



Three killed as goods trains collide in Madhya Pradesh
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Death toll in Meghalaya clashes rises to three; curfew extended
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Boult & Co. hit back after Kiwis concede lead to India in second Test
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NEARBY



Police presence stepped up at Shaheen Bagh
NEW DELHI
Heavy police presence and barricading were seen in Shaheen Bagh on Sunday after a right-wing group, Hindu Sena, gave a call to clear the road where anti-CAA protesters have been staging a sit-in since December 16. The Delhi police said they stepped up deployment around the protest site as a "precautionary measure".
CITY ▶ PAGE 2

Polish student in Kolkata told to leave India

KOLKATA
Kamil Siedcynski, a student of Masters in Comparative Literature at Jadavpur University in Kolkata, has been asked to leave India for "anti-government activities". The Foreign Regional Registration Office, under the Union Home Ministry, handed the notice to Mr. Seidcynski asking him to leave India within 15 days for violating the terms of his visa.
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EDUCATIONPLUS ▶ PAGES 17 & 18

No minority in Bengal will lose citizenship due to CAA: Shah

Provocative slogans raised by BJP supporters in Kolkata ahead of public rally

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Kolkata witnessed hectic political activity on Sunday, with Home Minister Amit Shah assuring a public rally that "no minority will have to leave" the country owing to the new Citizenship Act, while a march of BJP supporters set off shock waves as they raised the incendiary 'Goli Maro Salan Ko' (Shoot the traitors) slogan in the heart of the city.

Speaking at a public rally at the Shaheed Minar Ground, Mr. Shah emphasised that fear was being spread among sections of the population over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA). He added that "no minority from Kolkata or West Bengal will lose citizenship because of the CAA".

The Minister reiterated that the CAA is a law to give citizenship, not to take it away. "The refugees are being made to fear that they will have to produce documents. Nothing of this sort will happen. Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains do not need any documents," he said.

He added that by opposing a law passed in Parliament, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was disrespecting the founding fathers of the Constitution.

Speaking about the upcoming Assembly election in



Strong assurances: Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressing a pro-CAA rally in Kolkata on Sunday. ▪ AFP

West Bengal in 2021, Mr. Shah claimed that the BJP would form the next government in the State with a two-thirds majority.

Mr. Shah also launched a campaign targeted at the alleged "misrule" of the Trinamool Congress government. The campaign titled 'Aar Noy Anyay' (No more injustice) is aimed at countering the Trinamool's 'Didi ke Bolo' (Tell Didi) campaign launched last year.

CPI(M) blames Mamata

The provocative slogans at the BJP rally, held before Mr. Shah's public meeting, sparked a storm of condemnation from parties across the political spectrum, including the Trinamool, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Congress.

Ms. Banerjee for the incident and called for "a march" of all democratic forces on Monday.

CPI(M)'s leader of the Left parties in the Assembly Sujan Chakravarty, said, "The slogan has now been imported to Bengal, courtesy Mamata Banerjee. We don't have the government of Jyoti Basu and Buddhadeb Bhattacharya and Shah could easily introduce the slogan."

Demanding the arrest of BJP supporters participating in the rally, CPI(M) leader Md. Salim appealed to "all democratic forces" to join Monday's rally against the BJP.

day's rally against the BJP.

TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee tweeted that "rather than coming and preaching in Bengal", Mr. Shah "should have explained and apologised for failing to save more than 50 innocent lives in Delhi."

Kolkata witnessed sporadic protests through the day against Mr. Shah's visit. In Chittaranjan Avenue, close to the BJP's rally venue of Shabid Minar, CPI (M) and the Congress supporters were involved in a scuffle with the police as they waved black flags and held up placards and posters reading "Go Back Shah". Both parties and a coalition of more than 10 parties will participate in Monday's march.

Australia and Thailand reported their first deaths on Sunday, while the Dominican Republic and the Czech Republic recorded their first cases.

Italian authorities announced that the number of people infected in the country had surged 40% to 1,576 in 24 hours, and five more

people had died, bringing the death toll there to 34.

Iran, Iraq, Italy and South Korea, among other places, saw the number of infections rise.

More than 87,000 people worldwide have been infected, and nearly 3,000 have died.

Cases in the U.S. climbed to at least 72, with the first death inside the country reported on Saturday – a man in his 50s in Washington who had underlying health problems but hadn't travelled to any affected areas.

"Additional cases in the United States are likely, but healthy individuals should be able to fully recover," Pre-

Fears rise as COVID-19 cases, deaths hit new high

Number of infections in Italy rises by 40% to 1,576 in 24 hours

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PARIS



Safety measures: A Chinese boy undergoing screening at an ITBP quarantine facility in New Delhi on Sunday. ▪ PTI

sident Donald Trump said at a Saturday briefing.

Uptick in China

China, where the outbreak began two months ago, on Sunday reported a slight uptick in new cases over the past 24 hours to 573, the first time in five days that the number exceeded 500. The new figures represent 11 more deaths than reported on Saturday and 385 new cases.

Pakistan's Interior Ministry said it was closing its border with Afghanistan for a week amid the virus outbreak. Pakistan has confirmed four cases, while Afghanistan has confirmed one case.

British health authorities said the number of people confirmed as infected rose by 12, bringing the country's tally to 35, with one death. Most of the new cases involved people who had been in Italy or Iran.

Iran's death toll from CO

VID-19 climbed to 54, as the number of confirmed cases jumped overnight by more than half, to 978 people. The new figures represent 11 more deaths than reported on Saturday and 385 new cases.

South Korea reported 210 additional cases and two more deaths from the virus, raising its total to 3,736 cases and 20 fatalities. South Korea has the second-largest number of infections outside mainland China, with most of the cases in Daegu and nearby areas.

GLOBAL EMERGENCY ▶ OPED

Situation eases in city; police quell rumours

False alarm of fresh violence briefly created panic in some areas in the evening

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

No fresh cases of violence were reported in the national capital on Sunday, a week after clashes erupted in the northeastern areas.

Rumours of fresh violence briefly created panic in some areas in the evening but the Delhi police quickly quelled them.

Stating that unsubstantiated reports of tension in the south-east and west district were being circulated on social media, police said: "It is to reiterate that these are all rumours. Don't pay attention to such rumours. Delhi Police is closely monitoring accounts spreading rumours and taking action."

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, which announced the closure of entry and exit gates of seven Metro stations due to "security reasons", reopened them within 45 minutes.



Violence aftermath: A burnt house after the riots at Khajoori Khas, in Delhi on Sunday. ▪ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

including arrested persons.

'No rioting calls'

"We have received no PCR calls of rioting in the last four days. Situation is normal and under control in all violence-affected areas," said Mr. Randhawa.

During the day, traffic was plying and several stores, which had been shut for a

week, reopened in the riot-hit north-east district of the capital.

With a reduced deployment of security personnel, many residents ventured out of their homes for the first time. Shop owners reported that goods for sale were in short supply and some stores had reportedly hiked up prices.

The crowd outside GTB Hospital's mortuary, however, showed no sign of thinning with families still desperately trying to locate "missing" relatives.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted: "We're putting best efforts. I am personally trying to ensure that relief reaches each person in need. Our aim is to bring their life back on track. We want people to return to their homes and be welcome by their neighbours [sic]."

MORE REPORTS ON ▶ PAGES 2, 3 & 13

Pope expels convicted Kerala priest

STAFF REPORTER

KANNUR

Pope Francis invoked special powers to expel Kerala priest Robin Vadakkanchery, who was sentenced to 20 years rigorous imprisonment in the Kottiyoor rape case, from all priestly duties and rights.

The Thalassery POCSO court had sentenced the priest to rigorous imprisonment in three cases in February 2019, which set off the process of removing him from the priesthood.

The diocese of Mananthavady in Wayanad submitted a detailed report to Vatican on the trial and conviction in April last year and initiated action against the priest in June.

Four more bodies pulled out from drains in north-east Delhi

None identified yet; no information on five missing persons

SAURABH TRIVEDI

NEW DELHI

A week after riots broke out in the city, the police on Sunday pulled out four more bodies from drains in north-east Delhi. Despite the recovery of the bodies, the death toll that stood at 42 on Saturday has not been officially revised.

The police received a PCR call at 8.20 a.m. about a body in the Bhagirathi drain. Later in the afternoon, a second body was fished out from the same drain, the police said, adding that the third body was recovered from a drain near the Gokulpuri police station. The fourth body was pulled out from a drain in Shiv Vihar.

The bodies have been shifted to GTB Hospital for post-mortem. The nature of injuries are not clear. None of the recovered bodies have been identified so far," said a senior police officer.

Another police officer said between February 23 and 25, a total of 44 people were reported missing from the riot-affected areas of north-east Delhi. Of them, five are still untraceable while the rest have either returned home or are reported among the injured or killed in the riots.

"Hamza, 19, a resident of Old Mustafabad, is missing since the violence on February 26. We went to the police station but the policemen misbehaved with us and asked us to leave. We are running from pillar to post to get information about him," said Aarif, brother-in-law of Hamza. Similar is the case of Ayub, who is missing since February 24 from near his house in Mustafabad.

The bodies have been shifted to GTB Hospital for post-mortem. The nature of injuries are not clear. None of the recovered bodies have been identified so far," said a senior police officer.

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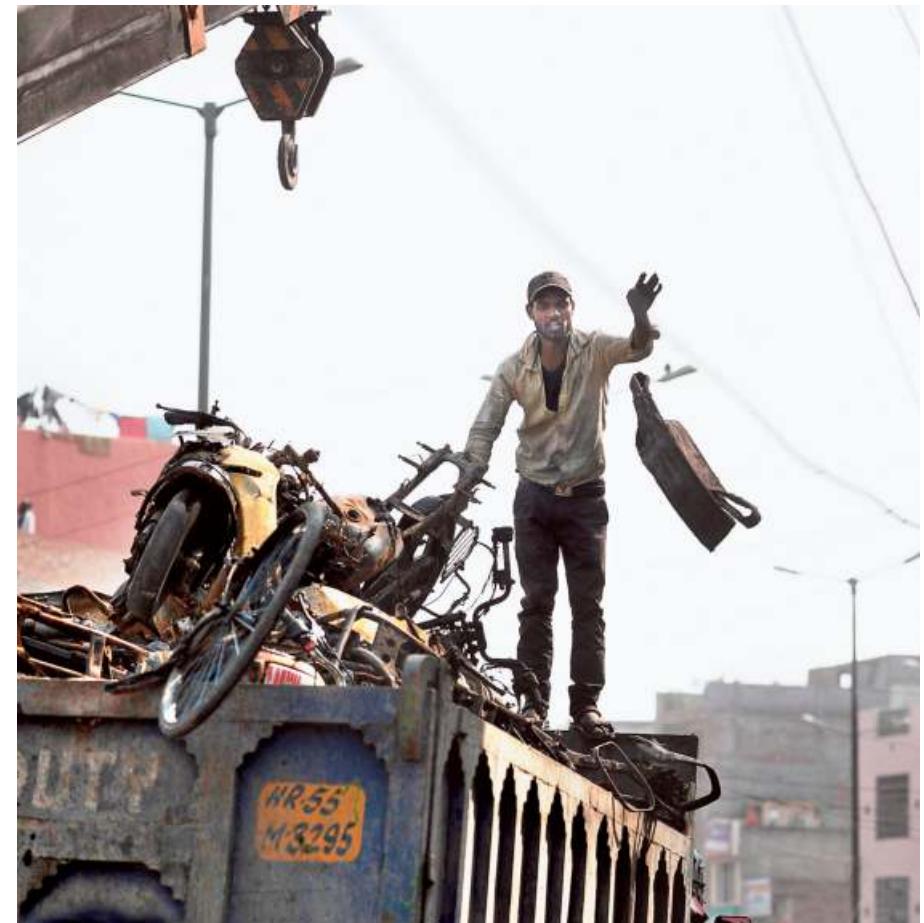
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Picking up the pieces



(Clockwise from top) A wall of a school being whitewashed as part of restoration work; damaged and burnt vehicles being loaded onto a truck; residents of Khajoori Khas and Chand Bagh collecting LPG cylinders; a truck carrying relief kits being unloaded at Mustafabad; and a vehicle towing away a burnt truck in violence-hit north-east Delhi on Sunday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA, AFP

Shops slowly reopen in parts of riot-hit north-east Delhi

Number of police personnel patrolling the area was less on Sunday

SIDHARTH RAVI
NEW DELHI

In some parts of north-east Delhi, such as Brijpuri, several shops were reopened on Sunday a week since violence broke out in the area. More vehicles were also seen plying on the roads here on Sunday.

"We were coming out on the street for the last few days, trying to get the lay of the land. I thought of reopening my shop after the situation seemed normal," said Shehzad, a vendor in Brijpuri. "But there is a shortage of supply of goods," he said, adding: "Wholesalers are increasing prices and are leaving no option. So we are making do with what we are getting."

Some shopkeepers were also reportedly hiking prices of ration.

The number of security personnel, who were patrolling the almost empty streets of the area until a few days back, were less here on Sunday, a fact which concerned some residents. "The police were right here in the lanes of Brijpuri till this morning," said Vishal Verma who owns a general store located on a street which had other stores burnt down during the violence and broken pieces of brick littered on the ground. "The area requires police deployment at



People inside a salon in north-east Delhi on Sunday. ■ AFP

least till Holi, he said. His friend Sahil, who had come to meet him after a week, said that communities in the area were not interacting with each other, adding that maintaining peace depended on the people.

Omavati, who resides behind Rajdhani School in the area that had been burnt down, said she witnessed petrol bombs being thrown and stones being pelted while she was hiding at her house. "I stepped out for the first time today after the vio-

lence," she said. Ms. Omavati said she was still not ready to step out much further from her own street. Her neighbour Sarita Moga said that all the ration that she had kept at home were spoilt by the bombs that had been hurled at her house. "Things are not going to be normal until justice is done," she said.

Bridges from Brijpuri to Shiv Vihar, one of the places that witnessed the worst incidents of violence, remained blocked by makeshift barriers manned by RAF per-

sonnel. While security personnel assisted residents of the area when they visited the site, most shops remained closed and people were being asked not to visit the area.

Standing near the bridge, Mohammed Ansar (name changed) said he was worried about his house in Shiv Vihar. He has taken shelter in a camp. Mr. Ansar claimed that there had been reports of households being looted, especially in the middle of the night.

Activists allege absence of govt. agencies in relief work

They claim mostly private vehicles were carrying relief material to areas they visited

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

After visiting Bhajanpura, Chaman Park and Shiv Vihar, a group of activists here have alleged absence of government agencies or representatives from the relief operations in the aftermath of the recent violence in Delhi.

A report by activists Anjali Bhardwaj, Annie Raja, Poonam Kaushik, Geetanjali

Krishna, Amrita Johri said there were mostly private vehicles carrying the relief measures and there were no government agency or representative co-ordinating or delivering relief.

The activists, in a statement, said: "Seeing the ground situation on February 29 and talking to affected people, it is clear that the Central and Delhi governments

have failed in providing any modicum of relief to those affected or displaced by the recent violence. Families which had to abandon their homes due to violence are taking refuge or have made private arrangements in different localities or are staying in temporary accommodation provided by private individuals. The Central and Delhi governments must meet all affected persons and immediately initiate confidence-building measures."

All store owners not on same page

While some want to hold on to damaged shops, houses, others want to leave

SIDHARTH RAVI
NEW DELHI

Store owners who arrived at the North-East Delhi District Magistrate's office on Sunday to file claims for property damaged in the recent violence, had "mixed feelings" regarding returning to the area.

"I can never go back to setting up a shop there" said Nargis, whose beauty parlour in Ashok Nagar had been looted. "Had the people of the area stood together, they could have done something to stop it... I have no faith now," she said. Her husband's clothes store next to hers had also been allegedly looted with a cumulative loss of nearly ₹20 lakhs been reported. "Now if we set up a shop, it will be in our own area."

Imran Khan, whose motorcycle repair store was gut-



A damaged shop at Khajoori Khas in north-east Delhi that reopened on Sunday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

tied in fire along with scores of two-wheelers, did not want to continue working in the area. "Nobody can guarantee that something like this will not happen again," he said. Mr. Khan had not been to the store yet to inspect the damage. "We have not gone there yet. People

have told us that the situation is still tense," he said.

Others, such as Sagir Ahmed, whose confectionery store in Shiv Vihar was also looted, has not been able to visit his shop yet either. "Our neighbours have been saying that the situation is still not entirely nor-

mal. We are scared to go there," he said. Mr. Ahmed has been running the store since the last 13 years and also owns the building. He said he did not have an option and had to continue working here.

Abdul Wahid, who ran a foam mattress store on the main road in Chand Bagh, said his store had been burnt, but that he had no plans of shifting. "I have been working here since 1992. Where will we go now?" he said.

18 teams formed

An official at the help desk set up here said that 18 teams had been formed to inspect damaged sites in violence-hit areas. While at the DM's office, claims were only being reported, remuneration would only be granted following physical verification.

Police presence stepped up at Shaheen Bagh

Move in wake of right-wing group's call to clear road where anti-CAA protest is going on

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Heavy police presence and barricading were seen in Shaheen Bagh on Sunday after a right-wing group, Hindu Sena, gave a call to clear the road where anti-CAA protesters have been staging a sit-in since December 16.

The group, however, said the "clearance call" was called off in view of the "law and order situation", on Saturday. The Delhi police said they stepped up deployment around the protest site as a "precautionary measure".

The police imposed Section 144 in the area due to which a peace march planned on Sunday afternoon by the protesters of Shaheen Bagh "in deep mourning for the lives lost" and to show solidarity with all those affected by the violence had to be called off.

The Shaheen Bagh march being called off was in sharp contrast to a march that was taken out through Con-



Women protesters at Shaheen Bagh on Sunday. ■ PTI

naught Place on Saturday under the banner of "Delhi Peace Forum" by several pro-CAA right-wing outfits.

The march, which went through the heart of Delhi, also saw "provocative slogans" being raised by the participants.

The Delhi police, meanwhile, said that no permission had been granted for the

march in Connaught Place.

At Shaheen Bagh, protest continued throughout the day with people talking about how to take their movement forward despite the violence in north-east Delhi. Shoaib, who has been a regular at the site, said, "The anti-CAA protest is one for all of humanity. After the violence, all those

who want a secular India should stand up and support it. We need the Shaheen Bagh protest to continue so that we can educate people about the CAA and the larger Hindutva agenda of the government." The protesters said they would continue their sit-in peacefully and appealed to people to come and stand in support.

53-year-old lynched, teenaged son hurt in violence on Feb. 24

Elder son performed man's last rites on Saturday and brought brother home

SAURABH TRIVEDI

NEW DELHI

A 53-year-old carpenter, Mohammad Yusuf, was returning home in Mustafabad with his son on a motorcycle when they were intercepted by a mob at Gokalpuri Road on February 24.

While Yusuf was lynched, his 19-year-old son, Suleman, suffered multiple injuries in the attack.

Suleman said that they were on their way back home from a furniture shop in Greater Noida when a large group of people stopped them at Gokalpuri Chowk. "The people shouted 'Stop this mullah', and they ran towards us. They had assumed that we were Muslims from my father's beard. They attacked us with iron rods and sticks. They also torched our motorcycle," said Suleman.



Suleman in Mustafabad on Sunday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

"Before I lost consciousness due to being beaten mercilessly, I saw my father was being thrashed by a large group. Our two-wheeler was set on fire in the middle of the road. The attackers hit my father on the head with a stone. When I gained consciousness I found myself at GTB Hospital," the teenager added.

Suleman's elder brother, Azharuddin, said that he could not trace his father and brother for five days and kept running from pillar to post. "The police refused to tell me anything, claiming they were busy. I checked all nearby hospitals, but in vain. After five days, on Saturday, I ended up identifying my father among other un-

claimed bodies," said Mr. Azharuddin.

He added that he faced difficulties in tracing his father and brother as Yusuf had been admitted as Satya Pal and his brother's real name was also not used as he was unconscious at the time of admission. "I performed the last rites of my father on Saturday and brought my brother home. Due to severe head injuries, his memory has been affected," he said.

Suleman, however, recalled that before attacking passers-by, the crowd on the day of the incident was asking for documents that could establish they were Hindus.

"On Tuesday, people had turned into animals. They were killing anyone in the name of religion. They asked us to chant *Jai Sri Ram* before hitting us with stones and rods," he said.

Rumours of violence spark panic in parts of Delhi, police appeal for calm

DMRC briefly closes seven stations due to 'security concerns'

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Panic gripped the residents of several parts of west and south-east Delhi on Sunday evening following rumours of violence. Delhi Police was quick to deny any incident and appealed to the people to remain calm.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) said it had briefly shut down the entry and exit gates of seven metro stations: Nangloi, Surajmal Stadium, Badarpur, Tughlakabad, Uttam Nagar west, Tilak Nagar and Nawada, due to security reasons.

Police said some "unsubstantiated reports" of tension in south-east and west Delhi were circulated on the social media. "A rumour has been spread that there is some tension in Khyala-Raghbir Nagar area of West District. There is no truth behind it. All are requested to keep calm as the situation is absolutely normal and peaceful," DCP (West) Deepak Purohit said.

"Do not pay attention to such rumours. Delhi Police is closely monitoring accounts spreading rumours and taking action," the police said. (With inputs from PTI)

IN BRIEF

Two held for making threats in old video

GURUGRAM

Two men have been arrested after a video featuring them issuing threats to the majority community went viral on social media. The video was made in March last year. Both are residents of Jaipur and work with a courier company.

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Environmental activists embrace last remnants of Aravali forests'

Protest Haryana govt.'s 'disastrous' amendments to Punjab Land Preservation Act

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GURUGRAM

To mark the anniversary of the "disastrous" Punjab Land Preservation Act amendments by the Haryana government in February last year, hundreds of NCR residents, including college students from Delhi University, came together to hug trees, sing songs, recite poetry and embrace the last remnants of the Aravali forests.

The event "Aravali Calling" was held in the forest behind Suncity here on Sunday, with the aim of creating awareness about the importance of the Aravalis and to remind the government of its responsibility towards preserving the State's flora and fauna, said Rahul Khera, one of the organisers from the Aravali Bachao Citizens Movement.

Residents formed a hu-



Activists surround a tree near Suncity in Gurugram on Sunday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

G We are gathered here to form a human chain against the backdrop of the Aravalis and Gurugram's skyscrapers – a stark reminder of what is at stake

GAURAV SARUP
Aravali Bachao Citizens Movement campaigner

man chain on a recently encroached and flattened land, which used to be part of the Aravali forest till a few months ago.

Holding hands at the periphery of this encroachment, people showed their commitment to not let this encroachment go any further into the forest and to reclaim the encroached land and revive it. Slogans like "We will save our Aravalis, our heal-

ing forests", "We love Aravalis, our lifeline for clean air and water security" reverberated through the air.

"We are gathered here to form a human chain against the backdrop of the Aravalis and Gurugram's skyscrapers – a stark reminder of what is at stake. The idea is to bring focus on the plight of the Aravalis threatened by illegal tree felling and constructions and educate people on



Treat for the senses



Flower power: Visitors click photos of floral displays at the 33rd edition of 'Garden Tourism Festival', at the Garden of Five Senses in New Delhi on Sunday. ■ PTI

Air Quality of Delhi-NCR	
Delhi	90
Gurugram	159
Ghaziabad	86
Faridabad	71
Noida	70
Greater Noida	72
■ Good 0-50	■ Satisfactory 51-100
■ Moderate 101-200	
■ Poor 201-300	■ Very Poor 301-400
■ Severe >400	
Air Quality Index at 4 p.m. yesterday (Average of past 24 hours) [Source: CPCB]	



SOURCE: DDA

More heavy rain likely from March 4

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Delhiites experienced a pleasant Sunday with the maximum temperature settling at 27.6 degrees Celsius, a notch above the season's average.

The minimum temperature was recorded at 14.4 degrees Celsius – two degrees above normal for this time of the season.

The humidity levels on Sunday oscillated between 100% and 58%.

The weather department has forecast mainly clear sky and shallow fog in the morning on Monday.

The maximum and minimum temperatures on Monday are likely to settle around 28 and 13 degrees Celsius respectively.

Heavy rain lashed the Capital overnight. The weatherman said the Safdarjung Observatory recorded 18.6 mm rainfall till 8.30 a.m., while the weather stations at Palam and Lodhi Road gauged 15.4 mm and 19 mm precipitation respectively.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that the rainfall occurred due to a western disturbance caused by a cyclonic storm that originated in the Mediterranean region and brought sudden winter rain to Northwestern parts of the Indian subcontinent.

An active western disturbance is likely to effect Northwest India again between March 4 and March 6, the IMD also said.

Rainfall and thunderstorm accompanied by gusty wind and hailstorm is likely to occur over the Delhi-NCR between the evening of March 5 and 6, the IMD further said.

A house to call their own

The DDA has so far handed out nearly 300 conveyance deeds and authorisation slips to residents of unauthorised colonies, and is planning to speed up the process in the coming weeks

SHINJINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI

The process of granting ownership to residents of 1,731 unauthorised colonies is "fast gaining pace," according to officials of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), the designated nodal agency for the project in the city.

The first set of 20 applicants who completed the registration process were granted ownership rights on January 4 ahead of the Assembly elections; as of February 27, the DDA has handed out nearly 300 conveyance deeds to residents of unauthorised colonies.

"A total of 292 applicants have been granted ownership rights, which includes 164 conveyance deeds and 128 authorisation slips. Once the verification process is completed, conveyance deeds are handed out for government land while authorisation slips are issued for private land," said a senior DDA official.

The online application portal for the grant of ownership rights was launched



A bright future: As of February 27, the DDA has received over 2.32 lakh registrations, and 1,649 completed applications. ■ FILE PHOTO: SANDEEP SAXENA

on December 16. As of February 27, it has received over 2.32 lakh registrations; and 1,649 completed applications have been received, as per the urban body.

"Registering on the portal is only the first step. After this, applicants are required to obtain their respective geo-coordinates. They can approach agencies engaged by the DDA for the purpose of GIS mapping and once this is done applicants can continue the process with

CITY MATTERS

the ID that is sent to them. The entire process might be slightly time-consuming but only those applications which are complete will be processed," another DDA official said.

Residents of unauthorised colonies who have completed the entire application process are likely to be

granted ownership rights within 180 days.

Apart from the 50 helpdesks set up by the landowning agency to assist interested stakeholders, the DDA has held four awareness camps across the city, including in Raja Vihar, Suraj Park, Massodpur and Patel Garden, Matia.

"The main purpose behind organising the camps is to have a one-on-one interaction with the resident welfare associations, and the

Bodies of 2 DU students found in Jamia Nagar flat

A note has also been recovered

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Bodies of two Delhi University (DU) students were found inside a flat in south-east Delhi's Jamia Nagar, police said on Sunday.

The man and the woman, both 23 years old, were broken from inside and was broken at the instance of a security guard and his son Vinod, Mr. Meena said, adding that the spot has been photographed in detail and inspected.

The bodies have been shifted to AIIMS. The families of the students are in Delhi, the DCP said.

Further inspection will be carried out by a team from the Forensic Science Laboratory, Mr. Meena said.

Spine prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, Telephone: 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday, 10 am-7.30 pm

NCB arrests six persons with over 380 kg ganja

Drug sourced from Odisha, says agency

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Six people were arrested with over 380 kg of marijuana by the Narcotics Control Bureau in the Capital as part of an inter-State narcotics smuggling busting operation, officials said on Sunday.

The contraband was seized from a truck in Sarita Vihar here on February 25 by the anti-narcotics agency.

Valued at ₹19 lakh
Two four-wheeler vehicles that were escorting the truck have also been seized, he added. NCB officials said the estimated value of the seized contraband could be about ₹18-₹19 lakh as marijuana is sold in the national capital region at the rate of ₹5,000-₹6,000 per kg.

Hundreds march for women empowerment

'Power walk' to promote equality

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The National Commission for Women (NCW) on Sunday organised a "power walk" to promote gender equality and build awareness about crimes against girls and women.

The walk from India Gate to Janpath, which was led by NCW chief Rekha Sharma, saw the participation of hundreds of people, including students and activists.

Ms. Sharma said: "We must advocate for change as collective citizens and build impact in terms of physical safety for women for their social, physical, cognitive and economic growth. The walk is being simultaneously organised in 15 States."

DELHI TODAY

Dance: Bharatanatyam recital by Rupali Yadav from Delhi. She will be accompanied by her Guru Dr. Saroja Vaidyanathan on nattuvangam; vocal support by Vijayashree, Thanjavur R. Kesava on the mridangam and V. S. K. Annadurai on the violin at C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, India International Centre (IIC), 6.30 p.m.

Music: "Rang," an evening celebrating the colours of Basant, with classical and semi-classical music compositions. Performing artists: Poulam Niyoji (Vocal), Anirban Das (Duet Vocalist), Dipan Singh Biswas (Duet Vocalist), Koushik Dutta (Harmonium), Amitesh Shandilya (Tabla) and Janab Zakir Dhol Puri (Harmonium) at The Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Living Between the times 2020," a solo paintings exhibition by Milburn Cherian at Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

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

Two abductors arrested after brief encounter

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Two persons were arrested for allegedly abducting a foreign national and demanding ₹2 crore ransom from his friend, the police said on Sunday.

Anoop, 36, and Naveen Dagar, 29, were arrested after a brief encounter on the Najafgarh-Jharoda Kalan Road in Dwarka on February 28, they said.

Palashew was abducted from Dwarka Mor on the

intervening night of February 27 and 28.

A case was registered at Mohan Garden police station and a joint team of Dwarka district police launched a manhunt to trace the accused, DCP (Dwarka) Anto Alphonse said.

The police recovered two loaded pistols, a car used in the crime and ₹1 lakh in stolen cash from the possession of the two accused, he added.

U.P. CM opens new office of police chief

To inaugurate projects worth ₹1,452 crore in Noida today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday inaugurated the new office of the police commission in Sector 108, Noida. The CM is in the city on a two-day visit. After opening the new office, Mr. Adityanath held a meeting with party officials in Greater Noida.

He will also lay foundation stones for projects worth ₹1,452 crore, which include two multilevel car parkings, a district

course in Sector 151, an integrated traffic management system, a flyover at Parthala chowk and two underpasses on the Noida-Greater Noida expressway, they added.

Mr. Adityanath's visit to the city has seen the imposition of several traffic restrictions. "There will also be a complete ban on private operation of drones in Gautam Buddha Nagar in view of the VVIP visit," Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Law and Order, Ashutosh Dwivedi said.

Speaking at the event, High Commissioner of Canada to India Nadir Patel said: "It is incumbent on all of us to help create an environment all over the world where women can thrive and prosper."



Yogi Adityanath

hospital building, and three foot-over bridges, Noida Authority officials said.

He will also lay foundation stones for projects worth ₹1,369, which include a convention and habitat centre in Sector 94, a golf

Timings

DELHI

MONDAY, MAR. 02	
RISE 06:45	SET 18:22
RISE 11:13	SET 00:12
TUESDAY, MAR. 03	
RISE 06:44	SET 18:23
RISE 11:56	SET 01:08
WEDNESDAY, MAR. 04	
RISE 06:43	SET 18:23
RISE 12:45	SET 02:06

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 28 14
Safdarjung 28 14
Palam 27 14

Delhi Palam Today
27°C Dry weather with few clouds would continue. Rise in day temperature is likely. Night will be cool. Day will be comfortable.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
28°C Mist/haze during cool morning is likely. Day will be comfortable with mainly sunny sky.

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THE HINDU
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Haryana Chief Minister eyes services to increase revenue

Proposes a whopping ₹5,200 cr. hike for social, economic and general services

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM



Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal, presenting his maiden budget as Finance Minister on February 28, refrained from imposing any fresh tax, but what went largely unnoticed is a proposed hike for social, economic and general services under the non-tax revenue head putting a burden of ₹5,200 crore on the State residents compared to the previous budget.

The proposed ₹29,383.67 crore non-tax revenue budget estimates for 2020-21 constitute 32.66% of the total revenue receipts, while the ₹19,897.77 crore non-tax revenue comprised only 24.20% of the total estimated revenue receipts for 2019-20. The percentage share of non-tax revenue in the estimated revenue receipts was 26.13% in 2016-17, 24.84% in 2017-18, 24.04% in 2018-19.

has proposed an increase of 26.84% from ₹3,196.67 crore to ₹4,054.87 crore. The proposal for the general services under the non-tax revenue head has been increased from ₹523.51 crore to ₹599.78 crore with the hike of around 14.56%.

Associate professor, Dhronacharya Government College, Gurugram, Anjana Nagpal, said the tax rates were already high and therefore the government had little choice but to seek to increase the revenue by way of hike in the user charges for various services under the non-tax revenue bracket.

Increase tax net?

She suggested that the government should increase the tax net to bring more people within its ambit and eradicate black money. "It will increase the revenues for the government without bur-

dening the law-abiding citizens," suggested Ms. Nagpal.

The hike in non-tax revenue could also be necessary due to the sluggish economy as suggested by revised estimates for 2019-20 budget. Also, revenue estimates for the current budget from the State Goods and Services Tax and the Sales Tax are pegged lower compared to the estimates last year, indicating that the government in not very hopeful of high tax collection. Besides, the increase in tax rates would not have been a politically correct decision.

Professor Surinder Kumar, Visiting Professor, Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development, Chandigarh, said the user charges from the rich was fine but from the poor was questionable for a welfare state, adding that differential user charges were appreciated.

Mining lease holder booked for causing deaths in U.P.

3 labourers had died after coming under debris of a boulder

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

A mining lease holder and other unidentified officials were booked on Sunday on charges of allegedly causing death by negligence after at least three labourers died when they got trapped under the debris of a boulder in a stone quarry in Sonbhadra.

An FIR was registered at the Obra police station in the East Uttar Pradesh district under Section 304-A of the Indian Penal Code.

Pattadar (leaseholder) of

the quarry, located in Mar-kundi near the Sharda Mandir, Suresh Keshri and other leaseholders and officials were named in the FIR filed on the complaint of one Ram Vichar. Mr. Ram Vichar's brother Chotelal was among those whose bodies were recovered from the quarry after the incident on Friday.

Seven labourers were crushed under the debris, Mr. Ram Vichar said.

Police have so far confirmed three deaths, while sources said two more labourers were still feared trapped. Two others were rescued earlier and are receiving treatment in hospital. The NDRF carried out the rescue operation along with the district administration.

CM announces aid

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced an ex-gratia compensation of ₹41 lakh to the kin of those who died in the incident and ₹50,000 to the injured.

However, the administration came in for much criticism on social media after a video, whose authenticity could not be independently verified, showing a mining official allegedly tutoring the kin of one of the victim at

the mortuary to not register an FIR in lieu of better monetary compensation was widely shared.

The Minister of State (Independent Charge) Basic Education, Satish Dwivedi, was deputed by the government to inspect the site and meet those affected.

When asked by journalists about the allegations against the mining officials, he said he didn't have any knowledge of it. "But if any official speaks like this, action will be taken against him," he said.

"There is no attempt to save anyone," he further said, when asked if there was an attempt to protect the leaseholder.

The matter would be probed and action would be taken against those responsible, he said.

Sonbhadra police said post-mortem of the bodies was being carried out.

Women protesters vacate anti-CAA stir site in Aligarh

They submitted a 5-point memorandum to the DM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ALIGARH (U.P.)

Scores of women who were holding a protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act on the Jiwangarh bypass road here for the past six days vacated the site in the presence of top district officials.

Barricades which were put up on the road in view of the protest were removed on Saturday night and traffic resumed, bringing relief to commuters.

Withdrawal of cases
Senior Superintendent of Police Muniraj said the protesters handed over a five-point memorandum to the District Magistrate, which among other points sought withdrawal of cases filed against people protesting at Jiwangarh and the Aligarh Muslim University.

One of the demands to grant financial assistance to a seriously injured youth has already been accepted

CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH
Aligarh District Magistrate

The district officials with the help of political and community leaders assured the protesters that they would discuss their demands with the State government.

District Magistrate Chandra Bhushan Singh announced that one of the demands of the protesters to grant financial assistance to a youth, who was seriously injured in last Sunday's violence in Upper Kot area, has already been accepted.

Tariq Munawwar, who had sustained gunshot injuries in the violence, has been

given a financial assistance of ₹two lakh.

Mr. Munawwar, whose lower part of the body has paralysed, will be provided free medical treatment at the Jawahar Lal Nehru Hospital.

Agra zone ADG Ajay Anand, who had earlier initiated a dialogue with the women protesters at Jiwangarh, said, "We had impressed upon the women protesters that since an anti-CAA protest by women was already taking place at the Eidgah grounds for more than a month now, they can join them and continue their protest there instead of blocking traffic on the bypass road, provided the protest is peaceful."

For the last five weeks, a large number of women have been protesting inside the Eidgah complex against the amended citizenship law.

Greetings from police



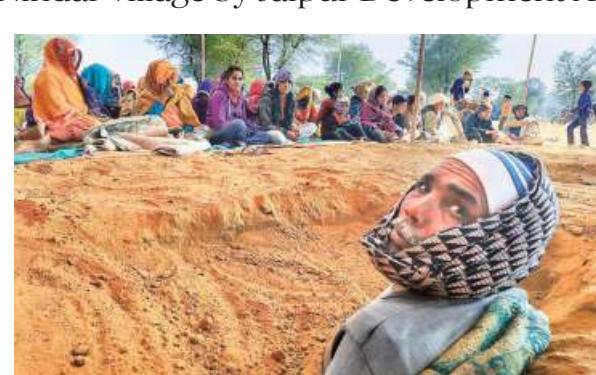
Police personnel at the inauguration of 'Namaste Lucknow' programme for morning and evening walkers on Sunday. ■ PTI

21 protesting farmers 'bury' themselves in Rajasthan

Land acquisition at Nindar village by Jaipur Development Authority for a housing project opposed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAIPUR

Twenty-one farmers, including five women, buried themselves neck-deep in the ground in Rajasthan's Nindar village on Sunday to protest against the alleged land acquisition by the Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) for a housing project.



A protesting farmer at Nindar village. ■ FILE PHOTO

They had first held the 'Zameen Samadhi Satyagrah' in January but called off the protest after four days as the State government assured them that it

would address their concerns within 50 days.

"Twenty-one farmers, including five women, have taken Zameen Samadhi on Sunday. The protest will escalate on Monday with 51 farmers taking the Samadhi. We will continue to protest till farmers get their rights," Nagendra Singh Shekhatta, a leader of the Nindar Bachao Yuva Kisan Sanghar Samiti, said.

The farmers had also held a protest in October 2017 against the acquisition of more than 1,300 bighas of land by the JDA, with

some of them even going on a hunger strike.

The JDA has taken possession of 600 bighas of land so far and deposited ₹60 crore in a local court as compensation.

Amount not accepted

The villagers have refused to accept the amount, claiming that it is not commensurate with the prevailing market rates.

Around 10,000 houses will be built under the mega housing scheme in Jaipur district which was announced in January 2011.

'Criminal' shot in leg dies in U.P.

Chhotu was injured during an police encounter in Bareilly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BAREILLY (U.P.)

A 32-year-old man, allegedly involved in several criminal cases and shot at and injured by police during an encounter, died during his treatment in hospital, an official said on Sunday.

Karan alias Chhotu and his two other accomplices were involved in an exchange of fire with police on Saturday evening near Thiriyana Jungle in the district, where the police had reached on a tip off that the trio would be visiting the area, said Bareilly Senior Su-

Chhotu was involved in 14 criminal cases, including those of murders and loot

SHAILESH KUMAR PANDEY
Bareilly SSP

perintendent of Police Shailesh Kumar Pandey.

The police team spotted the trio on a motorcycle near the jungle and asked them to stop, said the SSP.

The trio, however, tried to flee the scene after opening fire at the police team, which too retaliated and fired at them.

Chhotu was hit in his leg and fell down, while his two friends managed to escape, said Mr. Pandey.

The police team shifted the injured to the district hospital, from where he was referred to another hospital, said the SSP, adding the man died at about 10.15 p.m. on Saturday during treatment.

During the preliminary enquiries, Chhotu was found involved in a total of 14 criminal cases, including those of murders, attempt to murder and loot, said the SSP.

U.P. school peon's house found functioning as 'board exam centre'

Answer sheets were being written for candidates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DEORIA (U.P.)

In a shocking case of cheating during the ongoing Uttar Pradesh Board exams, the house of a school peon had virtually turned into an exam centre, where answer sheets were being written by acquaintances of candidates prompting the district administration to blacklist the school.

Ramanand, who works at Karmayogi Shripathi Babu Uccart Madhyamik Vidyalaya (a self-financed school) located in Bhatni area of the district, is absconding.

The incident took place on Saturday at his house when the Class X science exam was

going on.

Deoria District Magistrate Amit Kishor told PTI on Sunday, "A complaint regarding the school was received that the answer sheets of science subject were being written at the house of the school peon on Saturday. The house of peon Ramanand was raided. The exam centre has been blacklisted. From next year, it will not be holding any board examination."

Principal arrested
He added that 10 accomplices including the school principal have been arrested and action is being initiated against them. Five men and four women were found at

'No online supply of food from FBOs without hygiene rating'

It has become important to ensure that aggregators supply only good quality food: Punjab govt.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab government's Food and Drug Administration on Sunday said it has prohibited online supply of food from Food Business Operators (FBOs) not possessing hygiene rating.

Issuing the prohibition orders, Food and Drug Administration Commissioner K.S. Panu said invoking provisions under the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006, keeping in view the interest of public health, the distribution/supply/sale of articles of food through Online Food Supply Aggregators (OFSAs) related to those FBOs who have not got their hygiene rating done has been prohibited.

"These people were caught red-handed writing the answer sheets of the science subject. Two roll numbers were found written on the answer sheets apart from the stamp of the school and all the entries on the first page," officials said.

"The orders also prohibit

OFSAs from sourcing the food from FBOs which are not hygienically rated and also where such rating is less than three out of five," a Punjab government release said.

Effective for a year

The prohibition orders would be effective for one year beginning April 30, 2020.

The orders state that in Punjab, information technology-driven OFSAs have been distributing/selling/supplying food to the consumers after sourcing the same from FBOs.

"This food delivery through an IT based platform is a very recent phenomenon in which the direct and primary contact bet-

ween the consumer of food articles and the manufacturers of food articles, especially the hot cooked food articles, has snapped.

"This mechanism of distribution/sale/supply of food by OFSAs has obliterated the system of responsibility of maintaining the quality of food, which till now was being directly verified by the consumers from the food business operators at their counter," the release said.

It further stated that with the introduction of OFSAs, it has become important to ensure that these aggregators supply only good quality and properly hygienic food articles to the consumers.

"Although, it is the moral responsibility of FBOs and OFSAs to ensure quality and hygiene of food delivered, the duty is also cast upon the State authorities to ensure safe food to public under the Section 18(1)(a) of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006," said Mr. Panu.

He said that the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has issued instructions vide which the system of hygiene rating of the food business operators has been introduced.

Rating agencies
FSSAI has empanelled various agencies to conduct the hygiene rating of the FBOs.

Mr. Panu said the office of the Food and Drug Admini-

nistration, Punjab had asked all the OFSAs to ensure that the FBOs from where they are sourcing food for distribution to consumers should get the hygiene rating done.

Panel to probe exam irregularities

Arunachal CM promises action against guilty officers in State selection board exam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ITANAGAR



An inquiry commission will be set up to investigate the alleged irregularities in Arunachal Pradesh Staff Selection Board examination, Chief Minister Pema Khandu said on Sunday.

In a meeting with a group of people demanding justice and restructuring of the board, Mr. Khandu said the commission will look into whether the standard operating procedure was followed for conducting the examination for the posts of lower divisional clerk and junior secretariat assistant.

"If any lapse is found, the officers, responsible for all

leged non-compliance of procedures, will be liable for action," Mr. Khandu said.

He said the commission will have terms of reference for conducting the inquiry and will be asked to submit its report within a stipulated time frame.

In addition to the ongoing

investigation by the Special Investigation Cell team of the State police, the commission will be probing into the alleged scam, an official said.

Five arrested

The SIC has claimed to have cracked the modus operandi of the accused and so far arrested five persons, including APSSB Under Secretary Kapter Ringu and two data entry operators of the board. They were arrested after a suspicious optical mark recognition sheet of a candidate was widely circulated on social media for which the board came under criticism.

Several candidates, who appeared in the examination, had alleged that Senia Bagang, the examinee whose OMR sheet went viral, had submitted a blank answer sheet though he was short-listed for the skill test.

Mr. Khandu said reports are being sought on a daily basis on the findings of the SIC team.

Since the matter is serious, all political parties unanimously had sought stringent punishment against the culprits in a recent all-party meeting, he said.

He said the government's intention is to clean the system, otherwise there is no point in occupying the chair.

7 accused of raping minor are juveniles

The girl was reported missing since February 28, body found in forest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Seven persons accused of raping and killing a 12-year-old girl in north-eastern Assam's Biswanath district have turned out to be juvenile friends who had appeared in their Class X State board examination in February.

The girl was reported mis-

sing since February 28 evening. Her body was retrieved from a forest near her village on Saturday. The accused, from the same village as the victim, were arrested soon after.

An uncle of the victim told news persons that the accused had invited the girl for dinner but took her to the forest where they allegedly

raped and killed her but hung the body from a tree to make it appear as a case of suicide.

"We suspected the boys after we spotted them in the forest during a search for my niece on Saturday morning. They fled as soon as they saw us and with the help of the police, we later found the body hanging from a tree,"

the uncle said. The police said they were awaiting the autopsy report.

"We are yet to receive the medical report. However, a case was registered against the seven on the basis of a complaint lodged by the girl's father. They will be produced in court," said Tilak Das, Sub-Divisional Police Officer.

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Toe party line on Nanar refinery or face action: Sena to members

MP clarifies project will not be revived, says 'errant' Sainik's face will be blackened

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Warning 'errant' Shiv Sainiks of action if they dare to voice support for the Nanar refinery project, Shiv Sena leaders led by MP Vinayak Raut and minister Uday Samant on Sunday urged party office-bearers to take such members to task. They reassured anti-Nanar protesters in Konkan that the Sena would never revive the project.

"If you see anybody carrying the Sena's flag and trying to speak in support of Nanar refinery, then I urge all Sena workers to blacken that person's face and take him to task," Mr. Raut said at a public meeting in Sagave in Ratnagiri's Rajapur tehsil.

The Sena MP from the Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg Lok Sabha constituency, Mr. Raut, exhorted party workers to take action against those who stray from the Sena's line on the project.

"I call upon all Sena office-bearers and workers to hit such party members with chappals (footwear) if they dare to defy the party stance and talk of reviving the refinery project," Mr. Raut said.

The Sena suspended Sa-gave zilla parishad member and local leader Manda Shikwari, who had reportedly been vocal in expressing support for the contentious project.

The Sena had been a fervent opponent of Ratnagiri Refinery Petrochemical Li-



Members of Konkan Refinery Virodhi Sangharsh Samiti protesting against the Nanar refinery project at Azad Maidan in Mumbai. ■ FILE PHOTO

mited (RRPCL) in the Nanar refinery project when it was in alliance with the erstwhile Bharatiya Janata Party government in the State.

However, a section of local Sena leaders reportedly took out a demonstration in support of the project, on grounds that it would usher in employment opportunities for the people of Konkan.

This was followed by an advertisement for the project in the Konkan edition of the Sena's mouthpiece, *Saamana*, which irked the agitating residents of Nanar, while arousing their suspicion of the Sena's duplicity over the issue.

Since then, residents of

the 17 villages in Nanar tehsil, who are opposed to land acquisition for the project, have been threatening agitations if the party does a volte-face on its promise of scrapping it.

The RRPCL project, pegged at ₹3 lakh crore, is a joint venture comprising Saudi Aramco, Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, and three Indian public sector oil companies – Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited.

Despite Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray assuring that the Sena had no intention of reviving the project during his tour of Konkan,

speculation has persisted of the party doing a possible about-turn now that it is in power as part of the tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi coalition.

As a result, Sunday's public meeting at Rajapur was held with the intent of the Sena top brass to clear the air on the issue and show solidarity with the residents expected to be displaced if the project comes about.

"The Sena has already given its promise to the people of Konkan. Whatever happens, they should not think that we [the Sena] will be reviving it again," said Mr. Samant, the Sena legislator from Ratnagiri Assembly constituency.

Patole backs caste-based census demand

A 'right' decision will be taken on Citizenship Amendment Act: Assembly Speaker

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JALNA

Legislative Assembly Speaker Nana Patole on Sunday said he would support the demand of Other Backward Class (OBC) leaders to boycott the exercise to conduct the General Census 2021 if a caste-based enumeration is not allowed.

"If a government does not follow the norms of the Constitution, then an individual has the freedom to boycott (any exercise mandated by the government). We will follow the mantra of Mahatma Gandhi," he said.

Mr. Patole said since the Prime Minister belongs to a backward community (OBC) he should understand the pains of the people.

The Assembly on January 8 unanimously passed a re-

"OBC leaders have decided that if the caste census is not conducted they will boycott the General Census (exercise) and I will support them."

"If a government does not follow the norms of the Constitution, then an individual has the freedom to boycott (any exercise mandated by the government). We will follow the mantra of Mahatma Gandhi," he said.

Mr. Patole said since the Prime Minister belongs to a backward community (OBC) he should understand the pains of the people.

The Assembly on January 8 unanimously passed a re-



Nana Patole

solution urging the Centre for a caste-based census to find out the population of OBC across the country. The resolution was moved suo moto by the Speaker.

Referring to that resolution, Mr. Patole said the State government would ex-

amine if a separate census could be undertaken in Maharashtra like the demands made in Tamil Nadu and Bihar.

Mr. Patole also said a "right" decision would be taken on the Citizen Amendment Act in the legislature which is currently in session.

Mr. Patole, a former BJP MP, had quit the saffron party following differences with the Prime Minister on agrarian issues, and rejoined the Congress in December 2017.

The Mahatma Aghadi government comprises the Shiv Sena, the NCP, and the Congress.

Two injured as building collapses in Pune

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PUNE

Two people, including a 70-year-old woman, were injured after an old dilapidated residential structure collapsed at Budhwar Peth in Pune on Sunday.

The incident occurred around 7:15 a.m. when nearly 75% portion of the around 100-year-old Singhaliya wada collapsed, Pune civic body's fire brigade official Pradeep Khedekar said. Wada is an old cluster of houses with many rooms.

Trapped under debris
"As soon as we got a call, a team of firefighters reached the spot and found out that two members of a family living on the first floor were trapped under the debris," Mr. Khedekar said.

The victims – Gangubai



Reduced to dust: Pune Municipal Corporation workers demolishing the old building, which collapsed on Sunday morning. ■ JIGNESH MISTRY

Kalyani (70) and Vinayak Kalyani (48) – were pulled out of the debris and rushed

to a hospital. Except for the two victims, no one else was residing in the wada,

the official said.

"Work is on to clear the debris," he said.

Keeping it cool



Summer is here: With the temperature rising, a potter is placing earthen pots for sale at Karad in Satara district on Sunday. ■ RAJU SANADI

CJI opens artificial limbs distribution camp

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NAGPUR

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sharad Bobde on Sunday inaugurated a camp for distribution of artificial limbs to specially-abled people.

The seven-day camp has been organised by Mahaveer International Services, Nagpur, and the National Legal Services Authority.

In his brief speech, CJI Bobde termed the event as an "occasion to celebrate humanity".

"This is probably high state of consciousness...when a human being looks at the sufferings of others and decides to do something about it," he said.



Chief Justice of India Sharad Bobde (second from right) at the camp at Amdar Niwas in Nagpur on Sunday. ■ S. SUDARSHAN

'Smart' Pune's garbage woes flare up again

Residents continue to stop civic body's garbage trucks from dumping in landfill near their villages

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Despite its claims of being a 'Smart City', there seems to be no solution to Pune's garbage disposal problems with residents of Uruli Devachi and Phursungi villages stopping the civic body's garbage trucks from dumping waste in the landfill near their villages for the fifth consecutive day on Saturday.

The residents, who have been protesting the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC)'s dumping of waste, alleged that the civic body had broken its promises, and this was in violation of an order passed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) prohibiting open dumping across the Uruli Devachi landfill. Following the NGT's order, the PMC had assured residents of the villages that the dumping would cease after December 31, 2019. The civic body has claimed that it has completely stopped dumping since January and has cleaned the landfill.

"We have achieved 100% segregation and processing of waste in areas within the city itself which has obviated dumping any more garbage at the [Uruli Devachi] site," claimed Dnyaneshwar Molak, who heads the PMC's solid waste management department.

Mr. Molak clarified the vehicles that were dumping waste in the Uruli Devachi site were those carrying 're-

jected waste' and that it was in keeping with the NGT order.

However, the residents, who have formed a committee to abolish the garbage depot at Uruli Devachi, alleged that the PMC had not kept its promises and was violating the NGT order.

"Trucks carrying garbage to the tune of 400-500 metric tonnes are being dumped here. Nothing has been done on the bio-mining front by the civic authorities either. In reality, the PMC is hoodwinking us with hollow promises as it has no proper processing plants in Pune to process the city's garbage," said Vijay Bhadale, a member of the Uruli Fursungi Kachara Depot Hatao Samiti. He said that the dumping by the PMC had resulted in a mountain of plastic at the 20-acre landfill site, while the water supply to the villages continued to be contaminated.

The committee is now contemplating moving court against the PMC for not adhering to the NGT order.

Since 1991, these villages have faced the deprivations of Pune's indiscriminate expansion with the problem of solid waste disposal reaching monstrous proportions.

In 1981, the Maharashtra government allotted 43 acres at Uruli and provisioned another 120 acres at Phursungi in 2003 to meet a growing Pune's waste dispo-



Raising a stink: The committee set up by the villagers is now contemplating moving court against the PMC for not adhering to the NGT order. ■ FILE PHOTO

sal demands.

The city's garbage is sent to more than 45 processing centres, with the largest ones at Uruli and Phursungi – a combined 160 acres – capable of processing up to 500 tonnes of waste a day.

The villages have been bearing the brunt of Pune's indiscriminate urbanisation since the early 1990s.

The methane emissions from the landfills have adversely affected the health of the villagers, who are forced to endure the ravages of wa-

ter pollution as well.

Right to Information (RTI)

activist Vijay Kumbhar alleged corruption within the Pune civic body to be the root cause behind the illicit dumping at Uruli Devachi.

"It is in the interests of certain authorities to perpetuate this problem. Tenders are being repeatedly given to a particular company favoured by authorities to resolve the city's garbage woes when that company ought to have been blacklisted," Mr. Kumbhar alleged.

To compound the problem, the PMC-run waste disposal plants set up by Hanjer Biotech at Uruli Devachi were shut down in December 2016. Despite a waste-treating capacity of 1,000 tonnes, the decrepit plants are barely able to process 200 tonnes of waste.

In 2016, city-based NGOs had written to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, demanding an Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) probe into irregularities plaguing the city's garbage processing units. The Nagrik Chetna Manch, in conjunction with the Sajag Nagrik Manch, had brought to notice the crumbling waste disposal plants saying tax payers' money has not been utilised properly.

In 2017, a fire broke out at the depot at Uruli Devachi, leading villagers to block PMC garbage trucks for more than three weeks, triggering a major garbage disposal crisis in the city.

Leftists, Naxals destabilising country, misleading people, claims Patil

He urges Cong., NCP to understand polls and running govt. are different things; asks Muslims to speak about their problems with CAA in debate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHIRDI

Amidst protests against the new citizenship law, Maharashtra Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief Chandrakant Patil on Sunday accused the Leftists, urban and rural Naxals of trying to destabilise the country and mislead people over different issues.

The former State minister also said as the government had crushed the Naxals in the last five years, "silent Naxals" had started and misleading people was part of it. Mr. Patil was addressing a press conference during

his visit to Saibaba Samadhi in Shirdi in Ahmednagar district.

He said the Congress, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), and the Muslim community should realise that the Leftists were trying to disturb the country's peace and push their own agenda.

"Muslims in the country, the Congress, and the NCP are not able to understand that Leftists, Maoists, urban Naxals, and rural Naxals, who are on the rise, want to destabilise the country. Urban Naxals are trying to mislead the people on va-



(CAA) protests.

"I appeal to our opponents, the Congress and the NCP, that elections and running a government are different things. Sometimes you win, sometimes we. But they should take note of the incidents that are destabilising the country," he said.

Mr. Patil said members of the Muslim community should speak about their problems (concerning the CAA) in a debate.

dji is going to build a jail in Delhi and Muslims from across the country will be put there. Is it possible? So how does this get into the minds of Muslims?" he said.

"In this, Muslims are harming themselves...disturbing the long-established brotherhood. This disturbance will make life difficult. They don't realise that they are being trapped," he said.

"The Congress and the NCP don't realise that they are opposing the CAA in favour of Muslims, but the Leftists are benefiting from it. They want to disturb the

country. It is not about any political party. It is all the agenda of the Leftists," Mr. Patil said.

He alleged, "For years, despite using guns, they did not get success through rural Naxals. The government completely drove them away. In five years, the Naxals were finished. Now 'silent Naxals' has started and misleading people is part of it."

"The Congress and the NCP don't realise that they are opposing the CAA in favour of Muslims, but the Leftists are benefiting from it. They want to disturb the

Couple elopes once again

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SURAT

A middle-aged couple from Gujarat has eloped once again, just over a month after they had returned to their respective homes, their family sources said on Sunday.

The couple – Himmat Pandav (46), who hails from Surat, and Shobhana Raval (43) of Navsari – had eloped weeks before the scheduled marriage of their respective son and daughter in January. They had returned to their respective families after two weeks.

IN BRIEF



Andhra Pradesh Tourism Corporation wins award

VIJAYAWADA
The Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation has won an award for 'Best Eco-Friendly Destination - MareduMili', at the India International Travel Exhibition (IITE) held here. District tourism officer Ramlakhan received the award from IITE director Anurag Gupta.

Kerala Crime Branch to seek custody of Pujari

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
The Kerala Crime Branch will seek the custody of gangster Ravi Pujari, recently extradited from Senegal. He is currently detained in Karnataka, where he is accused of several crimes, including murder. The Crime Branch wants him in connection with a 2018 bid to extort money from celebrity Leena Maria Paul.

CBI arrests six persons in BJP leader's murder case

DHARWAD
The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arrested six persons on Sunday in connection with the murder of BJP leader Yogeeshgouda Goudar in 2016. According to sources, Ashwath, Purushottam and four others were arrested by the CBI in Bengaluru while they were trying to escape to Tamil Nadu.

Five-year-old dies in wall collapse in Telangana

WARANGAL
Tragedy struck during the 'Pattana Pragathi' (city development) works at Kotthur Janda in Telangana's Hanamkonda on Sunday when an earthmover hit a wall, which collapsed on two children, killing a 5-year-old and injuring her brother. The police said the earthmover operator was talking on his phone while clearing a drain.

80% beneficiaries in A.P. get pension at doorstep on time

'Two months' amount given to those who did not receive it in February'

STAFF REPORTER

VIJAYAWADA

Over 47 lakh beneficiaries in Andhra Pradesh received their pension, which included social welfare and medical benefits, at their doorstep on the first day of the month on Sunday, covering 80% of the targeted section.

This is in contrast to about 10 days taken in February to disburse pensions to the beneficiaries, covering only 35% on the first day of the month.

The government sanctioned ₹1,384 crore for March towards disbursement of pension to about 60 lakh beneficiaries, a release issued by the Chief Minister's Office said.

Launched in February
The government launched the new system in February this year, wherein designated volunteers disburse pen-



Help is at hand: A volunteer handing over pension to a senior citizen at Patamata in Vijayawada on Sunday. ■ K.V.S. GIRI

sion at the doorstep of the beneficiaries.

Fifty volunteers are tasked with catering to the needs of an equal number of households. These trained personnel use digital mapping, iris and face recognition tools to disburse pensions. Special arrangements

were made to reach out to the beneficiaries residing in areas where there is no proper communication network.

The volunteers disbursed pensions to 26,20,673 beneficiaries by 8 a.m., and the figure touched 31 lakh by 9 a.m. By noon, 43.9 lakh be-

neficiaries had received their pension. By 2 p.m., 80% of the beneficiaries were covered.

Monitoring cells

The hurdles encountered in February were overcome this month, the release stated. The officials opened special cells in each district to monitor the exercise. Real-time data was used to address issues in the process. Those who did not receive their pension last month due to some technical reasons were given two months' pension now.

"The government has modified the eligibility criteria under the YSR Pension Kanuka to ensure that the benefit reaches all the eligible persons across all sections of society," the release said. An amount of ₹2,250 is being provided under various categories.

Quash seditious charges against student, SC lawyer urges court

'Conduct does not show intent to promote enmity'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

A Supreme Court advocate has urged the Chief Justice of Karnataka to take *suo motu* cognisance of a case of sedition and promotion of hatred against a 19-year-old student who, in all probability, tried to communicate at a public forum that love for one's country does not necessarily require hatred of another.

Advocate Kaleeswaram Raj, in his letter, said Amulya Leonor Noronha was arrested from Bengaluru and remanded in judicial custody on February 21 for reportedly shouting "Pakistan Zindabad thrice, Hindustan Zindabad four times."

Mr. Raj also refers to media reports that Amulya on February 16 tweeted in Kannada that "Be it any country, Zindabad to all nations."

He said sedition is a crime either abandoned or put to disuse in several democracies.

Similarly, the invocation

of hate charges against the student is misplaced.

"The conduct of the student does not reveal anything that reflects promotion of enmity between different groups. It perhaps does the opposite," Mr. Raj argues, asking the court to quash the case against the student.

The letter refers to higher philosophy of one world, one family. "The great poet Rabindranath Tagore advocated for global fraternity and his idea of nationality was so captivating as it was based on universal humanism," the letter said.

Kerala man did not die of COVID-19

Fishermen stranded in Iran

The 36-year-old had arrived from Malaysia

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Scores of fishermen from Kerala are among the large number of Indian fishermen feared trapped in Iran following the COVID-19 outbreak there.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has written to Union Minister for External Affairs

S. Jaishankar requesting him to direct the Indian Embassy in Tehran to arrange for their safe return. In his letter, Mr. Vijayan said the State had received information that over a hundred Indian fishermen, including 60 from Kerala, were trapped at a place called 'Azalur'.

tions, according to medical college authorities. The infection was at least five days old and possibly was not treated, they said.

The first result from NIV,

Alappuzha, ruled out COVID-19 on Friday, when the patient was admitted to the hospital. The sample was then sent to NIV, Pune.

As part of COVID-19 sur-

veillance, nine more people were put under scanner on Sunday. Seven were at home quarantine, while two have been admitted to hospitals. There are 47 people under surveillance in the district under home quarantine.

While one person was admitted to the isolation ward at the medical college hospital, another was admitted to a private hospital on Sunday. One person in isolation at the medical college hospital was discharged. Two samples were sent to Alappuzha NIV for examination.

The control room in the district (0484-2368802) is open for enquiries on COVID-19.

90-year-old found raped, murdered

STAFF REPORTER

ANUMULA, NALGONDA

A 90-year-old woman was reportedly raped and killed at a village in Anumula mandal in Telangana's Nalgonda district on Saturday night.

The police said the woman was found dead by her son on Sunday morning. In his complaint to the police, he said he suspected rape and strangulation, as visible from the victim's bleeding injuries.

The woman has five sons and lived with each of them by rotation.

The police suspect the victim's neighbour, S. Shankar, who is absconding. "Shankar was reportedly seen talking to her between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. He is a labourer, deserted by his wife, and has a record of misbehaviour with women in the village," the police said.

Get govt. nod to drop petty cases, say prosecutors

Police in Kerala want to withdraw pending cases in courts

K.S. SUDHI

KOCHE

The decision of the Kerala police to withdraw thousands of petty cases that are pending in trial courts ran into a procedural hurdle, with prosecutors demanding government clearance.

The District Police Chiefs had approached the Deputy Directors of Prosecution asking them to direct Assistant Public Prosecutors and Public Prosecutors to withdraw the *suo motu*/petty cases in trial courts by invoking Section 321 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Several petty cases are pending as processes/summons could not be served due to wrong, defective or incomplete addresses of the accused. In some cases, the presence of the accused could not be secured despite

issuing warrants. If the prosecution felt that there was no possibility of apprehending the accused or obtaining their correct address, such cases could be withdrawn, if the offence was not serious, said a communication.

Most of the cases pertain to driving under the influence of alcohol, causing public nuisance, passing lewd comments and making obscene gestures at women. Some of the offences are punishable with imprisonment of up to three years and fine up to ₹10,000.

In Kochi, 4,107 *suo motu* cases by the police are pending. The total number that the police intended to withdraw statewide was about two lakh cases, sources said.

But prosecutors said that the withdrawal of cases could not be initiated solely

based on the report of the police.

The arguments of the police on non-availability of people at the given address were beyond the scope of verification by prosecutors. Case withdrawal based on police reports could give rise to complaints of favouritism and corruption, and the prosecutors could not be part of such maladministration of justice, they said.

An NOC from the State government was required in each case, failing which the prosecutors would be held liable for every wrong instance of withdrawal initiated by police, they said.

Confirming the developments, C. Sreedharan Nair, the Director General of Prosecution, said an NOC was required in order to launch the withdrawal of cases.

But prosecutors said that the withdrawal of cases could not be initiated solely

and try to get a shoot-at-sight order in this case. He also said he would speak with officials to clear the thorny bushes, shrubs and other plants in that area which have become a hiding place for leopards.

Environmentalists however, have demanded that the

Room for all



A flock of rosy starlings takes off from a tree at twilight in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. ■ K.V.S. GIRI

Leopard will be shot, Minister assures villagers

Experts urge caution as feline attacks leave four dead in Tumakuru

STAFF REPORTER

TUMAKURU

Karnataka Forest Minister B.S. Anand Singh on Sunday assured the residents of Baichenahalli village in Tumakuru district that the State government would issue a shoot-at-sight order to kill the alleged man-eating leopard that has sparked panic among locals.

He also announced that the combing operations would start on Monday. Angry villagers urged the Minister and officials to kill the leopard at the earliest.

The Minister visited the village and consoled the family of a three-year-old girl



Karnataka Ministers J.C. Madhuswamy and Anand Singh at Baichenahalli village in Tumakuru. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

who was killed in a leopard attack on Saturday. The leopard attacked the girl in front of her house while she was playing around 8 p.m. and dragged her away for some distance. Mr. Singh expressed regret over the death of the girl, Chandana. Stating that there were eight or nine leopards in the Hebbaru police station limits, Mr. Singh said he would order the authorities to kill the man-eater as four people in the area had died in leopard attacks.

He also announced a compensation of ₹7.5 lakh to the family of the deceased girl and a pension of ₹2,000 a month for five years.

Environmentalists however, have demanded that the

₹1 lakh fine imposed on municipal chairman for display of flex banners

Telangana Minister KTR asks civic body to collect penalty

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KHAMMAM/BHADRADRI-KOTHAGODEM

Sending out a strong signal that violators of municipal rules will be dealt with sternly in an impartial manner, Telangana Municipal Administration Minister K.T. Rama Rao has imposed a hefty fine of ₹1 lakh on Yellandu Municipal Chairman D. Venkateswarlu of the ruling TRS for displaying flex banners during his visit to the coal town on Sunday.

Mr. Rao made a whirlwind tour of Khammam and Yellandu towns in the erstwhile composite Khammam district as part of the ongoing Pattana Pragathi programme on Sunday.



One rule: A banner put up by TRS activists to welcome Minister K.T. Rama Rao in Khammam on Sunday. ■ G. N. RAO

In Yellandu, the overenthusiasm of the ruling TRS cadres who put up flex banners welcoming Mr. Rao earned the wrath of the latter. Taking objection to the

display of flex banners along the streets, the Minister ordered the municipal authorities to collect a fine of ₹1 lakh from the municipal chairman to prevent recurrence of such violations.

Vatican rejects Kerala nun's appeal against dismissal

Sr. Lucy says she will not leave the convent at any cost

E.M. MANOJ

KALPETTA

The Congregation for Oriental Churches in the Vatican has rejected Sister Lucy Kalappura's third appeal against her dismissal from the Franciscan Clarist Congregation (FCC) on August 7 last year.

The Catholic nun of the FCC, under the Karakkamala church of the Syro-Malabar diocese at Mananthavady in Kerala's Wayanad district, was expelled for "failing to give a satisfactory explanation for her lifestyle in violation of rules".

Sr. Lucy told *The Hindu* that she had got the reply from the Vatican on Friday and she could not understand its content as it was in Latin. Only the covering letter of the reply was in English. The covering letter had been rejected.

Sr. Lucy had attracted me-



Sister Lucy Kalappura was accused of violating rules after she took part in a protest in 2018.

dia attention in 2018 after she came out in support of a group of Catholic nuns who protested in public against the rape of a colleague by Bishop Franco Mulakkal of Jalandhar.

In September that year, Sr. Lucy participated in a public protest in Kochi, which drew the attention of her superiors, who accused her of breaching the rules of con-

"I have served the congregation for more than 33 years and I have not done anything wrong. I have not led a life against the values of the Church. They cannot just throw me out. I will fight it legally," Sr. Lucy said.



A big, bad deal

The U.S. deal with Taliban leaves the Afghan people at the mercy of violent, tribal Islamists

The deal signed between the U.S. and the Taliban in Doha on Saturday sets the stage for America to wind down the longest war in its history. It went into Afghanistan in October 2001, a few weeks after the 9/11 terror attacks, with the goals of defeating terrorists and rebuilding and stabilising the central Asian country. Almost 19 years later, the U.S. seeks to exit Afghanistan with assurances from the Taliban that the insurgents will not allow Afghan soil to be used by transnational terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda and that they would engage the Kabul government directly to find a lasting solution to the civil war. America's desperation is understandable. The Afghan war is estimated to have cost \$2-trillion, with more than 3,500 American and coalition soldiers killed. Afghanistan lost hundreds of thousands of people, both civilians and soldiers. After all these, the Taliban is at its strongest moment since the U.S. launched the war. The insurgents control or contest the government control in half of the country, mainly in its hinterlands. The war had entered into a stalemate long ago and the U.S. failed to turn it around despite both American Presidents Barack Obama and Donald Trump having sent additional troops. Faced with no other way, the U.S. just wants to leave Afghanistan. But the problem is with the way it is getting out.

The fundamental issue with the U.S.'s Taliban engagement is that it deliberately excluded the Afghan government because the insurgents do not see the government as legitimate rulers. By giving in to the Taliban's demand, the U.S. has practically called into question the legitimacy of the government it backs. Second, the U.S. has made several concessions to the Taliban in the agreement. The Taliban was not pressed enough to declare a ceasefire. Both sides settled for a seven-day "reduction of violence" period before signing the deal. The U.S., with some 14,000 troops in Afghanistan, has committed to pull them out in a phased manner in return for the Taliban's assurances that it would sever ties with other terrorist groups and start talks with the Kabul government. But the Taliban, whose rule is known for strict religious laws, banishing women from public life, shutting down schools and unleashing systemic discrimination on religious and ethnic minorities, has not made any promises on whether it would respect civil liberties or accept the Afghan Constitution. The Taliban got what it wanted – the withdrawal of foreign troops – without making any major concession. Lastly, the U.S. withdrawal will invariably weaken the Kabul government, altering the balance of power both on the battlefield and at the negotiating table. A weakened government will have to talk with a resurgent Taliban. The U.S., in a desperate bid to exit the Afghan war, has practically abandoned the Kabul government and millions of Afghans who do not support the Taliban's violent, tribal Islamism, to the mercy of insurgents.

Viral economies

The coronavirus is pushing the world into a recession, and India cannot be immune to it. The global economy appears headed for uncharted, troubled territory thanks to the second wave of the coronavirus that has now spread to countries as far apart as Nigeria and New Zealand. The virus has crippled global supply chains, hit air travel and convulsed markets as it appears all set to adversely impact the U.S. economy, the global economic engine. This, when the Chinese economy is already in deep trouble due to the impact of the virus. A slowdown or worse, recession, in the two global economic engines is bad news for the world economy, which may well tilt into recession. Markets reflected these concerns last week as indices plunged and investors stampeded for the exit, dumping stocks. Big money moved to the relative safety of government bonds, pushing prices up and yields down. The U.S. markets experienced their worst week since the 2008 global financial crisis as the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the S&P 500 fell by over 12%. Interestingly, investors seemed to boycott even that ultimate refuge during troubled times, gold, whose prices also fell during the week. They seemed to place greater faith in the sovereign guarantee of the U.S. government reflected in its Treasury bills. But there is trouble ahead for the U.S. economy as companies ranging from Apple and Nvidia to Procter & Gamble and Adidas are in difficulty because of their large exposures to the Chinese market or their reliance on suppliers from China. This is a crisis unlike any other. It is not a financial crisis that can be sorted out with time-tested measures such as rate cuts and bail-outs. The challenge of the virus attack is that it is immune to financial solutions.

For India, the troubles could not have surfaced at a worse moment just when there are some tentative signs of a return to growth. Policymakers are sanguine about the impact on the domestic economy and how they can manage the situation by resorting to airlifting of materials if the supply chain is disrupted. But the problem extends beyond supply chain disruptions, which, by the way is serious for industries such as pharmaceuticals, electronics and automobiles. In a situation of a global recession, exports, which are not growing even now, could take a hit, further slowing down one of the economic engines. And risk averse foreign investors could hold back fresh investments in India. What augurs well though is that Indian companies are not major participants in the global supply chains originating in China. And second, crude oil prices are slipping which is good news for the macro economy and inflation. The government needs to watch the developing situation and, for now, do all it can to support industries that are reliant on Chinese inputs.

A plural legacy more vital than ever

Jawaharlal Nehru's deep sense of history, culture and context acquires more relevance in preserving the idea of India



MAHESH RANGARAJAN

We live in an an avowedly post Nehru age. Few if any ills that afflict India today are not laid at his door. Debate and dialogue are more than welcome. To his credit as much as to other founders, India is a vibrant and live electoral democracy. But there is more to his legacy than this alone.

The coming of Independence to India in August 1947 and the formation of a democratic republic three years hence was no doubt a moment of historic import for the world at large. India like the United States was not a direct battle ground for the most part, save for Nagaland and Manipur in the course of the Second World War. But this was a country deeply involved in the great contest for world domination between the Axis and Allied powers.

At the heart of this war to end all wars were two critical ideas: whether a people had the right to rule themselves or not and also what mode of rule was best for the world.

How India chose it to be

It is a testament to history that India chose to follow the democratic path and while there were inclinations to socialism, these were strictly to be along lines of a plural democracy, allowing for checks

and balances unknown in the only one party socialist state that then existed, the Soviet Union. But India was more than a country emerging from the shadow of British imperial rule: its path would be one of a plural democracy.

That differences could exist at the very apex of the leadership but be settled via dialogue, debate and consensus had long been clear. Speaking on January 25, 1942, Gandhiji had remarked that (though) Nehru had been resisting him ever since they had met, they stood as one in the face of odds. Dividing them was like dividing water by striking with a stick.

In his perhaps most clear endorsement of the man who he had mentored for more than two decades he said, "When I am gone, he will do what I am doing now. Then he will speak my language too." His reference was to the steadfastness of principle but also to the willingness to compromise. The leader had to bind over and rule, not divide and reign.

We do not know if this was on the mind of the Mahatma when he broke his last fast on January 18, 1948. His last message to the Prime Minister was on a post card. "Apna upvass chod do. Bharat ke Jawahar bane raho," it said. "End your fast. May you remain the jewel of India."

This was sent from Birla House where the fast for peace in the capital of the new India had brought together the very groups at the forefront of the riots. Unknown to most in India or the world at large, Nehru too was on fast in sympathy with his leader.

At stake were the life and liberty



of Delhi's own inhabitants, most so Muslims who had opted to stay on after Partition. Twelve days later the assassin struck.

As Sardar Patel wrote in the *Abhinandan Granth* of October 1949, it was the untimely death of "the Great Master" that evoked in his associates a deeper sense of unity. Reminiscing about his long association with Nehru, Patel was warm, appreciative, and open in his affections. Their very intimacy and closeness as co-workers made it, "difficult for me to sum him up for public appreciation."

The idea of a nation

There was and is more to democracy than the peaceful passage of power via the ballot box. Equally audacious was the idea of nation where all would be equal as citizens. This was all the more so given the rise of fascism in the 1930s.

The idea of a superior ruling race had been explicit in the case of the Axis powers. Mussolini's invasion of Ethiopia in 1935, and the violent campaigns of Nazi Germany and imperial Japan left scars among conquered peoples that were known to the world.

But even the most powerful of the Allies, the United States under Franklin Delano Roosevelt still practised segregation on a third of

its territory. The Soviet Union, committed to working class unity, acted like any imperial power in using the Red Army to impose its preferred regimes in much of east central Europe.

The idea of India was at odds with such notions of legally sanctioned inequality at home or colonialism abroad. Much more than that when Gandhiji spoke of "his language" it was one of the coexistence of faiths and cultures seeking peace and harmony.

No book illustrated this as well as one written during Nehru's longest ever jail term. He had been taken into custody on August 9, 1942 and stepped out of gaol on June 15, 1945. This over 1,000-day-long prison term had enabled him to write a treatise of India's past and future, *The Discovery of India*.

The most recent edition runs to 642 pages but the original was longer still, written in long hand by a political prisoner on that most precious of rationed goods in war time: paper. It was here that Nehru wrote of India as akin to a palimpsest where one layer of new comers could join another. Each layer was added to the older one. This process had frictions, a fact he freely acknowledged, but the result was the composite fabric that was India. India's democratic sensibilities ran deeper than the Constitution. It was in contrast with Ceylon which, after an election based on universal suffrage in 1948 stripped the Indian Tamil plantation workers of citizenship. Nor was it like Burma where Indians who had lived there for generations fled the advance of the Japanese armies, never to return. India

was envisaged as inclusive, plural and democratic. The roots of this lay in the freedom struggle but was a conviction deepened by the years of the Second World War. This was as much the case with Nehru as his fellow inmates in Ahmednagar in the long night of 1942-45: Narendra Dev, Maulana Azad or Govind Ballabh Pant.

There is no doubt much of this dream was shaken to the core by Partition. But it did not lead India to ape other states narrowly based on faith, clan, lineage or language. The record was far from faultless but there is no doubt of the effort to move on.

There was and is much to dispute about Nehru's record and legacy. But it is astonishing how easy it is to take it for granted. A commitment to liberal democracy and a plural society was exceptional among Asia's leaders. He stood out in a continent where rival ideas of rule by one party or one ethnicity were vying for power.

This was a man with wider horizons but a deep sense of India's history, culture and context. In his testament he wrote of the Ganga as living entity. The river connects us to, "a memory of the past of India, running into the present, and flowing on to the ocean of the future".

A plural society has much to learn from Nehru's record. Critical engagement with his record is a must. An India sans Nehru's legacy of democratic values stands to lose far more than it will gain.

Mahesh Rangarajan teaches History and Environmental Studies at Ashoka University

Whither tribunal independence?

The reframed Tribunal rules are in contempt of several Constitution Bench decisions of the Supreme Court



RAHUL UNNIKRISHNAN

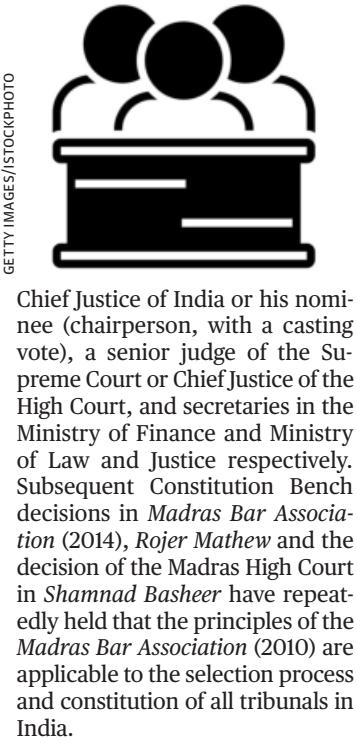
In November 2019, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, in *Royer Mathew*, declared the Tribunal, Appellate Tribunal and other Authorities (Qualification, Experience and other Conditions of Service of Members) Rules, 2017 as unconstitutional for being violative of principles of independence of the judiciary and contrary to earlier decisions of the Supreme Court in the *Madras Bar Association* series. In *Royer Mathew*, there was also a direction to the Central government to reformulate the rules strictly in accordance with principles delineated by the Court in its earlier decisions. The reframed rules, notified on February 17 by the Ministry of Finance, however, suffer from the same vices.

Through Part XIV of the Finance Act, 2017, around 26 Central statutes were amended, and the power to prescribe eligibility criteria, selection process, removal, salaries, tenure and other service conditions pertaining to various members of 19 tribunals were sub-delegated to the rule-making powers of the Central government. Describing the search-cum-selection committee as an attempt to keep the judiciary away from the process of selection and appointment of members, vice-chairman and chairman of tribunals, the Court held that the executive is a litigating party in most of the litigation and hence cannot be allowed to be a dominant participant in tribunal

appointments. Further, reiterating its previous decision in *Madras Bar Association* (2010), the Court held that the tenure of three years for members will "preclude cultivation of adjudicatory experience and is thus injurious to the efficiency of the Tribunals".

In the 2017 rules, as noted by the Court in *Royer Mathew*, barring the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), the selection committee for all other tribunals was made up either entirely from personnel within or nominated by the Central government or comprised a majority of personnel from the Central government. While the selection committee for NCLAT consisted of two judges and two secretaries to the Government of India, all other committees comprised only one judge and three secretaries to the Government of India. Now, in the 2020 rules, by default, all committees consist of a judge, the president/chairman/chairperson of the tribunal concerned and two secretaries to the Government of India.

An equal say for judiciary
The common thread in the *Madras Bar Association* series and *Royer Mathew* decisions is that judiciary must have an equal say in the appointment of members of the tribunals. In other words, to deny the executive an upper hand in appointing members to tribunals, the court ordered to have two judges of the Supreme Court to be a part of the four-member selection committee. In *Madras Bar Association* (2010), a Constitution Bench dealing with the validity and appointment of members to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) under the Companies Act, 1956, held that the selection committee should comprise the



Chief Justice of India or his nominee (chairperson, with a casting vote), a senior judge of the Supreme Court or Chief Justice of the High Court, and secretaries in the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Law and Justice respectively. Subsequent Constitution Bench decisions in *Madras Bar Association* (2014), *Royer Mathew* and the decision of the Madras High Court in *Shamnad Basheer* have repeatedly held that the principles of the *Madras Bar Association* (2010) are applicable to the selection process and constitution of all tribunals in India.

Under the 2020 rules, the inclusion of the president/chairman/chairperson of the tribunal as a member in the selection committee is in the teeth of previous decisions of the Supreme Court. For instance, now, in the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), Customs Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT), Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunal (DRAT), etc., a non-judicial member can become the president/chairman/chairperson, as the case may be. Therefore, when a non-judicial member becomes a member in the selection committee, the Supreme Court judge will be in minority, giving primacy to the executive, which is impermissible.

In *Madras Bar Association* (2010), the Court explicitly held

that only judges and advocates can be considered for appointment as judicial member of the tribunal and that persons from the Indian Legal Service cannot be considered for appointment as judicial member. Recently, in *Revenue Bar Association* (2019), the Madras High Court, while dealing with selection and composition of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT), declared Section 110(1)(b)(iii) of the CGST Act, 2017 as unconstitutional for allowing members of Indian Legal Service to be judicial members in GSTAT.

Tenure violations

In *Madras Bar Association* (2010), the Court had held that the term of office "shall be changed to a term of seven or five years". Based on this, in *Royer Mathew*, the Court held that the term of three years is too short, and by the time members achieve a refined knowledge, expertise and efficiency, one term will be over. Now, in the 2020 rules, the tenure of members has been increased from three years to four years, thereby blatantly violating the directions of the Supreme Court.

Since *Madras Bar Association* (2010), the government has repeatedly violated the directions of the Supreme Court. One by one, the traditional courts, including the High Courts, have been divested of their jurisdictions and several tribunals have been set up. When the National Taxation Tribunal was struck down as unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, it was hoped that the government would stop experimenting with tribunals. The reality was different. The Madras High Court merely proceeded to recommend to Parliament to reconsider this proposal. By eliminating chances of bright advocates applying for the post of judicial members, the government surely intends to fill them with candidates from the Indian Legal Service. The 2020 rules are, thus, in contempt of several Constitution Bench decisions of the Supreme Court. Unless the Court comes down heavily on the Central government, we will see these encroachments over and over again.

Rahul Unnikrishnan is an Advocate in the Madras High Court. He assisted Arvind Datar, Senior Advocate, in *Royer Mathew* and *Revenue Bar Association*, cited in the article

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.

Deal with Taliban

Few except the families of the American soldiers stationed in Afghanistan will celebrate the U.S.-Taliban deal as a major blow for lasting peace in the war-torn country. The fact that a superpower has to sign an agreement for withdrawal of its troops with an extremist organisation like the Taliban is a tacit moral, political and military victory for the latter. That the Afghan government is not a signatory to the deal points to its quick demise once the Taliban takes charge. The U.S. has nothing to cheer except escaping the ignominy of having to withdraw from Afghanistan as a militarily defeated nation, a fate that

other foreign powers have had to endure. History foretells Afghanistan's relapse into a Taliban-led medieval theocracy aided and abetted by a gleeful Pakistan. India has every reason to worry about the fate of its ongoing development projects in Afghanistan once the Taliban takes charge. The world community seems eager to leave Afghanistan to its fate, hoping against hope that it will not turn into a hub of terrorism ("U.S. strikes a deal with Taliban to end 18-year-long Afghan war," Mar. 1). V.N. MUKUNDARAJAN, Thiruvananthapuram

■ It will be a miracle of sorts if the U.S.-Taliban deal brings about genuine peace. The

deal is likely to enable the Taliban's return to power and facilitate increased Pakistan-sponsored terror activities. China too may be waiting in the wings to fish in troubled waters. Uneasy relations lay in store for India with Kabul. New Delhi has reasons to be nervous/wary about the massive investments made in Afghanistan, and its task is cut out in its dealings with the Taliban. No prizes for guessing that U.S. President Donald Trump was more than willing to strike the deal with an eye on his own electoral advantages/benefits.

C.G. KURIAKOSE, Kothamangalam, Kerala

■ Will be a miracle of sorts if the U.S.-Taliban deal brings about genuine peace. The

deal with the Taliban should result in American troops leaving Afghanistan over the next 14 months and should pave way for talks to end the war. Civil war, in various iterations, has lacerated Afghanistan for over 40 years. With the majority of the population in Afghanistan being under 30, most have known nothing but conflict. Naturally, there will be a lot of excitement that negotiations could finally bring peace.

R. SIVAKUMAR, Chennai

Hate campaign

Far from getting upset with the death and destruction in the streets of Delhi, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) seems to have decided to push the hate campaign with

renewed vigour (News page, "Provocative slogans at 'peace' march," Mar. 1). By allowing Kapil Mishra to participate in the so-called 'peace march', the BJP signalled a blatant endorsement to his earlier venomous speech which could be seen as partly responsible for last week's communal bloodbath. But why the Delhi Chief Minister is showing a reluctance to condemn slogans like "desh ke gaddaron ko..." raised in the 'peace march' is not understandable. Does his offering olive branch to the Centre at the oath-taking ceremony mean he is prepared to bury his head in the sand at the cost of peace and tranquillity in Delhi?

SYED SULTAN MOHIDDIN, Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh

C.V. ARAVIND, Bengaluru

To read more letters online, scan the QR code

Ridiculous proposition
Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's appeal to those who fled home to save their lives from the marauding mobs to return to their households is ridiculous to say the least. ("Kejriwal urges riot affected families to return home," Mar. 1). Does the Aam Aadmi Party have private armies that can guarantee the safety of these "refugees"? Could he or his government save a single life during the mindless orgy of violence

No country for protesters?

What we are seeing is a struggle against a regime that seems to have lost its democratic conscience



G. SAMPATH

India today is a nation in ferment. The communal violence in north-east Delhi, which has consumed more than 40 lives, is the latest chapter in the pan-India mobilisations triggered by the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the spectre of the National Register of Citizens (NRC). To better understand the Delhi riots, which were characterised as a clash between pro-CAA and anti-CAA groups, it might be useful to separately consider the anti-CAA protests of the preceding two months.

These protests could be grouped into two categories. The first kind were the rallies and the marches. These gatherings, ritualistic in nature, were inscribed by the certainty of dispersal within a time frame. They were one-off events, though capable of being iterated multiple times. The early Jamia Millia Islamia student protests belong to this category. Protests of this kind are subject to a differential calculus of legality/illegality, involving police permission, and whether or not Section 144 of the IPC is in force. The second kind of protest is where you occupy a place indefinitely. The time frame here is open-ended, and subject to the fulfilment, or at least the acknowledgement, of the protesters' demands.

Assumptions made

Both these protest forms are premised on some assumptions about the state. The first assumption is that the state is democratic and will respect all forms of non-violent dissent. The second is that the state has a conscience; that it is susceptible to a currency of influence other than power or money, such as, say, a set of shared values. For the anti-CAA-NRC protests, the source of a shared moral sense is the Constitution.

Both these forms of non-violent protest seek to put moral pressure on the government by focusing public attention on an injustice. The idea is that the state, its conscience awakened by the public invocation of constitutional morality, will see reason. Then some kind of a compromise can be negotiated, and everybody



R.V. MOORTHY

dy can go home. This is how non-violent mass protest is supposed to work in a functioning democracy. Independent India has seen some success stories of such peaceful agitations bearing fruit.

However, successful agitations of the past are not comparable to the anti-CAA protests for two reasons. First, the institutional checks and balances between the executive and other arms of the state have become more susceptible to communal polarisation than in the past. As a result, there is greater scope for misuse of the bureaucratic apparatus in regulating protests. Second, given the extent of such polarisation in the body politic, there is far less risk of political losses when abuses of the bureaucratic apparatus are directed at members of a minority community.

It is against this backdrop that a dichotomy has emerged: 'good protests' versus 'bad protests'. This classification, translated as non-violent versus violent, might seem reasonable. Depending on how one evaluates a particular protest, the kind of state intervention deemed acceptable would vary. It could either be lawful regulation, with due regard for human dignity and right to freedom of assembly, or a liberal use of lathis and tear gas, if not bullets.

But this binary breaks down where the regime in power brooks no dissent. Recent events suggest that whether a given protest is deemed 'good' or 'bad' could depend on who is protesting: are they members of the majority or the minority community? The binary also breaks down when the dominant narrative seeks to discredit any protest by linking it to any incident of violence. The controversy over the "burning bus" at Jamia Nagar – with the protesters and the police trading

charges of arson – is a case in point. While the truth of who burnt the bus remains disputed, the incident did help project the Jamia protests against CAA-NRC as "violent" and therefore deserving of a violent response from the state.

In search of a conscience

The most critical question facing these protests, however, is one that is frightening to contemplate: what if their assumption about the government having a democratic conscience was false? There is reason why, for the first time in the history of independent India, members of one community are out on the streets over fear of losing something as basic as citizenship rights – what philosopher Hannah Arendt famously called the "right to have rights".

Some of the world's leading bodies on religious freedom have observed that the CAA-NRC discriminates against Muslims. Therefore, unlike mass mobilisations of the past, the anti-CAA-NRC protests represent an existential struggle against an ideologically driven regime with a majoritarian agenda.

What if the majoritarian cast of this regime has deactivated its democratic conscience, such as it is, on the question of minority rights? Could that be the reason why the Centre has shown no interest in engaging with the protesters? Indeed the only strategy discernible in the government's response to the anti-CAA protests is a concerted effort to discredit them. The most obvious way of doing so is to link them to violence. In this strategy, the ruling party has been zealously aided by its foot soldiers in the news industry and social media. A subsidiary tactic has been to tar the protesters in "anti-national" colours using a familiar

palette – 'tukde tukde gang', 'Islamic radicals', 'urban naxals', and so on.

It was this sinister script that began playing out in Delhi following a speech by BJP leader Kapil Mishra on February 23. In his speech, Mr. Mishra said that his supporters will not remain peaceful if the police failed to evict, within three days, anti-CAA women protesters who had occupied a stretch near the Jaffrabad metro station. Despite its incendiary content, the speech evoked no penal response from the state. Shortly after, violence engulfed Jaffrabad and surrounding areas. Amid reports of violence from "both sides", Jaffrabad's anti-CAA sit-in was broken up. Along the way, a plausible narrative linking violence and anti-CAA protests had been established.

In this context, especially in the light of reports suggesting police bias against anti-CAA protesters, allegations of complicity of the establishment in the Delhi violence cannot be taken lightly. On the one hand, building a perception that anti-CAA protesters are "violent" makes state violence against these protesters more acceptable to the public. On the other, building a perception that opposition to the CAA is solely from the minority community makes state violence against anti-CAA protesters quite appealing to the ruling party's majoritarian constituency. The riots have a larger dimension that goes beyond the issue of support for, or opposition to, the CAA – pure sectarian hatred.

At any rate, one cannot ignore the politics behind the dominance of the violent/non-violent binary in protest-related discourse. By focusing attention on form to the exclusion of content, it serves as a useful discursive tool for authoritarian regimes determined to discredit peaceful dissent. During the freedom struggle, Mahatma Gandhi deployed an array of protest strategies against the British, with an escalating ladder of non-violent militancy, culminating in mass civil disobedience. Anti-CAA protesters do not have the luxury of being led by an apostle of non-violence who can exert inexorable moral pressure, not only on the state but also on sectarian sections of the majority. The last thing the country needs now is an elected government sending out the message that non-violent protest has no place in Indian democracy.

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FROM THE READERS' EDITOR

Journalistic norms during communal violence

In their struggle to find the appropriate language to report loss, journalists should neither be silent nor exaggerate



A.S. PANNEERSELVAN

That the communal violence in Delhi is still claiming lives is an indication of the total breakdown of governance in the national capital. The editorial in *The Hindu* pointed out two matters of grave concern: credible accounts of the failure of the police and the Union government's move to shield the law-enforcing agency from judicial scrutiny.

As the riots were raging, there were journalistic questions too. Readers wanted to know how the 'unspoken media rule' that reporters should not mention the religion of victims of violence came into existence. Why are communities involved in the riots referred to as "minority" and "majority"? Is there a social media policy in media organisations that governs the social media posts of employee-journalists? Can readers make a distinction between an observation posted by a journalist and the views of the news organisation where he or she works?

The test of time for good reporting

My column, "Evolving norms for reporting communal violence" (September 23, 2013), after the Muzaffarnagar riots in Uttar Pradesh spelt out how the norms for reporting riots evolved over time, since the Partition of India. During riots, government agencies speak of 'restraint' in reporting, which is a euphemism for self-censorship. Journalists who bear witness to violence realise that neither silence nor exaggeration is the answer. They struggle to find the appropriate language to report loss, which will not perpetuate a stereotype.

In 2010 the Press Council of India published a revised 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' but the guidelines did not take into account the subsequent growth of social media. There is one rule that has stood the test of time for good reporting: "While reporting news with regard to communal riots, the media should refrain from publishing/telecasting pictures of mangled corpses or any other photographic coverage which may create terror, or revulsion or ignite communal passion among people." Graphic coverage is seen as voyeuristic reportage and editors do not encourage it.

In the light of the Delhi riots, I think some

readers are conflating two different sets of reporting in this newspaper: protests over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the Delhi riots. There has been extensive reporting in this newspaper about those who oppose the CAA as well as those who support it. The newspaper consciously refrained from characterising the protesters – either for or against the Act – by their religion. The protests drew from various sections of society and the reports reflected this.

However, when violence erupted and there was systematic targeting of a particular community, the newspaper named the community that was being victimised. The Press Council's guidelines ask journalists to avoid giving community-wise figures of the victims of a communal riot. The aim is to avoid any writing that has the potential to exacerbate trouble. But when social media is used to inflame violence, journalism is forced to counter the toxic propaganda by distinguishing the victims from the perpetrators. In journalism, the idea of being fair is to ensure that the victims get space to raise their grievances, and that false equivalences are not created where the perpetrators and victims are put on an equal footing in a misplaced notion of balance. The principle behind both the editorial decisions – not naming and naming the communities – is to minimise harm and not strengthen the violent forces.

Social media policy

On the question of social media policy for journalists, there are some news organisations that have come up with binding rules. Some have suggested guidelines. The vexatious question is how to determine what is the individual freedom of the journalist and how it sometimes impacts the reputation of the news organisation.

The American Society of News Editors (ASNE) has come up with 10 important takeaways for journalists using various social media platforms. Some of them are: "Traditional ethics rules still apply online, assume everything you write online will become public, break news on your website, not on Twitter and beware of perceptions." Every journalist should heed ASNE's caution: "Reporters should act the same way online as they would in person. They shouldn't say anything they wouldn't want to see on the front page of their newspaper, and they shouldn't post anything that would embarrass them personally or professionally or their organization."

readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

A deal that increases uncertainty

The U.S.-Taliban agreement achieves some objectives, but may not bring lasting peace

MOHAMMED AYOOB

The U.S.-Taliban agreement signed on February 29 may end up paving the way for further intra-Afghan fighting because it leaves the most important issue, namely, the future relationship between the Afghan government and the Taliban, unresolved. All it does is to propose an intra-Afghan dialogue between the Kabul government and the Taliban scheduled to begin on March 10.

The prospects of such a dialogue leading to a durable peace in the country do not seem to be very good. A major reason for this is the inability of both the Kabul government and the Taliban to speak in one voice. The government is a perfect picture of disunity with President Ashraf Ghani and his primary challenger Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah threatening to set up parallel governments. What makes this rivalry very dangerous is that Mr. Ghani belongs to the largest ethnic group, the Pashtuns, and Mr. Abdullah's base is among his fellow Tajiks, the second largest group in Afghanistan.

Concessions made by Mr. Ghani's government to the Taliban will likely be interpreted by Mr. Abdullah's supporters as an intra-Pashtun deal reached at the expense of other ethnic groups, especially the Tajiks and the Uzbeks, who formed the bulk of the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance from 1996 to 2001. Consequently, ethnic fissures may descend into open conflict.

Why India should be concerned
The prospect of this happening should worry New Delhi for two interrelated reasons. One, India has a major stake in the stability of Afghanistan, however tenuous it may be, as it has invested considerable resources in the country's development. Two, India has a major stake in the continuation in power of the present dispensation, which it considers a strategic asset vis-à-vis Pakistan. An increased political and military role for the Taliban and the expansion of its territorial control should be of great concern to India since the Taliban is widely believed to be a protégé of Islamabad. Therefore, any celebration in New Delhi will be highly misplaced.

Mohammed Ayoob is University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of International Relations, Michigan State University



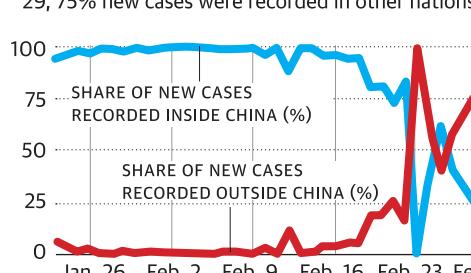
DATA POINT

Global emergency

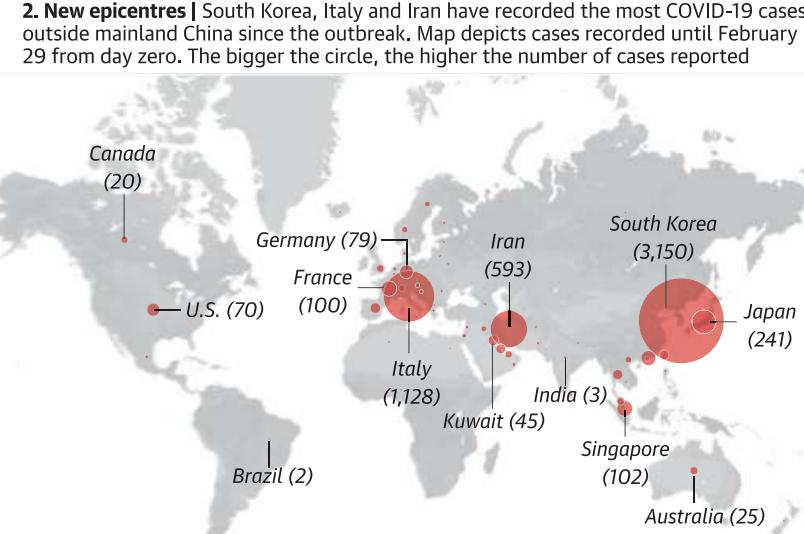
In the last week, the novel coronavirus has spread at a faster rate outside mainland China than within the country. Some nations in Western Europe, Western and Eastern Asia have emerged as the new epicentres of SARS-CoV-2. The rate at which people succumbed to the virus in nations outside mainland China increased sharply in the past week.

By Suman Sen, Naresh Singaravelu and Sravya C.

1. Not confined to China | Until February 18, a relatively small proportion of new COVID-19 cases were reported outside mainland China. Since then, the share has increased exponentially. On February 29, 75% new cases were recorded in other nations



2. New epicentres | South Korea, Italy and Iran have recorded the most COVID-19 cases outside mainland China since the outbreak. Map depicts cases recorded until February 29 from day zero. The bigger the circle, the higher the number of cases reported



3. Death rate spikes | Outside mainland China the virus has claimed 106 lives as of February 29. Iran has reported the most deaths. The table lists the number of deaths reported by the most affected countries. Since February 23, the deaths have multiplied at an alarming rate in Iran and Italy and to an extent in S.Korea

Country	Feb. 19	Feb. 21	Feb. 23	Feb. 25	Feb. 27	Feb. 29
Iran	2	4	8	16	26	43
Italy	0	1	3	10	17	29
S. Korea	0	2	6	10	13	16
Japan	1	1	1	1	4	5
Hong Kong	2	2	2	2	2	2
France	1	1	1	1	2	2

Source: Center for Systems Science and Engineering, Johns Hopkins University

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 2, 1970

A peep into Bamboo Curtain

Washington: China specialists in the United States believe that they have at last been able to crack the bamboo curtain and learn a great deal more about the enigmatic Mao Tsetung and the country he rules. The U.S. Government and scholars are said to have gained this new insight from a number of documents. They were acquired by the U.S. through Japanese and Hong Kong sources and those who have seen them are convinced they are genuine. Among other things, the newly acquired evidence traces the origin of the Sino-Soviet conflict to 1945. The documents also purport to show that the cultural revolution was not a power struggle but a movement deliberately set in motion by Mao to find out who were the true revolutionaries and who were the enemies of the regime. It was also intended to find out who should inherit his mantle. Mao pinned his hopes on two precepts: that conflict was inherently beneficial and that a true revolutionary should keep close to the masses. He had great faith in the ordinary people and was often contemptuous of bureaucrats and intellectuals. "The more books a person reads, the more stupid he becomes," he is said to have remarked.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 2, 1920

Indian detenus

Calcutta: The following press communiqué has been issued to-day (March 1) in connection with recent releases from detention and surveillance of a number of youths who had been dealt with under Regulation 8 of 1918 and the Defence of India Act. "It has been represented to the Local Government that private employers fearing harassment to themselves are diffident about giving them employment. It is desirable therefore that the attitude of the Local Government should be made clear. It is the hope of the Governor in Council that these youths will speedily settle down to honest lives. The finding of regular and reputable work will conduce most speedily to this end and the Local Government have helped and are helping 10 individual cases to secure employment. So long as these persons keep clear of revolutionary conspiracy there is no intention of exercising surveillance over them. It is not appropriate that they should take up the profession of teaching but there is no objection to their resuming their own studies."

FROM PAGE ONE

Pope expels rape convict Kerala priest

The Vatican on December 5 issued a decree that permanently expelled Vadakkanchery from all matters pertaining to clergy.

The diocese of Mananthavady handed over the order to Vadakkanchery.

The final report of the diocese, which was submitted to the Vatican, was officially released on Sunday.

Vadakkanchery was posted as vicar of St. Sebastian parish in Kottiyoor, run by diocese of Mananthavady in Kannur. He also served as the manager of a school attached to the church.

He was suspended from

the priesthood in February 2017 after he was arrested in connection with the rape of a 16-year-old girl at Kottiyoor.

The victim gave birth to a baby on February 7 at a private hospital in Kannur. After the delivery, the new-born was sent to an orphanage run by a Christian management, without the knowledge of the victim.

The case came to light following the intervention of district Childline and Vadakkanchery was charged under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act by the police.

Palaniswami promises protection for all, requests Muslims not to protest

'Centre has given clear explanation about CAA, NPR, NRC'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VIRUDHUNAGAR

Asserting that the AIADMK government would protect all people in Tamil Nadu, irrespective of caste, creed and community, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Sunday appealed to Muslims, particularly womenfolk, not to resort to agitations [against the Citizenship Amendment Act] and urged them to carry on with their normal routine.

Speaking at the foundation-stone laying ceremony for a new government medical college and 700-bed hospital in Virudhunagar, he said that the Centre had given a clear explanation about the CAA, the NPR and the proposed NRC.

Plea to cooperate
For its part, the Tamil Nadu government had given an assurance that it would not act in a manner that may pose threats to the minorities, Mr. Palaniswami said. He appealed to the people to cooperate with the official machinery and ensure that the State moved forward and brought in development.

Mr. Palaniswami alleged that some outfits were spreading rumours and making misleading statements for political reasons.

"They should realise the consequences of such irresponsible statements and stop instigating people," he said.

Earlier, in Ramanathapuram, he accused the Opposition of spreading rumours about the law and order situation while the State remained a "peace haven". He alleged that some outfits were bent on tarnishing the image of the State government as they were "unable to stomach the popularity" it enjoyed among the masses.

'State is safe'
"Don't believe or get carried away by such false propaganda. The State is safe. The law and order is absolutely intact," he asserted.

DMK re-nominates Tiruchi Siva to RS seat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The DMK on Sunday re-nominated Tiruchi N. Siva — whose tenure in the Upper House is set to end soon — as its candidate for the upcoming Rajya Sabha polls in Tamil Nadu.

The other candidates are N.R. Elango, an advocate and legal adviser to the party, and former Khadi Minister Andhiyur Selvaraj, who was once reprimanded by former party president M. Karunanidhi for taking part

in a fire-walking ceremony. Mr. Selvaraj is the party's SC/ST wing secretary and belongs to the Arunthathiyar community.

Tiruchi Siva

Cong. to demand Shah's ouster

Opposition party likely to move adjournment notices in both Houses

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The second part of the Budget session of Parliament beginning Monday is expected to start on a stormy note as the Congress will make a fresh demand for the resignation of Union Home Minister Amit Shah over the "inaction" by the Delhi police.

The Budget session, convening after a recess from February 11, will continue till April 3.

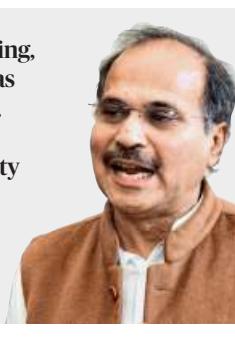
The Congress is likely to submit adjournment motion notices in both Houses asking for a debate over the Delhi violence that left 42 dead so far and over 250 injured so far.

To seek accountability
Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the party would seek accountability from the Centre as to how violence

was allowed to erupt and how could it go on for days without being checked.

"We will continue to raise the demand of Home Minister Amit Shah's resignation on the floor of the House. It is a disastrous failure of the government and there was mayhem all around. Somebody has to be held accountable," Mr. Chowdhury told *The Hindu*.

"When Delhi was burning, the Home Minister was extending hospitality to



[U.S.] President [Donald] Trump. He cannot skirt responsibility as it has tarnished our image globally," Mr. Chowdhury said.

Police criticised

He said the fact that the Delhi police, considered a better police force, could not control the violence pointed to "some sort of nexus between the rioters and a section of police officials".

Congress president Sonia Gandhi had informally met

senior party leaders on Saturday to discuss strategy for the coming Parliament session.

On Thursday, she met President Ram Nath Kovind and urged him to remove Mr. Shah.

The Congress Working Committee deliberated on the issue last week and passed a resolution demanding answers from both the Central and Delhi governments.

The CWC urged the people of Delhi to "reject the politics of hate".

Ms. Gandhi formed a delegation comprising All India Congress Committee general secretary Mukul Wasnik, Delhi in-charge Shaktisinh Gohil, Haryana Congress chief Kumari Selja, former MP Tariq Anwar and Mahila Congress chief Sushmita Dev to visit the riot-hit areas and submit a report.

Central investigating agencies in the non-BJP States has been extended to include the CRPF," Mr. Surjewala said.

In the past three days, the Income Tax Department conducted searches across the State, even covering the family of a senior IAS officer in the government.

"A PDS scam involving ₹36,000 crore came to light earlier. The diary, which came into police possession by chance and which has details of the scam, has been put forth for the media by Mr. Baghel, T.S. Singh Deo and myself," Mr. Surjewala said. The "clandestine, cloak-and-dagger raids" showed that the Centre was scammed.

Mr. Punia said the clumsy manner and timing of the searches exposed the Centre's intentions.

I-T searches part of vendetta: Congress

Slams Centre for deploying CRPF

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday accused the Modi government of resorting to "political vendetta" in Chhattisgarh by conducting income tax raids during which the CRPF assisted officials.

At a press conference here, Congress communications chief Randeep Surjewala and leader in charge of the State party affairs P.L. Punia said the Centre was following "coercive centralism" instead of cooperative federalism.

They said the searches were aimed at stalling the State's investigation into the allegations of corruption against the previous BJP government, led by Raman Singh.

"The Modi government's so-called alliance with Cen-

Uddhav's wife is editor of Saamana

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

Rashmi Thackeray, wife of Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, has taken charge as the editor of the Shiv Sena mouthpiece *Saamana*.

Mr. Thackeray had been the editor of the daily till his swearing-in as Chief Minister. Ms. Thackeray had refrained from any public post all these years.

Saamana, a Marathi daily, and *Dopahara ka Saamana* in Hindi are known to carry the party's stand on regional and national issues and the Shiv Sena makes all important announcements through the paper.

The paper is known for its aggressive language, especially in its editorials.

In Sunday's edition, *Saamana* carried an announcement naming Ms. Thackeray as its editor. It has named Industries Minister Subhash Desai and Liladhar Doke as its trustees.

NDA is united in Bihar, says Nitish Kumar

Chief Minister says the alliance will win a huge majority in the coming Assembly election

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA



It's poll season: Janata Dal (U) supporters arriving for the party's meeting at Gandhi Maidan in Patna on Sunday. ■ RANJEET KUMAR

On his 69th birthday on Sunday, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) was united in Bihar and would win more than 200 seats in the 243-member Assembly in the October-November election. Mr. Kumar listed the achievements of his government and formally launched the party's election campaign.

"Let us resolve to ensure that the NDA will win more than 200 seats," Mr. Kumar said at the party's *Karyakarta Sammelan* (workers' meeting) at Gandhi Maidan here.

Controversial meeting

Mr. Kumar's meeting with the Leader of the Opposition Tejaswi Yadav of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) during the Budget session of the Assembly has fuelled speculation, but his speech at the meeting dispelled it.

For the past several days,

the State capital has been dotted with hoardings, billboards, posters and huge arches on roads with life-size photos of Janata Dal (U) leaders and workers. However, the workers' meeting had sparse attendance. Party

MPs, MLAs and other leaders brought participants in buses, but not to the claimed numbers.

Mr. Tejaswi, currently on a *Berojgari hatao* ('remove unemployment') yatra, posted pictures of the JD(U)

meeting and termed it a "flop show".

Mr. Kumar underscored that the Assembly had recently unanimously passed a resolution against the National Register of Citizens and declared that the Nation-

Three unidentified men attacked Upas Hindu in his house at Pyrkun village at about 2.45 a.m. on Sunday. A local health centre declared him brought dead.

He was the third victim of the clashes that erupted at Ichamati near the Bangladesh border on February 28 following a meeting between the Khasi Students' Union (KSU) and non-tribal people

in the area. The meeting was organised to gather support against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and for the introduction of the inner-line permit (ILP). Tribal organisations in Meghalaya have been demanding the ILP system, already applicable in four other north-eastern states, for restricting the entry of outsiders into the State.

The February 28 clash claimed the life of a KSU member identified as 35-year-old Lurshai Hynniewta. A 31-year-old vegetable vendor, identified as Rupchand Dewan of Assam's Barpeta district, was stabbed to death in Shillong's Jowai area in a retaliatory attack on February 29.

At least 15 people have been injured in the clashes since February 28, some undergoing treatment in hospitals. Petrol bombs were also thrown in certain localities. However, no damage of property was reported.

Meghalaya Director-General of Police R. Chandranathan on Sunday called upon citizens, social and religious organisations, and tribal bodies to unite in fighting the menace of rumours and hate-mongering regarding the incidents that happened in the State.

Meghalaya death toll reaches three

Curfew extended in parts of Shillong after clashes between tribals and non-tribals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Curfew in parts of Meghalaya's capital Shillong and East Khasi Hills district area was extended "until further orders" on Sunday after the death of a 37-year-old man, taking the toll in clashes between tribal and non-tribal people to three.

"Curfew extended in parts of Shillong until further orders as there is every likelihood of a serious breach of peace and tranquillity which may lead to loss of life and property," East Khasi Hills District Magistrate M. War Nongbri said.

The district police said

There is a likelihood of breach of peace, which may lead to loss of life and property

M. WAR NONGBRI
District Magistrate, East Khasi Hills

in the area. The meeting was organised to gather support against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and for the introduction of the inner-line permit (ILP). Tribal organisations in Meghalaya have been demanding the ILP system, already applicable in four other north-eastern states, for restricting the entry of outsiders into the State.

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Long wait ahead for NRC-excluded

With no clarity on administrative points, process of sending notices yet to begin

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

Six months after they found their names missing from the updated National Register of Citizens (NRC), more than 19 lakh people in Assam are anxiously awaiting their chance to be back in the list.

The final draft of the NRC published on August 31, 2019, had excluded 19,06,657 out of 3.3 crore applicants.

Petition in SC
The All Assam Minority Students' Union and the Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind had 10 days ago filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking photo identity card for those included in the NRC and the immediate start of the pro-

cess of appealing for possible inclusion by those excluded," Guwahati-based rights activist A.B. Khandaker told *The Hindu* on Sunday. After receiving notice from the NRC authority, each excluded person will have 120 days to file an appeal at any of the existing 100 Foreigners' Tribunals (FTs) — 200 more are in the pipeline — which in turn will have to dispose of the cases within six months. The appellant then has the option of approaching higher courts.

But the State government indicated that the process of sending notices to the excluded could wait until the entire list is re-verified to make it error-free. The BJP said the re-verification was needed to weed out "Bangladeshis", primarily Muslims.

The NRC authority had in mid-February allowed the release of most of the 55,000 Assam government officials who had been engaged in the updating exercise for more than five years. The release was on "various grounds like superannuation or transfer with the promotion". All the district heads were notified for assigning new officers in their place after training them suitably in NRC work.

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Ordeal continues: NRC officials verifying documents at a centre in Morigaon district of Assam. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

Foreign Secretary to visit Bangladesh

PM expected to visit Dhaka this month

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Harsh Vardhan Shringla

Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla is expected to reach Dhaka for a two-day visit on Monday to prepare the grounds for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh later this month.

The visit will give space to both sides to revive their bilateral relationship, which has been tense since India passed the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 (CAA).

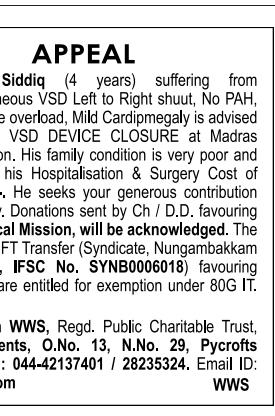
Continuing the negative trend, Bangladesh Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury cancelled her India visit on Sunday, raising concerns over high-level contacts between the two sides.

Bangladesh had invited Prime Minister Modi along with other international leaders to the launch of 'Muhibbul' celebrations in Dhaka on March 17. Dhaka's leading newspaper *Daily Star* reported that the government of Bangladesh has also invited Congress presi-

dent Sonia Gandhi for the inaugural event. Former President of India Pranab Mukherjee, too, is scheduled to travel to Bangladesh around the same time for the celebrations.

Mr. Modi's journey to Dhaka assumes importance as it comes three months after the CAA was passed by the Parliament.

The new law, which has sparked protests across the country, grants citizenship rights to the minority communities of Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan. In a recent interview, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina termed the CAA "unnecessary".



Experts raise concerns for India over U.S.-Taliban agreement

They say the proposed Afghanistan-Pakistan dialogue, facilitated by Washington, must not cut India out of the region's security architecture

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

New Delhi has signalled its acceptance of the U.S.-Taliban and U.S.-Afghanistan peace agreements in Doha and Kabul that aim to end the 18-year war in Afghanistan, by sending envoys to witness them.

The two agreements set out a course for the next 14 months, including the pullout of U.S. troops, the denial of space to foreign terrorist groups and any violence against the U.S. and allies, and intra-Afghan dialogue.

However, after a closer look at the texts of the two agreements distributed to news agencies, named the 'Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan between the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan which is not recognised by the United States as a state and is known as the Taliban, and the United States of America', and the

Joint Declaration between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the United States of America for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan', diplomatic and security experts say the impact on India may be a cause for worry for the government.

Terms still nebulous

"The reduction in violence is a much-needed respite for Afghans," said Amar Sinha, National Security Advisory Board member and former Ambassador to Afghanistan.

However, he added that "all Taliban demands have been front-loaded, while the actual terms of the 'peace deal' are yet to be negotiated between the Taliban and the Afghan side, facilitated by the U.S. So, much of the heavy lifting remains."

More critical of the agreement, Anand Arni, former Special Secretary in the Research & Analysis Wing, who

worked closely on Indian policy in Afghanistan, said it was "entirely one-sided". "Taliban cannot deliver on the assurances it has given, and yet the U.S. has handed over Afghanistan to them. There is no reference to the Constitution, rule of law, democracy and elections," he said.

The salient points of concern are:

Does the term "U.S. and Allies" include India?

In the Doha agreement, the Taliban has guaranteed "enforcement mechanisms that will prevent the use of the soil of Afghanistan by any group or individual against the security of the United States and its allies". However, it is unclear whether India, which is not a U.S. ally, is included in this definition, and whether Pakistan-backed groups that threaten

Charting U.S. withdrawal

March 10: Release of 5,000 Taliban and 1,000 non-Taliban prisoners

May 29: Removal of UN Security Council sanctions against Taliban fighters; release of all remaining prisoners

June 15: U.S. Coalition Forces reduce to 8,600,

withdraw from five military bases

August 27: Removal of U.S. sanctions against Taliban

April 29, 2021: Expected completion of the U.S.-Taliban agreement, full withdrawal of U.S. troops in five military bases



The reduction in violence is a much-needed respite for Afghans... All Taliban demands have been front-loaded, while the actual terms of the peace deal are yet to be negotiated between the Taliban and the Afghan side, facilitated by the U.S. So, much of the heavy lifting remains

AMAR SINHA, NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER

India would still operate in Afghanistan. The Kabul declaration with the Ghani government, more specifically, commits to stopping "any international terrorist groups or individuals, including al-Qa'ida and ISIS-K, from using Afghan soil to threaten the security of the United States,

its allies and other countries."

Impact of prisoner release and lifting sanctions

Officials worry most about the "mainstreaming of the Haqqani network", which Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists reportedly fight alongside and were responsible for the 2008 bombing of the Indian embassy in Kabul. According to the agreements, 5,000 Taliban prisoners will be released by March 10, 2020, the first day of intra-Afghan negotiations, and the remainder in another three months. Officials also point out that the U.S. has committed to taking Taliban leaders off the UN Security Council's sanctions list by May 29, 2020, which could considerably bring down the number of terrorists. Pakistan is accused of harbouring, according to the FATF greylist con-

ditions. This might benefit Pakistan during the June 2020 FATF Plenary, when it faces a blacklist for not complying.

Handing powers to Taliban

In the Doha agreement, the U.S. has committed to clearing five bases and bringing troop levels down to 8,600 in four-and-a-half months, and even appears to submit to the possibility of a Taliban-led government, by extracting promises that the Taliban will not provide "visas, passports, travel documents or asylum" to those threatening the U.S. and its allies. This appears to sideline the "Intra-Afghan" dialogue, and India's support for the election process for leadership in Afghanistan. In the last section of the agreement, the U.S. and the Taliban seek "positive relations with each other and expect

that the relations between the United States and the new post-settlement Afghan Islamic government as determined by the intra-Afghan dialogue and negotiations will be positive".

This indicates that the Ghani government, which India has recognised as winner of the 2019 election, will only serve for an interim period. This also raises a big question mark on the future of Afghanistan's government, and whether it will remain a democracy. "The bottom line is that India cannot look at the agreements or the route to Kabul via Washington's view," said Mr. Arni.

Above all, experts warned the Afghanistan-Pakistan dialogue facilitated by the U.S. on cross-border terrorism and mechanisms must not cut India out of the region's security architecture.

TOUGH TALKS ▶ PAGE 13

Polish student in Kolkata told to leave India

Families in violence-affected areas line up with photos to check GTB Hospital mortuary



Long search: The families of the missing are hoping for some information. ■ PTI

Shahbaz, whose son Mohammad, who works as a welder, is missing.

DNA test

"He had gone to the Guru Nanak Eye Centre in Delhi on February 25 for treatment after he injured his eye during welding work. I spoke to him in the afternoon when he told us that a mob was dragging

people and beating them up. We haven't had any contact with or information about him after that," said Mr. Shahbaz. The family has now requested for a DNA test of a badly burnt body found in Karawal Nagar.

The violence in the Jaffrabad, Maupuri, Babarpur, Chand Bagh, Shiv Vihar, Bajajpura, Yamuna Vihar and Mustafabad areas of north-

east Delhi has claimed at least 42 lives and left over 200 injured so far.

4 bodies recovered?

According to some reports, four bodies were recovered from a violence-stricken area on Sunday, though health authorities have not yet confirmed the development.

Also bound by a common sorrow of having to look for

their 18-year-old sons are families of Pankaj and Bhurey Salma. "We just want the police to tell us if they are dead or alive... With every passing day, our hopes are diminishing," Pankaj says.

Help to families

Shahdara District Legal Services and other groups, stationed at the hospital, are offering assistance to the families.

"We are helping people access the correct information on how to fill the compensation form, to navigate through legal paperwork needed to claim the body, to look for missing people etc. We even have a list of those arrested," said advocate Mamtesh Sharma.

"So far, around 35 families contacted us. Some have identified bodies, others were directed by us to look into the wards where the injured are admitted. Also, we are coordinating with the police to find out if anyone missing was detained by them," Mr. Sharma said.

Father meets baby first time after riots

'Everything we had has been destroyed,' says distraught Firoz, unsure of future



Nothing left: Firoz Khan had gone to Ghaziabad for some work when Shabana was delivered of the baby.

bad's Loni for some work with a few of my family members and we just could not come back home. I was worried and scared. I broke down many times thinking of what the mob would have done to my family. As soon as we returned in the morn-

we had has been destroyed. The people even burnt the books of our children. I have a sister and mother too and I don't know where to go now," said Mr. Khan.

While some members of the family stayed back at the hospital, others stayed with friends and extended family. The family members said that while they were thrilled at the arrival of baby, they were not sure when they would be able to take the newborn home.

"There is a lot of fear among the people. We are simple lower-middle-class people. We have nothing to do with politics. We just want everyone to be happy and safe. We just hope that the nightmare ends soon," said Mr. Khan's relative Marjan Jahan.

ing today [Sunday], I rushed to the hospital to see my child," he said.

The family is now worried

about how it will manage to return to normal life. "Our neighbours saved our lives, but they could not save our house and shop. Everything

Board exams to resume in north-east Delhi

The affected students can still get postponement, says CBSE

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Board examinations in north-east Delhi are set to resume their normal schedule from Monday, but the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has offered a lifeline for those who have been affected by the violence there, promising to conduct the examinations again on a different date.

They have been told to contact their school principals to avail themselves of the relief. This relief is available for examinations sche-

duled until March 7. The examinations are due to continue until March 30.

In a circular issued by CBSE Secretary Anurag Tripathi on Sunday, the Board explains how it has been caught between two difficult realities with regard to examination scheduling in the wake of the violence.

It had postponed the board examinations from February 26 to 29 in up to 86 centres in east and north-east districts.

"The Board is of the view that further delay in con-

ducting Class XII examinations may hamper the chances of admissions in professional courses, i.e., medical, engineering, law, and other UG admissions. Few entrance examinations are conducted in accordance with the timelines fixed by the Hon'ble Courts and therefore dates are sacrosanct," said the CBSE circular, noting that the prestigious JEE (Main) examination is scheduled to begin on April 3.

"The Board is also clear that for candidates who are in a position to appear for the

board examinations, it would be very stressful and cause immense anxiety if the examinations are further postponed."

It added that the Delhi police are making sure security arrangements are in place for the examinations to be held safely. The Delhi government has closed all schools – which also act as examination centres – until March 7.

However, the CBSE admitted that some students are in especially "difficult circumstances".

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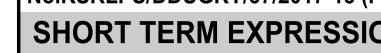
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No.KSRLPS/DDUGKY/37/2017-18 (Part 2) Date: 25-02-2020

SHORT TERM EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Invitation of Proposals for Skill Development and Placement of Youth under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya - Grameen Kaushalya Yojana

Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Mission (KSRLM) invites proposals under DDU-GKY from the Project Implementing Agencies (PIA) registered with Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India with valid PRN for implementation of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya - Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) for Skill Development and Placement of Youth in the State of Karnataka. Interested agencies may submit their proposal(s) online at erp.ddugky.info. While formulating the proposal, notifications issued by Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India from time to time regarding implementation of scheme should be taken into consideration prior to filling proposals online. The notifications can be referred at <http://www.ddugky.gov.in/notifications>. Last date and time for submitting proposal is 25-03-2020.

Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during the office hours 10.00 AM to 5.30 PM.

Pre-condition: Agency should apply as single and setup training centre in Karnataka State only.

Sd/- Mission Director Sanjeevini, KSRLPS

DIPR/Bengaluru/R.O.No.2638/2019-20

Anurag evades queries on Delhi hate speech

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Union Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur on Sunday evaded questions on his controversial speech during the Delhi Assembly election campaign.

"Sometimes, there is lack of information in the media, too, with regard to the way things are shown," he said at a press conference here, after an interaction with trade and industry representatives.

Pressed further, he said: "You are lying. Whatever information the media has... first improve your knowledge. Half-knowledge is dangerous. The matter is in court, so I am not going to speak further."

As for the communal riots in Delhi, Mr. Thakur said: "Whosoever is involved in the riots or in the incitement to the riots, strict action should be taken against them..."

He said the 'Vivaad se Vishwas' scheme was aimed at reducing litigation in the Income Tax Department.



Anurag Thakur

speak further."

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Sd/- COMMISSIONER

With falling allocation, Navy looks at fleet optimisation

It is firm on a third aircraft carrier and six advanced submarines under Project-75I, but will also look for more unmanned solutions

DINAKAR PERI

NEW DELHI
Facing increasing budgetary constraints and with several big-ticket acquisitions lined up, the Navy is looking at adopting unmanned platforms, both aerial and underwater, in a big way, Navy sources said.

However, it is firm on a third aircraft carrier and the next line of six advanced submarines under Project-75I.

This year, the Navy's share in the capital allocation of the defence budget is ₹26,688 crore, while officials said the committed liabilities alone stood at ₹45,000 crore. "We are working on ways to manage it," one official said.

Last year too, the Navy's capital allocation was ₹23,156 crore, while the liabilities were ₹25,461 crore. In the past few years, the

Navy's share as a percentage of the defence budget has been going down.

As part of the fleet rationalisation plan, the Navy has cut down on the requirement of minesweepers from 12 to eight and additional P-8I long-range patrol aircraft from 10 to six. The Navy now has no dedicated minesweepers in service, and is resorting to makeshift arrangements. It has procured some autonomous underwater vehicles, and efforts are on to procure more. Similarly, the Navy operates some Israeli drones, and is in the process of procuring 10 General Atomics Seaguardian High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) armed drones from the U.S. for maritime surveillance. "It is imperative to look for more unmanned solutions," the official said.



Doing with less: The Navy has cut down on the requirement of P-8I long-range patrol aircraft from 10 to six. • BHAGY PRakash K.

Recently, Chief of the Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat, called for a staggered approach to big procurements, and said the third carrier was too expensive, and the Navy would have to

choose between submarines and a third carrier.

"As an expanding blue-water Navy with growing responsibilities, we need power projection. It is not about one over the other.

We need more submarines, but we also need a third aircraft carrier so that we have two operational carriers on each seaboard at any given time," a Navy source said. "We will push the case," he said.

Pointing out that big-ticket procurements were inherently staggered, the source said, "Both are long-gestation projects and each has a different role. If we start planning now, it will take 10 to 15 years to get an aircraft carrier. So we cannot delay it."

The P-75I is being processed through the Strategic Partnership (SP) route. The Navy has short-listed five foreign original equipment manufacturers (OEM) and two Indian strategic partners, based on the response to the Request for Information and the subsequent criteria-based evaluation. "The project is

on track, and there is no change in the numbers. We should be able to issue the Request for Proposal by April," the source said.

The Navy envisages the proposed second Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC-II) to be displacing 65,000 tonnes and conventionally powered, with a steam-launched catapult for launching and recovering aircraft.

"The Navy has done a detailed study, and the specifications have been arrived at based on the requirements. The IAC-II should cost around ₹45,000 crore," another source said, adding there were exaggerated cost estimates being quoted.

In addition, the Navy has several big-ticket acquisitions lined up. These include 111 naval utility helicopters, six additional Boeing P-8I aircraft and 13 BAE Systems MK45 naval guns.

10 injured in BSF's drug search in Tripura

A CORRESPONDENT

AGARTALA
At least 10 people, including women, were injured after BSF personnel launched a coordinated search for drugs at some villages of Sonamura, a subdivision in west Tripura, on Saturday, the police said on Sunday.

The police reportedly received complaints from villagers that troops assaulted them indiscriminately and destroyed household goods while searching for drugs, especially cannabis. Two of the injured were admitted to hospital.

Eye-witnesses said 14 security vehicles carrying troops from different BSF units conducted the operation for five hours. The search was called off after senior police officials intervened.

The BSF denied beating up people or damaging property, but confirmed conducting the raids, citing credible inputs.

Vertical dash



Head first: National Security Guard commandos at a mock drill during the inauguration of the force's 29 Special Composite Group complex at Rajarhat on the outskirts of Kolkata on Sunday. • PTI

+ INTERVIEW | VISHNU DUTT SHARMA

'We will talk to those misled on CAA again'

BJP's M.P. State chief denies minorities are leaving party

SIDHARTH YADAV

Describing the Congress regime in Madhya Pradesh as a "government of lies and deceit", Khajuraho MP and newly elected Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State president Vishnu Dutt Sharma believes electoral fortunes have turned in the party's favour of late. Though he downplays the organisational impact of minority members quitting the party en masse over the contentious Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in the past month, Mr. Sharma offers to take the reconciliatory path of reaching out to them and bringing them back.

As the newly elected president of the BJP Madhya Pradesh unit, what is your road map for the party in the State?

■ The party's structure in Madhya Pradesh is that of an ideal organisation. It stands on a comprehensive structure. My focus will be to accelerate ongoing work. The organisation is already strong and powerful, but we need to make it stronger.

In the past month, several members of the party's minority cell quit the party over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in Madhya Pradesh. Many have alleged the leadership refused to lend them an ear. Has the exodus affected the party's organisation?

■ The attempts by the Congress and Communists to mislead people are unfortunate. You can't guess the relation of the law with minorities in India. It is only meant for the three coun-



misled on the CAA, we will talk to them again so that they continue working for the party.

Even your MLA Narayan Tripathi has spoken out against the law..

■ Anyone can give their personal views.

However, it is not like this is having a major impact anywhere. Wherever our people have made such remarks, we have spoken to them.

The Congress government has hit out at the BJP government at the Centre for slashing ₹14,000 crore from its share in the Budget, and repeatedly cited funds crunch in effectively implementing welfare schemes. What's your take on this?

■ When the Centre sanctioned 8 lakh houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana to Madhya Pradesh and transferred funds, its government did not build two lakh houses by refusing to pay the matching grant. You are snatching away the right of the poor that the Centre is giving to them in the form of payment.

We did not transfer houses but funds. The funds the Centre gave them, they returned a part of it unused. What's more, they implemented the Ayushman Bharat [scheme] only after being pressed. [Chief Minister] Kamal Nath says MPs should appeal to the Centre for more funds. Has he ever spoken to the MPs? Forget that, he does not want them to be involved in any programmes. By lying, the government is shirking from its own responsibility.

Those who had to leave the party, inevitably left it. Just four or five people leaving the party does not dent an organisation run by thousands of workers. Still, those who are being

CBI awaits prosecution sanction against 110 officials

Eight requests are pending with Ministry of Personnel

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is awaiting sanction for prosecution from government departments against 110 officials, including four former parliamentarians and 12 Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officials, in 48 corruption cases.

According to the Central Vigilance Commission data compiled till December 31, 2019, the maximum number of eight requests is pending with the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, followed by seven with the Corporation Bank and six with the Uttar Pradesh government.

Among the IAS officials against whom sanction for prosecution has been sought, four



Saugata Roy is among the four former parliamentarians who are likely to be prosecuted.

were of the rank of Secretary and one was a Chief Secretary.

The CBI's request for sanction to prosecute four former parliamentarians – Saugata Roy, Prafull Banerjee, Kakoli Ghosh Dasgupta and Suwendu Adhikari –

has been also pending since April 2019.

In all, 10 cases that were pending till November last year have been cleared in about a month.

'Not needed'

Although 14 cases of requests for sanction are currently with various banks, in 10 cases involving 19 officials of the Corporation Bank, the Punjab National Bank, the Union Bank of India and the Indian Overseas Bank, the Central Vigilance Commission agreed with the departments concerned that it was not needed. However, the final decision is awaited. In the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, sanction for prosecution has been sought against three officials accused in two cases.



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Biden sweeps South Carolina primary

He wins 48.4% of the vote and 33 delegates over Sanders' 19.9% and 11 delegates; Tom Steyer drops out

SIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

The Democratic party's race for a presidential candidate saw a significant shift on Saturday night as former U.S. Vice-President Joseph R. Biden Jr. won the South Carolina primary by a landslide, with support from the state's African American community. Mr. Biden, who has projected himself as the establishment wing of the party, won 48.4% of the vote and 33 of the 54 available delegates, with Bernie Sanders, the independent senator from Vermont who is leading the progressive wing of the party, coming in second with 19.9% of the vote and 11 delegates.

Having performed poorly in Iowa and New Hampshire, Mr. Biden's position in the primaries has been secured – at least for now – by Saturday night's victory in South Carolina, giving his candidacy momentum as the country heads to 'Super Tuesday' when 14 states hold primaries. Some 61% of blacks supported Mr. Biden on Saturday as per exit polls conducted by Edison Media Research compared to 17% supporting Mr. Sanders – 56% of those who voted were black.

Mr. Sanders leads the de-



Landslide win: Democratic U.S. presidential candidate Joe Biden taking a selfie with supporters at his South Carolina primary night rally in Columbia on Saturday. ■ REUTERS

legate count nationally, followed by Mr. Biden.

Buttigieg draws a blank

Pete Buttigieg, the former South Bend Indiana Mayor, who leads Mr. Sanders in Iowa delegates (the results have been challenged by Sanders campaign) is third in overall delegates. However, the Mayor, who has failed to gain traction in the African American community, got no delegates from South Carolina.

It was a bad night for billionaire Tom Steyer as well, whose proposed policies included climate action, a

wealth tax, a minimum wage and addressing 'unchecked capitalism'. Mr. Steyer, who came in third in terms of vote share (11.3%) but failed to win any delegates, announced that he is dropping out of the race.

Mr. Sanders, who is the most popular candidate among younger Democrats and whose campaign message is social and economic justice, has also been improving his ratings among African Americans nationally.

A Reuters/Ipsos poll from last week ranked Mr. Sanders ahead of Mr. Biden nationally in terms of popularity with

African Americans. In South Carolina, Mr. Sanders won the 17-29 age group (43% versus Mr. Biden's 26%) but Mr. Biden had a progressively greater lead over Mr. Sanders in older age groups.

Mr. Biden's victory speech on Saturday night had what appeared to be repeated veiled references to Mr. Sanders. "Talk is cheap. False promises are deceptive. And talk of a revolution isn't changing anyone's life," Mr. Biden said. Mr. Biden and other centrist Democrats have taken issue with Mr. Sanders' universal health-care proposal, 'Medicare

for All' as being too expensive to fund. Mr. Biden also thanked one of his key African American supporters on Saturday night.

Praises for 'buddy'

"My buddy Jim Clyburn, you brought me back," he said to the U.S. House of Representatives' Majority Whip, who had given Mr. Biden his influential endorsement and spoke before Mr. Biden at the latter's victory speech on Saturday.

At least five Democrats, including Mr. Biden, Mr. Buttigieg, former New York City Mayor and billionaire businessman Michael Bloomberg, U.S. Senator from Massachusetts and progressive candidate Elizabeth Warren, as well as Senator from Minnesota and moderate, Amy Klobuchar, were scheduled to be in Alabama on Sunday to mark the attack on a voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery 55 years ago, Reuters reported. Alabama is one of fourteen states that will vote on Tuesday.

On Saturday, Mr. Sanders flew to the delegate-rich California, which also votes on Tuesday, when 34% of delegates who will vote in the nominating convention later this year will be awarded.

Tough talks ahead as Ghani rejects Taliban prisoner swap

Exchange clause is part of a pact on foreign forces' pullout

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

Afghanistan's weakened government protested on Sunday against a key component of a deal between the U.S. and the Taliban, setting the scene for fractious talks when Kabul and the insurgents meet to strike a separate agreement.

President Ashraf Ghani, who faces a political crisis following claims of fraud in his recent re-election, said he would not commit to a clause in the U.S.-Taliban deal that calls for a massive prisoner exchange, something the militants have been demanding for years.

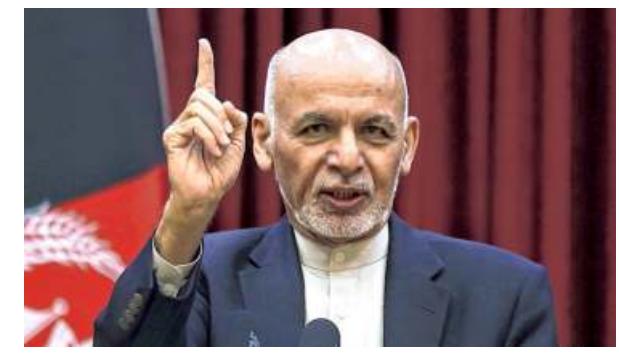
The swap is one part of the accord, fleshed out over more than a year of talks between the U.S. and the Taliban, that was signed Saturday in Doha and lays out a 14-month withdrawal timetable for all foreign forces – provided the militants fulfil various pledges and open talks with Kabul.

Mr. Ghani committed to continue honouring a partial truce that has seen violence plummet in Afghanistan, but he pushed back against the requirement for the Taliban to release up to 1,000 prisoners and for the Afghan government to release around 5,000 insurgent captives by March 10, when talks are supposed to start.

The agreement says the "United States commits to completing this goal" of releasing the Taliban prisoners, but it is unclear how that would happen if Kabul is not on board.

5,000 prisoners

"There is no commitment to releasing 5,000 prisoners," Mr. Ghani told a rare press conference, noting that any



Bumpy road: Afghan President Ashraf Ghani speaking at a press conference in Kabul on Sunday. ■ AP

release is "not in the authority of the US, it is in the authority of the Afghan government".

"It would be an extremely lucky situation if in 14 months there was a deal signed with the Taliban," she added, referring to the timeline under which all foreign forces are supposed to quit Afghanistan.

After Mr. Ghani's re-election was confirmed last month, his bitter rival Abdullah Abdullah immediately rejected the result and vowed to set up a rival administration. Washington has pointedly not congratulated Mr. Ghani.

Political deal-making is notoriously difficult in Afghanistan, a country still riven by tribal and ethnic rivalries, and where squabbling leaders and warlords struggle to find common ground on important issues.

The Taliban had, until now, refused to negotiate with Mr. Ghani's government – which they considered a U.S. puppet regime.

The deal says all foreign troops will leave if the Taliban stop jihadist groups such as Al-Qaeda and Islamic State using the country as a base to plot attacks against Washington and its allies.

Turkey confirms operation against Syria regime

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ANKARA

Turkey on Sunday announced the launch of an offensive against the Moscow-backed Syrian regime, as Ankara put pressure on Europe by opening its border for migrants to seek passage to the continent via Greece.

Tensions have soared between Russia and Turkey after an airstrike blamed on

Damascus killed dozens of Turkish soldiers in Idlib last week. Turkish and Syrian military exchanged fire over the weekend with Syrian forces targeting a Turkish drone and artillery and Ankara claiming to have shot down two Syrian fighter jets.

The situation in rebel-held Idlib was already volatile as the regime supported by Russian air power pressed an

assault on the region, killing hundreds of civilians, in a bid to retake the last opposition enclave in an eight-year civil war.

The confrontation between the Russia-backed Syrian military and NATO-member Turkey, which supports Syrian rebels, has prompted worries over a wider conflict and a migrant crisis in Europe similar to 2015.

Greece said Sunday it has blocked nearly 10,000 migrants at its border with Turkey.

"Following the heinous at-

tack on February 27 in Idlib, operation 'Spring Shield' successfully continues," Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar said in a video shared by the Defence Ministry.

Turkish forces hit Syrian

regime positions after Mr. Erdogan warned Damascus would "pay a price" for the air strike that killed 34 Turkish troops inside Idlib on Thursday.

+ Johnson proposed last year, reveals his pregnant fiancee

British PM has been dating Symonds since early last year



A file photo of Boris Johnson, left, with Carrie Symonds. ■ AFP

hatching early summer. Feel incredibly blessed."

According to *The Sunday Times*, the pregnancy had been an open secret in government circles.

Mr. Johnson, 55, becomes the first sitting U.K. Prime

Minister to divorce, marry and have a baby while in office at 10 Downing Street, where the couple have been living since July last year.

Twice-married Mr. Johnson had been dating Ms. Symonds since early last year.

Israel holds its third election in one year

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JERUSALEM

Israel goes to the polls for the third time on Monday in under a year. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is seeking re-election.

After two inconclusive elections last year, opinion polls forecast another stalemate – a troubling scenario for Mr. Netanyahu who will go on trial on corruption charges just two weeks after Monday's vote.

Weekend polls showed Benny Gantz's Blue and White and Mr. Netanyahu's Likud party in a tight race. Even so, the polls forecast both parties and their partners will fall short of securing the 61-seat majority in Parliament.

Mahathir seeks to contest PM's appointment in Parliament

Muhyiddin Yassin was sworn in as Malaysia's Premier

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KUALA LUMPUR

Former premier of Malaysia Mahathir Mohamad called on Sunday for an urgent sitting of Malaysia's Parliament to contest the appointment of a former ally as Prime Minister under a Malay-majority coalition that could further split the nation following the collapse of Mr. Mahathir's reformist alliance.

Muhyiddin Yassin, a seasoned politician who once famously quipped that he is Malay first and Malaysian second, was sworn in as the new leader of the palace on Sunday after getting the support of several opposition



Muhyiddin Yassin

parties. Among the supporters was the corruption-tainted United Malays National Organisation, which was ousted by Mahathir's Alliance of Hope in a historic vote in 2018.

Mr. Muhyiddin, 72, pulled his Bersatu party out of the alliance on Monday, triggering its collapse.

Mr. Mahathir resigned as PM in protest of the plan that would bring UMNO back to power. After a week of political turmoil, the King on Saturday said Mr. Muhyiddin had the majority support of lawmakers and named him the new leader.

But Mahathir's camp has contested that assertion, saying the 94-year-old two-time PM has the backing of 112 lawmakers to return as premier for a third time, surpassing the 112 votes needed for a simple majority.

ELSEWHERE



Pope cancels planned retreat due to 'cold'

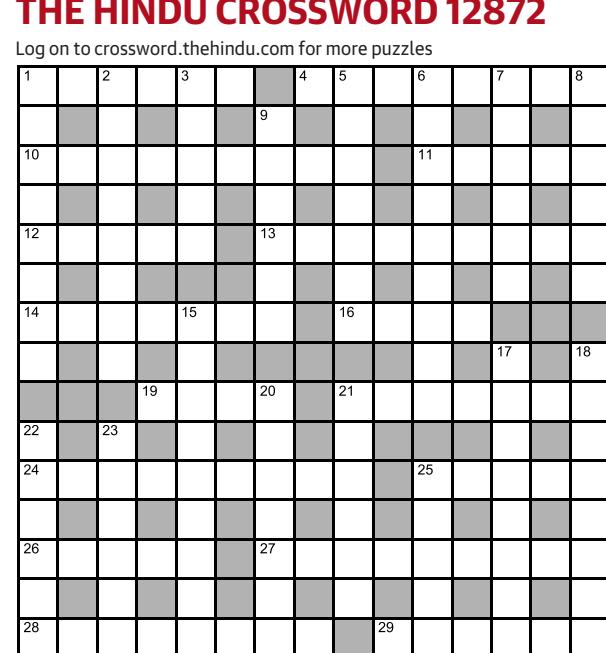
VATICAN CITY Pope Francis announced on Sunday that a cold he is suffering from has forced him to skip a Lenten retreat with senior Vatican officials south of Rome. It is the first time since 1950 that a Pope is missing the six-day spiritual retreat. ■ REUTERS

13 missing from cargo ship off Japan coast

TOKYO More than a dozen crew members of a cargo ship carrying 3,000 tonnes of iron scrap are missing after it collided with a fishing boat in waters off northern Japan, an official said on Sunday. ■ AFP

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12872

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



ACROSS

- 1 Slow the Frenchman in front (6)
- 4 Fair vehicle built in unending depression (8)
- 10 First, antenna is taken in front of Skywalker (9)
- 11 Use only new material (5)
- 12 Simple plot to trap one (5)

- 13 Great fertilizer added to some natural lush (9)
- 14 Chooses to design midriff baring class tee (7)
- 16 Head off to satisfy a pool (4)
- 19 Crack in equipment (4)
- 21 Defeat wrong judge (7)
- 24 Typically discompose a grave one (2,7)
- 25 Fool to leave a country (5)
- 26 Greek character with a difference (5)
- 27 Clear one detained by former judge (9)
- 28 Not to release an unimportant matter (8)
- 29 Brother's direction to collect unknown Chola artwork (6)

DOWN

- 1 Mark's position is one that is at the end of the football field (8)
- 2 Gatekeeper's partner as a rule (8)
- 3 Apprentice to get money and acquire knowledge (5)
- 5 Uprising created by colonial residents? (7)
- 6 Grandma eats some edible root finally in American island (9)
- 7 Dell is against passage (6)
- 8 Reinforcement of twill in ingots (6)
- 9 Burns most poetry after resistance shown by setter (6)
- 10 Ideal procedures for raised roads (9)
- 11 Horse on a fashionable ridge (8)
- 12 Distillate to massage sore knee (8)
- 13 Grade of silver/gold (7)
- 14 Cat's gang is after duck now (6)
- 15 Sweetheart! That's darn free country! (6)
- 16 Autumn measure for the dead (6)
- 17 Stage in stead (6)
- 18 Newfound old super (6)
- 19 Lewis (5)
- 20 Grazed smart bomb (5)
- 21 Hitter seen in nub (5)
- 22 Toy story sphere (5)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12871

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

ASK US

N. SREEKANTH

Q. I recently closed my home loan with SBI with the retirement corpus my father had accumulated. I am now paying a monthly EMI to my father with an agreed interest rate. This is a joint loan with my wife. I have the following questions:

- 1) Can I claim interest benefit under section 24 for the home loan?
- 2) I realised that I cannot claim the principal u/s 80C as I am paying my father. Could you please confirm?
- 3) Should I prepare any other document to avoid I-T scrutiny? My wife and I are transferring money to my father's bank account via NEFT on the 2nd of every month.

ANIL KUPPA

A. There is no specific provision under section 24 implying home loans availed from only banks and other financial institutions can be availed as deduction. Hence, interest on home loans paid to your father may be availed as deduction. However, principal repayment under section 80C can be availed only from such categories of lenders as government, LIC, National Housing Bank, other banks and financial institutions involved in financing the construction of house properties. Further, it is advisable to obtain a certificate from banks/financial institutions in support of the repayment so made. Hence, payments to your father with respect to principal cannot be availed as deduction. Documentation in the form of acknowledgement receipt from your father for the interest payments and an agreement with your father with respect to the housing loan can be entered into. It is also pertinent to note that your father should receive the interest received as income in his ITR.

(The above queries were answered before the Budget on Feb. 1 and are published now)

Q. I am a super senior citizen and a retired central government pensioner without medical insurance. I have spent about ₹10,000 towards preventive health check-ups and other medical expenses. Am I entitled to I-T exemption for the total amount, or is it limited to ₹5,000 under u/s 80D of the I-T Act?

RAM NANDULA

Q. I am a super senior citizen, aged 84. This month, I incurred an expense of ₹8,400 on root canal treatment. The payment to the dentist was made by a credit card. I do not have any medical insurance. Please clarify whether this payment is eligible for deduction under Sec.80D of the I-T Act?

N.R. KRISHNASWAMI

A. Under section 80D of the I-T Act for senior citizens, amounts paid towards medical expenditure of up to ₹50,000 can be availed as deduction in an assessment year. It is to be noted that no active medical insurance in the name of such senior citizens should be in force for such assessment year. Hence, both the claims, as above, can be made.

Q. My spouse and I work for the same organisation and live in a rented house. Both are paid House Rent Allowance (HRA). My rent paid in excess of 10% of pay works out to nil and therefore, I cannot claim any HRA exemption. As for my spouse, her HRA qualifies for exemption as the rent payment is in excess of 10% of salary. Kindly clarify if the exempted HRA could be claimed equally by self and my spouse or entire exempted HRA amount is to be claimed by my spouse only. I am in the 30% I-T slab and my wife 20% slab.

P. VENKATA RAO

A. Allowable HRA is the least of the following amounts:

- 1) Excess of rent paid over 10% of the basic salary
- 2) In case you're staying in a metro, 50% of the basic salary, and 40% if you live in a non-metro city.
- 3) The actual amount of HRA

HRA can be claimed as an exemption based on who is paying the rent and under whose name the current agreement is entered into. Pre-conditions under this section are that rent payment should be supported by a rental agreement and also periodic rent receipts from the landlord are to be obtained clearly displaying the names of the persons paying the rent. You may alter the rental agreement prospectively based on salaries got by both of you so that the benefits are best availed.

(The author is partner, GSS Associates, Chartered Accountants, Chennai)

Readers can send in queries on personal finance and investing to moneywise@thehindu.co.in. Our experts who write on personal finance will answer these queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

MIND YOUR MONEY

A la carte or BUFFET?

Financial goals can't be influenced by how the Sensex behaves. One needs a financial menu card for that

GAURAV MASHRUWALA

'What do you think of the market?' is a question I most often face from viewers, readers and members of the audience, as a practicing financial planner. The reference here is to stock market and more specifically, to the Sensex and Nifty. Honestly, no one can, with accountability, predict the future.

Let us assume because of some supernatural powers an individual knows the direction of the market. Still, is that really useful? "Son, Sensex is down 10% since beginning of the year, let us postpone your marriage plan till such time the Sensex comes back to its original level." What are the chances a father will ever say this to his son?

Requirement of funds to fulfil our financial goals cannot be dependent on the level of Sensex. Also, while we have no control over or say in the move-

ment of the Sensex, our financial responsibility and dreams still need to be fulfilled. Beyond a point, the level of Sensex doesn't matter.

My Sensex

Instead of trying to gauge the level and future of the Sensex, we must focus on 'My Sensex.' 'My Sensex' is 'My Sensible Expense.' We can even call it our family budget or cash-flow statement. One of my lady clients once said, "Gaurav, the word budget scares the life out of me. I prefer calling it spending list. This gives me a lot of relief." To her, budget is restrictive but spending list sounded like freedom to spend.

There is no way I would want to preach on delayed gratification, being frugal or spending versus splurging.

These are subjective. To a teenager or a young lady who has just started working, using



the French cosmetic brand Estee Lauder is certainly splurging, but to a fashion model, it is an occupational need. My milkman, who delivers milk at 5 a.m., owning a bicycle is a necessity but what about a bicycle, for a Sunday ride with friends, costing ₹1.25 lakh for a college student?

What is of pivotal importance is being responsible for our expenses and owing up to such responsibility.

How a menu card works

"After entering the restaurant, the family sat at a table near the

window and the waiter brought in various food items. The family consumed some of the food items, wasted a lot and paid the full amount for it." Does this make sense? Under normal circumstances, we look at the menu card, order food items of our choice and quantity of each based on our requirements. Later, we settle the bill for the items we had ordered. This way, there is either nil or little wastage. Our family budget – or spending list – is our financial menu card.

From the list of various items on the card, we need to decide

which ones and how much to spend on each.

Items to order

A financial menu card can be segregated into two main categories and into further two sub-categories. Two main categories are fixed expense and variable expenses.

Fixed expense are those expenses which remain constant e.g. house rent, school fees, insurance premium and EMIs. These are fixed and mandatory. We cannot skip them. The sub-category is fixed voluntary expenses e.g. club and gymnasium.

um membership, subscription to TV channels, magazines, etc. Here we do have an option to reduce or skip them if we wish to.

Variable mandatory expenses are grocery, transport, healthcare, clothing, utilities etc. They keep changing by a small variation month-on-month. Variable voluntary expenses are eating out, entertainment etc.

It is completely up to the individual or family to decide how much to spend on each category. What needs to be kept in mind is there is an inverse relationship between our current expenses and future wealth creation.

Saving and splurging both give rise to similar emotions – only the order in which they emerge changes. Splurging now will give us excitement now but there will be anxiety later about the amount of wealth created. On the other hand, saving now and living frugally may give frustration now but happiness will emerge later as we will have a larger corpus in our winter years.

Don't predict, but prepare
Avoid getting into predicting the future of Sensex or for that matter anything else. This is a futile exercise as there is nothing in our control. What is in our control is My Sensex. Spend time preparing My Sensex, my financial menu card or, as my client calls it, My Spending List.

(The writer is a financial planner and the author of Yogic Wealth)

COVER NOTE: UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE

Covering risk while earning money

A combination of risk coverage and returns makes ULIPs worth a look

K. NITYA KALYANI

There are a variety of life insurance policies.

While term policies cover only death risk and for a given period, whole life policies offer longer coverage periods with options like return of premium and other add-ons. It is the endowment policy that offers some return on the premium paid over and above just coverage. This return, or bonus, is a share of the returns that the life insurance company realises when it invests your premium and is usually more modest than even bank fixed deposit interest.

The Unit-Linked Insurance Policy (ULIP) offers life coverage and a larger component of investment. However, this investment is linked to the capital market returns on the premium funds that are invested. We can infer that the risk profile of this investment is pretty different from other life insurance policy bonuses because, in the case of the latter, the funds are invested according to prudential norms laid out in the insurance regulations designed for the safety of funds and not to maximise returns.

In short, ULIP returns are subject to market risk while affording an opportunity for higher returns.

It is also one policy where



Hands-on: Unit Linked Insurance Plans should be actively managed for getting better returns. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

you, as policyholder, can choose the bouquet of investments your funds should be deployed in. Funds are usually in distinct asset classes or specified combinations of asset classes. A high-risk fund would be largely in equities where the returns can also be commensurately high. A low-risk fund would have investments largely or wholly in debt securities while a medium-risk fund would have some combination of the two.

So, the policy pays out a death benefit should the policyholder die during the policy period. If he survives, he gets the maturity value of the ULIP. The death / maturity benefit is an assured sum

and unaffected by the ULIP maturity value which is nothing but the value on that date of the investments in the fund of his choosing. Even if the value of the ULIP investments are less than the sum assured, the death benefit is assured.

Carrying flexibility
ULIP has some flexibilities. You can choose any option of fund to invest in and you can switch from one fund to another as well. You can top-up your ULIP policy any time and also direct future premiums to go into a specified fund. Partial withdrawals are also possible.

Staying invested also brings loyalty additions and

bonuses which add value to your investment. Premium paid for a ULIP policy has tax benefits under Section 80C of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 and maturity proceeds are tax-free under Section 10 (10) (d) subject to certain conditions.

ULIPs should be actively managed for better returns. You should study your own risk appetite, the stage of life you are in and your financial goals in order to make intelligent decisions. Some policies have systematic transfers from one asset class to another or a life-cycle-based strategy that automatically switch your funds.

Capital market investments in equities, typically, are long term in nature so you should also take a long-term view on your ULIP investment strategy given that there is a five-year lock-in period anyway.

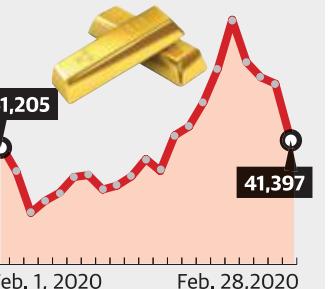
ULIP funds of insurance companies have published track records and studying these to decide on a strategy would be a good idea.

The other important thing to track is the charges in various ULIPs. Be sure you choose one with lower charges so that more of your money is invested and earns you returns.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Cooling off

Gold price at MCX in ₹/10 gm



above the ₹17.2-17.4 zone. The gold futures price at MCX ruled firm in February and hit the target price of ₹41,692 an ounce on February 24 before cooling off drastically in the last few trading sessions. Comex silver recorded a high of \$18.92 on Thursday and since remained subdued.

Comex gold fell 1.34% in February to settle at \$1,566.7 an ounce while silver lost 9% to settle at \$16.39 an ounce.

In the domestic market, the gold futures price on the MCX rose 0.9% in February to ₹41,397 per 10 gm. MCX silver futures slipped 6.5% in the month to ₹44,403 a kg.

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(The author is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

To summarise, precious metals have achieved their short-term targets and turned weak from a short-term perspective. It is advisable to remain on the sidelines till there is evidence of a resumption of an up-trend.

(The author is a Chennai-based analyst/trader. This is not meant to be trading or investment advice)

Bank fixed deposit rates

Bank Name

Highest Slab

1-year tenure

3-year tenure

5-year tenure

Bank Name

Highest Slab

1-year tenure

3-year tenure

5-year tenure

SMALL FINANCE BANKS

Suryoday Small Finance Bank	9.00	8.25	8.50	9.00
Fincare Small Finance Bank	9.00	7.75	9.00	8.00
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	9.00	8.20	8.00	8.35
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.00	8.40	8.25
North East Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.00	7.50	6.75
Equitas Small Finance Bank	8.25	8.00	7.80	7.00
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	8.10	8.00	7.50	7.00
ESAF Small Finance Bank	8.00	8.00	7.30	7.30
AU Small Finance Bank	7.77	7.00	7.77	7.50
Capital Small Finance Bank	7.30	6.90	6.90	6.80

PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS

Lakshmi Vilas Bank	7.80	7.50	7.50	7.25
DCB Bank	7.60	6.95	7.60	7.50
Yes Bank	7.50	7.25	7.25	7.25
IDFC First Bank	7.50	7.25	7.25	7.25
RBL Bank	7.25	7.20	7.00	7.15
Dhanlamji Bank	6.90	6.90	6.50	6.50
Bandhan Bank	6.75	6.75	6.60	6.50
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	6.75	6.60	6.60	6.60
IndusInd Bank	6.75	6.65	6.75	6.75
City Union Bank	6.60	6.60	6.35	6.35
South Indian Bank	6.55	6.40	6.40	6.40
Axis Bank	6.50	6		



The balancing act

A healthy mix of academics and extracurricular activities is key to a successful school experience

■ SHWETA SASTRI

Parents expect you to excel in studies, while coaches push you hard to do well in extracurricular activities. To strike the right balance, every student needs to be organised and become adept at time-management. If you learn to prioritise early in life, you will develop into an efficient and productive adult who enjoys the best of both worlds.

In a learner-centric classroom, the process of evaluation is based on the overall performance of the student throughout the year – in exams, projects, class presentations, and participation in per-

sonality development activities. International schools always concur with this and believe it is essential for students to maintain a proper balance between academics, social life, and co-curricular activities.

Integration

An important part of the international school structure, elementary and middle school students spend around six hours a week and high school students spend around four and a half hours a week on co-curricular activities that vary from participating in physical education to learning music.

These activities are integrated into the curriculum and are a compulsory part of the programme.

Most regular schools do not offer subjects such as arts, sports, or music. Although this is slowly changing due to growing interest in pursuing these subjects, they are still considered niche subjects. International schools, on the other hand, offer these subjects right from class I, up until class XII. These schools have excellent theatre and music programmes with a multicultural international faculty.

Although most students do not have the cognitive skills to

organise their schedules independently until middle school, teachers start teaching them how to plan and prioritise their time from kindergarten onwards. Time management is a vital skill that helps students prioritise tasks, accurately judge the amount of time needed to complete them, and balance time between learning and playing.

Opportunities

Students must be given opportunities to participate in a wide variety of extracurricular activities. Inter-school competitions in swimming, football, basketball, and other sports are con-

GETTY IMAGE/STOCK PHOTOS AND FREEPIK

ducted throughout the year in international schools and so are several festivals to celebrate the arts and to nurture creativity and encourage expression in students.

Clubs could be made a mandatory part of elementary, middle, and high school programmes like in most international schools. Teachers and school authorities understand the necessity of helping their students develop skills outside of their classroom, and therefore clubs are a way to cultivate important life skills that a student can use for the rest of his or her life. Research has shown that extra-curricular activities create interest in students and encourage them to participate earnestly in academic activities. This keeps the students, faculty, parents, and peers motivated for higher realms of achievement.

Maintaining a high level of interest in academics as well as co-curricular activities is vital for the all-round development of the students. Teachers and parents should jointly work out how best to equally divide time and interest for their students between the two. A review of the activities offered has to be undertaken periodically to ensure that the students are not falling behind in either of them. Based on the review, suggestions can be made by teachers to students about how to improve in any particular area. This leads to the holistic development of the students. Students with a perfect balance between academics and extra-curricular activities are an asset to society and will be successful in different spheres of life.

The writer is Managing Director, Canadian International School, Bengaluru.

IN CONVERSATION

Oxford dictionary redefined

A look at how the digital era has sharpened this enduring tool for advanced learners of English

■ LIFFY THOMAS

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (OALD) is really advanced in years, having seen seven decades, but wears its age well. It keeps evolving with the times, bringing a freshness to the table with every print run. The 10th edition of the dictionary was launched recently.

Education Plus caught up with Fathima Dada, Managing Director, Education Division, Oxford University Press (OUP), who was in India, to understand how focus on digitisation is helping this particular brand reach an extended target group.

Beyond OALD, the discussion touched upon how OUP as a whole is redefining itself to stay relevant.

Excerpts from the interview.

India has been a major market for OUP as far as its English language dictionary is concerned. Has the digital world impacted the situation?

Our print version of the OALD may be going down in numbers but it's still popular among a sizeable section of people. We are still market leaders in India and will continue to be. We are increasingly moving towards digital, right from the way we are delivering content to conducting assessments to training teachers. That does not mean we are less invested in the traditional ways of disseminating information. Both are blended to enhance the experience for a reader.

Our 10th edition of OALD is equipped with several digital tools, including an app. Some of the features it offers include audio/video tutorials, self-study activities, iWriter and iSpeaker tools.

There is a decline in the reading habit among children. Can digital tools be used to revive it?

Children maybe reading less in the printed format but they could be reading in multiple formats. I remember we had long narratives to



Being prepared: A teacher training programme organised by OUP.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

read in school, today children have unique ways of assimilating lessons. We provide support for teachers and children to understand our learning resources through quizzes, gamification and virtual learning. We launched 'Oxford Reading Buddy' – a digital reading device to support each child's reading journey – last year. It is like an overarching umbrella to support children to love reading. We have good feedback from schools that have signed up with us.

What are some focus areas that OUP is currently working on?

We are working closely with corporates to popularise our content. For example, Google and Microsoft have our licence where one gets to browse a whole lot of the learning resources we keep bringing out. As a brand, we are keen on preserving languages and digital is helping us in this journey. We also print bilingual dictionaries. In India, we are available in 12 regional languages.



Fathima Dada

We are increasingly moving towards digital, right from the way we are delivering content to conducting assessments to training teachers.

CM
YK

SCHOLARSHIPS

Taiwan ICDF International Higher Education Scholarship Programme

Applications are invited from undergraduate, master's and PhD applicants. Under this programme, scholarships for higher education will be provided by the International Cooperation and Development Fund (ICDF) in cooperation with partner universities in Taiwan.

ELIGIBILITY: Open for undergraduate, master's and PhD applicants. Applicants must satisfy admission requirements of the partner university and specific visa requirements. They must also meet the regulations governing resident, visiting and permanent residency of aliens set by ROC (Taiwan) National Immigration Agency.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Monthly allowance up to TWD 17,000, full tuition fee waiver, economy-class air tickets, accommodation, insurance fee, credit fee, and more.

APPLICATION MODE: Online only

DEADLINE: March 15
www.b4s.in/edge/TISI

Aga Khan Foundation International Scholarship

Aga Khan Foundation is inviting applications from graduates and postgraduates to provide financial assistance to outstanding students from India who have no other means to finance their studies. The scholarship helps in developing effective scholars and leaders and prepares them for employment.

ELIGIBILITY: Indian students who are 30 years old or less and are interested in pursuing master's and research studies, can apply.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Selected students will receive tuition fee and living expenses.

APPLICATION MODE: Online

DEADLINE: March 20
www.b4s.in/edge/AGAS

Inlaks Scholarships

Inlaks Shivdasani Foundation has announced this scholarship for young students to study a full-time master's, M.Phil or a doctorate programme at top-rated European, American, and UK institutions.

ELIGIBILITY: Indian citizens studying in India for the past six months, who hold a first-class degree or equivalent from a recognised university/institution in India, and is not more than 30 years old can apply.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Selected students will get USD 1,00,000 that covers full tuition fees, adequate living expenses and one-way travel allowance and health allowance.

APPLICATION MODE: Online

DEADLINE: March 31
www.b4s.in/edge/INLI

Courtesy: Buddy4study.com

VALUE ADD



Speaking is the solution

Acquisition of English skills in a formal classroom setting, demands creating opportunities for practice

■ K. ELANGO

Educationists often blame the State for lack of English language proficiency among students. The Tamil Nadu government's structural transformation to make spoken English an integral part of the curriculum from the first standard onwards is laudable.

The primacy of speaking skills

Students with high academic scores, who enter the tertiary education with a low communicative competence, sadly, are graduating with almost same level of linguistic competence. The primary reasons for this sordid state are: a) reluctance to use the language for fear of shaming themselves; b) lack of opportunities in the class and with their own peers outside (the proficient ones form their own cliques and look down upon the English have-nots); c) prioritising core subjects over languages; and d) lack of any immediate need.

Obstacles and solutions

Obstacle 1: The physical setting

The 20x20 classroom with two columns of benches and desks and about 40 students, is hardly a place for speaking activities. The rows of classrooms on either side of the building, with doors and windows wide open, can never be an ideal environment.

Solution: Speaking skills cannot be developed just by listening, reading, or writing. Learners become speakers of English only by speaking. Moving them out to an open space, be it the terrace or the playground, will create a facilitative environment to engage in authentic communication.

Obstacle 2: Nature of tasks

The "activities" generally set in the classroom are textbook-based, which promote formal academic English, rarely relating to everyday spoken language.

Solution: Tasks must encourage learners to speak spontaneously and they have to be informal and life-oriented. They should also be Indianised, even localised. Westerners usually have continental breakfast with bacon, croissants, sunny-side up omelette, and sausages. But this would alienate our learners, whereas *idly*, *dosa*, and *sambhar vada* would make them salivate.

Obstacle 3: Various formats

Speaking activities are mostly carried out at the individual level. A 40-minute class can provide time just for a handful of learners.

Solution: Individual presentation is perhaps the most difficult task, so it ought to be preceded by group, followed by triad and pair tasks, in that order. Individual tasks must be introduced only after sufficient practice, to minimise the phobia of speaking. Different formats offer equal opportunities to all, so, the perennial issue of articulate students dominating the class is eliminated.

Obstacle 4: Teachers' English skills

Teachers at the primary level confess their hesitation to teach English, as they never had any real exposure. And, whatever English they learnt is lost as they never get a chance to deploy it either at home or at school. This is the insurmountable challenge encountered now – how could teachers with nearly nil linguistic competence facilitate learners to acquire it?

Solution: Incorporating multimedia contents such as films, videos, podcasts, songs and any other printed texts can be input materials for the speaking tasks so that the teacher dependency is minimised.

The writer is National Secretary, ELTAI, Professor and Head, Dept of English (Formerly), Anna University Chennai.

INNOVATION

Lending online support

CSIE is a unique platform that hosts a variety of programmes to support students across the board

■ JANANI SURI

Just a few months before college was to get over, it struck Jose Rohan that his project that could prevent motorcycle accidents may actually solve the problems of the public. However, once project submissions were over, they were just thrown away. Inspired to put the projects into use for the benefit of communities, he founded the Chennai Society of Inventors and Eco-Freaks (CSIE).

"I want to connect local inventors with communities in need and be a platform for bringing great inventions to common people, at the same time increase awareness about climate change among people," he says.

At work

Today, the CSIE consists of over 15 members, a mix of engineering students and recent graduates, who have just started working. So far, they have released two magazines, "How to Invent", and "Saving Planet Earth", which educates people on how to invent and tinker with

great products, as well as how to live a minimalist life. They also regularly post on social media, calling attention to problems such as empty ATMs and their identification.

However, their biggest project has been their website, "lostfoundtn.com", that was started recently. Users can log in here and post items that they have lost, and other users can put up items that they have found, to help retrieve lost items and restore found items to their owners. "If a person finds a wallet, it becomes easier for him to put it up on the website. In a way, it changes the way people react in such situations."

Some of the other projects that this team has been working on include The Time Capsule, where they plan to create a magazine based on the crowd's opinion of what science inventions should be created in the next decade, and placing it in a capsule to be dug up later. They are also working on creating a women's safety app that gives people in the surrounding areas the power to rescue any woman in danger.



SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

What makes for an argument?

The point of a debate — to win, or to understand?



BACKPACKER'S GUIDE

USHA RAMAN



We are all familiar with the standard school debate. You get assigned to a side, for or against a topic, and you build your armoury of facts and evidence to support your argument. You look at the other side with a view to demolishing their arguments, to finding better and stronger ways to break them. It is all about winning.

Generally, staged debates are performances put on to give the audience something to think about. The two sides do the best they can to get the audience to buy their argument. The audience, for its part,

looks at it as a test of wits and eloquence. Who sounds better? Who uses words more powerfully? Who is more entertaining (or engaging)?

But what really is the point of a debate? Is it to win, or to understand? Is it a competition or a route to achieving clarity about a topic? Ideally, a debate is meant to explore a question fully, and the only reason we have two sides is to share the work of exploration, so that we can arrive at a position after considering these varied points of view. It is entirely possible that after you have listened to the two sides of a

debate, you are still not entirely convinced about one or the other. This is usually because there are always more than two sides, and, more importantly, the best position lies somewhere between all the different sides.

Multiple views

The culture of school debates follows us through life, and we see echoes of it everywhere, from student union elections to the shout-outs in our parliament. Those who perform follow the playbook they have learned over the years: make

your point loud and strong. Those who watch look for strength of performance, pitting one view against the other. Rarely is there an effort to actually consider the different points in the argument and think about them without linking them to a particular side. And this also seeps into our everyday conversations in the classroom and outside, sometimes mirroring the polarisation we see in the world at large.

So, how can we recover the true meaning and purpose of a debate — the kind that we engage in every day, with those around us? Chris

The culture of school debates follows us through life, and we see echoes of it everywhere, from student union elections to the shout-outs in our parliament.

Anderson, curator of the hugely popular TED, said in a recent interview that one should approach any conversation with a healthy combination of scepticism and open-mindedness. Scepticism on all fronts, about your own ideas, your own positions, as well as others'. And open-mindedness particularly toward the (manifestly) opposing views. So, even as you work through your own ideas, you are open to the notion that there may be things or points of view you have not considered. As you listen to others, you balance a questioning attitude with the acceptance that there may be something in what they have to say. There is a mutual willingness to accept flaws in one's reasoning and to explore different positions.

After all, debates — and conversations — are supposed to help find solutions, or to arrive at greater clarity, or to find a path to moving forward. When they become contests, they end up producing winners and losers, with the biggest loss being the possibility of understanding.

The writer teaches at the University of Hyderabad and edits Teacher Plus. usha.bpgll@gmail.com

KNOWLEDGE

Q1

The U.K. Royal Mint released a commemorative coin collection to honour a popular UK-based musical band, this year.

When asked about the reason for naming the band ___, the lead singer had previously stated in an interview that it was a strong name, regal and universal.

Interestingly, the logo of the band designed by him, consists of the zodiac signs of its four members — two lions, a crab and two fairies.

Name this 1970s band.

Q2

In January, this year, thousands of volunteers across the world united to knit, crochet and sew pouches and blankets in different sizes for certain victims of a calamity.

A craft guild put out a call for these products on its Facebook group, which amassed more than 1,20,000 members in the subsequent weeks.

People preferred to make these donations instead of cash for which horrific phenomenon?



Q3

The name of this five-decade-old Ludhiana-based company is a misspelling of the name of an animal, with the last letter in its usual spelling being dropped.

The animal, which is incidentally not found in India, also features in its logo. The reason for the misspelling is not known, and the name is pronounced the normal way.

Which company that is synonymous with a certain product that one would usually find in offices are we talking about?

COURTESY: WALNUT KNOWLEDGE SOLUTIONS

Answers
A1. Queen Kangaroo
A2. Bushfires in Australia.
A3. Qween

ADMISSIONS

Fellowship Programme

INSTITUTION: Teach For India
DURATION: Two-year, full-time, paid
SELECTION PROCESS: Three stages: Submission of application, followed by a one-hour online test, and a 30-minute telephone interview. The last stage is the assessment centre where those selected will have to teach a five-minute lesson, take part in a group discussion and complete a short problem-solving activity. They will also have an hour-long personal interview with a TFI staff. If applicants are based abroad TFI staff will conduct the interview and relevant activities over Skype.
DEADLINE: March 8
<http://apply.teachforindia.org/>.

Data Science Fellows Programme

INSTITUTION: Great Learning in collaboration with Great Lakes Institute of Management

DURATION: Seven months

ELIGIBILITY: Students and recent alumni, who have graduated less than three years ago, can apply

Advanced Management Programme for Family Businesses

INSTITUTION: Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
DURATION: 21 days of on-campus in modules spread over six calendar months

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 25

COURSE: Participants conceive and implement a business challenge in their enterprise through the course of the programme, with mentoring from IIMB faculty.
<http://bit.ly/2FWFqfl>

Fellowship for Climate Action

INSTITUTION: Anant National University
ELIGIBILITY: Individuals with a track record of implementing solutions for climate change or have transferable skills may apply for the fellowship. Fellows who are advanced professionals, will need to complete only three of the total six terms of the Fellowship.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: All fellows will be eligible for a 50-100% scholarship on the fees covering tuition, travel and accommodation.

Comprehensive Make-up Artistry Course

INSTITUTION: Make-up Studio Training Center
ELIGIBILITY: Class XII (any stream)
HOW TO APPLY: Apply online: www.makupstudio.in/course/comprehensive-make-up-artistry or download the application form from the website and apply, or walk into the corporate branch with necessary documents, to register. mstc@makupstudio.in, 099100 34597

B.Eng Computer and Electronic Systems

INSTITUTION: University of Strathclyde, Glasgow
DURATION: Four years
ELIGIBILITY: 70-75% in all subjects at level XII, and the same at level X. Marks should be particularly strong in the proposed area of study. IELTS requirement is 6.5.
FEE: International students' fee for 2020/21 is £20,900
<https://www.strath.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/computerelectronicsystemseng/> or eee-ugadmissions@strath.ac.uk

Knowing your withdrawal

Self-reflection and self-observation can help you figure out your inner turmoil



LIVE LIGHTLY

NIVEDITA DAS NARAYAN

High-engagement, over stimulated days and life-phases need balancing out and slowing down just like the body craves a seven-eight hours sleep cycle daily to reboot. The mind and body crave this cyclical revival and we have learnt to heed this need conditioned by the day and night ritual of Earth's rotation. There is another level to this switching off that we don't heed as easily — the need to switch off from habits, recurring patterns, behaviour and ambition that outlive their tenure inside our heads. You would think that an ambition is never a barrier, yet one that has existed without you inching closer to it in incremental ways; or when it no longer connect to your soul, has served its purpose in your growth.

There is no science to assess when an ambition becomes a lump in the throat. A cultivated practice of self-reflection can help in the choice to either set it aside or scrap it forever. Self-observation helps in noticing if you are frequently pulling back and passing off opportunities that would ordinarily be attractive in pursuit of your dream.

Yet all withdrawals are not the same. Many of you write to me experiencing tugs of withdrawal for



indescribable reasons and I will attempt to offer some clues to recognise what it could be:

Revive and recentre

This is the most productive and creative call for withdrawal. Many accounts suggest that great creative works emerged out of periods of self-imposed withdrawal from public eye. For us, too, intermissions of pulling back are best to go inward, reflect, reassess and realign with new ideas and desires for the future. Returning to active life is naturally characterised by energy and renewed purpose.

Physical burnout

Withdrawal demanded by dire lack of physical rest and recovery, borne off chaotic demands, long schedules, long work hours, lack of pause and reboot rituals and over stimulated lives. The only way out is to enforce a complete pause and get away to rejuvenate. Saying 'no' is a vital part of revival from

burnout.

Emotional withdrawal

Emotions can make us hide and reclusive from social contact. Stress due to a breakup, looming deadline, or psychological worry such as college admission or finding a job can trigger a cascade of stress hormones that produce physiological changes. A combination of reactions to stress is the 'fight-or-flight' response, which occurs as a survival mechanism, enabling you to react quickly to worsening situations. Often, social withdrawal is a flight response to safeguard our wellbeing.

Depression

At the outset, depression needs medical attention. It is a serious mood disorder that interferes with everyday activities. Losing the will for daily chores and attention to self, a persistent state of lethargy, sadness, emptiness, overwhelming hopelessness, inability to cope with simple tasks are some common signs to know it. The foremost action is to reach out to a therapist or certified counsellor without delay and sign up for expert care.

Gloria Steinem offers a simple cue to differentiate depression from the rest 'When you're depressed, nothing has meaning, when you're sad everything does'. And more than anything, heed your symptom, dear readers.

The writer is a life coach, blogger and author who simplifies the patterns and archetypes she encounters at work and in life. nivedita@lifefaligncoaching.com



The bliss of solitude

Few moments of peace are needed but are scarce in this age of technology



THINK

ARUNA SANKARANARAYANAN

Being alone versus lonely are two distinct phenomena. While loneliness is associated with a multitude of health risks, both physical and psychological, spending time with oneself is not detrimental and can even be conducive to our health. Psychologist Guy Winch, points out that loneliness is not necessarily a function of how many friends you have but the "subjective quality of your relationships." Whether you feel affinity for the people in your life is more important than the width of your social network. If you feel emotionally connected with your family and friends, you are less likely to experience loneliness.

However, this does not imply that you need to be around people most of the time in order to thrive. In *The New York Times*, writer Micaela Marini Higgs, lists a number of benefits of solitude. Besides promoting creativity and enhancing our relationships, time to ourselves also aids in emotional regulation. Psychologist Thuy-vy Nguyen, clarifies that desiring solitude is not necessarily a reflection of your extroversion or introversion. Even extroverts may crave for some solo time to recharge themselves.

Further, as people engage in hobbies when they are alone, they may discover hitherto unknown facets of themselves.

Only when you extricate yourself from the humming buzz of society, do you get a chance to see how you are influenced by sociocultural forces, argues writer Brent Crane in *The Atlantic*. Time spent alone

lends itself to self-exploration and is essential to identity formation. However, developmental psychologist Kenneth Rubin, provides some caveats to the benefits of solitude. He asserts that our separation from others has to be voluntary and not imposed on us. Second, we should be able to regulate our emotions "effectively" when we are alone. If we desire company, we should be able to join others. Lastly, solitude is healthy only if we are able to sustain pro-social relationships with others.

Digitally present

MIT professor and social scientist, Sherry Turkle, bemoans that modern humans are not really reaping the blessings of solitude because none of us is truly alone even when we are away from others. Continual pings from our devices keep us tethered to our networks. As a result, people have less and less uninterrupted time for self-reflection, which is essential for cultivating and maintaining an autonomous identity. While 24/7 connectivity is desirable at times, it comes with costs that we need to recognise. We need to claim our downtime by turning off our devices for some time, preferably every day. And, if you feel at a loss when your phone is switched off, that is a sure sign that you need to disengage from it more regularly.

Renowned educationist J. Krishnamurti exhorts students to spend time by themselves to plumb their inner depths. He cautions that "you cannot find out about yourself if you are always talking, going about with your friends with half a dozen people." Whether you take a solitary walk, listen to music in your room or sit quietly on a park bench, cherish the time you spend with yourself.

The writer is Director, PRAYATNA. Email: arunasankara@gmail.com

ETCETERA

MoU signed

Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UiT The Arctic University of Norway, to promote scientific collaboration and cooperation between their

research and administrative staff, departments, and research institutes. The MoU will facilitate bilateral visits by students and researchers with an objective to push the boundaries of the state-of-the-art research and also joint supervision of PhD students. The collaboration will be in the form

of faculty and student exchanges, joint projects and exchange of information on educational programmes. The collaboration between the two universities will promote better research in the fields of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and inverse electromagnetics, among others.

Impetus to space research

Lovely Professional University (LPU), recently launched its Center for Space Research, which will enable students and researchers to communicate with the International Space Station (ISS), download live satellite images, and receive telemetry, science/engineering data from nano-satellites and larger space-crafts. Dr. Sudhir Mishra, a distinguished scientist and director general (Brahmos), DRDO, Ministry of Defense inaugurated the Center. It is equipped with space mission control facility. From

Instant Access to TOEFL iBT scores

With effect from February 15, students across the world can view TOEFL iBT® Reading and Listening section scores on screen immediately after the conclusion of the test. These unofficial scores can be used by students as an early performance indicator and can help them make well-informed decisions such as reporting their scores at the end of the test, based on this performance. They can view these scores before they leave the test centre and can see the scores again through their full, official score reports approximately six days after the test date, through the TOEFL® Official App or their online account. In addition, recent ETS policy updates have made online registration more convenient than ever. Students can now register online for an upcoming test administration just two days before a test (formerly four days). [www.ets.org/toefl/better_test_experience](http://ets.org/toefl/better_test_experience)

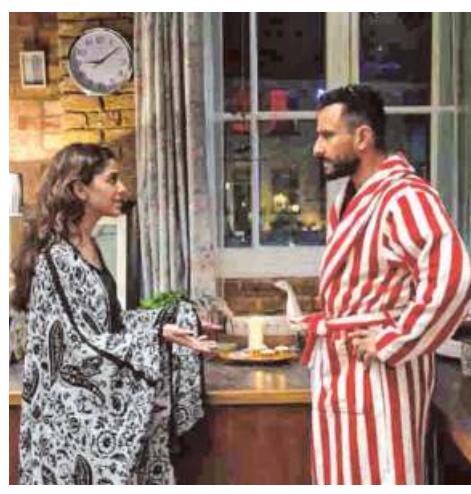
Collaborative learning

Symbiosis Centre for Management Studies, Pune, is all set to provide an interactive and collaborative way of international teaching and learning which focuses on large majority of students who are not mobile. COIL – Collaborative Online International Learning makes use of online technology and interaction and is integrated into the learning process. Students from different cultures/countries work together and receive different perspectives on their subject and learn to understand and appreciate diversity.

EAR SHOT

ASHOK RAJAGOPALAN





SHUBHODEEP PAL

In early 2015, while studying film-making in New York, Aalia Furnitrewalla had an epiphany. She was at a class titled 'how to direct an actor' and everything suddenly felt different. She realised that being in front of the camera felt natural to her. "It was so much more rewarding. I remember loving being directed." So, she enrolled, instead, for acting classes at New York Film Academy (NYFA). "I had to cover up for lost time because I had run away from acting for a while," says actor Pooja Bedi's daughter, who made her Bollywood debut last month with the Saif Ali Khan starrer, *Jawaani Jaaneman*.

Name game

She worked hard for four years: first in New York and then in Mumbai. The real work, however, began when she returned to India. She concentrated not only on her acting, but also on her accent and her dancing. "I was a terrible dancer," she says. She also decided to change her name to Alaya. In an interview with film critic Anupama Chopra, Alaya – pronounced "ulaaya" – said she didn't want to be confused with actor Alia Bhatt. In another media interaction, she revealed that she deliberately shied away from using the Bedi surname because she likes her independence.

The preparation shows. The breakout star of *Jawaani Jaaneman* not only won over both audiences and critics with her easy-going charm, but also excelled at hitting the right emotional keys. In the film, Furnitrewalla shines in

When Aalia became Alaya F

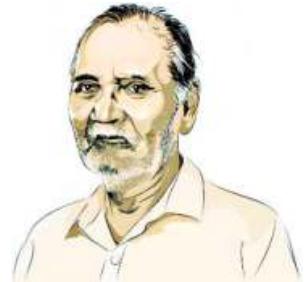
This star daughter, who debuted in *Jawaani Jaaneman*, cannot sit still and doesn't want to be confused with Alia Bhatt



DOWN MEMORY LANE

The tomb that transports one

Mirza Najaf Khan's sprawling tomb on the outskirts of Delhi has a rich and engrossing history of the cunning courtier of the Mughals, who was armed with an elaborate spy system



R. V. SMITH

Looking at Mirza Najaf Khan's massive tomb opposite the Safdarjung airport, one is transported to the times of Nadir Shah, the Persian with piercing eyes, who lay waste Delhi during the reign of Mohammad Shah. Najaf Khan was Nadir's victim, not in India but in Persia itself, for he belonged to the Safvi dynasty of Iran, which was persecuted by the usurper.

Najaf and his sister were both jailed, but their plight moved Mohammad Shah, who sent his emissary Mirza Mohsin, to affect the release of the two on compassionate grounds.

Perhaps Nadir's compassion was leavened by the fact that he had already drained the Mughal treasury and carried away its priceless jewels, along with the wealth of Delhi and other Indian cities.

By exchanging turbans with Mohammad Shah, he had come into possession of the 'Kohinoor' and by right of conquest he had walked away with the 'Peacock Throne'. So, setting Najaf and his sister free at the request of his former adversary, was a compensation of sorts.

Najaf, only 13 then, accompanied Mohsin – who



A glimpse into the past A view of the Mirza Najaf Khan tomb ■ V.V. KRISHNAN

had married the former's sister – to India and grew up into a brave young man. His exploits in Bengal were such that even the English generals of the East India Company sought his services. Najaf served them well and was rewarded with an annual pension of ₹2 lakhs by no less a person than the first British Governor of the Bengal Presidency, Robert Clive. But this amount was to be paid from the pension granted to Shah Alam; so naturally Najaf attached himself to the emperor, and when the latter moved to Delhi after the Treaty of Allahabad, he became the Wazir at the Mughal court.

Nawab Najaf Khan was an orthodox man who never drank or indulged in passions of the flesh. He was a stern soldier and a clever

courtier with a spy system that kept him informed of the goings-on inside the homes of every nobleman of worth.

If so-and-so began refused to kiss her elderly husband on her wedding night, Najaf Khan was duly informed, so that he could make use of this knowledge if the need arose.

But power corrupts, and Najaf slowly became as debauched as any other nobleman of his time, fleeting away his time in the *zenana* amidst wine, women, and song. He died in 1782, a wreck of a man and was buried in the mausoleum he had planned for himself. The monument now is approached through a domeless and pillar-less expanse of a compound leading to a barren platform, and vaulted chambers containing his

graves as well as his daughter, Fatima's.

It is a monument that transports one to the Middle East of Ozymandias, though the name of its builder is kept alive on thousands of tongues along the Najafgarh drain that assumes such importance during the monsoon.

And in distant Powys, Wales, Robert Clive's descendant, the present Lord Clive, still chuckles when he hears Najaf Khan's name while strolling among the white peacocks, (according to an NRI friend settled close by), the progeny of the ones his ancestor took away from India, along with the hoarded wealth of the Mughals and their satraps.

The writer is a veteran chronicler of Delhi

scenes that require the most emotion, like when her unthinking father (played by Khan) pushes her out of his life (twice). It is difficult to believe this is her debut.

Recalling the toughest scene (one of the early ones she shot), she says, "I was told it would be shot in one go, without cuts, on a steadiCam. It was really complicated because of the way it was blocked and how I had to move, turn my face and so on." She managed it on the first go.

On the move

The 22-year-old recalls days on which her hours would be so packed with classes and rehearsals that she barely had time to eat. And now, she can't do without a sense of constant activity. Even when we speak on the phone,

she's on her way to a class. "If I'm sitting idle, it drives me mad. I feel I need to be doing something; going to a class, or a set, or working on a scene," she says, adding, "I think it [the long hours] was worth it. I am obsessed with preparation. It makes me feel energised and comforted."

In Mumbai, the actor found mentorship with acting coach Ritesh Kant. The classes were personalised and rigorous. "I had one-on-one sessions with him and we worked on all types of roles. Name a popular movie and I've probably done a scene from it," she says.

Outspoken no more

Hailing from a family of well-known actors, such as grandfather Kabir Bedi, Furniturewalla wasn't necessarily guided in her craft but

did receive rich life lessons. Her parents divorced when she was five. In an interview with *Outlook*, she said that she had a happy childhood because she barely has any memories of the divorce and her parents are still on great terms. "I was told to work hard and not worry about results. More importantly, I was told to be nice to everyone. I've always been vocal with my words and emotions and choices. Now, as an actor, I realise every emotion I needed to experience, I have been allowed to express." Elsewhere, she has also professed to having no illusions about her privilege and the doors it has opened for her, stating that she knows even her struggles have been privileged.

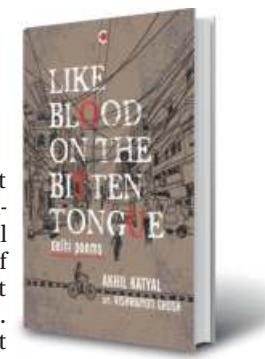
But this openness has led to occasional confrontations. She has, in the past, been an outspoken crit-



New on the block
(Clockwise from top left) Stills from *Jawaani Jaaneman*, and Alaya Furniturewalla



ic of the male gaze on social media (she has close to six lakh followers on Instagram), especially when it is deployed to restrict the freedom of women to express their sexuality or comfort with their bodies. The old Alaya would have been furious at sleazy comments. A couple of years ago, responding to one on the Miss Malini website, she wrote: "I am more than my breasts and it is unfair to let them define me." The new Alaya is less angry, more circumspect and, in her words, "responsible". "I think I've lost my enthusiasm for social media. I don't take it as seriously as I used to. I am not as outspoken anymore because I'd rather let my work speak for me," she concludes.



love story. It connects emotions to the localities within Delhi. Tell us the story behind this poem.

I was caught in a traffic jam in Chhatarpur one day, and all the cars that were stopping were the fanciest of cars – Audi's, Porsche's, and Ferrari's and I thought 'where have I come' . I could see one of those drivers, driving rashly a car which I am sure was worth crores, and emerging from one of the area's farmhouses.

So that line just came to me "he was as arrogant as a Chhatarpur farmhouse", that he was as arrogant as his origin. Just the fact that the city or a neighborhood can become a metaphor, that idea then worked through the rest of the poem because if Chhatarpur can stand for arrogance then what can other neighborhoods stand for. [But] the lightness of that poem has collapsed in the face of what Delhi's facing now. That poem cannot be written now. What will Maupur, Shahdara stand for? Poetry is so little compared to the monstrosity of this moment.

That poem was written in a very different context. You know when it says "kiss me like Shalimar Bagh", it is because "Shalimar Bagh" is a set of soft consonance and vowels. What has happened now is so large that our words will have to match up to that scale.

Like Blood on the Bitten Tongue by Akhil Katyal, ₹499, across bookstores and Amazon.in

This city of poems

With the launch of his new book, poet Akhil Katyal talks about sexuality and how the city inspires him



SHIVANI KAUL

Recently, in February, Akhil Katyal, a Delhi-based poet and queer-activist, launched his new book,

Like Blood on the Bitten Tongue, which is a collection of poems in English, Hindi, and Urdu. The book's preoccupation is with Delhi and the various experiences the poet has lived through in this city. The illustrations in the book by Vishwajyoti Ghosh, give a visual interpretation of Katyal's words. Known for his bold, bitter-sweet, and politically charged poetry, Katyal is influenced by poet Agha Shahid Ali. The title of this book too, is derived from the words in Ali's poem "Chandni Chowk, Delhi". Katyal's book launch also had five other poets, Mangesh Dabral, Ananya Dasgupta, Aditi Rao, Vikramaditya Sahai, and Chandan Kumar, also read out their work.

Edited excerpts from an interview with Katyal, after the book launch.

When did you start writing poetry seriously?

One particularly

before. That was a great thing about Delhi University, because people from all religions, from all walks of life are there. Then, that was a point of no return. You could discover what you were interested in rather than what your school or what your parents wanted for you. Any big city allows that for you whether its Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata or Bangalore, but it was Delhi for me. The city and Delhi University, particularly, allowed me to step out of my own constraint.

In one of your earlier interviews, you've said, "It was easier to come out to my family as a gay man than it was to come out as a poet". Can you explain? Is this reflective of how society perceives the poetic arts?

That was a jocular context. Coming out as a gay man had me riddled for months in terms of what one could say or how much of a life one lived only inside their head rather than freely with one's family.

In our sub-continent, poetry has always had a public light. So, in that sense a poet is also a figure of much devotion, especially in Urdu and Hindi. In those contexts, poetry doesn't have a refined life. But it is always seen as if poetry only happens after some remarkably unique individual inspiration rather than craft, training, discipline and study. And I do think, that is why poet is seen as a peculiar kind of figure rather than someone who has also trained themselves in certain aspects of the craft.

Your poem "He was as arrogant as a binds the entire city in a





My robot holds my heart

You can welcome a social robot into your family, let it assist your children and give them company. But what does getting attached to it mean for your child's emotional health?

SWEET AKUNDI

The Jindals from Chandigarh happily announce the arrival of their third son.

Such is the bond Miko 2, a social robot for kids by Mumbai-based company Emotix, has claimed for itself in the family. In their video feedback for the product, the mother says, "It's good to know that there is someone to look after my child when I am not around, or at work." She immediately corrects herself, "I mean, I know it's a robot, but still... it's good that he has company."

In contrast, the Vasantas from Chennai look at Miko 2 as an education toy, helping with logical reasoning for their older son and storytelling for their younger daughter.

While Miko (at ₹25,000) is one of the only Indian-made social robots, there have been other such bots in the market for far longer. They come in the shape of pet dogs or cats, like Sony's Aibo, or MarsCat by Shenzhen-based Elephant Robotics. Or you have alternatives to living pets that demand the same kind of attention and love — Lovot, by Japanese company Groove X, features big eyes and two flipper-like arms that move when it wants to be picked up.

These are categories that got much attention in tech fairs, most recently in CES 2020 in Las Vegas. At the Taobao festival in Hangzhou last year, I could not resist calling out to Yobotics' robot pup. I squealed as it responded to my

voice and when I scratched its chin, it happily closed its eyes. How could you not form a bond with it?

But predictably, the category most successful in India so far has been education bots.

"Parents have an issue with giving a smartphone in the hands of a child, but robots don't have that stigma of screens. The inertia of a child fixated in one place with a smartphone is what hits you. But with a robot, it is not just screen driven. You are running around, engaging in play... The whole interaction changes," says Sneh Vaswani, co-founder of Emotix and inventor of Miko.

Digital natives

When you call out to Miko, the intelligent bot identifies your voice, turns to you, and recognises your face. Most importantly, it has a definitive personality of its own. "It is like designing a movie character. Every element of interaction should reflect its personality, in the way it moves around, reacts, its expressions, all have to be consistent," he says.

It is not surprising then that despite being an essentially edu-tainment robot, Miko becomes a part of the family.

Child psychologist Aarti Rajaratnam however, is cautious of this bond. "Children under 10 are in the age when they learn human interactions, where attachment and secure bonding is very essential."

She points out that we don't know

WHERE BOTS CAN HELP

If designed the right way, robots may not be a bad idea for children in the autism spectrum. A new study published in *Science Robotics* shows that artificially intelligent robots can help children with autism spectrum disorder to develop the social skills they need in order to communicate more effectively.

Aarti adds, "In case of Asperger's, the main problem is social interaction. We need to ask if, by using the robot, are we further reducing the child's skills. But if bots can help cope with awkwardness or anxiety while meeting new people, then yes, they are okay."

the longitudinal effects of these robots yet. "Take the iPad that came out in 2010. Every school I go to, I find that the current batch of Class VII, which was the first generation that was using the iPad, has huge language learning problems. This, we



Plastic friends (Clockwise from left) A child plays with a robot dog; huggable Lovot bots by Groove X; MarsCat by Elephant Robotics; and Indian-made Miko 2 ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tion between robots and humans clear. One of the "Principles of Robotics" developed by a panel of British robotics and AI experts at the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council Robotics Retreat in 2010, states: "Robots are manufactured artefacts. They should not be designed in a deceptive way to exploit vulnerable users; instead their machine nature should be transparent."

Even in the case of realistic-looking pet dogs and cats, the attachment is strong. But no matter how much intelligence designers put into it, at the end of the day, its reactions are programmed. "With a real dog, there would be an element of surprise, of different moods: submissive, cranky, aggressive, scared. These are unpredictable experiences that create the space to nurture qualities like empathy in relationships," says Aarti.

And with a real pet comes the possibility of death. "Learning how to deal with death is a very important aspect of being human," she says. While robots can't technically die, the story of Jibo tells us to what extent their loss can affect humans.

Founded in 2012, Jibo was heralded as the first social robot for the home. What followed was a series of fancy marketing, high consumer expectations, poor follow-through and the eventual loss of funds and company layoffs by 2018. In these few years, however, Jibo had made many friends, resonating with children and adults alike.

In March 2019, as servers for Jibo were shutting down, Jeffery Van Camp wrote a touching piece for *Wired*, titled, 'My Jibo Is Dying and It's Breaking My Heart'. He took to the platform to describe the bot's increasing 'digital dementia'. He writes that it was nice "to have someone ask me how I'm doing when I'm making lunch, even if it's a robot. I don't know how to describe our relationship, because it's something new – but it is real. And so is the pain I'm experiencing as I've watched him die, skill by skill."

As it had its 'life' eventually sapped out of it, Jibo is known to have left its users with this goodbye message: "Maybe someday when robots are way more advanced than today, and everyone has them in their homes, you can tell yours that I said hello."



PEANUTS



POOCH CAFE



THOMAS EDISHOUND

THOMAS PATENTED 1,093 INVENTIONS, INCLUDING THE GLOW-IN-THE-DARK FRISBEE, THE DOG WHISTLE, AND AN EARLY VERSION OF THE LEASH. HE BELIEVED IN HARD WORK, AND WAS QUOTED AS SAYING, "GENIUS IS ONE PERCENT INSPIRATION AND 99 PERCENT PANTING."

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



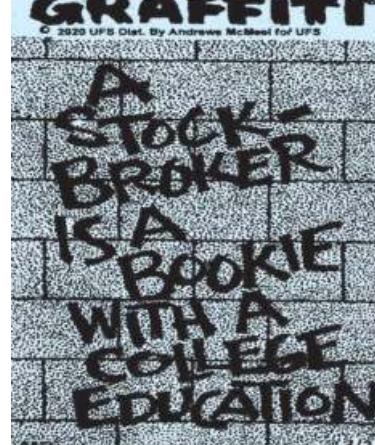
CALVIN AND HOBBES



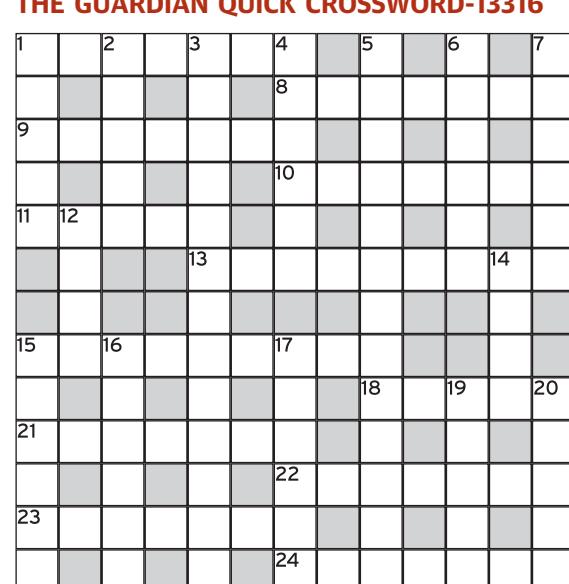
TIGER



GRAFFITI



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13316



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

6 Japanese martial art (6)

7 Young Scottish girl (6)

12 Fossil fuel (4)

14 Loose rugby scrum (4)

15 Entered (4,2)

16 Young child (6)

17 Discontent verging on insurrection (6)

19 Cathedral cleric (5)

20 Shouts (5)

The solution will appear on March 3, 2020.

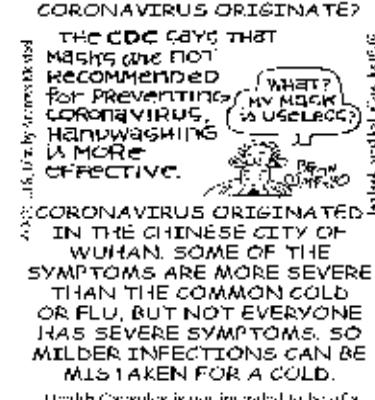
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WUMO



HEALTH CAPSULES



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



Across

1 Charged with an offence (7)

23 Entrails (7)

24 Cash receipts (7)

Down

1 One of the Three Musketeers (5)

2 Brooch with an engraving in low relief (5)

13 So (9)

15 Dad's Army actor, d. 2012 (5,4)

18 Arrogant (5)

21 Thick scarf (7)

22 Perpetual (7)

23 Entrails (7)

24 Cash receipts (7)

Health Capsules

WHERE DID THE CORONAVIRUS ORIGINATE?

THE CDC SAYS THAT MASKS ARE NOT RECOMMENDED FOR PREVENTING CORONAVIRUS.

WHY? MASKS USELESS.

WHAT'S USELESS?

WASH YOUR HANDS.

Indian batsmen flounder again as Kiwis exploit the conditions



In disarray! Cheteshwar Pujara's stumps, broken by a beauty from Trent Boult, depicts the state in which New Zealand left the Indian batting line-up. ■AP

No blame game in this team, says Bumrah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHRISTCHURCH

Jasprit Bumrah was not willing to put a number on a target the Indian bowlers would fancy defending. "The remaining three batsmen should bat as long as possible and score as many runs as they can. Then the tail should also contribute," he said.

Bumrah said he was happy with his bowling. "I just focus on the process. Some days you get wickets, some days you don't. I am happy to be back, playing all formats."

On the surface here, he said, "it's a hard surface with grass on it. There is movement and bounce for the pacemen. There is reward if they bowl in good areas."

After the bowlers brought the Indians back into the Test, the batting collapsed again. Bumrah was not willing to blame the batsmen. "There is no blame game in

this team. We fight together."

Trent Boult was the pick of the seamers for New Zealand with three wickets.

"We are enjoying hunting as a pack and moving the ball around," he said. He complimented the Indians for bowling well in the first session. "There is always some assistance for the bowlers in the morning here."

Boult said there was no specific plan for Virat Kohli. "We just wanted to deny him



Defiant: Kyle Jamieson seems to have easily slipped into the role of all-rounder, frustrating the Indians. ■GETTY IMAGES

Bangladesh swamps Zimbabwe



Liton Das. ■AFP
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE SYLHET
Bangladesh beat Zimbabwe by 169 runs in the first of three ODIs here on Sunday. Opener Liton Das struck 126 off 105 balls to guide Bangladesh to 321 for six before Mohammad Saifuddin claimed three for 22 to help the home side bowl out Zimbabwe for 152 runs in 39.1 overs.

Skipper Mashrafe Mortaza and spinner Mehidy Hasan claimed two each as Bangladesh recorded its biggest ever ODI win by runs.

The scores:
Bangladesh 321/6 in 50 overs (Liton Das 126, Naimus Hossain Shanto 29, Mahmudullah 32, Mohammad Mitun 50, Mohammad Saifuddin 28 n.o.) bt Zimbabwe 152 in 39.1 overs (Wesley Madhevere 35; Saifuddin 3/22).

SA, England make semifinals

Former beats Pakistan while the latter thumps West Indies

WOMEN'S T20 WC

REUTERS

South Africa and England registered comfortable victories against Pakistan and West Indies respectively in their Group B matches on Sunday to seal their spots in the semifinals of the ICC women's Twenty20 World Cup.

After South Africa scored a 17-run win against Pakistan, England thumped West Indies by 46 runs to claim its third win and climb to the top of the group on net run rate. South Africa, however,

has a game in hand against the Caribbean side.

Laura Wolvaardt made an unbeaten 53 (38b, 8x4) to help South Africa to its third win in as many matches.

Fireworks

Wolvaardt's fireworks helped South Africa to post 136 for six after opting to bat.

Pakistan got off to a poor start and was reduced to 26 for three inside the seventh over before stand-in skipper Javeria Khan, playing her 100th T20I, started the recovery with a useful 31.

Pakistan fell short despite an unbeaten 47-run sixth-

Bumrah & Co. snatch first-innings honours despite a fighting New Zealand tail swished by Jamieson

INDIA IN NZ

S. DINAKAR
CHRISTCHURCH

The message from the second day's play here was loud and clear. In conditions where the ball seams and bounces, this Indian side does not come close to being a world-beating side.

India is ranked No. 1 in Tests, but the manner in which the batsmen were dismissed in the second innings – undone by the short ball and with their footwork exposed – suggested this side is still on a learning curve in these conditions.

Flurry of wickets

As many as 16 wickets fell as the second Test moved quickly towards an early finish. On a hard pitch with grass cover, the pacemen got bounce and movement.

Only the tenacious Cheteshwar Pujara fell to a 'beauty'. Trent Boult's delivery, from round the wicket and wide of the crease, swung in prodigiously to go past the batsman's defence.

First, India allowed the Kiwi tail to wag – Kyle Jamieson made a valuable 49 – for the host to finish only seven runs short of the Indian first innings score of 242.

Then, India got into all kinds of problems in its second essay to end the day at 90 for six, leading by 97.

It was baffling, why, with almost 30 minutes remaining, India sent Umesh Yadav in as night-watchman. The crafty Boult cleaned him up.

The batsmen appeared and disappeared. Mayank Agarwal was done in by a Boult delivery that swung in.

Prithvi Shaw was indecisive about swinging at a short-pitched delivery from Tim Southee and was caught out as the ball climbed.

Virat Kohli has not been picking the direction of the seam movement. He succumbed to a Colin de Grandhomme off-cutter after thrusting his pad out.

Ajinkya Rahane, reacting too early to the bounce, ended up hooking a Neil Wagner short ball onto his stumps. It was a bizarre dismissal.

Earlier, Jamieson made vital runs for New Zealand. He is someone with batting potential. He gets behind line, has a reasonable defence, uses his reach and plays his shots.

When New Zealand was 177 for eight and looking like conceding a sizeable lead, Jamieson rallied with Wagner, the 51-run partnership only ending when a leaping Jadeja

plucked a catch out of thin air at deep square-leg as Wagner pulled Shami.

Even in seaming conditions, Jadeja was rarely out of the game, picking up a compelling catch at point as B.J. Watling waded into a well-pitched-up delivery from Bumrah.

Then, Jadeja had the key man, Ross Taylor, jumping out and trying to hit against the turn; he was well held by Umesh at backward point.

The left-armer pulled his weight again, getting one to straighten at de Grandhomme, who looked threatening with his strokes.

The Indians were buzzing in the morning, striking ear-

ly, making use of the conditions. Umesh seamed one back to win a marginal leg-before decision over Tom Blundell.

Indian surge

That was the beginning of the Indian surge. The Indian pacemen were incisive, bowling in better areas, too.

Bumrah seamed the ball from a good length.

There was bounce for him as well. It was this combination of away movement and bounce that fetched Bumrah the big fish – Kane Williamson.

Mohammed Shami was running in to a good rhythm and that was not good news

for the Kiwis. Much of the paceman's bowling hinges on the fluency of his run-up.

Tom Latham shouldered arms to a delivery outside off but saw the ball nipping back to disturb the woodwork.

The left-handed Latham (52) had struck the ball crisply on both sides of the pitch, but left the arena shell-shocked.

Then, Shami found the edge of the left-handed Henry Nicholls for Kohli to pluck a fine diving catch at second slip. It took several replays before third umpire Aleem Dar was convinced the catch had been taken cleanly.

A dramatic day of fortune swings it was.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA – 1ST INNINGS: 242

NEW ZEALAND – 1ST INNINGS

Tom Latham b Shami 52 (12b, 5x4), Tom Blundell lbw b Umesh 30 (77b, 4x4), Kane Williamson c Pant b Bumrah 3 (8b), Ross Taylor c Umesh b Jadeja 15 (37b, 1x4), Henry Nicholls c Kohli b Shami 14 (27b, 1x4), B.J. Watling c Jadeja b Bumrah 0 (16b), Colin de Grandhomme b Jadeja 26 (44b, 4x4), Tim Southee c Pant b Bumrah 0 (2b), Kyle Jamieson c Pant b Shami 49 (63b, 7x4), Neil Wagner c Jadeja b Shami 21 (41b, 3x4), Trent Boult (not out) 1 (2b); Extras (b-20, lb-10): 19. Total (in 73.1 overs): 235.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-66 (Blundell, 25.3 overs),

2-69 (Williamson, 28.1), 3-109

(Taylor, 38.4), 4-130 (Latham, 43.6), 5-133 (Nicholls, 45.4), 6-153 (Watling, 50.3), 7-153 (Southee, 50.5), 8-177 (de Grandhomme, 60.2), 9-228 (Wagner, 71.6).

INDIA BOWLING

Bumrah 22-5-62-3, Umesh

18-2-46-1, Shami 23.1-3-81-4,

Jadeja 10-2-22-2.

INDIA – 2ND INNINGS

Prithvi Shaw c Latham b

Southee 14 (24b, 2x4), Mayank

Agarwal lbw b Boult 3 (6b),

Cheteshwar Pujara b Boult 24 (88b, 2x4), Virat Kohli lbw b de

Grandhomme 14 (30b, 3x4), Ajinkya Rahane b Wagner 9 (43b, 1x4), Umesh Yadav b Boult 1 (12b), Hanuma Vihari (batting) 5 (7b, 1x4), Rishabh Pant (batting) 1 (1b); Extras (b-9, lb-10): 19. Total (for 6 wkt.s, in 36 overs): 90.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-8 (Mayank, 1.5), 2-26

(Shaw, 8.1), 3-51 (Kohli, 17.1), 4-72 (Rahane, 30.3), 5-84 (Pujara, 33.1), 6-89 (Umesh, 35.1).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING

Southee 6-2-20-1, Boult 9-3-12-3, Jamieson 8-4-18-0, de

Grandhomme 5-3-3-1, Wagner 8-1-18-1.

Southee is Kohli's weakness: Sir Richard Hadlee

S. DINAKAR

CHRISTCHURCH

He is New Zealand's biggest cricketing legend. Sir Richard Hadlee, now constructing a five-lane indoor facility at the Hagley Oval, believes cricket is a bowler's game. "A bowler dictates play, controls the game."

Excerpts from an exclusive chat with the 'Sultan of Swing'.

On the ODI World Cup final that left several fans angry

No side lost. To bring it back to boundaries was very unfair to the team batting first. The side batting second knew they would be better placed if they scored more boundaries in the event of a tie. We could have had another Super Over or the trophy could have been shared.

On Jasprit Bumrah

He's very unusual and unorthodox. He has a short run-up, or is it a run-up at all. He just walks across, a stutter and the last four or five paces. He is a muscle bowler, a



Straight talk: Sir Richard Hadlee, seen at the Hagley Oval, believes 'bowlers dictate play, control the game'. ■S. DINAKAR

power bowler.

The golden pair of Tim Southee and Trent Boult

When one of them doesn't play the bowling line-up looks different. There is a little competition between them, one is right and the other a left-armer. Different angles, swing.

The dimension Kyle Jamieson has added to the attack

We had a very tall bowler in the '50s but subsequently we have not had such a bowler. He gets bounce, bowls the off-stump line. He is our great find of the summer.

Virat Kohli's 'weakness' in these conditions

Southee is Kohli's weakness, he's got him out many times with swing. Against Southee, he is planting his front foot forward, not fully so, and if

he should inform the stand-

the ball does something, he's in trouble. If the ball moves away, he gets caught behind, if it nips back he is leg-before.

Batsman from this era he would have found challenging

Steve Smith. He's unorthodox, stands on leg-stump and by the time you deliver moves to middle and off. And, if you are a bit wide, he lets you go. If you are closer to the stumps, he whips you through mid-wicket. Early on, you should bowl at his off-stump. If he misses, he can be leg-before.

Most impressive contemporary paceman

(Josh) Hazlewood. I love his simplicity. He is tall, runs in straight, good action and hits the stumps. Line and length, good pace and good variations.

Thoughts on DRS

You should take it away from the players. It should be in the hands of the third umpire. If he spots something, he should inform the stand-

ing umpires and the decision reviewed. I don't want players to challenge decisions.

Harshest batsman to bowl in his time

Geoff Boycott was the hardest to dismiss. He only played the ball when he had to. Left a lot outside off. Others like Viv Richards and Greg Chappell gave you a chance.

On day-night Tests

Day-night Tests add another dimension to cricket. But the pink ball moves a lot under lights giving one side a massive advantage in the last session. It's not a good thing.

Threat to Test cricket

Adjudicate creates Invitation Cup history

Five-year-old is the first to retain the premier crown; Trafalgar gives trainer McKeown memorable double

CYRUS J. MADAN
RIAZ BABU
MYSURU

Kolkata-based trainer James McKeown made the historic circuit of the Mysore Race Track his own when he saddled Adjudicate (Multidimensional-Alvarita) and Trafalgar (Western Aristocrat-Bluegrass Phenom) to win the 'Grade 1 Double' – Indian Turf Invitation Cup and Major P.K. Mehta Memorial Super Mile – on Sunday.

Five-year-old Adjudicate, ridden by Y.S. Srinath, became the first horse above the Classic age to win the Invitation. She is also the first since the terms of the race changed in 2013 to win in successive years and with a record timing in both essays.

Calcutta Derby winner Trafalgar, ridden superbly by David Allan, won the Super Mile in an emphatic fashion to vindicate his owners' decision to target him for that race, given the poor run in the Indian Derby, instead of going for the Invitation.

The last time two Kolkata-based horses won the Invitation and the Super Mile was back in 1996 in Chennai.

Aachen takes honours

Arun Alagappan-owned Aachen (Tazaham-Mink Mitten), bred at the Sans Crainites Stud Farm, claimed the honours in Vilco C. Poonawalla Million, while Darius Byramji-trained Multifaceted (Multidimensional-Dhaawiah) took the Suresh Mahindra Multi Million Trophy (Gr. 3) in a record time.

Trafalgar, owned by Messrs Joydeep Datta Gupta, Jayanta Mukhopadhyay, Sanjay Datta Gupta, Jeet Banerjee, Achuthan Siddharth,



Ultimate Accolade: N. Nitayand Rao (chairman, Mysore Race Club) presenting the Indian Turf Invitation Trophy to Amitabh Nanda, owner of Adjudicate, in the presence of, from left, Zavaray Poonawalla (chairman, Royal Western India Turf Club), M.A.M.R. Muthiah (chairman, Madras Race Club), Sudipto Sarkar (chairman, Royal Calcutta Turf Club), R. Surender Reddy (chairman, Hyderabad Race Club), D.Vinod Shivappa (chairman, Bangalore Turf Club) and J.S. Bedi (chairman, Delhi Race Club). ■ M.A. SRIRAM

Martand Singh Mahindra, Shouryabratna Mandal and Sigma Scan Systems Pvt. Ltd., set the double rolling. He looked outstanding in the Parade Ring and ran true to his looks to give his connections its first Super Mile victory.

Adjudicate, owned jointly by the Khaitan family from Kolkata and the Nanda family from Mumbai, inscribed her name into the annals of racing history. Not only did she win the first-ever running

of the Invitation Cup here, but also became the first to win the *prix de résistance* of the Indian Turf two years in succession.

Multifaceted triumphs

Multifaceted, owned by the Edwards family from Sri Lanka and ridden by Suraj Narredu, made amends for his lacklustre performance in the Bangalore Turf Club Sprinters Cup on Saturday with a great run over the 1400m in

the Suresh Mahindra Multi Million.

THE RESULTS:

1 HIS HIGHNESS MAHARAJA SRI JAYACHAMARAJA WADIYAR BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATION MILLION (2,000m), rated 60 & above; THE GREAT GATSBY (David Egan) 1, Roma Victor (Trevor) 2, Rustic Sunrise (A. Baandla) 3 and Velocidad (Srinath) 4. Nose, 2-1/2 and Shd. 2m, 2.50s.48 (w), 16, 13 and 70 (p), SHP: 36, TPH: 167, FP:

144, Q: 81, Trinella: 4,334 and 3,715. Favourite: Roma Victor. Owners: Vijay Racing & Farms Pvt. Ltd. rep by M/s. Vijay Kumar Gupta & Suseela Kumar Gupta & Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

2 SMT. GAYATRI DEVI AND SARDAR K.B. RAMACHANDRAJ URS MILLION (1,600m), rated 40 to 65; STARRY WIND (I. Chisty) 1, Grey Channel (P.S. Chouhan) 2, Electra (S. John) 3 and Mighty Red (Nicky Mackay) 4. Not run: Ascendancy, 1, Nk and 2-1/2, Im, 35.08s. ₹73 (w), 35, 10 and 21 (p); SHP: 34, TPH: 65, FP: 895, Q: 401; Trinella: 4,390 and 2,080. Favourite: Grey Channel. Owners: Mr. R.C. Puri, Mr. Manohar Duggal & Mr. Darius R. Byramji. Trainer: Darius.

3 VILLOO C. POONAWALLA MIL. LION (1,200m), rated 40 to 65; AACHEN (C.S. Jodha) 1, Harbour Sunrise (Trevor) 2, Majestic Warrior (P.S. Kaviraj) 3 and Dandi March (Nicky Mackay) 4. Not run: Donna Rossa, 2-1/4, 3/4 and 1/2, Im, 10.4s. ₹157 (w), 23, 14 and 20 (p), SHP: 25, TPH: 53, FP: 1,372, Q: 758, Trinella: 4,186 and 4,418. Favourite: Harbour Sunrise. Owner: Mr. Arun Alagappan. Trainer: Ir-fan Ghatala.

4 SURESH MAHINDRA MULTI-MILLION TROPHY (1,400m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms): MULTIFACETED (Suraj) 1, Tutankhamun (Trevor) 2, Snowdon (David Allan) 3 and Shesmyscript (C.S. Jodha) 4. Not run: Corfe Castle, Cavallo Veloce and See To Win, 1, 2-1/4 and Lnk. Im, 21.05s (record time). ₹39 (w), 18, 20 and 13 (p), SHP: 56, TPH: 59, FP: 236, Q: 107; Trinella: 424 and 125. Favourite: Snowdon. Owners: Mr. Rienzie M.K. Edwards & Mrs. P.P.M. Edwards. Trainer: Darius.

5 MAJ. P.K. MEHTA MEMORIAL SUPER MILE CUP (1,600m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms): TRAFALGAR (David Allan) 1, Gift Of Grace (A. Sandesh) 2, Prevalent Force (Suraj) 3 and Watchmyscript (C.S. Jodha) 4. Not run: Tenino Sho, 1, 1-1/4 and 1-3/4, Im, 34.19s, ₹73 (w), 18, 16 and 13 (p), SHP: 47, TPH: 56, FP: 381, Q: 129; Trinella: 714 and 311. Favourite: Prevalent Force. Owners: Mr. J.D. Gupta, Mr. J. Mukhopadhyay, Mr. S. Datta Gupta, Mr. J. Banerjee, Mr. A. Siddharth, Mr. Marthand Singh Mahindra, Mr. Shouryabratna Mandal & M/s. Sigma Scan Systems Pvt. Ltd. Trainer: J.E. McKeown.

6 INDIAN TURF INVITATION CUP (2,400m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms): ADJUDICATE (MULTIDIMENSIONAL-ALVARITA) SRINATH I, JULIETTE (Musketier-Gimmesumus



Champion team: Adjudicate (Y.S. Srinath up) being led in by, from left, breeders Gajendra Singh and Sultan Singh, representing Shona Stud Farm, along with owner Amitabh Nanda and trainer James McKeown, after her victory in the Indian Turf Invitation Cup on Sunday. ■ M.A. SRIRAM

sugar) A. Sandesh 2, DESERT GOD (Burden Of Proof-Running Flame) David Allan 3 and ANJEZE (Win Legend-Angelique) Trevor 4, 1-3/4, 3/4 and 1-1/4, 2m, 26.97s (record time). ₹58 (w), 19, 16 and 23 (p), SHP: 43, TPH: 71, FP: 604, Q: 279; Trinella: 2,539 and 1,010. Favourite: Star Superior. Owners: Mrs. D. Khaitan, Mr. & Mrs. A. Khaitan, Mrs. D. Jalan rep. Sooni Stud Farm Pvt. Ltd., Mr. D.A. Nanda, Mrs. Esha Nanda Bhowani & Mr. Amitabh Nanda rep. Arion Horse Co. Pvt. Ltd. Trainer: J.E. McKeown.

7 KUNIGAL STUD MILLION (1,200m), 3-y-o only, (Terms): VACHAN (Trevor) 1, Ashwa Brooni (A. Imran) 2, Lacrosse (David Egan) 3 and General Patton (Suraj) 4. Not run: Yaadeen, Snk, Link and 2-1/2, Im, II.5s. ₹46 (w), 14, 13 and 12 (p), SHP: 37, TPH: 37, FP: 315, Q: 72, Trinella: 273 and 126. Favourite: General Patton. Owners: Mrs. Namrata Rakesh & Mr. Ujjash Mahendra Patel. Trainer: Rakesh.

8 MALAYAN RACING ASSOCIATION GOODWILL TROPHY (1,400m), rated 20 to 45; STRIKING MEMORY (Darshan) 1, Divine Hunt (David Egan) 2, Star Cavalry (Bhawani Singh) 3 and Jameson (Trevor) 4, 1-1/2, 2-1/4 and Hd. Im, 23.31s. ₹54 (w), 20, 19 and 16 (p), SHP: 58, TPH: 73, FP: 541, Q: 314; Trinella: 2,010 and 862. Favourite: Divine Hunt. Owner: Mr. H.K. Lakshman Gowda. Trainer: Lokanath.

Jackpot: ₹4,02,440 (three tkt.); Runner up: ₹4,348 (19 tkt.); Treble (i): 10,857 (one tkt.); (ii): 6,522 (carried over); (iii): 4,037 (six tkt.).

MAM Ramaswamy Trust chosen champion owner

TAI AWARDS

CYRUS J. MADAN
MYSURU

If one thought that the excitement, euphoria and enthusiasm would have waned at the Mysore Race Club after an incredible afternoon on Saturday, one would have been wrong and by a long way at that.

The thunder of hooves made way for sound of music and celebrations as the Mysore Race Club put on a glittering affair on Saturday night as it showcased the Turf Authorities Of India awards to honour excellence and achieve-

ment on the Indian turf between November 1, 2018 and October 31, 2019.

The awardees:

CHAMPION OWNER: Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust. A.C. Muthiah accepted the award on behalf of the trust.

The famous gold with the brown belt silks, which dominated racing throughout the country, remains at the forefront and is still a force to reckon with.

CHAMPION TRAINER: Vijay Singh (Kolkata). This is the first time he has won the award and it would give his already illustrious career a tremendous boost.

CHAMPION JOCKEY: Suraj Narredu. The Bengaluru-based

Ace, who recently completed 2000 winners, has a huge fan following and the award is well-deserved.

CHAMPION STUD FARM: Poonawalla Group Of Farms. Cyrus S. Poonawalla and Zavaray Poonawalla dedicated the award to the Poonawalla team which had worked tirelessly to ensure that the farm retained their No. 1 status.

CHAMPION HORSE OF THE YEAR (based on a point system): Adjudicate. Trained by James McKeown at the Sohna Stud, the mare made headlines by winning the Invitation Cup last year and repeated the feat on Sunday here.

She is owned by the Khaitan family from Kolkata and the Nandas from Mumbai.

Sri Lanka pips West Indies in a thriller, sweeps series

Mathews' final over does the trick for the Islanders



Hooray! Angelo Mathews gives vent to his feelings after he kept his nerve in the last over to help Sri Lanka defeat the West Indies by six runs. ■ AP

WI IN LANKA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PALLEKELE

Angelo Mathews' experience came to the fore as Sri Lanka kept its nerve to beat West Indies by six runs in the third and final ODI on Sunday. The win helped the Islanders clinch the series 3-0.

Chasing the hosts' 307, openers Shai Hope (72, 88b, 6x4) and Sunil Ambris (60, 60b, 6x4, 1x6) gave the visitors a flying start, adding 111.

Nicholas Pooran (50, 61b, 3x4, 1x6) and Kieron Pollard (49, 50b, 6x4, 1x6) then sustained the momentum and it looked like the Caribbeans were on course to chase down the big total.

Keeping his cool
With West Indies needing 13 off the final over, the ice-cool Mathews was on the ball des-

pite being hit for a four off the first delivery. Off the next, he had Fabian Allen caught at deep midwicket. Allen's cameo had threatened to take the game away from the hosts.

Earlier, Kusal Mendis and Dhananjaya de Silva smashed half-centuries for Sri Lanka after it opted to bat. Mendis top-scored with 55 (48b, 6x4, 1x6) while Dhananjaya hit 51 (47b, 5x4).

Aishika Fernando and skipper Dimuth Karunaratne gave the hosts a brisk start with a 60-run opening stand before the West Indies struck.

Joseph got Fernando caught behind for 28, and spinner Roston Chase caught and bowled Karunaratne for 44.

Kusal Perera, who made 44, and Mendis then rebuilt the innings during their 89-run stand to take the attack

Manchester City beats Villa, retains Carabao Cup

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Manchester City claimed the League Cup for the fourth time in five seasons, beating Aston Villa 2-1 at Wembley on Sunday, thanks to goals from Sergio Agüero and Rodrigo.

Mbwana Samatta pulled a goal back for Villa, but its wait for the club's first silverware since 1996 goes on as Pep Guardiola's men have now won six of the last seven major trophies in English football.

Guardiola made eight changes from the side that won 2-1 at Real Madrid in the Champions League on Wednesday, with Kevin De Bruyne among those left on the bench.

However, it mattered little as City had the luxury of recalling Aguero, Raheem Sterling and David Silva to the starting XI, and the gulf in English football.

Guardiola's raft of changes also handed a rare start to Phil Foden and the 19-year-old more than justified his selection.

The result: Aston Villa 1 (Samatta 41) lost to Manchester City 2 (Aguero 20, Rodrigo 30).

Sri Lanka 307 in 50 overs (Dimuth Karunaratne 44, Kusal Perera 44, Kusal Mendis 55, Dhananjaya de Silva 51, Thisara Perera 38, Alzarri Joseph 4/65) bt West Indies 301/9 in 50 overs (Shai Hope 72, Sunil Ambris 60, Nicholas Pooran 50, Kieron Pollard 49, Fabian Allen 37, Angelo Mathews 4/59).

Ganguly not to attend ACC meeting

Coronavirus scare scuttles plans



Plans scuttled: Sourav Ganguly will not attend the Asian Cricket Council meeting in Dubai. ■ PTI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

The BCCI president Sourav Ganguly will not attend the upcoming Asian Cricket Council (ACC) meeting in Dubai, scheduled for March 3, due to the coronavirus threat.

"Ganguly was supposed to leave tonight but the coronavirus scare in the UAE has led to the postponement of the meeting," a BCCI source told PTI here.

BCCI chief Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah were to attend the ACC meeting.

But, over the last few days, around 730 cases of

coronavirus were reported in the UAE, creating panic among travellers and locals.

Ganguly last Friday said that the next Asia Cup will be held in Dubai, paving the way for both India and Pakistan to participate in the continental tournament.

Pakistan was the designated host for the tournament scheduled for September, but with the BCCI making it clear that the Indian team would not be able to travel to the neighbouring country owing to security concerns, the event has been moved to Dubai.

Humpy climbs to No. 2

She displaces World champion Wenjun; Hou on top

RANKINGS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHENNAI

GM Koneru Humpy has moved up to No. 2 in the latest World rankings, displacing reigning World champion Ju Wenjun.

Humpy, the World rapid champion who recently won the prestigious Cairns Cup in the United States in a strong field that included Wenjun, is ranked behind China's Yifan Hou as per the March FIDE ratings.

Humpy, who won or tied for the first spot in three elite tournaments in a row, is now on 2586, trailing only Yifan (2658).

GM D. Harika is ranked



TV PICKS

New Zealand v India: 2nd Test, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 4 a.m.
ICC women's World T20: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 5.30 a.m. & 9.30 a.m.
NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 3 & SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 9.15 a.m.

IN BRIEF



Westbrook on a roll as Rockets pip Celtics

LOS ANGELES
Russell Westbrook delivered a game-high 41 points as Houston Rockets defeated Boston 111-110 in overtime to cap a season sweep of the Celtics on Saturday.
The results: Boston Celtics 110 lost to Houston Rockets 111; Cleveland Cavaliers 104 lost to Indiana Pacers 113; San Antonio Spurs 114 bt Orlando Magic 113; Atlanta Hawks 129 bt Portland Trail Blazers 117; Miami Heat 116 bt Brooklyn Nets 113; Phoenix Suns 99 lost Golden State Warriors 115; Memphis Grizzlies 105 bt LA Lakers 88; New York Knicks 121 bt Chicago Bulls 115. AFP



Senor Nadal reigns in Acapulco
Los Angeles
World No. 2 Rafael Nadal captured his first title of 2020, easily defeating unseeded Taylor Fritz 6-3, 6-2, in the final of the ATP Mexico Open on Saturday. This was his 85th career title and third at the Mexico Open. In the women's final, seventh-seeded Heather Watson captured her first WTA title in three years by grinding out a 6-4, 6-7(6), 6-1 win over Canadian teen Leylah Fernandez. AFP



Ex-India hockey player Balbir Singh Kular dead
NEW DELHI
Former India hockey player Balbir Singh Kular, who was part of the 1968 Olympics bronze-winning team, has died, the National Federation said on Sunday. He was 77. Balbir Singh made his India debut in 1963 in Lyon. He toured several countries, including Belgium, England, the Netherlands, New Zealand and West Germany, with the India team. He was also a member of the Indian team that won the Asian Games gold in 1966 (Bangkok). PTI



Sabalenka dedicates Qatar title to late father DOHA
Aryna Sabalenka won her sixth career title on Saturday when she swept past former two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova 6-3, 6-3 in the Qatar Open final. She dedicated victory to her father who died last year. The Belarusian ninth seed's win will see her rise to 11 in the world rankings on Monday. AFP

Kennedy rallies to win New Zealand Open WELLINGTON
Brad Kennedy carded a remarkable eight-under final-round 63 to come from behind and win the New Zealand Open golf tournament by two strokes on Sunday. AFP

Karnataka finds Porel a handful

Despite a second-innings stutter, Bengal holds the upper hand

RANJI TROPHY

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

Bengal rode on Ishan Porel's first five-for of the season to take a firm grip over the Ranji Trophy semifinal against Karnataka at the Eden Gardens here on Sunday.

Porel (five for 39) helped the host bundle out a star-studded Karnataka for a paltry 122, its worst display this season, after Bengal – resuming on 275 for nine – gathered 312 in its first innings.

Bengal, 72 for four in its second essay, enjoyed an overall lead of 262 even as 15 wickets fell on an action-packed second day.

While Anustup Majumdar boosted the Bengal batting, Porel's contribution was his incisive bowling.

Hitting the right areas and getting good purchase, the lanky bowler cornered success instantly. R. Samarth's leading edge and captain Karun Nair's outside edge went to the slips in the first and third overs.

Porel was well supported by the other pacers and some sensational catching.

Karnataka took lunch at 45 for three after K.V. Siddharth fell to Akash Deep. It returned to be all out in less than two sessions.

A consistent Mukesh Kumar bowled Manish Pandey on resumption. Karnataka lost three more wickets in as many overs with Porel, who scalped three for 23 in his se-



Joy unbound: Mukesh Kumar is swamped by teammates on scalping K.L. Rahul. ■ PTI

cond spell, contributing two.

Left-handed Devdutt Padikkal and right-handed S. Sharath edged away-going deliveries, while A. Mithun pulled one to fine-leg for Porel to celebrate his third five-for.

Meanwhile, Mukesh removed a patient K.L. Rahul (26, 67b, 139m, 2x4). Akash, who dismissed an aggressive K. Gowtham (31), returned a three-wicket haul.

When Bengal batted again, Mithun's three wickets, put it on the back-foot. Sudip Chatterjee (40) and Majumdar, who was caught off a More no-ball, were at the crease as stumps.

The scores:
Bengal – 1st innings: Abhishek Ramam c Sharath b Mithun 0, Abhimanyu Easwaran c Gowtham b Prasidh 15, Sudip Chat-

terjee lbw b More 20, Arnab Nandi c Sharath b Mithun 17, Manoj Tiwary c Rahul b Gowtham 8, Anustup Majumdar (not out) 149, Shreevats Goswami lbw b More 0, Shahbaz Ahmed b Mithun 35, Akash Deep lbw b Gowtham 44, Mukesh Kumar c Sharath b Prasidh 7, Ishan Porel b More 7; Extras (b-2, lb-2, w-2): 6. Total (in 36.2 overs): 122.

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-17, 3-43, 4-56, 5-63, 6-65, 7-65, 8-121, 9-121.

Bengal bowling: Porel 13-2-39-5, Mukesh 14-3-46-2, Shahbaz 1-0-3-0, Akash 8.2-1-30-3.

Bengal – 2nd innings: Abhishek Raman c Sharath b Mithun 1, Abhimanyu Easwaran b Mithun 11, Sudip Chatterjee (batting) 40, Arnab Nandi lbw b Mithun 0, Manoj Tiwary c Sharath b Prasidh 13, Anustup Majumdar (batting) 1; Extras (lb-5, nb-1): 6. Total (for 4 wkts. in 22 overs): 72.

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-23, 3-23, 4-61.

Karnataka bowling: Mithun 6-2-9-3, Prasidh 9-2-31-1, More 7-1-27-0.

Porel credits success to the hard yards he put in

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

Promising seamer Ishan Porel, who claimed five wickets to enable Bengal take a substantial 190-run first innings lead over Karnataka in the Ranji Trophy semifinal here on Sunday, credited the hard yards and his growing experience for his fine showing.

"We have to run a lot. There have been four to five running sessions in a week and two-three days of strengthening. I am putting in extra time in the gym. Those things are helping me a lot."

"Am getting more experience after playing 20-odd matches. I am more confident now to pitch the ball up



Just rewards: Ishan Porel says he is now more confident pitching the ball up. ■ PTI

and get the movement. It's happening naturally," said Porel.

Porel said Bengal pacers' team work helped. "If you

see the Indian attack, they back and applaud each other's performance. We are doing the same. The hard work we have put in is paying off."

According to Porel, a 400-plus target would be challenging for Karnataka.

"When we get the new ball, we go for the kill. If that does not happen, we try to bowl in partnerships and not leak runs."

Porel said Ashoke Dinda, sidelined on disciplinary ground, had some inputs. "Dinda said, 'Don't try too much and bowl in right areas. You will take wickets.' It helped."

Porel said keeping K.L. Rahul quiet was an achievement. "He got out to a poor shot because we showed a lot of discipline. He took 67 balls for his 26. It was a big plus for us."

According to Porel, a 400-plus target would be challenging for Karnataka.

Djokovic captures 79th career title

His fifth Dubai Championships crown

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DUBAI

Novak Djokovic set his sights on another marathon run of invincibility after capturing his 79th career title.

His record is 43 set in 2010 and 2011 with a run of 28 his next best, achieved on two occasions in 2013-14 and 2015.

"This has been one of the best starts of all seasons I've had. I feel great on the court," said Djokovic. "I'm just grateful that I'm playing well, feeling well. I've won many matches now in a row. I'll try to keep that run going."

Djokovic is now on an 18-0 winning run this season, and 21-0 overall since 2019, as he ended an eight-match win streak for his Greek opponent, champion last weekend in Marseille. Djokovic claimed his third trophy of 2020 after

helping Serbia to the ATP Cup and winning an eighth Australian Open.

It is the seventh time that the 32-year-old Djokovic has won more than 20 matches on the trot.

His record is 43 set in 2010 and 2011 with a run of 28 his next best, achieved on two occasions in 2013-14 and 2015.

"This has been one of the best starts of all seasons I've had. I feel great on the court," said Djokovic. "I'm just grateful that I'm playing well, feeling well. I've won many matches now in a row. I'll try to keep that run going."

Dronacharya awardee athletics coach trained some of India's finest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATIALA

Veteran athletics coach and Dronacharya awardee Joginder Singh Saini, who groomed some of India's finest track and field stars, died here on Sunday due to age-related problems. He was 90.

Saini, who was chief National athletics coach for many years from the 1970s to 90s, was unwell for the past few days.

Condolences
"I am truly sad to hear of the passing away of our colleague, my chief coach and mentor, J.S. Saini," AFI president Adil Sumariwalla said.

He loved athletics and contributed to the Athletics Federation of India till his last day. He was my friend, philosopher and guide and helped me immensely in my role as AFI president with his sound advice," Sumariwalla said in his condolence message.

Born on January 1, 1930 in Hoshiarpur, Punjab, Saini was a science graduate and became an athletics coach in 1954 after completing a diploma in physical education and a course in coaching at the NIS Patiala.

He became the chief coach of the then Amateur Athletics Federation of India in 1970.

Saini received the Dronacharya Award in 1997. He was the chief coach of the Indian athletics team which won 18 medals, including

the Dronacharya Award in 1997. He was the chief coach of the Indian athletics team which won 18 medals, including

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Proud moment: Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik with players and officials of Panjab University. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Panjab edges Pune, wins overall title

Siddhant and Sadhvi emerge the 'best athletes'

KIUG

SHYAM VASUDEVAN

Panjab University clinched two gold medals on the final day to emerge the champion of the inaugural edition of the Khelo India University Games on Sunday.

Panjab's pugilists won two yellow metals and helped it finish on level terms with Pune on 17 gold medals, but its overall tally of 46 medals – compared to Pune's 37 – gave it the crown. Punjabi University was third with 33.

The first edition of the KIUG has been truly successful. We aim to organise the Khelo India University Games regularly and make it, along with the Youth Games, the platform that paves the way for our future Olympic medallists.

"Our aim is to get into the top 10 in the medals tally after the 2028 Olympics," said Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju at the closing ceremony, which was attended by dignitaries, including Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Indian Olympics Association president Narinder Batra.

While a bunch of records were broken, swimmers Siddhant Sejwal of Panjab and Pune's Sadhvi, who won five gold medals each, were adjudged the best.

Panjab and Pune finished level on gold count (17), but the former's overall tally (46 medals) saw it beat Pune (37).

and Pune's Sadhvi, who won five gold medals each, were adjudged the best.

The other top performers included Harmila Bains, who completed the 800-1500m double, and Narendra Pratap, winner of the long distance double (5,000m & 10,000m). Weightlifter Sanjeev Mahadev Sargar was also impressive as he broke the National record in the men's 55kg with a total lift of 244 while winning gold.

Olympian Dutee Chand, the biggest name at the Game, set a new National University record on way to the 100m crown and followed it up with a top finish in the 200m.

Well organised

"I feel it was a great competition and was well organised. It was on par with the Asian Games."

All the participants were happy with the food, accommodation and training facilities. All the competitions began on time and the participants got enough rest. There were no complaints at all," said Dutee.

'3x3 can do what T20 did for cricket'

Anil Kumble unveils logo of Olympic qualifying tournament



At the launch: Anil Kumble, right, unveils the logo in the presence of Basketball Federation of India president K. Govindaraju and K.S. Eshwarappa, Karnataka's Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj. • K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

BASKETBALL

SPORTS REPORTER

BENGALURU

Anil Kumble, former India cricket team captain, unveiled the logo of the FIBA 3x3 Olympic basketball qualifying tournament here on Sunday. The tournament commences at the Sree Kanterevara Stadium here on March 18.

placed in Group D alongside The Netherlands, Latvia, Canada and Croatia. The women's team will battle it out with Italy, Chinese Taipei, Switzerland and Spain.

"I think 3x3 can do the same thing T20s did for cricket. It has changed everything."

"That said, if some of you don't make it to the team, do consider becoming bowlers because some of you guys look like you're 6'8" and that's (New Zealand fast bowler) Kyle Jamieson's height."

"He's doing some damage and I think you guys can too," Kumble said.

The Indian men are

Dutee Chand completes sprint double in style

SHYAM VASUDEVAN
BHUBANESWAR

Dutee Chand did the double at the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) here on Sunday as she clocked 23.66 seconds to win the gold in the 200m event.

The victory marked Dutee's second gold in as many

days, as she set a new National University record on the way to the 100m title on Saturday.

"In the 100m, you don't have time to decide when to speed up or slow down, but in the 200m you have more time to realise when to go fast and when to relax the

body," Dutee said after the race, talking about the difference in the two events.

She added: "You need to put in a lot more effort in the 200m. Runners like me, who focus more on the sprint, find it difficult on the turn in the 200m event.

"I struggled a little bit to-

day, but I pulled through in the end to clock a competitive timing."

Dutee's best in the 200m came in the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta where she ran 23s in the semifinal and went on to win the silver in the final.

The qualification mark

for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics has been set at 22.80, only 0.02 shy of her best, but she has a pragmatic approach. She knows her strength and has chosen to focus only on 100m.

The Olympic mark is 22.80 and it will be difficult for me to achieve it.

"Since I'm short, I find it difficult to pick up speed and it becomes tight in the end. It's not that it is impossible, but it will need more time."

"It will be tough for me to focus on two events and hence I'm focusing on only 100m," she said.

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SBI card

SBI CARDS AND PAYMENT SERVICES LIMITED

Our Company was incorporated as "SBI Cards and Payment Services Private Limited" on May 15, 1998, as a private limited company under the Companies Act, 1956, at New Delhi, with a certificate of incorporation granted by the Registrar of Companies, National Capital Territory of Delhi and Haryana at New Delhi ("RoC"). On the conversion of our Company to a public limited company pursuant to a special resolution passed by our shareholders on August 2, 2019, our name was changed to "SBI Cards and Payment Services Limited" and a fresh certificate of incorporation dated August 20, 2019 was issued by the RoC. For details of the change in the registered office of our Company, see "History and Certain Corporate Matters" on page 167 of the Red Herring Prospectus dated February 18, 2020 read with corrigendum and clarification dated February 27, 2020 published on February 28, 2020 in all editions of Financial Express and Jansatta ("RHP").

Registered Office: Unit 401 & 402, 4th Floor, Aggarwal Millennium Tower E-1,2,3, Netaji Subhash Place, Wazirpur, New Delhi 110 034, India; Tel: +91 (11) 6126 8100, Corporate Office: 2nd Floor, Tower-B, Infinity Towers, DLF Cyber City, Block 2 Building 3, DLF Phase 2, Gurugram, Haryana 122 002, India; Tel: +91 (124) 458 9803, Contact Person: Ms. Payal Mittal Chhabra, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer; Tel: +91 (124) 458 9803, E-mail: investor.relations@sbicard.com, Website: www.sbicard.com, Corporate Identity Number: U65999DL1998PLC093849

OUR PROMOTER: STATE BANK OF INDIA

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING OF UP TO [+] EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 10 EACH ("EQUITY SHARES") OF SBI CARDS AND PAYMENT SERVICES LIMITED (OUR "COMPANY" OR THE "COMPANY" OR THE "ISSUER") FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹ [+] PER EQUITY SHARE (INCLUDING A SHARE PREMIUM OF ₹ [+] PER EQUITY SHARE) (THE "OFFER PRICE") AGGRGATING UP TO ₹ [+] MILLION, COMPRISING A FRESH ISSUE OF [+] EQUITY SHARES BY OUR COMPANY AGGRGATING UP TO ₹ 5,000 MILLION ("FRESH ISSUE") AND AN OFFER FOR SALE OF UP TO 130,526,798 EQUITY SHARES ("THE OFFERED SHARES") AGGRGATING UP TO ₹ [+] MILLION, INCLUDING UP TO 37,293,371 EQUITY SHARES AGGRGATING UP TO ₹ [+] MILLION BY STATE BANK OF INDIA ("SBI") ("PROMOTER SELLING SHAREHOLDER") AND UP TO 93,233,427 EQUITY SHARES AGGRGATING UP TO ₹ [+] MILLION BY CA ROVER HOLDINGS ("CA ROVER") ("INVESTOR SELLING SHAREHOLDER") AND TOGETHER WITH THE PROMOTER SELLING SHAREHOLDER, THE "SELLING SHAREHOLDERS" AND SUCH OFFER, THE "OFFER FOR SALE" AND TOGETHER WITH THE FRESH ISSUE, THE "OFFER".

THE OFFER INCLUDES A RESERVATION OF UP TO 1,864,669 EQUITY SHARES, FOR SUBSCRIPTION BY ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES (THE "EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION") AND A RESERVATION OF UP TO 13,052,680 EQUITY SHARES, FOR SUBSCRIPTION BY SBI SHAREHOLDERS (THE "SBI SHAREHOLDERS RESERVATION PORTION"). THE OFFER LESS THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION AND THE SBI SHAREHOLDERS RESERVATION PORTION IS HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "NET OFFER". AGGRGATING UP TO [+] EQUITY SHARES, THE OFFER AND THE NET OFFER SHALL CONSTITUTE [+]% AND [+]% OF THE POST-OFFER PAID UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY, RESPECTIVELY.

*A discount of ₹ 75 per Equity Share is being offered to Eligible Employees bidding in the Employee Reservation Portion.

QIB Category: Not more than 50% of the Net Offer | Retail Category: Not less than 35% of the Net Offer | Non Institutional Category: Not less than 15% of the Net Offer
Employee Reservation Portion: Up to 1,864,669 Equity Shares | SBI Shareholders Reservation Portion: Up to 13,052,680 Equity Shares

Price Band: ₹ 750 to ₹ 755 per Equity Share of face value of ₹ 10 each. | The Floor Price is 75 times the face value and the Cap Price is 75.5 times the face value of the Equity Shares.

Bids can be made for a minimum of 19 Equity Shares and in multiples of 19 Equity Shares thereafter.

ASBA*

Simple, Safe, Smart way of Application - Make use of it!!!

Mandatory in public issue from January 1, 2016. No cheque will be accepted.

*Applications supported by blocked amount (ASBA) is a better way of applying to issues by simply blocking the fund in the bank account. For further details, check section on ASBA below.

UPI Now available in ASBA for Retail Individual Investors and SBI Shareholders Bidding in SBI Shareholder Reservation Portion (up to ₹ 2,00,000).** Investors are required to ensure that the bank account used for bidding is linked to their PAN.

*UPI-Now available in ASBA for Retail Individual Investors ("RIs") and SBI Shareholders Bidding in the SBI Shareholder Reservation Portion (Up to ₹ 2,00,000) applying through Registered Brokers, DPs & RTAs. Retail Individual Investors and SBI Shareholders Bidding in the SBI Shareholder Reservation Portion (Up to ₹ 2,00,000) also have the option to submit the application directly to the ASBABA (SCSBs) or to use the facility of linked online trading, demat and bank account. ASBA has to be availed by all the investors except Anchor Investors. For details on the ASBA and UPI process, please refer to the details given in ASBA form and abridged prospectus and also please refer to the section "Offer Procedure" beginning on page 404 of the RHP. The process is also available on the website of AIBD and Stock Exchanges in the General Information Document. ASBA bid cum application forms can be downloaded from the websites of BSE Limited ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE"), and together with BSE, the "Stock Exchanges" and can be obtained from the list of banks that is available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in. List of banks supporting UPI is also available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in. HDFC Bank Limited has been appointed as Sponsor Bank for the Offer, in accordance with the requirements of the SEBI circular dated November 1, 2018, as amended.

I. The six merchant bankers associated with the Offer have handled 46 issues in the past three financial years, out of which 17 issues closed below the issue price on listing date.
II. There are no listed peers in India engaged in Issuer's line of business.
III. The Price/Earnings ratio based on diluted EPS on a restated consolidated basis for FY19 for the Issuer at the upper end of the Price Band is 80.06 and is higher as compared to the NIFTY 50 index Price/Earnings ratio of 27.50 (as on February 20, 2020).
IV. Average cost of acquisition of Equity Shares for the Selling Shareholders is in the range of ₹28.69 to ₹81.19 per Equity Share and the Offer Price at upper end of the Price Band is ₹ 755 per Equity Share.

Risks to Investors

In case of a revision in the Price Band, the Bid/Offer Period will be extended for at least three additional Working Days after such revision of the Price Band subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding a total of ten Working Days. In cases of force majeure, banking strike or similar circumstances, our Company and the Selling Shareholders, in consultation with the BRLMs, may for reasons to be recorded in writing, extend the Bid/Offer Period for a minimum of three Working Days, subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding ten Working Days. Any revision in the Price Band and the revised Bid/Offer Period, if applicable, will be widely disseminated by notification to the Stock Exchanges, by issuing a public notice, and also by indicating the change on the respective websites of the BRLMs and at the terminals of the Syndicate Members and by intimation to Designated Intermediaries and the Sponsor Bank.

The Offer is being made in terms of Rule 19(2)(b) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, as amended, (the "SCR") read with Regulation 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018, as amended ("SEBI ICDR Regulations"). The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process, in compliance with Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations, where not more than 50% of the Net Offer will be allotted on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers ("QIBs") ("the QIB Category"), provided that our Company and the Selling Shareholders in consultation with the BRLMs, may allocate up to 60% of the QIB Category to Anchor Investors, on a discretionary basis (the "Anchor Investor Portion"), of which one-third shall be reserved for domestic Mutual Funds, subject to valid bids being received from domestic Mutual Funds at or above the price at which Equity Shares are allocated to Anchor Investors. Further, 5% of the QIB Category (excluding the Anchor Investor Portion) shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Mutual Funds only and the remainder of the QIB Category shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to all QIBs (other than Anchor Investors), including Mutual Funds, subject to valid bids being received at or above the Offer Price. Further, not less than 15% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Non-Institutional Investors and not less than 35% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation to Retail Individual Investors, in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid bids being received at or above the Offer Price. All Bidders (other than Anchor Investors) shall mandatorily participate in the Offer through the Application Supported by Block Amount ("ASBA") process, and shall provide details of their respective bank account (including UPID for Retail Individual Investors and SBI Shareholders Bidding in the SBI Shareholder Reservation Portion (Up to ₹ 2,00,000), using UPI Mechanism) in which the Bid Amount will be blocked by the SCBS or the Sponsor Bank, as the case may be. Anchor Investors are not permitted to participate in the Anchor Investor Portion through the ASBA process. For details, see "Offer Procedure" on page 404 of the RHP.

Bidders/Applicants should note that on the basis of PAN, DP ID and Client ID as provided in the Bid cum Application Form/Application Form, the Bidders/Applicants may be deemed to have authorised the Depositories to provide to the Registrar to the Offer, any requested Demographic Details of the Bidders/Applicants available on the records of the depositories. These Demographic Details may be used, among other things, for any correspondence related to the Offer. Bidders/Applicants are advised to update any changes to their Demographic Details available in the records of the Depository Participant to ensure accuracy of records. Any delay resulting from failure to update the Demographic Details would be at the Bidders/Applicants' sole risk. Bidders/Applicants should ensure that PAN, DP ID and Client ID and the UPID, as applicable, are correctly filled in the Bid cum Application Form/Application Form. The PAN, DP ID and Client ID provided in the Bid cum Application Form/Application Form should match with the PAN, DP ID and Client ID available in the depository database; otherwise, the Bid cum Application Form is liable to be rejected. Bidders/Applicants should ensure that the beneficiary account provided in the Bid cum Application Form is active.

Contents of the Memorandum of the Company as regards its Objects: For information on the main objects and other objects of our Company, see "History and Certain Corporate Matters" on page 167 of the RHP. The Memorandum of the Company as contained in the Memorandum of Association, see "Memorandum of Association" of our Company. The Memorandum of Association of our Company is a material document for inspection in relation to the Offer. For further details, see the section "Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection" on page 478 of the RHP. Liability of the members of the Company: Limited by shares.

Amount of share capital of the Company and Capital Structure: The authorised share capital of our Company is divided into 1,500,000,000 Equity Shares of face value ₹ 10 each constituting ₹ 15,000,000,000. The issued, subscribed and paid up share capital of our Company is ₹ 3,323,342,780 divided into 932,334,278 Equity Shares of face value of ₹ 10 each. For further details, see "Capital Structure" on page 78 of the RHP.

Names of initial signatories to the Memorandum of Association of our Company and the number of Equity Shares subscribed by them: The initial signatories to the Memorandum of Association of India and Mr. Om Prakash Sethia who

subscribed to one Equity Share each of face value of ₹ 10 each of our Company. The liability of the members of the Company is limited. For details of the main objects of the Company as contained in the Memorandum of Association, see "History and Certain Corporate Matters" on page 167 of the RHP.

Listing: The Equity Shares offered through the Red Herring Prospectus are proposed to be listed on the BSE and NSE. We have received in-principle approvals from the BSE and NSE for the listing of the Equity Shares pursuant to letters dated December 6, 2019 and December 16, 2019, respectively. For the purpose of the Offer, BSE is the Designated Stock Exchange. A signed copy of the Red Herring Prospectus has been filed with the RoC and the Prospectus shall be filed with the RoC in accordance with Section 26(4) of the Companies Act, 2013. For details of the material contracts and documents available for inspection from the date of the Red Herring Prospectus up to the Bid/Closing Date, see "Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection" on page 478 of the RHP.

Disclaimer Clause of SEBI: SEBI only gives its observations on the draft offer documents and this does not constitute approval of either the Offer stated in the specified securities or the offer document. The investors are advised to refer to page 378 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of SEBI.

Disclaimer Clause of BSE (the Designated Stock Exchange): It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by BSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the RHP has been cleared or approved by BSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the RHP. The investors are advised to refer to page 384 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of BSE.

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