scan the QR code.

**SPORTSTAR**

Notification will cover almost entire gamut of devices, it says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

The Centre's decision to notify all medical devices as drugs and bringing them under purview of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, from April is bound to push up the cost, according to a credit rating agency ICRA.

"Companies will now have to obtain approval to manufacture, import and sell medical devices in the country thus increasing the cost of compliance, leading to longer lead time and higher expenses in launching new products, thereby resulting in an increase in costs," said Kapil Banga, assistant vice-president, ICRA.

**Overarching challenge**  
Regulatory action continues to be the overarching chal-

**Much of the price hike will be passed on to the patients, cushioning the effect on hospitals' profit margins**

lenge for the healthcare sector. The latest notification of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare paves the way for higher regulation of medical devices under the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO), a statement from ICRA said. The move comes shortly after the Budget announcement introducing 5% health cess on import of medical devices, making these devices costlier for hospitals. "It is believed that much of the price hike will be passed on to the patients, cushioning the impact on

the profitability margin of hospitals," Mr. Banga said.

Though the notification does not immediately indicate any price cap, the increased regulatory requirements will lead to higher input costs. The notification covers all devices used for diagnosis, life support, treatment of any ailment and the ones used to disinfect other medical devices. It also covers the software used in medical instruments. Thus, almost the entire gamut of medical devices will come under the ambit of the notification, ICRA said.

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation will be regulating the medical devices. The consumables/devices will be brought under regulation in a phased manner up till April 1, 2021.

*Imran Amed,*

One of fashion's most influential people, and the man behind the much-awaited BoF 500 power list, is now making a strong case for sustainability



Showing the way Imran Amed; (below) listening to whistleblower Christopher Wylie ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

by the chic Japanese brand, Sacai. He also carries around a small black notebook in which he takes copious notes. For someone at the forefront of a digital media empire, it is oddly quaint.

#### Voice of reason

"One of the things we've been challenging the industry to think about is a new narrative around consumption," he says. But isn't fashion all about desiring the new? "There's this apparent contradiction between sustainability and growth," he agrees, adding, "When I went to business school, we were taught that healthy companies grow margins, profits and revenues. But this kind of model – focussed on accountability to shareholders alone – may not be entirely compatible with addressing the climate emergency."

Indeed, BoF has been vocal in unveiling these issues, spotlighting innovators, sustainability pioneers, and activists. "Imran's commitment towards consistent coverage of issues on sustainability [as demonstrated in BoF] is nothing short of exemplary, and needs to be emulated," says Bandana Tewari, sustainability activist, former editor-at-large of *Vogue India*, and a BoF contributor.

As a media platform, Amed believes his role is to spark conversations and create awareness. "We try to be an agent of change." A case in point: at BoF's Voices conference in 2018, fashion's biggest heavyweights listened as sustainability strategist Rachel Lincoln Sarnoff spoke about the need to tackle microplastics found in fabrics that wind up in the ocean. She told the audience that in 10 years, 70% of fabric fibres will come from plastic, and urged them to reconsider the materials they employ.

Amed notes that fast fashion and luxury brands are equally responsible for this grave environmental toll. The two have learned much from each other: while the former has embraced the marketing and aspiration of luxury, the latter has paid attention to speed and supply chain management to produce more collections. The result? "Every year we are creating and selling

more and more stuff," he says. But there are slivers of hope. Thanks to millennials and Gen-Z, the global resale (second-hand) market is set to double to \$54 billion by 2024. Amed recalls being an early fan of vintage. As a kid, he would buy vintage Levi's jeans, much to his parents' dismay – they couldn't understand why he was buying old clothes!

These days a growing number of companies are upcycling, attempting to be zero waste, and sourcing locally to minimise their carbon footprint. He points to brands like Patagonia, Eileen Fischer, and Stella McCartney that have integrated sustainable materials into their supply chain and taken positive steps towards minimising their environmental impact. He also cites Kering, the fashion conglomerate, for the environmental profit-and-loss statement it publishes on its performance.

Companies are hiring chief sustainability officers, too. Amed welcomes this, but is cautious. "It is not just a chief sustainability officer issue, this is a C-level executive issue. Because throughout the fashion supply chain, where 90% of waste carbon is created, everyone in the C-suite has a role to play in managing that. Whether it is the fibres used in production or the vendors used to manufacture or the way retail stores are run, each of those touch points has an impact. There's work to be done throughout the value chain".

Yet, till consumer behaviour doesn't change, little else will. When Kate Middleton, Duchess of Cambridge, re-wore a 2012 gown to this year's BAFTA awards, she was applauded. Actor Joaquin Phoenix has been wearing the same Stella McCartney tuxedo to every awards show. Can this save the planet? Unlikely, but Amed says it sends a message, given that celebrities are so important in shaping mindsets and behaviours. "At the end of the day, people are not going to buy fashion because it is sustainable. They are going to purchase products because they are beautiful and well-made. Sustainability has to be a 'hygiene factor' in how we create, and buy. It is a step, a journey of a thousand steps."

#### Influencer with a twist

In an era where Instagram influencers, and digital and traditional media outlets jockey for mind space, BoF brings clarity and sharp analysis to the cluttered world of fashion news. With a team of 100 scattered across New York, London, Paris and Shanghai, Amed describes BoF as a "resource for the global fashion industry". Its revenue model includes events, online courses and a career database.

In 2016, the company started BoF Professional, charging \$240 a year for premium content; it now has 40,000 paid subscribers in 125 countries. Seven years ago, it launched BoF 500, a fashion power list. It was an instant sensation, and to be named one of the 500 is a much-coveted thing today. Then there's Voices, the annual, by-invitation-only conference attended by fashion's movers and shakers and innovators. Musician will.i.am describes it as "a hybrid of TED but with the coolest people at TED". Such is its influence that, last year, the *Financial Times* inked an investment partnership with BoF.

#### GAYATRI RANGACHARI SHAH

In the high-wattage fashion industry, one man stands apart. Imran Amed is someone whose dinners are attended by the Kardashians, who quickly puts together a panel with Deepika Padukone and Sabysachi Mukherjee while on a whirlwind trip to India, and whose persuasive powers can get Tom Ford to pose for the cover of the first edition of his company's print magazine.

Amed's The Business of Fashion (BoF) – a personal blog he started in 2007 for friends and family – has today morphed into a virtual bible for the fashion industry. Each morning, a BoF email hits the inboxes of 7,00,000 registered users, with a mix of original stories and links to news and features about the fashion industry. A recent sample: how UK consumer spending is down, how to launch an influencer brand in 2020, and what fashion brands need to know about the coronavirus. The emails are a must-read not just for the industry's most influential folks (from designers Tory Burch to Anya

Hindmarch), but also for anyone with even a cursory interest in fashion. With BoF, of which he is CEO and editor in chief, Amed, 44, has cemented his reputation as the oracle of style. It is no wonder that in 2018 *The Guardian* called him 'fashion's most influential man'.

#### Front row fixture

Last month, I spent time with him in Davos, where he had come to attend the World Economic Forum. It was his first visit – WEF's dates overlap with the Paris haute couture shows – but this year he made it a point to attend because of an issue especially close to his heart: fashion and sustainability. BoF recently reported that in 2019, 114 billion clothes were sold globally (amounting to 15 new pieces per person on Earth).

There are other daunting stats, too: according to the UK-based Ellen MacArthur Foundation, global clothing production has doubled in the past 15 years, and a projection by the Pulse of Fashion Industry report states that by 2030, the apparel and footwear industry is set to grow 81%, while textile waste is set to

increase 60%.

It is no wonder that sustainability is the topic *du jour*. Take, for example, this year's Oscars, what with Margot Robbie and Liya Aldridge wearing vintage and Jane Fonda re-wearing a gown she wore to Cannes in 2013. "It has come up in every conversation I've had in Davos, and it is why I am here, because the fashion industry is really trying to take its role in this wider sustainability challenge more seriously," Amed tells me.

We meet at the sprawling WI-PRO lounge on the main Davos

Promenade. The former McKinsey consultant and Harvard MBA graduate is nothing if not global. He lives in London, but was born in Canada to East African parents of Indian descent (you can hear traces of a Canadian accent). He comes across as curious, measured and very bright, and he travels incessantly – in early February he has criss-crossed through Brazil, New York, and San Francisco. When we meet he's wearing many hues of blue: navy striped woolen Perno trousers, a Loewe turtleneck and a printed sweater

#### PRABALIKA M BORAH

A small town boy from Tripura walked for designer Abu Jani-Sandeep Khosla at the Blenders Pride Fashion Tour in Delhi

PRABALIKA M BORAH

Sarabjit Sarkar or Ranaut Neel as his followers on Instagram know him, is on cloud nine. He recently walked the ramp for designer duo Abu Jani-Sandeep Khosla.

A shy Sarabjit, who struggled to express himself while being ridiculed for being effeminate, has indeed come a long way. His 'who wore it better' series on Instagram, in which he hilariously recreates celebrities' outfits, has gained him a fan following. And last week, he took a jump from social media to finally walk on a ramp.

He made his ramp debut with Abu Jani-Sandeep Khosla at the recently-held Blenders Pride Fashion Tour in Delhi. Sarabjit and his family were thrilled and his father, who was once not very supportive of his work on social media, congratulated him by saying 'no one in our family has ever stayed in a hotel so grand or met such 'big' people.'

Sarabjit is thankful to Delhi-based influencer Kusha

Kapila who introduced Ranaut Neel's social media handle to the designer duo. "She didn't have to. But she helped me out. She constantly helps me by motivating me. That is why I call her Kusha-di," says Sarabjit.

"After Kusha showed my IG page to Sandeep Khosla, I was surprised to see a designer like him message me. I fumbled, I was nervous but with whatever English I know, I managed to speak to him. Sandeep sir asked me if I needed any help and all I could manage was 'bless me, so that I meet you both (Sandeep-Abu) some day,' he says. He is also very keen on meeting Kusha Kapila, with whom he has interacted only on social media.

As Sarabjit continued doing his 'Who Wore it Better' series on Instagram, he received a message asking if he would like to try walking the ramp. "The moment I received the message, there was nothing I could do to make myself believe it. Have you ever heard about any train-hawker's son from Tripura doing a ramp walk? Forget thinking about a ramp walk or getting trained to be a model, I

Sarabjit who is from a village called Teliumura in Tripura, had said earlier that social media is the only platform that could land him his dream career. When he isn't doing the 'Who Wore it Better', his Instagram posts are usually full of TikTok videos of advertisements and dialogues from movies.

#### A walk to remember

(Extreme left) Sarabjit walking the ramp for Abu Jani-Sandeep Khosla

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

cannot even afford to go to the nearest biggest (Kolkata) city by train. I expressed all my concerns to the lady from the designer duo's team. Who said 'I need not worry about all that,'" recollects Sarabjit.

Once at the rehearsals, Sarabjit decided to learn more about being a model. The lights, the sound, the floor, everything was a new experience for him. "Add to it the difficulty of walking in heels. I've never worn heels, so I couldn't manage to walk. Finally the team gave me a few pairs of heels and asked me to practise my walk. There was no way I would let the opportunity go, so I walked in my hotel room the entire night till I got it right," he recollects.

Finally when his chance to walk came, Sarabjit who was dressed in one of the signature saris, made it a moment to remember forever. "I was nervous, but once on stage, it all vanished. I did my walk to a lot of cheer and the moment I was off stage, I could feel my feet pain. I told myself, that's the feeling of your first work," he adds.

Sarabjit who is from a village called Teliumura in Tripura, had said earlier that social media is the only platform that could land him his dream career. When he isn't doing the 'Who Wore it Better', his Instagram posts are usually full of TikTok videos of advertisements and dialogues from movies.

#### A walk to remember

(Extreme left) Sarabjit walking the ramp for Abu Jani-Sandeep Khosla

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

#### PLACES

#### Saving Aravallis



To save Aravalli, concerned residents of Gurugram are hosting an event "Aravallis Calling" on March 1 to show their commitment to preserve the mountain range. They are demanding that illegal felling of trees and constructions in the Aravallis should stop immediately. Main events are tree hugging inside the forest to symbolise Chipko movement, Jashn-e-Arvalli, Hindi, English and Urdu poetry.

The residents say that Aravallis is under grave threat. A year back, Haryana government passed the Punjab Land Preservation Act Amendment Bill which will open 60,000 acres of Aravallis in South Haryana for real estate developers. This will worsen air and dust pollution, lead to water scarcity and destroy wildlife and different species of birds will become extinct.

9 a.m.; Meeting point: Khali Wale Baba ka Mandir, Suncity, Sector 54, Gurugram, Haryana 122002  
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/ixmbRfZmpjcBqeXB9>

Contact us at [delhimetro@thehindu.co.in](mailto:delhimetro@thehindu.co.in)

#### 5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



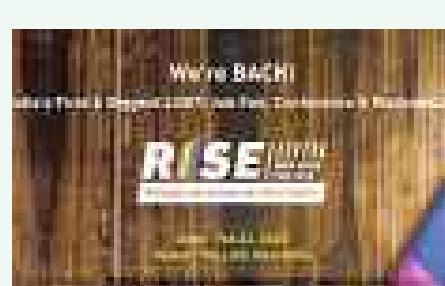
##### EXHIBITION

**Ceramics**  
Delhi Blue Pottery Trust is hosting Spring Carnival of Ceramics, a four-day exhibition-cum-sale. One will view a variety of artworks by Delhi-based artists which will have ceramic wonders in colourful platters and sculptural as well as functional pieces. Also, the participating artists available to interact with the visitors.  
**VENUE:** Triveni Kala Sangam, Mandi House  
**TIME:** 11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.



##### FITNESS

**Yoga and meditation**  
The Soul Project, a wellness organisation founded by Mehak R. Chaudhry, is conducting a one-day fitness workshop at Horizon Plaza in Gurugram, this Sunday. The event is an amalgamation of yoga, meditation, live music and multitude of curated activities which will be conducted by experts from all over India.  
**VENUE:** DLF5, Golf Course Road  
**TIME:** 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.



##### FAIR

**Employment**  
Pride Circle is holding Delhi's first LGBTI job fair, conference and marketplace, called Reimagining Inclusion for Social Equity (RISE), this Saturday. This day-long congregation of over 1,000 changemakers, candidates, human resource professionals, seeks to create better job opportunities for this community.  
**VENUE:** The Lalit, Barakhambha  
**TIME:** 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.



##### WORKSHOP

**Vanagiri**  
Vananshala, a team of parkour athletes and trainers, is hosting a two-day workshop titled Vanagiri 2020, in collaboration with experts Laurent Piemontesi, Kasturi Torchia and Gogoly Yao. The workshop invites fitness enthusiasts to learn a deeper understanding of how their body behaves when facing an obstacle.  
**VENUE:** Shree Farms, Hayatpur Chowk, Gurugram  
**TIME:** 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.



##### CULTURE

**Art and music**  
Imagine Fest 2020, an annual cultural event for attainable art, returns to Delhi today. This two-day rendezvous will feature art galleries and curated talks by key international and leading speakers. Today's festival will have a talk session by the eminent singer Adnan Sami, followed by a performance by Swarveda and Kutla Khan.  
**VENUE:** PSO Club, Nehru Park, Chanakyapuri  
**TIME:** 12 noon - 10 p.m.

FILM REVIEWS

# Taking a giant leap

Hitesh Kewalya makes canny use of popular culture and brings a queer romance into mainstream Hindi cinema

NAMRATA JOSHI

From the first *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jaayenge* inspired scene to the last, the "Ja Simran, jee le apni zindagi" dialogue uttered by an equally stern Baji (patriarch) and an Aashiqui-inspired image of young love thrown in the middle. It's evident what Hitesh Kewalya is doing with what could, perhaps, be the first unabashed same-sex love story in commercial, star-driven Bollywood. He places *Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan* (*SMZS*) squarely in the aesthetics of popular culture. *SMZS* could have been about Raj and Simran, Raj and Bobby or Raj and Rashmi with class, caste and religious differences coming in the way of true love. But it turns out to be about Kartik Singh (Ayushmann Khurana), Jitendra Kumar, Gajraj Rao, Neena Gupta, Manurishi Chaddha, Sunita Rajwar, Maanvi Gagroo.



## Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan

**DIRECTOR:** Hitesh Kewalya  
**CAST:** Ayushmann Khurana, Jitendra Kumar, Gajraj Rao, Neena Gupta, Manurishi Chaddha, Sunita Rajwar, Maanvi Gagroo  
**RUN TIME:** 119.37 minutes  
**STORYLINE:** The love story of Kartik Singh and Aman Tripathi. Need we say more?

was too dainty to even show the two women together in the same frame.

On the flip side is the familiarity of the customary elements—the primacy of family, a garish, loud dressing for the setting, drama, kitsch, colour, much song and dance and bordering on slapstick humour. Kewalya is pushing the envelope without quite tearing it apart. Parents, relations, and family are seen as the biggest battleground for gay couples but they are simultaneously held on to, negotiations are done, successfully at that, despite questioning them. Kewalya isn't judgmental about those who are in denial or intolerant. As one

character says, prejudices take time in getting demolished, a change of heart and mind can't be expected overnight. And such minds are spread across the societal divides. A scientist growing the atypical black cauliflower (a persistent metaphor through the film) could well be as homophobic as a poor and illiterate ironsmith. The hope is that they will eventually get to realise that the real sickness of mind that needs to be cured is not homosexuality but a condition called homophobia.

In his first directorial venture, Kewalya continues to be great (like he was as a writer in *Shubh Mangal Saavdhan*) with little details of the heartland life—like the sly alcohol consumption in steel tumblers in the boot of a car at the wedding—and the fantastic use of lingo and wordplay. Just to hear Hindi words and phrases like *ut-pedan* (persecution), *arthavyavastha* (economy) and *vyavhaarik chumban* (pragmatic kiss) is music to the ears. It's the reason why Kewalya's evocation of small town North India feels more lived-in and grounded than

On the downside, somewhere midway the script tends to go round in circles and get messy even as the messaging gets heavy-handed. But the organic humour keeps surfacing to save the day. Kewalya's call for our collective change of heart is irreverent and playful with a touch of warmth. It's hard to resist that!

## Combating prejudice

Ayushmann Khurana and Jitendra Kumar

several other such films traversing the same zone. All the tropes succeed: the quirky family, its spontaneous quarrels and brawls, the wonderfully realised characters played by a delightful ensemble of actors. It's interesting to see a star like Khurana get adventurous at the peak of his popularity. But what is of greater note, is the scope and space the film grants to a relatively little known actor like Kumar. Khurana's character may have the bluster and be more attractive in his disruptiveness but it's Kumar who gets the best "dopamine", "oxytocin" inspired lines about the nature of true love.

On the downside, somewhere midway the script tends to go round in circles and get messy even as the messaging gets heavy-handed. But the organic humour keeps surfacing to save the day. Kewalya's call for our collective change of heart is irreverent and playful with a touch of warmth. It's hard to resist that!

## POOCH CAFE



## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



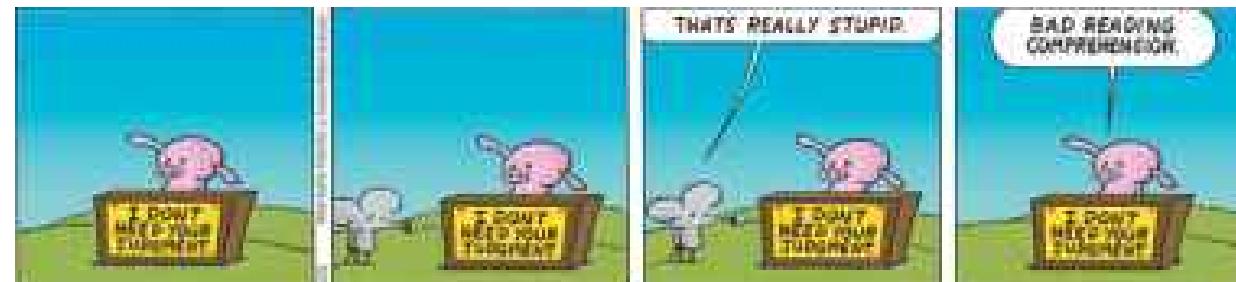
## TIGER



## WUMO



## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



# The dolls must be crazy

Short on scares or classical music, *Brahms: The Boy II*, has nothing going for it, apart from Katie Holmes

MINI ANTHIKAD CHHIBBER



Playing a victim Katie Holmes • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

What is it with dolls and horror movies? There is Anna-belle, Chucky and now Brahms who dresses neatly in suit and tie or colourful jumpers with nary a frown to cross his spotless porcelain face while doing all manner of unspeakable things.

Actually he does not do much apart from set down house-rules that kind of

sound okay – no guests and to keep food in the freezer (a carryover from the 2016 movie, *The Boy*).

If Brahms had added no looking at phone during meal times, he could have been called a good influence.

Liza (Katie Holmes) is a

victim of a home invasion when her husband, Sean, (Owain Yeoman) is at work. The couple's son, Jude, (Christopher Convery) is deeply traumatised and does not speak after the incident. Liza and Sean decide to move into the country in the hope that Jude will recover.

Of all the stately manors in the world, they naturally

had to pick one with a grisly past, where an old couple committed suicide while their deranged son hid in the walls. Jude finds a doll in a shallow grave and things begin happening soon after. There is a strange gamekeeper with a sweet dog who you know will die because it is a horror movie.

*Brahms: The Boy II* is thankfully short on gore but is also short on genuine thrills. It is nice to see Holmes after an age and more. The house looks lovely and so does the well-accessorized Brahms. Wonder what film production companies do with all the demented dolls – now that would be an interesting horror movie.

# That sinking feeling

Vicky Kaushal and jump scares, manage to hold things together well until the Dharma production derails in the second half



Showcasing his versatility Vicky Kaushal • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

NAMRATA JOSHI

It seems as if ghosts are also prone to getting jinxed. *Bhoot Part One: The Haunted Ship* floats along swimmingly and perches promisingly well at the interval until its afflicted by the curse of the second half. An abandoned ship sails into Mumbai and it's for shipping personnel Prithvi (Vicky Kaushal) to uncover its deep, dark secrets. And, in the process, confront ghosts from his own past.

Well mounted, with a pervasive sense of corrosiveness in its frames, in keeping with the rusty vessel it largely plays out in, *Bhoot* gets the eerie mood right. For a brief while. The gloom and doom get extended to even a Parsi restaurant in Mumbai. The hackneyed but ever-reliable tools of ghost stories—jump scares—also play out well, to the accompaniment of persistent clicking sounds and children's rhymes, not to forget the ominous ragtag doll. Fear hangs heavy, there is a rightful oppressiveness about it, more so in the uneasy anticipation of the scary lobs.

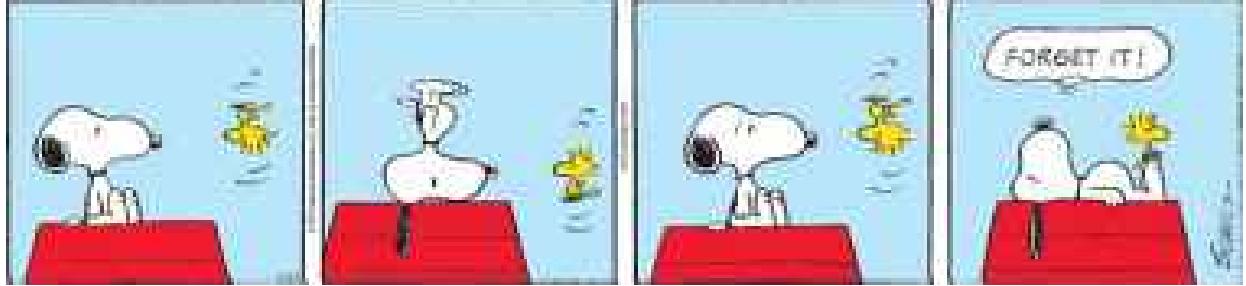
What's more compelling is the grounding of horror in Prithvi's own mind games and hallucinations. He is cast adrift, unmoored much like the stuck ship, he is clinging to the memories. Both need to

## Bhoot Part One: The Haunted Ship

**DIRECTOR:** Bhanu Pratap Singh  
**Cast:** Vicky Kaushal, Ashutosh Rana, Bhumi Pednekar, Akash Dhar  
**RUN TIME:** 1 hour 54 minutes  
**STORYLINE:** An abandoned ship sails into Mumbai and it's for shipping personnel led by Prithvi to uncover its deep, dark secrets

move on. Kaushal evokes the inner torment with requisite gravitas. All other characters, however, are there to serve the plot than getting individualised in any manner. The most problematic is the explicatory second half which takes the film back a full circle to the conventional, tacky horror films and TV shows we have been used to watching complete with "Hreem Kleem" Chamunda mantra-like solution to tackle malicious spirits. Our desi ghosts much need a compelling update.

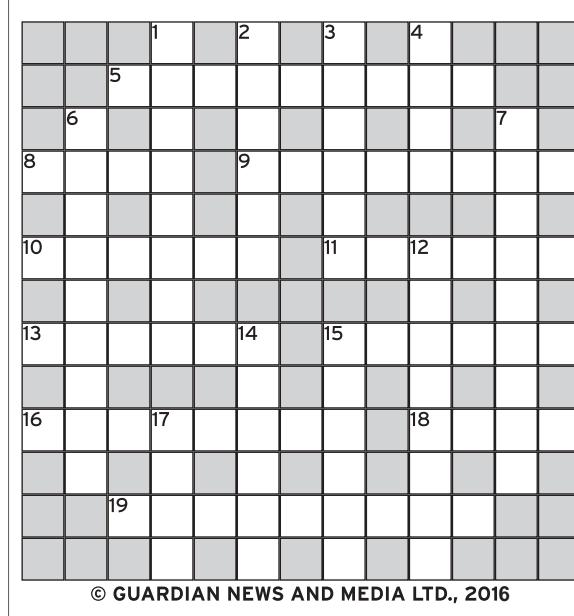
## PEANUTS



## CALVIN AND HOBBES



## THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13309



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

7 Identified by close investigation (9)

12 Dispensary (8)

14 Censor part of a text for security reasons (6)

15 Involving human effort (6)

17 Require(ment) (4)

The solution will appear on February 24, 2020.

Solution No. 13308

F	C	H	B
B	E	L	E
E	A	S	N
T	R	E	K
C	A	P	R
M	I	K	M
N	B	O	H
T	E	L	S
E	K	E	M

**GRAFFITI**  
MY DAUGHTER IS LOOKING FOR A SPORTS CAR - WITH THE SPORT STILL IN IT

**HEALTH CAPSULES** BY Brett Smith

HOW LONG WOULD MY BLOOD VESSELS BE IF THEY WERE STRETCHED END TO END? 100,000 MILES! YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? IF YOU COULD LAY OUT ALL OF THE BLOOD VESSELS OF A CHILD END TO END, THEY WOULD EXTEND ABOUT 60,000 MILES! AN ADULT'S WOULD BE CLOSER TO 100,000 MILES! IF USING THE AVERAGE LUNAR DISTANCE FROM EARTH, IT WOULD TAKE THE BLOOD VESSELS OF ABOUT 3 PEOPLE TO STRETCH ALL THE WAY TO THE MOON!

Health Capsules are intended for general information.

- Across
  - 5 Score of three strokes under par for a golf hole (9)
  - 8 Stare stupidly (4)
  - 9 Pierce with a sharp point (8)
  - 10 Mischievous child (6)
  - 11 Be waiting for (6)
  - 13 Largest New World vulture (6)
  - 15 Thin – inadequate (6)
  - 16 Derived support from (6,2)
  - 18 Submissive (4)
  - 19 Maybe (9)
  - Down
    - 1 Carelessly executed (8)
    - 2 Speed up (6)
    - 3 Polished – sophisticated (6)
    - 4 Applications (4)
    - 6 Car with a folding top – trace boil (anag) (9)

**Power play**

"There is no ground big enough for her," Australian-cricket-turned-commentator Melanie Jones said of Sophie Devine recently. The numbers back this up:

► Devine has hit the ball over the boundary in seven of the eight nations she has played T20Is in. The most have come in New Zealand (34 in 26 innings), but she has also reached double figures in England (11 in 10 innings) and India (13 in eight innings)

► Only West Indies' Deandra Dottin (95\*) has hit more sixes in Twenty20 Internationals than Devine (85), but the New Zealander is the only player (min: 20 innings) to average more than a six an innings (1.02)

► Devine has taken six-hitting to another level in recent years. Since the start of 2017, she has struck 49 in 27 T20I innings (1.81 sixes per innings)

\*Dottin has hit at least 95 sixes; the boundary details for a few of her 108 innings aren't available



► Although her T20I six-hitting rate drops in Australia (6 in 13 innings; 0.46 sixes per innings), she has cleared the ropes at four of the five grounds she has played on

## Why you need to keep an eye on Sophie Devine this T20 World Cup

The New Zealand captain enters the event on a streak of four 50-plus scores this month, including a 65-ball 105. At least one expert thinks she can break the record for the fastest Twenty20 hundred

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

**A**t the Women's T20 Challenge in Jaipur last May, there was this interesting moment. Smriti Mandhana, the Trailblazers captain who was batting with her usual flourish, needed help with her shoelaces.

Supernovas fielder Anuja Patil went up to her Indian teammate to help. But fellow-fielder Sophie Devine had a tongue-in-cheek suggestion for Anuja: "One way of getting her out would be to tie both the shoes together."

These days, fielding sides may be tempted to do something like that to Devine herself, when she is at the wicket. There is no guarantee, though, that that would stop her from hitting those massive sixes.

Devine has arrived in Australia for the Women's T20 World Cup in – pardon the pun – divine form. Earlier this month, at Wellington, she smashed 105 off 65 balls, the latest of four consecutive fifty-plus scores, in New Zealand's 69-run win over South Africa.

Before that, she had lit up the Women's Big Bash

League. Playing for Adelaide Strikers, she scored 769 runs at an average of 76.90 and a strike rate of 130.33. And she hit 29 sixes (10 more than the second player on the list).

Devine loves to say it with sixes. The only woman to average more than a six an innings in T20Is (minimum: 20 innings), she has, since 2017, been hitting it even harder (See: Power play).

**The prediction**

Little wonder that the expectations from Devine are huge at the T20 World Cup, which opened in Sydney on Friday. Australian cricketer-turned-commentator Melanie Jones, in fact, made a prediction a few days ago: "Deandra Dottin's 38-ball hundred might just go at this World Cup and if it does, I think it will be Sophie Devine."

Reema Malhotra could not have agreed more. "Devine could beat even more records," says the former India all-rounder, who has played against her on several occasions. "I feel she is probably the cleanest, biggest hitter in women's cricket at the moment. She gives New

Zealand a fair chance at the World Cup."

As captain, Devine will want to lead from the front and inspire her team to perform at its best. "We haven't done as well as we should have, given the world class talents we have in the side," the 30-year-old had told *The Hindu* when she was in Jaipur for the T20 Challenge. "We want to showcase those skills at the World Cup."

With players like Suzie Bates, Lea Tahuhu, Amelia Kerr and Rachel Priest, New Zealand could go far in the tournament. In Devine, it has a player who can turn a match around all by herself. This is an aspect of cricket she relishes: it is an individual game within a team sport.

**Double international**

She also enjoys playing hockey, though; she has represented her country in major events such as the Champions Trophy. "I was a defender," she says. "I have no regrets that I decided to concentrate on cricket."

The sport should be grateful. She is one of those stars whose compelling strokeplay draws people to the game.

But as a child, her idol was no batsman. "I admired Brett Lee, and wanted to bowl like him," she says with a smile. "I had the same long run-up and action, but not quite the pace."

She still has 71 wickets from 105 ODIs and 84 wickets from 87 T20Is. The batting figures are more impressive: 2,570 ODI runs (with five hundreds and 12 fifties); 2,252 T20I runs (one hundred and 13 fifties).

One of those fifties came off just 18 balls, against India at Bengaluru in 2015. That remains the fastest in women's T20Is. "Everything I planned that day seemed to come out of the middle of the bat," she recalls.

She is glad that the women's game has come a long way in India since that tour. "Five years ago, if you had told me that I would come to play a women's tournament similar to the IPL, I would not have believed you," she says.

The Indian team has improved quite a lot too, especially in fielding. I respect Indian players like Jhulan Goswami, Mithali Raj, Smriti, Harmanpreet Kaur, Jem-

imah Rodrigues, Poonam Yadav and Mansi Joshi."

Among India's male cricketers, she admires Virat Kohli. "He is the ultimate when it comes to class, composure and constructing an innings," she says. "I also like to watch Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan bat."

But the biggest influence on her batting has been compatriot Brendon McCullum. "He is aggressive from ball one, regardless of the situation," she says. "He has been an inspiration not just for me, but for entire New Zealand."

**Battling diabetes**

Devine has also served as an inspiration for many – she has been diabetic since the age of 15. "It has been a challenge, yes," she says. "But I want to tell people: Even when you are fighting with diseases like diabetes or asthma, you can be socially active." You can also be a world-beater, as she has shown.



■ PHOTOS:  
GETTY IMAGES

### TAKE THREE: Football this weekend



#### Chelsea v Tottenham Hotspur

6 p.m. (IST), Saturday

► Jose Mourinho's Tottenham was outclassed by RB Leipzig in mid-week Champions League action, but it's Spurs' Premier League position, not their European campaign, that the manager is likely to be judged on this season. Since taking charge in November, Mourinho has improved league results: the club has climbed from the bottom half of the table, 12 points behind Chelsea, to fifth, one point behind the Blues. Saturday's game gives Spurs a chance to nudge above Chelsea into the top four, but Mourinho has dialled the expectations down, pointing to the side's injury problems and the early kickoff after Wednesday's exertions. Chelsea has had struggles of its own over the last month, dropping 10 points in four games. The pressure on Blues manager Frank Lampard has increased after a promising start to the season, and he will be wary of his old Chelsea gaffer adding to his woes.



#### Schalke 04 v RB Leipzig

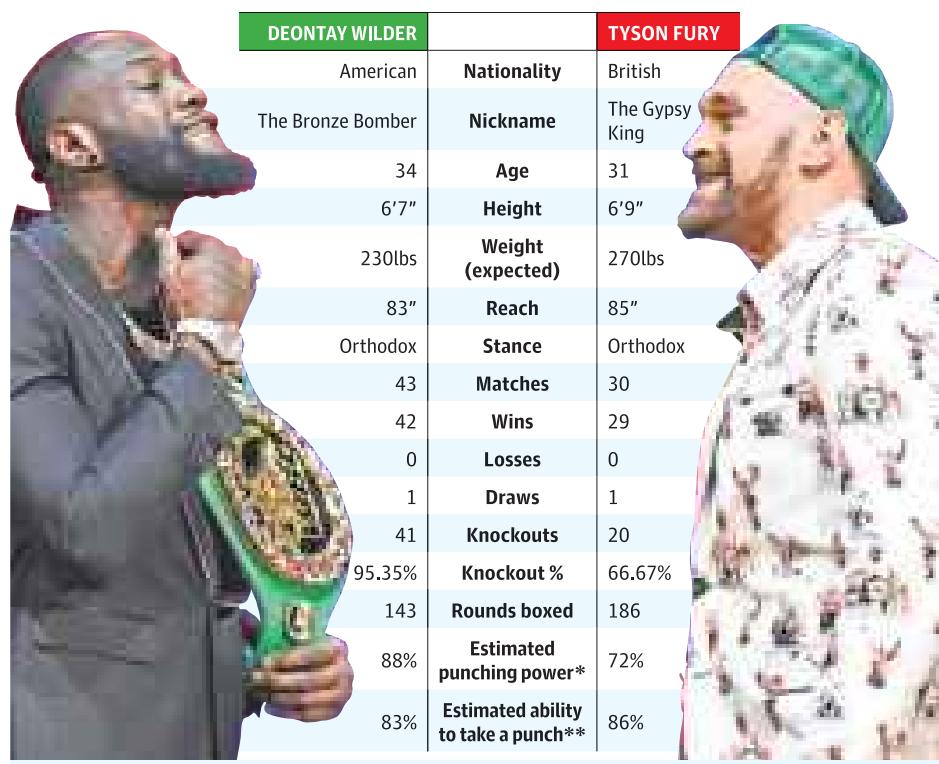
11 p.m. (IST), Saturday

► Under the innovative Julian Nagelsmann, Leipzig has played some exceptional football. The club trails defending champion Bayern Munich by just a point after 22 matches, having suffered a league-low three defeats all season. Nagelsmann's Leipzig is also the first side to score at least three goals in eight successive games. But Timo Werner, the club's top-scorer in the Bundesliga this season with 20 goals, isn't getting ahead of himself. "Bayern and Dortmund are still the favourites for the title, but we're in a good position," Werner said. "What the coach is doing is working wonders. He gets us very well-prepared for games." The visit to sixth-placed Schalke will be a test of Nagelsmann's detailed preparation, however. Leipzig was outmanoeuvred by David Wagner's Schalke 3-1 at home this season, its well-drilled attacking moves broken up and countered expertly. This has the makings of a tactical classic.

## GAME THEORY

### Tale of the tape: Wilder-Fury II

WBC heavyweight champion Deontay Wilder will defend his title against Tyson Fury in Las Vegas on Saturday. The highly anticipated rematch has been billed as 'Unfinished Business'; their initial bout in December 2018 had ended in a controversial split draw



\* An advanced stat, formulated by BoxStat, that calculates how hard a boxer punches. It's based on the results and durations of previous fights, the time elapsed between fights, and the weight, age and durability of the opposition faced. The higher the figure, the better the ability | \*\* An advanced stat, formulated by BoxStat, that calculates how durable a boxer is. It's based on the results and durations of previous fights, the time elapsed between fights, and the weight, age and punching ability of the opposition faced. The higher the figure, the better the ability

**What's on the line:** Wilder's WBC title, the vacant *The Ring* title, and the lineal title, which Fury claims he still holds

**What happened last time:** Fury was floored by a savage Wilder combination in the final round, but got to his feet and made it to the bell. The scores from the three judges read: 115-111 for Wilder, 114-112 for Fury, and 113-113

**What's next:** The loser has 30 days to call for a rematch, which has to be accepted. After that, there's the possibility of the winner facing Anthony Joshua, who holds the WBA (Super), IBF, WBO, and IBO belts, in a match to unify the titles

## STACKING UP

### ATP Men's Top 5

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Novak Djokovic	32	9,720	17
2	Rafael Nadal	33	9,395	18
3	Roger Federer	38	7,130	17
4	Dominic Thiem	26	7,045	21
5	Daniil Medvedev	24	5,890	23
6	Stefanos Tsitsipas	21	4,745	26
7	Alexander Zverev	22	3,885	25
8	Matteo Berrettini	23	2,860	23
9	Gael Monfils	33	2,860	22
10	David Goffin	29	2,600	27
11	Fabio Fognini	32	2,400	24
12	Roberto Bautista Agut	31	2,360	23
13	Diego Schwartzman	27	2,265	25
14	Andrey Rublev	22	2,219	25
15	Denis Shapovalov	20	2,075	27

### Top Indians ▶

Prajnesh Gunnarswaran Rank 125 ▼ 1 spot	Sumit Nagal Rank 126 ▲ no change
--	-------------------------------------

### WTA Women's Top 15

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Ashleigh Barty	23	8,367	16
2	Simona Halep	28	5,796	16
3	Karolina Pliskova	27	5,290	19
4	Belinda Bencic	22	4,720	24
5	Bianca Andreescu	19	4,665	11
6	Elina Svitolina	25	4,650	22
7	Sofia Kenin	21	4,495	24
8	Kiki Bertens	28	4,335	25
9	Serena Williams	38	3,915	11
10	Naomi Osaka	22	3,626	17
11	Petra Kvitova	29	3,566	16
12	Madison Keys	25	2,962	16
13	Aryna Sabalenka	21	2,920	23
14	Johanna Konta	28	2,753	17
15	Petra Martic	29	2,586	19

### Top Indians ▶

Ankita Raina Rank 176 ▼ 1 spot	Riya Bhattacharya Rank 349 ▲ 26 spots
-----------------------------------	--

### English Premier League Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS



<tbl

# Jamieson's strikes push India onto the back foot

Williamson's attacking fields and bowling changes catch batsmen off-guard

## INDIA IN NZ

S. DINAKAR  
WELLINGTON

There was laughter all around when Kane Williamson chased his cap, blown away by the blustery wind, around the park.

But then, for most part the Kiwi skipper, with attacking field placements and smart bowling changes, had his finger on the pulse of the game at the Basin Reserve on Friday.

### Rain stops play

Before rain intervened after tea to end the opening day's play before a goodly crowd, New Zealand had pushed India, 122 for five, onto the back-foot after winning the toss.

Debutant paceman Kyle Jamieson scalped three with his speed, relentless off-stump line and bounce.

For India, Ajinkya Rahane (38 batting) showed some resistance. He shortened his back-lift and held the bat firm while playing against the wind; a straight-drive off Jamieson was the pick.

The batsmen's footwork was bound to be tested in these conditions – greenish



**His day!** Ross Taylor had several reasons to celebrate the day, one of them being this catch to dismiss Virat Kohli. • AFP

pitch and cloud cover. When the ball was fuller in length, the batsmen had to get onto the front-foot to get to the sphere's pitch. And when the

ball was short or just short of a good length, back-foot play became essential.

The good length deliveries, hitting the top of off-

stump, were the hardest to negotiate. The batsman had to make a judgement call moving either forward or backwards, and not get

caught out at the crease.

And the guard had to be aligned with the stance for the batsmen to judge deliveries on or around the off-

stump. Apart from a fighting Rahane and, to some extent Mayank Agarwal, the Indian batsmen were found wanting.

### Living dangerously

Prithvi Shaw lived dangerously, edging past the slips and flashing an uppish cut to the fence.

He succumbed to a mean delivery from Tim Southee, pitched up, and leaving the batsman, to hit off. Shaw was lured into a drive by the length, leaving his defence open.

At the other end, left-armer Trent Boult, striving for rhythm, got the ball to shape away from the right-hander but could not quite move it into the batsman.

Jamieson was always going to be a threat with his height, lift and line. The Kiwi took out Cheteshwar Pujara with a delivery that straightened and gained in height to find the outside edge.

A contest was surely on when a charged-up Jamieson bounded in against Virat Kohli. Perhaps, the India captain expected the delivery to hit good length and rise around off.

However, Jamieson drew

Kohli into a false stroke with a well pitched up delivery rather wide of off-stump. Kohli got the fatal nick and Ross Taylor, making his 100th Test more memorable, snaffled a fine catch in the cordon.

Although beaten by the movement on a few occasions, opener Mayank was sound in defence, stroked in the straightfield for runs.

On a surface such as the one at Basin Reserve, a batsman has to play close to his body, keep the good deliveries away by covering for the swing, look for pushes down the ground rather than go for big drives and essay the cut and the pull if the delivery was lacking in length.

The fourth-wicket pair ad-

ded 48 before Mayank (34) fell, caught at fine-leg, unable to keep a hook off Boult down. Earlier in the over, Mayank had offered Boult a sharp return catch.

### Lost in the crowd

Williams did not have anybody deep from third-man to long-off and just a mid-wicket and fine-leg on the leg-side. It is possible that amidst the cordon of close catchers, Mayank could have missed the fielder in fine-leg.

Hanuma Vihari's on-drive was a relaxed yet classy shot, but he was done in by a pitched up Jamieson delivery that took the edge for keeper Watling to take a sharp catch. The Indians have to work on their footwork.

## SCOREBOARD

### INDIA – 1ST INNINGS

Prithvi Shaw b Southee 16 (18b, 2x4), Mayank Agarwal c Jamieson b Boult 34 (84b, 5x4), Cheteshwar Pujara c Watling b Jamieson 11 (42b, 1x4), Virat Kohli c Taylor b Jamieson 2 (7b), Ajinkya Rahane (batting) 38 (122b, 4x4), Hanuma Vihari c Watling b Jamieson 7 (20b, 1x4), Rishabh Pant (batting) 10 (37b, 1x4); Extras (lb-1, w-3). 4; Total (for 5 wkts. in 55 overs):

122.

### FALL OF WICKETS

1-16 (Shaw, 4.2ov), 2-35 (Pujara, 15.3), 3-40 (Kohli, 17.5), 4-88 (Mayank, 34.3), 5-101 (Vihari, 41.1).

### NEW ZEALAND BOWLING

Southee 14-4-27-1, Boult 14-2-44-1, de Grandhomme 11-5-12-0, Jamieson 14-2-38-3, Ajaz 2-2-0-0.

Toss: New Zealand.

## A hundred in his cellar!

S. DINAKAR  
WELLINGTON

You can freeze the frame. Ross Taylor walking into Basin Reserve with his children ahead of his 100th Test to a rousing ovation from the fans.

Not many get to play 100 Tests – it's not just skill, but fitness and mental strength that determine longevity in the toughest format – and fewer get to do so in front of their home crowd.

Following a pleasant cap presentation ceremony – former Kiwi stumper Ian Smith spoke on the occasion – Taylor took in the moments with his family, friends, teammates and fans.

Cheering him on from the stands was Brendon McCullum, another Kiwi in the 100-Test club. Taylor now has to finish drinking 100 bottles of wine – given to him on the occasion – with family and friends.

And this could prove more demanding than making runs for the old soldier.



**A special entry:** Ross Taylor walks onto the field with his children to celebrate his 100th Test. • AFP

## Poonam spins India to a fine win

Shikha lends good support as Australia falters in the chase

## WOMEN'S T20 WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
SYDNEY

Leg-spinner Poonam Yadav bowled a magical spell in her comeback game to steer India to a comfortable 17-run win over defending champion Australia in the opening match of the Women's T20 World Cup here on Friday.

**Turning the match**  
Put in, India struggled to 132 before Poonam (4/19) foxed the Aussies with her googlies, turning the match decisively. Australia was all out for 115 in 19.5 overs.

Poonam, who missed the preceding tri-series owing to a hand injury, also got good support from the other bowlers, including pacer Shikha Pandey (3/14).

## SCOREBOARD

### INDIA

Shafali Verma c Sutherland b Perry 29 (15b, 5x4, 1x6), Smriti Mandhana lbw b Jonassen 10 (11b, 2x4), Jemimah Rodrigues lbw b Kimmence 23 (3b), Harmanpreet Kaur st. Healy b Jonassen 2 (5b), Deepthi Sharma (not out) 49 (46, 3x4), Veda Krishnamurthy (not out) 9 (11b); Extras (w-6, nb-1): 7. Total (for 4 wkts. in 20 overs): 132.

**FALL OF WICKETS**  
1-41 (Smriti, 4.1 ov), 2-43 (Shafali, 5.3), 3-47 (Harmanpreet, 6.4), 4-100 (Jemimah, 15.6).

**AUSTRALIA BOWLING**

Strano 2-0-15-0, Perry 3-0-



**Attagirl!** Poonam Yadav gets a celebratory hug after scalping Elyse Perry. • AFP

Poonam was even on a hat-trick but missed out as wicketkeeper Taniya Bhatia dropped a difficult chance.

The tournament-opener saw a record 13,000 plus attendance with a sizeable chunk supporting India.

"It was great for me to

come back from injury and perform like this. It was the third time that I was on a hat-trick but satisfied that I was able to do the job for the team," said Poonam at the post-match presentation.

India next plays Bangladesh in Perth on Feb. 24.

As a result, she has been looking forward to the trip down under.

"I will return with not just the trophy but enough pairs of spikes to last for the next few years," she had said.

**Toss:** Australia.

**Player-of-the-Match:** Poonam.

India won by 17 runs.

(in 19.5 overs): 115.

**FALL OF WICKETS**

1-32 (Mooney, 5.4), 2-55 (Lanning, 8.3), 3-67 (Healy, 9.5), 4-76 (Haynes, 11.3), 5-76 (Perry, 11.4), 6-82 (Jonassen, 13.5), 7-101 (Sutherland, 16.3), 8-108 (Kimmence, 18.4), 9-113 (Gardner, 19.2).

**INDIA BOWLING**

Deepthi Sharma 4-0-17-0, Rajeshwari Gayakwad 4-0-31-1, Shikha Pandey 3.5-0-14-3, Arundhati Reddy 4-0-33-0, Poonam Yadav 4-0-19-4.

**Toss:** Australia.

**Player-of-the-Match:** Poonam.

India won by 17 runs.

## A helping hand for Poonam's feet

AMOL KARHADKAR

There's a joke in the India women's dressing room that when the ball is in Poonam Yadav's hand only the ball can be seen, not her palm.

But such is her wrist-work that she flummoxes the batters as frequently as she struggles to buy shoes for her little feet.

Even as she trained to bowl under lights with the dew, Poonam kept wondering whether she would get size-5 shoes.

The chirpy girl told *The Hindu* during India's home series against South Africa last year that joggers were not much of a problem since she could wear "5.5 size with three pairs of socks", but when it comes to spikes she cannot get anything even remotely close to her size in India.

"Alyssa Healy (Australia's wicketkeeper-batter) gave me these spikes. When she was here for the women's IPL (in Jaipur in May), she just walked up to me and asked what size I wear. Since we have the same size, she gave me a pair of spikes."

As a result, she has been looking forward to the trip down under.

"I will return with not just the trophy but enough pairs of spikes to last for the next few years," she had said.

**Toss:** Australia.

**Player-of-the-Match:** Poonam.

India won by 17 runs.

## Japanese grapplers thwart Indians

### ASIAN WRESTLING

UTHRA GANESAN  
NEW DELHI

The Indian women wrestlers ran up against a Japanese wall in the senior Asian wrestling championships, faltering in each of the five weight categories, here on Friday. The host only managed three bronze and a silver on the day.

Drawn up against her nemesis Mayu Mukaida in the quarterfinals, Vinesh Phogat was unable to break her losing streak, going down 2-6 before winning 10-0 against Thi Ly Kieu of Vietnam for a consolation bronze.

Vinesh's struggles against Mukaida would be a concern as the Indian is considered one of the biggest hopes at the Tokyo Olympics.

Against a quicker and stronger Mukaida, Vinesh was found wanting in both. Mukaida hardly gave her a chance to find a hold and the one time Vinesh managed



**Second best:** Sakshi Malik, on top, in action against Nabira Eesenbaeva, came up short in the final against Naomi Rurike.

• SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

towards the dying seconds of the first round, she was unable to break Mukaida's defensive hold.

On the flip side, this was the first time Vinesh managed to score points off the Japanese.

Sakshi Malik, the Olympic bronze medallist, has been struggling for a while now, even losing the National trials in the 62kg and forced

to compete in the non-Olympic 65kg here.

With just six entrants in the draw, Sakshi was expected to have it easy but a 1-2 loss to Naomi Rurike made things difficult. Interestingly, she bettered her performance from the previous outing – she had a bronze in 2019 – reaching the final and a re-match against Rurike to finally settle for a silver with

a 0-2 loss.

In the 57kg and 62kg categories, the Kawai sisters – Risako and Yukako respectively – ended the dreams of Anshu and Sonam in dominating fashion.

Meanwhile, the WFI has decided to hold trials to select India's entry at the Olympic Qualifiers in the 62kg and 76kg among women and 60kg in Greco-Roman, citing dissatisfaction with performances.

**The results:** **53kg:** 1. Tatyana Akhmetova Amanzhol (Kaz), 2. Mayu Mukaida (Jpn), 3. Vinesh (Ind) & Aktenge Keunimjaeva (Uzb). **57kg:** 1. Risako Kawai (Jpn), 2. Davaachimeg Erkhembayar (Mgl), 3. Altynay Satylygan (Kaz) & Anshu (Ind). **62kg:** 1. Yukako Kawai (Jpn), 2. Ayayluym Kassymova (Kaz), 3. Aisuluu Tyynbekova (Kaz) & Nomin Erdene Purvee (Mgl). **65kg:** 1. Naomi Rurike (Jpn), 2. Sakshi Malik (Ind), 3. Bolortunglagal Zorigt (Mgl). **72kg:** 1. Zamila Bakbergenova (Kaz), 2. Mei Shindo (Jpn), 3. Gursharanpreet Kaur (Ind).

India fought hard before losing 4-3 to defending champion Australia in the first match of the two-leg FIH Pro League encounter here on Friday.

**The result:** Australia 4 (Dylan Wotherspoon 6, Tom Wickham 18, Lachlan Sharp 41, Jacob Anderson 42) bt India 3 (Raj Kumar Pal 36,

## TV PICKS

**New Zealand vs India:** 1st Test, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 4 a.m.**Bangladesh vs Zimbabwe:** Only Test, SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 9 a.m.**Ranji Trophy:** Star Sports 3 & SS Select 1 HD, 9.30 a.m.**Sri Lanka vs West Indies:** 1st ODI, Sony Six (SD & HD), 10 a.m.**Khelo India University Games:** Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 11.30 a.m.**Women's T20 World Cup:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 12 p.m.**Premier League:** SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 6 p.m., 8.30 p.m. & 10.30 p.m.**FIH Pro League:** India vs Australia, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.**ISL:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.**Serie A:** Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m., 10.30 p.m. & 1 a.m. (Sunday)**Bundesliga:** SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 8 p.m. & 10.30 p.m.

## IN BRIEF

**Amandeep Drall wins Pro Golf Tour Leg 4**BENGALURU  
Amandeep Drall coasted to a three-shot victory on the final day of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour (Leg 4) at the BGC. Her 3-over 73 in the third and final round was enough to sign for a total of 213 and finish ahead of Vani Kapoor.**The scores:** 213: Amandeep Drall (69, 71, 73); 216: Vani Kapoor (71, 71, 74); 218: Asmita Sathish (A) (73, 72, 73); 221: Khushi Khanijau (77, 71, 73); 222: Neha Tripathi (74, 73, 75), Oviya Reddi (77, 68, 77).**Llorente stars for Garcha Hotels**NEW DELHI  
Manuel Llorente scored seven goals in guiding Garcha Hotels to a 10/12 goals to 8 victory over Jindal Panther in the semifinals of the Northern India Polo championship at the Jaipur Polo ground on Friday. In another semifinal, Golden Globe Hotels beat Sona-Sphiro 10-7. The final will be played at 2.30 p.m. at the Jaipur Polo ground on Sunday. Meanwhile, in the last league match of the Army polo championship, Cavalry-B beat Artillery 6 goals to 3/1.2. **The results (semifinals):** Garcha Hotels 10/12 (Manuel Llorente 7, Satinder Garcha 2, Vicky Nihalani, handicap 1/2) bt Jindal Panther 8 (Simran Shergill 7, Abhimanyu Pathak). Golden Globe Hotels 10 (Chris Mackenzie 6, Padmanab Singh 2, Basheer Ali 2) bt Sona-Sphiro 7 (Gerardo Mazzini 4, Siddhant Sharma 2, Raghav Rao).

## Victory Parade for feature event

HYDERABAD: Victory Parade, who is in fine nick, may score in the H.P. Mistry Memorial Cup (1,400m), the main event of the races to be held here on Saturday (Feb. 22).

**1 DELHI RACE CLUB CUP (DIV. I),** 1,600m, maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms), 1-5 p.m.; 1. Crazy Horse (7) Irvan Singh 55, 2. Just Incredible (4) Mukesh Kumar 55, 3. Lightning Power (1) Ashhad Asbar 55, 4. Spicy Star (2) Aneel 55, 5. Turf Monarch (5) R.N. Darshan 55, 6. Castle Rock (8) Afroz Khan 53.5, 7. Moringa (3) Ajeth Kumar 53.5, 8. Sweet Melody (6) B.R. Kumar 53.5 and 9. Turf Winner (9) Naresh 53.5.**1. LIGHTNING POWER, 2. MORINGA, 3. CRAZY HORSE**

2 RED KNIGHT PLATE (1,400m), 2 4-y-o &amp; over (placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd since November 1, 2019 are not eligible), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 1-45; 1. Meka's (6) Jitendra Singh 60, 2. Scooby Dooby Doo (3) Md. Ismail 55, 3. Born Greek (2) Aneel 55.5, 4. Meritocracy (1) B.R. Kumar 58, 5. N R I Elegance (ex: Amazing Elegance) (10) Koushik 58, 6. Palace On Wheels (4) Santosh Raj 56.5, 7. Star Of Tiara (9) Mukesh Kumar 54.5, 8. Blazer (7) R.N. Darshan 54, 9. Cincia Azzurra (5) Gopal Singh 53 and 10. Private Empire (8) Ashhad Asbar 52.

**3 PRIVATE EMPIRE**

3 DELHI RACE CLUB CUP (DIV. II), 1,600m, maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms), 2-15; 1. Eagle Bluff (7) Koushik 55, 2. Lightning Pearl (6) Mukesh Kumar 55, 3. Pearl (5) Koushik 55, 4. Mark My Day (5) Nakhat Singh 55, 4. Team Player (1) Aneel 55, 5. Cheltenham (3) R.N. Darshan 53.5, 6. Destiny To Be (8) Ajeth Kumar 53.5, 7. Queen Daemerys (2) Irvan Singh 53.5 and 8. Turf Warrior (4) Ajit Singh 53.5.

**1. MEGA'S 2. CINCIA AZZURRA, 3. PRIVATE EMPIRE**

4 SMT TEEGALA SULOCHANAYA REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. II), 1,200m, 4-y-o &amp; over, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II), 2-15; 1. Eagle Bluff (7) Koushik 55, 2. Lightning Pearl (6) Mukesh Kumar 55, 3. Pearl (5) Koushik 55, 4. Mark My Day (5) Nakhat Singh 55, 4. Team Player (1) Aneel 55, 5. Cheltenham (3) R.N. Darshan 53.5, 6. Destiny To Be (8) Ajeth Kumar 53.5, 7. Queen Daemerys (2) Irvan Singh 53.5 and 8. Turf Warrior (4) Ajit Singh 53.5.

**1. MARK MY DAY, 2. QUEEN DAEMERYS, 3. DESTINE TO BE**

4 SMT TEEGALA SULOCHANAYA REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. II), 1,200m, 4-y-o &amp; over, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II), 2-15; 1. Agni (2) Mr. Baahubali (12)

## Bengal bowlers restrain Odisha

Shantanu and Debasish combine well; Basant makes his 100th memorable

**Timely strike:** Rajesh Dhuper pulls off a smart catch to send back centurion Anustup Majumder off Basant Mohanty. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT**Y.B. SARANGI  
TANGI (ODISHA)**

Bengal bowlers' persistence checked Odisha's progress on the second day of the Ranji Trophy quarterfinal at the DRIEMS ground here on Friday.

Bengal, resuming at 308 for six, scored 332 in its first innings.

**Good stand**

Odisha benefited from a commendable 125-run partnership between Shantanu Mishra (62, 214b, 7x4) and Debasish Samantray (68, 145b, 10x4, 1x6) before Bengal picked up three wickets in the last hour to reduce the host to 151 for four.

The Odisha seamers restricted Bengal – Suryakant Pradhan castled Shahbaz Ahmed on his overnight 82. Basant Mohanty took three wickets, including that of Anustup Majumder (157), to claim four wickets in his 100th match.

After losing Anurag Sarangi to Nilkantha Das in the sixth over, Shantanu and De-

basish showed good temperament and applied themselves for nearly five hours.

The left-right combination, following a period of circumspection, unleashed some classy shots on both sides.

Shantanu kept blocking, while Debasish, Odisha's highest run-getter, mixed his solid defence with some spectacular shots.

The southpaw drove the pacers fluently and hoisted off-spinner Arnab Nandi for a six.

**Nilkantha strikes**

They reached their half-centuries in the final session before the disciplined Nilkantha broke the century stand. Debasish lost patience and his wicket.

Bengal roared back when Shahbaz bowled Shantanu and Ishan Porel had Govinda Poddar caught at slip off a rising delivery.

**The scores:****Bengal – 1st innings:** Shantanu Mishra b Shahbaz 62, Anurag Sarangi c Goswami b Nilkantha 5, Debasish Samantray c Goswami b Nilkantha 68, Govinda Poddar c Majumder b Porel 11, Debrabrat Pradhan (batting) 0; Extras (lb-4, lb-1): 5. Total (for 4 wkts. in 67.1 overs): 151.**Fall of wickets:** 1-17, 2-17, 3-25, 4-46, 5-46, 6-141, 7-312, 8-319, 9-319.**Odisha bowling:** Basant 25.5-7-53-4, Suryakant 27-5-115-3, Chohan 15-3-52-2, Debrabrat 14-0-54-1, Poddar 10-0-36-0, Shantanu 5-0-15-0.**Odisha – 1st innings:** Shantanu Mishra b Shahbaz 62, Anurag Sarangi c Goswami b Nilkantha 5, Debasish Samantray c Goswami b Nilkantha 68, Govinda Poddar c Majumder b Porel 11, Debrabrat Pradhan (batting) 0; Extras (lb-4, lb-1): 5. Total (for 4 wkts. in 67.1 overs): 151.**Fall of wickets:** 1-10, 2-135, 3-145, 4-151.**Bengal – 1st innings:** Koushik Ghosh c Poddar b Basant 9, Abhimanyu Easwaran c Dhuper b

## Ranji scores: quarterfinals



Suryakant 7, Abhishek Raman lbw b Suryakant 1, Arnab Nandi c Shantanu b Chohan 24, Manoj Tiwary lbw b Debrabrat 4, Anustup Majumder Dhuper b Basant 157, Shreevats Goswami c Dhuper b Chohan 34, Shahbaz Ahmed b Suryakant 82, Mukesh Kumar c Chohan b Basant 0, Nilkantha Das (not out) 2; Extras (lb-7, nb-2, w-2): 11. Total (in 96.5 overs): 332.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-17, 2-17, 3-25, 4-46, 5-46, 6-141, 7-312, 8-319, 9-319.**Odisha bowling:** Basant 25.5-7-53-4, Suryakant 27-5-115-3, Chohan 15-3-52-2, Debrabrat 14-0-54-1, Poddar 10-0-36-0, Shantanu 5-0-15-0.**Odisha – 1st innings:** Shantanu Mishra b Shahbaz 62, Anurag Sarangi c Goswami b Nilkantha 5, Debasish Samantray c Goswami b Nilkantha 68, Govinda Poddar c Majumder b Porel 11, Debrabrat Pradhan (batting) 0; Extras (lb-4, lb-1): 5. Total (for 4 wkts. in 67.1 overs): 151.**Jammu:** Karnataka 14/2 in six overs vs Jammu & Kashmir. No play.**Ongole:** Saurashtra 419 in 146.5 overs (Vishvaraj Singh Jada 73, Sheldon Jackson 50, Chirag Jani 121, Prekash Manakad 80) vs Andhra 40/2 in 22 overs.**Valsad:** Gujarat 602/8 decl. in 161.3 overs (Samit Gohil 52, Bhagav Merai 84, Parthiv Patel 124, Chirag Gandhi 49, Akash Patel 80, Roosh Kalaria 118 n.o., Chintan Gaja 56) vs Goa 46/2 in 16 overs.

## Ojha retires

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
ONGOLE**

Left-arm spinner Pragyan Ojha announced his retirement from international and First Class cricket on Friday.

The 33-year-old, who played his last Test in November 2013, said in a statement that representing the country at the highest level was a dream he had cherished as a youngster. "I am at a loss to describe how fortunate I have been to have lived my dream, earned the love and respect of my countrymen," he said.

## Gujrathi keeps lead despite loss

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PRAGUE**

Indian Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi suffered a defeat at the hands of Czech GM David Navara in the eighth round of the Prague Chess Festival's Masters category but still remained on top of the standings. He has five points to his kitty.

**The results (eighth round):** David Navara (Cze) 4 bt Vidit Gujrathi 5; P. Harikrishna 3.5 drew with Markus Ragger (Aut) 3.5; David Anton Guijaro (Spa) 4.5 bt Nils Grandelius (Swe) 2.5; Nikita Vitugov (Rus) 4.5 drew with Janusz Kirsztow Duda (Pol) 4; Alirez Firouzja (Iran) 4.5 drew with Sam Shankland (USA) 4.

## Neroeca beats Gokulam

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
IMPHAL**

Host Neroeca FC eked out a narrow 3-2 win over Gokulam Kerala FC in a Hero I-League match to come out of the relegation zone here on Friday.

**The result:** Neroeca FC 3 (Pratam Ningthoujam 2, Philip Adiah 48, Ronald Singh 81) bt Gokulam FC 2 (Shibil Muhammed 25, Nataniel Garcia 40).

## CFC seals playoff berth

**SPORTS BUREAU  
MUMBAI**

Chennaiyin FC defeated 10-man Mumbai City FC 1-0 on Friday in a virtual knockout tie to seal the final playoff berth in the Indian Super League. Defender Lucian Goian, formerly of Mumbai City, struck the winner in the 83rd minute from a corner kick, which took Chennaiyin's tally to 28 points, two more than the Islanders.

Mumbai defender Sourav Das was shown a straight red in the 54th minute for bringing down Lallianzuala Chhangte, when he was running through on goal.

## Dream Catcher claims Madras Race Club Trophy

Wet patches on the outfield rule out play, leaving KSCA concerned

**Sorry state:** Not a ball was bowled even though the ground was bathed in blazing sunshine all day. ■ R.V. MOORTHY**SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA  
JAMMU**

The Gandhi Memorial Science College ground was bathed in blazing sunshine on Friday, but not a single ball was bowled. After bad light had allowed only half an hour of play on day one, Karnataka and Jammu &amp; Kashmir endured more frustration on the second day of their Ranji Trophy quarterfinal here.

Heavy overnight rain left wet patches on the outfield, and although most of the ground had dried by lunch, the umpires were distinctly unhappy with the run-up area from one end. Play was finally called off at 4 p.m. after multiple inspections.

**Frustrating**

"We have come here for a quarterfinal and the match not happening is really frustrating," said Karnataka off-spinner K. Gowtham. "But the ground-staff are doing their best. We still have three good days left, so we are hopeful."

Only six overs have now been bowled on the first two days of this contest.

If both teams cannot complete their first innings, J&amp;K will go through by virtue of having won more games outright in the group stages. The KSCA is concerned, and disappointed that a knock-

dably not keen on giving up the chance to host such a high-profile fixture.

The association had only three days to prepare for this game, and JKCA staff have toiled hard to put on a show, but the fact that not a single ball was bowled on day two despite bright sunshine raises serious questions. Water seeped in under the covers, and the teams could do nothing but wait.

**Limited equipment**

"The infrastructure we have is temporary. We have limit-

**7 CHARMADI PLATE (DIV. I),** 1,400m, rated 45 to 20, 5-y-o & over: APOLLO BAY (Trevor) 1, Glorious Days (Jagadeesh) 2, Duty Call (Arshad) 3 and Bazinga (Antony) 4, 3-3/4, 1/2 and 2-3/4, Im, 27.66s, ₹24 (w), 15, 6 and 27 (p), SHP: 47, THP: 59, FP: 11, Q: 80, Trinella: 429 and 301, Exacta: 1,632 and 570. Favourite: Apollo Bay, Owner: Mr. Dean Stephens, Trainer: Kishan Thomas.**8 BHAGAMANDALA PLATE (DIV. II),** 1,400m, rated 30 to 50, 5-y-o & over: BOLD MOVE (Vaibhav) 1, Brooklyn Supreme (Vinod Shinde) 2, Masada (R. Manish