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Shafali, Poonam star in India's victory over Bangladesh
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NEARBY



Goel back as Speaker of Delhi Assembly

NEW DELHI
Aam Aadmi Party MLA Ram Niwas Goel was re-elected Speaker of the Delhi Assembly on Monday. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia proposed Mr. Goel's name and he was elected unopposed. Newly elected Delhi MLAs also took oath as members of the House. Some legislators took oath in the name of Hanuman, Allah, and Bharat Mata.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

JMI tweets: court rejects clean chit to Sisodia

NEW DELHI
Rejecting an action-taken report that gave a clean chit to Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, a court here on Monday directed the Police Commissioner to file a fresh report on a plea seeking an FIR against the AAP leader for allegedly spreading fake news on Twitter in connection with the violence near Jamia Millia Islamia during the anti-CAA protests. The police chief has been asked to file the report by March 17.

CITY ▶ PAGE 4

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Policeman among 5 killed in Delhi violence over CAA

Vehicles, shops set ablaze in northeastern suburbs

SAURABH TRIVEDI
HEMANT BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party MLA Ram Niwas Goel was re-elected Speaker of the Delhi Assembly on Monday. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia proposed Mr. Goel's name and he was elected unopposed. Newly elected Delhi MLAs also took oath as members of the House. Some legislators took oath in the name of Hanuman, Allah, and Bharat Mata.

The violence took a communal colour and spread to other parts of northeast Delhi as organised groups attacked each other, setting shops and vehicles on fire.

Tensions escalated hours before U.S. President Donald Trump was scheduled to reach Delhi for bilateral talks as part of his first state visit to India. While Mr. Trump will stay in central Delhi, more than 20 km from the violence, he is scheduled to travel to Rashtrapati Bhavan and Raj Ghat in Old Delhi.

Head constable Rattan Lal, 42, succumbed to head injuries after being hit by a stone in Gokulpuri. He had been trying to control the situation along with his contingent, when he was hit. DCP, Shahdara, Amit Sharma was among the 11 police personnel injured.

DCP Sharma, ACP (Gokulpuri) Anuj and head constable Chatrapal also suffered injuries and were hospitalised. Additional Medical Superintendent, Guru Tegh Bahadur Hospital, Dr. Rajesh Kalra said five persons, including head constable Rattan Lal, died during the violence. He added that over 50 persons had sustained injuries, which were due to stone-throwing and firing.

Several members identified as belonging to the minority community were thrashed by a mob in the area, according to eyewitness accounts. During the violence, a group of anti-CAA protesters torched two cars and an e-rickshaw in the Jaffrabad area and in retaliation, pro-CAA protesters set four shops ablaze and pelted stones at other shops after identifying them as belonging to members of the minority community.

The violence erupted in the presence of nearly 100 policemen, who seemingly did not respond to the situ-



Taking aim: A protester seen with a gun during clashes in Jaffrabad, Delhi, on Monday. ■ ANI

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uation. The violence over the CAA spilled over from Sunday. On Monday, fresh cases of stone-throwing were reported from near the Babarpur-Majupur metro station. Later, a similar incident was reported from Khajuri Khas.

Man with gun held
A senior police officer said in the evening that a man who was seen firing during the violence in the Jaffrabad area, had been identified as Shahrukh Khan and detained. The police also recovered a pistol from him.

The police fired tear-gas shells to disperse the protesters and also appealed to residents to maintain peace and harmony. Stone-throwing continued till late in the evening in the Khajuri Khas area.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Donald Trump calls Modi a 'true friend', lavishes praise on PM

'Story of Indian nation is a tale of astounding progress, a miracle of democracy'

MAHESH LANGA
AHMEDABAD

U.S. President Donald Trump, on his maiden two-day visit to India on Monday, heaped praise on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, calling him a "true friend", and said his rise from a humble background as a tea-seller to India's Prime Minister underscores India's limitless promise".

The President also described Mr. Modi as a "tremendously successful leader".

Mr. Trump's lavish praise, while addressing a mammoth crowd at the Motera stadium in Gujarat, reflected the bonhomie shared by the two leaders.

"Prime Minister Modi, you are not just the pride of Gujarat. You are living proof that with hard work and devotion Indians can accomplish anything, anything at all, anything they want," Mr. Trump said, amid loud cheers from the audience at the mega 'Namaste Trump' event.

Democracy, diversity
In his long speech, sprinkled with praise for not only Mr. Modi but also for India's democracy, pluralism and diversity, Mr. Trump highlighted the country's achievements and what its



Picture perfect: U.S. President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania posing in front of the Taj Mahal in Agra on Monday. ■ AFP

democracy offers to citizens.

"The story of the Indian nation is a tale of astounding progress, a miracle of democracy, extraordinary diversity and above all, you noble people. India gives hope to all of humanity. In just 70 years, India has become an economic giant, one of the largest democracies ever to exist and one of the most amazing nations anywhere in the world," Prime Minister Trump said.

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MORE REPORTS ON ▶ PAGE 13

It's a far greater, closer relationship, says Modi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

Addressing the 'Namaste Trump' event here in the presence of visiting U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India-U.S. relations were no longer just "a partnership, but a far greater and closer relationship."

"There is so much that we share: shared values and ideals, shared spirit of enterprise and innovation, shared opportunities and challenges, shared hopes and aspirations," he said.

Mr. Modi opened the mega event with chants of 'long live India-U.S. friendship'.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Sunni Waqf Board accepts five-acre land for mosque

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board on Monday decided to accept the five acres of land allotted to it for building a mosque following the Supreme Court verdict in the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi title suit.

The State government had earlier in February allotted the land in Dhannipur village in Sohawal tehsil of Ayodhya, around 25 km from the site where the Babri Masjid once stood.

Trust for mosque
Waqf Board chairperson Zufar Faruqi, after a meeting, said the board had accepted the five-acre land and would constitute a Trust to construct a mosque at the site.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Back to school



Girls attending school in Srinagar on Monday. Over 10 lakh students of the Valley donned their uniforms for the first time in seven months as schools reopened after a three-month-long winter break that coincided with months of disruption in the wake of withdrawal of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir in August last year. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

Now, BJP's Kapil Mishra appeals for peace

He aggravated situation, says AAP MLA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

to us. We will not listen to you. Just three days."

Mr. Mishra's appeal for peace on Monday, however, was followed by a tweet in which he alleged that anti-CAA protesters are running riot in Bhajanpura, Chand Bagh, Karawala Nagar, Majupur, Babarpur and Jaffrabad. "Petrol pumps, homes, temples are being subjected to damage and arson. The situation is horrifying. The police should immediately forcefully remove them [protesters] from Chand Bagh and Jaffrabad. I appeal to everyone to maintain peace," he said.

AAP's Abdul Rehman, the MLA of Seelampur constituency of which Jaffrabad is a part, on Monday blamed Mr. Mishra for aggravating the situation. "All this violence happened after Kapil Mishra came here and flared up the situation with his statements," he said.

Three-day ultimatum'

On Sunday, Mr. Mishra had said, "A three-day ultimatum to Delhi Police - get the streets of Jaffrabad and Chand Bagh cleared. After this this don't explain anything

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IN BRIEF



DUTA writes to Sisodia over release of grants

NEW DELHI
DUTA president Rajib Ray on Monday wrote to the Education Minister Manish Sisodia highlighting a delay in the release of grants to colleges run by the Delhi government. "We write once again to draw your immediate attention to the delay in release of grants to the 12 Delhi University colleges, which are fully funded by the Delhi government. Colleges do not have funds to release salaries of employees and need grants urgently," the letter read.

Air Quality of Delhi-NCR		
Delhi	Gurugram	Noida
142	128	116
Ghaziabad	140	Greater Noida
Faridabad	104	137
Good	Satisfactory	Moderate
0-50	51-100	101-200
Poor	Very Poor	Severe
201-300	301-400	>400
Air Quality Index at 4 p.m. yesterday (Average of past 24 hours) Source: CPCB		

DELHI TODAY

Talk: The second day of today's Festival of Letters 2020, a national seminar on Environment, Environment and Literature will feature discussions on the topic "Tribal Languages: Preservation and Revitalization", followed by panel discussion on "Intertwining of Fact and Fiction" by various speakers at Sahitya Akademi, Rabindra Bhawan, 35 Ferozeshah Road, 10 a.m. onwards.

Exhibition: "Shining Brightly", a group exhibition of mixed media by artists from Israel, and other international artists by Bruno Galleria at Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Banaras Temples", a solo painting exhibition by Balu Sadale at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: An exhibition of ceramics artwork by Delhi Blue Pottery Trust at Triveni Amphitheatre, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205 Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. (Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@thehindu.co.in)

Ram Niwas Goel re-elected Speaker of Delhi Assembly

He was elected unopposed; newly elected legislators also took oath on Monday



Speaker Ram Niwas Goel being greeted by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia on Monday.

■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

AAP MLA Ram Niwas Goel was re-elected as the Speaker of the 7th Delhi Legislative Assembly on Monday, for a second consecutive term.

Newly elected Delhi MLAs also took oath as members of Delhi Legislative Assembly.

During the ceremony, some MLAs took oath in the name of Hanuman, Allah, and Bharat Mata. While most of the MLAs took oath in Hindi, some did it in Maithili, Urdu and English. As many as 61 members took oath in Hindi, three members in Urdu, two members in Maithili, and one member each in English and Punjabi.

AAP MLAs Sanjeev Jha and Ritu Raj Govind, arrived in traditional clothes, and took the oath in Maithili.

AAP MLA Shoaib Iqbal was elected as the pro tem Speaker to administer the oath of office and secrecy to the newly elected MLAs.

BJP's Badarpur MLA Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, who has been appointed as the Leader of the Opposition, hugged Mr. Iqbal after taking oath.

Mr. Goel's name was proposed as the Speaker by Deputy Chief Minister Manish

Sisodia and subsequently elected.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that Mr. Goel was elected unopposed as both AAP and the Opposition had full confidence" in him.

"In the last five years we saw that Ram Niwas was like Bhishma Pitamah of the House of the Assembly. He also did not give any opportunity to the Opposition to complain against him," Mr. Kejriwal said, adding that the tenure under the chairmanship of Mr. Goel will be "fulfilling". Mr. Sisodia also congratulated Mr. Goel on behalf of all the legislators.

The leader of Opposition also congratulated Mr. Goel and said that he and his party leaders will fully cooperate in the functioning of the House and requested the Speaker to give them enough time in the Assembly, though they were less in number.

L-G to address House

Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal, will address the Assembly at 2 p.m. on Tuesday.

Sixty-nine of the 70 MLAs took oath on Monday with only Aam Aadmi Party MLA Rakesh Rishi left to do so.

Party feels it has the blessings of Hanuman

Taking oath in God's name a choice'

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Explaining why he took the oath in the name of Hanuman, AAP chief spokesperson and Greater Kailash MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj, said: "It is a choice if you want to take oath in the name of your beloved god."

Multiple references

There have been multiple references to Hanuman among top AAP leaders lately, with the AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal singing 'Hanuman Chalisa', a hymn on Hanuman, during election campaign and later stating in an interview that he would make the BJP leaders sing the Chalisa too, which he reiterated at a press conference.

On February 11, the day on which the Delhi Assembly election result was declared, Mr. Kejriwal, during his victory speech, said: "Hanuman has blessed Delhi".

Last week, Mr. Bharadwaj had organised a recitation of Ramayana's "Sunder Kanda", which is on Lord Hanuman, and said that such events would be held in different areas of the constituency on the first Tuesday of every month for to seek Hanuman's blessings.



AAP chief spokesperson and Greater Kailash MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj. ■ FILE PHOTO

Later on Thursday, he demanded that a statue of Lord Hanuman should be installed in Ayodhya and they have sought time for a meeting with the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust for the same.

"Bajrangbali has been helping us a lot. Bajrangbali is called the trouble shooter. We have found that whenever we are in trouble, Bajrangbali comes to our rescue. It is a general feeling in the party that Lord Bajrangbali is blessing us. And we want to continue have his blessings," Mr. Bharadwaj told *The Hindu*, when asked about the party's increasing references to Lord Hanuman.

ED directed to return money seized in 1995

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has directed the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to return with interest the sum of ₹7.95 lakh "illegally" seized from a travel agency owner nearly 25 years ago for alleged violation of foreign exchange law.

The court said the man has been deprived of his funds for a considerable period of time and held that confiscation of the amount was "wholly illegal and unsustainable". It directed the ED to return the amount along with an interest of 6% per annum from the date of seizure, that is October 4, 1995, till the date of payment. The amount to be paid, based on 6% interest, comes to around ₹20 lakh.

Manak Kala who runs a travel agency, had challenged a 2014 order of the Adjudicating Authority of ED which had imposed a penalty of ₹75 lakh on him and directed confiscation of ₹7.95 lakh, seized from his office.

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Blood, injustice and anger burn the streets of north-east Delhi

From the elderly to teenagers, mob roughs up all till police arrive after half an hour; officer blames violence on 'rumours'

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

The main Wazirabad Road in north-east Delhi on Monday turned into a battleground with two communities pelting stones at each other, injuring several persons.

Metres before Khajuri Khas junction, members of the majority community thrashed those from the minority community.

The victims, some of them bleeding, were seen running for their lives.

At 4.02 p.m., a mob chased three members of the minority community – a boy who appeared to be a teenager, a middle-aged man, an older man. They not only punched and slapped the trio but also attacked them with sticks.

When the teenager tried to flee the spot, they dragged and thrashed him when the old man tried to save him. The boy then managed to run away after which the mob roughed up the old man. A few minutes later, they let him go. The middle-aged man, in an attempt to run away from the spot, injured himself.

At 4.09 p.m., a mini truck, driven by a member of a minority community, which was coming towards the 5th Pushta Road was stopped by a mob. The mob caught hold of the driver while he was trying to jump a divider and roughed him up. On seeing this, another set of people came to the spot and started



Vehicles set ablaze during violence in north-east Delhi on Monday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

beating the driver while chanting "Jai Shri Ram". One of them said: "Maaro saale ko [trash him]". The vandalised vehicle was seen lying on the side of the road.

At 4.18 p.m., another mini truck driven by a member of a minority community carrying nearly 10 persons was stopped by a mob. As they started attacking the occupants, some of them tried to jump over the truck and run

to the fields on the other side of the road but a part of the crowd caught hold of some of them and thrashed them mercilessly. A person started bleeding and subsequently ran away. This vehicle too stood vandalised.

A few minutes later, a few metres ahead, a mob stopped another car. They first slapped the driver, who with folded hands pleaded: "Mujhe jaane do, maine

kuch nahi kiya [Let me go, I have not done anything]." The mob later let him go.

After half an hour of these incidents, a few policemen came to the spot on four two-wheelers following which the mob dispersed on their own.

As the melee raged, a middle-aged woman who was de-boarding an autorickshaw near Khajuri Khas junction, asked a reporter: "Should I

remove my burqa and cross the road?" She then removed the black veil and walked on.

'Show ID cards'

At Khajuri Khas junction, there were no police officers. Here, the mob stopped many vehicles, asking drivers to show them their identity cards. The mob at first stopped an autorickshaw and slapped the driver. When he showed his identity

card, the mob let him go. "He was stopped and beaten by mistake," said a person, a part of the mob. A policeman reached the spot and dispersed the mob. At this spot, a bike was set ablaze. A few persons standing near the bike said it belonged to a man from the minority community.

On this stretch, at least 20 persons from the minority community were beaten up.

A few metres from the junction, members of both the communities pelted stones at each other with a road divider separating them. The police here used tear-gas shells to control the situation. An officer, Inspector Vinay Kumar, went ahead and tried to pacify both sides.

Aman committee member Mansoor Ahmed said announcements will be made in mosques, asking members of the minority community to stay indoors and not to indulge in violence.

The locals and the policemen on the spot said violence erupted after 2 p.m. and blamed its cause on "rumours". Yesterday [Sunday], vehicles were torched in the Chand Bagh by anti-CAA protesters, which enraged many people. The clash broke out when a group of persons was coming from the mosque as others thought they were going to protest. Following this, both the sides got into a fight," said a policeman.



A mob chasing down a man in north-east Delhi's Khajuri Khas on Monday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Man detained for firing at protesters

Constable confronts him cane in hand

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

A 33-year-old man has been detained for allegedly firing eight rounds in north-east Delhi's Maupur on Monday, the police said.

The accused – Shahrukh – went to Jaffrabad where a group was protesting against the amended citizenship law, and opened fire at another group that was on the other side, said the police.

A policeman, who was trying to pacify the mob, confronted the armed man with a cane in his hand.

The man then aimed the pistol at him, asking the head constable to move away. Following this, the accused again opened fire before fleeing the spot.

Head constable Neeraj Dahiya, who confronted the

man, said: "I joined the force to protect people from crimes. How can I run away when a criminal is in front of my eyes. When the armed man ran towards me, I did not get scared."

After the firing incident, a group of protesters started pelting stones at shops, which belonged to members of the minority community. The protesters damaged window glasses of several houses and also threw fireballs in their balconies.

A senior officer intervened and controlled the situation. A group of anti-CAA protesters went back to the site while the pro-CAA protesters allegedly damaged more property and appealed to locals to join them.

They made the appeal from a loudspeaker of a temple.

Mob attacks journalists

Senior citizen's source of livelihood set ablaze

Fatima, a fruit seller from Khajuri Khas, is now worried as she incurred a loss of ₹50,000



Sole breadearner of a family of three, Fatima, points at the spot where her fruit cart was set on fire. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

worth ₹50,000 and so many of them are now destroyed. How will I manage funds? It's a big loss for me," she cried.

Ms. Fatima said she was selling fruits in the morning after which at 2 p.m., a security guard asked her to abandon the cart and leave the area as the situation was turning violent.

don the cart and leave the area as the situation was turning violent.

"I went to my house, which is a few steps away from the spot where I was selling fruits. A few minutes later, I was told that my cart had been set

ablaze. I ran to the spot and also fell down, injuring myself," she said showing her bruised arm.

Ms. Fatima lives with her 25-year-old daughter, who recently graduated and a 23-year-old son, who is studying. The senior citizen said she has plans to get her daughter married and was looking for a groom. She said till now, she had been somehow managing the funds for her children's education and this incident has left her looking for avenues to earn a livelihood. Several carts of street vendors and vehicles were torched and vandalised in Khajuri Khas and neighbouring areas when two communities pelted stones at each other on Monday.

DMRC shuts 9 stations, opens 4 later

Step taken as precautionary measure, say metro officials

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Monday closed nine stations in view of protests in several parts of the city.

With violence erupting in north-east Delhi over anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act protests, the DMRC had closed five stations on the Pink Line. While the Jaffrabad and Maupur-Babupur were shut since morning, later in the day, authorities closed the Gokulpuri, Johri Enclave and Shiv Vihar metro stations as a precautionary measure.

"Entry and exit gates of Jaffrabad, Maupur-Babupur, Gokulpuri, Johri Enclave and Shiv Vihar are closed. Trains will terminate at Welcome



DMRC had closed five stations on the Pink Line, three stations on the Yellow Line and one on the Violet Line ■ FILE PHOTO

metro station," the DMRC said. The Welcome station is an interchange station between the Pink and the Red Lines. In view of a protest near the new Delhi Police Headquarters by the Jamia Coordination Committee, the DMRC closed three stations on the Yellow Line and one

on the Violet Line. "Entry and exit gates of Udyog Bhawan, Patel Chowk, Central Secretariat and Janpath have been closed. Interchange facility will be open at Central Secretariat," the DMRC said.

Normal services on these four stations resumed after nearly 40 minutes.

AAP appeals for peace, blames BJP for violence

Gopal Rai reaches L-G's residence to talk about 'deteriorating situation in Delhi'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party leaders on Monday blamed the BJP and outsiders for the violence in the city over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

The leaders held meetings in the north-east Delhi areas – Jaffrabad, Maupur and Bhajanpura – where the violence erupted, urging people to maintain peace. They blamed BJP leader Kapil Mishra for the violence.

'Violence by outsiders'
Babarpur MLA Gopal Rai told *The Hindu*: "Now Hindus and Muslims in the area are going together to different streets and urging people to maintain peace. The violence was created by outsiders. The locals said they can't identify the people who creat-

ed the problem. It seems like a planned attempt to deteriorate the situation."

The AAP Minister at 8 p.m. said: "Now, there is no violence happening but the situation is still tense." He added that the police have already created peace committees and they will think about calling an all-party meeting but currently they are trying to calm the situation.

'Panic all around'

Later in the day, he tweeted: "There is an atmosphere of panic all around in Babarpur. Rioters are roaming around firing shots and setting fire to things, but there is no police force. I am constantly trying to talk to the Delhi Police Commissioner, who is not ready to pick up the phone. I request the L-G and the Home Minister to

immediately deploy police force."

He also tweeted: "I, along with my MLA colleagues, have reached the residence of L-G sir, to meet him regarding the deteriorating situation in Delhi."

Abdul Rehman, AAP Seelampur MLA, said he is holding multiple meetings with locals, "asking them to maintain peace. Things were peaceful and the protest was going on for more than a month. All this violence happened after Kapil Mishra came here and flared up the situation with his statements."

"There is no problem in Shaheen Bagh but still our people are there and they are talking to protesters and others," said AAP Okhla MLA Amanatullah Khan, under whose constituency Shaheen Bagh falls.

Beyond belief



A mob beats up a man from the minority community in Delhi on Monday. ■ REUTERS

Maken tells Chief Minister not to appear 'helpless and blame others'

The former Delhi Congress chief suggests Kejriwal to establish helpline, call an all-party meeting and form peace panels

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Following the violence in north-east Delhi on Monday, former Delhi Congress chief Ajay Maken not only asked Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to take a lead and "not sit back blaming others" but also suggested a number of

ways to deal with the situation.

Mr. Maken in a series of tweets enumerated a number of ways Mr. Kejriwal could take in order not to appear "helpless". He tweeted: "As a Chief Minister, please do not appear to be helpless. This would badly erode

much-needed credibility of our democratic institutions to protect atrocity/violence against innocent citizens."

The former Minister of State Home Affairs suggested that the Chief Minister immediately establish a helpline directly under his office to receive any complaints of

police inaction or violence.

"This should be monitored and further passed on to the police and local SDM," Mr. Maken said, adding that Mr. Kejriwal should call for an all-party meeting, take suggestions and work across parties to restore normalcy. Further, Mr. Maken sug-

gested Mr. Kejriwal to imme-

diately form peace committees in all troubled areas comprising important social influencers from these places, including elected MLAs, councillors, District Commissioners, local SHOs, and SDM. He also advised Mr. Kejriwal to make each Cabi-

net Minister in charge of such panels. He also suggest-

ed him to talk to the Lieutenant-Governor on an hourly basis to take stock of the situation. "Please do these things and you would always be remembered as a Chief Minister who rose up to the occasion," Mr. Maken added.



Ajay Maken

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THE HINDU
India's National Newspaper

Court to hear Kejriwal's plea against summons in defamation case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday said it will hear the plea of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and other Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders' against an order summoning them in a defamation case, on February 28.

The case was filed by BJP leader Rajeev Babbar, who had moved the petition on behalf of the party's Delhi unit, seeking proceedings against them for "harming" the reputation of the BJP by blaming it for the deletion of the names of voters from electoral rolls here.

Mr. Kejriwal and three others have challenged a sessions court order which upheld a magistrate's court's decision to summon them as accused in the defamation complaint.

They have challenged the magistrate's court's March 15, 2019, and sessions court's

January 28 this year orders summoning Mr. Kejriwal, AAP's Rajya Sabha member Sushil Kumar Gupta, then MLA Manoj Kumar and party leader Atishi.

They have sought to quash the trial courts' orders and also called for reorders of the case.

Mr. Babbar had claimed that the AAP leaders, during a press conference held in December 2018, alleged that on the directions of the BJP, names of 30 lakh voters from Bania, Poorvanchali and the Muslim community had been deleted by the Election Commission.

Jamia tweets: court rejects clean chit to Manish Sisodia

Police chief told to file fresh report on Jamia-related tweets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Rejecting an Action-Taken Report (ATR) that gave a clean chit to Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, a Delhi court on Monday directed the city's police commissioner to file a fresh report on a plea seeking registration of an FIR against the AAP leader for allegedly spreading fake news on Twitter related to violence near Jamia Millia Islamia during anti-CAA protests.



Manish Sisodia

out. Sisodia only tweeted his opinion on video clip which was running on news channels and no cognizable offence is made out from the contents of tweet," the police said in its report.

During the hearing, complainant Alakh Alok Srivastav opposed the ATR filed by the police.

Mr. Srivastav has claimed that the Aam Aadmi Party leader took to Twitter to spread fake news by accusing Delhi Police personnel of setting a DTC bus on fire during violence at Jamia Nagar on December 15 last year.

"From the perusal of complaint, it is revealed that the tweets are mere allegation against police and no offence under Sections 153 (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot), 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race etc.), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) and 505 (statements conducing to public mischief) of the IPC are made

In December, after CAA was passed, there was violence and unrest in south Delhi. DTC buses were burnt. There were pictures of some police officials pouring some liquid. Manish Sisodia, despite holding a responsible post, took to Twitter and without verifying it, accused Delhi Police personnel of setting the fire," the complaint read.

Rajghat closed to visitors ahead of Trump's visit

'Unannounced' closure surprises tourists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The entry of local and foreign visitors to Rajghat was prohibited on Monday ahead of the scheduled visit of U.S. President Donald Trump to the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi, officials said.



Donald Trump will visit Rajghat on Tuesday.

Trump will visit Rajghat on Tuesday. "We will lay a wreath and plant a tree at Rajghat in honor of this leader (Mahatma Gandhi) who is revered all around the world," Mr. Trump said on Monday at a public event in Ahmedabad's Motera stadium.

Those turned away from the memorial included visitors from Canada, the U.S., France, El Salvador, the UK and a group of 18 tourists from Ireland, who arrived on a bus as part of a guided tour.

Police response sought over plea on Pushkar's Twitter account

Tharoor moves court to preserve deceased wife's account

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday sought a reply from the city police on a plea of Congress MP Shashi Tharoor seeking preservation of his deceased wife's Twitter account and tweets made by her prior to her death in 2014.



Sunanda Pushkar

Special Judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar directed the investigating officer (IO) in the case to file his reply on Mr. Tharoor's plea by March 20, when the court will next hear the matter.

The court had last month dismissed Mr. Tharoor's plea seeking to place before it certain tweets of his wife Sunanda Pushkar, saying he will have the liberty to produce them at an appropriate stage.

The former Union Minister who had got a pre-arrest bail, which was later converted to regular bail, was

Murthal roadside eateries operating without approval

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Central Pollution Control Board on Monday told the National Green Tribunal that restaurants and roadside eateries at Murthal in Haryana were operating without approval from State pollution control boards and extracting groundwater without permission.

"The State pollution control boards should ensure that these roadside eateries/ restaurants obtain necessary permission from the boards

as per State policy. No unit should be allowed to be established in areas in which such facilities are not available and should be closed down or shifted to areas where such facilities are available," the CPCB said.

"The State pollution control boards must evaluate compliance with norms of such units at least twice a year. The local authorities should provide necessary infrastructure, including collection and processing of segregated waste," it added.

The men, Praveen and Tahira, were flagging down vehicles for collecting and then taking money from the commuters.

evidence in this case.

When an individual dies, "Twitter may delete the entire account, until and unless an order is passed in this regard. That poses a threat of loss of the evidence in this case," Mr. Pahwa said. "Since 2014, her [Pushkar's] account is inactive. Give a direction to IO to write to Twitter India to preserve her account and tweets," he requested the court.

The police claimed that Mr. Tharoor, the sole accused in the case, had abetted his wife's suicide as he had tortured her. The maximum punishment for the offence listed in the charge sheet is 10 years of imprisonment.

Pushkar's death had created a sensation as it came shortly after a bitter spat between the couple on Twitter over his alleged affair with Pakistani journalist Mehr Tarar.

Two arrested for extortion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GHAZIABAD

Two persons were arrested here for allegedly posing as policemen and extorting money from commuters, an official said on Monday.

Chowki incharge Suresh Chand Sharma was suspended for dereliction of duty following the arrest of the two accused.

The men, Praveen and Tahira, were flagging down vehicles for collecting and then taking money from the commuters.

TENDER NOTICE

SR. NO.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD SONIPAT	CONSTRUCTION OF 300 STUDENTS GIRLS HOSTEL IN THE CAMPUS OF MNES PAL DISTT. SONIPAT	CLOSING DATE 13.03.2020	1155.25 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0130-2200575 pwd-eepd2-sonepat@hry.nic.in
2	PWD B&R FATEHABAD	CONSTRUCTION OF 1100 SFT (G+2) 16 NOS. 800 SFT (G+3) & 6 NOS. 550 SFT. (G+2) IN CAMPUS OF CHC AT JAKHAL DISTT. FATEHABAD.	21.02.2020 10.03.2020	375.70 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01667-220120 pwd-eepd-fatehabad@hry.nic.in
3	SIRSA W/S DIVISION, SIRSA	REMODELING OF W/C OF ODETLET RD 134360-L MMK DISTY.. + 10 OTHER WORK	06.03.2020 13.03.2020	234.28 LACS	hid.gov.in	Executive Engineer
4	PWD B&R, HISAR	EXISTING PHC AND CONVERTING THE SAME INTO HEALTH WELLNESS CENTRE IN VILLAGE HASANGARH IN DISTRICT HISAR + 1 OTHER WORK	24.02.2020 07.03.2020	11.92 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01662-239887 pwd-eepd3-hissar@hry.nic.in
5	PW (B&R), DEPTT. SIRSA	CONSTRUCTION/RENOVATION OF 32 NOS. SUB HEALTH CENTRE/PHCS (MPC) OF PROV. DIVISION NO.II, PWD B&R, SIRSA IN SIRSA DISTT.	21.02.2020 05.03.2020	263.02 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01666-222959 pwd-eepd2-sirs@hry.nic.in
6	PROVINCIAL DIVISION NO.1, KARNAL	RE-CONSTRUCTION OF BOX TYPE CULVERT AT NARDAK DISTRIBUTORY RD 99300 ON ALAWALA TO DAICHER ROAD (ROAD ID-72751) AT KM 3.900 IN KARNAL DISTRICT	25.02.2020 19.03.2020	59.51 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0184-2251029 pwd-eepd karnal@hry.nic.in
7	PWD B&R BR., NUH	REPAIR OF CENTRAL VERGE ON GURGAON-ALWAR ROAD (NH-248A) FROM KM 28.50 TO 46.50 IN NUH DISTT.	20.02.2020 05.03.2020	2 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01267-271237
8	PWD B&R BR. REWARI	SPECIARY REPAIR OF PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRE AT DHARUHERA IN REWARI DISTRICT. + 1 OTHER WORK	20.02.2020 11.03.2020	17.37 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01274-253703 pwd-eepd-rewari@hry.nic.in
9	PWD B&R BR. REWARI	PROVIDING & FIXING BARRIER FOR 3 LANE ROAD IN LIEU OF LEVEL CROSSING NO.19-C ON SUBANA KOSLI NAHAR KANNA ROAD NEAR KOSLI RAILWAYS STATION ON BHATIINDA RAILWAY LINE KM 28/1 IN REWARI DISTT. (RE-INVITED)	19.02.2020 04.03.2020	4.41 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01274-253703 pwd-eepd-rewari@hry.nic.in
10	DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYAT DEPARTMENT	RE-TENDER - CONST. OF 5 NO. GOVT. VETERINARY HOSPITALS & 7 NO. GOVT. VETERINARY DISPENSARY	20.02.2020 12.03.2020	291.90 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01732-237833 prexeeng.vnr@hry.nic.in
11	DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATS DEPARTMENT (ELECTRICAL WING)	PDG. E.I. IN KNOWLEDGE CENTER NAVALI, RIGAR, BASAI ME, PATHIKHORI, BHAKDOGI, BLOCK F.P., JHARKA DISTT. NUH. + 6 OTHER WORK	19.02.2020 27.02.2020	25.50 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-2550510 prexeengelec.amb@hry.nic.in
12	DIRECTOR GENERAL, SUPPLIES & DISPOSALS, HARYANA	RATE CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF VARIOUS SIZES OF D.G. SETS	18.02.2020 20.03.2020	6.50 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in, dsndharyana.gov.in	0172-2570121-2584125,2585125 supplies@hry.nic.in
13	SKILL DEVELOPMENT & INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT HARYANA	SUPPLY OF MACHINERY AT GITI GURUGRAM	20.02.2020 27.02.2020	14.21 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416359243 gurgaon.git@gmail.com
14	FISHERIES DEPARTMENT PANCHKULA	OUTSOURCING OF MANPOWER	CLOSING DATE 28.02.2020	15 LACS	www.harfish.gov.in	971143362 fisheries.haryana@gmail.com
15	PWD B&R, BR. CHANDIGARH	CONSTRUCTION OF ONE CIVIL FOR INSTALLATION OF CCR OF RUNWAY LIGHTS AT CIVIL AIRPORT PINJORE IN PANCHKULA DISTT.	20.02.2020 11.03.2020	8.16 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	Executive Engineer,
16	PANCHAYATI RAJ PANIPAT	RE-TENDER - CONST. OF 14 NOS KNOWLEDGE CENTRE AND 1 NOS OTHER WORK IN DISTRICT PANIPAT AT VILLAGE NALUTHA DUNGRAN, BUANA LAKHU + OTHERS VILLAGES OF VARIOUS BLOCK.	24.02.2020 02.03.2020	332.31 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8607592660
17	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCE DEPARTMENT HARYANA	CONSULTANCY WORK FOR RCC OPEN DROUGH ON AMBALA DRAIN FROM RD 15335 + 14700 TO 12887 ALONGWITH 04 NOS. CULVERTS + 3 OTHER WORK	27.02.2020	14.87 LACS	etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-2973270 xensylambala@gmail.com
18	FOREST PINJORE	D-SILTING OF PONDAGE AREA OF WAT KATRON WALA CHOE AND RAININS OF INLET TANK/HODI OF WHS KATRON WALA CHOE & CONSTRUCTION OF CREAT WIRE STRUCTURE NO.1 & 2 BEARWALA BEAT RAMGARH BLOCK, PANCHKULA RANGE + 12 OTHER WORK	19.02.2020 26.02.2020	1.73 CRORE	etenderhar.nic.in	dfomorni@gmail.com
19	CONTROLLER, PRINTING & STATIONERY DEPARTMENT, HARYANA, CHANDIGARH	PURCHASE OF DIGITAL HIGH SPEED COPIER DUPLICATOR MACHINES	CLOSING DATE 12.03.2020	15 LACS	pandsharyana@gov.in	9466333026 basurajender1964@gmail.com
20	PWD B&R BRANCH, GURUGRAM	DEVELOPMENT OF LANDSCAPING WORK OF STATE UNIVERSITY OF PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS (SUPVA), SECTOR-6, ROHTAK + 15 OTHER WORK	20.02.2020 05.03.2020	182.78 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	Executive Engineer
21	HARYANA PWD (B&R)	CONSTRUCTION OF MEDITATION CENTRE AT JYOTISAR IN KURUKSHETRA DISTRICT (RE-INVITED)	18.02.2020 05.03.2020	120.35 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9729017798 pwd-eepd1-kurukshetra@hry.nic.in
22	MEWAT WATER SERVICES DIVISION, NUH (IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT)	REPLACEMENT OF V.R. BRIDGE AT KM 30.08 OF UJINA DIVERSION DRAIN (UDD) (RE-TENDER).	27.02.2020	235 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01267-271271 xenmwsnuh@gmail.com
23	HARYANA IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT	CONSTRUCTING 376FT (248+128) DOUBLE TIER STEINING FOR THE PROTECTION OF VAYAM SHALA & ABADI OF VILLAGE KIRATPUR FROM RIVER BAAD GODAM AFTER FLOOD 2019 + 5 OTHER WORK	CLOSING DATE 04.03.2020	215.91 LACS	etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2570325 xenconst1@yahoo.com
24	HARYANA IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT	CONSTRUCTING STONE STAINING FOR THE PROTECTION OF AGRICULTURE LAND OF VILLAGE BHARELI KHURD FROM RIVER BEGNA + 4 OTHER WORK	20.02.2020 26.02.2020	21500/-	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-2520588

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

PRDH-80017

SR. NO.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL

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Timings
DELHI

TUESDAY, FEB. 25
RISE 06:51 SET 18:18
RISE 07:59 SET 19:49
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26
RISE 06:50 SET 18:19
RISE 08:30 SET 20:40
THURSDAY, FEB. 27
RISE 06:49 SET 18:19
RISE 09:00 SET 21:32

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	27	13
Safdarjung	27	13
Palam	26	14

Delhi Palam Today
28°C Mist in the morning. A warm afternoon with sunny sky.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
27°C Haze/mist in the morning. A very warm afternoon and sky remains sunny.

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THE HINDU
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Dressed for the day



Differently abled grooms take a selfie during a mass marriage ceremony in Prayagraj on Monday. ■ PTI

NGT quashes U.P. govt. notice for opening wood-based industries

'Timber allocation appears to be absurdly unrealistic'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has quashed a notice issued by the Uttar Pradesh government for establishing new wood-based industries in the State, while observing that the precautionary principle should be followed.

'Make inventory'

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said, "The State should therefore make an inventory, species-wise and

district-wise and also have species-wise consumption data of all the wood-based industries and their capacity to utilise them and not proceed with the present proposal till further exercise of making inventory and assessment of actual availability of timber or raw material is done."

Quashing the March 2019 notification issued by the State government, the green panel noted that the affidavit furnished by the government mentioned that there were 6,686 wood-based industries with a capacity of 41.5 lakh cubic meter per year operating in the State.

"Therefore the total timber that will be actually be available for new industries as per the data given in the affidavit of the State is not going to be more than about 2 lakh cubic metre per year. Therefore, 18 lakh cubic metre timber that has been allotted for new wood-based industries by a State-level committee appears to be absurdly unrealistic," the Bench observed.

Cong. MLAs blast Haryana govt. over new excise policy

Party legislators demand its withdrawal saying the move will push the youth of the State into addiction

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Congress MLAs in Haryana Assembly on Monday hit out at the ruling BJP-JJP government over the new excise policy, which they claimed would push scores of youth into addiction.

Participating in the debate on the Governor's Address here, Congress member Rao Dan Singh said the new excise policy will result in rise in liquor addiction among the youth. The State government should, he said, focus on curbing drugs menace, which is spreading across the State.

Terming Haryana's new excise policy "a recipe for disaster", former Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly Bhupinder Singh Hooda demanded that the government immediately withdraw the new policy.

Separately, during Question Hour, Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala said that to tackle the problem of stray cattle in the State, the government has already initiated the process of setting up of "gaushalas" and cattle pounds across the State.

He said that the govern-



To tackle the problem of stray cattle in the State, the government has already initiated the process for setting up of gaushalas

DUSHYANT CHAUTALA
Deputy Chief Minister

ment was also taking the help of NGOs to tackle the problem.

"Financial assistance of ₹700 is being given by the Development and Panchayat Department to those Panchayats which have sent the

proposal for setting up 'Gau-Grah' and cattle pounds," he said in a reply during Question Hour, adding that the government was committed to resolving the problem.

Haryana Minister of Mines and Geology Mool Chand Sharma said that illegal mining will not be tolerated at any cost.

"So far, 25 illegal mines operating in the State have been closed," he said while replying to a question.

Mining activities

Mr. Sharma said that mining activities in the entire State, including the district Yamunanagar, had stopped from March 1, 2010, due to litigation regarding the requirement of environmental clearance for minor mineral mining. Mining resumed in Yamunanagar district in October 2016, he said.

'Trump sheltering Bhopal gas tragedy fugitives'

Modi not standing with nation, failing to question United States government, say survivors

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

Bhopal gas tragedy survivors on Monday, the day United States President Donald Trump arrived in India, alleged he was refusing to serve summons issued repeatedly by a Bhopal court on the firm responsible for the world's worst industrial disaster, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi had failed to press the U.S. government to act.

Accusing the Trump government of sheltering the Dow Chemical Company, which in 2001 had acquired Union Carbide, from whose pesticide plant here a methyl isocyanate leak in 1984 killed thousands and caused deformities and congenital diseases in lakhs, the demonstra-



Bhopal gas survivors staging a protest on Monday. ■ A. M. FAROUQI

tors beat Mr. Trump's effigy with brooms at the Iqbal Maidan in Bhopal.

"Mr. Modi is not standing with the country's people and failing to ask Mr. Trump tough questions. Instead, crores of rupees are being spent for his reception," said

Rachna Dhingra of the Bhopal Group for Information and Action. "It is shocking that our Prime Minister in his eagerness to please Mr. Trump has not sought, let alone pressed for, the U.S. government's cooperation in bringing the perpetrators to justice."

Stating that Mr. Trump's visit aimed at only expanding his corporate agenda in India, she alleged, "He is here to further the interests of death-dealing American corporations like Lockheed Martin, Raytheon and Westinghouse."

Since 2016 when Mr. Trump came to power, the court had twice summoned the Dow Chemical Company, as the owner of Union Carbide is absconding on the charge of corporate manslaughter, said Rashida Bi, president, Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Stationery Karamchari Sangh. "But the U.S. Department of Justice has refused to serve these summons on the firm," she said.

Meanwhile, Nasreen Khan of the Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Purush Sangharsh Morcha accused the U.S. of sheltering the perpetrators of the disaster. "This is in violation of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) between India and U.S."

Untimely deaths

Pointing to hundreds of survivors dying untimely, Durgesh Ahirwar of Children against Dow Carbide said, "Hundreds of thousands are battling chronic illnesses and tens of thousands of children are being born with malformations and growth disorders. Through our brooms we are telling the world about the U.S. government's role in perpetuating the injustice in Bhopal."

Uproar in Rajasthan Assembly over torture of Dalits in Nagaur

Opposition demands sacking of SP, stages walkout

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAIPUR

The Opposition members shouted slogans and staged a walkout in the Rajasthan Assembly on Monday, demanding removal of the Nagaur SP over the recent torture of two Dalit men at an auto service agency last week.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal informed the Assembly that the Panchori police station in-charge would be removed for negligence in dealing with the torture case, which triggered an outrage.

Seven people have been arrested in the case so far, one is under detention and four suspects are still ab-

scending, Mr. Dhariwal said.

Dissatisfied with the government's reply, Opposition legislators demanded that the government remove the Nagaur Superintendent of Police for not taking timely action after the video of the incident came into his notice.

Mr. Dhariwal responded that the Nagaur SP handed over the investigation to the DSP soon after the incident came to light. This led to an uproar in the House, and the Opposition legislators shouted slogans and staged a walkout.

According to the police, the incident occurred on February 16 at a motorcycle service agency at Karanu village in Panchori area, around 300 km east of Jaipur.

The staff of the agency attacked the Dalits after accusing them of theft. In a video, a group of men is seen brutally thrashing two persons with rubber belts. They later tortured one of the victims.

Police negligence' In the Assembly, Opposition legislators led by the Bharatiya Janata Party alleged police negligence for registering case under lenient sections of the law against the accused, and blamed doctors for not informing the police as it was a medico-legal case.

Dhankhar seeks update on civic polls from SEC

Elections due in the next few months

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The Governor of West Bengal, Jagdeep Dhankhar, on Monday sought an update from the State Election Commission (SEC) on the upcoming civic polls in the State.

"Will seek an update as regards upcoming Municipal Elections from the State Election Commissioner Saurob Kumar Das on Feb. 27," the Governor said on Twitter.

Mr. Dhankhar added that the SEC is a constitutional body "for superintendence, direction and control of Municipal Elections under article 243K of the Constitution of India".

Summons significant
Several key civic bodies in the State, including the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, are likely to go to the polls in the next few months. The summons to the State Election Commissioner before a formal announcement of



FILE PHOTO

the polls is made assumes lot of significance.

There is also a history of run-ins between the Trinamool Congress government and the SEC on the conduct of civil polls in the State, particularly on the need of deployment of Central Armed Police Forces.

The civic elections are being tipped as "mini Assembly polls" ahead of the 2021 Assembly elections in the State. The TMC is in power in most of the 108 civic bodies where elections are due.

(With PTI inputs)

Cong. irked at questions in Class XII board exam

Ruling BJP says it had no role in selecting the questions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
IMPHAL

The Opposition Congress in Manipur has reacted sharply to some questions in the political science paper in the Class XII State board examination. The students were asked to draw the poll symbol of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and analyse four negative traits of the approach of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of the country, towards nation building.

Viral on social media

The BJP on Monday said it had no role in selecting the questions in the exam that was held on Saturday and the authorities concerned should be asked about it.

The two questions carrying four marks each, which had gone viral on the social media, asked the students to draw the poll symbol of the BJP and analyse four nega-

Questions were set by the Controller of Examination from chapter on 'Party System in India', which is part of the syllabus

L. MAHENDRA SINGH
Chairman of the Council of Higher Secondary Education (Schools)

tive traits of Pt. Nehru's approach to nation building.

Taking strong objection to the questions, Congress leader Kh. Joykishan had said on Sunday that the paper was an attempt to "instil certain kind of a political mindset" among students.

However, BJP spokesperson Chongtham Bijoy said, "We do not have anything to do with the selection of the questions. The authorities concerned framed the questions and they should be asked about it."

Chairman of the Council of Higher Secondary Educa-

tion (Schools) L. Mahendra Singh said that the questions were set by the Controller of Examination from the chapter on "Party System in India", which was part of the political science syllabus.

Similar questions

An official, who did not wish to be named, said similar questions were selected in the past as well, wherein the candidates were asked to draw the symbol of the Communist Party of India and the logo of the United Nations.

State BJP general secretary N. Nimbus Singh said there was nothing wrong in the question on Pt. Nehru. Since the first Prime Minister of independent India had played a role in nation building, there might have been positives as well as negatives in the system under his leadership, he added.

Collectors asked to increase fund use for children with special needs

STAFF REPORTER
Bhubaneswar

With close to 70% of the fund allotted for development of Children With Special Needs (CWSNs) lying unspent, all District Collectors in Odisha have been asked to spend outstanding amount within two months.

According to an assessment by the State Project Director on inclusive education intervention, of the ₹36.61 crore allotted to all districts, only ₹1.40 crore had been spent till January.

"The physical and finan-

cial progress made under Samagra Siksha scheme is not encouraging. The progress in Deogarh, Gajapati and Koraput is very poor, which is a matter of concern," Bhupendra Singh Poonia, State Project Director of Odisha School Education Programme Authority, said in a letter addressed to all Collectors.

Koraput district did not report any expenditure for CWSN although close to ₹8 crore was allotted to it. In western Odisha district of Deogarh, meagre 3% of fund was spent for these underprivileged children.

learning assessment study have not yet been taken up in most of districts," he said.

Mr. Poonia asked the District Collectors to improve expenditure positions of inclusive education intervention so that 100% expenditure could be achieved 2019-20.

Koraput district did not report any expenditure for CWSN although close to ₹8 crore was allotted to it. In western Odisha district of Deogarh, meagre 3% of fund was spent for these underprivileged children.

Seven houses set on fire in clash

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JALPAIGURI (WEST BENGAL)

Seven houses, alleged to be of BJP supporters, have been vandalised and set on fire in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district, the police said on Monday.

Fire tenders were rushed to the spot, a police officer said. It all began when the body of a local TMC leader

was brought to Huslurdanga village in Mainaguri area on Sunday, he said.

TMC's Mallick Haat booth president Bhombol Ghosh was attacked with sharp weapons at Huslurdanga market on February 14 and he succumbed to his injuries at a private hospital in Siliguri on Saturday, party sources said.

A large police contingent, led by the Additional SP (Rural), has been deployed in the area.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform general public that Mr. Naheen and Mrs. Renu Gupta are intending to purchase plots bearing No. 67 & 68, in Block E, Pocket 16, Sector 8, both area measuring 25.9 sq mts, each situated at Rohini, Delhi plot no. 67, is owned by Mrs. Shafina Gupta vide Sale Deed Dated 24.6.2012 Doc. 8341. Mr. Naheen and Mrs. Renu Gupta are mortgaging the above properties with AU SMALL FINANCE BANK & this property are free from all sort of litigation and no cases pending with any court and seller and their buyer would have clear title and interest over said property.

LEGAL NOTICE

Before the Illrd Addl. Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal : Nellore, A.P. State
M.V.O.P.No.22/2019
1.Amasa Venkata Ramanaiah and 3 Others
Vs.
1.Badri Bhaskar Yadav (Owner) and 2 Others
...Respondents
Notice to 2nd Respondent

Amar Bahadur (Driver) S/o. Bhagubai Prasad, driver of Bolelo Vehicle bearing No.TS-15 UB-24 37, residing at Ranapur Dulai Kal Purwa, Inayat Nagar, Faizabad, U.P.

Please take notice that the above claimants filed M.V.O.P. Case against you and your Insurance Company for compensation of your loss due to 04-03-2020 for your appearance, you are requi red to appear before the Hon'ble Tribunal on 04-03-2020 at 10.30 A.M either in person or an Advocate, failing which the matter will be decided without your presence.

C.Bhaskar, B.Com., BL-Advocate for the Claimants, Nellore

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that I Pradeep Singh S/o Bhagubai Prasad, driver of Bolelo Vehicle bearing No.TS-15 UB-24 37, residing at Ranapur Dulai Kal Purwa, Inayat Nagar, Faizabad, U.P. Please take notice that the above claimants filed M.V.O.P. Case against you and your Insurance Company for compensation of your loss due to 04-03-2020 for your appearance, you are requi red to appear before the Hon'ble Tribunal on 04-03-2020 at 10.30 A.M either in person or an Advocate, failing which the matter will be decided without your presence.

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C.Bhaskar, B.Com., BL-Advocate for the Claimants, Nellore

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public, that Bank of Baroda, Netaji Subhash Place Branch intends to accept the under mentioned property standing in the name of Mrs. Omwati Jaiswal & Mr. Moti Lal, as security for a loan/credit facility requested by M/s. FINS International Pvt. Ltd. In case anyone has got any right/title/interest/claims over the under mentioned property, they are advised to approach the Bank within 10 days alongwith necessary proof to substantiate their claim. If no response is received within 10 days, it is presumed that the property is free of any charge/claim/encumbrance and Bank shall proceed with the mortgage.

Details of property: Residential property bearing No.56, Block QD, Pitampura, Residential Scheme, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 admeasuring 124 Sq. Mts. Total area of plot are 171.40 Sq. Mts. Being bounded as under:-

East: Plot No. 79831, North: Road, South: Service Lane.

Mr. Atul Kumar, Branch Head, Delhi-110034

Anshu Subhash Branch, Delhi-110034

Ansir House (Advocate)

CH.NO.9-V, Civil Wing,

Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054

Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054

For further information contact:

Mrs. Neelu Jain, S/o. Mr. Moti Lal

Shashi Kishore Jain, S/o. Mr. Moti Lal

Govt. presents supplementary demands worth ₹24,723 crore

With allocation of ₹15,000 cr, the amount for crop loan waiver stands at ₹25,000 cr.

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government on Monday presented supplementary demands worth ₹24,723 crore, which includes ₹15,000 crore for the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Crop Loan Waiver Scheme, in the Assembly. This is an addition to the ₹10,000 crore sanctioned last week by the State Cabinet from the contingency fund, taking the total amount reserved for the crop loan waiver to ₹25,000 crore.

The supplementary demands are an excess amount sought by the government out of the budget provision.

On the first day of its first budget session, the MVA government seems to be continuing the tradition of the previous government of presenting supplementary demands worth thousands of crore of rupees. In the winter session at Nagpur in December 2019, the government had presented demands worth ₹6,120 crore. However, the present demands are inflated largely because of the crop loan waiver scheme announced by the government.

Among the departments which have recorded demands is Industries and Power Department at ₹1,476 crore, of which ₹1,417 crore is towards concessions given to power looms and consumers of agriculture pumps. The Public Works Department gets ₹1,477 crore, of which ₹434 crore is for major roads and bridges while ₹650 crore is reserved for the construction of roads under hybrid annuity.

The Revenue and Forest Department has been given ₹3,523 crore, of which ₹3,431 crore is towards the National Disaster Response Fund. Besides, ₹16.24 crore is allocated as financial assistance to the families of the farmers who have committed suicide. The Urban Development Department is being provided ₹679 crore, of which ₹103 crore is for Pune Metro and ₹375 crore towards subordinate debt of the State government for the same project, ₹210 crore to municipal cor-



Following the leader: Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and his son Aaditya arrive at Vidhan Bhavan on the first day of the budget session on Monday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

First list of loan waiver beneficiaries out

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

As per the announcement by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government on Monday declared the first list of 15,358 beneficiaries under the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Crop Loan Waiver Scheme. The list was released by Mr. Thackeray and Deputy CM Ajit Pawar on the first day of the budget session of the legislature.

Mr. Thackeray had said that the first list on a trial basis to check the effectiveness of the system set up by the State government would be out on Monday. "We will pick two villages from every district and beneficiaries from

those two villages will be announced. The second list will come up on February 28," he had said.

Cabinet ministers from the MVA government held a videoconferencing with farmers from the villages where the names of beneficiaries have been announced.

Under the scheme, crop loans up to ₹2 lakh will be waived. Mr. Pawar, who is also the Finance Minister, said the State had received information of around 35 lakh crop loan accounts. Each farmer whose crop loan account has been settled will be given a certificate from the government.

In supplementary demands presented in the Assembly on Monday, the

State has made a provision of ₹15,000 crore for the scheme in addition to ₹10,000 crore from the contingency fund, raising the total value to ₹25,000 crore.

Meanwhile, the Opposition, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), will be protesting at every tehsil of the districts on February 25 against the government alleging that it has fooled the farmers. "The MVA government had given the promise of clearing all loans against the farmers. But it is only focusing on crop loans. This is a fictitious loan waiver scheme which will not help the farmers," State BJP chief and MLA Chandrakant Patil said.

Apart from the supplementary demands, the State government tabled a supplementary expenditure of ₹4,204 crore for 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17. This is the extra amount that the government has spent out of the supplementary demands and the budget.

porations for putting in place basic amenities, and ₹185 crore to municipal councils as special grant for providing basic amenities.

Scenic route



Business as usual: Pedestrians, hawkers cross the railway tracks on a smoggy morning at Lonavala railway station. ■ PRASHANT NAKWANI

Water woes grip Latur, supply down to once in 15 days

Civic body will pay power bills for one month to MSEDCCL: Mayor; BJP stages protest with empty pots

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AURANGABAD

People in Latur are facing a water crisis despite a healthy monsoon in 2019 with officials admitting that supply to home taps is now once in 15 days, with the situation worsening because of disconnection of the civic body's power supply due to non-payment of bills.

Latur is part of the perennially parched Marathwada region and is Maharashtra's 16th largest city, often in the

news for crippling shortage which require the running of 'jaldoor' or water wagon trains for its five lakh residents.

A Latur Municipal Corporation (LMC) official said there has been no supply of municipal water for the last six days. He said the Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCCL) on February 20 disconnected power supply of the LMC due to non-payment of bills running to sev-

eral crores of rupees. Due to disconnection of power supply, the LMC could not operate the supply mechanism from Harangul, Nagzari, Sai and Varavanti water purification facilities, an official said.

The Latur civic body pays around ₹70 lakh for power supply every month. "The electricity dues now stand at ₹4.19 crore. We were supplying water to five lakh Latur residents once in six days but this frequency has now worsened to 15 days. Efforts are

on to restore power supply and arrangements (to pay the MSEDCCL dues) are under way," LMC executive engineer Vijay Cholkhane told PTI on Monday.

Mayor Vikrant Gojamgunde, later in the evening, said power bills of one month would be paid to the MSEDCCL on Tuesday and water supply would normalise in the days to come.

"We had a meeting with MSEDCCL officials. They too have not paid some of our

Opposition creates ruckus over farmer issues, safety of women

BJP denied permission for adjournment motion in Council

TANVI DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

The Opposition led by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Devendra Fadnavis tried to corner the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government over farmers' issues on the first day of the budget session on Monday. Opposition legislators also raised the issue of rising crimes against women.

In the Council, Leader of Opposition Pravin Darekar moved an adjournment motion, but Chairman Ramraje Nimbalkar denied permission. Then the BJP Members of Legislative Council raised slogans holding signs that demanded complete loan waiver.

Speaking to reporters outside the Council, BJP leader Ashish Shelar said farmers are in distress. "They have not received the compensation promised after the wet drought; their loans are still not waived. The list of farmers released on Monday is incomplete. Tomorrow (on



Sit-in: BJP legislators protest the government over loan waiver for the farmers, on the first day of the budget session on Monday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Tuesday), the BJP will stage protests over farmers' issues in every district of Maharashtra. We will also agitate at Azad Maidan."

In a statement, Mr. Darekar said in the Council, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray had assured that rain-fed farming would get ₹25,000 per hectare as loan waiver while irrigated farming would get ₹50,000 per hectare, but nothing happened.

"In the State, there are heinous crimes being committed against women like the Hinganghat and Lasalgaon cases. That is why, on both these issues, we wanted to move an adjournment motion to set aside other business and discuss these issues. But we were not allowed to speak; the ruling government is acting on vendetta. It wants to muzzle the Opposition," Mr. Darekar said.

Sena: Trump's visit unlikely to make any difference

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Panning Donald Trump's visit to India, the Shiv Sena on Monday said the 36-hour-long sojourn of the U.S. president in the country would not make 'an iota of difference' in the lives of poor and middle-class Indians. While leaving for India, Mr. Trump had said he was going to discuss business with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which made it clear that his trip was aimed at boosting U.S. trade, the Sena said.

"There won't be an iota of difference in the lives of the poor and middle-class people in India due to Mr. Trump's visit. Then where is the question of people being appreciative or enthusiastic of his tour," an editorial in Sena mouthpiece *Saamana* said.

"If there is any eagerness about Mr. Trump's visit, it may be in Ahmedabad, where he lands first," the Sena said.

'Shun negativism, don't encourage violence'

Venkaiah says the youth should study issues like CAA before forming opinion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PANAJI

Vice President M. Venkaiyah Naidu on Monday urged the youth to shun negativism and not to encourage violence.

Addressing a gathering at the 32nd annual convocation ceremony of Goa University, Mr. Naidu said the youth should "academically study" all issues, like the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), ban on triple talad, and others, before forming their opinion.

"I am happy that in recent times people are talking about the importance of the Constitution. It is, indeed, a positive sign and every citizen must follow the Constitution in letter and spirit," he said.

Also, everyone should follow constitutional methods to achieve their goals, the Vice President said. "We should not only be concerned about the fundamental rights, but also about duties. Rights and responsibilities must go together."

Mr. Naidu said the need of the hour is to channel the energies of youths in constructive, nation-building activities. "My advice to youth is to shun negativism and not to encourage violence. There is no place for vio-



Words of wisdom: Vice President M. Venkaiyah Naidu speaking at the 32nd convocation ceremony of Goa University in Panaji on Monday. ■ ATISH POMBURFELKAR

lence in a democracy," he said, without referring to any specific instance.

Be constructive and not obstructive or disruptive. Develop a positive outlook, he said. "Some of our troubling neighbours are trying to advise us. They should not meddle in the internal happenings of our country."

"If you need to progress, then you need to have peace. We can't have outside interference in India's internal affairs. We are able to take care of ourselves, thank you," the Vice President said.

He also appealed to the youth to academically study

issues like Article 370 (its abrogation in Jammu and Kashmir), ban on triple talad, and the CAA before forming their opinion.

"Don't just rely on newspapers and headlines. Take a good advantage of social media."

Mr. Naidu also said climate change and global warming are two of the biggest challenges being faced by the world, and all nations have to step up their effort to protect the environment and reduce carbon footprint.

"We need to ensure that man does not tamper with nature but learns to co-exist in harmony with nature for a

greener, life-enhancing future."

Illiteracy, diseases, challenges in farm sector and social evils like atrocities on women and weaker sections, child labour, terrorism, communalism, and corruption have to be eradicated to build a new and resurgent India, Mr. Naidu said.

He said it is true these challenges have to be fought in a concerted manner by all conscientious citizens, but he expects the youth to be in the forefront of this noble mission. "This is the time for all sections, particularly the youth, to be at the forefront of making India stronger on all fronts. Please remember that discipline, honesty and total commitment to hard work are essential prerequisites for success in any field, including public life."

The Vice President said people should always select and elect leaders on the basis of "four Cs of good conduct, character, capacity and calibre", and not on the basis of the other four Cs – caste, community, cash and criminality.

Governor Satya Pal Malik, who is the chancellor of Goa University, and Chief Minister Pramod Sawant were present at the convocation ceremony.

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Abbreviations: PWD(Persons with Disabilities),UR(Un-Reserved),OBC(Other Backward Cast)

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NOTE 1: If applicants apply for more than one position online then they have to send hard copies of online applications along with documents in separate envelopes.

DIP/Shabdarth/1390/19-20

Offg. Registrar

Water woes grip Latur, supply down to once in 15 days

Civic body will pay power bills for one month to MSEDCCL: Mayor; BJP stages protest with empty pots

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AURANGABAD

People in Latur are facing a water crisis despite a healthy monsoon in 2019 with officials admitting that supply to home taps is now once in 15 days, with the situation worsening because of disconnection of the civic body's power supply due to non-payment of bills.

Latur is part of the perennially parched Marathwada region and is Maharashtra's 16th largest city, often in the

news for crippling shortage which require the running of 'jaldoor' or water wagon trains for its five lakh residents.

A Latur Municipal Corporation (LMC) official said there has been no supply of municipal water for the last six days. He said the Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCCL) on February 20 disconnected power supply of the LMC due to non-payment of bills running to sev-

eral crores of rupees. Due to disconnection of power supply, the LMC could not operate the supply mechanism from Harangul, Nagzari, Sai and Varavanti water purification facilities, an official said.

The Latur civic body pays around ₹70 lakh for power supply every month. "The electricity dues now stand at ₹4.19 crore. We were supplying water to five lakh Latur residents once in six days but this frequency has now worsened to 15 days. Efforts are

on to restore power supply and arrangements (to pay the MSEDCCL dues) are under way," LMC executive engineer Vijay Cholkhane told PTI on Monday.

Mayor Vikrant Gojamgunde, later in the evening, said power bills of one month would be paid to the MSEDCCL on Tuesday and water supply would normalise in the days to come.

"We had a meeting with MSEDCCL officials. They too have not paid some of our

IN BRIEF



NOC in ivory case reaches Forest dept.

KOCHI Even as Kerala Forest Minister K. Raju on Monday asserted that no decision to withdraw the wildlife crime case booked against actor Mohanlal for illegal possession of ivory had been taken, a no objection certificate for withdrawing the case has reached the Forest Department. Investigating officers received the letter by post.

Gangster Ravi Pujari flown to Bengaluru

BENGALURU Ravi Prakash Pujari, 59, the underworld operative who was on the run since 1994 and was holed up in Senegal, was brought to Bengaluru on Monday and taken into custody. He would be questioned on his involvement in over 97 cases.

Sensitive information leaked by naval personnel, says NIA

Banks being quizzed on huge sums transferred to accounts of 13 arrested sailors

RAJULAPUDI SRINIVAS
VIJAYAWADA

Thirteen Navy personnel, who were arrested on charges of espionage, have reportedly leaked highly sensitive information to the Pakistan intelligence operatives.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA), Naval Intelligence and the Counter Intelligence of Andhra Pradesh have arrested the sailors from different States and naval bases.

The NIA's investigations have found that huge sums of money were transferred to the Navy personnel who passed on crucial information.

The investigating agencies are questioning bank officials on why suspicious transactions were not flagged

and the concerned authorities alerted.

Operation 'Dolphin Nose'

"We began the operation named 'Dolphin Nose' a few months ago and kept a vigil on the movements of suspects in the Navy of different bases, their mobile phones and social media contacts. More suspects are still under watch," the officer said.

The arrested Navy personnel reportedly revealed the names of the ships and submarines, top-level officers, routes they operate and details of other colleagues recruited recently from various naval bases. They also disclosed about some vital locations and movements of warships and submarines.

"Through the Pakistani handler, who introduced himself as a businessman, the Pakistani operatives transferred huge amounts into the bank accounts of the arrested sailors. The young Navy personnel were honey-trapped by women through various social media groups and this has been happening for the last one year," the officer said.

Terror angle
The National Investigation Agency is also probing whether any terror groups were involved and the plan behind gathering this intelligence. The investigating agencies are checking if terrorist groups were planning to target the Navy or carry out a major operation through the

sea route.

The Naval Intelligence, NIA and the State and Central agencies, who collected the details of the bank transactions and the chats between the sailors and the women reportedly arranged by the Pakistani handler, confirmed that several transactions were made.

"We have arrested 13 Navy personnel so far. Investigation agencies are trying to find out on with how many persons the Pakistani handler was in contact with in the last one-and-a-half years, and how much vital information has been revealed."

"The Pakistani operatives developed relationship separately with the sailors and extracted key information," the officer said.

Protests thwart lawyers' bid to seek bail for Kashmiri students

They will approach the High Court today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
DHARWAD/HUBBALLI

Despite tight security provided by the police on the directions of the Karnataka High Court, the principal district and sessions court in Dharwad witnessed high drama on Monday.

Protests by local advocates prevented a seven-member team of lawyers from filing a bail petition for the three Kashmiri engineering students who have been booked for sedition.

They will now approach the High Court on Tuesday.

According to the counsel who had come to appear for the Kashmiri students from Bengaluru, Dharwad and Gadag, they were heckled by the local lawyers.

They claimed that some people hurled stones at their cars.



Tense situation: Members of Dharwad Bar Association staging a protest outside the court on Monday.

cates were not allowed to file the bail application.

A bail petition before the sessions court has to be filed before the principal district and sessions court, which in turn will allot the case to one of the two additional sessions court in Hubballi. So the advocates had gone to Dharwad to file petition.

Marginal fall in Telangana female sex ratio

950 girls for 1,000 boys better than national average



kits programme of government. The deliveries at government hospitals went up after the programme was launched, which resulted in recording all cases of still births. Otherwise, they went unnoticed at private hospitals.

The highest number of girls were born in Khammam and Peddapalli districts in both the years. The lowest was in Yadadri-Bhongir district this year. The number of girl children born in Khammam in 2018-19 was 1,057 but it rose to 1,177 this year.

In fact, a matrimonial service invited applications to fix marriage alliances only if the parents of girls owned property worth ₹2 crore and had a monthly income of ₹2 lakh. The year 2019-20 also saw an increase in maternal deaths after delivery and abortions. Medical fraternity has generally welcomed abortions as a tool for population control, but they were also a result of unwanted pregnancy.

discourage girl children. Hence, the problem of foeticide. A business community only wanted male children while another community sought large size of families irrespective of sex. The prospect of shelling down huge amounts as dowry in marriage was another factor which went against girls.

In fact, a matrimonial service invited applications to fix marriage alliances only if the parents of girls owned property worth ₹2 crore and had a monthly income of ₹2 lakh. The year 2019-20 also saw an increase in maternal deaths after delivery and abortions. Medical fraternity has generally welcomed abortions as a tool for population control, but they were also a result of unwanted pregnancy.

Bride gets Constitution, Koran as 'mehr'

Malappuram groom hands over the copies to the bride at wedding

STAFF REPORTER
MALAPPURAM

When P.A. Nishad from Angadipuram in Kerala's Malappuram district gave the Constitution as 'mehr' to his bride Najma Thabsheera last week, it set a new milestone in the history of Muslim marriages and in the ongoing protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

'Mehr' is an obligatory gift given by a Muslim man to his bride. Mr. Nishad, a lawyer practising at the Kerala High Court, did not think twice when Ms. Thabsheera, an LLM student at Calicut University, demanded a copy of the Constitution and the Koran as her 'mehr'.

Mr. Nishad said he had a tough time convincing his



A different gift: P.A. Nishad gives copies of the Constitution and the Koran as mehr to his bride Najma Thabsheera.

orthodox Sunni family. But perceptions changed when he stepped on to the Nikah venue carrying gilded copies of the Koran and the Constitution.

Mr. Nishad said he had a tough time convincing his

ical leader Syed Hyderali Shah Thangal solemnised the marriage, and praised him for initiating a move that can bring in a revolution in the Muslim marriage system in Kerala.

Soon congratulatory messages started pouring in. In the orthodox Muslim community in the State, the non-Islamic dowry by the bride to the groom is widely practised.

The 'mehr' given by the groom is usually in proportion to the dowry given by the bride's family.

"Apart from sending home the message against dowry, we wanted to tell the people that the Constitution is as important as the Koran for Muslims in India. It is the Constitution that protects the Koran in our country," said Mr. Nishad, district secretary of the Muslim Students Federation and coordinator of the Valluvanadan Samksarika Vedi.

A.P. man gets death for rape of six-year-old

STAFF REPORTER
CHITTOR

The first additional district court in Chittor on Monday awarded the death sentence to accused Mohammad Rafi, 27, in the sensational rape and murder of a six-year-old girl. The incident took place on November 6 at a function hall at Angallu village in Chittor of Andhra Pradesh.

Mohammad Rafi, a resident of Angallu village working as a lorry cleaner, abducted the girl from the function hall, sexually assaulted her and strangled her to death before throwing her body into a ditch.

The police arrested Rafi with the help of CCTV footage, which showed him taking away the girl.

A chargesheet was filed within 17 days of his arrest and he was produced before the court.

ASI planning barricade around famed stone chariot at Hampi

The proposed move has triggered a debate among public



Delhi," he said, adding that there were many issues that needed to be addressed, including the barricade design that had to be in sync with the monument.

The proposed move has triggered a debate among conservationists, heritage activists and locals, some of whom are critical. "While some locals say the ASI is not doing enough to protect the monuments, the same lot also criticise the proposed move to install the barricade," said Mr. Kalimuthu.

"There is lack of awareness among the public that the monuments stand testimony to culture and heritage," said N.S. Rangaraju, retired professor of Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Mysore, who was supportive of the proposal.

The stone chariot at Hampi. ■ M.A. SRIRAM

behaviour of some tourists, who tend to be disrespectful towards monuments.

M. Kalimuthu, Deputy Superintendent Archaeologist, Hampi Mini Circle, admitted that the wooden barricading has been in his pipeline but no proposal had been submitted so far. "We will take the advice of the Director-General of Archaeology in

Not a safe sail



The Greater Cochin Development Authority and the Kochi Port authority have not intervened despite the proliferation of illegal and unsafe tourist jetties along Marine Drive. Guests have to walk through them to board private tourist boats. ■ H. VIBHU

Mahadayi project cost zooms up 1,674%

Application to release reserve forest area is pending before the Centre



Huge leap: The cost of the Kalasa-Banduri Nala project in the Mahadayi basin has risen steeply. ■ FILE PHOTO

A latest estimate prepared by the Water Resources Department has put the cost at ₹885.8 and ₹791.5 crore respectively, taking the total to ₹1,677.3 crore.

In 2013, when the expenditure on the project was re-

vised, it was estimated to cost ₹840.52 crore.

Awaiting notification

From 2000 till now, the jump has been 1,674% and since 2013, when the estimates were revised, the in-

crease has been 93.98%. Sources said after the Supreme Court asked the Union government to notify the Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal's award, the State is now awaiting its notification, and forest approvals.

Since it is a drinking water project, the Environment Impact Assessment requirement has been waived.

Government sources said the application to release 258 hectares of reserve forest area for the Kalasa project that falls under the reservoir's catchment area is pending before the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF).

So is an application to release 242.51 hectares for the Banduri project. "We expect approvals for these applications after the notification," sources said.

An unrelenting battle for gender equality

Sameera Jahagirdar says MBBS textbooks continue to 'criminalise' a transgender



SHYAMA RAJAGOPAL
KOCHE

Sameera M. Jahagirdar is now going to take her fight for the rights of LGBT+ to the Medical Council of India, which has not yet recognised the need to restructure the MBBS curriculum in which the textbooks continue to "criminalise" a transgender or a homosexual or anyone who does not fall within the society's two-gender sexual orientation.

Her journey as a woman trapped in a man's body and taking up the medical profession to unravel the biological enigma of the human body has been one of continuous trauma. The fight within herself to realise her sexual orientation, leading later to gender identity and with society's unrelent-

ing stand on homosexuality and transgender was too much to handle as she had no one to talk to about what she was going through.

"I used to internalise everything and that damaged my psyche," said Dr. Jahagirdar, Assistant Professor, Department of Critical Care Medicine, Mahatma Gandhi

Medical College and Research Institute, Puducherry. At one stage, she decided to run away from Pune, her native place, seeking a life that would help her live her life the way she wanted to.

"I had turned to medicine hoping that learning the human biology threadbare would provide some answers. But no. All the medical texts were very harsh on homosexuality. This increased my sense of isolation in society and many times I even contemplated and attempted suicide."

It was much later, while working at JIPMER, going through medical literature in the institute's library, that she realised that her sexual orientation was not a disorder.

The American Psychiatric

Society had done some good work in the field in the 1970s, she said.

That was in 2003 and she stopped running away from her own self thereafter. But, then, it was another 13 years before she actually took the sex reassignment surgery.

Backed by the Supreme Court's ruling on creating space for another gender, Dr. Jahagirdar began her advocacy in the institution where she works.

Her work was recognised by Annamalai University that conducted a meeting on the nursing curriculum board of studies. The National Health Mission, Tamil Nadu, appreciated her work in establishing gender affirmative procedures and building a dedicated multi-disciplinary team.

When the Karnataka government on August 22, 2000 gave its administrative approval to the project – conceived to supply drinking water to areas in the Bombay-Karnataka region – the estimated cost of Kalasa Nala was ₹44.78 crore, while that of Banduri Nala was ₹49.2 crore.

Even as Kerala Forest Minister K. Raju on Monday asserted that no decision to withdraw the wildlife crime case booked against actor Mohanlal for illegal possession of ivory had been taken, a no objection certificate for withdrawing the case has reached the Forest Department. Investigating officers received the letter by post.

CM

IN BRIEF



IAF pilot killed in plane crash in Punjab

CHANDIGARH

A micro-light aircraft crashed in Punjab's Patiala on Monday, killing an Indian Air Force pilot and injuring an NCC cadet. While Group Captain G.S. Cheema died in the accident, NCC trainee from the Government Mohindra College, Vipin Kumar Yadav, was injured. Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh expressed deep anguish over the crash.

IAF, CISF win trophies for Republic Day parade

NEW DELHI

The Indian Air Force has been adjudged the best marching contingent among the three Services, while the Central Industrial Security Force was the best among the Central Armed Police Forces and other auxiliary forces category in this year's Republic Day parade. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh presented the trophies for the best marching contingents on Monday.

Health Minister launches vaccination drive

NEW DELHI

"No child should have to suffer or die due to vaccine preventable diseases," said Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Monday, inaugurating a special campaign on Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI 2.0). The campaign aims to immunise children under two years of age and pregnant women against vaccine-preventable diseases.

BJD woman leader's death to be probed

BERHAMPUR

Odisha Director General of Police on Monday ordered a high-level probe into the death of Meenakshi Mishra, leader of the Biju Janata Dal women's wing, who attempted self-immolation in front of the Berhampur Superintendent of Police's office on February 12. She died of burn injuries at a private hospital in Bhubaneswar on February 20.

Income scheme to cover fewer farmers

Kisan Samman Nidhi will benefit only 12 crore people; Centre urges West Bengal to join scheme

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

One year after the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, the Centre has revised the farmer income support scheme's beneficiary target down to just under 12 crore from 14 crore.

In fact, empirical evidence suggests that saturation level will reach around 10 crore families. So far, almost 8.5 crore farmers have benefited.

Speaking at an event to mark the first anniversary, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar pointed to West Bengal and Bihar as the major culprits for the lag. While the West Bengal government has refused to join the scheme at all, the Bihar government's approach of waiting for applicants means more than 60% of potential



Safety assured: The scheme gives land-owning farmer families an annual sum of ₹6,000. ■ FILE PHOTO

beneficiaries are yet to register.

The scheme, which gives land-owning farmer families an annual sum of ₹6,000, was launched in the run-up to the 2019 Lok Sabha elec-

tion, and new registrations have slowed after the election.

The Centre's beneficiary estimate of 14 crore was initially based on the number of landholdings recorded in

the agricultural land census.

The revised estimate of 11.97 crore is based on the 9.84 crore who have registered themselves on the portal so far (although only 8.45 crore have received money so far), plus an estimated 2.13 crore beneficiaries left out, mostly from West Bengal and Bihar. However, "empirical evidence suggests that saturation level will reach around 10 crore farmer families," according to a presentation made at the event.

No reply from Bengal

Mr. Tomar pointed out that of West Bengal's 70 lakh farmers, 10 lakh have already self-registered through an online process.

However, they cannot receive the cash benefit until the database is verified by

the State government, he said.

"Officials have approached the State government about this many times and I have also written to the Chief Minister twice, urging the State to join the scheme. But we have not received any reply as yet," Mr. Tomar said, pointing out the State's economy would stand to benefit with a potential annual payout of ₹4,000 crore if all the State's farmers registered themselves for the scheme.

In Bihar, the potential beneficiaries number 158 lakh. However, only 59.7 lakh farmers have uploaded their data on the PM-KISAN portal so far. "The State has adopted a beneficiary application-based approach, which is delaying identification and upload," said the presentation.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

Forecast for Tuesday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Sikkim.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	...-29.3	16.5	...	Kozhikode	...-35.6	25.4	...
Ahmedabad	...-31.3	17.4	...	Kurnool	...-26.0	20.0	...
Aizawl	...-21.0	10.9	...	Lucknow	...-28.2	16.2	...
Allahabad	...-28.4	17.0	...	Madurai	...-35.4	23.6	...
Bengaluru	...-29.5	18.6	...	Mangalore	...-36.7	24.2	...
Bhopal	...-27.6	13.6	...	Mumbai	...-32.5	19.4	...
Bhubaneswar	...-32.8	18.0	...	Mysuru	...-31.9	20.0	...
Chandigarh	...-25.1	11.1	...	New Delhi	...-26.4	11.8	...
Chennai	...-31.8	22.6	...	Patna	...-0.1	28.6	-16.4
Coimbatore	...-33.0	22.3	...	Port Blair	...-31.0	25.8	...
Dehradun	...-25.3	8.6	...	Puducherry	...-32.4	22.4	...
Gangtok	30.6	8.6	...	Pune	...-36.2	19.0	...
Goa	...-34.3	22.1	...	Raipur	...-28.4	18.7	...
Guwahati	...-29.6	14.4	...	Ranchi	0.2	29.4	-15.4
Hubballi	...-34.0	20.0	...	Shillong	8.4	17.7	-10.0
Hyderabad	...-34.7	19.6	...	Shimla	2.0	15.9	-4.1
Imphal	...-26.0	10.4	...	Srinagar	...-16.9	0.3	...
Jaipur	...-27.3	15.0	...	Thiruvananthapuram	...-33.7	24.6	...
Kochi	...-33.0	24.8	...	Tiruchi	...-	-	...
Kohima	...-15.6	9.0	...	Vijayawada	...-34.0	22.0	...
Kolkata	0.2	27.1	19.5	Visakhapatnam	...-31.0	23.2	...

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Yesterday

CITIES	SO	NO	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	52	80	19	.150	.125	■
Bengaluru	14	20	64	.50	.66	■■■
Chennai	39	22	91	.38	—	—
Delhi	24	33	29	.294	.152	■■■
Hyderabad	8	34	19	.62	.87	■■■
Kolkata	.9	58	39	.300	.178	■■■
Lucknow	.8	68	67	.303	—	■■■
Mumbai	18	89	41	.140	.233	■■■
Pune	79	30	85	.156	.118	■■■
Visakhapatnam	.3	61	55	.104	.136	■■■

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bhawali, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 289 indicating a hazardous level of pollution. In contrast, Khanna, Punjab recorded a healthy AQI score of 45

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

SO2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

THE ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY (A CENTRAL UNIVERSITY) Hyderabad, Telangana State, India						
ADMISSION NOTIFICATION						
Online applications are invited for admission to B.A. (Hons.) Korean course at Hyderabad for the academic year 2020-21. The links to application form and the eligibility criterion are available on the University website: www.effuniversity.ac.in from midnight of 25 February 2020. For further details, call 040-27689447 (Helpline) or 040-27689447 between 10:00 am to 5:00 pm from Monday to Friday. The last date for the receipt of applications is 27 March 2020. Sd/- REGISTRAR						

CSIR - CENTRAL ELECTROCHEMICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE Karaikudi / Karaikudi-630 003.						
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW			NOTIFICATION No. PS-01/2020			
Position & Stipend	Essential qualification	Age limit	Date, Time and Venue for interview			
Technical Assistant ₹.16,000/- p.m + consolidated (03 Positions)	Passed out ITI - Electrician / Welder / Fitter / Machinist / Turner	25 Years	06.03.2020 (Friday) at 9.00 AM			
Project Assistant-II ₹.25,000/- p.m + HRA (01 Position)	M.Sc. in Chemistry / Physical Chemistry / Analytical Chemistry / Materials Science / Nanoscience with 55% marks (50% marks for SC / ST)	30 Years	Central Electrochemical Research Institute, Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu.			

For further details, please visit www.cecri.res.in प्रशासन अधिकारी / Administrative Officer

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Dual citizenship

With no legal scope for it, govt. must think of regularising stay of Sri Lankan refugees

The contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, has again triggered an ill-advised demand for dual citizenship to Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka. This refuses to leave public discourse despite the constitutional and legal position being clearly against the grant of dual citizenship per se. As on date, no Indian citizen holds the citizenship of any other country. Even when the Centre amended the Citizenship Act in 2003 to introduce the Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) scheme for sections of the Indian diaspora, all it provided was a limited version of 'dual citizenship' which came without political rights and with a bar on purchase of agricultural land. It would defy logic, then, to seek dual citizenship for those who are not Indian nationals. The Centre has consistently favoured voluntary repatriation of refugees to Sri Lanka. Given the possible effect on the demographic mix there, New Delhi, quite rightly, is not in a mood to confer Indian citizenship on them. Although the Central and State governments do a lot to make the refugees' stay comfortable, most of them are regarded as illegal migrants, as they arrived with no valid travel documents. In the run-up to the 2016 Assembly elections, the then Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Jayalalithaa, flagged the issue of dual citizenship. Since then, representations have been made regularly to the Centre. Governor Banwarilal Purohit too referred to the demand in his Assembly address last month. Early this month, the government told the Rajya Sabha that neither the Constitution nor the CAA permitted dual citizenship. This ought to put an end to the debate, which will otherwise create false expectations among the refugees.

At the same time, given the need to treat the refugees in a humane manner and in the absence of a law on refugees, the Centre should stop seeing Sri Lankan refugees as "illegal migrants"; they entered India with the knowledge and approval of Indian authorities. As for those who wish to remain in India for studies or to earn a livelihood, the authorities should tweak the OCI Cardholder scheme or offer an exclusive long-term visa. By this, the stay of 95,000-odd refugees in Tamil Nadu will be regularised. As for those keen on returning home but are unable to do so for want of support from Sri Lanka, New Delhi should lean on Colombo to help enable their early return. Besides, the two countries should formulate a scheme of structured assistance to expedite voluntary repatriation, which is moving at a snail's pace even a decade after the civil war ended. These steps can lead to a lasting resolution of issues concerning those who have been in India for over 30 years.

Challenger's challenge

Bernie Sanders needs to widen his support base without compromising on principles

President Donald Trump may be enjoying the optics and bilateral bonhomie on his maiden official visit to India, but he must be aware that back home, the clock is ticking on his first term in office. Indeed, Mr. Trump's Democratic rivals have trained their political guns on his record in office for some time now, making it quite likely that the November 2020 presidential poll will be preceded by a blistering campaign. While no single candidate stood out prominently from among the pack through the season of Democratic debates, some, such as Kamala Harris, dropped out and the herd was winnowed. Now, from among the stronger candidates, the primaries and caucuses have handed the edge to one of the President's most strident critics – Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders. The self-professed "Democratic socialist" has pulled away from the rest of the pack – including former Vice-President Joe Biden, Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren, former Mayor of South Bend, Indiana, Pete Buttigieg, and Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar – after his win in the recent Nevada caucuses. Among those fighting for the nomination, Mr. Sanders perhaps stands the best chance of surviving a toe-to-toe battle with Mr. Trump, given that, like his Republican challenger, he stands somewhat askance of his party's mainstream ethos, for example showing the mettle to take on Wall Street's excesses rather than lean on them for fund-raising support. This trait goes well with the apparent anti-establishment voter mood; indeed it was this mood that Mr. Trump masterfully tapped into to win the 2016 election.

The challenge for Mr. Sanders, and which he appears to be gradually surmounting, after perhaps learning from his nomination loss to Hillary Clinton in 2016, is to deepen his popularity among minorities: African-Americans, Latinos and other ethnicities. Nevada differs from the two States, Iowa and New Hampshire, that went into caucuses and primaries, respectively, before it, in that it is considerably more racially diverse, with a 35% non-white population. The timing could not have been better for Mr. Sanders too. In less than a week, 15 States and territories will vote for their preferred candidate on a single day, "Super Tuesday", including large, racially diverse States such as California. If he performs well, cornering a bulk of the 1,357 delegates up for grabs, it may well become impossible for any of the other Democratic hopefuls to even the score later on. The big question is, will he then succeed in carrying independent and undecided voters along with him in the presidential election, and can he move swing States in his favour? If he is to stand a chance of doing that, many think he may need to consider moderating what Mr. Buttigieg described as a dogmatic belief in an "inflexible, ideological revolution that leaves out most Democrats, not to mention most Americans". To reach out to the wider voter base without losing his core support is the challenge before Mr. Sanders.

The unassailable keywords for the judiciary

India's judges must remind themselves constantly of the need to uphold an independent, strong and respected judiciary



DUSHYANT DAVE

Justice Arun Mishra's public praise of the Prime Minister at a public forum on Saturday raises serious questions about the independence of the judiciary. What is more disturbing is that he was speaking at the inaugural session of the International Judicial Conference 2020, 'Judiciary and the Changing World'. The damage his statement has caused is incalculable. The international judicial community must have been left aghast as far as the very independence of the Indian judiciary is concerned. Judges across India must be left bewildered wondering whether they should indulge in similar praises or not. One cannot forget that Justice Mishra is one of the seniormost judges of the Supreme Court of India and every word spoken by him may be taken seriously by those connected with the administration of justice.

The Prime Minister himself applauded the Supreme Court by referring to some recent "critical judgments", adding that 1.3 billion Indians wholeheartedly accepted the judicial verdicts. The Prime Minister's claim certainly appears to be off the mark considering that large numbers have questioned these judgments.

The Law Minister, who was also speaking at the inaugural session, himself took the opportunity to attack many of those who criticise the functioning of the judiciary and its judgments. The Executive and the Judiciary appear to be in tandem, something which was clearly not designed under the Constitution. Was the internation-

al conference a platform for these?

Reiterating independence

In a 1981 judgment, the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court held that "Judges should be stern stuff and tough fire, unbending before power, economic or political, and they must uphold the core principle of the rule of law which says: 'Be you ever so high, the law is above you.' This is the principle of independence of the judiciary which is vital for the establishment of real participatory democracy, maintenance of the rule of law as a dynamic concept and delivery of social justice to the vulnerable sections of the community. It is this principle of independence of the judiciary which we must keep in mind while interpreting the relevant provisions of the Constitution."

In the same judgment another learned judge holds, "...While the administration of justice draws its legal sanction from the Constitution, its credibility rests in the faith of the people. Indispensable to that faith is the independence of the judiciary... the framers of the Constitution took great pains to ensure that an even better and more effective judicial structure was incorporated in the Constitution, one which would meet the highest expectations of judicial independence...."

That structure seems to be crumbling under its own weight. Late in 1993, another Constitution Bench in the Second Judges Appointment Case, declared: "It is obvious that only those persons should be considered fit for appointment as Judges of the superior judiciary who combine the attributes essential for making an able, independent and fearless judge. Several attributes together combine to constitute such a personality. Legal expertise, ability to handle cases, proper personal



conduct and ethical behaviour, firmness and fearlessness are obvious essential attributes of a person suitable for appointment as a superior Judge."

Standard of conduct

Among the several attributes that have been prescribed of a judge is "proper personal conduct".

In a case in 1995, *C. Ravichandran Iyer v. Justice A.M. Bhattacharjee & Ors.*, the Supreme Court went to the extent of holding that for a judge, "the standard of conduct is higher than that expected of layman" and that "therefore the judge can ill-afford to seek shelter from the fallen standard in society".

It was also declared, "The Judges of higher echelons, therefore, should not be mere men of clay with all the frailties and foibles, human failings and weak character which may be found in those in other walks of life. They should be men of fighting faith with tough fibre not susceptible to any pressure, economic, political or any sort".

It concluded, "In short, the behaviour of the Judge is the bastion for the people to reap the fruits of the democracy, liberty and justice and the antithesis rocks the bottom of the rule of law."

Ironically, Justice Mishra himself in a judgment in *R. Muthukrishnan versus The Registrar General Of The High Court Of Judicature At Madras* observes, "Judicial in-

dependence is a privilege of and protection for the people."

He holds, "Francis Bacon has said about the Judges that Judges ought to be more learned than witty, more reverend than plausible, and more advised than confident. Above all things, integrity is their portion and proper virtue. The balancing of values, reverence between the Bar and the Bench is the edifice of the independent judicial system. Time has come to restore the glory and cherish the time-tested enduring ideals and principles."

He also says, "Independent Bar and Independent Bench form the backbone of the democracy." So why these remarks about the country's leader?

Key judicial charter

So, what can a citizen make out of this completely avoidable public praise by such a senior judge? Have those in positions of responsibility and even others who have publicly praised the Prime Minister in the recent past forgotten the Charter called "The Restatement of Values of Judicial Life"? This was adopted by the full Court, in 1997, to serve as a guide to be observed by the judges which, according to the charter, was "essential for an independent, strong and respected judiciary, indispensable in the impartial administration of justice". The Charter is "a complete code of the canons of judicial ethics" and categorically declares among many others the following values:

"6. A Judge should practise a degree of aloofness consistent with the dignity of his office" and "16. Every Judge must at all times be conscious that he is under the public gaze and there should be no act or omission by him which is unbecoming of the high office he occupies and the public esteem in which the office is held." To my mind, both stand

violated now.

In a Constituent Assembly Debate, Professor K.T. Shah (Bihar) spoke of the dangers lying ahead on May 24, 1949: "In my opinion, Sir, if I may so with all respect, this Constitution concentrates so much power and influence in the hands of the Prime Minister in regard to the appointment of judges, ambassadors, or Governors to such an extent, that there is every danger to apprehend that the Prime Minister may become a Dictator if he chooses to do so. I think there are cases which ought to be removed from the political influence, of party manoeuvres. And here is one case, viz. Judges of the Supreme Court, who I think should be completely outside that influence."

He again said, "I have been trying to lay before the Houses viz., or keeping the Judiciary completely out of any temptation, and contact with the executive or the legislative side. Whether during his tenure of office... or even on retirement, I would suggest that there should be a constitutional prohibition against his employment in any executive office, so that no temptation should be available to a judge for greater emoluments, or greater prestige which would in any way affect his independence as a judge."

One thing is clear, the judiciary is fast eroding the hopes and aspirations of great men and women who sat in the Constituent Assembly debating and giving us the great document, the Constitution of India. Any correction, if at all, must come from within the judiciary. Will it? We the Citizens of India can only sit back and watch bemused and deeply disappointed.

Dushyant Dave is a Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court of India and the President of the Supreme Court Bar Association. The views expressed are personal

The issues around data localisation

The contentious clauses on local data storage in the revised Personal Data Protection Bill need re-examination



RISHAB BAILEY

Among the many important laws that were introduced in the winter session of the Lok Sabha was the Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill, 2019. The Bill was referred to a joint parliamentary committee, which is currently engaged in a process of public consultation.

The draft law is a comprehensive piece of legislation that seeks to give individuals greater control over how their personal data is collected, stored and used. Once passed, the law promises a huge improvement on current Indian privacy law, which is both inadequate and improperly enforced.

The PDP Bill, however, is not without its flaws. It has attracted criticism on various grounds such as the exceptions created for the state, the limited checks imposed on state surveillance, and regarding various deficiencies in the structures and processes of the proposed Data Protection Authority.

Data localisation in draft Bill
One of the more contentious issues in the law Bill are the provisions pertaining to "data localisation". The phrase, which can refer to any restrictions on cross-border transfer of data (for instance, requirements to seek permission for transfer, the imposition of taxes for foreign transfers of data, etc.),

has largely come to refer to the need to physically locate data within the country.

The PDP Bill enables the transfer of personal data outside India, with the sub-category of sensitive personal data having to be mirrored in the country (i.e. a copy will have to be kept in the country). Data processing/collecting entities will however be barred from transferring critical personal data (a category that the government can notify at a subsequent stage) outside the country.

These provisions have been changed from the earlier version of the draft Bill, released by the Justice Srikrishna Committee in 2018. The 2018 draft imposed more stringent measures that required both personal and sensitive personal data to be mirrored in the country (subject to different conditions).

The move to liberalise the provisions in the 2019 version of the Bill is undoubtedly welcome, particularly for businesses and users. Liberalised requirements will limit costs to business and ensure users have greater flexibility in choosing where to store their data. Prima facie, the changes in the 2019 draft reflect a more proportionate approach to the issue as they implement a tiered system for cross-border data transfer, ostensibly based on the sensitivity/vulnerability of the data. This seems in accord with the Supreme Court's dicta in the 2017 Puttaswamy case, where the Court had made it clear that an interference in the fundamental right to privacy would only be permissible if *inter alia* deemed necessary and proportionate.

However, on closer examination



it appears that even the revised law may not actually stand the test of proportionality.

Purpose of localisation

There are broadly three sets of arguments advanced in favour of imposing stringent data localisation norms: Sovereignty and government functions; referring to the need to recognise Indian data as a resource to be used to further national interest (economically and strategically), and to enable enforcement of Indian law and state functions. The second claim is that economic benefits will accrue to local industry in terms of creating local infrastructure, employment and contributions to the AI ecosystem. Finally, regarding the protection of civil liberties, the argument is that local hosting of data will enhance its privacy and security by ensuring Indian law applies to the data and users can access local remedies.

But if data protection was required for these purposes, it would make sense to ensure that local copies were retained of all the categories of personal data provided for in the Bill (as was the case with the previous draft of the law). In the alternative, sectoral obligations would also suffice (as is the case with sectors such as digital payments data, certain types of telecom data, government data, etc.).

consideration, individuals ought to be able to choose to store their data in any location which afford them the strongest privacy protections. Given the previously mentioned infirmities in the PDP Bill, it is arguable that data of Indians will continue to be more secure if stored and processed in the European Union or California (two jurisdictions which have strong data protection laws and advanced technical ecosystems).

In the circumstances, it becomes important for the joint parliamentary committee currently examining the Bill to conduct a more in-depth evaluation of the localisation provisions in the law. The joint parliamentary committee ought to, ideally, identify the need, purpose and practicality of putting in place even the (relatively liberal) measures contained in the PDP Bill. Further, in order for localisation-related norms to bear fruit, either in terms of protecting citizen rights, enabling law enforcement access to data or enabling development of the local economy, there has to be broader thinking at the policy level. This may include for instance, reforming surveillance related laws, entering into more detailed and up-to-date mutual legal assistance treaties, enabling the development of sufficient digital infrastructure, and creating appropriate data-sharing policies that preserve privacy and other third party rights, while enabling data to be used for socially useful purposes.

We note that insofar as privacy is concerned, this could be equally protected through less intrusive, suitable and equally effective measures such as requirements for contractual conditions and using adequacy tests for the jurisdiction of transfer. Such conditions are already provided for in the PDP Bill as a set of secondary conditions (the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation too uses a similar framework).

Further, the extra-territorial application of the PDP Bill also ensures that the data protection obligations under the law continue to exist even if the data is transferred outside the country.

If privacy protection is the real

Rishab Bailey is a fellow at the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, where he works on technology policy

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Trump in India

Bitterly stung by recent election reverses in States like Jharkhand and Delhi, the Narendra Modi-led National Democratic Alliance government has a lot at stake as far as the visit of the U.S. President Donald Trump is concerned. The Central government is optimistic that a number of deals would be inked, though Mr. Trump before his departure almost queered the pitch by criticising the high trade tariffs in India that have hurt U.S. exports. Plenty of store is also being placed on the bonhomie between the two leaders though in the

final analysis it would count for nothing if Mr. Modi fails to negotiate a good deal for his country. Mr. Modi also faces the prospect of being queried on controversial topics like the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, religious freedom and Kashmir, which he may not relish. With Mr. Trump's visit having been hyped up beyond all measure, there would be virtually no gains for the government unless there are some tangible results to show.

C.V. ARAVIND,
Bengaluru

■ As a leader who fancies himself, Mr. Trump must

have been overwhelmed by the rousing reception he got *en route* to and in the packed Motera Stadium in Ahmedabad. The milling crowd did not appear to be in millions, though. An astute businessman-cum-politician, Mr. Trump pushed all the right buttons. He stated that India has a 'true and trusted friend' in America. He declared that India's economic progress in the last 70 years gives hope to all of humanity, but he skirted the issue of the current economic slowdown in India. At the iconic Sabarmati Ashram he tried his hand at spinning the *charkha*. While scribbling

thanks to his friend Mr. Modi for his 'kindness and hospitality', he did not write a word in praise of Mahatma Gandhi. While taking the whole country by storm, the hyped-up Trump visit has also mirrored what kind of a nation we have become.

G. DAVID MILTON,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

■ Rule of might
Strongmen always equip their followers with prisms to view issues. Besides, they can polarise masses using strong emotions and instincts – like fear, anger, hatred and revenge – at will and with alarming success. This translates into electoral

success many times. Most of the democratic institutions do offer some initial resistance; however, in due course, they are filled with the strongman's ideological cousins, if not clones. Only history will tell how successful a free and fair media will be in resisting the progress of the present-day strongmen ('Rise of strongmen leaders and the challenge to domestic institutions,' Feb. 24).
A. VENKATASUBRAMANIAN,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

■ Protests and barricades
This is with reference to the news item, "Police barricaded roads with no

link to Shahe Bagh stir" (Feb. 24). At last the truth has come out. The claims of Delhi Police and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders – who have said that the protests are disturbing the free flow of traffic, and causing inconvenience to Delhi commuters – stand exposed. The law enforcement machinery's ultimate aim was to malign the agitators who are toiling to save the Constitution. The Supreme Court may do well to look into these actions by the police.
K. MALIKUL AZEEZ,
Chennai

To read more letters online, scan the QR code



A U.S. strategy only meant to isolate China

India would be advised to study the Indo-Pacific Strategy instead of jumping into it eagerly



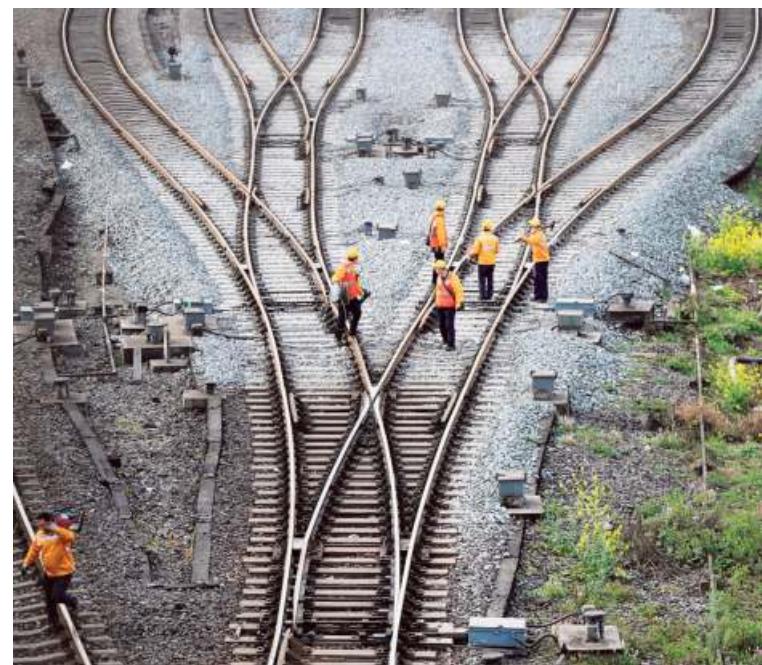
VIJAY PRASHAD

Since 2017, the United States government has released a few reports and fact sheets on its new Indo-Pacific Strategy. It's impossible to analyse these texts and the speeches by high officials of the U.S. government because they are largely made up of empty phrases. For instance, what does the U.S. mean when it says that the Indo-Pacific Strategy is going to promote "free, fair, and reciprocal trade"? Each of these terms – 'free', 'fair', and 'reciprocal' – need elaboration. But over hundreds of pages there is no explanation of any of these phrases. Buried in these documents is a much deeper agenda of the U.S. government: to use three large Asian states – Australia, India, and Japan – to isolate China. There is nothing else to it.

Scale of Chinese investment

The U.S. government has made it clear that what it finds most objectionable is China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which has signed on more than 70 countries in the world. Adopted in 2013, the BRI is intended as a mechanism to end China's reliance upon the markets of the West and to develop new markets in other continents; it is also intended to use China's massive surpluses to build infrastructure in key parts of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. By 2027, according to estimates by Morgan Stanley, China will spend about \$1.3 trillion on this ambitious construction project. Even Saudi Arabia, a close ally of the U.S., has made the BRI one of the cornerstones of its Saudi Vision 2030 plan. While China has invested \$68 billion to build the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor from Xinjiang to Pakistan's Gwadar Port, Saudi Arabia has agreed to invest \$10 billion in the port itself.

The scale of Chinese investment, and the participation of a range of countries with different political identities in the BRI, is staggering. At the Indo-Pacific Business Forum in July 2018, which was hosted by the



"The scale of Chinese investment, and the participation of a range of countries with different political identities in the BRI, is staggering." Workers inspect railway tracks, which serve as a part of the Belt and Road freight rail route linking Chongqing to Duisburg, in Sichuan province, China. ■ REUTERS

U.S. government – tellingly in Washington, D.C. – the U.S. boasted that it has spent \$2.9 billion through the Department of State and the USAID (United States Agency for International Development). It has lined up hundreds of millions of dollars more through its U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. If you add up all the money that the U.S. intends to spend for economic projects, it is still a fraction of the amount spent by China. There is no appetite in Washington, D.C., with its 'America First' attitude, to funnel more money towards investments in the region currently being built by the BRI.

Military claims?

It appears as if U.S. investments will come only with military claims. Nepal is currently debating whether it should accept \$500 million from an MCC grant; will this money mean that the Nepali government would have to allow U.S. troops and U.S. bases in the country? This would be objectionable to the Communist government in Kathmandu. A few years ago, Nepal discovered a large

amount of uranium in Mustang, near the Nepal-China border; this has certainly motivated U.S. interest in Nepal's economy. If the U.S. money comes with U.S. military presence, this will create a serious flashpoint in the Himalayas.

Unable to outspend the Chinese, the U.S. government is making a rhetorical argument that it has more respect for "transparency, human rights, and democratic values" than China, which "practices repression at home and abroad" ('A Free and Open Indo-Pacific', November 2019). Documents such as these are plainly rhetorical. It is hard to imagine the U.S. being "transparent" with its trade deals. It is equally hard to imagine the U.S. being able to argue that it would not put countries into debt. Libraries are filled with documents that show how the U.S. government enabled a massive Third World debt crisis in the 1980s, which was then used by the U.S.-driven International Monetary Fund's Structural Adjustment Programs to strangle countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. This history is alive, and it makes a mockery of the U.S.'s attempt to say that its own approach is superior to

that of China's.

Apart from that, the U.S. government has already indicated that it is uninterested in multilateral deals – it withdrew from the Trans-Pacific Partnership in 2017, for instance. Australia and Japan shrugged, and then put their energy into the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, which sidelines the U.S.

In May 2018, the U.S. military's Pacific Command was renamed the Indo-Pacific Command, a symbolic gesture that provides a military aspect to the Indo-Pacific Strategy. The U.S. government has made it clear that for all its talk of a "free and open Indo-Pacific", what it actually wants is an Indo-Pacific with fewer Chinese ships and more U.S. warships. Just before this renaming, the U.S. National Security Strategy of 2017 noted that "China seeks to displace the United States in the Indo-Pacific region", and so the Indo-Pacific Strategy intends for the U.S. to fight for its dominance in the Pacific Ocean, the Indian Ocean, and in the Asian rim. This is a very dangerous war that the U.S. seeks to impose on Asia.

Inching away

As the military aspect of the Strategy increased, both Australia and Japan edged away from full-scale adoption of the U.S. project. Japan has begun to use the term "Indo-Pacific" without the word "Strategy", while Australia has signed onto a "comprehensive strategic partnership" with China. Only India remains loyal to the agenda set by U.S. President Donald Trump, who has arrived here with nothing but a bag full of tricks. In all the documents released by the U.S. government and in all the speeches by officials, there is no discussion of the strategy to contain China. There is only rhetoric that skates into belligerent territory.

India would be advised to study the U.S. project rather than jump into it eagerly. Room for an independent foreign policy for India is already narrowed, and room for an independent trade policy is equally suffocated. To remain the subordinate ally of the U.S. suggests that India will miss an opportunity to be part of a reshaped Asia.

Vijay Prashad is the Director of Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research

Not fair, just or reasonable

Preventive detention laws practically sacrifice due process interests at the altar of crime control

ABHINAV SEKHRI

The revocation of statehood for Jammu and Kashmir was accompanied by widespread arrests and detentions under the erstwhile State's Public Safety Act of 1978, which allows for detention without trial for up to two years. The arrest and detention of persons without requiring them to face a public trial, which is driven towards proving innocence or guilt of an accused person alleged to have committed an offence, is referred to as 'preventive detention' in Indian law. Preventive detention statutes exist at both the national and State levels and are intended to serve as effective measures to prevent the occurrence of crime. These different statutes adopt a similar logic. Under these laws, executive officers such as District Magistrates and Commissioners of Police are empowered to pass orders for arrest and to take persons into custody. These powers can be exercised if the officers are "satisfied" that the person's conduct is posing a risk to certain kinds of interests that the law deems important. For instance, the National Security Act of 1980 permits arrest and detention of persons when it is in the interest of maintaining "public order", which can occur even without any allegations of the person breaking any existing laws.

No procedural fairness

Since the purpose of preventive detention is to prevent crime, it is argued that compliance with painstaking procedures such as those of a criminal trial would defeat the law's purpose. Therefore, we find that preventive detention processes come without many of the hallmarks of procedural fairness that we take for granted in regular criminal law.

Thus, unlike regular law, there is no need for a person arrested under the exceptional preventive detention process to be informed of the grounds immediately. Nor is there a requirement to produce the arrested person before a court. While all arrests and detentions under preventive detention laws do undergo some subsequent checks, this scrutiny remains almost exclusively executive.



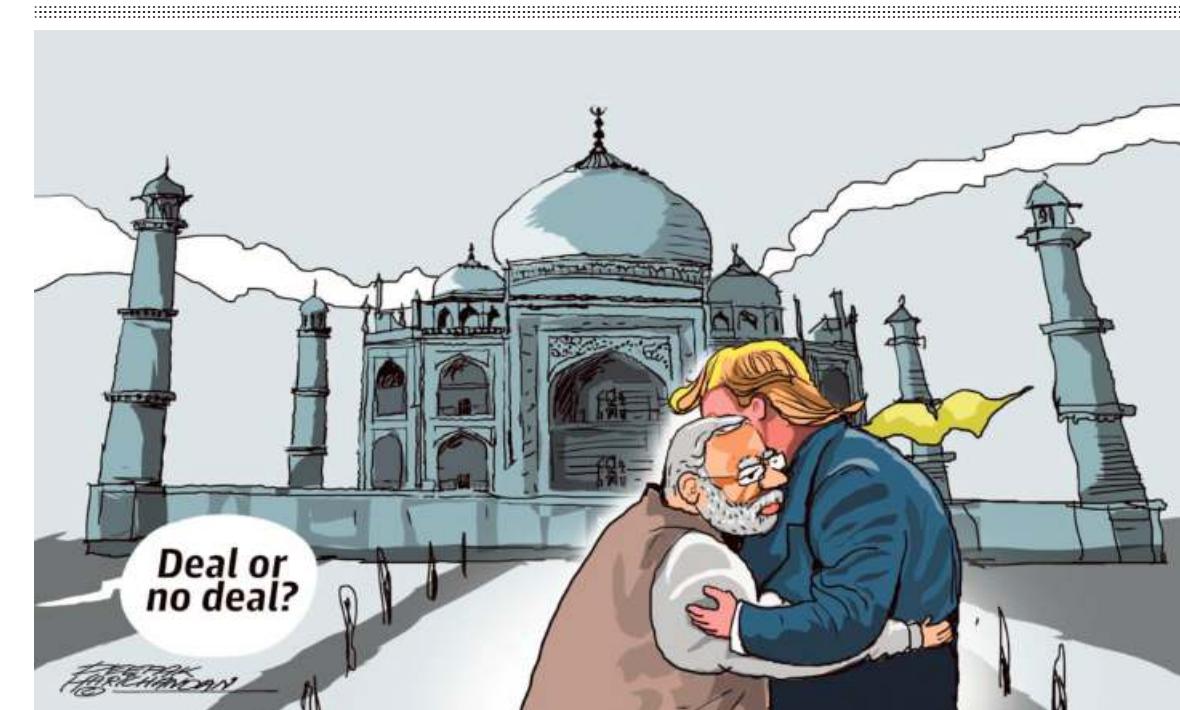
based. There is no judicial oversight where detention beyond three months is not sought. And even in those cases which go to a Tribunal comprising judges, there is no public hearing involved and no guaranteed oral hearing for the detainee. No publicly available orders or judgments are published about the ultimate decision. Finally, throughout this process, there is no right to legal assistance for detainees. The only opportunity for many lies in pursuing a writ of habeas corpus before the High Court, which again can only test preventive detention orders on limited grounds. It is barred from undertaking a full-scale review of this executive process.

The idea that laws should permit pre-emptive intervention to prevent the commission of crimes is an appealing one. That the legal framework governing this preventive project comes along with reduced procedural compliances and quick outcomes only makes preventive detention laws more tantalising for security-minded officers, who are thus incentivised to use these exceptional statutes to deal with even ordinary law and order situations, ultimately normalising preventive detention and bringing them down from their exceptional status. This suggestion is supported by the Crime in India Report for 2018 released by the NCRB which disclosed that close to one lakh people were arrested and detained in custody under preventive detention laws, as per government estimates.

Threat to personal liberty

Exceptional situations certainly justify exceptional measures. But there is a fair case to argue that even under this logic, the procedures of preventive detention laws in India practically sacrifice due process interests at the altar of crime control, and this bargain is ill-suited to justice, no matter how grave the risks. In their present form, it is difficult to accept such laws provide us the "fair, just and reasonable" procedure that Article 21 of India's Constitution demands of any law that takes away personal liberty.

Abhinav Sekhri is a Delhi-based lawyer

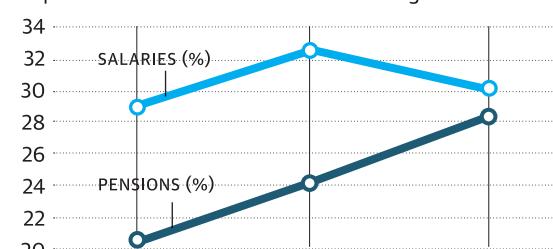


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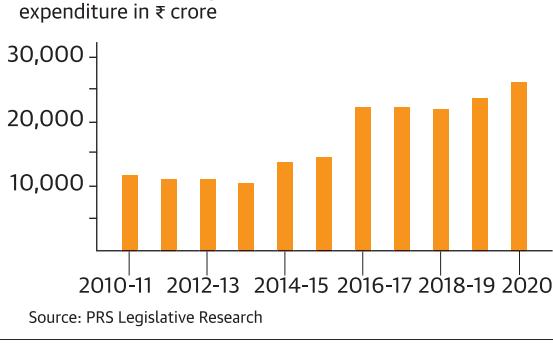
Marching to a different beat

The Indian Army is estimated to spend more on pensions than salaries in FY21. Pensions and salaries together form about 76% of the Army's budget. Such a high wage bill leaves little for the Army to spend on upgrading of equipments and weaponry. A slow-paced growth of the modernisation budget meant that only 8% of the Army's equipments were state-of-the-art as of 2018. By The Hindu Data Team

Wage bill | The share of pensions in the defence budget increased to 28.4% in FY21 from 20.5% in FY16. The share of salaries, the biggest component of defence expenditure, has see-sawed over the years. The graph traces the share of pensions and salaries in the defence budget



Slow pace | The expenditure on modernisation of the Army has grown at an annual average rate of 8% between 2010-11 and 2020-21. The graph shows the Army's modernisation expenditure in ₹ crore

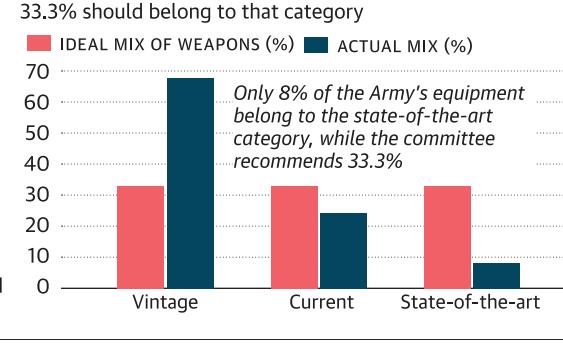


Category	Army	Air Force	Navy
Pensions	38.1	15	12
Salaries	37.5	21	21
Modernisation	8.8	45	40
Maintenance	6.2	11	11
Others	9.5	8	16

Share of pension | The table lists the share of various components in the FY21 budget for all the three armed forces. For instance, 38.1% of the Army's FY21 budget was allocated for pensions. The significant wage bill meant that only about 9% was set aside for modernisation of the Army

Category	Army	Air Force	Navy
IDEAL MIX OF WEAPONS (%)	38.1	15	12
ACTUAL MIX (%)	37.5	21	21
IDEAL MIX OF WEAPONS (%)	8.8	45	40
ACTUAL MIX (%)	6.2	11	11
IDEAL MIX OF WEAPONS (%)	9.5	8	16
ACTUAL MIX (%)			

Age distribution of weapons | Close to 70% of the Army's equipments and weapons are "vintage", while the Standing Committee on Defence (2018) recommended that only 33.3% should belong to that category



Guns, gas and technology

As President Trump wraps up his two-day trip in India, the goal of \$500 billion in two-way trade looks within sight



CHANDRAJIT BANERJEE

ity activities are on the rise, and they are well-integrated with local communities and economies of many U.S. States. The goal of \$500 billion in two-way trade is within sight. CII research suggests that in an improved trade scenario, this target could be reached as early as 2030. Businesses from both sides must come together to explore joint strategies and opportunities to resolve issues and facilitate further business. The two most promising sectors for future cooperation are energy and defence. In energy, India would continue to rely on U.S. liquefied natural gas of which it is already the sixth-largest buyer. Indian companies have invested \$4 billion in the shale gas sector in the U.S. already. With four working groups set up for oil and gas, energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable development, the energy partnership is set to undergo a further jump.

In the defence sector, India has built up its sourcing from the U.S. The recent 2+2 dialogue led to three agreements being inked under the Defense Technology and Trade Initiative to co-develop and co-produce critical technologies. With India's aspiration to invite FDI in its nascent defence production sector, U.S. companies will have good options for tie-ups with Indian businesses.

Partnerships in technology

While these sectors will continue to dominate the India-U.S. bilateral relationship for the next few years, an aspirational knowledge economy can be envisioned as the way for partnerships ahead. Such an economy would be based on high-technology exports, robotics, artificial intelligence (AI), electric vehicles, and other emerging sectors.

More than 1,200 top global companies, including many from the U.S., have established research and product development centres in India, gaining from the competitive talent available here. As digital transformation becomes the new strategy for enterprises across the globe, Indian and U.S. companies can join hands to shape lives, businesses, and value propositions. Artificial intelligence is likely to dominate the business space in coming years, and India and the U.S. can drive this phenomenon with capacity building of both people and enterprises. Start-up collaborations between two of the most vibrant and dynamic new entrepreneurship hubs can be identified for areas such as agriculture, healthcare and education.

The synergies between the world's two largest democracies are vast and the visit of Mr. Trump is bound to create new interfaces.

Chandrajit Banerjee is director general of the Confederation of Indian Industry

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 25, 1970

Topic in Ceylon poll campaign

Mrs. Indira Gandhi has begun to figure prominently in poll campaign in Ceylon. The Opposition Coalition led by Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike's Sri Lanka Freedom Party frequently projects Mrs. Bandaranaike as "Mrs. Gandhi of Ceylon, who alone could usher in an era of socialism in the island the same way as Mrs. Gandhi is now trying to do by fighting valiantly reactionaries and foreign imperialists." The ruling United Party men stress that the comparison between the two women is not appropriate and that Mrs. Bandaranaike has "neither the political acumen nor the mature experience" of Mrs. Gandhi. Mr. Philip Gunawardena, Industries Minister, told a public meeting that while Mrs. Gandhi was "steeped in political tradition" since her childhood and had an enormous fund of political knowledge, Mrs. Bandaranaike became Ceylon's Premier by chance rather than on the wishes of the people. While her husband was Premier, Mrs. Bandaranaike was in fact responsible for preventing some progressive measures like land reform, he said.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEB. 25, 1920 Social amenities at Allahabad.

'The Independent' writes:

We had hoped that under the new dispensation with reform in the air and fulsome talk of co-operation, some improvement would be effected in the traditional treatment of Indians at official and semi-official functions. His Majesty the King has called upon his subjects to work and live together in amity and concord. But the lesson is hard to learn and harder still to live up to. The old order continues and does not easily yield place to the new. At a recent function, graced by the presence of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, few could help noticing the difference in the treatment of the European guests. The places of honour went, as of right, to the latter. Mainly to them also went the refreshments which had been provided for them, for all the guests. We mention this in no carping or hypercritical spirit. We have no doubt that the host was not intentionally discourteous. He meant well. But good intentions, as everyone knows, do not always lead to the right goal. Something more is needed. And thus something is sorely lacking in those forced and unreal attempts of social intercourse, between Europeans and Indians. Co-operation and social life can only flourish on a basis of perfect equality. We trust that the officials will yet

FROM PAGE ONE

Trump calls Modi a 'true friend', lavishes praise

On his maiden visit, Mr. Trump was accompanied by his family, including the First Lady Melania Trump, daughter Ivanka and son-in-law Jared Kushner, both senior advisers to the President.

Calling India an economic giant, the U.S. President, who seeks greater access to India's markets, said, "Since the turn of the century, the size of the Indian economy has grown over six times. In a single decade, India has lifted over 270 million people out of poverty."

While lauding India and its democracy and its rule of law, Mr. Trump, in a subtle way, made a contrast with China and said, "There is all the difference in the world between a country that seeks to claim power

It's a far greater, closer relationship, says Modi

"You [Mr. Trump] are heartily welcome in the largest democracy of the world. This is Gujarat, but the entire country is enthusiastic in welcoming you. I think, today, we can see history being repeated. Five months back I started my U.S. trip with 'Howdy Modi' and today my friend President Donald Trump is starting his Indian trip with 'Namaste Trump' here in Ahmedabad," Mr. Modi said, amid cheers from approximately one lakh people assembled at the newly built stadium in Ahmedabad.

The U.S. President's mai-

Policemen among five killed in Delhi violence

Security forces staged a flag march in Maupur to disperse the mobs.

A tyre market was set on fire at Gokulpur late in the evening. Fifteen fire tenders were rushed to bring the blaze under control.

Schools closed

All government and private schools in northeast Delhi will be closed on Tuesday, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia tweeted.

Requesting Lt. Governor Anil Baijal and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to immediately deploy police to control the riot-like situa-

through coercion, intimidation, and aggression, and a country that seeks to grow by setting its people free, and unleashing them to chase their dreams, and that is India."

"This is why, India's accomplishment in the last 70 years is completely unparalleled, no matter where you go. Your faith in the strength of a free society, your confidence in your people, your trust in your own citizens, and your respect for the dignity of every person, is what makes India and the United States such a natural, enduring friendship," Mr. Trump said.

According to Mr. Trump, both the U.S. and India face a common enemy – radical Islamic terrorism – which has hurt both nations.

It's a far greater, closer relationship, says Modi

den visit to India and that too starting from Mr. Modi's home State Gujarat afforded the Prime Minister a rare opportunity to display his bonhomie with the President.

Mr. Modi, who received the President at the Ahmedabad airport, gave Mr. Trump six hugs during the action-packed trip.

From the airport, they headed to Mahatma Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram. In the visitor's book at the ashram, Mr. Trump wrote: "To my great friend Prime Minister Modi - Thank You for this wonderful visit!"

The U.S. President's mai-

Policemen among five killed in Delhi violence

Security forces staged a flag march in Maupur to disperse the mobs.

A tyre market was set on fire at Gokulpur late in the evening. Fifteen fire tenders were rushed to bring the blaze under control.

Schools closed

All government and private schools in northeast Delhi will be closed on Tuesday, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia tweeted.

Requesting Lt. Governor Anil Baijal and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to immediately deploy police to control the riot-like situa-

(With PTI inputs)

Dissenter is not anti-national, says SC judge

"Dissent is a human right. A society will not evolve unless its rules are questioned. Dissent must be encouraged. It is only through discussion that we can strive to run the country better. The government has no right to stifle a protest unless it turns violent. Dissent, after all, was the essence of Civil Disobedience movement of Mahatma Gandhi... We are

only a free country when there is freedom of speech," Justice Gupta said.

He highlighted how dissent had been a powerful tool in the hands of judges. He referred to how Justice H.R. Khanna sacrificed his Chief Justiceship to write his historic dissent championing the right to personal liberty in the ADM Jabalpur case.

Sunni Waqf Board accepts land for mosque

Along with the mosque, the Trust would construct a centre showcasing Indo-Islamic culture of several centuries, a centre for research and study of Indo-Islamic culture, a charitable hospital, a public library and other public utilities at the site, said Mr. Faruqi.

The size of the mosque

and the area it would occupy are not yet known. The composition of the Trust would also be revealed at a later stage, he said.

The mosque would be constructed considering the "local requirements", Mr. Faruqi said, when asked about the probable area it would cover.

DMK has no moral right to raise issue of Rajiv case convicts: CM

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE**
The DMK, which has of late been speaking about the need to release the seven convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, had earlier sought to free only one of them – Nalin – and has

no moral right to raise the issue, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami said on Monday.

Addressing the media at Coimbatore airport, he said it was up to the Governor to take the final call on the matter.

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Trump and Melania marvel at monument of love

The Mughal-era mausoleum has been refurbished for the high-profile visit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AGRA

U.S. President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump on Monday visited the iconic Taj Mahal as they marvelled at the famed 17th century Mughal-era mausoleum built as a monument of love.

Mr. Trump, accompanied by his wife, daughter Ivanka and son-in-law Jared Kushner, arrived here from Ahmedabad.

The Taj Mahal, built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal who died in 1631, has been refurbished for the visit.

President Trump and the First Lady held hands as they strolled in the Taj complex and later wrote in the visitors' book. They were also briefed about the history and importance of the monument.

The U.S. President's visit to Agra and the Taj Mahal has

generated huge excitement among local residents. Some shops have even displayed their own banners, welcoming Mr. Trump.

Mr. Trump also took to Twitter to express his sentiments about his first official visit to India.

From the Kheria airbase here, Mr. Trump's convoy of over 30 vehicles drove to Oberoi Amarvilas hotel near the Taj Mahal complex, as over 15,000 school students who lined up both sides of the route held U.S. and India flags and cheered the U.S. President as his motorcade passed by.

Billboards galore
Massive billboards bearing greeting messages and pictures of Mr. Trump, the First Lady and Prime Minister Narendra Modi dotted the nearly 13-km convoy route as roundabouts decked up with U.S. and India flags symbolised the U.S.-India friend-



Busy schedule: Donald Trump and Melania with PM Modi at the rally and at Gandhi Ashram in Ahmedabad, and visiting the Taj Mahal. • VIJAY SONEJI, REUTERS & AFP



• VIJAY SONEJI, REUTERS & AFP

ship. An extensive three-layer security was in place and the authorities had got the Taj Mahal premises cleared of visitors by noon, hours ahead of Mr. Trump's visit. Mr. Trump and the First

Lady enjoyed the view of the marble marvel in the evening as a cool breeze added to the pleasant weather. They also posed for pictures for photographers.

On his arrival at the air-

base, over 250 artists drawn from different parts of Uttar Pradesh performed 'Mayur dance', 'Rai folk dance' and 'Dhobia folk dance' as sonorous sounds of 'bumrasia' nagada, dholak and mridang

added to the festive ambience.

A giant billboard there featuring Mr. Trump, Ms. Melania and Mr. Modi greeted the couple with a message – 'Grand welcome of India's

best friend to the City of Love – Agra.'

Mr. Trump was received at the Kheria airbase by Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Congress to skip banquet for Trump

Party riled over no invite to Sonia

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

No Congress leader will attend the official banquet hosted by President Ram Nath Kovind in honour of U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday, party sources said on Monday.

Mr. Kovind has invited former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad and Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

The Congress, however, decided to give the event a miss as party president Sonia Gandhi, who heads the Congress Parliamentary Party, was not on the guest list.

The decision to skip the banquet was a "personal" one. He objected to Congress leaders being left out of Monday's 'Namaste Trump' event in Ahmedabad.



Sonia Gandhi's name was not on the guest list.

"When the 'Howdy Modi' event took place in Houston, both Democrats and Republicans were invited. Why have the Opposition leaders been left out in Ahmedabad," he asked.

"It's been a time-honoured tradition that when visiting dignitaries come, meetings with Opposition leaders take place. When the UPA was there [in power] and former President Barack Obama visited, he met Opposition leaders," Mr. Chowdhury noted. On Friday, the Congress described Mr. Trump's visit as an important step in India-U.S. strategic relationship but its success would be measured by its outcomes.

A personal decision

Mr. Chowdhury said the government should have insisted that the U.S. authorities follow the "time-honoured principle".

He told *The Hindu* that

'Most feared military equipment' on offer

Defence deals worth around \$3 billion to be signed today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Defence sales and cooperation featured prominently in the speeches of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump at the 'Namaste Trump' event in Ahmedabad on Monday. While announcing that defence deals worth around \$3 billion would be signed during his visit, Mr. Trump offered a range of high-tech defence equipment to India.

"As we continue to build our defence cooperation, the U.S. looks forward to providing

ing India with some of the best and most feared military equipment on the planet. We make the greatest weapons ever made. Airplanes, missiles, rockets, ships... we make the best and we're dealing now with India. But this includes advanced air-defence systems and armed and unarmed aerial vehicles," Mr. Trump said as Mr. Modi looked on.

"Tomorrow our representatives will sign deals to sell over \$3 billion in the absolute finest state-of-the-art military helicopters and other

equipment to the Indian armed forces," he said.

The deals are for 24 MH-60R Multi-Role Helicopters for the Navy worth \$2.2 billion and six AH-64E Apache attack helicopters for the Army worth \$800 million. The other big ticket deals in the pipeline are for armed drones, an air defence system, MK-45 127mm naval guns and six more P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft among others. While these are at various stages of



A deal in the making: An agreement for six more P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft is in the pipeline.

Energy to dominate India-U.S. relations, say experts

It is likely to replace defence as vital link, amid rising American oil imports

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Energy deals are expected to be a key part of discussions between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday, with talks over India's increasing imports of American oil and gas, a clean energy deal including an MoU on building pipeline infrastructure for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) between American oil company ExxonMobil, gas transportation technology company Chart

Industries and PSU Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL).

However, a much-publicised agreement for Indian PSU Petronet to invest \$2.5 billion in American LNG Company Tellurian will not be ready for signing, company officials said. On Monday, Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan met U.S. Secretary of Energy Dan Brouillette for discussions on the upcoming agreements.

"We jointly reviewed the ongoing Strategic Energy Part-

nership between our two countries and agreed to take it to the next level," Mr. Pradhan said in a tweet.

In 2019, India increased its intake of oil from the U.S. to about 1,84,000 barrels per day (bpd), a four-fold jump over 2018, and up from zero imports just four years ago.

Some of the increase is due to the fact that India had to slash imports from Iran and Venezuela under threat of sanctions from the U.S., but officials say the U.S. has tried to compensate by subsidising oil transport costs.

India is now the world's third largest oil importer, and it is estimated that every



Dharmendra Pradhan

\$1 change in the price of oil internationally has a \$1 billion dollar impact on India's energy bill.

Business leaders also say that oil and gas is gaining salience in the relationship.

"Energy will soon take over from defence as the stron-

gest link in the Indo-U.S. relationship," said president and CEO of the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) Mukesh Agnihotri, who hosted Mr. Pradhan and Mr. Brouillette for an energy roundtable on Monday. However, he warned that the U.S. would not continue to subsidise oil transport and logistical costs for India, and India would have to "scale up" its imports to make up the difference.

The Tellurian deal for future LNG imports will not be ready for an agreement during the visit, said a spokesperson. Tellurian's Chairman Charif Souki and

President and CEO Meg Gentle are in Delhi to "progress the discussions with Petro-Net and have had some crucial meetings toward that end," Tellurian spokesperson Jo Leecznar confirmed to *The Hindu*.

While a trade deal under negotiation for nearly two years is not expected to be finalised during the Trump-Modi talks, sources suggest the presence of Mr. Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner – credited with pushing through trade negotiations with China to a Phase-one deal – may also play a role in nudging the India-U.S. trade talks to a conclusion.

Is Trump doing a balancing act on Pakistan?

U.S. President spoke of improving ties with Islamabad at Ahmedabad rally

STANLY JOHNY
CHENNAI

Addressing a huge crowd at the Motera stadium on Monday, U.S. President Donald Trump lauded India's democratic traditions and values, promised to provide the country the "best and most feared military equipment" and reaffirmed the commitment to fight terror together.

The President also referred to Washington's relationship with Pakistan, which he described as "a very good one". "...We are beginning to see signs of big progress with Pakistan," he said.

It is interesting that Mr. Trump chose to reaffirm Washington's improving ties with Pakistan at a public meeting in Ahmedabad with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It may not be an accidental reference.

An irritant
The Trump administration and Islamabad have made sustained efforts in recent months to improve bilateral ties, despite India's earnest attempts to isolate Pakistan over its support for terrorist groups operating from its soil. While both sides sit together for bilaterals on Tuesday, the Pakistan factor may



On the mend: President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Imran Khan meeting in Davos in January. • REUTERS

NEWS ANALYSIS

dependent on Pakistan to shape Afghan politics in the future.

After the February 2019 Pulwama attack and the subsequent dogfight between India and Pakistan, Islamabad has made efforts to charm the Trump administration. When Prime Minister Imran Khan visited Washington in July 2019, Mr. Trump offered mediation between India and Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir crisis – he practically endorsed the Pakistani position as India has always maintained that Kashmir is a bilateral issue.

A few days prior to the visit,

General Mark Milley, the highest ranking officer in the U.S. military, had said U.S. "interests are better served if the country maintains strong military ties with Pakistan". In December 2019, in a move that endorsed Gen. Milley's views, the U.S. decided to resume its military training programme for Pakistan.

Barring the court cases against Jamaat-ud-Dawa chief Hafiz Saeed and his associates over money laundering and terror financing, Pakistan hasn't taken any major hard measure against terror infrastructure in its soil. But by mid-2019, the U.S. had already started changing its approach.

Washington and its allies, along with China, raised no adverse remark on Pakistan during the review meeting earlier this month of the Financial Action Task Force. India has been pushing to blacklist Pakistan, which would invite sanctions to its financial system. But the Beijing review meeting decided against the blacklisting.

The biggest challenge before the Indian side, while pushing to deepen ties with Washington, is to reconcile with the Pakistan factor or find ways to skirt or address it.

Trump wants to prise open economy: CPI(M)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Left parties have said the sole reason for U.S. President Donald Trump's visit is to further exploit the Indian economy.

The CPI(M) Polit Bureau on Monday called upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi not to fall for the unilateral agenda of the U.S.

"The singular intention of the U.S. administration is to further prise open Indian economy to boost the U.S. corporate interest, thus helping in Mr. Trump's re-election bid," it said.

The U.S. agenda, it said, was detrimental to the interests of Indian farmers, since the U.S. allowed its agribusiness to distort prices to out-compete local farmers in developing countries.

The Left parties, along with trade unions and students' unions affiliated to them, staged a protest in New Delhi.

Addressing the protesters, CPI general secretary D. Raja said, "Mr. Trump is the most aggressive right-wing politician in the world today. In the name of America First, his government has been imposing imperialistic, hegemonic policies on the world."

ARULMIGU DHANDAYUTHAPANI SWAMY TEMPLE, PALANI DINDIGUL DISTRICT.
Notice of Procurements through E-Tender
Tender Reference No.01, 02/2019-2020/HRC/ENR
The Temple Administration has decided to procure the following articles through E-Tender. E-Tender will be conducted on 09.03.2020.
S.I.No. Details of Articles EMD Rs.
1. Jaggery Powder (Nattu Sarkkarai) Rs.35,00,000/-
2. Cardamom Rs.5,50,000/-

The Persons who are willing to take part in the E-Tender should contact the Telephone numbers of Arulmigu Dhandaippani Swamy Temple, Palani, i.e., 04545-242236, 04545-247765 or see the Website, <http://tntenders.gov.in>. Further the willing tenderers should quote the rate per kg. And those who are willing to take part in the E-Tender bid should have fulfilled before that the conditions expressed by the temple Administration.

Place: Palani. Date: 24.02.2020 DIPR/1043/Tender/2020 Executive Officer

Date : 20/02/2020

GREEN ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF ODISHA LTD
(A wholly owned subsidiary company of OHPC Ltd)
Regd. Office : OHPC Corporate Office, OSP&W Corporation Building, Janpath, Bhoi Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751022, Tel. 0674-2542922, Fax: 0674-2542102, Email: info@gedcol.com CIN No: U40102OR2013SC016747

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS NO. : GEDCOL/24/2020 DATE: 20/02/2020

Subject: Selection of Solar Company for development of Solar PV rooftop projects in 17 cities in Odisha

Green Energy Development Corporation of Odisha Limited (GEDCOL) hereby invites sealed Bids from prospective bidders for the development of grid connected rooftop solar PV power plants with a proposed capacity of 16,653 MW in various cities in Odisha (Project).

1. The bid documents, including the Request for Proposal (RFP), draft Project Implementation Agreement, draft Power Purchase Agreement, draft Lease Agreement and Project Information Memorandum, can be downloaded from www.gedcol.com - from February 25, 2020 onwards. All notifications, changes, and amendments to the bid documents will be uploaded only on www.gedcol.com.

2. A pre-bid meeting will be held at GEDCOL's office on March 16, 2020, at a time to be notified on www.gedcol.com.

3. Bids must be submitted on or before April 17, 2020, by 1700 hours IST at GEDCOL's office.

4. The technical bids will be opened on April 20, 2020 at 1100 hours IST at GEDCOL's office.

5. The financial bids will be opened upon completion of technical evaluation process at GEDCOL's office within 2 days of notification of the technically qualified bidders. GEDCOL reserves the right, in its absolute discretion and without any obligation or liability, to supplement or change the terms of this notice inviting tenders or at any stage of the bidding process, to accept or reject any or all the bids, to cancel or modify the bidding process, or to vary any or all the terms and conditions, without assigning any reason whatsoever. GEDCOL does not guarantee that this notice inviting tenders will lead to a formal bid process. If GEDCOL initiates a formal bid process and there is any conflict or difference between the terms of this notice inviting tenders and the bid documents, then the bid documents shall prevail for all purposes.

CAD-1000

DIRECTOR
OIPR-04012/11/0022/1920

IN BRIEF

Connecting with tweets in Hindi

NEW DELHI
U.S. President Donald Trump put out a second tweet in Hindi shortly after leaving Motera stadium in Ahmedabad on Monday, saying he and First Lady Melania Trump travelled all the way to India to deliver a special message to Indians.

Virus cases spread outside China

South Korea, Iran and Italy see a jump in infections; WHO says turning point reached in Wuhan

REUTERS
BEIJING/SEOUL

Italy, South Korea and Iran reported sharp rises in COVID-19 cases on Monday, but China eased curbs as the rate of infection there slowed and a visiting World Health Organization team said a turning point had been reached in the epicentre, Wuhan.

The virus has put Chinese cities into lockdown in recent weeks, disrupted air traffic to the workshop of the world and blocked global supply chains for everything from cars and car parts to smartphones.

But China's actions, especially in Wuhan, have probably prevented hundreds of thousands of cases, said the head of the WHO delegation in China, Bruce Aylward, urging the rest of the world to learn the lesson of acting fast.

"The world is in your debt," Mr. Aylward, speaking in Beijing, told the people of Wuhan. "The people of that city have gone through an extraordinary period and they're still going through it."

Mr. Aylward said multiple data sources suggested that the rate of infection in Wuhan was falling. "They're at a point now where the number of cured people coming out of hospitals each day is much more than the sick going in." But he added: "One of the challenges obviously is the strain on the system ... they still have tens of thousands of sick people."

Liang Wannian of the National Health Commission said only that the rapid rise had been halted and the situation was still grim. He said more than 3,000 medical staff had become infected, most of them in Hubei province surrounding Wuhan, probably due to the lack of protective gear and to fatigue. Excluding Hubei,

mainland China reported 11 new cases, the lowest since the national health authority started publishing nationwide daily figures on January 20.

The coronavirus has infected nearly 77,000 people and killed more than 2,500 in China, most of them in Hubei. Overall, China reported 409 new cases on the mainland, down from 648 a day earlier, taking the total number of infections to 77,150 cases as of February 23. The death toll rose by 150 to 2,592.

29 countries affected
Outside mainland China, the outbreak has spread to about 29 countries and territories, with a death toll of about two dozen, according to a Reuters tally.

South Korea reported 231 new cases, taking its total to 833. Many are in its fourth-largest city, Daegu, which became more isolated with Asiana Airlines and Korean Air suspending flights there until next month.

Iran, which announced its first two cases last Wednesday, said it now had 61 cases and 12 deaths. Most of the infections were in the Shia Muslim holy city of Qom.

Elsewhere in West Asia, Bahrain and Iraq reported their first cases, and Kuwait and Oman reported a combined total of five cases involving people who had been in Iran.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Pakistan and Afghanistan imposed restrictions on travel and immigration from Iran. Afghanistan also reported its first case, officials said.

Europe's biggest outbreak is in Italy, with some 150 infections – compared with just three before Friday – and a sixth death.



Global scare: Women wearing masks in downtown Tehran on Sunday. ■AP

Tehran rejects claim of 50 deaths in Qom

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DUBAI

the Qom representative, Ahmad Amirabadi Farahani, is significantly higher than the 47 total cases of infections that state TV had reported just hours earlier.

However, the Health Ministry said total infections rose to 61, but deaths remained at 12.

The new toll reported by

Pakistan quarantines 200 near Iran border

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
QUETTA

coverup in Iran.

In Balochistan province, authorities quarantined more than 200 people after Shiite Muslim pilgrims returning from Iran briefly interacted with other residents. Earlier, Pakistan sealed off its land border with Iran.

Pakistan began quarantining at least 200 people near the Iranian border, officials said on Monday, as fears spiralled over the growing toll from COVID-19 in the region, amid allegations of a

China bans wildlife trade, consumption

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIJING

China on Monday declared an immediate and "comprehensive" ban on the trade and consumption of wild animals, a practice believed responsible for the deadly coronavirus outbreak.

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), the country's top legislative panel, approved a proposal "prohibiting the illegal wildlife trade, abolishing the bad habit of overconsumption of wildlife, and effectively protecting the lives and health of the people," state television reported.

That prohibition after SARS virus killed hundreds in 2002-03 was short-lived.

Weinstein guilty of sexual assault, rape

Disgraced producer was handcuffed and sent to jail, in landmark #MeToo verdict



Justice delivered: Harvey Weinstein, right, entering New York City Criminal Court on Monday in New York City. ■AP

trict Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. said. "Weinstein is a vicious, serial sexual predator who used his power to threaten, rape, assault and trick, humiliate and silence his victims," he added.

Weinstein was convicted

on charges stemming from a 2006 sexual assault and a 2013 rape. The jury found him not guilty on the most serious charges, two counts of predatory sexual assault, each carrying a sentence of up to life in prison.

The jury of seven men and five women took five days to convict him. The most damaging conviction, for the sexual assault of a production assistant, carries up to 25 years behind bars. The rape charge is punishable by up to four years. Sentencing was set for March 11.

Judge James Burke ordered Weinstein taken to jail immediately. Court officers surrounded Weinstein, handcuffed him and led him out of the courtroom without the use of the walker he relied on for much of the trial. The judge said he will request that Weinstein be held in the infirmary after his lawyers said he needs medical care following an unsuccessful back surgery.

Police declined to say if it was an accident or if the driver had deliberately rammed the car into the crowd.

Carnival is hugely popular in western Germany, especially in Rhineland cities such as Cologne and Düsseldorf, where festivities peak on "Rose Monday" with thousands attending street parades featuring comical or satirical floats.

German media said the driver deliberately broke through plastic barriers around the parade area.

Turmoil in Malaysia as PM Mahathir Mohamad resigns

Move comes after allies sought to block Anwar from taking over



Mahathir Mohamad

leader Najib Razak, which was ejected from office two years ago.

Mr. Anwar and Mr. Mahathir put their differences aside and joined forces to take on a corruption-plagued government in the 2018 polls. Mr. Mahathir, who previously served as premier from 1981 to 2003, had made a pre-election pledge to hand power to Mr. Anwar but has repeatedly refused to fix a date.

Shortly before his resignation, Mr. Mahathir's Bersatu party quit the ruling coalition and several lawmakers resigned from Mr. Anwar's party, leaving the Pact of Hope in tatters and fuelling suggestions efforts could be underway to form a new alliance. Mr. Mahathir also quit as Bersatu chairman.

Ibrahim Suffian, who heads independent polling firm Merdeka Centre, said Mr. Mahathir could come back as premier and the crisis may work in his favour. "It gives him an opportunity to reshape the ruling coalition," he said.

The final outcome of the drama was far from clear, however, and analysts said a snap poll could be called.

Assange put lives in danger: U.S.

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

U.S. authorities want to try Mr. Assange on espionage charges that carry a maximum sentence of 175 years in prison over the 2010 publication of hundreds of thousands of secret military documents and diplomatic cables. Mr. Assange argues he was acting as a journalist entitled to First Amendment protection.

Lawyer James Lewis, representing the U.S. government, called WikiLeaks' 2010 document deluge "one of the largest compromises of classified information in the history of the U.S."

"Reporting or journalism is not an excuse for criminal activities or a license to break ordinary criminal laws," he said.

Democrats will stop Sanders, says Trump

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
AGRA

U.S. President Donald Trump predicted on Monday that the Democratic Party leadership would prevent front-runner Bernie Sanders from becoming its candidate.

Mr. Sanders' leftist politics alarm many moderate Democrats, who fear that if he heads the ticket in the election, the party could face sweeping losses.

Mr. Trump has nicknamed Mr. Sanders as "Crazy Bernie" for his socialist policies. "They [Democrats] are going to take it away from 'Crazy Bernie,' they are not going to let him win," he said during a visit to India.

10 injured as car rams into crowd at German carnival

Driver drove into them 'at full throttle'

REUTERS
BERLIN

Ten people were injured on Monday after a car ploughed into a carnival parade in the western German town of Volkmarsen, police said, adding that the driver had been arrested.

Police declined to say if it was an accident or if the driver had deliberately rammed the car into the crowd.

German news website HNA cited witnesses as saying the driver appeared to have deliberately targeted children and had driven into the crowd "at full throttle".

The incident comes less than a week after a man gunned down 11 people, including himself, in one of the worst racist attacks in Germany since the Second World War.

Dirk Richter, police spokesman in the nearby city of Kassel, told Welt TV: "Everything we have available from the Kassel area is there."

Carnival is hugely popular in western Germany, especially in Rhineland cities such as Cologne and Düsseldorf, where festivities peak on "Rose Monday" with thousands attending street parades featuring comical or satirical floats.

German media said the driver deliberately broke through plastic barriers around the parade area.

ELSEWHERE



Human rights under assault globally: UN chief

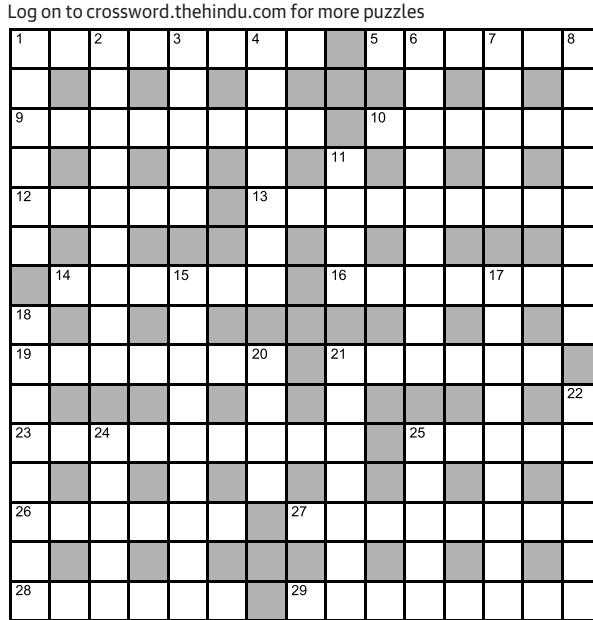
GENEVA
UN chief Antonio Guterres launched a "call to action" on Monday against rising attacks on human rights, highlighting political polarisation, the persecution of minorities in many countries and "alarming levels of femicide". AFP

Voting begins to find Corbyn replacement

LONDON
Members of Labour party began voting on Monday for a new leader to replace leftist Jeremy Corbyn. Brexit spokesman Keir Starmer is the front-runner. Rebecca Long-Bailey and Lisa Nandy are also in the fray. AFP

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12867

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



ACROSS

- 1 Pots providing extra support (8)
- 5 A treaty curtailed by governor of tribe (6)
- 9 Negligent, left engineer amidst stroke (8)
- 10 Multi-car collision at eastern rim (6)

To play an interactive version of this crossword online, scan the QR code

(set by Lightning)

- 12 One that is proper, at first painful and insensitive (5)
- 13 Long story about second gemstone belonging to bishops (9)
- 14 Not enough to mark chapter on electromotive force (6)
- 16 Fit sailor, wearing headgear, left with energy (7)
- 19 France correct to confiscate electronic goods (7)
- 21 Everyone entering autonomous program for a ticket (6)
- 23 Can't meet at sea without new law (9)
- 25 Mysterious saint returns with quickness (5)
- 26 Theme of article about royal flier (6)
- 27 Are vents designed for old people? (8)
- 28 Mislead American man around oriental lake (6)
- 29 Initial element of problem incomplete with old information (8)
- 30 Greed is only withholding inventor (6)
- 31 Unusual sensation before attack at a mountain range (5)
- 32 Fleece quiet listener (5)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

No. S54655 Distribution: www.lightningfeatures.com

Solution to puzzle 12866 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

S	B	A	E	J	C	A
M	O	M	D	A	N	C
N	T	W	A	R	V	R
I	G	U	N	A	C	R
G	U	A	N	T	Y	A
B	A	L	I	N	E	S
A	L	I	N	E	C	A
R	S	D	A	L	F	E
C	O	S	I	C	R	O
M	A	A	M	A	M	A
M	H	T	L	E	P	I
S	U	P	L	A	D	E
N	U	S	E	A	I	I
K	I	G	M	S	C	L
T	I	N	O	S	A	S

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12867

FAITH

Dangers of gambling

The Mahabharata has many messages for us. One of them is that we should never gamble, said V.S. Karunakarachari in a discourse. The Mahabharata story had its origin in the unwise act of Yudhishtira, who gambled everything away, including his family. He not only gambled, but his bet was with a trickster. Yudhishtira staked his family in the gamble, and this was what led to a whole chain of unfortunate events in the lives of the Pandavas, ultimately culminating in the Kurukshetra war.

For every story there is some precursor. At the core of the Mahabharata story lies a warning about the dangers of betting. This is seen in another story, in the Adi Parva of Vyasa's Mahabharata. Here the story of Kadru and Vinata is told. The two were sisters, married to sage Kashyapa. Kadru was the cunning one, while Vinata was naive. One day, the two sisters saw Uchaisravas, the divine horse. Vinata remarked on how white the horse was. Kadru saw in this remark an opportunity to torment her sister. So, she said, "It is white all over, but has a black tail." She also challenged Vinata and said that if Vinata were proved wrong, then she would have to be Kadru's slave. The clever Kadru asked her sons, who were all snakes, to drape themselves around the tail of the horse, to make it appear black. When the sons did this, the tail appeared black, and Vinata had to admit that her sister was right. Vinata then became Kadru's slave. She was ill-treated by Kadru, and until her powerful son Garuda rescued her, she remained a slave.

In agreeing to Kadru's bet, Vinata made a grave mistake. We should not think of ourselves as slaves to anyone. We are the servants of Lord Narayana alone. That is perfectly natural. Enslavement to anyone else is wrong.

MARKET WATCH

	24-02-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	40363	-1.96
US Dollar	71.98	-0.47
Gold	44474	2.18
Brent oil	55.7	-6.57

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	362.25	-8.60
Asian Paints	1818.95	-23.30
Axius Bank	725.45	-18.85
Bajaj Auto	2980.50	-85.00
Bajaj Finserv	9466.90	-242.80
Bajaj Finance	4902.95	-76.50
Bharti Airtel	529.90	-15.70
BPCL	464.65	-7.10
Britannia Ind	3036.20	-23.20
Cipla	430.15	-5.60
Coal India	174.85	-4.50
Dr Reddys Lab	3176.30	-79.00
Eicher Motors	17949.95	-898.70
GAIL (India)	116.80	-2.50
Grasim Ind	724.90	-26.40
HCL Tech	595.15	-12.90
HDPC	2292.30	-77.20
HDPC Bank	1209.95	-7.15
Hero MotoCorp	2184.20	-56.05
Hindalco	179.05	-10.90
Hind Unilever	2215.15	-33.10
ICICI Bank	529.85	-17.15
IndusInd Bank	1170.25	-11.95
Bharti Infralet	215.95	-10.25
Infosys	795.85	-1.15
Indian Oil Corp	110.55	-1.75
ITC	203.00	-1.65
JSW Steel	258.95	-22.85
Kotak Bank	1678.25	-7.70
L&T	1259.70	-20.90
M&M	513.20	-11.65
Maruti Suzuki	6470.40	-287.20
Nestle India Ltd.	16337.25	-202.25
NTPC	109.70	-1.65
ONGC	98.05	-4.75
PowerGrid Corp	186.10	-3.15
Reliance Ind	1444.95	-41.00
State Bank	322.95	-4.70
Sun Pharma	397.85	-7.10
Tata Motors	150.65	-7.85
Tata Steel	415.45	-28.10
TCS	2115.35	-41.45
Tech Mahindra	820.10	-9.50
Titan	1279.90	-42.95
UltraTech Cement	4395.00	-33.10
UPL	573.25	-11.10
Vedanta	133.20	-9.15
Wipro	244.20	-1.50
YES Bank	34.95	-0.50
Zee Entertainment	249.10	-7.70

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.79	72.11
Euro	77.67	78.01
British Pound	92.60	93.05
Japanese Yen (100)	64.48	64.77
Chinese Yuan	10.21	10.25
Swiss Franc	73.22	73.55
Singapore Dollar	51.20	51.43
Canadian Dollar	54.03	54.28
Malaysian Ringgit	16.97	17.06

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

Retail Silver (1g)	53.3	(52.4)
22 ct gold (1 g)	4166	(4072)

SEBI tweaks margining system

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI
The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has tweaked the margining framework for stocks in the cash and derivatives segment.

As part of the review, the capital markets regulator has divided stocks in the cash segment into three categories based on liquidity to ascertain the so-called value at risk (VaR) margin.

Further, the extreme loss margin has been fixed at 3.5% for any stock, and 2% for exchange traded funds (ETFs) that track broad-based market indices. In the derivatives segment, the regulator has tweaked the methodology for parameters like volatility calculation, calendar spread charge, extreme loss margin and price scan range, among other things.

HUL to form wholly owned subsidiary

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI
Hindustan Unilever Limited, the country's largest pure play fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) company, has decided to form a wholly-owned subsidiary.

The Board of Directors of Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) today approved a proposal to form a new 100% subsidiary of Hindustan Unilever Limited," a stock exchange statement said on Monday.

"This company will be incorporated with an authorised share capital of ₹2,000 crore. This new subsidiary has been formed to leverage the growth opportunities in a fast-changing business environment and will help HUL in becoming more agile and customer-focused," it added.

COVID-19 scare drags equities

ICICI Bank, HDFC among top losers in Sensex pack; Nifty down over 2%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

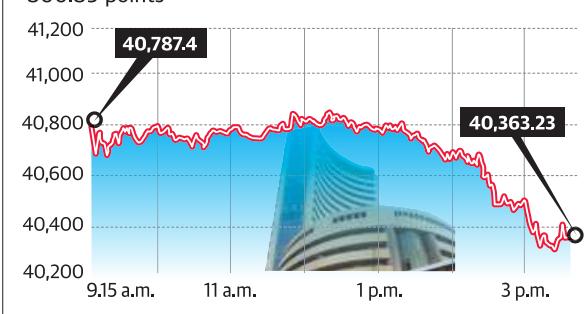
Indian benchmark equity indices lost around 2% on Monday amid an overall weak trend in most markets, as investors remained jittery over concerns related to the global impact of coronavirus outbreak after South Korea reported a rise in the number of cases.

The 30-share Sensex, which opened lower compared to Friday's close, traded in the red for the complete trading session on Monday before closing at 40,363.23, shedding 806.89 points or 1.96%. This was just a tad above the day's low of 40,306.36.

Heavyweights fall
The subdued sentiment could be further gauged from the fact that the Sensex pack saw all 30 stocks losing ground, with heavyweights like ICICI Bank, HDFC, Titan, Maruti Suzuki, ONGC and Tata Steel all losing more than 3% each on Monday.

Fear factor

The 30-share Sensex traded in the red for the complete trading session before closing at 40,363.23, shedding 806.89 points



The overall market breadth was also quite weak, with more than 1,700 stocks ending the day in the red, as against less than 750 gainers.

The broader Nifty lost a little over 2%, or 242.25 points, to close at 11,838.60. The India VIX index, which is considered to be a measure of short-term volatility, jumped nearly 26% in a single session on Monday.

Elsewhere in Asia, Kospi of South Korea lost nearly 4%

on Monday, while the benchmarks of Hong Kong, Taiwan and Indonesia among others lost over 1% each.

Investor sentiments hit
Domestic brokerage major IIFL, in a note to its clients, said that the Asian markets traded weak primarily on account of South Korea reporting a rise in the number of coronavirus cases, which was hurting investor sentiments, with equities bearing

the maximum brunt.

"The number of cases in China are seeing a fall, however panic in markets is seeing selling exaggerate as investors turn cautious," the note stated.

On Monday, South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed an additional 70 cases of coronavirus even as some countries in the Middle East like Bahrain and Kuwait reported their first coronavirus cases. "Globally equity markets are unnerved by the spread of coronavirus to countries beyond China and neighbouring countries to Middle East and Europe now," said Gaurav Dua, Head - Capital Market Strategy & Investments, Sharekhan, adding that the growing risk aversion was clearly visible in the sudden spike in safe haven assets like gold.

Gold futures jumped more than 2%, or nearly \$36 per ounce, on Monday with the precious metal trading at around \$1,685 an ounce.

Dow slumps 866 points in early trade

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK

U.S. stocks fell sharply Monday, following a sell-off in overseas markets, as a surge in virus cases and a worrisome spread of the disease outside China sent investors running for safety. The Dow Jones Industrial Average slumped 866 points, or 3%, to 28,127, giving up all of its gains for the year. The S&P 500 index skidded 2.7%. The Nasdaq fell 3.1% as of 11:07 a.m.

More than 79,000 people worldwide have been infected by the new coronavirus. China, where the virus originated, still has the majority of cases and deaths. But, the rapid spread to other countries is raising anxiety about the threat the outbreak poses to the global economy.

Germany's DAX slid 4% and Italy's benchmark index dropped 5.9%. South Korea's Kospi shed 3.8% and markets in Asia fell broadly.



Rajnish Kumar

Meanwhile, Microsoft India has announced a collaboration with SBI Foundation to create opportunities for youth living with disabilities, in the banking, financial and insurance sectors.

As a part of the joint effort, Microsoft and SBI Foundation will develop an artificial intelligence-powered market place that will enable the banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) industry to more easily connect with people living with disabilities for skill development and employment opportunities.

Banks' profitability remains fragile, says Das

Telecom sector poses challenge; overhang of non-performing assets remains relatively high

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

While the Indian banking sector may be slowly turning around on the back of improvement in asset quality, its profitability remains fragile, Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das said.

He also said that banks continued to face challenges like the present crisis in the telecom sector.

"In terms of recent progress, the Indian banking sector is slowly turning around on the back of improvements in asset quality with enhanced resolutions through the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). Despite the recent decline in impaired assets and a significant improvement in provisioning, profitability of the banking sector remains fragile," Mr. Das said at an event.

According to Mr. Das, the overhang of non-performing assets (NPAs) remains rela-

tively high, which is weighing on credit growth.

"Also, in view of subdued profitability and deleveraging by certain corporates, risk-averse banks have shifted their focus away from large infrastructure and industrial loans towards retail loans," he said, adding that this diversification strategy, while helpful as a risk mitigation tool, had its own limitations.

He also said sector-specific pockets of stress needed policy attention.

"At the same time, proper due diligence and risk pricing in lending is of prime importance so that the health of the banking sector is not compromised while ensuring adequate flow of credit to productive sectors of the economy," Mr. Das said.

On the issue of resolution of asset quality, the RBI Governor expects to have an integrated framework for resolution of financial firms operating in India, in the near future.

On consolidation in public sector banks, he said a properly worked out consolidation of PSBs can generate synergies in allocation of workforce and branches.

"The focus has to be on ushering in significant improvements in efficiency and rationalisation of scarce capital to meet the capital ade-

quate requirements," he said. As far as regulation of banks was concerned, he said the RBI was focussing on a sharper and more forward-looking off-site surveillance framework, apart from on-site supervision.

On non-banking finance companies, he said, recognising the systemic importance of such entities and their inter-linkages with the financial system, the RBI had taken steps and the asset-liability management (ALM) position and other aspects of top 50 NBFCs were being closely monitored, covering all NBFCs with asset size above ₹5,000 crore.

The ALM of top 51-100 NBFCs was also being examined by the respective regional offices of the Reserve Bank, he added.

He reiterated that the RBI would issue draft guidelines on corporate governance in banks.

The source confirmed that Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and Tata Teleservices, who have made some payments of their dues to the government, were among those who would be asked to provide substantiating documents to support their AGR dues.

However, the source, added that the companies have not been given a deadline to do so.

The source said that this exercise would be done only for firms doing a self-assessment.

"If someone agrees with DoT's calculation then we don't need to do it," the source added.

The source said that this exercise would be done only for firms doing a self-assessment.

"We have asked all operators who have said they are doing a self-assessment of their statutory dues to give us supporting documents. We will then get these test checked in a time-bound manner," a government official, who did not want to be named, said.

The source confirmed that Bharti Airtel,

The coconut water repertoire

SANGEETHA DEVI DUNDOO

Coconut water is among the best thirst quenchers in the sweltering months. But there's more. Did you know that coconut water can be the base material to develop alternative leather?

A little known Kerala-based start-up 'Malai Biomaterials Design' courted spotlight a few days ago when it won the second edition of Circular Design Challenge (CDC) at Lakme Fashion Week (LFW), Mumbai. The CDC was instituted a year ago to recognise those who employ innovative methods to recycle discarded materials to create new products.

Malai Biomaterials Design manufactures a water resistant bio-composite material that looks like leather, using raw materials such as coconut water and banana fibre.

Founded by Zuzana Gombosova, a material researcher from Slovakia, and C. S. Susmith, a product designer from Kerala, the start-up now supplies its vegan leather called 'Malai' (named after the coconut flesh) to a few international labels.

The CDC had more than 400 registrations from 40 cities in India, and five entrepreneurs were short listed. Zuzana and Susmith admit that they were pleasantly surprised to find themselves among the final nominees. In an email interview, they tell us that their surprise also stemmed from learning about the work of the other nominees in sustainable fashion. "To initiate and run such a project, you need determination and patience. I think our project was distinctive in a way that it went further with finding a solution to waste generation. We try to prevent waste generation by providing a material that doesn't turn into waste. Malai is



How Zuzana Gombosova and C. S. Susmith's start-up Malai Biomaterials Design developed alternative leather from coconut water, and won the Circular Design Challenge at Lakme Fashion Week

a circular material by default. It emerges from agricultural waste and ends its life becoming a nutrient for soil," says Zuzana.

What goes into Malai? "Bacterial cellulose (that's developed from coconut water), fibre from banana stem, sisal fibre and hemp fibre," state Susmith and Zuzana. They also use natural dyes, natural gums and starches.

The firm liaises with coconut farmers and processing units, collects and re-purposes coconut water to feed the bacteria's cellulose production. A small coconut-processing unit can collect around 4,000 litres of water per day, which can be used



to make 320 square metres of Malai.

Both Zuzana and Susmith were working in Mumbai when they first met. "She told me about the possibility of growing bacterial cellulose on water from mature coconuts and I found that interesting because nobody makes this kind of product in Kerala or India," recalls Susmith.

They began experimenting in their kitchen and then moved to the vicinity of a coconut processing unit where they developed the material further. "Malai emerged as an attempt to create material based on

bacterial cellulose that's ecologically friendly and usable for commercial products. Our criteria was to keep it as sustainable as possible, both environmentally and socially," he adds.

Their mainstay is the material, Malai, which is now supplied to brands such as U.K.-based Ethical Living, Czech Republic firm Playbag and Riti in India, among others.

In 2018, Malai expanded its portfolio by designing product prototypes. A crowd-funding campaign was mooted and 10 products – bags and accessories included – are now in production. "We will be stocking some of these products at a few retailers in India and abroad soon. But our main focus is on material development," they state.

They hope that the win at LFW will bring them more visibility in the fashion and lifestyle sector and help them reach a wider audience. They will be showcasing their new collection at LFW Winter/Festive 2020 and at Neomt Berlin 2020, the international fair for sustainable fashion.

The fashion spotlight aside, Zuzana and Susmith intend to begin a new phase of research and development, and test the first batch of Malai products with their users.

Sustainability remains at the core of their ideology. As Susmith puts it, "We have to constantly remind ourselves that we are borrowing from nature and we are bound to return it back to nature in a form that nature can use." He describes the work at Malai Biomaterials Design (madefrom-malai.com) as a mix of art, craft, design, science and engineering.

Waste to fashion
(Clockwise from top)
The making of Malai, Zuzana Gombosova and C. S. Susmith, a few product prototypes

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



#DELHIMOVES

Physiotherapists, the new trainers

A growing number recreational athletes are turning to physiotherapists for their training plans

ANANT KAUR

If you're thinking of starting a sporting activity, even if for leisure, the first thing you ought to be mindful of, is endurance.

"Runners or cyclists...over a period of time are involving every muscle of their bodies to produce [and sustain] that effort. So, they need to be confident and fit in their core and in proprioceptive areas. So, all components of fitness – nutrition, endurance and strength – have to be addressed before starting these kinds of activities," says Dr. Anshu Gulati, a senior physiotherapist at Sports Injury Centre, Safdarjung Hospital (SIC).



Good advice (From left) At the SIC; Suresh Srinivasan (black outfit) at a run • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



ing forward," says Dr. Prathi, who ran in a 100km ultra trail race last November.

For the long haul

Three years ago, an avid cyclist Tarundeep Singh, 31, suffered a tendon tear in his left shoulder after falling off his cycle. "I was about to start allopathic treatment. But therapy and rehab exercises helped me get back to cycling within two months," he says adding "the more we do any physical activity the more we need a physio's advice, as we are pushing our limits."

Physiotherapists are also looking into metabolism analysis to understand how many calories you are burning per kilometre of activity. Then, accordingly, they suggest food plans too.

Given all this, Both Singh and Srinivasan agree that physio consultants add a "long term benefit" to performance. More importantly, they help in reinforcing the importance of pre- and post-activity stretches and cool down exercises, an undervalued part of training when training as an amateur.

way.

For instance, for runners with an ankle or knee injury, are advised against "load-bearing" physical activity, says Dr. Badrinath Prathi, Head Sports Physiotherapist at the DDCA. Instead, they are advised "unloading" activities, like swimming and walking.

To this end, consulting a physiotherapist – professionals at an accessible midway point between medical professionals and coaches or trainers – is now proving fruitful for those engaging in recreational sports.

Injury management

Physiotherapists like Dr. Prathi also stress on regular medical assessments, on which they can follow up. "Checking on vitamin deficiencies, full body screening to get the idea of basic risk factors and muscular skeletal movement, is crucial," he says.

"We re-assess every three months – the person need not be in pain to go through this process.

"Compliance" between a physio and the patient helps in achieving consistent performance, says Dr. Gulati. "If a cyclist is going for a long

ride and doesn't want to get his knees injured, then it is our responsibility to provide him with preventive measures," she says.

Preventive measures that a cyclist, for example, can take to avoid injuries include working on their flexibility, core strength, and doing mobility exercises.

"The seat height of the cycle should be adjusted according to length of the limb too," Prathi adds. "They have to do opposite mobility exercises like back and neck strengthening in the cool down process, as the cyclists are always bend-

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



MUSIC

Sufi voices
India Habitat Centre, in collaboration with Cosmic Art Foundation, is hosting an evening of Sufi music conceptualised by Ustad Amjad Khan. Nazareth Raza, a Sufi musician and composer, also a disciple of Ustad Salamat Ali Khan and Ustad Nazakat Ali Khan, will regale the audience with his unique voice range.

VENUE: The Stein Auditorium, IHC

TIME: 7 p.m.



PAINTINGS

On canvas
The Raza Foundation and Vadehra Art Gallery have jointly organised Known Unknown, an exhibition of contemporary artists at Shridharan Gallery. Curated by Amitava Das, the show presents a range of acrylic on canvas and mixed media on paper. The participating artists include Arindam Chatterjee and Yashwant Deshmukh.

VENUE: Triveni Kala Sangam, Mandi House

TIME: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.



FOOD

Unlimited lunch
The Asian food court Malacca is offering an unlimited sushi and dimsum lunch till Thursday. The menu has a variety of sushi such as Shitake Mushroom, Chicken Tempura, Prawn Tempura, Teriyaki, served with the choice of dimsums like Penang Tofu, Basil Chicken, Black Bean and Pok Choy. A choice of cocktails are also available.

VENUE: Sector 15 Part 2, Gurugram

TIME: 12 noon- 4 p.m.



EXHIBITION

Mixed media
An ongoing exhibition titled Confluence: Beyond Boundaries, showcases artworks by Jang Hee Mun and Devendra Shukla. It is a combination of painting, sculpture, and installation where both artists use semi-abstract forms inspired by the energy and images in nature, the environment and the human body.

VENUE: Korean Cultural Centre, Lajpat Nagar IV

TIME: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



GIG

Pop acts
The Piano Man, Gurugram is hosting Krishna & Kaushik live tonight. A Delhi-based singer and designer Krishna Vinod covers a variety of genres including indie-folk, jazz, neo-soul and R&B. Her music is influenced by bands like Winehouse, Etta James and John Mayer. Kaushik Manikandan is a Bengaluru-based multi-instrumentalist.

VENUE: Sector 15 Part 2, Gurugram

TIME: 9 p.m. - 11:55 p.m.

PLACES

Where beauty means business

As Naturals salon turns 20, founding couple Veena and Kumaravel discuss expanding their Chennai-based, pan-India brand overseas



When they launched their first beauty parlour Naturals in the year 2000, founders Veena and Kumaravel did not foresee that their brand would grow leaps and bounds, with close to 650 salons in India and overseas. "When we ventured into this business, it was considered a taboo industry. Honestly, we did not expect such exponential growth, and I had no plans to go beyond eight or 10 branches within Chennai. The market grew, thanks to the IT industry that was booming. Grooming gained prominence among the IT and MNC employees. From occasional visits to parlours, we had youngsters who visited regularly," says Veena Kumaravel, founder of Naturals, which celebrated its 20th anniversary recently.

The salon chain adopted the franchise model in 2006, and now has about 650 outlets in India. They plan to make it 700 by the end of the year and then aggressively expand to 3,000 by the time they are ready to celebrate their silver jubilee. "We have expanded our operations overseas as well, beginning in Sri Lanka and later in Malaysia and Dubai. We are now entering into a joint venture with Kerala

Ayurveda and launching Naturals Ayur (Ayurvedic beauty and grooming) on the occasion of our 20th year," she says. Such a collaboration enables the launch of Naturals Ayur in Europe, UK and USA, as the element of Ayurvedic beauty and wellness has a lot of appeal in the West, says Veena.

The strength of the brand, says Kumaravel, is their unrelenting focus on empowering women.

"Transforming homemakers into successful entrepreneurs and job providers has been our mission over these years," he says. "And our franchise model was a tremendous success because of our centralised training facility that we had established on the outskirts of Chennai, where we train new recruits and upgrade our staff," Veena says.

The salon chain, that started off as a women-only parlour, transformed into a unisex parlour in 2005.

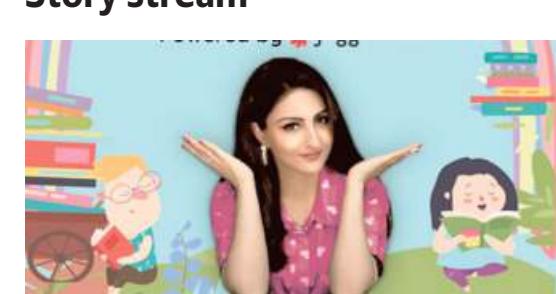
The founders have now also launched a beauty and wellness college, where courses will be offered in accordance with the Beauty and Wellness Sector Skill Council (BWSSC), Government of India.

"In our country, training in beauty and wellness was possible only by way of apprenticeship. Such qualifications in beauty and wellness will soon be seen as being as valuable as any professional degree. Training centres will be established across the country in order to create career avenues for youth," Kumaravel says. Veena adds that the company has taken quality and professionally-run beauty parlours to second and third-tier towns in India, and resulting in employment opportunities there.

CHITRADEEPANA ANANTHARAM

PLAY

Story stream



Juggernaut Books is producing an audio show for children in partnership with Hubhopper, a producer of audiobooks. The show, called Storytime with Soha Ali Khan will include eight stories by Indian author like Neha Singh, Roopa Pai, Deepa Agarwal, and Meera Ganapathy, all read by the actor. The titles include *The Watermelon God, Uma Vs Upma, Night Before Christmas, Night of the Doberman, Hanuman, Girl in the Garden, The Great Shoe Problem, and The Rumour*. The idea behind the initiative – which has publishers like Pratham Books, HarperCollins, Karadi Tales also participating – is to get children interested in reading and storytelling. The show will run for two months starting from the 28th of February, with a new story being released every Friday.

Story Time with Soha Ali Khan is available on Hubhopper.com

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in



GIG

Pop acts
The Piano Man, Gurugram is hosting Krishna & Kaushik live tonight. A Delhi-based singer and designer Krishna Vinod covers a variety of genres including indie-folk, jazz, neo-soul and R&B. Her music is influenced by bands like Winehouse, Etta James and John Mayer. Kaushik Manikandan is a Bengaluru-based multi-instrumentalist.

VENUE: Sector 15 Part 2, Gurugram

TIME: 9 p.m. - 11:55 p.m.

AN-NOE

DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

When Delhi-based Kavita Kataria, a budding mommy-blogger of GoodThingsGrow, recalls the moment she decided to create a dedicated Instagram account for her then-one year-old daughter Myrah, she explains, "I decided to make one on her first birthday. When she turned one, everyone called to wish but were complaining that they haven't met her yet, saying that I should share more pictures and videos of her. So I thought, why not make an account for her and add friends and family?" To help save data on her smartphone, the account became a means to keep record of her child's journey as she grew up. "This way, not only will everyone see her life journey, but we will be able to see her grow on a single platform. It was a private account at first. Then, a few kids accounts contacted us to ask if they could feature her cute pictures on their page, so we made it public."

But soon the account was pulled down and, in a panic, the young parent took to Facebook and asked her friends why this happened and if she could recover the account. There are no official statistics stating the number for this somewhat new breed of public parent-run social media accounts or 'sharenting' – where posts have a first-person narrative of the child.

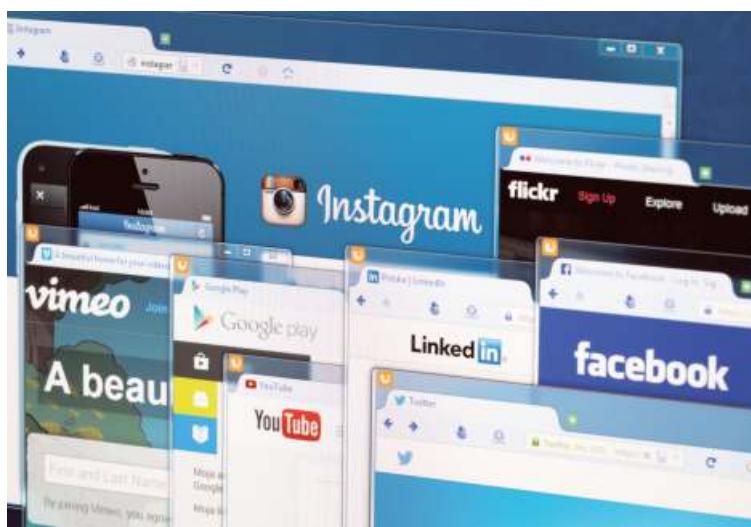
Situations like this often trigger larger debates, touching on darker themes of over-exposure, exploitation and identity crises, citing parents to be the biggest violators of their children's privacy. Age restriction is one aspect, but it is worth considering the actual choice of digital citizenship, and that children should be informed detailedly of what being on the Internet entails.

Power of choice

While it is quickly assumed that most children today are online natives, should they not decide for themselves if they have an online presence or an account? Kavita responds, "[If Myrah does not want an account], we will happily remove it. I am making this to treasure best memories of her for her, because, she will never have time to go through the tens of thousands of videos and pictures we take of her. But if she has any issues, then we will delete it." Complications do

Why are 2000s parents often cited the biggest violators of their children's digital privacy?

The 'SHARENT' trap



arise as the child grows older, especially when consent has not been given.

Tara Bedi, Public Policy and Community Outreach Manager at Instagram, explains that the Facebook-owned platform is quite strict, and is quick to shut down accounts which do not comply with their Community Guidelines. "[Like TikTok, Facebook and YouTube], we require everyone on Instagram to be at least 13 years

KNOW YOUR POLICY

While actually posting to social media is a freedom of expression, the usage of a child's data can be stonewalled to an extent. In India, the **Personal Data Protection Bill 2019** still requires an effective gating system. The PDP Bill considers any person below the age of 18 a child, in line with Indian laws on the age of majority. And with 'sharenting' there is a clear loophole when the data is posted by an adult.

For reference, we can look at the **European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**, which affords some protection of children in the information industry, which introduces the so-called "right to erasure" or "right to be forgotten". In January 2020, the UK ICO published an **Age Appropriate Design Code**, which is a set of 15 standards that online services should meet to protect children's privacy.

old before they can create an account. If someone sees an account that they think is run by someone under 13, they can report it to us. We will disable accounts we find that are run by people under 13 years old. We do allow parents or representatives, for example managers, to have an account representing someone who is under 13 as long as it is clear in the bio information that the account is run by the parent or representative."

Turn to resources

There is a large amount of information available to parents, but these resources are not discussed as frequently as they should, given the rapidly changing digital space. Tara agrees, "This is why [Instagram] created a resource centre for parents, where they can access a host of resources, including a Parents Guide. We also [have] an Indian version of the guide in partnership with the Cyber Peace Foundation, Delhi, and 'It's Ok To Talk', a mental health or-

When is too much? The trend of sharenting has grown as more social media rollouts occur • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

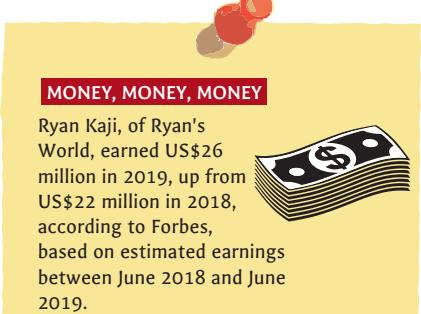
ganisation, to support parents, as they help their children build healthy online habits, talk about powerful tools within Instagram that can help them filter bad comments and manage how much time they spend on the platform."

A March 2016 study 'When the Child is Born into the Internet: Sharenting as a Growing Trend among Parents on Facebook' by Anna Brosch explains, "The most popular type of embarrassing pictures of children shows them nude or semi-nude. Of the 113 accounts [surveyed], 77.9% of the parents posted 411 photos of this kind. Admittedly, they were usually taken during bath or on the

Situations like this often trigger larger debates: over-exposure, exploitation and identity crises

beach and basically concern children under three years of age, but even then they should not be exposed to public viewing." Then there is the fear of that data getting into the wrong hands.

This does not apply to just Instagram; TikTok, YouTube and Facebook pages are densely populated with parent-run child accounts who also monetise on their content. Popular child accounts include the bank-breaking toy-reviewing Ryan's World on YouTube and twin sisters Mila and Emma on Instagram. TikTok has numerous resources for parents, guiding them through privacy, commenting restrictions, restricting duets and digital well-being. YouTube and Google often hold offline discussion seminars about newer policies, as children's safety became a priority for the platform last year.



POOCH CAFE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



TIGER



WUMO



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



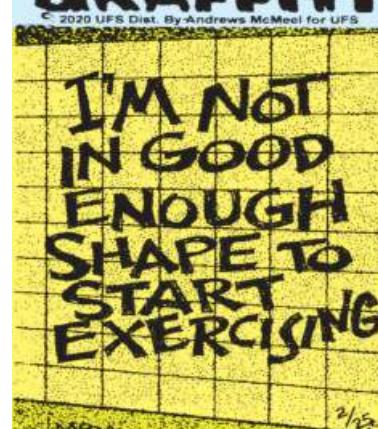
PEANUTS



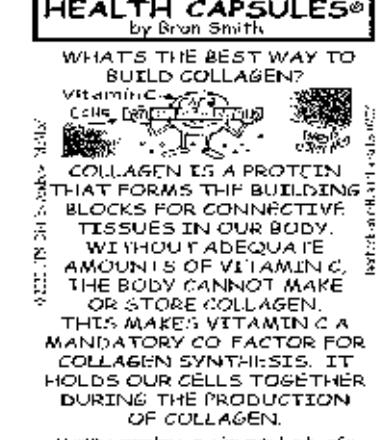
CALVIN AND HOBBES



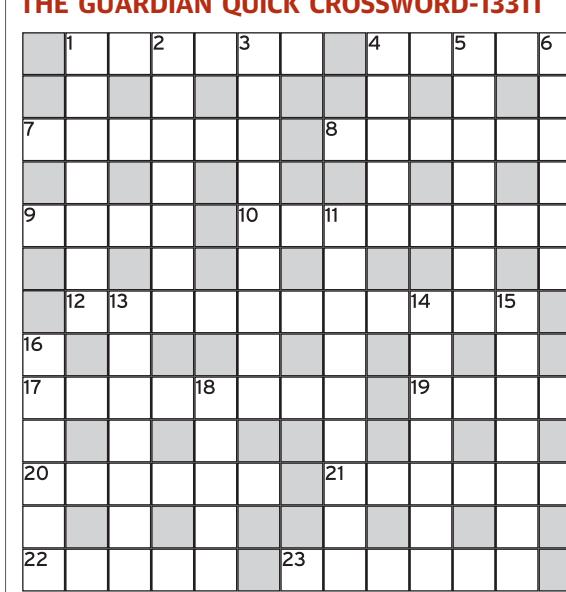
GRAFFITI



HEALTH CAPSULES



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13311



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- Across
 - 1 Calculate (6)
 - 4 Make less clear (5)
 - 7 (Of a job) allocate to someone (6)
 - 8 Large cave (6)
 - 9 Stage area out of sight of the audience (4)
 - 10 Failed to listen correctly (8)
 - 12 Killing oneself (6,2,3)
 - 17 Unquestioning (6,2,3)
- Down
 - 1 Temporary relief (7)
 - 2 Recoiled in fear (7)
 - 3 Emollients (9)

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

- 4 Disagree violently (5)
- 5 Protective garment worn over ordinary clothes (7)
- 6 Clear so that nothing is left (6)
- 11 Swim naked (6-3)
- 13 Place of complete bliss (7)
- 14 Clap (7)
- 15 Liquid preparations for the skin (7)
- 16 Choose not to take part (3,3)
- 18 Indigenous Greenlanders (5)

The solution will appear on February 26, 2020.

Solution No. 13310

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

100 says the icing on New Zealand's victory cake

Southee and Boult combine to inflict an emphatic 10-wicket defeat on India, bring up a milestone win

INDIA IN NZ

S. DINAKAR
WELLINGTON

New Zealand's 100th Test win, driven typically by team spirit, fittingly arrived at the Basin Reserve, the soul of the country's cricket really.

And the feat, an emphatic 10-wicket win against fancied India, arrived in the 100th Test of one of New Zealand's favourite cricketing sons, Ross Taylor. The icing on the cake really.

As for the Indians, they were blown away at windy Wellington.

Ruthless

Ruthless and clinical on the fourth morning of the first Test, New Zealand required just 16 overs to send back the last six Indian batsmen.

Tim Southee scalped five, and Boult four. Southee was adjudged Man-of-the-Match for his nine wickets in the match.

Four of the wickets on Monday were prised out with the old ball, then Southee scalped two in his first over with the new one as India hurtled to 191 all out.

Openers, Tom Latham and Tom Blundell, knocked off the nine runs required without fuss. New Zealand had clinched the first Test, taking its points to 120 in the World Test Championship. India stays on 360.

The pitch offered some movement and the New Zealand attack posed searching questions, but the Indian batsmen could have put up greater resistance.



All at sea! Vihari's dismissal mirrors India's abject surrender in the first Test. ■ GETTY IMAGES

and assess a batsman underlines their cricketing nous.

There was much planning about every batsman here and the execution, was often, spot-on. They gave little away, bowled in partnerships, created pressure and were backed by a sensational bunch of fielders.

A fine pair

Talking about partnerships, they seldom come better than Boult and Southee. It's a left-right pair of contrasts and similarities that has now featured in 28 of New Zealand's Test victories.

Both are swing bowlers who induce the batsmen into drives around the off-stump to find the edges or bring the ball back, or surprise them with well-directed short-pitched deliveries.

It was clever bowling by Boult on the fourth morning, when he went round the wicket and got a delivery to angle into Ajinkya Rahane and then straighten up. The edge was snaffled up gleefully by keeper B.J. Watling.

Then, Southee set up Hanuma Vihari brilliantly. Two out-swingers were followed by an in-swinger. Vihari playing for the out-swinger saw the ball zipping back to hit off-stump.

Southee then unleashed a full and straight delivery to trap R. Ashwin leg-before. The batsman chose not to review the decision and was right.

At the other end, Rishabh Pant was playing his brand of strokeplay, swinging pacem men fine for boundaries.

However, he kept losing partners. Ishant Sharma, put down twice, once at short



SCOREBOARD

INDIA – 1ST INNINGS: 165.
NEW ZEALAND – 1ST INNINGS: 348.

INDIA – 2ND INNINGS

Prithvi Shaw c Latham b Boult 14 (30b, 2x4), Mayank Agarwal c Watling b Southee 58 (99b, 7x4, 1x6), Cheteshwar Pujara b Boult 11 (81b, 43b, 3x4), Ajinkya Rahane c Watling b Boult 29 (75b, 5x4), Hanuma Vihari b Southee 15 (79b, 2x4), Rishabh Pant c Boult b Southee 25 (41b, 4x4), R. Ashwin lbw b Southee 4 (11b, 1x4), Ishant Sharma lbw b de Grandhomme 12 (21b, 2x4), Mohammed Shami (not out) 2 (3b), Jasprit Bumrah c sub b Southee 0 (3b); Extras (w-2): 2. Total (in 81 overs): 191.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-27 (Shaw, 7.4 overs), 2-78 (Pujara, 31.6), 3-96 (Mayank, 38.4), 4-113 (Kohli, 45.2), 5-148 (Rahane, 67.2), 6-148 (Vihari, 68.3), 7-162 (Ashwin, 72.3), 8-189 (Ishant, 79.2), 9-191 (Pant, 80.3).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING

Southee 21-6-61-5, Boult 22-8-39-4, de Grandhomme 16-5-28-1, Jamieson 19-7-45-0, Ajaz 3-0-18-0.

NEW ZEALAND – 2ND INNINGS

Tom Latham (not out) 7 (4b, 1x4), Tom Blundell (not out) 2 (6b); Total (for no loss in 1.4 overs): 9.

INDIA BOWLING

Ishant 1-0-8-0, Bumrah 0.4-0-1-0.

Man-of-the-Match: Tim Southee.

Second Test

■ Feb. 29–March 4, Christchurch

We let ourselves down with the bat, says Kohli

S. DINAKAR

WELLINGTON

Virat Kohli's furrowed brows told the tale. The India skipper's body language could not mask the pain of defeat.

As skipper of the World No. 1 Test team he takes pride in his side's performances overseas. India, though, was swept aside by New Zealand at the Basin Reserve.

Blunt and direct

Kohli was blunt and direct, he did not make excuses.

Kohli said the team had not been competitive enough. He recalled how the team had fought all the way even in matches it had lost.

"But I think we let ourselves down massively with the bat in the first innings. If we had got 230 or 240 we would have given our bowlers a chance," he said. "You could say the toss played a big role, but that's an uncon-

trollable, so you can't focus on that."

Kohli said India had not been at its best in this Test. "Only if we accept this, we will come out in the next game with a much better mind-set and much more competitive."

The captain felt shot-selection was very important in these conditions. Kohli said the New Zealand bowlers got into the minds of the batsmen – bowling with accuracy, fielders around the bat.

"You have to hit past those fielders and therein lies the risk. This pitch was slow and on the drier side. So we weren't able to get our shots away," he said.

Deceptive scores

Given his potential, Kohli was willing to give Prithvi Shaw more time.

flect how you are batting and that can happen when you don't execute what you can well."

Kohli said India needed to block all the noise from outside [criticism] and approach the Christchurch Test with a

clear mind-set. And the batsmen had to take responsibility. It was more a mental thing than technical, he said.

A fine all-round effort: Williamson

Lauds pacemen who executed the 'choke the Indians' plan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WELLINGTON

Grace and dignity are the two words that sum up Kane Williamson as captain.

In victory or defeat [remember the excruciatingly painful World Cup final setback] these qualities shine through in this marvellous cricketer.

Level-headed

A captain and a leader of men, Williamson was typically level-headed after a crushing 10-wicket win over India. No bold talk, just common sense.

The Kiwi skipper said,

"We know the quality of India and what they bring all around the world. We were aware of that challenge but were trying to focus on the areas that were important to us – our plans, our roles."

Williamson said, "Our

performance, across the board, was a very good one on a surface that I thought created a good balance between bat and ball.

"There were handy contributors with the bat too, it was a really brilliant all-round game for us."

He complimented his pacemen. "These guys, especially this morning, put the ball in the right areas. There wasn't the sort of wind that we expect here in Wellington but we got a bit of shape and created opportunities. Throughout the match there was something [in the pitch] to keep us interested."

On the Kiwi plan to 'choke' the Indian batsmen, he said, "You're always trying to execute a plan and the bowlers were superb which allowed you to put fielders in areas where you could create something."

"It's always nice to put a guy somewhere and have them hit it there and you get a wicket."

Williamson said, "The lower-order partnerships were quite important to get that 183-run lead. Those late cameos really helped."

Making things happen

On employing the short ball successfully, Man-of-the-Match Tim Southee said, "Neil [Wagner] usually does that for us and he is a great exponent of it. Without him, it was about trying things when the game was sitting in balance and not much was happening."

Southee said, "Being a swing bowler helps, and being able to swing the ball is always handy when it is windy."

Swing was the theme at the Basin.



Downcast: Kohli's men trod off the field after losing the first Test. ■ GETTY IMAGES

Shafali and Poonam shine bright as Women in Blue register second successive win

The opener blasts 39 off just 17 deliveries while the leg-spinner puts the skids on Bangladesh's chase

T20 WORLD CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Leg-spinner Poonam Yadav delivered yet again with timely dismissals to lead India to a comfortable 18-run win over Bangladesh in their ICC Women's T20 World Cup match at the WACA ground here on Monday.

Invited to bat, a substantial partnership eluded it after a fiery start, but India still managed to post a competitive 142 for six.

India was off to a flying start with opener Shafali Verma (39 off 17 balls) coming out all guns blazing in the Group A game.

However, the Indian innings never got the impetus after the departure of the 16-year-old, who hit four sixes and two fours in her entertaining knock. Later, Veda Krishnamurthy (20 off 11) hit a few lusty blows to help India post a fighting total.

Bangladesh fought through Murshida Khatun (30) and Nigar Sultana (35), but Poonam rattled the middle and lower order.

In the end, Bangladesh could manage 124 for eight, giving India its second straight win in the tournament.



Wrecker-in-chief, again: Poonam Yadav spun a web around the Bangladesh batters. ■ GETTY IMAGES

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Taniya Bhatia st Nigar b Salma 2 (5b), Shafali Verma c Shamima b Panna 39 (17b, 2x4, 4x6), Jemimah Rodrigues run out 34 (37b, 2x4, 1x6), Harmanpreet Kaur c Runama b Panna 8 (11b, 1x4), Deepita Sharma run out 11 (16b), Richa Ghosh c Nahida b Salma 14 (14b, 2x4), Veda Krishnamurthy (not out) 20 (11b, 4x4), Shikha Pandey (not out) 7 (9b); Extras (lb-1, w-6): 7; Total: (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 142.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-16 (Taniya 1.5 overs), 2-53 (Shafali, 5.3), 3-78 (Harmanpreet, 9.6), 4-92 (Jemimah 13.2), 5-111 (Richa, 16.2), 6-113 (Deepita, 16.5).

BANGLADESH BOWLING

Jahanara 4-0-33-0, Salma 4-0-25-2, Nahida 4-0-34-0, Panna 4-0-25-2, Runama 2-0-8-0, Fahima 2-0-16-0.

BANGLADESH

Shamima Sultan c Deepita b Shikha 3 (8b), Murshida Khatun c Richa b Arundhati 30 (26b, 4x4), Sanjida Islam c Taniya b Poonam 10 (17b), Nigar Sultana c Arundhati b Shafali 35.

tough for Bangladesh.

Bangladesh needed 49 runs from last five overs, but it failed to negotiate Poonam's flighted deliveries.

The Indian spinner had Fahima caught by Shafali in the first ball of the 16th over

INDIA BOWLING

Deepita 4-0-32-0, Shikha 4-0-14-2, Rajeshwari 4-0-25-1, Arundhati 4-0-33-2, Poonam 4-0-18-3.

Toss:

Bangladesh.

Player-of-the-Match:

Shafali.

India won by 18 runs.

NEXT ASSIGNMENT

India vs New Zealand

February 27

Melbourne, 9.30 a.m.



She means business: Opener Shafali Verma came out all guns blazing, giving India a flying start. ■ GETTY IMAGES

Bangladesh needed 22 off the final over.

Pacer Shikha Pandey clean bowled Runama Ahmed with a perfect yorker and never gave anything away.

Earlier, Shafali punished the Bangladesh attack with a flurry of shots. However, attempting another big one, she skied one off veteran Panna Ghosh and was caught at mid-off. This was after fellow opener Taniya Bhatia (2) was sent back by Salma Khatun.

Jemimah Rodrigues played a sedate yet crucial 34-run knock since hard-hitting skipper Harmanpreet Kaur was already dismissed by Panna.

TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m.
Bangladesh vs Zimbabwe: Only Test, SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 9 a.m.
Khelo India University Games: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 11.30 a.m.
ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Ten 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

IN BRIEF



Yash Fadte wins French junior squash

MUMBAI Yash Fadte of Goa won the prestigious French junior open championship at Lille on Sunday. Top-seeded Fadte defeated second-seeded Marek Panacheck of the Czech Republic 10-12, 11-5, 11-4, 11-5 in the final. On his way to the final, Fadte beat Lian Keeling (Sui) 3-0, Baptiste Bouin of France 3-0 and Toufik Mekhafli of France 3-2. PTI

Nitin overcomes Uddayvir

NEW DELHI Nitin Jaipal Singh overcame a bout of cramps before beating fourth seed Uddayvir Singh 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 in the boys' quarterfinals of the Roland Garros junior wild card tennis tournament on the clay courts of the DLTA Complex on Monday.

The results (quarterfinals):

Boys: Dev Javia bt Rudra Pratap Bhatt 6-1, 6-0; Nitin Jaipal Singh bt Uddayvir Singh 2-6, 6-4, 6-4; Chirag Duhani bt Ajay Malik 6-4, 6-3; Mohit Bondre bt Krishan Hooda 6-4, 7-5.

Girls: Reshma Maruri bt Nikita Vishwase 6-2, 6-4; Sanjana Srimalla bt Sandeep Singh Rao 6-2, 6-2; Vaishnavi Adkar bt Sarah Dev 6-3, 6-3; Akanksha Nitture bt Vanashika Choudhary 6-3, 6-2.

Mikel Artega hails Aubameyang

LONDON Mikel Artega admitted Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang has erased any doubts about his commitment after the Arsenal captain led by example with a double in its win against Everton on Sunday. AFP

Gowtham spins Karnataka to victory

His seven-wicket haul helps the visitors bundle out Jammu & Kashmir for 163

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
JAMMU

In the end, it was comfortable for Karnataka, a 167-run win that sealed its spot in the semifinals of the Ranji Trophy.

Set an improbable target of 331 in 58 overs, Jammu and Kashmir folded for 163 on the fifth afternoon at the Gandhi Memorial Science College. K. Gowtham took seven for 54, swiftly ending a run chase that the batting side was never really going to take seriously.

Karnataka will now face Bengal, in Kolkata from February 29, for a place in the final.

Monday's events, though, felt like a formality. All the air had been sucked out of the contest on the previous afternoon, when Karnataka stole the first-innings lead from under the opponent's noses.

On the final morning, the touring side was already ahead by 259 runs, and it was merely a question of when and not if.

Siddharth falls for 98
K.V. Siddharth, who was 75 overnight, fell two short of



Too hot to handle: K. Gowtham celebrates one of his seven wickets. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

what would have been a third First Class hundred. It was the softest of dismissals, Siddharth driving Abid Mushtaq straight into the hands of the short-midwicket fielder. The 27-year-old batsman was later declared man-of-the-match; nobody would have grudged him a hundred here.

Karnataka was bowled out

for 316 at the stroke of lunch. What little interest there was in J & K's pursuit evaporated quickly, when K. Gowtham packed off Shubham Khajuria and Abdul Samad in the 11th over.

In reality, Parvez Rasool's men knew they had squandered their chances on day four. In the days, weeks and months ahead, they will

wonder what might have been. Five more minutes of measured batting, two more overs of composure, one more calm head, and things may have turned out differently.

The scores: Karnataka — 1st innings: 206.

J & K — 1st innings: 192.

Karnataka — 2nd innings: R. Samarth c Rashid b Mujtaba 6, Samad 3-0-17-0, Suchith 2-1-10.

Devdutt Padikkal c Pundir b Rasool 34, Karun Nair b Mushtaq 15, K.V. Siddharth c Nazir b Mushtaq 98, Manish Pandey c Henan b Rasool 35, Sharath Srinivas lbw b Mushtaq 10, K. Gowtham st Rashid b Mushtaq 4, J. Suchith c Raina b Rasool 4, A. Mithun c Rashid b Mushtaq 10, Ronit More (not out) 1, Prasidh Krishna b Mushtaq 0; Extras (nb-1, b-4, lb-2): 7; Total (in 10.5 overs): 316.

Fall of wickets: 1-53, 2-79, 3-177, 4-223, 5-275, 6-283, 7-295, 8-313, 9-316.

J & K bowling: Nabi 11-3-25-0, Mujtaba 12-1-44-1, Nazir 10-0-52-0, Rasool 34-5-88-3, Mushtaq 34-5-10-83-6, Samad 3-0-17-0, Henan 2-1-10.

Jammu & Kashmir — 2nd innings: Shubham Khajuria c Sharath b Gowtham 30, Suryansh Raina b Prasidh 12, Henan Malik lbw b Gowtham 7, Abdul Samad c Suchith b Gowtham 2, Parvez Rasool b More 2, Shubham Pundir c Raina b Gowtham 31, Faizil Rashid c Raina b Suchith 11, Abid Mushtaq c Mithun b Gowtham 5, Aquib Nabi lbw b Gowtham 26, Mujtaba You-suf (not out) 11, Umar Nazir c Sharath b Gowtham 24; Extras (b-1, lb-1, 2): Total (in 44.4 overs): 163.

Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-46, 3-48, 4-53, 5-53, 6-93, 7-98, 8-106, 9-131.

Karnataka bowling: Mithun 4-0-18-0, Prasidh 5-0-21-1, Gowtham 18-4-6-54-7, More 5-1-30-1, Suchith 12-1-38-1.

RANJI TROPHY QUARTERFINAL SCORES

At Tangi: Bengal 332 & 373 in 138 overs (Avi Barot 54, Vishvaraj Jadeja 46, Arpit Vasavada 48, Prerak Mankad 85, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 60, Jyoti Saikrishna 4/74) drew with Andhra 136 & 149/4 in 51 overs (K.S. Bharat 55 n.o.). **Saurashtra won on first innings lead.**

Jammu: Karnataka 206 & 316 in 106.5 overs (R. Samarth 74, K.V. Siddharth 98, Abid Mushtaq 6/83) bt Jammu & Kashmir 192 & 163 in 44.4 overs (K. Gowtham 7/54).



Ongole: Saurashtra 419 & 426 in 138 overs (Avi Barot 54, Vishvaraj Jadeja 46, Arpit Vasavada 48, Prerak Mankad 85, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 60, Jyoti Saikrishna 4/74) drew with Andhra 136 & 149/4 in 51 overs (K.S. Bharat 55 n.o.). **Saurashtra won on first innings lead.**

Semifinal line-up: February 29 to March 4: Gujarat vs Saurashtra (Rajkot); Bengal vs Karnataka (Kolkata).

It was pretty tricky: Karun

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAMMU

Karnataka has been involved in a fair few close games this Ranji Trophy season. The scorecard here may suggest that the margin between Karnataka and Jammu & Kashmir was large, but in reality the game turned on one little passage of play.

"It was pretty tricky for us," Karun Nair admitted afterwards. "They were 107/2 at one point (in the first innings). To come back from there was really commendable. Everyone chipped in when it was required. We got that crucial lead which eased that pressure. It was a slight relief," he said.

Rasool took pride in J & K's Ranji Trophy campaign. "We lost only two out of 10 matches all season," he said. "We won six games in the league stages. Even here, we dominated for two days. To bowl out a mighty team like Karnataka for 206 is a great effort. People travelled 300km from Srinagar to watch us here. That matters to us."

would be different this time. "They were close games and we just fell on the wrong side both times. Hopefully we'll be third time lucky," he said.

Meanwhile, J & K skipper Parvez Rasool felt inexperience had cost his side. "From 192/7 to 192 all out...it was just a little inexperience that cost us. I felt Karnataka had given up at that point. If we had taken even a small lead, we would have dictated terms," he said.

Rasool took pride in J & K's Ranji Trophy campaign. "We lost only two out of 10 matches all season," he said.

"We won six games in the league stages. Even here, we dominated for two days. To bowl out a mighty team like Karnataka for 206 is a great effort. People travelled 300km from Srinagar to watch us here. That matters to us."

Unafraid of big teams'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

TANGI Manoj Tiwary, who has played for Bengal for more than 15 years,

pressure, keeps everybody on his toes. We are bonding well, even dining together every night," he said.

Even while missing Ashoke Dinda, Tiwary said the presence of some players made a difference. "Arnab's (Nandi) return, inclusion of Akash (Deep), Mukesh (Kumar) and (Ishan) Pore getting experience are some of the important factors."

"Two spinners (Shahbaz Ahmed and Nandi) can bat as well. It helps in team combination, although we are missing out on a fast bowling all-rounder."

Tiwary said a pool of players was ready to serve the team. "Agniv Pan, Kazi Junaid Saifi, Sudip Gharami are some of the players for the future. I am sure spinners Pradipta Pramanik and Amir Gani will return to the side. I am confident trophies will come to Bengal," he said.



Unwelcome sight: Workers pull the covers over the pitch as rain threatens. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

Odisha — 1st innings: 250.

Bengal — 2nd innings: Koushik Ghosh b Sarangi 41, Abhimanyu Easwaran c Ranjit sub b Poddar 30, Abhishek Raman c Dhuper b Poddar 67, Manoj Tiwary lbw b Debabrata 6, Anustup Majumder c Shantanu b Poddar 10, Shreevats Goswami lbw b Chahan 78, Shahbaz Ahmed c Chahan b Suryakant 64, Arnab Nandi b Sarangi 45, Mukesh Kumar lbw b Debabrata 6, Ishan Pore (not out) 0, Nilkantha Das b Suryakant 0; Extras (b-14, lb-9, nb-2, w-1): 26. Total (in 138 overs): 373.

Fall of wickets: 1-60, 2-76, 3-97, 4-115, 5-217, 6-273, 7-351, 8-361, 9-373.

Odisha bowling: Suryakant 27-46-2, Basant 16-7-21-0, Debabrata 28-6-69-2, Chahan 22-0-70-1, Poddar 31-6-95-3, Sarangi 13-2-26-2, Shantanu 1-0-2-0.

Odisha — 2nd innings: Anurag Sarangi (not out) 24, Shantanu Mishra (not out) 14; Extras (b-1): 1. Total (for no loss in 10 overs): 39.

Bengal bowling: Nilkantha 5-1-20-0, Mukesh 5-0-18-0.

Man-of-the-Match: Anustup Majumder.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Rajarajeswari Nagar Division, BBMP Office, Near Chowdeshwari Bus Stop, Mathikere, Bengaluru-560 054.

Date: 24.02.2020

No: EE/RRND/TEND/17/2019/20

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

(TWO COVER SYSTEM) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer (Rajarajeswari Nagar Division, Rajarajeswari Nagar Zone), on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP invites Bids for the following Services from Reputed Consultants. Consultancy for Project Management including Supervision Quality Control for the Work of Nava Nagarothana Grants-2018-19 in RR Nagara Constituency (09 Works). Shown as Under through e-procurement portal www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sl. No.	Name of Assignment	Project Cost (In ₹ lakhs)	Max. Consultancy Fees (In ₹. lakhs)	EMD (In ₹.)
1. Ward No.16	Comprehensive Development of Roads & Drains in Rajarajeswari Nagar, Assembly Constituency under Package-2019-20 RRN-DIV-(01).	1100.00	11.00	27,500/-
2. Ward No.129	Comprehensive Development of Roads & Drains in Rajarajeswari Nagar, Assembly Constituency under Package-2019-20 RRN-DIV-(02).	1700.00	17.00	42,500/-
3. Ward No.38	Comprehensive Development of Roads & Drains in Rajarajeswari Nagar, Assembly Constituency under Package-2019-20 RRN-DIV-(04).	1700.00	17.00	42,500/-
4. Ward No.69	Comprehensive Development of Roads & Drains in Freedom Fighter Colony, Muneshwara Nagar, Chamundeshwari Nagar, Rajeshwari Nagar, Rajiv Gandhi Nagar and Surrounding areas in Ward No.69 Laggere under Package -2019-20 RRN-DIV-(05).	1750.00	17.50	43,750/-
5.	Comprehensive Development of Roads & Drains in Narasimhaswamy Layout, Bhyaraweshwara Nagar, Lavakusha Nagar and Surrounding areas in Ward No.69 Laggere under Package -2019-20 RRN-DIV-(06).	1200.00	12.00	30,000/-
6.	Comprehensive Development of Roads & Drains in Sunkadakatte, Madduramma Badavane, Srinivasanagar, Chowdeshwari Nagar, Kottigepalya and Surrounding areas in Ward No.73 under Package -2019-20 RRN-DIV-(07).	1000.00	10.00	25,000/-
7.	Comprehensive Development of Roads & Drains and footpath in Yeshwanthpura Ward No.37 under Package -2019-20 RRN-DIV-(11).	1100.00	11.00	27,500/-
8.	Comprehensive Development of Roads & Drains in Ward No.42 of BBMP under Package -2019-20 RRN-DIV-(12).	1000.00	10.00	25,000/-
9.	Improvements to Rakshasi Halla in between survey no.1,2,4&5 in Ward No.69 Annexure 7 Sl No.1	2500.00	25.00	62,500/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Request for Proposal (RFP) documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal from **26.02.2020** (2) The Last Date for Submission of Completed Documents is on **07.03.2020** before 4:00 pm. (3) Pre Bid Meeting held on **29.02.2020** at 4:00 pm onwards @ Office of the Chief Engineer, RR Nagara Zone, Ideal Home, RR Nagara, Bengaluru (4

Barca visits Napoli with a Messi boost

Lampard will look to maintain Chelsea's defensive solidity against Bayern Munich

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

AGENCIES

The Champions League is back this week with the remaining four first-leg matches in the round of 16. On Tuesday, LaLiga champion and current top-spot holder Barcelona will hope to shrug off negative off-field incidents when it visits Napoli.

In the other match of the day, Frank Lampard's Chelsea will host Bayern Munich.

Lionel Messi is back in top form going into the game, giving Barcelona extra hope. Coach Quique Setién said the team carries good momentum entering the match against Napoli, which has won six of its last seven matches in all competition under coach Gennaro Gattuso, who admitted he was losing sleep ahead of the clash.

"Don't make me think, leave me alone," urged Gattuso after the win over Brescia in the Serie A. "It's a competition I'll lose sleep over, but on the other hand I almost never sleep now," continued the 42-year-old.

Bayern coach Hansi Flick was keen to check out his options in the win over Paderborn on Friday.

Alphonso Davies dropped back to help Hernandez, with Alvaro Odriozola on the other side. Benjamin Pavard



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TONIGHT 1:30 AM

CHESSEA FC VS FC BAYERN MUNICH

SSC NAPOLI VS FC BARCELONA

LAST 16, 1ST LEG - FEB 25 CL form W D L

CHELSEA v BAYERN

Stamford Bridge Head-to-head Won 1 Drawn 2 Won 1

11 / 9 Form Goals for / against 24 / 5

Competition statistics (per match)

6.17 Shots on target 10.7

7.17 Shots wide 7.67

467 Passes 619

7.17 Corners 10.3

55% Possession 63%

NAPOLI v BARCELONA

Stadio San Paolo Head-to-head First meeting

11 / 4 Form Goals for / against 9 / 4

Competition statistics (per match)

3.33 Shots on target 5.33

7.00 Shots wide 4.17

423 Passes 581

4.83 Corners 4.33

50% Possession 57%

GERMAN EFFICIENCY: Bayern only seventh team to qualify from group stage after winning all six matches – finishing as tournament top scorers, with 24 goals

Perfect group stage records

Finish

2015 Real Madrid ESP Semi-final

2012 Real Madrid ESP Semi-final

2003 Barcelona ESP Quarter-final

1996 Spartak Moscow RUS Quarter-final

1995 Paris St. German FRA Semi-final

1993 AC Milan ITA Final

Sources: UEFA, Gracenote Picture: Getty Images © GRAPHIC NEWS

AWAY DAYS: Bayern undefeated in 12 away ties in Europe, since loss to PSG in group stage in 2017

Bayern: Away record in Champions League

W51 L39 D31

© GRAPHIC NEWS

Serge Gnabry Bayern attacking midfielder hit four-goal haul against Tottenham in group stage

a selection trial.

Top guns

Korea and Germany will have as many as 41 and 37 shooters respectively while Kazakhstan (28), Italy (25), United States (21), Singapore (18) and Russia (16) are the other big teams in terms of number of shooters.

The World Cup in Delhi, featuring rifle, pistol and shotgun, will feature 566 shooters from 70 countries.

There will be 861 starts overall, including the mixed events and shooters competing in more than one event.

Asian Games gold medalist Rahi Sarnobat, Olympian Annu Raj Singh and Manu Bhaker find themselves in the main team as they figure in the top three in rankings.

Chinki had slipped following two poor scores in the National championship and

apart from the season ending World Cup Finals.

The World Cup gains significance for the Indian shooters, not just because of the presence of those from other countries who have qualified for the Olympics, but also because it would serve as the final event before the Indian squad for Tokyo is finalised.

The Indians have won 15 Olympic quota places, but the National federation has the responsibility of fielding the best shooters in filling up those Olympic quotas.

Even though the selection

policy of the National federation had categorically stated that all the Olympic quota winners would automatically compete in the Delhi World Cup, Chinki Yadav, who won an Olympic quota in the 25m sports pistol event, finds herself in the MQS section, and not in the regular team.

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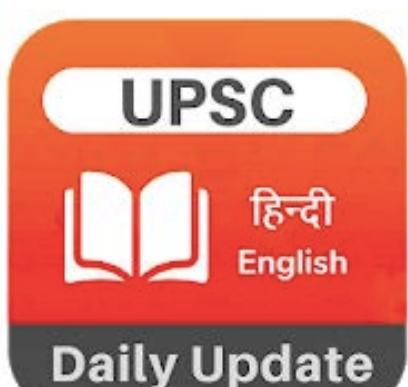
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