



United against Islamic terrorism: US President

Takes swipe at China for power through coercion

Says Modi a true friend but tough negotiator

He thinks big, it's a new chapter in our ties: Modi

# Good Morning Indiamerica

Rousing welcome in Ahmedabad, bilateral talks in New Delhi today

SHUBHAJIT ROY & PARIMAL DABHI  
AHMEDABAD, FEBRUARY 24

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



FULL COVERAGE

DDL TO SHOLAY, SACHIN TO VIRAT, HE STRIKES ALL CHORDS

'TAJ INSPIRES AWE, A TESTAMENT TO DIVERSE CULTURE'

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SEEKING TO deepen ties with India, US President Donald Trump, starting his first State visit to the country Monday, hailed "India's rise as a prosperous and independent nation" as "an example to every nation", called out "radical Islamic terrorism", took an oblique swipe at China for seeking to claim power through coercion unlike India, and praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi as an "exceptional leader", a true friend but a "tough negotiator".

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Accorded a colourful welcome in Ahmedabad where thousands lined the streets and packed the stadium in Motera on a hot afternoon to cheer him at the Namaste Trump event, the US President, who was accompanied by First Lady Melania Trump, daughter and advisor Ivanka Trump and son-in-law Jared Kushner, said both countries are "firmly united in our ironclad resolve to defend our citizens from the threat of radical Islamic terrorism".

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is speech, that lasted nearly half hour, was punctuated by applause and cheers.

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rump, who spoke of his administration's success against the ISIS and the "monster" al-Baghdadi, said US and India are "committed to working together to stop terrorists and to fight their ideology".

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oth of our countries have been hurt by the pain and turmoil of terrorism...In the United States,

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At the Namaste Trump event in Motera stadium in Ahmedabad on Monday. ANI

## \$3-bn deal with India: 'Some of the most feared military equipment'

EXPLAINED E. This could be main takeaway

SHUBHAJIT ROY & PARIMAL DABHI  
AHMEDABAD, FEBRUARY 24

PRESIDENT DONALD Trump announced Monday that the US will sign deals to sell the "absolute finest, state-of-the-art military helicopters" and other defence equipment to India worth \$3 billion.

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi and First Lady Melania Trump on the stage at the Motera stadium, Trump also called Modi a "very tough negotiator" and said he is optimistic that they are in the "early stages of discussion" for an "incredible" trade deal.

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Over the course of my visit, Prime Minister Modi and I will also discuss our efforts to expand the economic ties between our two countries. We will be making very, very major — among the biggest ever made — trade

Melania Trump on the stage at the Motera stadium, Trump also called Modi a "very tough negotiator" and said he is optimistic that they are in the "early stages of discussion" for an "incredible" trade deal.

"Over the course of my visit, Prime Minister Modi and I will also discuss our efforts to expand the economic ties between our two countries. We will be making very, very major — among the biggest ever made — trade

deals," he said.

"We are in the early stages of discussion for an incredible trade agreement to reduce barriers of investment between the United States and India. And I am optimistic that, working together, the Prime Minister and I can reach a fantastic deal that's good and even great for both of our countries," he said. "Except that he's a very tough negotiator," he added, laughing.

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DEFENCE DEALS with the US is a win-win for both sides. While India is able to diversify its defence acquisition — away from dependence on legacy Russian equipment — the US President can leverage this to create jobs in America. This deal could turn out to be the main takeaway of the visit.

SOMYA LAKHANI, ANAND MOHAN J, DEEPTIMAN TIWARY & ANANYA TIWARI  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 24

A DELHI Police head constable and four civilians were killed and as many as 78, including a DCP, were injured as several parts of northeast Delhi turned into a battlezone and violence spiralled over the new citizenship law. Rival mobs, armed with sticks, rods and petrol bombs, torched vehicles, shops and homes. Until midnight Monday, violence was still on, a petrol pump in Bhajanpura was allegedly set ablaze.

This is the second day of clashes in the city where US President Donald Trump arrived in the evening for the main leg of his two-day India visit.

Today's violence came after clashes erupted in the same district Sunday, barely 30 minutes after BJP's Kapil Mishra held a rally to counter protests against the law and warned of action if anti-CAA protesters didn't clear



Head Constable Rattan Lal is survived by his wife and three children

the road.

Maujpur, Jaffrabadi, Bhajanpura, Yamuna Vihar, Chand Bagh and Gokalpuri saw heavy stone-pelting between two communities. While Sunday's violence was largely set off by a clash between those opposing and those in favour of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, Monday's clashes were more communally charged. The first

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Trump, Melania, his daughter Ivanka and her husband Jared Kushner with UP Governor Anandiben Patel and CM Yogi Adityanath in Agra, Monday. PTI

## On table for today: several pacts and talks on a future trade deal

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
AHMEDABAD, FEBRUARY 24

WHEN US President Donald Trump meets Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Tuesday, an ambitious trade deal in future will be top of the agenda for the two leaders.

Some of Delhi's decisions in the last few months have contributed to Trump's frustration that India has not been treating

the US well. One such decision was the retaliatory tariffs on walnuts, imposed in the wake of the US withdrawal of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). Since India is a huge market for California walnuts, the fate of about 35 consignments was jeopardised — the announcements came while these consignments were on their way.

This is one example of India's unpredictable tax regime which

has bothered Washington, and has now snowballed into a major talking point for the US President.

While the Indian side was happy to conclude a "limited trade deal", the US had a more "ambitious" deal in mind. This has led to conflict between negotiators from both sides. Although the US Trade Representative is not part of the delegation, he has had at least

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THE 12 HOURS of violence in northeast Delhi on Monday in which five people were killed, including a head constable, painted a grim picture of how protests over the new citizenship law took a communal turn.

The area had been on edge since Sunday when a rally by BJP's Kapil Mishra to counter anti-CAA protests in the area had been followed by waves of stone-pelting. Mishra couldn't have been clearer in his warning — he released a video threatening anti-CAA protesters; he gathered with his supporters next to the protest venue; he tweeted after the violence that "Till (Trump) is in India, we are leaving the area peacefully...after that, we won't listen to you (police)."

Despite this, when violence first erupted Monday, with young men from two communities gathering on either side of a wide road under the Baburpur-Maujpur Metro line, Delhi Police personnel found they were out-

numbered.

While there is little clarity on who cast the first stone — both communities blame each other — by 11 am, stones were flying thick and fast in Maujpur. Around noon, among those who were seen throwing stones were also some policemen. Asked about this, a senior Delhi Police officer declined to comment.

Several Muslim residents in the area alleged that since Sunday night, members of their community had been targeted. "This is a mixed colony. We saw our own neighbours throwing stones at us. On Sunday night, men were being pulled out of autos and Hindu households were collecting stones," claimed a resident holding a metal rod, his face

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## Ally Nitish says NPR should stick to 2010 format — no parent details

SANTOSH SINGH  
PATNA, FEBRUARY 24

'Won't allow injustice against any minority'

ASSURING MINORITIES that there is no reason to fear the National Population Register exercise, which his government will conduct from May 15-28, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has said that the NPR "should be implemented as per the 2010 format".

This puts a question mark on three key additional questions in the latest exercise — date of birth and place of parents, and last residential address, of the applicant

that had sparked fears of the NPR leading to a countrywide National Register of Citizens (NRC).

JD(S) chief Kumar also reiterated that the NRC will not be implemented in the state.

Earlier this month, the Bihar government had written to the

Registrar General of India, saying that the state has not received the format of questions for the proposed NPR.

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## On February 26, third flight heads to Wuhan to evacuate Indians

SOWMIYA ASHOK  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 24

WHILE INDIA is likely to send a military aircraft carrying relief items to Wuhan, Ground Zero of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, on February 26, amongst the group of Indians waiting to be evacuated is an Indian businessman, his Chinese wife and son. "I drove over from Shenzhen where I have an export business to visit my wife's family in Hubei

for six days but I got caught in the lockdown," he told *The Indian Express* via WeChat.

"We couldn't be evacuated in the first round since I was still waiting for my wife and son who hold OCI cards to be eligible for travel," the businessman who did not wish to be named said.

Nearly 100 Indians are on stand-by since February 20 to be evacuated out of Hubei province though many among them are students, the third evacuation

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## After 200 days, Valley wakes up to bustling classrooms

ADIL AKHZER  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 24

AFTER OVER 200 days, Kashmir Valley woke up to a heart-warming morning scene: school buses making their way through roads and classrooms filling up with students.

Officially, Monday marked the end of the winter break. But in reality, it was the first time after the abrogation of Article 370 and the shutdown that schools opened fully and reported near-full attendance.

"I met my classmates after a

long time and it was an awesome feeling. I had missed my teachers and my classroom," said Eram after classes at Presentation Convent School for girls in Srinagar's uptown Rajbagh locality.

"My school bus came in the morning to my house in the old city to pick me up. I was waiting for my school to open so that I could return to class," said Amir, a student from Srinagar's Tyndale Biscoe School in Lalchowk.

Weeks after the Centre's decision to bifurcate J&K, the state administration had ordered the

opening of schools in a gradual manner after restrictions across the Valley were eased. However, students had largely stayed away with parents fearing for their safety. In December, several schools in Srinagar started seeing a slow rise in attendance — until the winter break was announced.

There are approximately 13,000 government and private schools in Kashmir region, with around 12 lakh students enrolled. And education officials in Srinagar described Monday's response as "very good".

"I visited several schools today, including in Shopian, which

Wherever I went, I saw students in classes," Mohammad Younis Malik, Director, School Education (Kashmir) told *The Indian Express*.

"Other than the fact that all schools have opened today, a welcome sign is that parents are cooperating at every level," said G N Var, who heads Kashmirs private schools association.

There were similar reports from across the Valley. "Nearly 60 per cent of students attended school today. Some areas are still snow-covered, so it will take at least a week for all the students to come," said Sajad Ahmad,

principal, Rainbow International educational institution in South Kashmir's Shopian. The school, which has classes up to Class 10, sent all of its 35 buses on all routes in the morning to pick up students.

A senior official from St Joseph's Higher Secondary School in North Kashmir's Baramulla reported "100 per cent attendance". "Now prayers are needed for the situation to remain normal so that schools can continue to function," said Mohammed Yousuf Wani, chairman, Green Valley School, which

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## THE IDEAS PAGE

### INDIA AND AMERICA FIRST

BY CRAJA MOHAN

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## WORLD

### POLITICAL TURMOIL IN MALAYSIA, PM MAHATHIR QUILTS,

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## EXPRESS NETWORK

### UP SUNNI WAQF BOARD TO BUILD MOSQUE, HOSPITAL ON AYODHYA LAND

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## NEEMRANA CALLING

A RED initiative appears in today's edition of *The Indian Express*. This page is an initiative of the marketing solutions team of The Indian Express Group and contains content paid for by advertisers. This page should be read as an advertisement.

"I met my classmates after a



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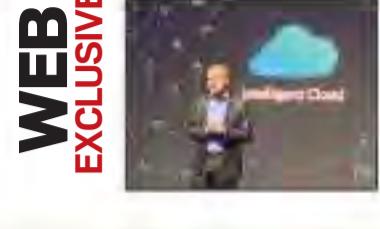
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Virat Kohli reclaims top positions in ICC Test Batting Rankings

Indian skipper ousted Australia's Steve Smith after again taking the No. 1 position in the ICC Test Batting Rankings.

**SATYA NADELLA TO INDIAN CEOs: BUILD YOUR OWN TECH CAPABILITIES**

At Microsoft's Future Decoded event in Mumbai, CEO Satya Nadella on Monday exhorted Indian CEOs to build their own tech capability and that will be one of the most defining aspects of the coming decade.

**EXPRESS EXPLAINED****REMEDIES TO SAVE THE TAJ**

Mud packs were applied on the surface first in 1994

**FULL COVERAGE****US PRESIDENT TRUMP LANDS**

PM Modi Monday said history is being scripted at the Motera stadium

**EXPRESS AUDIO****How did the violence in North East Delhi start?**

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Reporters break down how a peaceful protest turned into a riot-like situation over the past two days in North East Delhi, why it is communal in nature, and what the police reaction has been.

**FROM PAGE ONE****Trade deal**

three meetings or conversations with his counterpart, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, but the issues have remained unresolved.

For the Indians, one of the principal demands has been restoration of GSP, and it has been conveyed by Indian negotiators quite clearly. But the American side has put demands in some sectors, like medical devices and dairy products, and Delhi is said to have vacillated.

Now, Washington, which has concluded trade pacts with China, Canada, Mexico, Japan and South Korea in the last two years, is looking to conclude a deal with Delhi as well. While the big trade deal is not taking place this time, the Indian side wants to be a FTA partner with the US in the long-term.

Among the outcomes, a centre for counter-terrorism is likely to be announced as the MoU on Homeland security will focus on aviation and immigration security. Sources said an Industrial Security Annex summit is scheduled for April-May while an energy dialogue to diversify India's energy requirement will be a key thrust area for discussion around the visit.

That dialogue, also likely to be in April in the US, envisages long-term agreements in energy partnership in LNG and crude oil, a gas task force and technol-

ogy tie-ups in processing, exploration and exploitation; and the supply of 10 million tonnes of high-grade metallurgical coal, worth about USD 2 billion, used for specialised processes like smelting. A pact between Indian Oil and Exxon on the LNG pipeline infrastructure is likely to be inked during the visit.

The areas where agreements are likely include building capacities and collaborations in mental health; industry-specific agreements for the supply of high-quality medicine to the US; agreement on intellectual property rights and a basket of items in defence, which is likely to include helicopters. An agreement on space is also on the table.

In what could turn out to be a major outcome in India-US defence cooperation, New Delhi and Washington are likely to move forward on negotiations for the final foundational agreement – the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (Beca). Trump and Modi are expected to discuss fast-tracking the pact and moving on it as early as in March. Officials from the Ministry of Defence and the Pentagon are expected to get together to expedite the negotiations.

**Constable killed**  
incident of violence was reported at around 11 am and, by afternoon, large areas were littered with stones and burning store-

fronts, tyres and homes. Police identified the head constable as Rattan Lal (42), a father of three who was posted at the office of ACP Gopalpuri. The dead civilians were identified as Mohd Furqan (32), a resident of Kardampuri and a father of two; local residents Shahid and Rahul Solanki. The fourth civilian was unidentified until late Monday night.

DCP(Shahdara) Amit Sharma suffered serious head injuries and was taken to GTB Hospital. He was critical until Monday night. Also at the same hospital were Rohit Kumar Shukla (25) and Sahil Dabbas (22), both of whom said they had gunshot injuries in the leg.

In the afternoon, a man identified as Shahrukh was detained for allegedly firing at least eight shots into the crowd, said a Delhi Police officer. A video of the firing had gone viral during the day, showing Shahrukh firing the gun in close proximity to a policeman. At 3.20 pm, Delhi's Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted, "Very distressing news regarding disturbance of peace and harmony in parts of Delhi coming in. I sincerely urge Hon'ble LG n Hon'ble Union Home Minister to restore law and order n ensure that peace and harmony is maintained. Nobody should be allowed to orchestrate flagrations."

Despite reports of arson from several areas, the Delhi Fire Service (DFS) couldn't make it to the spot for several hours to douse the flames and DFS director Atul Garg said, "We got hundreds of SOS calls and there was a lot of confusion. Two DFS vehicles were vandalised by protesters and three firefighters were injured in the stone-pelting. We managed to reach the spot after many hours."

By afternoon, Delhi Police had imposed Section 144 in several parts of the district but crowds continued to pour into the streets and narrow bylanes. Though violence subsided later in the evening, late night saw some more stone-pelting.

Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy suggested that the violence had been orchestrated with an eye on the visit of US President Donald Trump and that those behind organising the protests must be held accountable for "maligning" the country's reputation. "The violence in Delhi is highly condemnable. Narendra Modi is working tirelessly to get India greater respect in the world. Some political parties are working to malign the country's image. To commit arson, indulge in rioting and to kill a policeman while US President Donald Trump is here... it is something that Rahul Gandhi and other political parties that are supporting it will have to answer about," Reddy told The Indian Express.

Asking why these politicians were not speaking on these protests, Reddy said, "The Indian government will not tolerate this violence. We will conduct a high-level enquiry. Whoever is found guilty will be punished. Investigations will reveal the people behind this. By organising such protests when a world leader is in the country what kind of message do these people want to convey to the world about India? Do people who hold the national flag in one hand and engage in arson by the other have right to hold the flag?"

The Ministry of Home Affairs, meanwhile, is in constant touch with Delhi Police, taking stock of the situation, officials said.

Sources said Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla had spoken to Delhi Police chief Amulya Patraik who has been stationed in the police control room to constantly monitor the situation and guide police action.

Reacting to the continuing violence in Delhi, Bhalla said, "Senior officers are already in the field. Sufficient forces have already been deployed. Situation is

**India-US, Modi-Trump**

and controlled borders. The United States and India are committed to working together to stop terrorists and to fight their ideology," he said.

"For this reason, since taking office, my administration is working in a very positive way with Pakistan to crack down on terror organisations and militants that operate on the Pakistani border".

"Our relationship with Pakistan is a very good one. Thanks to these efforts, we are beginning to see signs of big progress with Pakistan and we are hopeful for reduced tensions, greater stability and the future of harmony for all of the nations of South Asia."

"India has an important leadership role to play in shaping a better future as you take on greater responsibility for solving problems and promoting peace throughout this incredible region," he said.

And then, without naming China, Trump took a swipe: "There is all the difference in the world between a nation that seeks power through coercion, intimidation, and aggression, and a nation that rises by setting its people free and unleashing them to chase their dreams. And that is India. This is why India's accomplishment over the last 70 years is completely unparalleled, no matter where you go."

Without mentioning religious freedom, he said: "India is

a country that proudly embraces freedom, liberty, individual rights, the rule of law, and the dignity of every human being."

"Your nation has always been admired around the earth as the place where millions upon millions of Hindus and Muslims and Sikhs and Jains, Buddhists, Christians, and Jews worship side by side in harmony; where you speak more than 100 languages and come from more than two dozen states, yet you have always stood strong as one great Indian nation. Your unity is an inspiration to the world," he said.

"India's rise as a prosperous and independent nation is an example to every nation all over the world and one of the most outstanding achievements of our century. It is all the more inspiring because you have done it as a democratic country, you have done it as a peaceful country, you have done it as a tolerant country, and you have done it as a great free country," he said.

"India loves India, and will always be faithful and a loyal friend," he said.

Recalling Modi's humble background as a tea-seller, Trump praised him, saying he has a "moving story of an incredible rise, and so does this entire nation... Prime Minister Modi, you are not just the pride of Gujarat. You are a living proof that with hard work and devotion, Indians can accomplish

anything, anything at all, anything they want."

In his speech, Modi praised Trump as someone who "thinks big" and that his visit will start a "new chapter" in Indo-US ties to bring "peace and prosperity".

"There is so much that we share — shared values and ideals, shared spirit of enterprise and innovation, shared opportunities and challenges, shared hopes and aspirations. I am happy that Indo-US friendship has deepened under President Trump's leadership. This is why President Trump's visit is a new chapter in Indo-US relations."

"With this visit, he said India and the US have strengthened their trust in each other and that 'trust' is a very important aspect of the bilateral relationship. "When I met Trump in Washington for the first time, he told me India has a true friend in the White House," he recalled, and said when Diwali is celebrated in the White House, 40 lakh Indians feel proud of being part of the US society and economy.

He appreciated Melania Trump for her campaign for a "healthy and happy America", and her slogan "Be Best", and said, "what you are doing is great". Praising Trump's daughter Ivanka, Modi said when "you came two years ago, you had said you would like to come again" and that he was happy

she was able to return. He also praised Trump's son-in-Law, Jared Kushner, for "staying away from limelight", but doing things which have an "impact" and "long-term consequences". Kushner is widely acknowledged to be the brain behind Trump's Middle East peace plan.

He said a "new India" is being developed, and there are "new opportunities". Calling India and the US as "natural partners", he praised US commitment against terrorism and said that they would work with "long-term vision, and not short-term consideration".

Trump, who is facing an election year, also praised the contribution of four million Indian-Americans.

"In America, we have come to know the splendour of Indian culture personally, through the four million Indian Americans living in the United States as our wonderful friends, colleagues, and neighbours. They are truly spectacular people. Indian Americans enrich every aspect of our national life. They are titans of business; the biggest, the best pioneers of science; masters of the art; and innovation of technology like few people have been able to see no matter where you go anywhere in this universe... Nearly one in four Indian Americans trace their roots right here in Gujarat. Gujarat is a special place," he said.

was postponed for students, several of us had to wait for our work units to clear us for travel. During the last evacuation, the time limit was shorter to get permission," said an Indian national from Uttar Pradesh who works in a vaccine company.

A Union Health Ministry statement said Monday: "As informed by the Ministry of External Affairs, departure of the Air Force flight to Wuhan is being planned for February 26 and the evacuees will arrive on February 27." Previously, Indian officials had said that China had delayed clearance of the C-17 military transport aircraft.

Meanwhile, China rescinded an announcement Monday that the quarantine of Wuhan would be eased up. Chinese state television CGTN reported that Wuhan authorities had withdrawn an announcement made earlier in the day that non-residents could leave if they show no coronavirus symptoms and have never had contact with patients. It said the city will continue in its efforts to avoid the virus spreading to other regions.

For the Indians who have spent more than a month in lockdown, apprehension over the delay in evacuation efforts prompted the Embassy of India in Beijing to ask them to refrain from disseminating speculative information. "We do realise that some of you are getting apprehensive due to the delays. However, we would urge you to remain calm and not resort to disseminating speculative information which may lead to confusion and even panic in the group," the Embassy said in the WeChat created for this next round of evacuation.

Further, some of the Indians who spoke to The Indian Express spoke of hike in prices of food items and that some of the community gates have been locked down. This has over the weeks restricted frequent access to supermarkets.

Meanwhile, with 28 countries reporting 17 deaths and over 1750 cases of the disease (outside of China) the Centre has issued new guidelines for screening passengers from four more countries. Now along with China, Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, South Korea, Japan, passengers who have travelled to Nepal, Indonesia, Vietnam and Malaysia will also be screened at international airports.

At Indian Council of Medical Research, a total of 1461 samples from suspected cases across the country have been tested. This is barring those that were tested from evacuated individuals quarantined at Manesar Army Camp and ITBP Camp at New Delhi. So far there are only three confirmed cases and no new case that is positive for COVID-19.

Until today, 50,091 travellers have been screened at Mumbai International Airport. Field surveillance is also actively going on all across the state in search of people from the corona-affected areas.

On February 5, in a letter to the Registrar General of India, Bihar's Land and Revenue Department Additional Chief Secretary Vivek Kumar Singh stated: "Let it be known that the central government has not yet notified details of questions and information for preparation of 2020 NPR." The state had also requested the Centre to add a column for transients in the new format.

In January, the Deputy CM had said that in every Census, new information and new questions were added. "What is the big deal about it? If three questions are added, what is the problem? Second, it is not mandatory to answer these questions. New information has been sought on parents, but it is not compulsory to answer them."

**Packed classrooms**  
is located in the Buchpora area of Srinagar.  
For parents, seeing their children return to class was an emotional moment. "There are some things a child cannot learn at home. My daughter readied her school bag yesterday and she was excited to go to school today after a long time," said Asifa Bhat, a resident of Srinagar.  
Our school is planning to conduct extra classes and increase school hours to compensate for the loss," said Sajad, a teacher in Rainbow school.

FULL REPORTS ON [www.indianexpress.com](#)

**\$3-bn deal: 'Most feared military equipment'**

includes advanced air defence systems, and armed and unarmed aerial vehicles."

"And I am pleased to announce that, tomorrow, our representatives will sign deals sell over \$3 billion in the absolute finest, state-of-the-art military helicopters and other equipment to the Indian armed forces," he said, adding that the US should be India's premier

defence partner.

"Together, we will defend our sovereignty, security, and protect a free and open Indo-Pacific region for our children and for many, many generations to come," he said, with an eye on China.

Earlier, Trump said that since his inauguration as US President in January 2017, commerce between the two coun-

tries has increased by more than 40 per cent. India is now a major market for American exports, and the US is India's largest export market, he said.

"Prime Minister Modi has already made significant reforms here in your country. The world looks forward to even more rapid improvement to India's business climate under his leadership," he said.

Around 3.45 pm, police fired teargas shells and pelted stones in Maupur to disperse the crowd. Pushpendra Mishra, member of Hindu Yuva Vahini, present near the temple, said, "We got sticks from our homes. Locals have sourced them too. On Sunday, we didn't have weapons to defend ourselves but now we are prepared."

At 5.10 pm, a mob of young men saw a garment shop and a pan shop across the street from the temple. Over 20 police personnel watched as young men, some teenagers, broke down barriers, shutters, and looted the pan shop.

The mob looted biscuit packets, water bottles and threw it to the crowd. The Indian Express spoke to the two owners, who said that they were too scared to go and assess the damage.

Meanwhile, news came in that DCP (Shahdara) Amit Sharma had received serious head injuries at Chand Bagh and had been rushed to GTB hospital. He underwent surgery at Max Patparganj Monday night.

Constable Pradeep Kumar, posted with Vivek Vihar police station, was present at Chand Bagh when Sharma was allegedly beaten up by a group of anti-CAA protesters after he asked them to open the blocked road.

"We were standing in Chand Bagh area since 9 am and situation got worse around 12.30 pm after the locals blocked the carriageways," Kumar said. "Our DCP (policemen) and he tried to convince them to open the carriageways. Around 12.50 pm, we were gheraoed by them and then they started stone pelting. They also

held him and started beating him up mercilessly. We tried to rescue him and also received injuries. After rescuing him, we took him in hospital, blood was oozing from his head."

Afternoon, police had imposed Section 144 in the area, though the crowds continued to pour into the streets and narrow bylanes. Delhi Police PRO Anil Mittal appealed to the people to keep calm and not believe rumours, and promised "strict action" against miscreants and anti-social elements.

At 4.30 pm, a bearded man wearing a kurta-pyjama was surrounded in Bhajanpura and beaten by a mob armed with cricket stumps and sticks. A Reuters photographer captured scenes from the assault which left the man bloodied. Until late Monday night, he could not be traced.

Late evening, there were announcements from the Maupur temple microphone that "we have to prepare ourselves to save our community, our rights and self-respect". At 9.45 pm, stone-pelting resumed in Maupur, and another shop was set ablaze, with flames being doused by police personnel.

Nitish Kumar said: "Samaj ke kisi tabke ke saath koi anyay nahin hone denge. Alpanskyak samuday ke saath koi anyay nahin hone denge jab tak hum hai. Jor NRC ki baat hai, kuchh nahin hona hua. Doosri baat jaan lijiye, NRP ke baare mein joh 2010 mein hua hai usi aadhaar par hona chahiye, idhar udharnahin hona chahiye. Yeh toh hamarashure kehna hai. Sab log prem se rahiye, samaj aage bad-

hega, sab ki tarakki hogi."

"I will ensure that there is no injustice done to any community in society. As long as I am there, I will not allow any injustice to be done to the minority community. As for the matter of NRC, nothing is going to happen. Second, NRC should be done in the manner it was done in 2010. There should not be any deviation from it. This has been our stand. Live together with love, society will move forward and everyone will progress".





The death of the police head constable is extremely painful. He was one of us. Please stop violence. It will not benefit anyone. The solution can only be found through peace.

**ARVIND KEJRIWAL**  
Delhi Chief Minister

The violence today in Delhi is disturbing & must be unequivocally condemned. Peaceful protests are a sign of a healthy democracy, but violence can never be justified. I urge the citizens of Delhi to show restraint, compassion & understanding no matter what the provocation.

**RAHUL GANDHI**  
Congress Leader

I plead to the people of Jafrabad, Yamuna Vihar, Karawal Nagar and nearby areas to maintain calm. Steer clear of rumours and maintain peace.

**MANOJ TIWARI**  
Delhi BJP President

## BRIEFLY

**JNU sedition:**  
**SC declines**  
**plea seeking**  
**govt sanction**

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court Monday declined to entertain a plea seeking directions to the Delhi government to prosecute CPI leader Kanhaiya Kumar for sedition.

**'No offence made out against Sisodia'**

**New Delhi:** The Delhi police told a city court Monday that no offence could be made out against Deputy CM Manish Sisodia for his tweet accusing Delhi Police personnel of setting a DTC bus on fire during violence in Jamia Nagar last December, stating that it was his personal opinion. However, the court asked the police chief to file an action taken report.

**College fest postponed**

**New Delhi:** DU's B R Ambedkar College, situated near Yamuna Vihar where violence took place Monday, has indefinitely postponed its cultural fest scheduled to be held on February 25-26.

**Three held for loan scam**

**Gurgaon:** Three men have been arrested by Faridabad Police for allegedly creating false identification and taking loans from banks to purchase cars, and then reselling it to others. **ENS**

**KILLED IN VIOLENCE AT NORTHEAST DELHI**

# Head Constable leaves behind three children

**ASTHA SAXENA**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 24

"AB JO gaya uske baare me kya baat karni hai (What is there to talk about the person who has passed away)," said a relative of 42-year-old Rattan Lal, the head constable who died during violent clashes between two communities in Northeast Delhi on Monday. He was among five people who lost their lives, while at least 78 others were injured.

According to doctors at GTB Hospital, Lal succumbed to head injuries and was declared dead on arrival in the afternoon. Sitting inside the hospital, Lal's relatives spoke about him — and who he left behind. Hailing from Rajasthan's Sikar, he had joined Delhi Police as a constable in 1998 and was presently posted in the office of the ACP, Gokulpuri.

Manish Kumar (25), his nephew, said he was at work when he saw news of Lal's death flashing on the TV. Immediately, he received several WhatsApp messages from his friends asking about his uncle. "I rushed to the hospital... I did not want to believe the rumours... I was shattered when I saw his body. He was not even posted on beat duty and we still lost him," he said.

A resident of Burari, Lal is survived by his wife and three children — two daughters aged 15 and 17 and a boy aged 7. His relatives in Delhi said they are yet to inform his mother, who lives in Rajasthan's Tiloli village. His father died six months ago from an illness, they said. Several policemen who sustained injuries on their hands, legs and back were rushed to GTB Hospital and Max Hospital, Patparganj.

Dr Rajesh Kalra, additional medical superintendent at GTB Hospital, said: "Around 10 policemen were brought to the hospital; the head constable was brought dead. DCP (Shahdara) Amit Kumar Sharma came with a serious head injury and we referred him to Max, Patparganj."

(Inputs from Ananya Tiwari)



Protesters hurl stones in Jafrabad. PTI

The others sustained head injuries or fractured limbs."

Max Hospital, in a statement, said: "We received six policemen with injuries sustained in civic unrest in parts of Delhi. Four patients are undergoing treatment at the hospital, while two others have been discharged."

One of the injured policemen, Raman Nagar (30), posted at the DCP office in Maujpur, was hit by stones on his left leg. Lying on a stretcher outside the hospital, he told *The Indian Express*: "We were standing outside the DCP office and some people started pelting stones. Doctors have advised us to rest for a few days."

Lal's bank account number was shared and police officers started contributing to it. AAP MLA from Burari Sanjeev Jha also visited Lal's family.

(Inputs from Ananya Tiwari)

## Stepped out for work, told us he'll be back soon, says family of man killed in violence

**ASTHA SAXENA**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 24

MOHD FURKAN (32) told his wife he would be back soon when he stepped out of his house in Kardampuri Monday afternoon. But Furkan, who used to make designer wedding card boxes, never did. He suffered a bullet injury on his left thigh during the violence between two communities in Northeast Delhi and died at GTB Hospital from excessive blood loss. He is among five people who died during the clashes.

Outside the hospital's emergency ward, his elder brother Mohd Imran (36) said, "I don't know how to tell my sister-in-law about the death. We are unable to accept the news."



Mohd Furkan, one of the five dead in the clashes

Hearing news about the ongoing protest in their area, the brothers, who live in separate houses, decided to skip work Monday and even got their children back from school early. "We didn't leave the house as the situation was tense. We even brought our children back from school by

12.30 pm. Furkan later stepped out to buy something for the shop," said Imran.

According to the hospital's administration, 57 injured people came to the emergency ward, including a 10-year-old with a gunshot wound. "They were admitted to the hospital's emergency ward. Most of them suffered gunshot wounds and are under observation. Others received injuries due to stone-pelting. We discharged them after providing first aid," said Dr Rajesh Kalra, additional medical superintendent, GTB Hospital.

Mohd Irfan (27), who suffered a grievous injury to his eye after a teargas shell fell on his face, claimed he has lost his eyesight. "Doctors are saying there is only a 10% chance that my eyesight will

return. I am the sole breadwinner of my family, who will bear the brunt of this loss?" A resident of Kardampuri, Irfan was closing his shop when the shell fell on his face.

Sitting with a plaster on his right wrist, Sahil Siddiqui (18) was brought to the hospital after he suffered serious burn injuries. He was returning home on his bike when a group of protesters burnt a vehicle moving ahead of him.

Another injured man, Rohit Kumar Shukla (25), who works as a water purifier mechanic, sustained two bullet injuries on his left thigh while he was on the job. A resident of Chauhan Patti, Shukla was in Maujpur to attend to a complaint. "He was in Hanuman Mandir when a group of people came and opened fire," said his father.

**Those sitting on protests to blame for violence: Kapil Mishra**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 24

AS CALLS to initiate action against BJP leader Kapil Mishra were made after violence broke out in various parts of Northeast Delhi on Monday, the leader said he was not to blame for any of the violence that took place on Sunday or Monday.

On Sunday afternoon, Mishra had held a protest march against the anti-CAA sit-in under the Jafrabad Metro station, where one carriageway was blocked by protesters. Mishra had given police three days to clear the protest, failing which they would "not listen to police either".

Responding to a tweet by L-G Anil Baijal, AICC national spokesperson Sharmishta Mukherjee sought Mishra's arrest Monday.

Mishra, however, told *The Indian Express* that he had gone to Maujpur on Sunday as people had started blocking roads. "I did not say anything provocative... had I not gone, things may have gone out of control," he said.

Asked about Monday's violence, Mishra said: "Those who have been sitting on protests are behind it. They have done this because of the Trump rally. This is orchestrated... It may not have been one sided but was initiated by those on the roads."

Meanwhile, Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari hinted at a conspiracy: "What happened all of a sudden, when negotiations were on, that they came on roads... this is to malign the country's image."

## AAP says police lax, not taking calls, MLAs head to L-G residence at night

**EXPRESS NEW SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 24

AS VIOLENCE broke out in several areas in Northeast Delhi Monday, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal spoke to L-G Anil Baijal, asking him to make efforts to bring the situation under control. "He has assured me that police force is being sent. Violence by anyone won't be tolerated... No solution will be borne out of violence," Kejriwal tweeted at 5 pm.

Law and order in the capital comes under the L-G, who is the representative of the Centre.

Trouble started brewing in Maujpur area in the morning and stone-pelting started around noon. Police fired teargas shells to control the situation but were unable to deter the two groups that continued to pelt stones and set vehicles and private property on fire. Violence soon spread to Gokulpuri and Chand Bagh, under Babarpur constituency.

AAP minister Gopal Rai, the Babarpur MLA, said the administration had shown laxity in reacting to the situation. "I have spoken to the L-G and told him to make sure that the situation is brought under control. Residents of the area are not behind the vi-

### NORTHEAST DELHI: IN THE GRIP OF VIOLENCE



olence. Outsiders are perpetrating it," Rai told *The Indian Express*. He alleged that gun shots were heard in his constituency and said there was no police presence on the ground. He claimed he had tried to contact the police chief but got no response.

In the evening, AAP MLAs started making rounds of areas in their constituencies.

AAP leaders said that most of

their MLAs were on the ground in the evening, trying to cool tempers but police did not cooperate. AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh accused Home Minister Amit Shah of inaction: "Amit Shah has not tried to control violence. It is jungle raj on the streets and police are not even taking calls."

Burari MLA Sanjeev Jha said that the situation was very tense and he, along with other MLAs,



Prem Nath Pandey  
CM at Vidhan Sabha Monday

were going to the L-G's house to meet Baijal. Mustafabadi MLA Haji Yunus told *The Indian Express*, "Violence has broken out in Chand Bagh. I raised the issue with the party and the top leadership has approached the L-G. I am in constant touch with people in my area and have asked them to stay indoors."

The newly elected Leader of Opposition, BJP's Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, condemned the violence but linked it to US President Donald Trump's visit. "Whatever is happening is troubling. But we can't also rule out whether this is being done only to ensure that India's international image is dented, with the US President and the First Lady's scheduled visit to Delhi," he said.

AS ARSON and violence rocked Northeast Delhi, the Congress Monday hit out at Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, saying he cannot remain a mute spectator. Senior Congress leader Ajay Maken said the CM cannot absolve himself of the responsibility of restoring peace in the national capital.

Talking to *The Indian Express*, Maken, who was MoS (Home) in the UPA government, said Kejriwal, "by just appearing helpless... is further eroding the credibility of the institution of the office of the chief minister. We very much need the credibility of the institution of the office of the chief minister. Otherwise, why would people vote in these elections?"

He said both the Delhi Police and the Delhi government should work in tandem. "Delhi Police is with the central government while district officials like the SDM and the DC are with the state government... So the Chief Minister cannot straight away absolve himself of the responsibility. He should have set up a helpline... Similarly, the L-G and the Home Minister also cannot

absolve themselves," he said.

"As the Chief Minister, why shouldn't and why didn't he call an all-party meeting and discuss across party lines? Why shouldn't he call the leader of the opposition, the likes of (Delhi BJP president) Manoj Tiwari, leaders from the Congress and sit with all of them together and discuss how to tide over the crisis? Who stops the Chief Minister from doing this?" he said.

"He should also form peace committees in such areas. Delhi Police would not be able to form peace committees. He should have established a hotline with the Lt-Governor and coordinated with him on an hourly basis... The only response which they are doing is tweeting and laying the blame on the central government. He should have risen to the occasion... They won the elections in all these places; at most of these places, MLAs are from the AAP. They should have formed peace committees."

"In peace committees, they could have included mandir pradhan, masjid maulavis, important social activists, opinion makers, doctors in that areas, some influential shopkeepers... besides local MLAs and other elected representatives... he should have put a minister in charge of such committees and they should have hit the ground by now," he said.

Maken said leaders like BJP's Kapil Mishra and others who are openly instigating the mob are responsible for the violence.

"If the Chief Minister calls an all-party meeting, if all the leaders are there, he can talk to them. He can tell them please control your leaders. Imagine a scenario where all the top leaders... all of us together, we are going out and asking people to maintain peace and not indulge in violence, it will have an effect. Why can't we do all this? If anyone who can take an initiative at the political level, it has to be the Chief Minister. It can't be the L-G, it can't be the Police Commissioner," he said.

**SC TO HEAR MATTER ON WEDNESDAY**

## In sealed cover, Shaheen Bagh interlocutors submit report to top court

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 24

INTERLOCUTORS TASKED by the Supreme Court to talk to anti-CAA protesters occupying a public road in Shaheen Bagh Monday submitted a report in a "sealed cover" to the Supreme Court which said it will peruse the same before hearing the matter on February 26.

Senior advocate Sanjay Hegde and advocate Sadhana Ramachandran submitted their report to a bench of Justices S K Kaul and K M Joseph. The report has neither been taken on record by the bench nor made available to any of the lawyers. When a petitioner sought a copy of the re-

port, the bench said that they were keeping it confidential for the time being, as "the purpose of an interlocutor is different. their report is only for our record".

Hearing PILs by advocate Amit Sahni and Delhi BJP leader Nand Kishore Garg, which claimed that the continuing protests in Shaheen Bagh and consequent blockage of roads was causing difficulties to people in neighbouring areas, the SC had on February 17 expressed concern over public roads being blocked by the protesters and deputed Hegde and Ramachandran to discuss with them to find a solution.

Though a counsel appearing for the protesters sought to at-

tribute the traffic disruptions to the police closing alternate routes, the court had said that "if everybody starts blocking roads and entering public spaces, may be for genuine causes, where does it end?"

The report submitted by the interlocutors, it is learnt, is based on the daily updates of their interaction put up for the media by the two interlocutors and a broad compilation of the demands of the protesters. The issues raised by the report will have to be considered by the bench while arriving at a decision. Ramachandran had expressed her thanks to the bench for providing the opportunity, stating that it was a "learning experience".

Shaheen Bagh stretch. The court will need to explore this proposal which is contingent on security measures for those in the sit-in protest at Shaheen Bagh.

The protesters had earlier told the interlocutors that they needed a guarantee against the repetition of incidents like those in Jamia Millia Islamia, AMU and JNU. They have demanded that all notices served to protesters and warrants to be withdrawn, and action should be taken against elected state representatives issuing hate speeches. A key demand of the protesters, which they told the interlocutors, is to stop all NPR activity in Delhi.

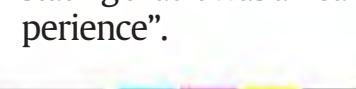
Among the most important points the protesters have emphasised to the interlocutors are the importance of the reason of their protests, their grievance against the CAA and the prospect of a discriminatory National

Register of Citizens to follow the NRP.

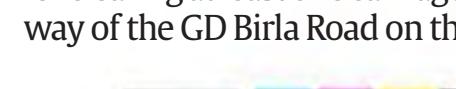
The protesters have asked for a look into the deeper causes for the sit-in, and an SIT to enquire into all cases of police brutality, especially in universities like Jamia Millia Islamia, AMU and JNU.

They have demanded that all notices served to protesters and warrants to be withdrawn, and action should be taken against elected state representatives issuing hate speeches. A key demand of the protesters, which they told the interlocutors, is to stop all NPR activity in Delhi.

The interlocutors are understood to have made it clear that the court is to decide their role in the coming days. On Wednesday, the court will likely



Hegde, Ramachandran listen to protesters at Shaheen Bagh



take a call on the extent to which the administration is to be involved in the larger resolution of this vexed issue, considering that the CAA issue is to be heard only much later in March.

Sahni had earlier approached the High Court against the blockade caused by the protests but the HC disposed of it, asking police



**राष्ट्रीय जलविद्युत संस्थान, रुद्रका**  
(जल शक्ति भवनलय, जल संरक्षण, नदी विकास और गंगा संरक्षण विभाग के अंतर्गत भारत सरकार को संसाधनी)

नम्रवां संख्या: NHIIN-2019/Par-3  
तिथि: 24.02.2020  
निवेदा आभ्यास हेतु नोटिस/NOTICE INVITING TENDER  
निवेदा गण्डी जलविद्युत संस्थान इकॉन की ओर से निवेदित उपकरण खरीदने हेतु नोटिस निवारण (Technical and Commercial Bids) भारत में निवारण का उपकरण द्वारा दी गयी आवश्यकी जाती है। /Director, National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee invites Sealed Bid in two bid (Technical and Financial) from reputed Manufacturer or their authorized dealers in India to purchase of the following equipment:

Particular of Item	Qty.	EMD (Rs.)
Laboratory Permeometer With soil sample ring kit and extra spares	01	Rs. 22,000/-

निवेदा से संबंधित दस्तावेज संस्थान के क्रम अनुच्छेद से प्राप्त कर अथवा संस्थान को वेबसाइट [www.nihrookeye.gov.in](http://www.nihrookeye.gov.in) से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। निवेदा जमा करने की अवधि तिथि 16.03.2020 तक है। प्राप्त निवेदा दिनांक 16.03.2020 को सार्व 4.00 बजे खाली जायेगी। The tenders may be obtained from the office of Purchase Officer on payment of Tender Cost or the same may be downloaded from the website of NIH [www.nihrookeye.gov.in](http://www.nihrookeye.gov.in). The tender shall be received in the office of Purchase Officer on or before 16.03.2020 up to 3.00 PM and Technical Bids will be opened on 16.03.2020 at 4.00 PM.

क्रम अधिकारी/Purchase Officer

**BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (Power Wing)**

**Notice Inviting E-Tender**

**Dated: 14.02.2020**

**N.I.T No: 471/PHD/P&C-211**

**Name of Office : Chief Engineer / System Operation, Planning & Design (Power Plants)**

**Dte. BBMB (PW), BBMB, New Power House Housing Complex, Flat No.75, Industrial Area, Phas-1, Chandigarh-160002, Tel. Fax. 0172-2387035**

**Name of Work: Online Tender for Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of two (02) number Numerical Low Impedance Bus Bar Protection Schemes (De-Centralized Configuration) along with Mandatory Spares - One for 132KV Switchyard, Ganguwal Power House and One for 132KV Switchyard Kolla Power House, BBMB (PW)**

**Downloading of Tender Specification/Tender Document from website (Part-I & II)**

**Last Date & Time of online bid submission (Part-I & II)**

**Date & Time of Online Bid Opening (Part-I)**

**Online on <http://bbmbproc.abprocure.com>**

The Bids are to be submitted Online. For cost of tender document, earnest money deposit and detailed NIT, please visit BBMB website [https://bbmbproc.abprocure.com](http://bbmbproc.abprocure.com) & [www.bbmb.gov.in](http://www.bbmb.gov.in)

**384-PR-SO-5 For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today**

**Debt Recovery Tribunal-I, Delhi**  
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

**O.A. No. 1252/2018**

**Oriental Bank of Commerce Versus Applicant**

**M/s Vivek Trading Company & Ors Defendants**

To,  
1. M/s Vivek Trading (Defd. No. 01)  
Company (Borrower)  
Through Proprietor Smt. Ritu Aggarwal, F-28, Prashant Vihar, Delhi-110085  
2. Sh. Sharad Gupta (Defd. No. 03)  
(Guarantor) S/o Sh. Bengal Babu Gupta, R/o 5/19, Sector-11, Rajender Nagar, Sahibabad-201005, Ghaziabad (U.P.) Also at : 28, G-2 Vaishali, Sector-2, Block-A, Ghaziabad-201010 (U.P.)  
3. Mudit Buildtech Private Limited (Defd. No. 04) (Guarantor) Registered D-347 Near Holy Child School, Tagore Garden Extension, New Delhi-110027  
Also at : 192, GT Road, Prakash Industrial Estate, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad-201005 U.P.

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 7,95,09,539.63 (Rs Seven Crore Ninety Five Lacs Nine Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Nine and Paisa Sixty Three Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before Lt. Registrar on 09-03-2020 at 10.30 A.M.

Please notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this 22th day of January, 2020

by order of this Tribunal  
For Registrar



## A NEW TERM

Sixty-nine of 70 newly elected MLAs, including CM Arvind Kejriwal, took oath as members of the Delhi Assembly as its three-day session began on Monday. Meanwhile, the BJP appointed Ramvir Singh Bidhuri as the Leader of Opposition. Prem Nath Pandey

## WILL SEE DELHI GOVT'S FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME

# Dash of happiness for Melania at Delhi school

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 24

WHEN US First Lady Melania Trump visits a Delhi government school in South Delhi on Tuesday, she will observe a one-of-its-kind classroom — where students and teachers meditate, chat, tell stories and share jokes for 45 minutes each day.

"The main aim was to build what is termed as an emotional quotient. I believe that the main job of a government, and a school especially, is to bring up a child who will not indulge in violence, not be corrupt and not harm the environment. The happiness curriculum is a step towards that," said Delhi Education Minister Manish Sisodia.

One of the main components of the curriculum is meditation and mindfulness. While only students up to Class VIII meditated earlier, the government included the component in its Entrepreneurship Curriculum classes in 2019 after students in senior classes demanded it.

Everyday, students in classes I to VIII spend 45 minutes in this classroom, where there is no set curriculum. Younger students, in nursery and KG, have the class twice a week. The Delhi government has happiness textbooks with stories and activities. The books, though, are advisory in nature.

According to Sisodia, the curriculum is evolving and will continue to do so: "No one has experimented with this format previously. I had gone to Harvard University when the curriculum was being formulated. I spoke to the education training department head and asked her about similar successful experiments

elsewhere but we found instances where such interventions were happening once a week or month. She encouraged us to start daily classes so that they could measure the impact."

Every school has an average of 20 teachers involved in the curriculum. There is also a team of 30 teachers, called happiness coordinators, who go to schools regularly. They attend classes and observe the curriculum and teaching methods.

The curriculum also continues to change. While there were three sets of books in 2018 — one each for Nursery to Class II, Classes III to V and Classes VI to VIII — one book each was made for each class in 2019.

"The curriculum will continue to evolve. I am personally involved and give my feedback regularly. The team keeps researching effective tools and practices as well as new activities. I am also connected to 1,000 happiness teachers on WhatsApp. The idea is to change with the times," said Sisodia.

When it was developed, the government said, there were three aims of the curriculum — a focus on solving internal conflicts to increase concentration; understanding relationships

**JHARKHAND URJA SANCHARAN NIGAM LIMITED**  
(CIN No. – U40108JH2013SCG001704)  
**Office of the General Manager, Transmission Zone-V, Hazaribag,**  
Office At - Sringari Complex, Canary Hill Road, Hazaribag, Pin - 825301, JH  
eMail id:- gmtzone5hb@gmail.com

### SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tender in two parts Technical part -1 and price part - 2 are invited from reputed, financially sound & experienced contractors for the work mentioned below:-

SL. No.	N.L.T. No.	Description of Work	Cost of B.O.Q.	E/M to be deposited
01	163/PR/JUSNL/19-20	Construction of counter poise earthing with providing all materials in rocky or normal foundation for tower loc.no. - 07, 23, 24, 25, 32, 42, 45, 52, 62, 63, 65, 71, 72, 81, 101, 102, 103, 150, 163, 172, 175, 181, 262, 263, 265, 266, 267, 269, 270, & 271 (Total 31 Locations) of 400kV S/C TTPS - B'Sarli Transmission Line (Charged at 220kV)	Rs. 750+18% GST =Rs. 885/-	Rs. 7400/-
02	164/PR/JUSNL/19-20	Supply & installation of Danger plate, Number plate & phase plate including removal of old damaged rusted plate and painting of tower legs in 400kV S/C TTPS -Biharsarli Transmission Line under jurisdiction of TCSD, Tenughat.	Rs. 1250+18% GST =1475/-	Rs. 19500/-

- Start Date and Time for sale of Tender Documents - 26/02/2020 upto 1:00PM
- Last Date and Time for sale of Tender Documents - 12/03/2020 upto 2:00PM
- Last Date and Time for receipt of BID - 13/03/2020 upto 2:00PM
- BID Opening date for Technical part - 1 - 13/03/2020 upto 4:00PM
- BID Opening date for Price Part - 2 - Will be communicated letter on

Tender document with detailed terms and condition may be obtained from office of the General Manager, Transmission Zone-V, Sringari Complex, Canary Hill Road, Hazaribag - 825301.

For any clarification please contact Phone No.: 06546-270375.

Sd/-  
GM-cum-CE  
Trans Zone-V, (Hazaribag)

PR. 225840 Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd(19-20)D

**ASSAM STATE TRANSPORT CORPORATION**  
NIT No. ASTC/HO/CE(A&T)/026/Tender/ACbus/2020-21/0945  
Dated: 24.02.2020  
Request for Proposal for

Purchase of 9 meter AC bus from Original Equipment Manufacturer by Assam State Transport Corporation

Assam State Transport Corporation invites sealed tenders in single bid system in online mode from reputed OEM's for supply and delivery of 20 (twenty) fully built 9-meter AC buses meeting BS-IV emission Norms in Assam. The bidding system shall be done through online mode in Assam tenders portal [https://assamtenders.gov.in/nicgep/app](http://assamtenders.gov.in/nicgep/app).

Submission of tenders will be done only through [https://assamtenders.gov.in/nicgep/app](http://assamtenders.gov.in/nicgep/app).

All interested parties are requested to check the RFP at Assam tenders portal [https://assamtenders.gov.in/nicgep/app](http://assamtenders.gov.in/nicgep/app). Any new information related to the RFP will be published in the Assam tenders portal only by means of a corrigendum.

Tender Processing Fee:- Rs. 7,000/-

Earnest Money Deposit:- Rs. 14,00,000/-

The tender processing fee and Earnest Money Deposit should be submitted online by means of Internet banking/NEFT/RTGS. Snapshot of proof of online payment of Tender processing fee and Earnest Money Deposit should be uploaded online. Hard copy of the complete proposal (except the financial proposal) along with the requisite demand draft of tender document fee and Earnest Money Deposit must reach the office of the undersigned before the last date and time of submission as stated below. Bidders should note that the financial proposal must be submitted in Assam tenders portal [https://assamtenders.gov.in/nicgep/app](http://assamtenders.gov.in/nicgep/app), only and hard copy of the same must not be furnished.

The RFP document may be downloaded from [https://assamtenders.gov.in/nicgep/app](http://assamtenders.gov.in/nicgep/app). from 24/02/2020 onwards till 11/03/2020.

RFP submission last Date & Time : Till 12 PM on 11/03/2020

**Address for Submission :**  
**O/o Managing Director**  
Assam State Transport Corporation (ASTC)  
Paribahan Bhawan, Paltanbazar, Guwahati-781008  
Phone: 0361-2739552;

**For more details please contact:**  
**Balin Das, Chief Engineer (A&T)**  
Email: ce.ant.astc@gmail.com  
Phone: 8811023706

Sd/-

Managing Director

Assam State Transport Corporation

**STATE INDUSTRIES PROMOTION CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LIMITED**  
19-A, RUKMANI LAKSHMI PATHY ROAD, EGMORE, CHENNAI - 600 008.  
CIN U74999TN1971SGC005967

Tender Notice NIT.No.44/CW/DO/I.No.62, 63 & 64/2019-20  
Dt.21.02.2020.

For and on behalf of State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited, sealed tenders are invited under "Two Cover System" for the following work from Class-I/ State Level Contractors registered in State/Central or Quasi Government Organisations having experience in similar nature of works. Tenders will be received upto 3.00 PM on 03.00.2020.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approx. value of work	EMD
1.	Relaying of drains, ducting of drains and jungle clearance in SIPCOT Industrial Complex/Park at Siperumbudur, Barugur and Villam Vadagal	Rs.502.00 lakhs	Rs.2,61,000/-
2.	Formation of tank roads and providing High Mast lights in SEZ area at SIPCOT Industrial Growth Centre/Part at Perundurai and Oraagadam	Rs.262.00 lakhs	Rs.1,41,000/-
3.	Providing barbed wire fencing, high mast light, truck park and construction of compound wall at SIPCOT Industrial Growth Centre/ Park/Complex at Irungattukottai, Perundurai and Barugur	Rs.300.00 lakhs	Rs.1,60,000/-

EMD in the form of DD in favour of SIPCOT Ltd., payable at Chennai.

The tender schedule can be Downloaded at free of cost from the website: [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in) and [www.sipcot.in](http://www.sipcot.in)

DIPR/1037/TENDER/2020  
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, SIPCOT, CHENNAI-8

**उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रॉन्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिंग**  
ई-निवेदा सूचना सं-57 / विज्ञापनांपाठी/आगरा / 2019-20 के  
निवेदा सम्पर्कितार का प्रकाशन

**E-Tender Notice No. 57/ECTC/2019-20** पर अंकित ई-निवेदा जिसकी निवेदा विज्ञापनांपाठी-185 Construction of Firewall at 132 KV S/S Kosi Kalan (Mathura) है जिसको दिनांक 24.02.2020 समय 12:00 बजे प्राप्त किया जाता है। एवं दिनांक 20.02.2020 को खोला जाना निवारित या अपर्हाय कारणों से उत्तर प्रियांका कर निवेदा प्रप्त के द्वाया भाग को प्राप्त करने की तिथि 02.03.2020 समय 12:00 बजे पर्याप्त रूप से दिया जाता है। एवं दिनांक 03.03.2020 को समय 12:00 बजे निवारित किया जाता है। अन्य गांव शहर यावत रहेंगे। निवेदा सम्बन्धित विवरण विज्ञापीय वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> & <http://upptcl.org> से भी प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। राष्ट्र द्वितीय विज्ञापनांपाठी-अधिकारी अधिकारी अधिकारी, विद्युत जानपद पारेशन मण्डल-आगरा, ८०४० पावर ट्रॉन्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिंग, निकट अगर उत्तर प्रांत, पर्याप्त रूप से दिया जाएगा। प्रत्यक्ष 349 विज्ञापनांपाठी/निवेदा/ दिनांक: 24.02.2020

**HARYANA GOVERNMENT TENDER NOTICE**

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP/AUTH	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER	OPENING DATE/CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	DHBVN, FARIDABAD	PROVIDING LIGHT VEHICLES/JEEPS SUCH AS MAHINDRA BOLERO (OPEN FROM BACK SIDE) ON HIRE CHARGES BASIS UNDER SE (OP) CIRCLE DHBVN FARIDABAD NIT NO.02/SE/FBD/2019-20	14.11.2019 26.02.2020	69.12 LACS	<a href="http://www.dhbvn.org.in">www.dhbvn.org.in</a>	0129-223277 selbd@dhbvn.org.in

# TRUMP IN INDIA DAY ONE

# Ahmedabad to Agra: The red carpet

Behind grand show at Motera: 10,000 cops securing the city, 700 buses ferrying people and a once-in-a-lifetime tagline to woo crowds

RITU SHARMA, VAIBHAV JHA & AVINASH NAIR

AHMEDABAD, FEBRUARY 24

OVER 10,000 policemen, 700 buses and the entire Gujarat government machinery came together to make the hour-long Namaste Trump event a show of strength for both heads of state – Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump.

The BJP used its mobilisation skills to market the event as "once-in-a-lifetime" and managed to get the over one lakh crowd to the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel stadium in Motera on a warm, sunny afternoon. According to the organisers, people came in from as many as 13 districts.

The newly renovated stadium – the largest cricket stadium in the world with a capacity of 1 lakh 10 thousand – went through its most elaborate dress rehearsal on Monday as it hosted, besides Modi and Trump, First Lady Melania Trump and the top brass of the US and Indian governments. The planning for the event involved the Ministry of External Affairs, top security agencies SPG and NSG as well as the US Secret Service.

Ahmedabad collector K K Nirala told *The Indian Express*, "The last week of planning was at a very micro level with a focus on practicalities. Along with delegation of responsibilities, targets were set for different agencies. For instance, I was given charge of 700 buses for the transport of people from across the Ahmedabad district to the stadium. For this, extensive route planning in co-ordination with the police, how and from where people will board the buses, everything was planned, coordinated and communicated."

BJP sources revealed how the political machinery was put to use. Party leaders said they were asked to mobilise as many people as possible by projecting this as a "once-in-a-lifetime" event. Prominent faces in the government, starting from Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, repeatedly stressed that the US President was landing "directly in Ahmedabad" on his first visit to India. Modi too repeated it at the Namaste Trump event to drive home the significance.

Of the four gates to the stadium, three were kept open and one was reserved for contingency, said sources.

Larsen & Toubro, which renovated the stadium at a cost of Rs 700 crore, said in a statement after the event that the stadium had been "built to last a century". The stadium has 43 entry and exit points to the stands, and thus saw a smooth movement of visitors who had come to participate in the event.

"Engineering-wise, this has been one of the most challenging projects that involved erection of 9000-plus precast elements, including some weighing up to 280 metric tonnes," said M V Satish, whole-time director and senior executive president (Buildings, Minerals & Metals), L&T. The company said it took about four years to renovate the stadium.

In a 4-km radius of the stadium, policemen were stationed at every intersection on Monday to ensure smooth flow of traffic.

Ahmedabad city police commissioner Ashish Bhatia was in charge of the planning for the event. Tasks of traffic management, transport of the visitors, VIP security convoy and arrangements at the stadium and Sabarmati Ashram were shared among six IPS officers.

According to special commissioner Ajay Tomar, the responsibility for the security of the VIPs during their movement from the airport to Sabarmati Ashram to Motera was with the Ahmedabad Detection of



UP CM Yogi Adityanath presents a photograph to US President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump in Agra on Monday. AP



(Clockwise from top) US President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump at the Taj Mahal; the President's daughter and advisor Ivanka and her husband Jared Kushner at the stadium; and people sport Trump and Modi masks at the event in Ahmedabad on Monday.

Crime branch.

"DCP, Ahmedabad Zone 4, (Nirajkumar Badgujar) was entrusted with the security arrangements at the airport and JCP, Sector 1 (Amit Kumar Vishwakarma) along with DCP Zone 2 (Dharmendra Sharma) were given the task of security arrangements inside the stadium. The responsibility for security arrangements at the Gandhi Ashram in Sabarmati was given to JCP (Admin) Vipul Agarwal and the deployment was handled by me," said Tomar.

The onus of managing traffic and deciding opening and closure of routes was given to Joint Commissioner of Police J R Mothalia.

As many as 25 IPS officers, 65 ACPs, 200 inspectors, 800 sub-inspectors and a total of 10,000 constables were involved in the security arrangements. At the state government level, the preparation for the event was monitored on daily basis by Chief Secretary Anil Mukim and reviewed by Chief Minister Rupani. Several senior bureaucrats, including Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue, Pankaj Kumar and General Administration Department secretary Dhananjay Dwivedi, were involved in monitoring the planning.

Interestingly, former US president Barack Obama had also referred to *DDJ* during his 2015 visit to India when he quoted Shah Rukh Khan's famous dialogue from the iconic film. "Last celebration here we celebrated festival of lights in Mumbai. We danced with some children. Unfortunately, we were not able to schedule any dancing in this visit. 'Senorita, bade bade desho mein'... You know what I mean," Obama had said while addressing a town hall event in Delhi.

In another local connect, Trump said, "This is the country where your people cheer on some of the world's greatest cricket players

face was morphed on the title character in the movie *Baahubali*. "Look so forward to being with my great friends in INDIA!" he had tweeted while sharing the video. Prior to that, he had praised Ayushmann Khurrana's latest release, *Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan*. On a tweet complimenting the movie for celebrating a same-sex love story on the celluloid, Trump last week commented "great".

Beginning his speech with "Namaste! Namaste!", he went on to say, "This is a country that produces nearly 2,000 movies a year, from the hub of genius and creativity known as Bollywood. All over the planet, people take great joy in scenes of Bhangra music, dance, romance and drama, and classic Indian films like *DDJ* and *Sholay*."

Ahead of his maiden visit to India, Trump had shared a video on Twitter in which his

## Among 1.25 lakh heartbeats: Officials, businessmen, people from 13 districts

LEENA MISRA, RITU SHARMA, PARIMAL DABHI  
AHMEDABAD, FEBRUARY 24

WEARING A 'Namaste Trump' hat, Piruz Khambhatta, chairman and managing director of Rasna Pvt Ltd and chairman of the CII task force on Ease of Doing Business, sat on the front row of the Platinum enclosure – the premium gallery at Motera stadium that provided an up-close view of the stage where Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania would arrive.

Like most in this gallery, he was in a suit. Like some of them, he took the coat off as the wait got longer and the sun got stronger.

"I drank three packs of lassi... I brought a bottle of Rasna but couldn't get it inside (because of security reasons), and I don't blame them," said Khambhatta.

The "1.25,000 beating hearts", as Trump addressed the crowd, comprised top officials in the Central and state government,

business leaders, NRIs, students, and people from 13 districts of Gujarat and some from outside the state.

The chairman of Sabarmati River Front Development Corporation Ltd Keshav Varma sported a hat and held a pair of binoculars. "I watched the enthusiastic crowd, the energy, the sheer positivity... the warmth between our PM and Mr Trump, the mutual respect and admiration. It was good fun," he said.

Before the Trumps came in, people with the Platinum passes were seen taking selfies. Some were also seen clicking pictures with NSA Ajit Doval, Gujarat chief secretary Anil Mukim and DGP Shivanand Jha.

While those in the platinum gallery received water bottles and packs of lassi and buttermilk, the over one lakh people in the regular stands did not get them. And, after waiting in the heat for five hours ahead of Trump's scheduled arrival, many were seen leaving as the US President spoke.

"It is very hot outside so we are sitting here in the shade. What is worse is that there is no water facility. We have been sitting in

the sun and it became so unbearable at a point that we left in between," said Prabhaben Parmar, who came from Vadodara.

The water campers were placed outside the stadium, making it almost out of reach for those seated inside.

The seating arrangement at the stadium was done district-wise and audience from each district had an entry pass of a specific colour, said a senior government official.

There were separate sections for special invitees – the platinum and gold card holders. While the regular stands were packed, nearly half of the chairs on the gold section remained empty. Explaining the empty chairs, a BJP leader said it was a Monday and added, "People like NRIs were to sit there. They must have shifted to a cooler portion of the stadium." Some like Madhubhai Patel, a senior citizen from Chicago, braved the heat and sat through. Representing the Bhartiya Senior Citizen of Chicago, an organisation that he claimed has 1,500 members, Patel said, "I had attended the Howdy Modi event too and today I am here for Namaste Trump."

### SHOW MOVES ON



US President Donald Trump, First Lady Melania and PM Narendra Modi at Sabarmati Ashram. ANI

### A bag full of gifts at Sabarmati Ashram

A marble replica of Mahatma Gandhi's "three wise monkeys" statue, a copy of his Talisman and a special edition of his autobiography were among the items gifted to US President Donald Trump and his wife Melania at the Sabarmati Ashram. They were also gifted three handspun khesh (a form of fabric) made up of khadi.

### At Motera, a string of performances

As people waited at Motera stadium, they were treated to a live concert by various Gujarati artists like Kinjal Dave, Happy Desai, Gita Rabari and Parthiv Gohil. Kathak dancers performed an ode to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and singer Kailash Kher sang some numbers. When the Trumps were delayed, western music played in the background to fill the void.

### THE LOCAL CONNECT

## DDLJ to Sholay, Sachin to Virat, he strikes the chords

PARIMAL DABHI & SHUBHAJIT ROY  
AHMEDABAD, FEBRUARY 24

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump's nearly 27-minute speech at the Namaste Trump event at Sardar Patel Motera Stadium here was dotted with some interesting examples to strike a local connect. From Bollywood blockbusters like *Dilwale Dulhaniye Le Jayenge & Sholay* to cricket stars Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli, Trump cited several examples to strike a local connect and drew loud applause.

Beginning his speech with "Namaste! Namaste!", he went on to say, "This is a country that produces nearly 2,000 movies a year, from the hub of genius and creativity known as Bollywood. All over the planet, people take great joy in scenes of Bhangra music, dance, romance and drama, and classic Indian films like *DDJ* and *Sholay*".

In another local connect, Trump said, "This

face was morphed on the title character in the movie *Baahubali*. "Look so forward to being with my great friends in INDIA!" he had tweeted while sharing the video. Prior to that, he had praised Ayushmann Khurrana's latest release, *Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan*. On a tweet complimenting the movie for celebrating a same-sex love story on the celluloid, Trump last week commented "great".

Interestingly, former US president Barack Obama had also referred to *DDJ* during his 2015 visit to India when he quoted Shah Rukh Khan's famous dialogue from the iconic film. "Last celebration here we celebrated festival of lights in Mumbai. We danced with some children. Unfortunately, we were not able to schedule any dancing in this visit. 'Senorita, bade bade desho mein'... You know what I mean," Obama had said while addressing a town hall event in Delhi.

Ahead of his maiden visit to India, Trump had shared a video on Twitter in which his



People wave as the cavalcade of US President Donald Trump passes by, at Ahmedabad on Monday. AP

from Sachin Tendulkar to Virat Kohli."

Trump also invoked Swami Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel during his speech. Referring to Swami Vivekananda, he said, "While our nations have many differences, they are both designed and propelled by a fundamental truth, a truth that

all of us are blessed with a divine light, that every person is endowed with a sacred soul. As the great religious teacher Swami Vivekananda once said, 'The moment I stand in reverence before every human being, and see God in him, that moment I am free.'"

Speaking about the Statue of Unity, he said, "This is the country that built the tallest statue to honour the memory of the namesake of this stadium, the greatest Indian patriot, a native of this state, Sardar Patel."

The US President also referred to Diwali and Holi. "India is a country where hundreds and millions light candles to celebrate the triumph of good over evil at Diwali. And it's where just days from now, Indians of all faiths will pour out on to the streets to celebrate the beautiful festival of Holi," he said. Touching upon the background of Prime Minister Modi, he said, "The life of Prime Minister Narendra Modi underscores the limitless promise of this great nation. He started out by his father's side, as a chaiwala, a tea seller."



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



## TONGUES WAGGING

SHIV SENA chief Uddhav Thackeray met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress president Sonia Gandhi on his first visit to Delhi recently after taking over as Maharashtra Chief Minister. He also met Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and it's this meeting that has set tongues wagging in political circles, especially since the meeting was kept under wraps. Thackeray has supported CAA and NPR, and with the recent meetings it is clear that he hasn't burnt his bridges with the BJP. This is why political pundits may not be ruling out a Nitish Kumar-like comeback to the NDA fold for the Shiv Sena.

## ON WEDDING DUTY

WHILE US President Donald Trump will be hosted in New Delhi on Tuesday, BJP president J P Nadda will be away for his son's wedding. It appears few top political leaders will attend the destination wedding at Pushkar, Rajasthan. However, Trump's visit is not the reason for the absence of top leaders from the wedding. The ceremony, it emerges, has been kept a very private affair, with only the bride and groom's families, friends and relatives in attendance. The political class, including BJP leaders, will have to wait for a reception to be held in Delhi early March.

## STRUCK BY FLU

THE SUPREME Court seems to have been struck by a bout of swine flu, with five judges unable to attend court due to the virus. Two judges on the Sabrimala reference Constitution bench are unwell, which has delayed the proceedings. One of the judges hearing the Shaheen Bagh case is also down with swine flu but came to hear the case on Monday, before postponing it to the day when he hopes to be well enough to be on duty.

## JAL JEEVAN MISSION

## Gehlot writes to Centre, urges alteration in Centre-state funds ratio



Rajasthan  
Chief  
Minister  
Ashok  
Gehlot

RAJASTHAN CHIEF Minister Ashok Gehlot has written to Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, urging him to alter the ratio of the Centre-state share in the Jal Jeevan Mission.

In his letter to Shekhawat, the Jodhpur MP, Gehlot has said that the ratio should not be changed from the current 50:50 to 90:10. He has said that when it comes to the Centre-state ratio, Rajasthan has been put in the same bracket as other states like Bihar, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Chhattisgarh. However, considering the climate of the state, it is not apt to equate it with other states.

He said that Rajasthan is area-wise not only the largest state, but also has comparatively less water compared to the other states it has been bracketed with. Moreover, as much as 85 per cent of the state is in a "dark zone".

Gehlot also said that being a desert state, the villages and huts are far away from each other, hence the cost of schemes for drinking water here is much more than in other states, reminding Shekhawat that being a resi-

## Manmohan, Azad to skip President's banquet for Trump

MANOJ CG  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 24

THE CONGRESS'S boycott of President Ram Nath Kovind's customary state banquet for visiting US President Donald Trump on Tuesday will be complete, as former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad also decided on Monday to stay away from the function.

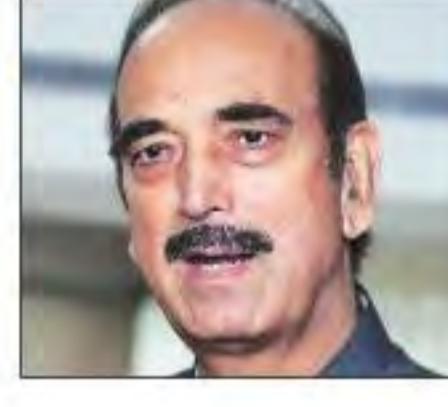
The party's Lok Sabha leader Adhir Rajan Chowdhury had on Saturday said that he has declined an invitation for the banquet to protest against the government for not extending an invite to Congress chief Sonia Gandhi.

Sources close to the former Prime Minister said he had accepted the invitation on Sunday but conveyed to Rashtrapati Bhavan on Monday that he will not be able to attend it since he is indisposed. Singh, sources said, sat through a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance till afternoon, after which he was said to be "not feeling good."

Thanking Rashtrapati Bhavan for extending the invitation,



Manmohan Singh



Ghulam Nabi Azad

Azad is learnt to have conveyed his inability to attend it. He also registered his displeasure over the fact that an invitation had not been extended to Sonia.

Sources said Azad has conveyed that besides being the party chief Sonia is also chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and should have been invited in her capacity as the leader of CPP.

The Congress is also the single largest opposition party, he is learnt to have argued. He has said that the "pick and choose" approach of the government is not "feeling good."

Chowdhury had openly criticised the government for not

extending an invite to Sonia for the banquet. The Congress had earlier asked the government not to reduce Trump's visit to a "photo opportunity".

Congress leader Manish Tewari said from being a strategic partner India has been reduced to a "lowly buyer state". He said Trump's visit is just a "fluff", a "spectacularization of diplomacy designed to detract from the fact that the NDA-BJP government has failed to secure India's interest".

In a statement, the CPI(M) said the "singular intention of the US administration is to further prise open Indian economy to boost the US corporate interest and thus help the reelection bid of Trump".

## UP Sunni Board accepts Ayodhya land; to build mosque, hospital, library

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 24

THE UTTAR Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board on Monday decided to accept the 5-acre land allocated by the state government in Ayodhya and set up a trust to build a mosque, two centres to showcase Indo-Islamic culture and study, a charitable hospital, and a public library on the site.

The decision was taken unanimously by six members of the Board, headed by chairman Zufar Ahmed Faruqi, in a meeting. Two other members, who had earlier raised objection to the plot offered, skipped Monday's meeting.

Faruqi later said the trust will be formed soon and will be responsible to arrange money for developing the mosque and other buildings. He said the Board will not help the trust financially.

The government has allotted land to Sunni Waqf Board at Dhannipur village of Raunahi block, around 30 km from Ayodhya on Lucknow-Gorakhpur highway. The land is around 200 metres from the highway.

In a statement, Faruqi said: "The Government of Uttar Pradesh, in compliance of the order dated November 9, 2019 passed by Supreme Court in a Civil Appeal of 2010 and other connected matters, has allotted 5 acres land to the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board. The board in its meeting held today has decided that it is accepting the aforesaid land."

He stated, "The board has resolved that it will constitute a Trust regarding the aforesaid 5-acre land. The said Trust will construct a mosque along with a centre to showcase Indo-Islamic

EXPLAINED

## Challenge to collect funds

WITH STRONG opposition from the Muslim community against the decision to accept the 5-acre land from the state government, it will be a big challenge for the proposed trust to collect funds to build all the planned structures. Muslim organisations such as the All-India Muslim Personal Law Board and Muslim litigants in the case have made public their difference with the land allocation proposal.

In such a scenario, with the announcement that no fund will be taken from Sunni Waqf Board, the trust will have to convince Muslims if they want crowd-funding, or funding from foreign sources.

culture of several centuries, a centre for research and study of Indo-Islamic culture, a charitable hospital, a public library, and other public utilities facilities for all sections of the society."

Faruqi later told the media that the name and size of the mosque is yet to be decided. He said, "We will constitute a trust for construction of the mosque, and details of the (proposed) trust and its office-bearers will be announced once the trust comes into existence, which is expected soon. We have not yet decided the dimensions of the mosque; it will be formed as per local requirements. There is already a shrine there, but not on the allotted land."

On the two Board members who skipped Monday's meeting, Faruqi said Imran Mahmood has not attended any meeting since 2010. Abdul Razzaque Khan was the second member not present.

"Six members were present in the meeting, including me, and the decision to accept the land

was taken unanimously. The amount required for the construction will be raised by the trust through its own resources, be that public contribution or anything else. The Board will not give any money, and we haven't talked about taking it from the government either."

Besides Board chairman Faruqi, others who participated in the meeting are Adnan Farooq Shah, Mohammad Junaid Siddiqui, Abrar Ahmad, Mohammad Juneed, and Maulana Syed Ahmad.

Abdul Razzaque Khan, who skipped the meeting, said he has already announced that he does not agree with the Board accepting the land since it is against Islam, but added that he would have attended the meeting if he had time. He alleged, "All those in the Board are under pressure, as the government has things against them which can be used.

This is why they agree to whatever the government wants them to."



Akali Dal MLAs protest outside Punjab Assembly against DGP Dinkar Gupta in Chandigarh on Monday. Jaipal Singh

## Digvijaya objects to presence of Babri demolition accused in Mandir Trust

MILIND GHATWAI  
Bhopal, February 24

SENIOR CONGRESS leader Digvijaya Singh on Monday questioned the composition of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra, the 15-member trust set up by the central government to oversee construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, saying

it was staffed with people allegedly involved in the Babri Masjid demolition.

"Some people are accused in the Babri demolition case and out on bail. It's inappropriate to nominate for building the temple people who have been held guilty by the apex court," said the former Madhya Pradesh chief minister in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

## BJP MP's caste certificate invalid, may lose LS seat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 24

THE STATE government's district caste validity committee declared invalid the caste certificate of BJP MP Dr Jaisiddheshwar Shivacharya Mahaswami on Monday. The decision is likely to increase trouble for the BJP MP from Solapur as he may face disqualification from the Lok Sabha.

Mahaswami, a Lingayat, was elected as an MP from Solapur Lok Sabha constituency, which is reserved for Scheduled Caste (SC), last year. He had defeated Congress leader Sushilkumar Shinde and Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi's Prakash Ambedkar in 2019.

Subsequent to his election, VBA leader Pramod Gaikwad and two others had complained that Mahaswami is a Lingayat but has been elected from the SC reserved Lok Sabha seat. Gaikwad had further alleged Mahaswami had obtained a bogus caste certificate in which his caste is deemed to be "Beda Jangam", which falls under the SC category.

Following the complaint Mahaswami, through his lawyer, provided three documents including his father's birth certificate of 1915 and two others to claim he belongs to "Beda Jangam" caste. He also referred to caste certificate of the same issued to him in 1982 by the competent authority in Akkalkot tehsil in Solapur. The Ligayat is a sect and can't be termed as caste... All these complaints are

politically motivated and are false complaints," Santosh Navhakar, lawyer of Mahaswami, said in his submission to the committee.

However, the committee, after scrutinising records, issued an order stating that the caste certificate of Mahaswami is bogus and he belonged to "Jangam" community that falls under the Other Backward Class (OBC) category. "Not a single credible evidence was produced before the committee to prove his caste of Mahaswami and file a written complaint before the judicial magistrate.

The three-member district caste validity certificate also referred to caste of family members of Mahaswami including his nephew, Yogeshwar Sidhamayala, who has a caste certificate of Jangam caste, which falls under OBC. The committee has ordered to the competent authority to seize the false caste certificate of Mahaswami and file a written complaint before the judicial magistrate.

The complainant Gaikwad said he would move the Election Commission of India and Lok Sabha seeking Mahaswami's disqualification. "Since he does not belong to SC, he should be disqualified. We will approach EC and Lok Sabha for it," he added.

Maharaj's lawyer said, "We will move the High Court against the committee's order."

## Indian shooters can now keep 12 firearms

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 24

IN ORDER to ease practice for Indian sports shooters, the Ministry of Home Affairs has made provisions to provide adequate firearms and ammunition to the shooters for their practice.

The ministry, vide its notifications dated February 12, has amended the provisions of the Arms Act, 1959 and the Arms Rules, 2016, to increase the number of firearms that can be kept by the shooters and enhanced the quantity of ammunition fixed for their practice for the year. "These provisions shall greatly facilitate their practice," the MHA said.

As per the new rules, international medalists and renowned shooters are now allowed to keep additional weapons up to a total of twelve under the exempted category, which earlier was seven. If a shooter is renowned in one event, he can keep maximum eight (previously it was four), if a shooter is renowned in two events, he can keep maximum ten (previously it was seven), if a shooter is renowned in more than two events, he can keep maximum twelve (previously it was seven) firearms under the exempted category.

Junior target shooters/aspiring shooters are now allowed to possess two weapons (previously one) of any category in which the person is a junior target shooter or aspiring shooter.

## Andhra govt to allocate land pooled for capital to housing scheme for the poor

SREENIVAS JANYALA  
HYDERABAD, FEBRUARY 24

THE ANDHRA Pradesh government has announced it will allocate much of the land, which was pooled by farmers and landowners of the Amaravati region for a proposed capital city, to a government housing scheme for the poor.

The previous TDP state government had procured 33,000 acres of land under a unique Land Pooling Scheme (LPS) to construct the proposed capital city.

However, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had earlier decided to decentralise the administration

and shift the executive capital to Visakhapatnam, more than 25,000 acres of the procured land is lying idle.

This land is to be allocated to the housing scheme for poor (Pedalandariki Iluu) - one of the nine election promises of the YSR Congress Party.

Revenue Department officials have already started surveying lands in several villages to mark plots and allocate them to poor beneficiaries or build houses for them.

"There is a lot of vacant land in Amaravati region which will be allocated to the free housing scheme for the poor. Under LPS, developed plots that farmers

got back from the government won't be touched but the remaining land belongs to the government now and it can use it for any purpose that it deems fit. There are at least 30,000 poor beneficiaries in Mangalagiri mandal alone and LPS land available in the villages of Nowlur, Errabalem, Nidamaru and Krishnayapalem, would be allotted to these beneficiaries. In Tadikonda Assembly constituency, the LPS land would be allocated to beneficiaries of Vijayawada," CRDA chairman A Ramakrishna Reddy told The Indian Express.

Jagan Reddy earlier said that on March 25 - the Telugu New Year - 25 lakh landless poor in the state

would be given ownership documents of plots.

However, the Amaravati farmers' Joint Action Committee (JAC) is opposing this move by organising protests every day.

As officials started surveying the LPS land in the villages, protesting farmers and landowners tried to prevent them from entering the villages. A woman tahsildhar was heckled at Krishnayapalem village while others were prevented from entering Nowlur village.

Police have registered cases against at least 450 farmers and landowners, including women, under Thullur and Amaravati police stations. Deputy SP (Thullur) Y

Srinivas Reddy said that 426 farmers were booked for obstructing government officials from conducting a land survey while at least 25 others were booked for attempting to disturb peace during protests. "We received a complaint last week that farmers obstructed government officials who had gone to Krishnayapalem village to conduct a land survey. The Revenue Department officials headed by a woman tahsildhar were surrounded by the farmers and were not allowed to do their duty," Reddy said.

JAC leader Sudhakar Rao said, "All this is aimed at intimidating us into silence but we will continue to fight..."

grey blue red yellow black



## In Valley, teen held for spreading 'hate' on social media

Probably playing around with phone, didn't realise what he pressed; it's a mistake, says boy's mother

NAVEED IQBAL  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 24

As schools reopened across the Valley and eager students returned to classrooms after more than 200 days, one student started his day not in his school but at Srinagar's juvenile home.

The 16-year-old was picked up from his home in a village in Handwara in north Kashmir on Thursday evening for allegedly spreading "fake news, rumours, and hatred."

This is the fourth such detention in recent weeks in Kashmir, and the first of a minor.

Two persons were earlier arrested from veteran separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani's home for posting his video, and

another individual, Imtiaz Kawa, arrested from Kupwara for his posts on Facebook.

On Monday, the minor's family scrambled to understand the reasons for his arrest, and the only explanation his mother could think of was that he was "probably playing around on his phone and did not know what he had pressed".

The police, however, said the minor was the administrator of a WhatsApp group, which he ran and used to spread "rumours" in the area. Senior officials from the district police told *The Indian Express* that the boy was using WhatsApp via Virtual Private Network (VPN) "in violation of the government order and spreading incorrect information on the group to instigate other(s)".

Another administrator for



Schools in the Valley reopened after 7 months on Monday. Shuaib Masoodi

the same group, an 18-year-old, is absconding, according to the police.

At their single-storey home, the minor's three sisters, a younger brother and their

mother waited to hear from their father, a farm labourer, whether the boy could be released. "His father has taken all his documents and gone to the police. He is a young child; it was just a mistake," his mother said.

According to the family, the minor did odd jobs to support the family alongside his studies, and about two months ago bought himself a smartphone. "He was in Jammu and returned on Wednesday itself. On Thursday, he stepped out with some boys from the village and returned around 6 pm. He was fiddling with his phone when the police knocked and asked to take him along," his mother said.

She said the police also took two other mobile phones from their home — one belonging to

the boy's father and another from his older sister. Both phones were later returned, she said.

In the FIR registered in the case on Friday, the police noted that they received information about some youths allegedly "circulating fake news and spreading rumours, hatred through social media platforms". Based on this, a case was registered under IPC Sections 153-153A (provocation, promoting enmity) and 505 (statements conducing to public mischief) and investigation was taken up.

At the teen's school, officials said the police came to collect details of his records to establish his age.

Sent on a 10-custody, the teen is presently at a juvenile home at Harwan in Srinagar.

## 'What is better? Preventive action or FIR filed under UAPA?'

JAMMU AND Kashmir Director General of Police DILBAG SINGH talks to NAVEED IQBAL about the situation in the Valley and detentions in the region. Excerpts:

**Why were the panchayat elections in J&K deferred just five days after they were announced?**

Security is an on-going issue but (Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Shah) Geelani's health has been fluctuating, and that must have weighed on somebody's mind. Whether, if something happened, it would be the right thing in this kind of environment.

**Police have said they would book anyone accessing social media via VPN under the UAPA? Does the use of social media warrant arrest?**

Technical controls by service providers are not that strong. Despite a government order that some sites should not be accessed, Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Twitter are being accessed. VPN use is not right, but maybe it has not gone to the level of being illegal. We will decide... We have filed a case under the UAPA. Two people have been also picked up from Geelani's house for circulating a video of his, which amounts to instigation... Anything with a law and order bearing will be included.

**So you're saying that VPN use is not a criminal act but that police would decide whether something is legal or illegal?**

The use of VPN is violation of the government order allowing access to only whitelisted sites... However, we are focused on misuse rather than use of VPN.

**What is your estimation of the current situation in J&K?**

I understand that it is improving. The level of violence is down, falling 60% between January 2019 and January 2020, which is not a small thing. There have been no civilian killings or collateral damage. Till Thursday, since the beginning of the year, 23 militants had been killed.

**In that case, why is there fresh deployment in the Valley?**

It is only an exchange, inter-range movement, only the CRPF.

**How many people are in**



THE EXPRESS  
INTERVIEW  
WITH  
DILBAG SINGH  
JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF  
POLICE

**detention now, and can those held in jails outside be brought back to J&K?**

The figure is not very high, must be around 150, other than under the PSA. The problem is that there is limited capacity in jails here... There are about 300 in jails outside, but some have been released and more cases are being reviewed.

Most groups have a scattered presence now. The Al-Badr has been almost wiped out and the local presence is of Hizb. The number of active militants are within 240. They were 317 in June 2018. But our worry is that while local recruitment has come down, infiltration is still continuing, an average of 150 a year. Since August 5, recruitment is less than 50% of previous years. This year, figure is not more than 22. Out of this, eight have been returned to their families.

**So you're saying that VPN use is not a criminal act but that police would decide whether something is legal or illegal?**

The use of VPN is violation of the government order allowing access to only whitelisted sites... However, we are focused on misuse rather than use of VPN.

**But if the situation is improving, why are people still being booked under laws like the PSA?**

The improvement of situation is relative... People made stories about thousands of arrests but we always maintained that the number was around a thousand during the entire period of tension. 90% was preventive action.

The agency has made multiple seizures from these locations, including electronic devices, dongs, books professing jihad and an auto rickshaw, NIA sources said.

According to NIA, in Tamil Nadu, searches were conducted at 10 locations — one location in Chennai, one in Kanchipuram district, one in Toothukudi district, three in Salem district and

four in Cuddalore district.

The case in connection with which these raids were conducted was originally registered by the Q Branch of Chennai police last year and subsequently taken over by the NIA on January 21. Till now, the agency has accused 10 in the case.

They are alleged to have conspired with ISIS/Daish member Khaja Moideen, native of Parangipettai, Cuddalore district, with the intention of carrying out unlawful activities and committing terrorist acts in India by procuring illegal arms, for furthering the objectives of the proscribed organization", an NIA statement said.

In Karnataka, NIA carried out

searches at 15 locations in

abroad to trace more victims.

Regan has been booked under IPC Sections 384 (punishment for extortion), 506 (1) (criminal intimidation) and the IT Act.

His modus operandi was to advertise sex chats on Locanto, an app that provides free classifieds. Those who responded to the ad were shown screenshots of receipts of police complaints he filed online, and blackmailed into making small digital payments.

Soon afterwards, the complainant received a message seeking a digital payment of Rs 100. When he made the payment using his digital wallet, he received a nude picture of a woman, and the caller de-

GAGANDEEP SINGH

DHILLON

SHIMLA, FEBRUARY 24

DEMANDING EDUCATION, civic and policy reforms, the ABVP has been organising lockdowns, gheraos and hunger strikes against the BJP government in Himachal Pradesh for the past two weeks.

Supporters of the students' outfit claim that though the ABVP is aligned with the RSS, it is not affiliated to any party and "is not the political wing of BJP". The outfit has organised protests in state capital Shimla, Dharamsala and other towns in the Himachal Pradesh.

"The government is making education expensive and liquor cheaper. It is all a business for them, but students will tolerate

none of this," said Vishal Verma, an ABVP supporter and a student of Himachal Pradesh University (HPU). Vishal, who took part in a protest outside the Deputy Commissioner's office in Shimla on Saturday, was referring to the new excise policy passed by the state cabinet on Monday, lowering prices of liquor and extending operational timings of bars in all star-rated hotels in some tourist areas till 2 am.

"On the other hand, the government is charging exorbitant fees at institutes of higher learning. The fee structure at two universities of agriculture and horticulture is among the highest in the country," alleged Rahul Rana, ABVP's state secretary.

Another bone of contention between the ABVP and the state government is the lack of a permanent campus for the Central

University of Himachal Pradesh (CUHP), which has been running from a camp office and temporary campuses spread across three towns in Kangra district.

From February 8 to 20, ABVP units launched protests in various government colleges and district headquarters, shutting down the CUHP premises at Dharamshala for two days.

They relented only after Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur held talks with them and assured them that he will take up the matter with the Centre. State BJP president Dr Rajeev Bindal said ABVP is an independent organisation with a student-centric viewpoint.

"The relationship between ABVP and BJP is unlike the one between Congress and NSUI," he added.

## IS cases: NIA searches 25 locations in TN, Karnataka

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 24

THE NIA on Monday carried out simultaneous searches at 25 locations across Tamil Nadu and Karnataka in connection with three cases of Islamic State recruitment and subversive activities.

The agency has made multiple seizures from these locations, including electronic devices, dongs, books professing jihad and an auto rickshaw, NIA sources said.

According to NIA, in Tamil Nadu, searches were conducted at 10 locations — one location in Chennai, one in Kanchipuram district, one in Toothukudi district, three in Salem district and

Bengaluru city and Kolar district in connection with the investigation into the Al Hind module of IS, in which accused were alleged to be plotting to kill prominent Hindu leaders.

"This case pertains to a criminal conspiracy with an objective of murdering Hindu leaders, creating communal riots and to do anti-national activities by forming a terrorist gang, being inspired by ISIS, a proscribed terrorist organisation. The members of the terrorist gang conducted meetings at Bengaluru and other parts of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and propagated ISIS ideology, procured arms and ammunition and other incriminating material for executing their plans," NIA said.

They are alleged to have conspired with ISIS/Daish member Khaja Moideen, native of Parangipettai, Cuddalore district, with the intention of carrying out unlawful activities and committing terrorist acts in India by procuring illegal arms, for furthering the objectives of the proscribed organization", an NIA statement said.

In Karnataka, NIA carried out

searches at 15 locations in

four in Cuddalore district.

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Soon afterwards, the complainant received a message seeking a digital payment of Rs 100. When he made the payment using his digital wallet, he received a nude picture of a woman, and the caller de-

### LURED VICTIMS USING 'FEMININE' VOICE

ARUN JANARDHANAN

CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 24

CHENNAI CITY police have arrested a 27-year-old man from Tirunelveli for allegedly extorting money from more than 350. These are people who put up posters, went locality to locality to threaten or instigate people.

While police confirm that at least 319 people have been cheated by Vallai Rajkumar Regan in Chennai city limits alone, officers are currently digging more data from districts as well as

abroad to trace more victims.

Regan has been booked under IPC Sections 384 (punishment for extortion), 506 (1) (criminal intimidation) and the IT Act.

His modus operandi was to advertise sex chats on Locanto, an app that provides free classifieds. Those who responded to the ad were shown screenshots of receipts of police complaints he filed online, and blackmailed into making small digital payments.

The first complaint was filed by a man who lives on the out-

skirts of Chennai city. He was lured by Regan's advertisement on February 16, which offered sex chats and services over the phone. Soon after he responded to the ad, he received a call, with the caller, who had a feminine voice, introducing themselves as Priya.

Soon afterwards, the complainant received a message seeking a digital payment of Rs 100. When he made the payment using his digital wallet, he received a nude picture of a woman, and the caller de-

manded Rs 1500 for a nude video.

When the complainant refused to pay and blocked the female's number, he started getting threat calls from multiple numbers. He was forced to file a police complaint when he received the receipt of a complaint copy filed against him.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Mylapore) Shekar Deshmukh said Regan used the online complaint system of police to file anonymous complaints against those who refuse

to pay him money. "He then shared these screenshots and threatened them with further action," Deshmukh said.

The officer said Regan would

## Rajasthan Police data: Atrocities on SCs/STs at 10-year high in 2019

DEEP MUKHERJEE  
JAIPUR, FEBRUARY 24

IN 2019, the number of cases registered pertaining to atrocities against members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SCs/STs) in Rajasthan was the highest in 10 years, data from the state police reveals.

According to police data, in 2019, a total of 8,591 cases pertaining to atrocities against SCs/STs were registered in Rajasthan. Over the past decade, the closest figure to this was in 2014 - 8,415 cases - during the tenure of the previous BJP government.

Recently, in Nagaur district, two Dalit youths were allegedly assaulted on suspicion of theft, and a screwdriver was allegedly inserted in the anus of one of them. The state government has drawn sharp criticism over the issue, with the opposition BJP alleging that the law-and-order situation in the state has steadily deteriorated ever since the Congress came to power in December 2018.

The police data suggests that there was a 50.67 per cent increase in atrocities against SCs/STs in 2019 as compared to 2018, when the total number of cases was 5,702. The data also reveals a 47.47 per cent increase in crimes against Dalits.

The state also saw an overall increase in the total number of IPC cases registered in 2019, with the crime rate increasing by 31.08 per cent in comparison with 2018. The total IPC crime cases registered in 2019 were 22,530 which was much higher than 17,889 cases in 2018.

The police maintains that the

### REGISTERED CASES UNDER ATROCITY ACT

<

# Ex-BJYM leader among 3 booked for murder bid

FIR registered against 37 people from minority community

SOURAV ROY BARMAN  
ALIGARH, FEBRUARY 24

FORMER BHARATIYA Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) office-bearer Vinay Varshney is among the three persons booked for attempt to murder and breach of peace for Sunday's violent clashes in Aligarh. Police said that they have also lodged an FIR against 37 others, all Muslims, for the clashes that left six persons injured after police tried to evict women protesting against the new citizenship law (CAA) and proposed NRC in Upper Kot neighbourhood of the city.

"In the FIRs lodged by the police, there are around 37 named persons, all Muslims. The Hindu side has filed around three FIRs, and the Muslims side one, naming Vinay," a police officer said on the condition of anonymity, adding that no one has been arrested yet.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Vinay Varshney (33) denied that he fired at the protesters, but admitted to having pelted stones at the Muslim crowd.

"I am in a position of responsibility and people look up to me to protect them. On Sunday, when they attacked us, we had no option but to retaliate. Over the last three days, they had been raising slogans of azaadi in the area. These are outsiders. The local Shia Muslims support the BJP. It is my moral responsibility to protect my people and I did that," Vinay Varshney told *The Indian Express* over the phone from an undisclosed location.

Notably, Vinay has round-the-clock police protection of a gunman due to "threat to his life". The police protection was provided to him after a communal flare-up in 2016 when he allegedly received "threat to his life".

Among the six injured in the Sunday's clash, the condition of



Police deployed in Upper Kot area of Aligarh, and (left) Ibrahim, who has been injured, and may lose vision.  
Gajendra Yadav

bore signs of the intense clash with pieces of brick strewn across the area. According to multiple accounts, the violence broke out around 3 pm. As the police tried to evict the women protesters, people started pouring in from nearby areas, they said. Muslims accused the police of manhandling women while evicting them from the protest site and later "shielding the rioters".

On the other hand, Hindu residents of the area said they didn't start the arson.

Former city councillor from BJP, Dinesh Varshney, said that they "had to respond on being attacked". "When a large mob attacks your family, your loved ones, will you sit quiet? Two of our men also received bullet injuries and many suffered head injuries. We have been facing such threats from them for many years now, and it continues even as the BJP is in the government," Dinesh said.

Several videos of the incident, including those showing masked men firing from pistols and double barrelled guns, did rounds on the social media.

## Aligarh clash rocks UP Assembly

MAULSHREE SETH  
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 24

THE LEGISLATIVE Assembly on Monday witnessed a war of words between the treasury and Opposition benches over police action on anti-CAA protesters in Aligarh, a day after six persons, including a policeman, were injured.

As Samajwadi Party and Congress raised the issue and sought a discussion, Finance and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Khanna accused the Opposition of fuelling unrest. Soon, Samajwadi Party and Congress MLAs walked out of the House, alleging that the BJP government was not giving proper response to their concerns.

As soon as the Assembly convened at 11 am, Leader of

Opposition and Samajwadi Party member Ram Govind Chaudhary sought a discussion on the incident, saying police lathi-charged women protesters in Aligarh.

"There has been lathi-charge on women, teargas shells have been used against them. They have been insulted. One man has been shot. There is a prevailing tension in Aligarh, and it is, therefore, a burning issue. Keeping all other work aside, there should be a debate on this issue," Chaudhary told the Speaker.

Congress leader Aradhana Misra, who raised the same issue through a separate notice, alleged that the government is out to crush the peaceful protest against the CAA. "Is this the *Ram rajya* that the government claims (to be aiming for). It had been *jungle raj* ever since the BJP came to power," Misra said, adding

WITH INPUTS FROM PTI

## Identify cops who damaged vehicles in AMU: HC to UP DGP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 24

THE LUCKNOW bench of the Allahabad High Court on Monday directed UP Director-General of Police (DGP) to identify policemen involved in "stray incidents of damaging vehicles" and "unnecessarily caning" the arrested students of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) during anti-CAA protests on December 15 last year.

The order was passed by a division bench of Chief Justice Govind Mathur and Justice Samit Gopal on recommendations made by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), which conducted an inquiry into the allegations on the direction of the court.

The court on Monday directed the UP chief secretary, DGP, AMU's vice-chancellor and registrar, and also the Director General, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) to adhere to the recommendations made by the commission and present the compliance report on next date of hearing on March 25.

The court passed the order while hearing a petition filed by Mohammad Aman Khan, al-

leging that the police resorted to lathicharge and also fired rubber bullets and pellets at AMU students while they were staging a peaceful protest on the campus on December 15.

Policemen also allegedly damaged vehicles parked on the university campus. Students in large numbers were detained at different places and allegedly tortured. No medical aid was provided to injured students, the petition had alleged.

Following a High Court directive on January 8, a six-member team of the NHRC conducted an inquiry into the allegations and submitted its report along with order of the proceedings, said the petitioner's lawyer SFA Naqvi. He added that the court directed authorities to consider the various recommendations and submit its report.

In its report, the NHRC recommended that directions should be issued to the UP chief secretary to provide suitable compensation to the six students who were grievously injured.

It also directed UP DGP to ensure that SIT set up on January 6 this year investigates all the related cases on merits and in a time-bound manner.

## Chargesheet against 8 for violence in Kanpur

MANISH SAHU  
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 24

THE KANPUR police on Monday filed chargesheet against eight persons for their alleged involvement in the violence that took place during a protest against the new citizenship law and the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Yateemkhana area of the city on December 20. Three persons, including a circle officer-rank policeman, were injured in the violence.

This was the second such case in the state in which police have filed chargesheet. On February 15, the Sambhal police filed chargesheet against 15 persons for alleged involvement in violence. Kanpur police said the chargesheet against eight accused was filed on the basis of evidence, including videos and photographs of the incident. All the arrested persons are lodged at Kanpur district jail.

Investigating officer of the case, Mohammad Shareef Khan, said, "Police are looking for four other accused, who are also wanted in the case. We have obtained non-bailable warrants against the accused," said Khan.

# WELCOME TO BE PART OF TRIUMPH AND SUCCESS OF GLORIOUS GUJARAT



MIGHT of Gujarat: Manufacture | Invest | Grow | Harmonize | Trade

## FDI

Gujarat is undisputed choice of Foreign Investors for investment.

Gujarat excels in law and order, modern infrastructure, transparency, skilled manpower, harmonious relations between industry and workforce

### Results:

- In mere 6 months of FY 2019-20, Gujarat received FDI worth Rs. 24,012 crores, which is double the FDI received by the state worth Rs. 12,618 crore in the entire FY 2018-19
- With successful initiatives like Vibrant Gujarat Summit and Make in India, more than 200 globally-reputed companies have established their industrial units in Gujarat
- Gujarat is among the leading states in Ease of Doing Business Index
- Gujarat alone, accounts for more than 50% of the total investments in the country
- Out of the total investments worth Rs. 6,78,852 crores in India as per IEM, investments worth Rs. 3,43,834 crores has been received in Gujarat

Gujarat has received 3 times more investments & IEMs compared to the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranking state in India

## MSME

'First production, then permission' policy of the government of Gujarat has been widely accepted and appreciated

- All the processes related to MSMEs are made online. MSME facilitations desks have been established throughout the state with a separate MSME Commissionerate
- New MSMEs do not require approvals to set up units for first 3 years
- MoU with nationalised banks - Bank of Baroda and SBI for easy access to loans for MSMEs

### Results:

- Every month, around 16,000 new MSMEs are getting registered
- Investments worth Rs. 85,000 crores made by 4,83,366 MSMEs in the last 3 years
- With the development and growth of MSMEs, employment generation has got a major boost in Gujarat.

• Gujarat is among the states with least unemployment rate with 81% of employment generation.

## STARTUP

Youth of Gujarat is a 'Job Giver', not a 'Job Seeker'

- Gujarat is attracting immense number of start-ups due to its industry-driven culture backed by policy-driven government
- Several Start-up Incubation Centres have been established in Gujarat

### Result:

- Gujarat is number 1 with 43% of the total funded start-ups in India

## EXPORTS

Gujarat exports a wide-range of products ranging from grains to automobile parts along with different kinds of services

Gujarat has drafted an industrial policy to encourage industries. With 1600-km long coastline, Gujarat has more than 40 ports for handling cargo

Gujarat accounts for 40% of total cargo handling in the country.

### Result:

- Gujarat is leading with 20.4% of the country's total exports in FY 2018-19

## Sunrise sectors

After leading the country with new benchmarks in manufacturing and automobile, Gujarat is geared up to take a leap in number of futuristic (sunrise) sectors

Gujarat is developing as a hub for Green and Clean Energy.

Target is to achieve 30,000 MW by 2022.

Effective Policies for Service Sector in place.

Gujarat is achieving considerable success in IT Sector.

Gujarat has emerged as preferred tourist destination with various

tourist attractions like Religious tourism, Wild life tourism, Statue of Unity and many others.

## Nirnayak Neta, Majboot Sarkar



Government is constantly making efforts towards Holistic Industrial Development in the state with modern approach

– Shri Nitinbhai Patel, Deputy Chief Minister, Gujarat

## DELHI'S TEST

Violence over CAA threatens capital's social fabric. Neither state nor Centre can or should wash their hands of it

**T**HE CLASHES, TRIGGERED by the anti-CAA protests, and the opposition to them, in north-east Delhi for two consecutive days, the death of a head constable and four civilians on Monday, incidents of stone-pelting, torching of vehicles and violence between two communities, call for all sides to take an immediate step back from an increasingly precarious edge. And for Delhi Police, which has drawn attention for its abdications lately, to step up to its responsibility to restore calm. As the ruling party at the Centre, which oversees law and order in the national capital, the BJP has a special duty. Among other things, the party needs to look into the role of its leader, Kapil Mishra, whose provocative statements and tweets during the Delhi poll campaign had earned him the EC's censure and ban. Subsequently, former party president Amit Shah had admitted that such rhetoric may have cost the BJP electorally. Mishra's pro-CAA mobilisation, threatening statements and videos, and ultimatums to the police, have featured prominently in the sequence of events that led to the flaring of tensions now.

In this delicate moment, it is also essential to maintain necessary distinctions between law-abiding protesters and the lumpens who are taking the law into their own hands. Ever since protests against the amended citizenship law began, not just in Delhi, but in cities and towns across the country, it has been evident that they have been mostly peaceful. After a brief spell of violence in Uttar Pradesh, they have been sober and dignified, with protesters gathering under banners that invoke and pay tribute to the Indian Constitution, the national flag, Mahatma Gandhi and Babasaheb Ambedkar. At the same time, the response of the state to the anti-CAA protesters has lacked urgency and sensitivity – basically, when it has not been a police crackdown, as in UP, with sedition FIRs and a string of property damage notices, the government's response has consisted of a deaf ear, and, presumably, the cynical calculation that the protests would tire and die out of their own accord eventually. There has been little or no attempt to reach out to those who are expressing genuine anxieties about a citizenship law that is perceived as discriminatory, and an NRC process that has been seen to falter grievously in its first roll-out in Assam. To claim that Monday's protests are choreographed to tarnish India's image during a US presidential visit does little to help.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, newly re-elected with a handsome mandate, has tweeted distress about the "disturbance of peace and harmony in parts of Delhi", while pointedly urging the LG and the Union home minister to ensure law and order is maintained. While the expression of concern is welcome, this may not be the best time to underline the Centre's responsibility for maintaining peace in Delhi. This is the time, instead, for the chief minister to proactively own up the challenge and share the burden of preventing unrest and ensuring communal amity. Violence thrives in a political vacuum. The AAP government – and its Opposition – should get together, use their social and political networks in the disturbed areas to tamp down tension. The city, the capital, expects nothing less from all those who speak for it – whatever be their politics or faith.

## ENDING IMPUNITY

Rajasthan government must act quickly and firmly to punish violence against Dalits

**L**AST WEEK'S INCIDENT in a village near Nagaur, where two young Dalit men were brutally assaulted on the pretext of an alleged theft, and the entire outrage filmed, is a dark reminder of the caste animosities that run deep in many states including Rajasthan. The incident came to light and a case was filed after videos of the assault started circulating in social media. Seven men have been arrested and booked under the SC/ST Atrocities Act. But the violence and the filming of it, are a warning that the state has to do much more to end caste-based oppression and violence.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has promised zero tolerance for violence against Dalits. Official data points to a 47 per cent increase in crimes against Dalits in the state in 2019 compared to 2018 – 8,591 cases in 2019 as against 5,702 cases in 2018 of crime against SC/STs. The figures are the highest in a decade. The rise in the rate of crime against Dalits is much higher than the overall increase in the crime rate (31.08 per cent). The police has sought to explain the spike as the outcome of better reporting – the government claims the police has been instructed to register as well as encourage oppressed communities to report every violent incident. However, activists point out that a large number of crimes against Dalits and other marginalised communities in remote areas continue to go unreported. Irrespective of the veracity of these claims, it is clear social relations between the dominant castes and Dalits continue to rest on the logic of hierarchy and exploitation in the caste system. Though the Dalits constitute over 17 per cent of Rajasthan's population, the community has not been politically mobilised as in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. The vestiges of a caste-centric feudal order continue to prevail.

The new and disturbing trend of recording the criminal act and circulating it points to the apparent sense of impunity among perpetrators of caste violence. The government needs to send out the message that this cycle of impunity will be broken. The encouragement to report caste atrocities has to be backed with improved enforcement of the law and speedy justice. Gehlot's challenge is administrative as well as political.

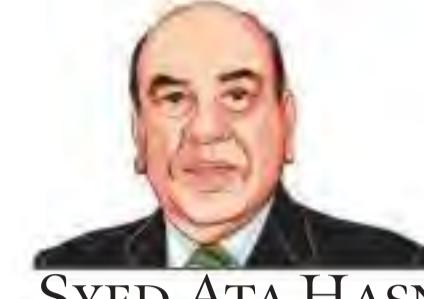
## LOVE IS ENOUGH

'Shubh Mangal Zyada Savdhaan' proves that a mainstream film featuring a gay couple is no longer ahead of its time

**T**HERE ARE TWO lies that the mass media has peddled about love. First, that "it conquers all" and second, that it is social hierarchies and all the little choices about inclusion and exclusion that people are forced to make. In *Shubh Mangal Zyada Savdhaan* – the first mainstream Bollywood film that portrays a passionate, much-in-love gay couple, struggling to be accepted by a small-town, conservative upper caste family – both these lies are exposed. In doing so, the film has managed to give us a new kind of fairy-tale romance.

Kartik (Ayushmann Khurrana) and Aman (Jitendra Kumar) are a gay couple, living in Delhi. While Kartik's father has no relationship with his son, Aman's family back in Allahabad still dotes on him, unaware of his orientation. When they discover he is gay, every attempt is made to "cure" him and marry him off. At the heart of *Shubh Mangal Zyada Savdhaan*, are many tales of unrequited love. Both of Aman's parents pine for people they loved before they were married and his sister, who lost an eye as a child, knows that a traditional match is not on the cards for her. These conflicts do not resolve themselves neatly, and director Hitesh Kewalya does not hide the tension between family expectations and personal happiness in what is otherwise a rip-roaring comedy.

The film is remarkable for both its setting and the way it has been received. Set in the heart of conservative India, its tropes – from invoking Amitabh Bachchan, to wedding songs and joint family jokes – are almost cliché. Yet, it casually normalises gay sexuality as well as agency. And despite the hat-doff to *DDJ*, parents' approval is not what sanctifies love – love is enough. The film has hit the theatres and seems to have been received well without undue controversy. The message is clear: A film that depicts the struggles of being gay in India is no longer ahead of its times. The fairy-tale romance has evolved.



SYED ATA HASNAIN

PAKISTAN'S DEEP STATE took a major risk in executing the Pulwama attack. It clearly assessed that unless it could sponsor a spectacular terror-related event in Kashmir by early 2019, the comprehensive Indian approach towards conflict management initiated since 2017 could effectively prevent it from further calibration of the situation in Kashmir. An element of irrationality continued to remain a part of Pakistan's policy. It is important to revisit Pakistan's 30-year-old strategy to determine why it suddenly felt insecure and hesitant from 2016 onwards.

The chain of events in Kashmir and part of the Indian counter-strategy, which appeared to unnerve Pakistan's deep state, need to be reviewed to get the right perspective.

From 1989 onwards, Pakistan pursued hybrid war as the core of its strategy. Its then ambiguous nuclear status was exploited in the post-Cold War period, when nuclear strategies were in a state of flux. Pakistan's intent was the long-term emasculation of New Delhi's policy on J&K and attempt to embarrass India by internationalising the issue – the Simla Agreement's provision of bilateralism was never respected by Islamabad and Rawalpindi. From 1998 onwards, when both nations became overtly nuclear-armed, Pakistan became bolder – Kargil 1999 and the attack on Parliament in 2001 seemed to be based on the assumption that the nuclear overhang had closed the window for an effective conventional Indian response. Perhaps the decision not to cross the LoC in 1999, taken for completely different reasons by the Vajpayee government, and the long standoff of 2002 (Operation Parakram) appeared to substantiate India's reluctance. Seven years later, the Mumbai terror attack, too, made Indian reluctance to execute hot pursuit more evident.

The nature of the proxy, hybrid conflict started to change from 2013 onwards when a generational transition in local terror content was apparent. Burhan Wani and his cohorts were reluctant to listen to, and were less under the control of, elements from across the LoC. As its big ticket capability waned, Pakistan's deep state panicked. In addition, there was a sudden change in the stance of the Indian government in mid-2015. The deep state has never been comfortable with talks

Pakistan's options have reduced, India has more room for manoeuvre

and did not support Nawaz Sharif. In 2016, it conducted the Pathankot attack in India's hinterland and in September that year, the Uri attack close to the LoC. The year ended with the Nagrota terror attack.

The year 2016 turned out to be decisive and saw a change in the nature and dynamics of hybrid conflict in J&K. The Indian government responded in a graduated way – activity at the LoC increased, followed by the surgical strikes in September 2016 post the Uri attack. The strikes were essentially experimental but provided sufficient inputs to strategise beyond just the tactical level. The perception of a lack of Indian response below the nuclear threshold was effectively breached.

In 2016–17, while the deep state succeeded in bringing mobs to the streets, the Indian government was bold about upping the ante in its counter-terrorist strategy. While Operation All Out was launched to neutralise attempts at increasing the terror footprint, the less visible but extremely effective measures were those that targeted the Pakistan-sponsored ecosystem. This ecosystem comprising a combination of human resources such as over-ground workers (OGWs), ideologues and separatists, had permeated the very core of Kashmir. Combined with complex financial networks and an effective communication strategy evolved by Pakistan's Inter State Public Relations (ISPR), it had matured over time. It was given space to function by the persistent Indian strategy to primarily count upon physical neutralisation of terror groups, limiting infiltration and preventing fresh local recruitment, which became rife after 2013.

Most countries have followed this model when facing similar problems as India's. However, the new Indian strategy from 2017 surprised Pakistan. It took some time for Pakistan to realise how subtly this change had taken place, even as the Indian Army went on the kinetic offensive re-adapting some of its practices from the Nineties. By the end of 2018, Pakistan was already on the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The Indian National Investigation Agency (NIA) was succeeding in dismantling financial networks and the separatists had become increasingly irrelevant. With the Indian general elections then scheduled for March–April 2019, the deep state assessed that a terror-related event

could, with some effort, be branded a "false flag" operation. This assumption came on grounds that the Narendra Modi government would seek a return to office on the back of nationalist fervour generated by Pulwama. The Balakot-type response 12 days later was unexpected, but demonstrated political will, military escalation control and a willingness to engage internationally to neutralise Pakistani propaganda.

The international support that Balakot garnered, the run of military success against terrorist cadres post Pulwama-Balakot and the added political stability at the Centre gave the Indian government the confidence to execute long-awaited political initiatives. Pakistan's attempt to gain greater relevance in Afghanistan through the US and President Donald Trump's ill-informed offer to mediate on J&K, acted as triggers for the decisions of August 5, 2019 – to rescind the special constitutional provisions for J&K.

With a communication lockdown, the political community under strictures and the ecosystem under progressive neutralisation, the time since has seen Pakistan relatively ineffective in the conduct of hybrid war. Now with FATF unrelenting on Pakistan to do more to dismantle the terror infrastructure, an economy which is causing major concern, and the focus shifting to the management of the US interests in Afghanistan, Pakistan finds itself in a dilemma. Internal demands to wind up terror networks are increasing.

All this may point towards Pakistan adopting a more rational course in J&K and preventing situations which it will clearly be in no position to handle. Much depends on the nature of the Afghanistan deal and the extent of Pakistan's involvement. The expectation that the summer of 2020 in J&K will yet be stable may be right but predictions about J&K and applying rationality to Pakistan's actions may not always be the correct approach. India must maintain a tight control, prevent the ecosystem's potential for revamp and remain prepared for all eventualities. The summer of 2020 will be a major decider about the future course of the J&K proxy conflict.

*The writer, a former corps commander of the Srinagar-based 15 Corps, is chancellor, Central University of Kashmir*



TILAK DEVASHER

ON FEBRUARY 12, Hafiz Saeed, chief of the Jamaat-ud Dawa (JuD) – a front for the Lashkar-e-Taiba – was convicted in two cases and sentenced to five-and-a-half years imprisonment in each. One charge related to membership of a proscribed organisation and the other to fundraising and money laundering for terrorism. The cases had been filed against Saeed, a globally designated terrorist with a \$10 million bounty on his head under Pakistan's Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997.

Behind the timing of the filing of the cases and Saeed's arrest in July 2019 were related to two events. The first was Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to the US in July where he was to meet President Donald Trump. The second was pressure from the Paris-based international terror-financing watchdog, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Prior to the February 2018 meeting of the FATF, Pakistan promulgated an ordinance that provided for proscribing individuals and entities listed by the UN Security Council. The JuD was thus proscribed. However, the move did not cut much ice and the FATF put Pakistan on its grey list in June 2018. It was given 15 months to implement a 27-point action plan to address the deficiencies in its money laundering and terror-financing regimes. Subsequently, the ordinance was allowed to lapse and the JuD came off the list of banned organisations.

In February 2019, the FATF decided to continue the grey listing of Pakistan for its non-

## WITHOUT CONVICTION

*Is Hafiz Saeed's sentencing a genuine blow to terror infrastructure in Pakistan?*

For India, what is important is that Saeed has been convicted for links with terrorist groups and raising funds for terrorism and not for his role in Mumbai 26/11. If, however, the conviction holds, and this is a big if, it would be an acknowledgment that Saeed was and is the LeT chief. This would give a boost to New Delhi's assertions. It is precisely for this reason the conviction is likely to be overturned.

compliance of international standards. This galvanised Pakistan into proscribing the JuD in March 2019, along with its affiliated groups. The government also announced taking over the assets of these groups and freezing their bank accounts.

Prior to his July 2019 arrest, Saeed had been arrested and released eight times since 2001. His last arrest was on January 30, 2017 and he was released on November 22, 2017, due to "insufficient evidence to justify [his] continued detention". Pakistan expected Saeed's conviction to strengthen its case for being removed from the grey list because this was the first time that he had actually been convicted.

While there was little chance of Pakistan being blacklisted given that allies like China, Malaysia and Turkey would have vetoed such attempts, the plenary session of the FATF that was held from February 16–21 in Paris decided to retain Pakistan on the grey list. In fact, what is notable is that even China and Saudi Arabia joined the majority to warn Pakistan to take steps required on 13 points out of the 27-point action plan of the FATF. If Pakistan does not do so, it could face blacklisting.

Saeed's conviction is likely to be struck down on appeal on the ground that in 2009, a full bench of the Lahore High Court had declared that he was not a member of the banned LeT. According to Saeed's lawyer, he had left the LeT on December 24, 2001, while the organisation was banned on January 14,



## FEBRUARY 25, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

FOREIGNERS DEADLINE  
LEADERS OF ALMOST all political parties who had a meeting with Union home minister Zail Singh in Gauhati have agreed to accept 1971 as the basic year for settling the foreigners issue in this state. Only Premadha Bora of the People's Democratic Front opposed the acceptance of 1971 as the base year. Although the Janata Party was not represented at this joint meeting, it had informed the home minister that it would abide by whatever decision was taken at the meeting. Two rounds of talks between Singh and leaders of the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) had failed to evolve any satisfactory decision on the issue. The talks ended last

night in a "deadlock" on the question of finding out the basis for determination of foreign nationals living in Assam.

**ACTION AGAINST RAM**  
THE JANATA PARLIAMENTARY Board will consider a demand for disciplinary action against its parliamentary party leader, Jagdish Ram. The demand that the JPB should take disciplinary action against Ram for his anti-party activities was made in a letter to the party chief sent by Kedar Nath Sahni, Shanta Kumar, Sundar Lal Patwa and Mangal Sain, leaders of the Janata legislature parties of Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana respectively. According

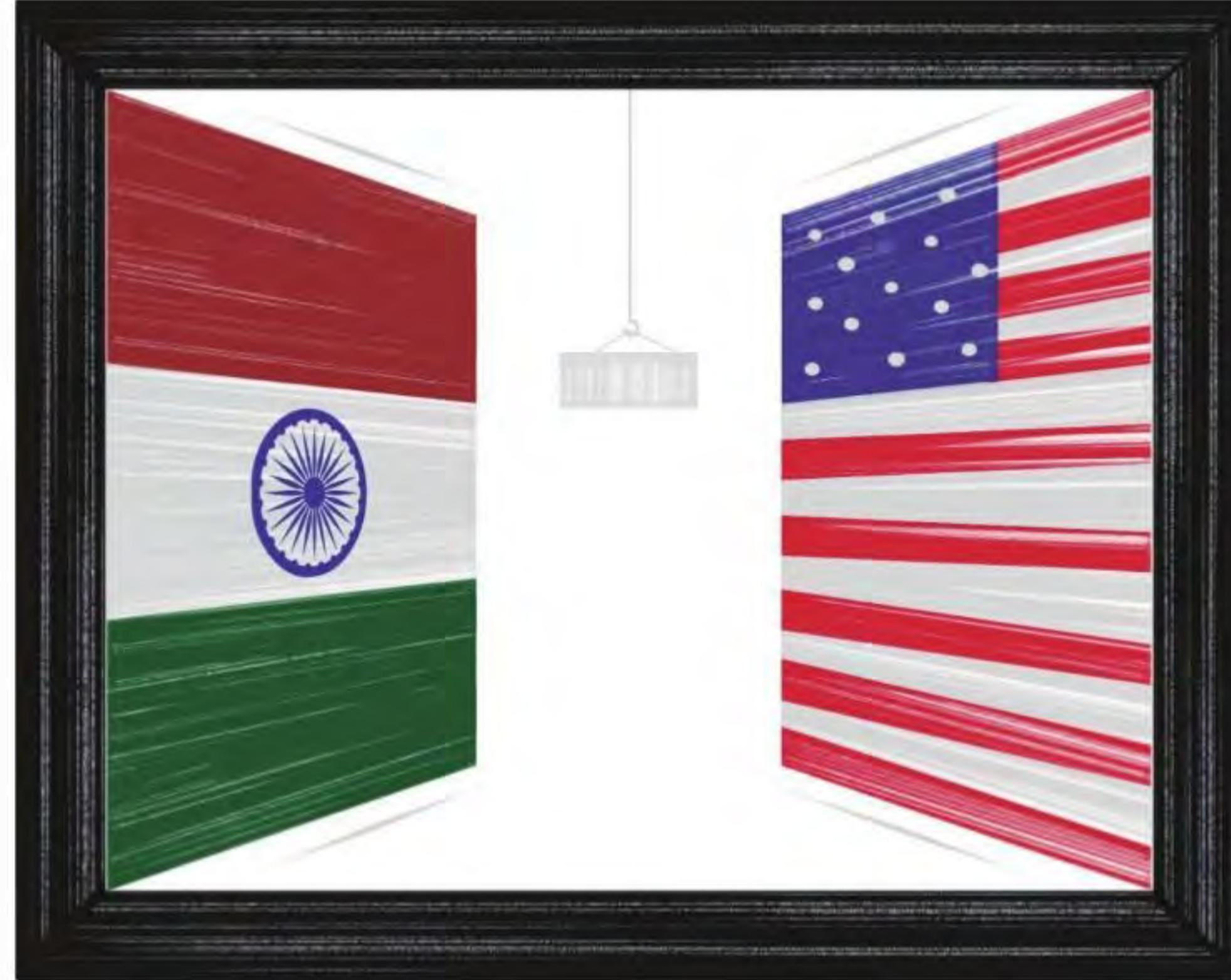
to two party general secretaries, the JPB will discuss the demand. "We cannot let things drift and allow Jagdish Ram to continue damaging the party," a senior leader said.

**KABUL UNDER SEIGE**  
FIGHTING BETWEEN THE government troops and "rebels" protesting against the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan continued in Kabul. Fighting had spread to Jalalabad and some other cities. Government personnel have joined the demonstrations. Soviet troops have sealed off half of Kabul in an apparent move to protect the Soviet embassy and a Russian housing area following three days of street violence, according to AP.

# THE IDEAS PAGE

## India and America First

Delhi, like Beijing, must deal with Trump's determination to recast the global trading system, reconstitute major trading partnerships



C R Sasikumar

mentary flirtation with the idea during President Bill Clinton's first term (1993-97). As they realised that Kashmir mediation might be a "fool's errand", American presidents have tempered the mediation offer with the caveat, "both sides willing". Trump has stayed with that script.

Meanwhile, Delhi has learnt to leverage US interests in defusing tensions in the Subcontinent to promote its own interests. If Pakistan hoped that US will compel India to make concessions on Kashmir, India has managed to turn the attention to Islamabad's support for cross-border terrorism.

Forget for a moment the relative merits of the Pakistani and Indian arguments on Kashmir and terrorism. As Delhi became a more attractive economic partner and the gap between India and Pakistan widened, the US "interventions" have begun to favour Delhi rather than Islamabad.

Bill Clinton intervened in the Kargil crisis to compel Pakistan to acknowledge the sanctity of the Line of Control in Kashmir. George W Bush intervened in the military crises of 2001-02 to get Pakistan to issue a formal declaration on not letting its territory be used to conduct terror operations. Following the terror attack on Mumbai in November 2008, Barack Obama began to put Pakistan-based terror groups under the international scanner.

After the airforces of India and Pakistan clashed in the wake of India's attack on Pakistan's Balakot terror camp a year ago, Trump reportedly intervened to secure the release of Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman from Pakistan.

All leaders choose some priorities in dealing with other countries. For Bush it was the war on terror; for Obama it was climate change; for Trump it is trade. Consider for a moment, Trump's China policy. Many in Washington want Trump to press Beijing on the continuing protests in Hong Kong and Beijing's treatment of its Muslim population in the Xinjiang province. Trump, how-

ever, is unwilling to let these issues come in the way of wresting trade concessions from China on trade.

The threat to the sovereignty of India and China does not come from occasional statements by the White House, resolutions in the US Congress or stinging editorials from the *New York Times*. Both Delhi and Beijing know how to fend off external interventions. The real threat to their sovereignty comes from policies that deepen internal conflicts.

More immediately though Delhi, like Beijing, must deal with Trump's determination to recast the global trading system and reconstitute major trading partnerships. Trump is convinced that the rest of the world has taken advantage of America's "foolish" trade policies in the past. He only blames America's globalist establishment. At the inauguration of his presidency in January 2017, Trump lamented the consequences America's economic globalism: "For many decades, we've enriched foreign industry at the expense of American industry... One by one, the factories shuttered and left our shores, with not even a thought about the millions upon millions of American workers left behind."

The wealth of our middle class has been ripped from their homes and then redistributed across the entire world."

Very few of America's partners agree with this argument; but they are all coming to terms with it, since the US is such an important economic partner and Trump has been relentless. At Motera, Trump underlined his ambition to do a major trade deal with India but also noted Modi's tough negotiating style. Hopefully, the PM and President are skillful enough to bring the hard-ball negotiation to a close with an understanding that can transform bilateral commercial relations.

*The writer is Director, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore and contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express*

## Man with wild

Mitigating human-wildlife conflict must factor in incentives for local communities

ANY HUMAN-WILDLIFE conflict affects both the sides often in tragic ways, like the death of four tigers in Mhadei, Goa, and the reported arrest of the locals who poisoned the animals after their complaints were not attended to in a way it should have been. Pramod Sawant, the chief minister of Goa, reportedly said that, "we will demarcate and fence the borders of the wildlife sanctuaries" in order to end 80 per cent of the problem. Although the intentions are good, this isn't a solution. Tigers do not understand boundaries made for administrative purposes. What happens when a tiger goes "outside" and kills cattle?

India is a unique country with respect to wildlife conservation. Despite a billion people we still have most of our large wildlife species. Compared to relatively lower human density countries in south-east Asia, India today has the largest population of the tiger, Asian elephant, leopard, sloth bear, gaur and many others. These animals cannot be restricted to inside a few hundred kilometres of protected areas. Had that been done, they would have all died due to inbreeding and lack of connectivity. Tigers need large spaces because they are large animals. Because we cannot create large spaces without humans in India, wildlife does not have a choice but to also use human landscapes. This rationale is as old as tigers

and humans are in India. People have accepted this, and incorporated it in our culture. All our deities have animals associated with them; it shows the inclusion of these animals in our mind space. The Velip community in Goa worship the tigers and this practice is done even today, although it was started at a time when tigers were still present all over Goa. When my parents had taken me to the Verne temple in 1968, on the top – near a spring – there was a tiger. My frightened family ran down and when they told the temple priests about the animal, the response was acknowledgement. Yes, he comes to drink water.

People have always shared space with wildlife in India. No doubt, the repercussions are sometimes very serious like it happened in Mhadei. However, the solutions lie elsewhere, not in fencing the land which neither people nor tigers will adhere to. A tiger can get over the fence just as much as a human can. The best way forward is to ensure that the locals view an engagement with tigers as a path towards development. This is something the administration can definitely do as has been shown in many other tiger reserves, including in Maharashtra. The health minister, Vishwajit Rane, in whose constituency the tiger carcasses were found, called the creation of the tiger reserve as a measure against de-

velopment. But that is because we have not seen the money that the tigers can bring in. Unlike activities such as mining, tigers are a renewable resource. They are always going to be there, and so will the rivers and the forests, giving the local people income and development – as long as there are tigers.

But this model has to be one which ensures that the benefits of tourism go directly to the communities in that landscape. Many other states have adopted this model where the money that comes in from tourism goes into the Tiger Conservation Fund, which in turn is used for the development of the local villages – as has been done in Tadoba tiger reserve, Maharashtra. Crores of rupees that come in yearly are also used to provide training to the local youth, to better the services in the villages around the tiger reserve. The tiger reserve staff facilitate these development activities for the locals. There is no way the locals will then grudge their tigers, if the benefits are there for all to see.

In the short term, compensation procedures need to be improved. The communication and interaction between the forest department and the locals has to be improved. In Maharashtra, a decade ago, the compensation amount was poor, and the process was cumbersome as well as time consuming.

*The writer is an ecologist with WCS, India*

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The victory of hardliners in the (Iran) parliamentary contest was engineered. But Donald Trump's choices have destroyed faith in the promises of moderates."

— THE GUARDIAN

## A wider platter

Harappans would have scoffed at modern advocates of vegetarianism who seek to make ancient Indians appear like them



NAYANJOT LAHIRI

tle, pig, and fish. Apparently, gharials and turtles, remains of which in many cases have been burnt, indicate that such animals formed part of the food of that city. Since then, as a 1994 article by PK Thomas and P P Joglekar revealed, there have been some dozen Harappan sites whose animal remains are reported. Interestingly, cattle bones account for more than 70 per cent of the bones and, in fact, any Harappan site where bones have been found, without exception, has yielded cattle bones. Evidently, while cattle were used for agricultural operations and as draught animals, their meat was vastly enjoyed. Mutton was the other food that was commonly consumed as were pigs.

Animal teeth have also been studied to understand when the victims were killed. At Harappan Oriya Timbo (in Gujarat), nearly 15,000 animal bones were recovered and annular rings accurately fixed the age and season of death of fauna. The microscopic annuli on a dental substance known as cementum was carefully assessed. What these revealed was that cattle, sheep and goat were slaughtered from March to July. Usually, very young animals were not killed, and slaughtering was most common in cattle samples at 30 months and 18 months in sheep/goat. Mature animals bones were also very common which underlines that adult animals were valued for their productive capacity.

The animals that Harappans kept and consumed is rather well known. What is less known is the range of wild animals enjoyed by them and the fact that these contributed greatly to their diet. Various types of deer and antelopes were hunted, and many varieties of birds, turtles, fish, crabs and molluscs were found as Thomas and Joglekar point out, "in the kitchen refuse". We also know that ancient Punjabis at the city of Harappa enjoyed marine catfish.

Among wild animals, from Gujarat's Kuntasi and Shikarpur, bones of wild ass with cut marks and evidence of charring underlines that they were hunted for food. Gujarat's Harappan sites, as Shabani Bose's just published book on *Mega Mammals in Ancient India* reveals, also show the presence of rhinoceros. It is animals that are normally eaten which find their way into archaeological deposits and that is likely to be the reason why these bones are so commonly found. In the case of Nausharo in Baluchistan, rhino bones were found in a hollow along with trash. What Bose also points out is the consumption of rhino meat in historical India and that texts on Indian medicine like the *Caraka Samhita* attribute definite health benefits to it.

Plant remains from Harappan sites reveal the entire repertoire, from cereals and lentils to fruits and vegetables, and even the spices used. Recognising grains is easy and has been done for nearly a century since the discovery of Mohenjodaro and Harappa because burnt cereals survive rather well and sometimes also leave an imprint on clay. Among vegetables and fruits, it is usually their seeds that are identified. More recently, the archaeologist Arunima Kashyap has recovered and identified at Harappan Farmana (in rural Haryana), starch granules from pots, grinding stones, and teeth, showing the processing, cooking and consumption of mangoes, bananas and garlic. What was left over after the household ate was evidently fed to their animals since the same starch granules were scraped off the teeth from cattle remains found there.

The first thorough investigation of ancient animal remains from an archaeological site anywhere in the Indian subcontinent was done at Mohenjodaro, published in 1931 in the first excavation report of the city. Written by Colonel R B Seymour Sewell and B S Guha, no less than 37 species were identified. There were domesticated and wild animals and included a considerable frequency of humped cat-

*The writer is professor of history at Ashoka University*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ABOUT DEMOCRACY

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'All in national interest' (IE, February 23). The writer talks about the meaning of the phrase, "national interest". It neither refers to correctness nor finality. Like every other phrase, it also has subjective connotation. Talking about a nation does not mean relinquishing biases. The government is free to tag any of its actions as "national interest" in the same way we have the right to reject its rationale of "national interest". That's how democracy works.

**Himanshu Mishra**, via e-mail

### HEAR THE MESSAGE

THIS REFERS TO the news report, 'Tharoor, Singhvi join chorus: Cong seen as adrift, time for action' (IE, February 24). Shashi Tharoor and Abhishek Singhvi's message to the Congress party's interim president Sonia Gandhi reflects the disappointment and the frustration of all the Congress party members over the delay in electing a new party president. The party's humiliating defeat in the recent Delhi assembly elections seems to have emboldened them to caution Sonia Gandhi about the leadership crisis. Let us see whether this time she realises the seriousness of the situation.

**Tarsem Singh**, Mahilpur

### LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

To encourage quality reader intervention, The Indian Express offers the Letter of the Week award. The letter adjudged the best for the week is published every Saturday. Letters may be e-mailed to [editpage@expressindia.com](mailto:editpage@expressindia.com) or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301.

### SYNC WITH MARKETS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'MSP by definition' (IE, February 24). It is out of sync with markets. It proposes to keep the urban chatteringati happy at the cost of farmers. We need to move to market-linked prices as Kurien Verghese did for milk. We can start with MLP being 50 per cent of the price a household pays for an agri-produce – cereals, pulses, fruits and vegetables. Pay the farmer on delivery by law/regulation, and reduce subsidies progressively. Rebalance the farm economy.

**Vinod Dhall**, Gurgaon



VIDYA ATHREYA







**BRITAIN**  
Assange put lives at risk, US lawyer tells court

*London:* Julian Assange is wanted for crimes that put at risk the lives of people in Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan who had helped the West, said a lawyer for the US in its bid to extradite the 48-year-old. Almost a decade since his WikiLeaks website enraged Washington by leaking secret US documents, Assange appeared before an extradition hearing at London's Woolwich Crown Court. The US asked Britain to extradite Assange last year after he was pulled from the Ecuador embassy in London, where he had spent seven years holed up avoiding extradition to Sweden over sex crime allegations which have since been dropped. He has served a sentence in Britain for skipping bail and remains jailed.

**BRITAIN**  
India asks UK museum for idol stolen from TN

*London:* India has made a formal request for the return of a 15th century bronze idol of a Tamil saint believed to be stolen from a temple in Tamil Nadu and found its way to a museum at Oxford University through auction. The statue of Saint Tirumankai Alvar was acquired by the Ashmolean Museum at the University of Oxford from Sotheby's auction house in 1967 from the collection of a collector named J R Belmont. The museum says that it was alerted to the origins of the ancient statue by an independent researcher in November last year, following which it alerted the Indian High Commission.

**LESOTHO**  
PM in court to hear charges of murdering wife

*Maseru:* Lesotho's Prime Minister Thomas Thabane appeared in court to hear charges of murdering his estranged wife. Thabane, 80, is suspected of involvement in the murder of his then wife Lipolelo, who was shot dead in June 2017, two days before he took office for a second stint as premier — and two months before he married his current wife Maesaiah. Maesaiah Thabane, 42, has also been charged with the murder, and police suspect her of ordering assassins to do the job. Both deny any involvement.

**CORONAVIRUS: WORLD IN WUHAN'S DEBT, SAYS W.H.O.**

# Fear of pandemic grows but China eases curbs as new infections fall

GABRIEL CROSSLEY & HYONHEE SHIN  
BEIJING, SEOUL, FEBRUARY 24

**ITALY, SOUTH KOREA AND IRAN** reported sharp rises in coronavirus cases on Monday, but China eased curbs as the rate of infection there slowed and a visiting World Health Organization team said a turning point had been reached in the epicentre, Wuhan.

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

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

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

The WHO's Aylward said multiple data sources all suggested that the rate of infection in Wuhan was falling: "They're at a point now where the number of cured people coming out of hospitals each day is much more than the sick going in."

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that using the word "pandemic" did not fit the facts. "We must focus on containment while preparing for a potential pandemic," he said in Geneva, adding that the world was not witnessing an uncontrollable spread or large-scale deaths.



At a traditional market in Seoul, South Korea, on Monday. *Reuters*

## VIRUS SPREADING FAST ACROSS THE WORLD

### SOUTH KOREA

South Korea confirmed 70 more coronavirus cases Monday afternoon, bringing its tally to 833, by far the largest national total outside China. The updated figures brought the country's daily increase to 231, its highest to date.

### IRAN

50 people have died in the city of Qom from the virus this month, a lawmaker was quoted as saying Monday, even as the Health Ministry insisted only 12

deaths have been recorded to date in the country. The ministry said the number of those infected by the virus rose to 61.

### ITALY

Italy reported its sixth death from the new coronavirus on Monday, including an 84-year-old man in the northern Lombardy region, as the number of people contracting the virus continued to mount. At least 150 infections have been reported in the country.

### KUWAIT AND BAHRAIN

Kuwait and Bahrain confirmed on Monday their first coronavirus cases, health ministries in the two Gulf states announced, adding all had come from Iran. Kuwait reported three infections and Bahrain one.

### IRAQ

Iraq on Monday confirmed its first coronavirus case in an elderly Iranian national in the southern shrine city of Najaf, according to health officials.

Overall, China reported 409 new cases on the mainland, down from 648 a day earlier, taking the total number of infections to 71,500 as of Feb. 23. The death toll rose by 150 to 2,592.

Outside mainland China, the outbreak has spread to some 29 countries and territories, with a

death toll of about two dozen, according to a *Reuters* tally.

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

Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Afghanistan and Iraq recorded their first new cases, all people who had been in Iran, where the toll was 12 dead and 61 infected.

Europe's biggest outbreak is in Italy, with some 150 infections — compared with just three before Friday — and six deaths. *REUTERS*

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Europe's biggest outbreak is in Italy, with some 150 infections — compared with just three before Friday — and six deaths. *REUTERS*

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Europe's biggest outbreak is in Italy, with some 150 infections — compared with just three before Friday — and six deaths. *REUTERS*

## MEANWHILE

**ATTEMPTING RARE WINTER ASCENT OF EVEREST** Four veteran Sherpa climbers left Monday for Mount Everest on a mission to climb the world's highest mountain in five days from the Nepali side, aiming to set a record for its shortest winter ascent in nearly three decades. If successful, the team will be the first to climb the peak in 27 years during winter, when cold and shorter daylight hours make climbing difficult.



Mahathir Mohamad was asked to stay on as interim leader after he submitted his resignation to Malaysia's king. *AP*

# Malaysia's Mahathir steps down as PM, turmoil deepens

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LONDON, FEBRUARY 24

**AN INDIAN-ORIGIN** trainee lawyer in the UK fell unconscious after being beaten by an unidentified man when she tried to save her Chinese friend from a racist attack over coronavirus, media reports said on Monday.

The incident took place when Meera Solanka (29) from England's Solihull town was out with her friends, including her Chinese friend Mandy Huang (28) from London, celebrating her 29th birthday in Midlands region.

Solanka was knocked unconscious and hospitalised after she stepped in when Mandy was racially abused, *Birmingham Mail* newspaper reported.

"I was having birthday drinks with a group of girls and guys including Chinese friends. There were a group of Asian men inside the venue — one of them kept coming up to me and harassing me. For some reason he got really angry with her (Mandy) and started abusing her calling her a dirty chink. He said 'take your \*\*\*\* coronaviruses and take it back home'. I was shocked and angry so I shouted for him to stop and tried to push him away," Solanka said.

"He punched me in the head, I hit the pavement and was knocked unconscious," she said.

Bersatu later said Mahathir had also quit as party chairman. The withdrawal of more than three dozen lawmakers means the ruling alliance has lost its majority in Parliament, throwing the country into an uncertain future and sparking fears of

**EXPLAINED**  
**E.**

**May stay on as PM, but with new allies**

**MAHATHIR'S DECISION** to resign as PM has been widely seen as a move to form new political alliances amid reports of talks between the 94-year-old's party and opposition groups. He came to power in 2018 after aligning with former foe Anwar Ibrahim's party. Mahathir had agreed to step aside for Anwar to become PM two years into their coalition's victory.

The resignation of Mahathir, 94, broke apart a coalition with old rival Anwar Ibrahim, 72, that had scored a surprise election victory in 2018 and was not part of a pre-election promise that Mahathir would one day cede power to Anwar.

Minutes before Mahathir tendered his resignation to the palace, his party, Bersatu, said it would leave the four-party Alliance of Hope and Support Mahathir as Prime Minister. Eleven other lawmakers, including several Cabinet ministers, announced they were quitting Anwar's party to form an independent bloc.

Bersatu later said Mahathir had also quit as party chairman. The withdrawal of more than three dozen lawmakers means the ruling alliance has lost its majority in Parliament, throwing the country into an uncertain future and sparking fears of

more turmoil over how the political drama will play out.

King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah also dissolved the Cabinet on Mahathir's advice.

courage to you," Vance said.

The jury acquitted Weinstein on two counts of predatory sexual assault, which carried a potential life sentence, and first degree rape of Mann. A conviction on predatory sexual assault would have meant the jury had concluded he was a repeat sexual offender.

He was convicted of third-degree rape which carries a sentence of up to four years in prison. *REUTERS*

# Harvey Weinstein convicted of sexual assault, rape

BRENDAN PIERSON  
NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 24

**FORMER MOVIE** producer Harvey Weinstein was convicted of sexual assault and rape by a New York jury on Monday and handcuffed in court, a milestone verdict for the #MeToo movement that inspired women to go public with misconduct allegations against powerful men.

Once one of Hollywood's most powerful producers, Weinstein, 67, was convicted of sexually assaulting former production assistant Mimi Haleyi in 2006 and raping Jessica Mann, a one-time aspiring actress, in 2013.

Weinstein was acquitted on the most serious charges that carried a potential life sentence.

Justice James Burke ordered Weinstein to be held in custody and he was put in handcuffs by officers in court. Officers helped Weinstein unsteadily to his feet



Harvey Weinstein arrives at a Manhattan courthouse on Monday. *AP*

before leading him away.

He faces up to 25 years in prison on the sexual assault conviction. The sentencing hearing was scheduled for March 11.

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance said at a news conference: "It's a new day because Weinstein has finally been held accountable." He praised the jurors. "Your verdict turned a page in our criminal justice system."

"To the survivors: I owe and we owe an immense debt of

# Indian shot dead by masked assailant at Los Angeles store

LALIT K JHA  
WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 24

**AN INDIAN** national has been shot dead by a masked assailant in Los Angeles with the police saying the suspect entered the grocery store with a semi-automatic handgun with the intent to commit a robbery.

Maninder Singh Sahi, who turned 31 last month, was married and father of two. He was working at a 7-Eleven grocery store in the Whittier City in Los Angeles County of California.

Hailing from Karnal in Haryana, Sahi had arrived in the US less than six months ago and had sought political asylum.

The only earning member of his family, Sahi used to send

money to his wife and two children back home, his relatives in the US said.

According to the Whittier Police Department, the incident occurred at 5.43 am on Saturday.

Preliminarily it appears the suspect entered the store with a semi-automatic handgun with the intent to commit a robbery.

"For unknown reasons the suspect fired the handgun killing the clerk," the police said releasing a picture of the suspect.

Authorities are still seeking the robber, who got away on foot with an unknown amount of cash.

"The suspect fled the location and is outstanding at this time. There were two customers inside the store, both were uninjured..." police said. *PTI*



At the scene of the incident in Volkmarshen, Germany, on Monday. *Reuters*

juries were serious and some were life-threatening.

Police assumed it was an attack but there were no indications that it was politically motivated, Bild said.

Police called off all carnival parades in the German state of Hesse, where Volkmarshen is located, as a precautionary measure, but said they were not aware of any danger elsewhere. *REUTERS*

The most celebrated of the small cadre of black women — perhaps three dozen — who at midcentury served as mathematicians for the space agency and its predecessor, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.

Their story was told in the 2016 Hollywood film *Hidden Figures*, based on Margot Lee Shetterly's nonfiction book of the same title, published in 2013. The movie starred Taraji P. Henson as Johnson, the film's central figure. It also starred Octavia Spencer and Janelle Monae as her real-life colleagues Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson.

Of the black women at the center of the film, Johnson was the only one still living at the time of its release. By then, she had become the best-known member of her formerly unknown cohort.

In 2015, President Barack Obama awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom, proclaiming, "Katherine G. Johnson refused to be limited by society's expectations of her gender and race while expanding the boundaries of humanity's reach."

In 2017, NASA dedicated a building in her honour, the *NYT*

**SHE CALCULATED THE PRECISE TRAJECTORIES THAT WOULD LET APOLLO 11 LAND ON THE MOON IN 1969**

# Katherine Johnson, mathematician who broke barriers at NASA, dies at 101

MARGALIT FOX  
FEBRUARY 24

THEY ASKED Katherine Johnson for the moon and she gave it to them. Wielding little more than a pencil, a slide rule and one of the finest mathematical minds in the country, Johnson, whose death at 101 was announced Monday by NASA, calculated the precise trajectories that would let Apollo 11 land on the moon in 1969 and, after Neil Armstrong's historic moonwalk, let it return to Earth.

Yet throughout Johnson's 33 years in NASA's Flight Research Division — the office from which



Her story was told in the 2016 Hollywood film *Hidden Figures*

A single error, she well knew, could have dire consequences for craft and crew. Her impeccable calculations had already helped plot the successful flight of Alan Shepard, who became the first American in space when his Mercury spacecraft went aloft in 1961.

The next year, she likewise helped make it possible for John Glenn, in the Mercury vessel Friendship 7, to become the first American to orbit the Earth.

Yet throughout Johnson's 33 years in NASA's Flight Research Division — the office from which

she calculated the precise trajectories that would let Apollo 11 land on the moon in 1969 and, after Neil Armstrong's historic moonwalk, let it return to Earth.

Katherine G. Johnson Computational Research Facility, at its Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia.

That year, *The Washington Post* described her as "the most high-profile of the computers" — "computers" being the term originally used to designate Johnson and her colleagues, such as "typewriters" was used in the 19th century to denote professional typ

## Classifieds

## PERSONAL

It is for general information that I, Amit Kumar Sharma Son of, Satish Sharma residing at- Unit No.-15, Upper-G/F, Back- Side Prop.No-895/A-1 Ward-No.8, Mehrauli, Delhi- 110030 declare that name of mine and my wife has been wrongly written as Amit Sharma and Ritu Sharma in my minor son Sujay Sharma age 17-years 10th-Certificate and School Records. The actual name of mine and my wife are Amit Kumar Sharma and Rita Sharma respectively which may be amended accordingly. 0040533309-10

I, Mohammmd Imran S/o Bariquil Hasan R/o-164, Kardampuri, Gokalpur, Delhi-110094 have change my name to Mohammmd Imran for all purposes. 0040533337-1

I, Karamvir S/o Late Yash Pal Dhanwan R/o-B-232, Sector-55, Noida, UP-201301, have changed my name to Karamvir Dhanwan for all future purposes. 0040533337-2

I, Anurag Parshar S/o Prem Narayan Parshar R/o-B-227, Noida, Sector-92, UP-201304, have changed my name to Anurag Narayan Parshar for all future Purposes. 0040533337-4

I, hitherto known as Mrs. Dilshad Bano and Dilshad Shakeel, (House Wife) daughter of Late Mohammad Sajid W/o Mohammad Shakeel Khan residing at D-120/121 A, Abul Fazl Enclave, Part-I, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Mrs. Dilshad Khan. 0040533261-2

I, Vishnu Shekhawat S/o Late Sh. Hari Singh R/o 119, Mahipal Pur, Delhi-110037 is also known as Vishnu Bhagwan & Vishnu. All names are of one & the same person. 0040533257-1

I, Ujjwal Neige S/O Pratap Rao Neige H.no-119, Gautam Nagar Delhi 110049, Changed My Name To Ujjwal Arya. 0040533309-6

I, Tahreema D/o Ahitesham Ali W/o Mohd Jalees R/o-K-42/A Batla-House, Jamia-Nagar, ND-25, have changed my name Tahreema Khaton for all purpose. 0040533309-1

I, Swaritt Singh Tripathi S/o Neha Bisht R/o-T6/0601 Supreme Towers-99 Noida Distt.-G.B.Nagar have changed my name to Swaritt Singh. 0040533318-2

I, Sushil Kumar S/o Jagan Nath R/o-B-436, Block-B, Gali-No.5 Majlis-Park Adarsi-Nagar Delhi-33, inform that Sushil Kumar and Sushil Sethi both are one and same person. 0040533292-6

I, Sunil Bhati S/o Daya Singh Bhati R/o-D-269, Sector-47, Noida, UP have changed my name to Sunil Singh Bhati. 0040533309-4

I, Suman Seth D/o, Mr. Vijay Seth R/o/12 Single Storey, Ramesh Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110015 have changed my name to Suman 0070699970-1

I, Suraj Gautam S/o Sh. Ghure Singh R/o VIII-Post-Sarfabad Sector-73 Noida Distt.-G.B.Nagar have changed my name to Suraj Pal.0040533318-1

I, Subhash Chander S/o Vishan Dass Arora R/o-F-7A, DDA Flats, Munirka, New Delhi-110067, have changed my name to Subhash Arora. 0040533335-7

I, Shrishti Aggarwal W/o Vineet Aggarwal R/o-L-1/12, Phase-1 Budh Vihar Delhi-110086 have changed my name to Mamta Gupta. 0040533287-5

I, Shivani Bhatt D/o Mohan Chandra Bhatt R/o-25-B, Sanchar-Lok Apt. Plot.no.108, I.P.Ext. Patparganj, Delhi, have changed my name from Shivani Bhatt to Shivani Bhatt, for all future purposes. 0040533322-4

I, Shaikat S/o Abdol Aziz R/o-A-120/A, Ambedkar-Colony, Chatterpur, New Delhi-110074, have changed my name to Shaikat Chaudhary, for all future purposes. 00405333287-9

I, Shashi Bala W/o Subhash Arora R/o-F-7A, DDA Flats, Munirka, New Delhi-110067, have changed my name to Shashi Arora. 0040533335-6

I, Shambhu Prasad S/o ate Sh. Shriv Prasad Bhatt, R/o-147/11,Mehrauli, Badarpur-Rosh, Pimp Vihar, Delhi-110017, have changed my name to Shambhu Prasad Bhatt, for all future purposes. 0040533335-9

I, Saran Kaur W/o Arjun Singh R/O-S-285 Greater Kailash Part-2 Delhi-110048, Changed My Name To Hardit Kaur. 0040533335-1

I, Sanjaya Kumar Singh S/o Shiv Lakhan Singh R/O-534, Galino-22, Kotla Vihar-Phase-2, Nangloi, Delhi-110041. Changed my Name to Sanjay Singh. 0040533289-1

I, Rishi Golchha R/o-F-5, 3rd-Floor, Lajpat-Nagar-1, New Delhi-110024, have changed my minor son's name from Tanish Golchha to Tanish Golchha permanently. 0040533322-3

I, Ratinder Kahlon w/o sh. Chitrangan Singh Kahlon & d/o gurdas Singh R/o H. No. C-2632, sushant lok-1, gurugram. Have changed my name from neetu kahlon to ratinder kahlon for all future purposes. 0040533326-1

I, Rati Razdan W/O Sh.Ravi Kumar Razdan R/O-A/14/18 Vasant-Vihar New Delhi-110057, Have Changed My Name To Pamela Razdan, For All Future Purposes. 0040533292-4

I, Rashmi Kumari, D/O-Anjan Kumar Singh, R/O-F.29, Siddha-Vinayak-Apartment, AbhayKhand-3, Indirapuram, Shipra Sun-City, Ghaziabad.U.P-201014, have changed my name,from Rashmi Kumari to Rashmi Singh,for all,future Purposes. 0040533354-2

I, Ramesh Garg S/o Late Jai Narayan Garg R/o-46 Upper Ground-Floor Tarun-Enclave Pitampura Delhi-110034 changed my name to Ramesh Kumar. 0040533287-6

I, Ramesh Chand Agarwal S/o Raja Ram Agarwal R/O-Rr-11, Flatno.G-3, Naveen Shahdara, Delhi-110032,Changed My Name to Ramesh Chand Aggarwal. 0040533289-2

I, Rajesh Bansal S/o Sh. Rattan Lal Bansal R/o-B-172, Top Floor, Saraswati Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Rajeshwar Bansal for all purposes. 0040533347-1

I, Jai Prakash Lohia S/o Swaroopa Singh R/o-N-166/17, Vishnu Garden,Tilak Nagar,West Delhi-110018,have changed my,minor Son name from Yudhvir Lohia to YUDHVEER LOHIA for all Purposes. 0040533337-3

I, Rahil Mohammad Akbar S/o Late,Weza Mohammad Akbar R/o-I-505, AVJ Heights, Sector-Zeta-I, Greater-Noida, Distr.-Gautam Budh-Nagar, U.P.-201306, inform that Rahil M Akbar, Rahil Akbar and Rahil Mohammad Akbar are the names of same and one person. 0040533292-9

I, Rahil Mohammad Akbar S/o Late,Weza Mohammad Akbar R/o-I-505, AVJ Heights, Sector-Zeta-I, Greater Noida, Distr.-Gautam Budh-Nagar, U.P.-201306, inform that my father is also known as Weza Akbar, Weza M Akbar and Weza Mohammad Akbar. 0040533292-10

I, RINKI w/o Nitanyan Tiwary r/o 3, OC Road, Kharki Link Road, Bistupur, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand-831001 have changed my name to NITISHA TIWARY. My correct birth date is 15/08/1983. 0040533288-1

I, Arup Kumar Giri S/O Rishikesh Giri R/O-69a, Flat.No.5, Krishna-Nagar, Street-No.3, Safdarjung-Enclave, N.Delhi-110029,Have Changed My Name To Arup Giri, Permanently. 0040533289-6

I, Arti (old name) D/o Satvir Singh Bhardwaj R/o-RZ-249/C, 4,2nd floor, Rajnagar Part-II, Palam Colony, New Delhi-77 has changed my name from (Arti) to (Arti Bhardwaj). I do hereby assume from this date the name Arti Bhardwaj (new name). 0070699971-1

I, Archit Chatrath S/O Shri. Bimal Rai Chatrath R/O-WP-63-B, PitamPura Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Archit Chatrath. 0040533354-1

I, Ankur S/o Sanjeev Gulati R/o-I-81 Krishan Vihar Delhi-110086 have changed my name to Ankur Gulati. 0040533287-4

I, Sawtanter kumar S/o mandan Lal R/o-R-849 new rajender nagar central delhi-110060 Change my name to Swantanter Kumar. 0040533322-7

I, Neetu Yadav S/o Mahender Singh Yadav R/o 383, Kanthi(73), Gurgaon, Haryana-122003 have changed my name to Neel Yadav for all purposes. 0040533257-2

I, Md Rafi Raza Quadri S/O Syed Mohammad Zunnoon H.No-155 Third-Floor Jaipur-Ext Part-2 Badarpur N.Delhi-110044, Changed My Name To Syed Mohammad Rafi Raza Quadri. 0040533309-9

I, Manohar Lal Jangra S/O Jetha Ram Jangra R/O HNO.164, Vill: Bhopar, PO Ratta Khera, Teh Rattia, Fatehabad, Haryana-51 have changed my name to Manohar Jangra for all purposes 0040533303-1

I, Kundi Devi W/o Chiranji Lal R/o Village & Post Rajkot, New Delhi-110038 have changed my name from Kundi Devi to Kundi Devi, vide affidavit dated 21/02/2020 before NCT, Delhi. 0040533263-1

I, Khushboo Jindal D/o Anand Jindal R/o-H.No.2, 3rd-Floor, Manank-Vihar, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Chavi Jindal,for all purposes. 0040533287-8

I, Hina Akhtar W/o Sh.Nadeem Akther R/o-H.No.4159(Upper Ground Floor), I.P.-Colony Sector-49, NIT Faridabad,have changed my Name, Hina Parveen to Hina Akhtar,after got married with Sh.Nadeem Akther On-16-2010. 0040533254-1

I, Girish Sharma S/o Mahesh Chand Sharma R/O-X-182/11, Street No-8d, Brahampur, Delhi-110053, Have Change My Minor Son Name, Rakshit Sharma To Rakshit Saraswat. 0040533289-9

I, Kiran Mitra Roy S/o Chittaranjan Mitra Roy, R/o Chaldhowani Uttam Para, Ward No-15,Rampurhat, Birbhum, WB-731224, declare that name of mine and my wife was been wrongly written as Roy K.M. and Tanusree Mitra respectively in my minor son Taranga Mitra Roy aged 10 years in his Birth Certificate. The actual name of mine and my wife is Kiran Mitra Roy and Tanusree Mitra Roy respectively. 0070699969-1

I, Kulbir Kaur W/o Ranjit Singh R/O-74A, Shakapuri, Kanker Khera, Meerut, U.P. have changed my name to Prabhu Jout Kaur. 0040533309-3

I, Girish Sharma S/o Mahesh Chand Sharma R/O-X-182/11, Street No-8d, Brahampur, Delhi-110053, Have Change My Minor Son Name, Kushagra Sharma To Kushagra Saraswat. 0040533289-10

I, Dineshwar Gaur & Neerja Gaur R/o-H.No.108, Gali No.3, Saidulajab, Po-Mehruli, New Delhi-110030, have changed my minor son's name Parth to Parth Gaur (DOP-06.01.2010),for all,future purposes. 0040533288-2

I, Ramesh D/O, Puran R/o House No 159 Qutabgarh Delhi have changed my name to Rakshita for all purposes. 0040533293-1

I, Nitish Kumar S/o Shri Bhagwat Singh R/o RZF-76/28, Street no.6, N.Raj Nagar Colony New Delhi-110077 have lost my 10th class/passing Certificate 2014 issued by the CBSE Board vide Roll no-8198493. 0040533352-1

I, Sanjay Kumar Bansal S/O M.L Dhar Aggarwal H.No-A-1, Sidharth Nagar Jangpura South/East Delhi-110014, Changed My Name To Sanjay Bansal. 0040533322-5

I, Raman Madaan S/O Gurdayal Madaan Resident 11/3, Indra Vikas Colony, Kingsway Camp Delhi-110009 have changed my name to Raman Madan. 0040533309-2

I, Rakesh Chand Agarwal S/o Raja Ram Agarwal R/O-Rr-11, Flatno.G-3, Naveen Shahdara, Delhi-110032,Changed My Name to Rakesh Chand Aggarwal. 0040533289-2

I, Deepika W/o Parminder Singh R/o-K-9, Block-K, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110095 have changed my name to Naresh Kumar Jain for all purposes. 0040533255-1

I, Chandra Mohan Singh Rana S/o Netra Singh Rana R/o House No.RZ-23, Gali No.1, Kailash Pur Extn., Palam Colony, New Delhi-110045, have changed my minor Son name from Yudhvir Lohia to YUDHVEER LOHIA for all Purposes. 0040533316-1

I, Bhup Singh R/o VIII-Jhal, Teh-Kosi, Dist-Rewari-HR-123002 Have changed my wife name Pinky to Pinki for all future purposes. 0040533288-4

I, Mukesh Kumar S/o Awadh Bihari Pathak R/o-Da-519 Block-D Pkt-A/Sfs-Flats Shalimar-Bagh Delhi-110088, Changed My Name To Mukesh Pathak. 0040533292-2

I, Mahendra Singh S/o Daulat Singh, R/o H-122, Sector-41, Noida-201301, UP, have changed my name to Mahendra Pratap Singh for name correction in passport 0040533296-1

I, Jitender S/O Hari Ram Mandal R/O Property No.116-117 And 118 Mohan Garden Uttam Nagar Delhi-110059 Have Changed My Name To Jitender Kumar. 0040533289-7

I, Jinder Singh S/o Malkit Singh R/o Jhoran Ludhiana, Punjab-142032, have changed my name to Harjinder Singh 0070699968-1

I, Inderjeet Singh Mehta S/O Ishwar Dasa Mehta H.No-Ad-1 Tagore Garden West Delhi-110027, Changed My Name To Inderjeet Singh Mehta. 0040533309-8

I, Vicky S/o Basant Kumar R/o-H-24/4, SF, DLF Phase-1, Gurgaon-HR, have changed my name to Vicky Thadani. 0040533287-2

I, Govind Prasad Dwivedi S/O Badri Prasad Dwivedi R/o-827/002, 2b, Vasundhra, Ghaziabad, U.P-201012, Changed My Name To Prakash Dwivedi. 0040533322-1

I, Faizan Ahamed S/O, Shamim Ahmad R/o Room No. 102, Frk Hostel, Jamia Millia Islamia, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi have changed my name to Faizan Ahmad for all purposes. 0040533287-4

I, Inderjeet Singh Mehta S/O Ishwar Dasa Mehta H.No-Ad-1 Tagore Garden West Delhi-110027, Changed My Name To Inderjeet Singh Mehta. 0040533305-1

I, Al Dimpy Bhatia W/O, Gurvinder Singh Anand R/o 9/180 Geeta Colony, Delhi-110031 have changed my name to Al Dimpy Bhatia. 0040533289-1

I, DANISH S/o MOHD ISHTIAQ R/o-263, Gali Gafur Bakhsh, Mohalla Niyaniray, Delhi-110006, inform that my father name wrongly written as Shohima Akhter instead of Saima Liyat. The actual name of my father is Shohima Akhter. It needs correction. Objections are filed to unit 2 JAKLI within seven days. 0040533309-7

I, EX- No-909056A, L-NK Liyatqat Ali Khan,S/O Habibullah Khan,R/o-Awroa, Tehsil/District -Kupwara (J&K). In my service records name of my daughter has been wrongly mentioned as Shohima Akhter instead of Saima Liyat. It needs correction. Objections are filed to unit 2 JAKLI within seven days. 0040533293-7

I, Aadipti Batra Dora D/O Sunny Batra House-2228, Sector-12, Sonipat, Haryana Have Changed My Name To Aadipti Batra. 0040533309-7

I, Ravi Sachdev (Advocate) JRS Associates, B-8, Sector-40, Noida-201301, Dist- Gurgaon (N.H.) 110061

Ishaista Perveen W/O Mohd Shakil, H.No-76-C Block-313 Tuls Nagar, North Delhi-110035, Changed My Name To Ishaista Parveen. 0040533289-5

SENSEX: 40,363.23 ▼ 806.89 NIFTY: 11,829.40 ▼ 251.45 NIKKEI: 23,386.74 ▼ 92.41 HANG SENG: 26,820.88 ▼ 487.93 FTSE: 7,161.05 ▼ 242.87 DAX: 13,100.93 ▼ 478.40



GOLD

₹44,472



RUPEE

₹71.98



OIL

\$57.27



SILVER

₹49,990

Indian basket as on February 21, 2020

International market data till 1900 IST

## POLICY WATCH ADJUSTED GROSS REVENUE

To reconcile deviation in estimate, DoT asks companies to submit claims of self-assessed AGR calculations

AASHISH ARYAN  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 24

THE DEPARTMENT of Telecommunications (DoT) has asked Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea, Tata Teleservices, and other telecom as well as non-telecom companies to submit documents supporting their claim of self-assessed adjusted gross revenue (AGR) figures, senior DoT officials said.

This, a senior DoT official said, will help the ministry reconcile the companies' figures with their own number, and help them understand how the numbers arrived at by the companies is lower than the assessment of the ministry.

"This exercise will help us run a time-bound check and test for the AGR dues that are being deposited so far. We have asked them to send the supporting documents as soon as possible," a senior official said.

*The Indian Express* had last Friday reported that the DoT was likely to push for the entire payment of AGR dues from telcos before the March 17 hearing in the Supreme Court. Asking the telcos to submit supporting documents is a step in that process, an official said.

"Our calculation says something else and their calculation is much lesser than that. Now, there is a Supreme Court order which says as to how the AGR is to be calculated. So these documents are needed. It is like when there is a dispute in how much tax is to be paid, the tax payer submits documents to show how they arrived at a particular number," the official said.

As of Thursday last week, Bharti Airtel had paid Rs 10,000 crore of the over Rs 36,000 crore it owed to the DoT, while Vodafone Idea paid Rs 3,500 crore of the Rs 53,000-crore AGR dues it owed. Vodafone Idea paid another Rs 1,000 crore on Thursday, DoT sources confirmed. The Rs 3,500 crore paid by Vodafone Idea is half of its self-assessed AGR principal. Tata Teleservices, which has so far paid Rs 2,197 crore, will be sent another notice in a couple of days, which will seek for payment of the rest of the AGR dues, another DoT official said, on the condition of anonymity.

Both Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea are under pressure to complete the remainder of their AGR payments before March 17. The deadline is the next date of hearing in the Supreme Court, which had on February 14 slammed the DoT as well as the companies for failing to make any payments before the stipulated deadline of January 23.

During the hearing on February 14, the apex court had lamented that its orders had not been followed and that the way everyone was behaving suggested there was "no law left in the country".

On October 24, 2019, the SC had upheld the DoT's definition of AGR and said since the licences had agreed to the migration packages, they were liable to pay the dues, the penalty on dues, and the interest on penalty due to delay in payments. The top court had then given the telcos three months to clear their AGR dues.

The officials, however, remained tight-lipped about the possibility of a bailout package.

### Nobody wants to kill telecom sector, says SBI chief

Mumbai: State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman Rajnish Kumar on Monday said the government has not yet communicated anything to the country's largest lender regarding invoking bank guarantees against telecom companies.

Kumar said SBI has received no direction and is "just waiting" in response to queries on the government invoking bank guarantees of operators. "Nobody wants to kill the sector," Kumar said in a rushed exchange with reporters on the sidelines of the launch of SBI Foundation and Microsoft's joint initiative to create job opportunities for youth with disabilities in Mumbai. FE

for telecom companies burdened by the AGR judgment.

The talks of a possible bailout package being offered to the telecom companies started during rounds after Bharti Airtel founder and chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal and Vodafone Idea chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla met Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in successive days. Mittal had met Prasad at least two times in the past two weeks, in addition to meeting Sitharaman.

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## PANIC-SELLING AMONG INVESTORS AS NEW CASES REPORTED IN SOUTH KOREA, ITALY, IRAN

# Virus effect: Sensex crashes 807 pts, rupee falls

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 24

JOINING A global sell-off, Sensex on Monday plunged nearly 807 points as coronavirus (COVID-19) cases spread across the world, ringing alarm bells in more countries outside China.

The 30-share Sensex settled at 40,363.23, dropping 806.89 points or 1.96 percent, the second biggest one-day fall in 2020, as bourses from Seoul to Hong Kong fell on worries over the impact of the virus on human lives and the economy. The broader NSE Nifty fell 251.45 points or 2.08 percent to 11,829.40 after markets were caught in a panic-selling mode as investors turned nervous over a large number of new virus cases in South Korea, Italy and Iran.

The rupee, meanwhile, fell by 34 paise to close at more than three-month low of 71.98 against the US dollar, tracking heavy selling in domestic equities and strengthening of the US currency in the overseas market.

The stock market fall has sent gold, a safe haven asset in times of uncertainty, to a seven-year high, while high-yielding, riskier currencies including the Australian dollar and Indonesian rupiah, were all down. "Fears of secondary infections increasing outside of China sent risk assets in a tail-spin and a wave of refuge-seeking into safe-haven. With the outbreak showing little sign of easing, investors are increasingly con-

### EXPLAINED

## E. Long-term impact on world economy likely

WITH THE coronavirus outbreak showing little sign of easing, investors are increasingly concerned it could have a much longer-term impact on the world economy, which was already stuttering.

A number of companies have already warned about their bottom lines. The impact could also hit Indian companies which rely on Chinese suppliers. There could be production cuts and price hikes, hitting the already sagging growth further. This will also be reflected on the stock markets.

cerned it could have a much longer-term impact on the world economy, which was already stuttering, with a number of companies warning about their bottom lines," said Deepak Jasani, head—retail research, HDFC Securities.

Spot gold prices rose 2.8 percent on Monday, according to reports. Crude prices tanked on worries about plunging demand from China, the world's biggest importer and consumer of the commodity, sending energy firms in the region sharply lower.

Global markets bore the brunt of rising virus cases in new regions other than China. Traders had been broadly optimistic that the virus — which has killed nearly 2,600 and infected 80,000 — was being contained outside China, but a spurt of infections and deaths in other countries includ-

ing South Korea, Italy and Iran has fanned fears of a wider outbreak.

"Demand for safe-haven assets spiked as fresh coronavirus cases in South Korea and Italy indicated that business impact could be higher than thought earlier. The Trump-Modi meet is not providing clues to the market regarding trade deal but market is hoping for some hint in the future," Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

All Sensex components ended in the red, with Tata Steel plunging 6.39 percent, followed by ONC, Maruti, HDFC, Titan and ICICI Bank. Sectorally, the BSE metal index tumbled nearly 6 percent, auto 3.39 percent and telecom 3.33 percent. All sectoral indices closed in the red. In the broader market, BSE midcap and

## 'COVID-19 to cause spike in solar PV module prices'

*The outbreak of COVID-19, or coronavirus, poses concerns for both domestic solar module original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) as well as solar developers/independent power producers, Icra said*

**20-21 CENTS/WATT: CURRENT PRICE LEVELS OF SOLAR PHOTO VOLTAIC (PV) MODULES, WHICH MAY SPIKE IN NEAR TERM DUE TO SUPPLY CONSTRAINTS, PUTTING AN UPWARD PRESSURE ON EXPECTED BID TARIFFS**

**25%: SLOWDOWN IN TENDERING OF WIND AND SOLAR PV PROJECTS, FROM 11.5 GIGA WATT (GW) IN CALENDAR YEAR 2018 TO 8.6 GW IN CALENDAR YEAR 2019**

**Impact on sales volume:** For Q4FY20, sales volumes for domestic module manufacturers/OEMs are likely to be impacted due to prevailing uncertainty over supply chain



### Additional headwinds being faced by solar energy sector:

**Long delays** in making payments by state distribution utilities

**Execution delays** for projects bid out over past two years due to

- Challenges in land acquisition
- Securing transmission connectivity
- Financing in a timely manner

### Issues that need to be addressed:

- Ensuring alternate supply chain other than China in long run
- Timeline extension as per PPA terms from nodal agencies
- Resolution of issues on tariff

renegotiation as well as grid curtailments by state utilities in Andhra Pradesh

### Impact of import dependency on China:

Given the import dependency on China for sourcing of PV modules, the execution timelines for several projects are likely to be affected due to delays in delivery of modules

### Need for de-risking strategy:

A de-risking strategy so as to identify and ensure the alternate supply chain other than China in the long run would be critical for domestic independent power producers/OEMs

Source: Icra/PTI

**Disruption of supply chain:** As they are dependent on China for key components used for manufacturing of solar modules, OEMs in the country will face disruption in the supply chain due to the virus outbreak

## Global oil slumps 5%

New York: Oil prices slumped by 5 per cent on Monday as the rapid spread of the coronavirus in countries outside China added to investor concerns over the effect on demand for crude.

Dow sinks 1,000 points

Meanwhile, stocks across the globe posted their largest decline in over two years on Monday.

At 1:06 pm ET, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 1,027.29 points, or 3.54 percent, at 27,965.12 and the S&P 500 was down 116.33 points, or 3.49 percent, at 3,221.42. The Nasdaq Composite was down 377.81 points, or 3.95 percent, at 9,198.78. The S&P 500 fell below its 50-day moving average and the Dow slipped below its 100-day moving average, all closely watched indicators of momentum, according to a *Reuters* report.

The pan-European FTSEurofirst 300 index lost 3.76 percent, with Milan's stock market down more than 5 percent. MSCI's gauge of stocks across the globe shed 2.82 percent, its biggest single-day decline since February 5, 2018, when concerns over a spike in inflation sent stocks tumbling.

Emerging market stocks lost 2.71 percent. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan closed 2.58 percent lower, while Japan's markets were closed for a holiday.

Ritterbusch, president of Ritterbusch and Associates, said in a note, Goldman Sachs said commodity prices could fall sharply before any rebound on the back of Chinese stimulus efforts.

"The promise of stimulus has made commodity markets act like equity markets, building up risks of a sharp correction," the bank said in a note. Bank of America Global Research kept its 2020 forecast for the price of Brent crude steady at \$62 a barrel. **REUTERS**

## Gold jumps ₹953/10g

New Delhi: Gold prices on Monday soared Rs 953 to Rs 44,472 per 10 gram in the national capital on weaker rupee and rise in global prices, according to HDFC Securities.

The yellow metal had closed at Rs 43,519 per 10 gram in the last trading session. Silver prices also rose by Rs 586 to Rs 49,990 per kg from Rs 49,404 per kg.

Meanwhile, in the international market, gold soared as much as 2.8 percent on Monday to its highest level in seven years. Spot gold was up 1.9 percent at \$1,674.80 an ounce.

The curve inversion between the 3-month and 10-year US Treasury bond yields deepened, in what economists view as a recession signal. The benchmark 10-year Treasury yield fell to its lowest since July 2016. **PTI & REUTERS**

## Govt to move Supreme Court for bulk disposal of tax disputes

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 24

ABOUT 70-80 percent of the direct tax disputes — nearly 5 lakh involving tax demands of Rs 9.5 lakh crore at last count and piling up — may get resolved in one stroke, as the government has decided to move the Supreme Court, pleading for definitive rulings on 20 issues identified by the tax department as being at the heart of these disputes, Revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey said on Monday.

The Revenue Secretary also said that even though the lenient 15 percent corporate tax rate for new manufacturing units was for a limited window (till FY23-end), the government was taking efficient steps to widen the tax base, which could facilitate further pruning of various tax rates including those for corporate and dividend incomes, in the coming years. The idea is the apex court rulings would accord finality to who is in the right in the intractably fractious disputes between the taxman and taxpayers, helping mass disposal of about 4 lakh cases lingering on, at various fora — from the commissioner (appeal) level to the tax tribunals to courts and arbitration panels.

"We have identified 20 issues on which maximum number of disputes occur every year and till Supreme Court takes a decision, additions (to tax amount) keeps happening. We will request the Supreme Court to give us final verdicts on these issues," Pandey said at the Indian Express Group's Idea Exchange programme.

The move comes close on the heels of the launch of the Vivad Se Vishwas scheme, under which if the tax department has won a case in a lower forum and the assessee has appealed, the assessee has to pay only 25 percent of the disputed penalty and interest is payable. Also, the assessee could pay just half the tax amount sans penalty and interest if she had won the case at a particular forum and the taxman's appeal is being heard at the higher forum.

Pandey said that the Vivad Se Vishwas scheme could help resolve even big corporate tax cases as in many such disputes the interest and penalty amounts had risen to multiple times the original tax

demand. "We are saying here that we will waive off penalty and interest even if these are in many multiples of tax demand. Because tomorrow, in the court, a decision can go either way and then penalty and interest can't be waived off. It is going to be attractive to a large class of taxpayers," he said, but refused to comment on individual cases like Vodafone and Cairn.

Responding to whether the move to appraising income-tax officials on their performance vis-a-vis the scheme could lead to overzealous approach and harassment of taxpayers, Pandey said that the department was only preparing proactively before the scheme is launched so that taxpayers can be facilitated fully. "We have 10,000 assessing officials so each one would have 50 cases in their charge. They have been asked to prepare a list of cases and proactively facilitate the taxpayers so that they don't have to go to the officials. To that extent, certain objective and performance parameters have been defined for the assessing officers but that can't be termed as putting pressure on the officials or that they will resort to harassment," Pandey said. **FE**



Revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey. Abhinav Saha

### IDEA EXCHANGE

RIL CHAIRMAN MUKESH AMBANI: HAVE NO DOUBT INDIA WILL BE AMONG TOP THREE ECONOMIES OF THE WORLD

# Never be cool by association ... build your own technology: Nadella to India Inc

adding it will come down to how every organisation in India can ride this wave. "By this I mean build your own tech intensity."

However, Nadella said that while building this tech intensity, especially in a country like India, "we have to be mindful of how this is driving inclusive economic growth and ensure trust in technology, right and in privacy and ethics around AI."

He said in the last decade technology has had tremendous impact on our lives. "But if there was one criticism, I'll say it's pretty narrow. I mean a consumer economy is important, but it's not the only economy. The profit that was derived from all that progress was even more limited," he said, about the most successful "aggregator" or "marketplace" business model. "Is that enough? Clearly not. So

# Air India seeks to raise ₹700 cr via short-term govt-guaranteed loan

**PRANAV MUKUL**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 24

**FLAG CARRIER** Air India, disinvestment of which is underway, has sought bids from financial institutions for lending Rs 700 crore to the airline as government-guaranteed short-term loan.

As per the preliminary information memorandum issued by the government to sell 100 per cent of its stake in the airline, the Centre has tweaked certain conditions and established a principle to bundle only as much debt with the airline against which the new investor will be getting the same worth of assets.

Only an amount of Rs 23,285.60 crore will be bundled with the airline and this amount, government officials said, has been frozen to provide certainty to bidders. However, in addition to this, certain identified current and non-current liabilities other than debt will also be bundled with the disinvestment package.

This investment, as of March 31,

**Meanwhile, the Centre extended the time till March 6 for bidders to pose additional queries regarding sale of its 100% stake in Air India**

2019, stands at Rs 8,771.50 crore, taking the combined debt and liabilities that the buyer will take on to Rs 32,058 crore.

The remaining debt will be transferred to the special purpose vehicle Air India Asset Holding Ltd (AIAHL), and the government will repay the debt either by disposing off assets such as land and buildings held by AIAHL or by making budgetary provisions.

According to sources, the fresh fund-raise of Rs 700 crore will be utilised for salary payments, in addition to meeting some debt obligations that will be maturing over the next few months. The airline has given time till March 15 to lenders to submit their bids.

At the time of unveiling the

preliminary information memorandum for Air India's disinvestment, government officials had said that any loans taken by the airline thereafter would be transferred to the special purpose vehicle, thereby ensuring a level of certainty as far as the airline's debt situation was concerned.

Meanwhile, the Centre has extended the time till March 6 for bidders to pose additional queries regarding sale of its 100 per cent stake in Air India. The government has issued the first set of clarifications on Air India disinvestment answering queries of interested bidders on the 'confidentiality undertaking' listed out in the preliminary information memorandum issued on January 27.

The last date for submission of written queries on preliminary information memorandum and share purchase agreement was originally set at February 11, following which the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, on February 21, issued a set of 20 clarifications on the queries raised.

## PROFITABILITY OF BANKING SECTOR REMAINS FRAGILE, RBI GOVERNOR SAYS

# NPA overhang weighing on credit growth: Das

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 24

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das Monday said the overhang of non-performing assets (NPAs) "remains relatively high which is weighing on credit growth", adding that "timely mitigation measures like faster resolution, better recovery etc, need to be continued to bring down the gross GNPA ratios of all scheduled commercial banks."

However, he said, in terms of recent progress, the Indian banking sector is slowly turning around on the back of improvements in asset quality with enhanced resolutions through the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

Despite the recent decline in impaired assets and a significant improvement in provisioning, profitability of the banking sector remains fragile, Das said. "Also, in view of subdued profitability and deleveraging by certain corporates, risk-averse banks have shifted their focus away from large



"...in view of subdued profitability and deleveraging by certain corporates, risk-averse banks have shifted their focus away from large infrastructure and industrial loans towards retail loans."

**SHAKTIKANTA DAS**  
GOVERNOR, RBI

infrastructure and industrial loans towards retail loans," he said at the Mint's Banking Conclave.

"This diversification strategy, while helpful as a risk mitigation tool, has its own limitations. Further, sector specific pockets of stress need policy attention. At the same time, proper due diligence and risk pricing in lending is of prime importance so that the health of the banking sector is not compromised while ensuring adequate flow of credit to productive sectors of economy," he said.

crore during the period from end-March to mid-September 2019 to Rs 8.43 lakh crore in 2019-20 so far (up to January 17, 2020), though they have been lower as compared with the increase of Rs 15.79 lakh crore in the corresponding period of the previous year.

The RBI Governor said capital position of banks has, however, improved on account of recapitalisation of public sector banks by the government and capital raising efforts by private sector banks.

"Nevertheless, the sector continues to encounter challenges from events like those around the telecom sector," he said.

Das said distinct segments of banking institutions may emerge in the coming years. The first segment may consist of large Indian banks with domestic and international presence. This process will be augmented by the merger of public sector banks (PSBs). The second segment is likely to comprise several mid-sized banking institutions, including niche banks with economy-wide presence. The third segment may encompass

smaller private sector banks, small finance banks, regional rural banks and co-operative banks, which may specifically cater to the credit requirements of small borrowers in the unorganised sector in rural/local areas. The fourth segment may consist of digital players who may act as service providers directly to customers or through banks by acting as their agents or associates," he observed.

The reoriented banking system will of course be characterised by a continuum of banks, he said. "The banking space would also include both traditional players with strong customer base and new technology led players."

"In the context of the emerging scenario, a properly worked out consolidation of PSBs can generate synergies in allocation of workforce and branches as well as streamlining of operations to meet the future challenges. Focus has to be on ushering in significant improvements in efficiency and rationalisation of scarce capital to meet the capital adequacy requirements," Das stated.

## CCI orders probe against MakeMyTrip, OYO over 'unfair business practices'

**PRESSTRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 24

### COMPLAINT BY RUBTUB SOLUTIONS

■ CCI said a case against MMT and OYO for entering into a vertical arrangement having an appreciable adverse effect on competition in the market is also "prima facie" made out

■ The complainant, Rubtub Solutions, operates Treebo Hotels

### TechM to acquire Zen3 Infosolutions for ₹460 crore

**PRESSTRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 24

IT COMPANY Tech Mahindra (TechM) Monday said it has signed an agreement to acquire 100 per cent stake in US-based Zen3 Infosolutions for \$64 million (Rs 460 crore) in an all-cash deal. Headquartered in Seattle, Zen 3 has over 1,300 employees spread across offices in Seattle, Dublin, Hyderabad, Vishakhapatnam and Bengaluru.

"The acquisition of Zen3 Infosolutions is in line with our strategy to build new capabilities. It has expertise in artificial intelligence, machine learning, annotations, cloud engineering etc which are high growth area," Vivek Agrawal, global head—enterprise business and portfolio companies, TechM, said.

The company will acquire 100 per cent stake in the company for \$64 million or about Rs 460 crore out of which \$42 million or about Rs 300 crore will be paid at closing and the remaining is linked to the financial performance of the Microsoft customer account for the upcoming three years, Agrawal said. Zen3 revenue for six month period ended June 30, 2019, was \$25 million (about Rs 180 crore). Tech Mahindra expects the deal to close by April 1.

Agrawal said that Zen3 capabilities can be leveraged by Tech Mahindra in developing various voice-based applications, autonomous car projects etc.

In a separate filing, Tech Mahindra announced a dividend of Rs 10 per equity share for 2019-20. "This quarter also witnessed healthy cash flow generation, and with a view to returning enhanced value to our shareholders, we are announcing an interim dividend of Rs 10/- per equity share i.e. 200 per cent," CP Gurnani, managing director and CEO, TechM, said.

**Left to right:** Digbijoy Bhownik, Sector Lead—Urban Transformation Infrastructure, Government & Healthcare, KPMG; Samir Kumar, Member, HRERA; KK Khandelwal, Chairman, HRERA; Subhash Chand Kush, Member, HRERA; Navin Raheja, CMD, Raheja Group; Amarjit Bakshi, CMD, Central Park with Sandeep Singh, Associate Editor, The Indian Express, at the Indian Express Round Table Conference on Role of RERA in Energizing The Real Estate Sector in Gurugram, on Monday. Abhinav Saha

## Cash still rules, but there's marked shift from cash to digital payments: RBI study

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 24

CASH STILL rules, but it is increasingly seen as a way to store value as an economic asset rather than to make payments, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said.

"Although cash is deeply embedded in the payment systems in India, planned efforts post-demotisation have shown a marked shift from cash to digital payments," the RBI said. Over the past five years, the demand for high value denominated currency has outpaced low value denominated currency, which may indicate that "cash is increasingly used as a store of value and less for making payments", stated the RBI study on the progress of digitisation from cash to electronic.

"Both cash and non-cash payment instruments fulfil unique needs, and as long as these needs do not change, both types of payment instruments are required to meet the full spectrum of user's

needs," it said.

India's growing use of retail digital payments, along with the radical reconstruction of its cash economy, indicates a shift in its relationship with cash. "This is evidenced by the steep growth observed in the retail digital payments. Increasing acceptance and convenience of digital payments vis-a-vis cash is also reflected in decrease in average value per digital payment transaction," it said.

According to a report by Credit Suisse Group AG, 72 per cent of India's consumer transactions take place in cash, double the rate in China. As per the report, many merchants, especially in rural areas, remain unable or unwilling to accept digital transactions due to network connectivity issues and a reluctance to pay charges for

what are often low-value transactions, the central bank's study said.

It is assumed that having high currency in circulation (CIC) relative to GDP indicates that cash is highly preferred as a payment instrument. Based on this assumption, India continues to have a strong bias for cash payments. "Demotisation and an active growth in GDP brought down the CIC as a percentage of GDP to 8.70 per cent in 2016-17. This increased to 10.70 per cent in 2017-18 and to 11.2 per cent in 2018-19 which, however, is less than the pre-demotisation level of 12.1 per cent in 2015-16. The rate of increase is lower indicating a perceptible shift away from cash," the RBI said.

The notes in circulation (NIC), i.e. CIC minus coins in circulation, increased at an average rate of 14

per cent between October 2014 and October 2016. Assuming the same growth rate, NIC would have been Rs 26,04,953 crore in October 2019. However, it was Rs 22,31,090 crore, indicating that digitisation and reduction in cash usage helped reduce NIC by over Rs 3.5 lakh crore, the study said.

Overall, digital payments in the country have witnessed a compounded growth of 61 per cent and 19 per cent in terms of volume and value, respectively, over the past 5 years, demonstrating a steep shift towards digital payments. Within the digital payments, retail electronic payments comprising credit transfers (RTGS, NEFT, IMPS and UPI) and direct debits (ECS and NACH) showed rapid growth at 65 per cent and 42 per cent in terms of volume and value, respectively. Stored value cash issued in the form of wallets and prepaid cards showed an increased adoption, with a

growth of 96 per cent and 78 per cent in terms of volume and value, respectively, the RBI said.

New Delhi: Sebi on Monday reviewed the margin framework for cash and derivatives segments, in order to bring more efficiency in the risk management system, with the aim to bring more efficiency in the risk management framework.

### HCL Info MD Rangarajan resigns

New Delhi: HCL Infosystems Monday said its managing director Raghavan Rangarajan has resigned due to personal reasons.

### New e-form to start biz faster, at reduced cost

New Delhi: The government on Monday introduced a new electronic form SPICE+ for incorporation of companies, saying the initiative will help in reducing time and cost of starting a business in the country.

### Oz minister on RCEP: 'Eager to keep door open'

New Delhi: Australia remains eager to "keep the door" open for India to join Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) in future, Australia's Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Simon Birmingham said on Monday.

### Abhay K Singh takes over as NHPC CMD

New Delhi: State-run NHPC Ltd on Monday announced appointment of Abhay Kumar Singh as the hydro power company's Chairman and Managing Director from February 24. PTI

**Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Katra**

**ABRIDGED E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

For and on behalf of the Chairman, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), Katra, J&K, E-Tenders on the prescribed format are invited from the Eligible Individuals/ Firms/ Organizations dealing in Facility Management Services for Providing Cleaning/ Sanitation Services for a period of Two Years at Niharika Complex vide e-NIT CO/SW/e-NIT/09 of 2020 dated: 22.02.2020.

Further, details can be downloaded from the website of E-Tender Portals [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) & [www.maavaishnovedi.org](http://www.maavaishnovedi.org). The last date of submission of Online e-NIT is by or before 02.03.2020 upto 02.00 P.M.

No.: CO/SW/121/2119  
Dated: 24.02.2020

Sd/- Addl. Chief Executive Officer  
Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Katra

**JAWAHARLAL NEHRU PORT TRUST**  
(PORT PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT)

ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, ISO 27001:2013, ISO 45001:2018 CERTIFIED

**Short E-TENDER NOTICE**

The Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust proposes to lease vacant land on long term lease basis for handling Liquid Cargo (Edible and Lubric oil) by developing Liquid Storage Facilities. Tenders are invited "ON-LINE" from 25/02/2020 to 17/03/2020 from the firms fulfilling the "Minimum Qualifying Criteria" for "e-tender-cum-e-auction for allotment of land-Plot No. 4 on long term lease basis for setting up tank farm for liquid storage (edible and lubric oil) facilities" at Jawaharlal Nehru Port". Tender Fee is ₹. 4,720/- (non-refundable). Complete e-tenders shall be submitted online on or before 17/03/2020 upto 1100 hrs. Tenders shall be opened on 18/03/2020 at 1100 hrs. Detailed Notice Inviting Tender is available on JNPT's website [www.jnpt.gov.in](http://www.jnpt.gov.in) and <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>

Chief Manager (PP&DD)

**GURU HARGOBIND THERMAL PLANT, LEHRA MOHABBAT DISTT. BATHINDA (PUNJAB)-151111**

Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813

e-Tendering website: [https://eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in)

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
(Through E-tendering)

Tender Enquiry No. 60/CHP/OP-300/GHTP/2020-21 Dated: 18.02.2020

**SHORT DESCRIPTION:** To provide support at the vital location/ equipments for operation of Coal handling plant as per scope of work on Stage-I & II at 2x210 MW + 2x250 MW, CHP, GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat, Distt. Bathinda.

**EMD: Minimum Rs. 9,00,000/-**

Last date & Time for bid submission : 18.03.2020 upto 11.00 hrs.  
Date & Time of opening of Fee stage bid : 20.03.2020 at 12.00 hrs.

Detailed NIT and specification can only be downloaded from PSPCL website: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from dated: 19.02.2020 onwards.

**Note:**

- The prospective bidders can obtain clarification regarding tender specification from this office. For Registration of Digital Signatures and uploading of tender information may be sought from <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.
- It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no Corrigendum will be published in News papers. Details regarding Corrigendum may be seen on PSPCL Official website i.e. [pspcl.in](http://pspcl.in).

Sd/- O. & M. Chief Engineer, GHTP, PSPCL, Lehra Mohabbat, Distt. Bathinda (P.B.)-151111.

GHTP-13/2020  
C-9140/Pb.

Mechanical Mtc. Circle-S, O. & M., GHTP, PSPCL, Lehra Mohabbat, Distt. Bathinda (P.B.)-151111.

India, however, had made it clear that government will allocate airwaves to all telecom service providers for conducting trials of super-fast speed 5G networks, and that New Delhi will not bar any equipment suppliers in the upcoming trials for 5G.

Asked about his views on Huawei and if concerns around data security risk from Chinese companies were real, Pai said, "I would refer you to the comments I made previously. So the US Government embraces a risk-based framework domestically and that is a part of the reason why FCC has, in parts, prohibited

the use of funding that we oversee from being used by telecom carriers in the US, and equipment and services that have been deemed to be insecure."

"We haven't singled out any particular country... But we initially designated Huawei and ZTE," he told reporters. Pai, who is part of the US delegation currently visiting India, said he and Prakash discussed "topics of mutual interest".

"The US and India are not just good friends but have lot of similar priorities when it comes to telecommunications issues... We talked about a variety of spectrum issues including 5G," Pai said.

**DEHLI JAL BOARD: GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (WEST)-II D-BLOCK MOTI NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110015 PRESS NIT NO. 75/WEST-II/ (2019-20)**

S. NO	Name of Work	TENDER COST	Earnest Money. Rs.	Tender fee processing fee. Rs.	Date of release of tender in e-procurement Solution	Last date/ time of receipt of tender through procurement Solution
1.	Refurbishment and construction of toilet & bathroom in SPS Ranjeet nagar, AC-24 under E(west)-II Tender ID 2020_DJB_188518_1	33,49,610.00	67,000.00	500.00	22.02.2020	09.03.2020 UPTO 3.00 PM

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

Sd/-  
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (WEST)-II

## APPLE IN CHINA

## Red plateau

Apple's Chinese troubles

NO AMERICAN company makes as much money in China as Apple. While few make that much money at all, Apple raked in \$44bn of revenues in Greater China during the 2019 financial year, mostly from selling iPhones. That is more than the global sales of United Airlines and Nike and about as much as Tencent, a domestic tech giant. Few countries have as much power as China to shape Apple's fortunes.

The virus that has swept across the country is doing just that, hurting both manufacturing operations and sales of iPhones in Apple's second-biggest market. Many of the migrant workers on whom Apple and its contract manufacturers depend have not yet returned to their posts as the movement of people is restricted by the government. Shoppers have not yet returned to the streets. As a result, on February 17th Apple warned investors that it would miss its revenue guidance for the quarter. The firm's shares, which have been on the ascent since last summer, dropped by nearly 2% after the announcement.

The short-term threat to Apple's business in China is best understood against the backdrop of the firm's longer-term success. Apple's Chinese fortune was built in the first half of the past decade, when its revenues in the country grew from \$2.8bn in 2010 to \$59bn in 2015. Sales have slipped in subsequent years (see chart), but were still sufficient for the Chinese market to account for 18% of Apple's total revenues over the past ten years, second only to America. Apple says that it is gradually reopening its retail shops and that all of its iPhone manufacturing sites have reopened too, although their ramp up is going more slowly than it anticipated. Even if the virus outbreak proves to be no more than a blip, the 2020s are unlikely to treat Apple so well.

Its vital Chinese manufacturing operations are threatened by conflict with America over trade and technology. The trade war may also have damaged Apple's brand. The number of iPhones it sells in China is plummeting. Most importantly Apple's new strategy for growing revenue by selling subscriptions to services is far more complicated in China than selling iPhones. Apple's engine of growth may not just be dormant, but extinct.

Start with supply chains. Apple is deeply dependent on China's high-tech manufacturing ecosystem. Only China offers the labour and infrastructure needed to manufacture hundreds of thousands of devices a day, the volume Apple must produce in the run up to the release of a new phone. During Apple's China boom Foxconn, a Taiwanese contract manufacturer, was the driving force behind the building of a new factory town near Zhengzhou in Henan province, to support iPhone manufacture. No other contract manufacturer could get close to that scale. The local government shelled out \$1.5bn to help build factories and housing for 400,000 workers, and \$10bn for a new airport.

That dependency leaves Apple's manufacturing base exposed to the economic and technological conflict between America and China. Smart lobbying has kept its products outside America's tariffs regime so far, but other threats loom. America's Department of Commerce is working on new rules that would curtail the export of technical components to China. Such barriers could cripple Apple's manufacturing there. It has nowhere else to turn. Efforts to establish a



Few countries have as much power as China to shape Apple's fortunes. Reuters

manufacturing base in Brazil failed. Indian operations have proved more fruitful, but are still small. Apple is bound to China and the virus shows how strongly.

Sales of Apple's core product, the iPhone, are also on the wane in China. According to Canalys, a research firm, iPhone sales in China dropped by 21% in 2019, to 27.5m, even after price cuts, a tactic that Apple rarely employs. Selling fewer phones means not only lost sales but also deprives Apple of future revenues.

Apple must also grapple with the Chinese government. The firm has always walked a fine line, quietly making compromises like agreeing to store users' cloud data on Chinese servers. The company's leaders are adamant that the devices which Apple sells in China come with the same encryption, security and privacy mechanisms that are offered in the rest of the world. But the government's de-

sire to control information and data means that there are products that Apple cannot offer to Chinese iPhone users, denting revenues and making its devices less appealing.

China's Communist Party has proved surprisingly adept at stuffing the genie of a free internet back into its bottle. Apple has had to help. In 2017 the firm removed virtual-private-network apps from its Chinese app

store. These let Chinese netizens jump through cracks in the Great Firewall and onto the wider internet. Anything where Apple plays a more explicit editorial role, like its new curated news and streaming services, is beyond the pale. Not being able to sell its full range of services in China means Apple is leaving money on the table for every active iPhone in the country. App Store sales

make up most of Apple's services revenue, and while those are growing in China, the complete absence of its latest service plays will matter in future.

Apple's latest quarterly results, released on January 28th (before the scale of the virus outbreak was clear), showed worldwide iPhone sales rebounding after a disappointing performance the previous year. Apple says that it is "fundamentally strong, and this disruption to our business is only temporary." Revenues grew by 9% to \$91.8bn. Sales of accessories and services that cluster around the iPhone grew too. Tim Cook, Apple's boss, said that Apple had seen "double-digit" growth from sales of iPhones, services and wearables in mainland China. Although some specific product categories grew fast, overall sales in China were up by just 3% for the quarter, slower than anywhere but Japan, where sales shrank.

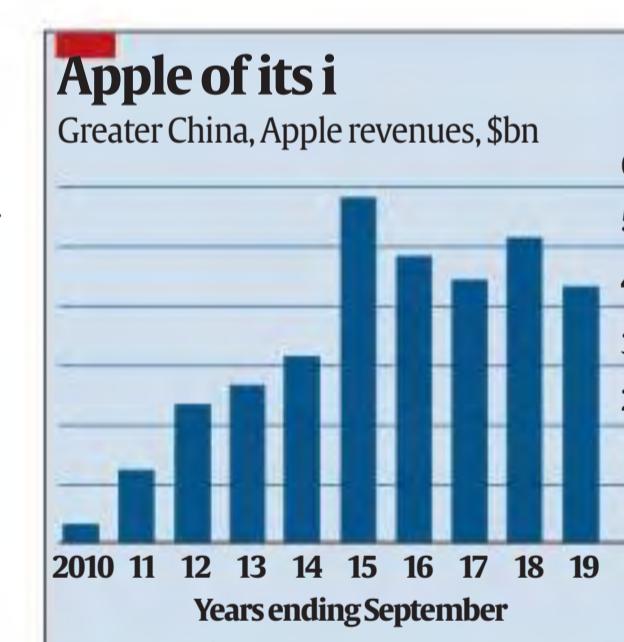
There is one ray of light in China. The 5G iPhone, with much faster connectivity, is reportedly due to go on sale in late 2020. But will it provide a sales bonanza? What a 5G iPhone will offer to well-heeled Chinese customers that they do not already have is un-

clear. Chinese consumers in large cities are used to high-quality mobile-phone connections. It is common to see an entire metro carriage of commuters streaming high-definition video on the move, something that few American or European networks can handle. Phones made by Huawei, a Chinese tech giant, are as good or better than anything Apple offers.

Even the success of a 5G iPhone would only be a temporary salve. As the decoupling of the American and Chinese technological ecosystems grinds on, it will only get harder for Apple to tap into the Chinese market and run its Chinese supply chains efficiently. That Apple was the first large American company to issue a revised forecast as a result of the virus shows just how dependent the firm is on China, for both supply and demand.

Opportunities elsewhere may make up for some lost revenues—selling streaming services to Americans is a good business, if competitive. But it will be almost impossible for Apple to find a new growth engine quite as powerful as China.

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**Sales of Apple's core product, the iPhone, are on the wane in China. According to Canalys, a research firm, iPhone sales in China dropped by 21% in 2019, to 27.5m, even after price cuts, a tactic that Apple rarely employs. Selling fewer phones means not only lost sales but also deprives Apple of future revenues**

## MARRIAGE IN PAKISTAN

## Clawless clauses

How Pakistani brides inadvertently sign away their rights

**Punjab, Pakistan's most populous province, has made it a criminal offence for registrars to fill out the nikah nama incorrectly. But the bigger obstacle to securing brides' rights may be cultural**

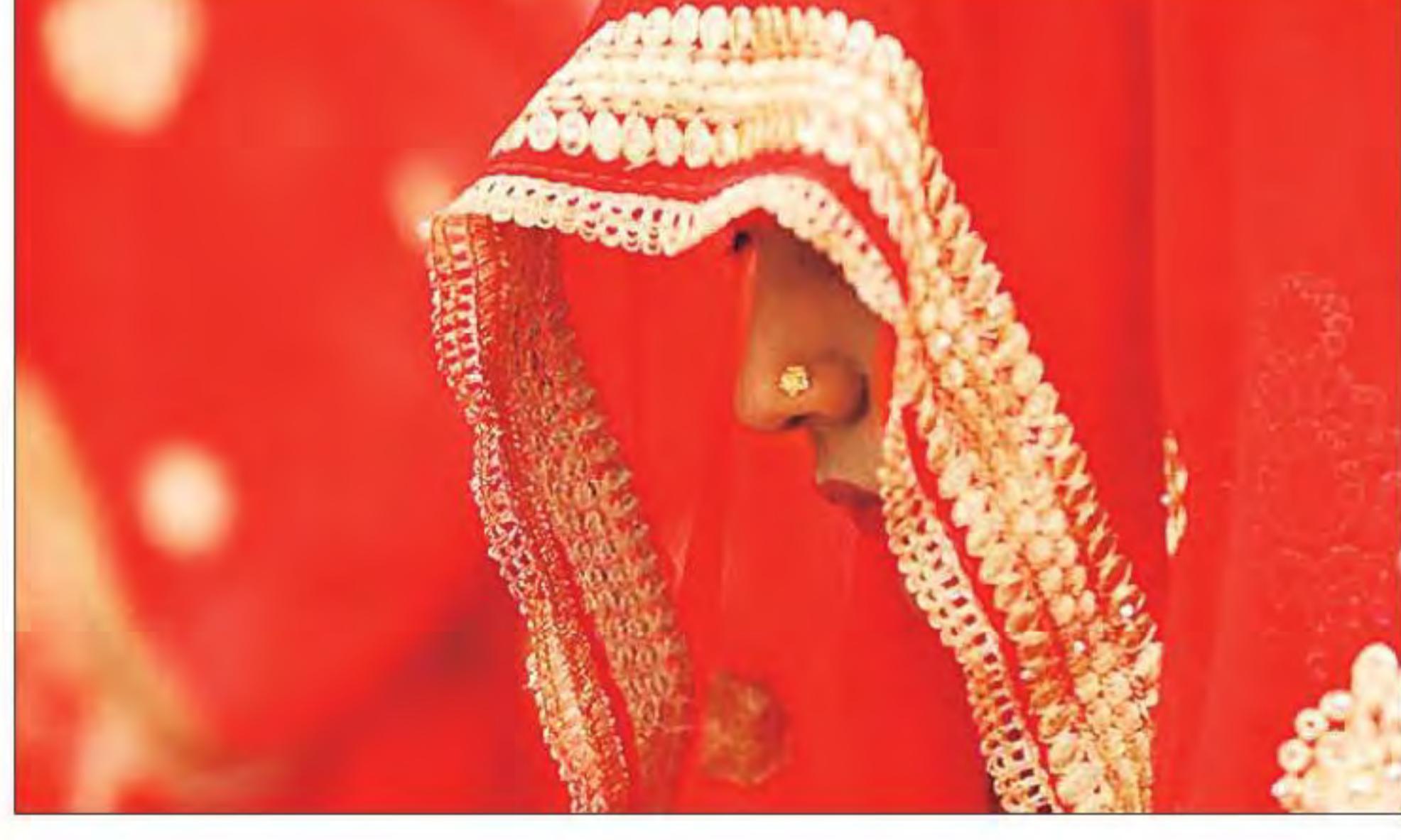
In jeopardy. In some cases, marriage registrars, who are often imams, take matters into their own hands, simply crossing out bride-friendly clauses on the contracts. Even though such changes are illegal, an analysis of about 14,000 nikah namas in Punjab province found that 35% had been amended in this way, according to Kate Vyborny, one of the researchers involved. "It's ludicrous," says Ms Sarwari.

Yet many wives-to-be in Pakistan sign their nikah namas without reading them. Plenty do not know what they are signing. In Peshawar, a city in the north-west, nearly three-quarters of women, many of them illiterate, say they were not consulted on their marriage contracts. But asking for a say in the drafting would be fraught, anyway. At best, women who do will be accused of bad manners (for not trusting their new husband) or of courting disaster (because it is unlucky to talk of divorce before the marriage has even started). At worst, it would be seen as inexcusable uppityness that might put the wedding

divorce at will, but have to register the divorce in writing, and so on. Husbands are also required to state at the time of marriage, in the nikah nama, whether they concede their wives the same right they have, to end the marriage whenever they want, without having to go to court.

These rules are not as favourable to women as those in many Muslim countries. Wives who have not obtained the right to divorce at will can still seek one in court but, by doing so, usually forfeit their dowry, which they would normally be entitled to keep in case of divorce as a form of financial compensation. That is not the case in Malaysia and Morocco. Nonetheless, the reforms were controversial from the start. Boosters, such as Ayub Khan, the president at the time, said they could "liberate Islam from the debris of wrong superstition and prejudice". Religious leaders denounced them as unislamic.

Nearly 60 years later, the tension still festers. Feminists would like women to get more of the family's assets after a divorce. But Zubair Abbasi of the Shaikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law, in Lahore, doubts that will happen. "This is such a sensitive issue," he says, "no political party wants to take it on." Instead, most activists are focusing on securing the freedoms already on the books. Fauzia Viqar, former head of the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women, says there should be



Many wives-to-be in Pakistan sign their nikah namas without reading them. Reuters/representative photo

mandatory training for marriage registrars, most of whom, surveys suggest, have none. When the commission helped sponsor a pilot training scheme, they found it reduced the illegal meddling with nikah namas by about a third. There should also be a public-awareness campaign aimed at both men and women, Ms Viqar argues.

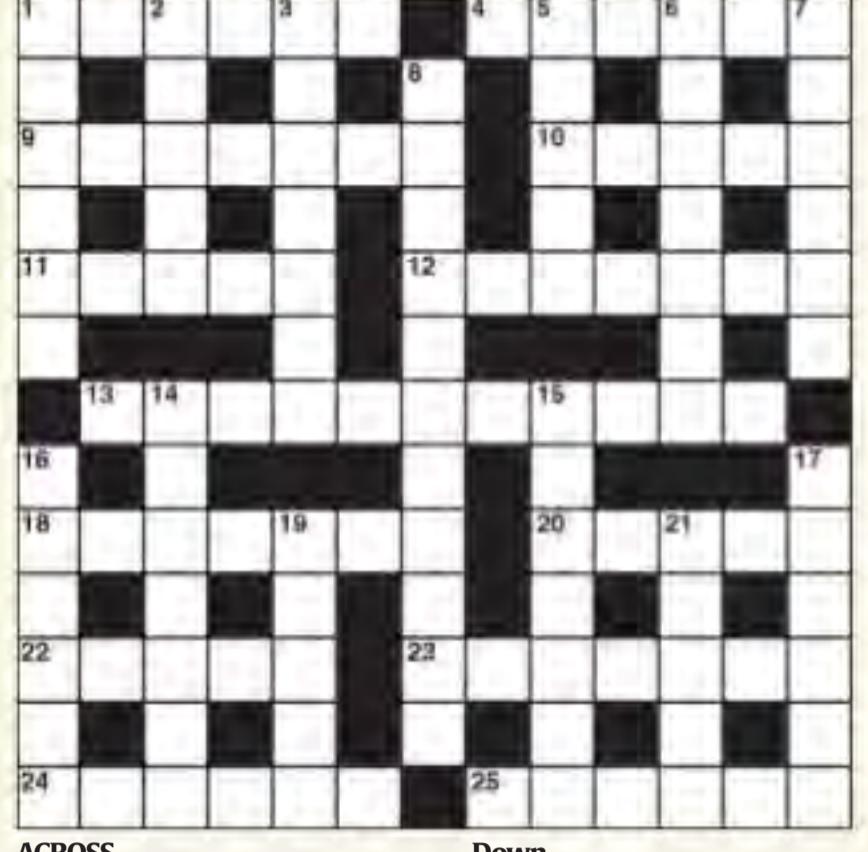
Punjab, Pakistan's most populous

province, has already made it a criminal offence for registrars to fill out the nikah nama incorrectly. But the bigger obstacle to securing brides' rights may be cultural. Ms Sarwari was lucky. Her husband had given her the right of unilateral divorce. The dowry was generous. And the imam had not tampered with the document. But her own relatives had urged her husband not to be too liberal, telling

him: "Don't give her any ideas." At the reception, an older female guest yelled at her for being too chatty, since the ideal bride is shy and demure. Whatever the legal niceties, such entrenched expectations, Ms Sarwari says, make it difficult for brides even to ask about their rights.

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## CROSSWORD 4050



ACROSS

- 1 Out of the office, but ready to receive calls? (2,4)  
4 You mash spud with it, silly! (6)  
9 Separate partnership? (7)  
10 Play some instruments (5)  
11 Class distinction (5)  
12 I see men as hostile people (7)  
13 Not even sufficient, strange as it may seem (5,6)  
18 Eager to fight but possibly fainted (7)  
20 Sort of nut that is loose (5)  
22 A class in biology (5)  
23 It's mean to keep a girl in such a long time (7)  
24 He dines out on the fourth of July (6)  
25 Anthea may be the personification of wisdom (6)

Solutions Crossword 4049: Across: 1 Explain, 5 Ducks, 8 Shadow cabinet, 9 Ethos, 10 Article, 11 Stride, 12 Emboss, 15 Estonia, 17 Onset, 19 Right to the end, 20 Dates, 21 Honesty, Down: 1 Ensue, 2 Play hard to get, 3 Aroused, 4 Nectar, 5 Debit, 6 Consciousness, 7 Sitters, 11 Sheared, 13 Moorhen, 14 Galosh, 16 Notes, 18 Toddy.

## JUMBLE WORDS

Below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quiz.

Even if you fail on your first try, you still moving forward. - Victor Kiam (4,2,4,4)

NAAER

MOCLNU

PYLOO

UFFSYT

Answers: Even if you fail on your first try, you still moving forward. - Victor Kiam  
SOLUTION: ARENA LOOPY COLUMN STRETCH

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry &amp; T Lewis



## CALVIN &amp; HOBBES by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## Difficulty Level 2s

## Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy;  
3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;  
5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



## SOLUTION SUDOKU 4130



## DAY TODAY

## ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Some of you have forgotten how to be youthful and young at heart. If you have a celestial task over the next few weeks, it is to rediscover the art of being spontaneous, joyful, and even a little irresponsible. It could feel as if a massive weight has been lifted from your shoulders.

## TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Your planets really can't decide what they're doing or where they're going, which makes your astrologer's job even more difficult than usual. Let's just accept that your stars are generally confident, and that you should finish the day odds-on.

## GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

It's because you had the good fortune to be born a Gemini that you have the right to change your mind as often as you wish. As from this month a whole range of decisions and choices are plunged into the melting pot, much to partners' annoyance. But that's their problem.

## CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Go over all financial commitments with a fine toothcomb, and try to spot the deliberate error. This is advice, by the way, which you must follow up to at least well into the next month. Another consideration is that romantic expenses are set to spiral.

## LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Certain old ideas, proposals or suggestions are now due to receive a new lease of life.

But your biggest weakness over the next two weeks could be complacency, and if a wondrous opportunity should float past, you must grab it firmly with both hands.

## VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

You've got to do what's expected of you without sacrificing your own interests. The trick is to perform your daily responsibilities with your usual skill, but avoid being sucked into a mind-numbing routine. There will be a host of little ways in which you can amuse yourself while keeping the authorities happy.

## LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Mars is playing a double game, encouraging you to go behind other people's backs now, but planning to bring everything into the open very soon. This should surely be sufficient to encourage you to behave according to only the highest standards.

## SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Your romantic predictions and aspirations are already showing a shift back towards pride and vanity, just for a short period. This means that you will expect partners to have sufficient achievements to justify your being seen with them in public.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

The best that you can hope for from several of your current stars is a large windfall, the least is the promise of financial reward some time in the indefinite future. The one qualification is that you must rely on your own efforts: luck doesn't come into it.

## CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Your adventurous energies may soon have to be put on ice, but as long as time is on your side, you may press ahead with travel plans and improvements to your personal life. However, one way or another, you should check that there is nothing amiss as soon as possible.

## AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

You are about to find that close partners or spouses, can be terribly annoying. It now looks as if someone is about to go back on their word, but the twist is that this time they're likely to be on your side. Hopefully their support will be good for you.

## PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You sometimes tend to forget just how important it is to remain physically fit. Hopefully you will now return to a diet or exercise regime that was abandoned, perhaps before you even started. Some of you may be even tackling a new competitive sport.

## WESTERN RAILWAY - AHMEDABAD DIVISION

## VARIOUS WORKS TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF RUNNING TRACK

DRMs & T acting for and behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. DRM-SnT-ADI-Sig 29 of 2019-20 closing date 19-02-2020 at 15.00. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer shall be ignored. Tender No. DRM-SnT-ADI-Sig 29 of 2019-20 (1) Name of Work: Part Supply of signaling material, installation, testing and commissioning for provision of Multi-section Digital Axle Counter to improve the safety of running track which is corrosion environment of Ahmedabad Division.

(2) Estimated Cost of Work: ₹ 4,59,73,92,50/- (Rupees Forty Crore Fifty Nine Lakh Seventy Three Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Two Rupees and Fifty Paisa only) (3) EMD: ₹ 3,79,900/- (Rupees Thirty Lakh Seven Hundred Ninety Nine Rupees only) (4) Date & Time of closing of tender and opening of tender: Not later than 15:00 hrs. of 19-03-2020 and Opening on 19-03-2020 at 15:30 hrs. (5) Website of E-Tendering: www.ireps.gov.in

SHO P.S. Narela, Delhi. The description of the missing female are as under: Age: 19 years, Height: 5'4", Face: Round,

Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Golden colour suit & red colour salwar with firozi colour shawl and sandal in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the female but no clue has come to light so far.

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

Website: http://cbi.nic.in  
E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in  
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax No. 011-24368639  
DP/1003/ON/2020

P.S. Narela, Delhi.

PH: 011- 27280435, 7065036323

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one female Namely: Priti, W/o: Sumit,

R/o: Street No. 10 B, Swatantra Nagar, Narela, Delhi has been missing / kidnapped since 10.01.2020 from the area of P.S. Narela, Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR/DD No. 60-A dated 10.01.2020 has been lodged at

P.S. Narela, Delhi. The description of the missing female are as under: Age: 19 years, Height: 5'4", Face: Round,

Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Golden colour suit & red colour salwar with firozi colour shawl and sandal in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the female but no clue has come to light so far.

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Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax No. 011-24368639  
DP/1003/ON/2020

SHO P.S. Narela, Delhi

PH: 011- 27280435, 7065036323

SEARCH FOR MISSING

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY INDORE

Khandwa Road, Simrol, Indore - 453 552

Ph: +91-731-2438700 Ext: 949/558 Email: mms@iiti.ac.in

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-Tenders are invited by IIT Indore for the following Item:

Sl. Name of Items Quantity

1. Wireless Access point 500 Nos.

For complete details including last date of submission of tenders, please visit IIT Indore website & CPPP:

[http://www.iiti.ac.in/tenders\\_tender\\_mms](http://www.iiti.ac.in/tenders_tender_mms) & <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure>

## SUDOKU 4131

## Difficulty Level 2s

## Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy;  
3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;  
5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



## SOLUTION SUDOKU 4131



## WESTERN RAILWAY- RATLAM DIVISION

## OPEN TENDER FOR UNIPOLE HOARDINGS ADVERTISEMENT

## RIGHT AT RAJKUMAR MILL BRIDGE, DADDN SIDE INDORE

Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Western Railway, Ratlam Division invites bids on competitive open single packet system E-Tender for following work. The closing time of e-tender will be as per clock available at main hall of Commercial Section, DRM's Office, Do Battl, Ratlam. (1) E-Tender Notice No.: CA11/OOH/Unipole/IND/Rajkumar Mill bridge/DADDN Side/19-20 dt. 21.02.2020 (2) Name of Work with its Location: Sole Advertisement right through open tender for advertisement through Unipole Hoardings at Rajkumar Mill Bridge, DADDN Side Indore for a Period of 10 years. (3) Description of Work: This is an open E-tender for sole advertisement right through open tender for advertisement through Unipole Hoardings at Rajkumar Mill Bridge, DADDN Side Indore for a period of 10 years. The Reserve price fixed for the first year is ₹ 16,32,000/- (₹ Sixteen Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Only) (4) Mode of Tender: E-Tendering System, (5) Estimated Cost for 10 Years: ₹ 2,19,27,377/- (₹ Two Crore Nineteen Lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Three Hundred and Seventy Seven Only) (6) Cost of Tender Form: ₹ 1000/- Tender forms are non-transferable. (7) Validity of Offer: 45 days from the date of opening of the E-Tender. (8) Earnest Money to be deposited (EMD): ₹ 4,38,600/- (₹ Four Lakh Eighty Thousand Six Hundred only) (9) Period of Work: 10 Years. (10) Address of the Office: Office of the Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial) Western Railway, Do Battl, Ratlam (M.P.) (11) Date and time for Submission and Opening of tender: E-Tender Closing Time: 19.03.2020 at 12.00 Hrs. and Tender Opening Time: 19.03.2020 at 12.30 Hrs. at Office of the Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial) Western Railway, Do Battl, Ratlam (M.P.) (12) Website: Particulars & Notice Board Location: Tender Document can be downloaded from the website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). In case due to any reason, holiday is declared on opening date, the E-tender shall be opened on next working day on same time schedule. Any other information required by the tenderer may be obtained from the office of Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial) Ratlam during the working hours.

Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial)  
Western Railway, Ratlam  
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on: [twitter.com/WesternRly](https://twitter.com/WesternRly)

D-4/1560

Principal Chief Materials Manager CLW/Kolkatta

Sidh-315 Like us on: [www.facebook.com/chittaranjan](https://www.facebook.com/chittaranjan)

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Principal Chief Materials Manager CLW/Kolkatta

&lt;p



An Omani cricketer Yousuf Abdulrahim Al Balushi has been banned for seven years after admitting to corruption charges relating to qualifiers for the men's Twenty20 World Cup. The ICC said the charges all related to the T20 qualifiers held in the United Arab Emirates last year.

## How Kiwis celebrated: Limo ride to top of hill, bottle of champagne

SANDIP G  
WELLINGTON, FEBRUARY 24

NEW ZEALAND wicketkeeper BJ Watling kept for just a session, but his work for the day was far from over. In the evening, Watling had to flip through the list of car rentals, find a sparkling white limousine, buy the most expensive champagne in town, a case of Cuban cigars, and drive his bowlers to the top of Mount Victoria, the highest peak in Wellington, a two-kilometre ride from the Basin Reserve. It's how New Zealand celebrate their Test wins at the venue.

But not all could cram into the car — just the bowlers and the wicketkeeper — which means Watling could only make space for man of the match Tim Southee, his trusted accomplice Trent Boult, who ripped through India's batting line-up in the second innings, impressive debutant Kyle Jamieson and workaholic Colin de Grandhomme. When night sets in, they would uncork the champagne and raise a

toast from the top of the mountain, from where they could get a panoramic view of the city, and its two cricket stadiums, Basin Reserve and Sky, separated by 16km.

Though the Basin Reserve has a history of 90 years, the tradition of the limousine ride started as late as 1998, when New Zealand beat India by four wickets in a thrilling Boxing Day Test, with Simon Doull taking seven wickets in the first innings and Dion Nash three, including those of Sachin Tendulkar and Mohammad Azharuddin. "It was Nash I think who came up with the idea, a spontaneous idea. Mount Victoria is the highest point in the city and at night, it looks sparkling. Then out of a whim, they borrowed a limo and drove several rounds around the Basin Reserve before zooming off to the top of the mountain," says former first-class cricketer and historian Don Neely.

But why not the batsmen? The limo can accommodate an entire team and even the support staff. But it's just the bowlers and the "keeper. "The bowlers, you know, share a spe-



cial bond, and of course, the 'keeper is their best friend. So in that team, they always hung around together, Adam (Parore), Doull and Nash and the others. And they did something cheeky, and it became a tradition. It was a symbol of togetherness, a mutual thanksgiving," elaborates former wicketkeeper Ian Smith.

### Hallowed tradition

What began as a cheeky celebration evolved into a hallowed tradition, a stamp of approval for any up-and-coming bowler. In his autobiography, *Looking Back*, Shane Bond puts it among his most unforgettable experiences. "I was initiated into another that made me feel that I am not a fly-by-nighter. The self-styled engine room of the team and the wicketkeeper would call for a limo to pick us up from the hotel. The first stop would be a bottle shop, then we will take a few laps around the Basin, the home of cricket in Wellington and one of the biggest traffic roundabouts in the world, before ending up with the champagne on top of Mount

Victoria. It's a nice idea and the engine room is highly sought after," he has written.

But not all bowlers are allowed entry. In 2002, when they again beat India, batting all-rounder Scott Styris was in the lobby, all dressed up and waiting for the limo. Then Daniel Vettori and the bowlers turned up and told him to bugger off. Styris, the story goes, was gutted.

It's entirely the wicketkeeper's discretion to pick his limo-mates, and often he would be on the wheel. They mostly prefer the night when the mount wouldn't be crowded, though it could get windy.

However, for four years there was no limo ride, for New Zealand didn't win a single Test at the Basin Reserve from 2009 to 2013, a span in which they lost three and drew four of the seven Tests. Since then, they have won five of the nine Tests. And the limo rides have become more frequent. Watling and the engine room must have had a quiet evening atop the mount and a few crazy laps around the Basin Reserve.

## SCORECARD » NZ vs India

No.1-ranked India suffer a setback as match-winners fail to deliver in the 1st Test resulting in a humiliating loss to NZ

SANDIP G  
WELLINGTON, FEBRUARY 24

AS SOON as New Zealand completed a thunderous win, someone turned on the volume of a classic 70s rock riff, Deep Purple's 'Smoke on the Water'. An irritated Virat Kohli, his fingers stuck into the ears, requested guards prowling to turn down the volume. Soon the music stopped and stifling silence spread across the ground.

An uneasy calm surrounded the Indian camp as the players stared at each other meaninglessly. Kohli plunged statue-like onto a chair in the dugout, waiting for the presentation ceremony and waiting to pack his bags and leave the ground.

It has been a season of discontent for the Indian skipper. After four years of staggering batmanship, the invariable reversal of fortune and form seems to have caught up with him. In this Test, he made 2 and 19; in the ODIs and T20Is, his scores read 9, 15, 51, 11, 38, 11, 45. It's been three months since he has scored a hundred. In fact, his last three-figure score across formats came in November against Bangladesh. A three-month drought is normal for most batsmen, but Kohli has made a monster of his own batmanship that even a blip seems like a long period.

Coincidentally — and coincidence has a wicked knack of timing — his own poor form has coincided with that of the three other pillars of India's Test team — Cheteshwar Pujara (11 & 11), Jasprit Bumrah (one wicket in the last five games) and Mohammed Shami (1/91 in Wellington). As much as India prides itself as a team that does not rely overtly on individuals — and the belief is often justified — when the pillars begin to crumble, the skyscraper begins to shake and crumble. The team is built around them, and when the nucleus is dismembered, half the battle is over.



New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell celebrates after taking the catch to dismiss India's last man Jasprit Bumrah on the fourth day of the first Test. Reuters

### KOHLI, THE DEFIANT ONE

THERE ARE few apter words to describe him. There's defiance in every stride or gesture. There's defiance in every word he utters. So when asked about his middling string of scores, he retorted: "I'm absolutely fine. I am batting really well. I feel that sometimes scores don't reflect the way you are batting and that's what can happen when you don't execute what you want to well." If he was agitated by the question, he did well to maskerade it, the captain-statesmen taking over from the master batsman. Forget the numbers — it happens to every batsman — but there's something unusually tetchy about Kohli's batting. He still looks fluent and compact most of the time, but then breaks into petulance, when he inadvertently turns scratchy and disoriented.

The knock in the third ODI at Mount Maunganui symbolised his torment, when he uncharacteristically began to step down the track to the seamers after getting beaten a few times. In the nets, he would try atypical Kohli shots like paddle-sweeps and reverse sweeps. The lack of runs seems to be grating under the skin of defiance.

In both innings in Wellington, Kohli looked nonplussed until he got out. In the first, he stabbed at a Kylie Jamieson full ball that he could have left, or played in a better manner. It was a classic Kohli dismissal, but he had with sheer practice and single-mindedness weeded out that glitch, a reason he thrived in England in 2018. It was a lapse in concentration, more than a technical glitch. But Kohli had blunted indiscretion with single-mindedness. Or defiance.

In the second innings, he perished trying to land a counter-punch on Trent Boult. It was the shot of a man losing his defiance, sans belief or conviction. Usually a master in these situations, sensing the precise moment to deliver those punches, Kohli faltered here, choosing the wrong ball and the bowler.

India were in such a situation that they needed the stability than the flash of the skipper. He defended himself: "I think that's a very thin line and a very delicate balance of when to attack and when to put bowlers under pressure which we failed to do in this match... Sometimes, they don't come off but if you try and do that for longer periods, they do tend to come off and situation changes."

It was the tired voice of a defiant man.

### PUJARA, THE TRYING ONE



Pujara is a man of sheer sweat and hard work but since the prolific tour of Australia, he has gone without a century for 12 innings. Somehow, his outside-the-off-stump judgement, which shone brightly in Australia, has gone off-kilter.

Close to half of his dismissals since have resulted from indiscretions outside off-stump. Subtle away-motion has troubled Pujara. In trying to address the weakness — exaggerated by the lack of a forward press — by looking to play as late as possible, Pujara has unearthed a new problem, the short ball. Too conscious to play the full, seaming ball on the front foot, he has become susceptible to the short ball on his body. A couple of times in the second innings, he read the length too late and the ball struck him on the glove and the arm-guard. Without Pujara's stability, India unravelled. But Pujara couldn't be blamed for not trying during his agonising 81-ball 11.

### BUMRAH, THE RESTLESS ONE



When bowling, he tries to rush through his over, like Ravindra Jadeja, almost sprinting back to the top of the run-up. And the restlessness permeates into his bowling. Like an out-of-form batsman wondering where his next run would come, Bumrah seems to be wondering when his next wicket would arrive. So he starts trying too hard, pressing himself too much, so much so that he is not even starting his run-up from the area he has demarcated with chalk. He fluffs his lines, messes his length, and the accuracy and precision go haywire. Perhaps, of all the struggles of India's main men, his is the most poignant.

Bumrah had hardly put a foot wrong in his international career, never had to wait for wickets, reputation or recognition. With wickets in South Africa, England, Australia and West Indies, his career had a magical start. How he bounces back from this setback will be a fascinating narrative.

### SHAMI, THE GRUMPY ONE



He is usually sanguine, hiding his anger and agony beneath a cheeky smile. But here he was moody, barely smiling, frequently shrugging his head, kicking the turf and self-admonishing.

There was neither direction nor sharpness, hardly got the kick off the surface, barely beat the bat, and even scarcely looked to pick a wicket. The bolt-upright seam during release was intact, but the seam wobbled in flight, which's unlike Shami. And when his bowling is not in sync, he gets scattergun. Consequently, he leaked more runs than any other Indian bowler, (economy rate of nearly four). These are usually situations that he relishes, the team's back to the wall, the strip unresponsive, his colleagues tiring. But Shami was bereft of energy, and the more he tried to self-correct, the more mistakes he began to make. He was far from the ever-smiling bowler of all conditions and situations.

### NUMBER PLATE

**10** Number of years since a team batting first in New Zealand won a Test match. Australia in 2010 were the last team to have achieved this feat.

**100** Test matches New Zealand have won after their 10-wicket win over India at Wellington.

**10** Five-wicket hauls Tim Southee has in the 72 Test matches he has played. He has a solitary 10-wicket haul.

### POSTMORTEM

## If people want to make a big deal, we can't help it: Kohli on loss

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

FEBRUARY 24

MINUTES AFTER India's 10-wicket loss to New Zealand at the Basin Reserve on Monday, Virat Kohli put on a brave front and defended his team, before going on to admit that they were completely outplayed in the match. This admission was followed by an uncharacteristic swipe at critics. "We know we haven't played well, but if people want to make a big deal out of it and make a mountain out of it, we can't help it as we don't think like that," the India captain said at the post-match media interaction. Kohli's comments had come on the back of India's first defeat in the World Test Championship, and also their first loss after seven successive wins.

"We understand that we need to play well to win, also at home. There's no cake-walk at the international level as teams will come and beat you. You accept it and that defines our character as a side," he noted. However, there's one thing that Kohli and his team-mates do not give credence to — that's outside chatter. The 32-year-old explained that his team preferred to remain insulated from all the negativity and undue criticism. "That's why we have been able to play this brand of cricket. If we would have paid attention to this outside chatter, we would again be at No.7 or 8 in the Test rankings. We don't really bother about what people are saying on the outside," the India captain said.

There are a plethora of factors that were responsible for this loss, ranging from the glaring batting implosions in both innings,



Virat Kohli after the loss against New Zealand on Monday. Reuters

"Just because we have lost one match in between all wins, doesn't mean that the belief is gone."

VIRAT KOHLI

frontline pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami being rendered ineffective and the bowlers' inability to mop up New Zealand's resourceful lower order. "That first innings put us behind and then the lead put us under more pressure. The last three wickets and those 120 runs pushed us out of the game... our bowlers toiled well, as a bowling group we've taken pride in being competitive. Till the first seven New Zealand wickets, we were really good," he explained.

Resultantly, India did not click collectively as a cohesive unit. But Kohli refrained from

dwelling on the negatives, and for a brief, fleeting moment, also reflected on the uncontrollables like the toss.

"The toss did turn out to be very important," he quipped. Some would have construed this as a lame excuse. But Kohli shifted tack and averred that a solitary defeat did not make them a bad team. "If we have lost then we have no shame in accepting that fact. It means we didn't play this game well. It doesn't mean that we have become a bad team overnight," he explained.

According to the Indian captain, it was a combination of tight bowling, backed by clever planning and brilliant execution of plans by New Zealand and Indian batsmen not putting the pressure back on their bowlers that ultimately led to their downfall. "That has got to do with good bowling

from New Zealand and partly us not pressing that momentum on to them when required. It was perfect for them because they beat us well and we allowed them to bowl well for longer periods rather than doing something about it in a partnership."

Going forward, he insisted that self-belief and confidence — two tenets that has galvanised them to becoming the No.1 team in the world — were still intact. He also exuded confidence in staging a turnaround in the next Test match in Christchurch, to start on Saturday. "We will work hard, and after four days play just like we have played all these years. Just because we have lost one match in between all wins, doesn't mean that the belief is gone. The dressing room thinks differently and the atmosphere is different," Kohli concluded.

## SIMPLY PUT QUESTION &amp; ANSWER

# Shooting in India, target in Birmingham

Chandigarh to host Commonwealth shooting &amp; archery events in 2022; medals to be counted in Birmingham tally

MIHIR VASAVDA  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 24

SIX MONTHS before they will officially be declared open in Birmingham, the 2022 Commonwealth Games will get underway in Chandigarh. This, after the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) approved India's proposal to host shooting and archery after they were omitted from the event programme.

India will spend crores to host the two sports – that lack competitiveness in the Commonwealth – in which they are expected to win more than a dozen medals. These will be added to the final tally after the Games conclude in Birmingham.

The solution was arrived at after months of posturing and negotiations and according to CGF chief executive David Grevemberg, 2022 Games will be a 'pilot programme' to check the feasibility of hosting future Commonwealth Games in different cities, and countries even. "Not every sport is not widely and regularly practiced in all countries. So we need to find sustainable ways to hosting games," Grevemberg told *The Indian Express* after the meeting of CGF's executive board, which gave its nod. "So this innovation will be a great pilot programme to future hosting process."

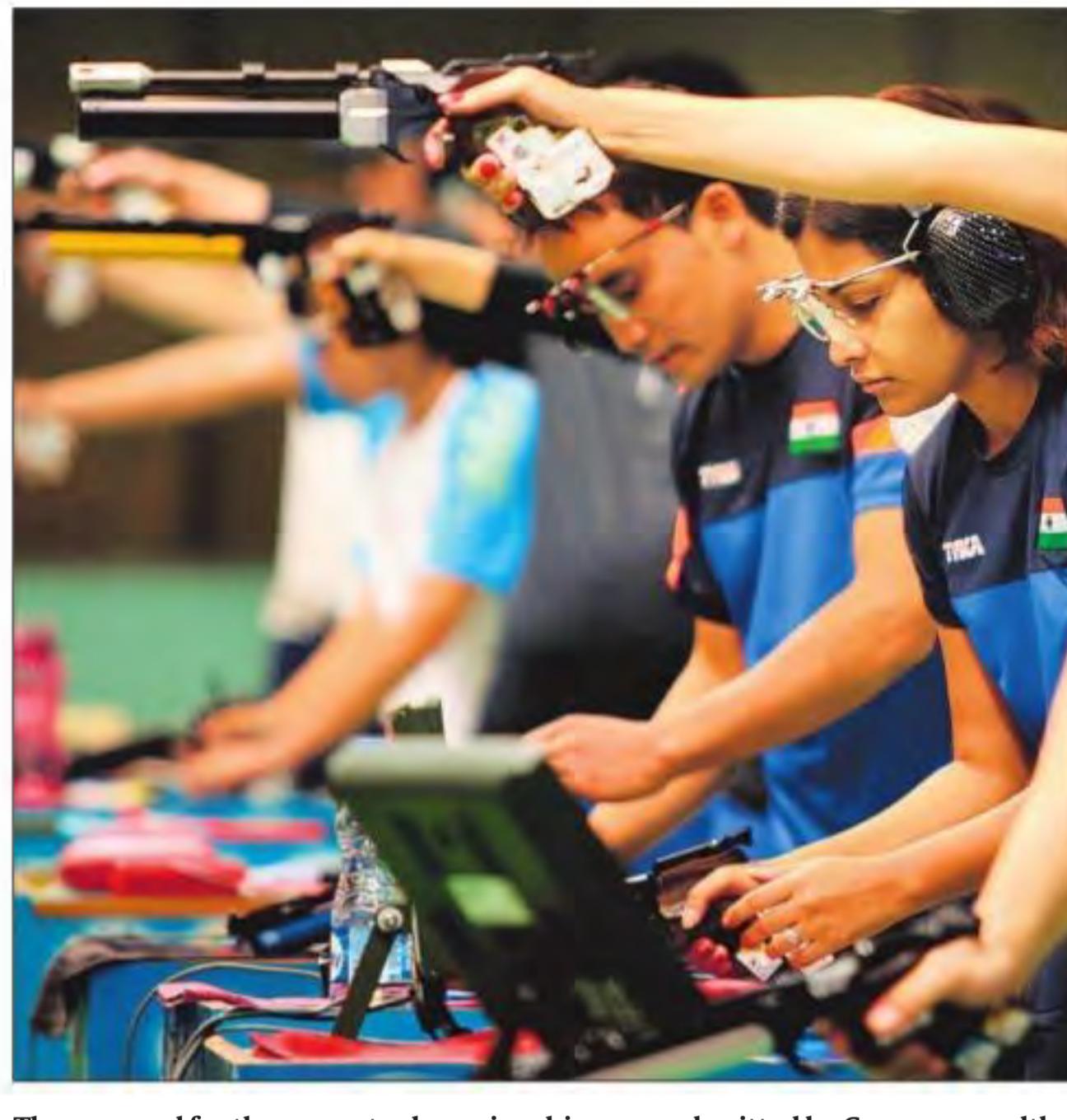
Here is a low down on how India went from being on the brink of boycotting the 2022 Games to now hosting a couple of events related to the same edition.

**Why are shooting and archery held in Chandigarh and not Birmingham?**

Simply put, because the organisers of the 2022 Games were not interested in hosting these two sports. Shooting and archery are two of the several optional sports in the CWG programme. It is standard practice for the hosts to choose events in which they are strong. For example, India excluded popular sports like basketball and triathlon from the 2010 Games, adding tennis, archery and wrestling instead.

**So if India dropped some sports as well, why did they object to shooting and archery being omitted from 2022 edition?**

That's because India wins a chunk of its medals in these events. In fact, archery was a last-minute addition to India's demand. The sport has featured in the CWG just twice – in Brisbane 1982 and Delhi 2010. But shooting's exclusion would have severely impacted India's medal count as it accounts for nearly one-fourth



The proposal for the separate championships was submitted by Commonwealth Games India, and a decision made at the Commonwealth Games Federation's executive board meeting in London. File

of the country's medals at the event.

**Did the organizers give any reasons for dropping these sports?**

It is believed that the decision to drop shooting was taken primarily because the organisers were keen to include those sports for which Birmingham and the wider West Midlands region had the facilities. The closest Olympic-standard shooting range to Birmingham is in Surrey, roughly 150 miles away. The organisers were not keen to spend money on constructing a new range just for the Games. Britain's tough gun laws, which makes it very tough for athletes to enter the country with weapons, were a deterrent as well.

**So who will foot the bill now?**

India have said they will take care of all the expenses for hosting these two events. According to the Indian Olympic Association, the budget for shooting is estimated at Rs 10 crore while Rs 3.5 crore will be set aside for archery. The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) president Raninder Singh has said they will pay for the shooting event. The cost includes return airfare, accommodation, meals, local transportation and training costs for the athletes and support staff.

**Why did India propose to host the two sports?**

Recently, sports minister Kiren Rijiju said: "If you are getting medals, whatever the way it has to be, I think it is justified..." From the fed-

eration and Indian Olympic Association's point of view, the official line has been that 'athletes should not suffer.' Indian athletes are entitled to a cash prize, government jobs and even promotions for a medal at CWG. Also, the sports that are included in the CWG get an additional budget from the government for preparation.

**Will medals won in Chandigarh counted in the overall tally?**

Yes. That was the Indian Olympic Association's primary condition. The CGF has said they will issue a "medal table that includes results from the Chandigarh 2022 Commonwealth Archery and Shooting Championships, as a further and final legitimate ranking of competing nations and territories."

**How many countries and athletes are likely to take part?**

Roughly 38 countries will take part in these two events. According to Raninder, 418 athletes, officials and CGF dignitaries are likely to be a part of the Chandigarh event. It will include 281 shooters. In archery, 175 athletes and officials are expected.

**Does this mean India are the co-hosts of the 2022 Commonwealth Games?**

It may feel like it but the CGF has said that is not the case. They have been very careful in their words, calling the event in India merely a 'Commonwealth Championship for shooting and archery.' "We need to be careful that it's not a co-hosts arrangement. It's organised separately. We have our arrangements, agreements and contracts with Birmingham. We will have a separate licensing agreement with Chandigarh," Grevemberg said, adding that there will be co-branding of the Chandigarh and Birmingham events as well.

**Will this become a norm in the future, where CWG will be held in multiple cities or countries?**

Grevemberg did not rule out the possibility. "What we have done is similar to what FIFA has done in the past with Japan and Korea (co-hosting the 2002 World Cup) or with 2026 World Cup, which Mexico, USA and Canada will co-host. For future, this allows us to explore and consider options – it has let the creative juices flowing," he said. It is worth mentioning that India has also expressed willingness to host either the 2026 or 2030 CWG.



Player-of-the-Match Shafali Verma's 17-ball 39 gave India a rousing start. ICC

## Shafali hits four sixes as India win yet again

This girl can play, tweets former England captain Nasser Hussain as Rohtak girl creates World Cup buzz

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
FEBRUARY 24

**After her 'Player of the match' performance against Bangladesh - where her 17-ball 39 went a long way in India recording an 18-run win - the Shafali buzz around this World Cup has increased. Her stunning knock had four sixes and two fours. This came after she scored a 15-ball 29 against Australia in the World Cup's opening game.**

game without much fuss.

Since her early days, Shafali has been taught by her father to go for big hits early in the innings. "She used to mostly play school matches and these would be eight-over games. These are the kind of games where you don't have enough time to build your innings, take singles and doubles. So during training sessions, I would ask her to go for her strokes very early," he had said.

Before she joined Rohtak's ultra-modern Shri Ram Narain Cricket Club, Sanjeev, Shafali and her elder brother Sahil would practice on the streets of Rohtak. When they couldn't afford to buy a hard ball, they would play with tennis, rubber or plastic balls. The three would be involved in a very competitive game of hitting sixes. "All of us would get three balls to play and the one who hit the most straight sixes would win," the father recalled. Brother Sahil says sometimes he would win and sometimes it would be his sister. "Our father would give money to the winner," he had said.

On Monday in Perth against Bangladesh, Shafali was playing as if she was at a park in Rohtak knocking with her father and brother. Facing only her second ball, she hit Bangladesh new ball bowler Jahanara Alam for a six over extra cover. In the next over, she showed the same disdain for off-spinner Salma Khatoon. She was hit over mid-wicket for a six.

Like in the tri-series where she went for the Aussie pacer, here too she made an early impact on the opposition. That is again her father's instruction. "If you hit the best bowler, you too will be seen as the best," he had said. The team management too is on the same page. After the game, India pacer Shikha Pandey said Shafali has now hit five sixes and nine fours.

Today after yet another shot cleared the long-off fence, former England captain and astute student of the game Nasser Hussain would tweet: "This girl can seriously play." Former Australian captain Lisa Sthalekar too would praise the Indian girl. "Get to a TV quick and watch this 16-year-old Shafali Verma".

By the time Shafali got out, India, batting first, were 53/2 in five overs. Going for a shot too many, she was caught at mid-off. But Shafali had given India the headstart and team would hold on to that lead and win the

## ROUND-UP

**Bengal advance**

**At Cuttack:** Bengal lost their last three wickets inside the first half-an-hour. But the victory target for Odisha was an improbable 456. The hosts moved to 39 when bad stopped play.

**Brief scores:** Bengal 332 and 373 (Shahbaz Ahmed 64) drew with Odisha 250 and 39/0;

**Karnataka to face Bengal**

**At Jammu:** Karnataka bundled out J&K inside 45 overs in their second innings on the final day to win the match by 167 runs and enter the semifinals, where they will face Bengal.

**Brief scores:** Karnataka 206 and 316 (KV Siddharth 98; Abid Mushtaq 6/83) beat J&K 192 and 163 (K Gowtham 7/54) by 167 runs.

**Saurashtra enter last four**

**At Ongole:** Andhra hung on in their second innings to deny Saurashtra an outright win, but the visitors reached the semifinals on first innings lead.

**Brief scores:** Saurashtra 419 and 426 drew with Andhra 136 and 149/4.

**Semifinal line-up:**

■ Bengal vs Karnataka (Kolkata)

■ Saurashtra vs Gujarat (Rajkot)

## BCCI mulls changes in Ranji knockouts qualification format from next season

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY  
CUTTACK, FEBRUARY 24

**THE BCCI** is likely to change the knockouts qualification format in the Ranji Trophy, bringing in pre-quarterfinals from the next season. *The Indian Express* understands that the revamp is being mulled because in the existing format, many top teams have been missing out on knockout berths, while qualification from the Elite Group C and the Plate Group appears to be relatively easier. And when the quarterfinalists from the lower rungs are facing the teams from the top tier, the mismatch is evident.

The gulf in class was obvious during the Bengal versus Odisha quarterfinal here at the DRIEMS College ground. Bengal, despite being reduced to 46/5 on the first day, cruised to the semifinal. The hosts had been poor, both tactically and skill-wise, after the pitch lost its zip. Odisha committed some elementary errors.

In another quarterfinal, Jammu & Kashmir frittered away an excellent opportunity to secure the first innings lead against Karnataka despite being just 15 runs shy of the target at one stage, with three wickets in hand. J&K folded up inside 45 overs in their second innings to lose the match by 167 runs.

**IT IS LEARNED** that at the moment, a plan is afoot to have three teams each from the Elite Group A and Group B to the quarterfinals and then organising two pre-quarterfinals involving the top teams from the Elite Group C and the Plate Group. Bengal head coach Arun Lal, however, has a different suggestion.

"Top four teams each from the Elite Group A and Group B and one team each from the Elite Group C and the Plate Group should form the pool (after the group stage). Then, have pre-quarterfinals, where the Group C toppers will face the fourth team from Group A and the Plate Group leaders will be up against the fourth team from Group B. After that we should have the quarterfinals. In that way, you will have only

two additional matches and only one extra week in the domestic cricket calendar. I will take my case to the BCCI Captains and Coaches Conclave and if they don't agree with my suggestions, I will also urge them to explain the reasons for denial," Lal said.

Senior Bengal batsman Manoj Tiwary concurred. "A change would be better, for, at the moment, some quarterfinals aren't offering the desired level of competition. The BCCI should look into this and make sure that the teams that deserve to be in the quarterfinals should go through. I think three teams from Group C and the Plate Group (two plus one) are too many." Tamil Nadu coach Diwakar Vasu extended his support to Lal's suggestion. "I totally agree with Arun bhai. That would be a great format," Vasu said.

Tamil Nadu finished ninth in the Elite cross pool and missed out on knockouts qualification. "At the moment, it's quite unfair. Another problem is that we don't know which team has got how many points, because it's not in one group. So every team is going for outright wins. If you look at the number of outright victories (this season), in the history of the Ranji Trophy, this number of outright victories has never happened," he observed.

## Pandya to play in DY Patil T20 tournament

India all-rounder Hardik Pandya is set to play in the DY Patil T20 tournament, which began in Navi Mumbai on Monday. Hardik suffered a lower back injury five months ago and underwent surgery in London. The 26-year-old, who hasn't played international cricket since then, had been recovering at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru. "The Reliance 1 (team) would be represented by players like Hardik Pandya, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Shikhar Dhawan," said Vijay Patil, President, DY Patil Sports Academy and also the President of Mumbai Cricket Association. Dhawan and Bhuvneshwar are also on their road to recovery after sustaining injuries.

## Yash clinches French Junior Open in squash

Budding squash player Yash Fadte from Goa has won the prestigious French Junior Open, and made history by becoming one of the very few Indians to win the prestigious championship. The French Junior Open was held at Lille from February 20 to 23 and is counted as one of the oldest junior squash events. Fadte, 18, was the top seed in the tournament and defeated Czech Republic's no.2 seed Marek Panacheck, 3-1 (10-12, 11-5, 11-4, 11-5) in the final. Yash now has his eyes set on the Junior World Championship.



Several of the weekend's Serie A matches in Italy were postponed due to the coronavirus scare, which has hit the northern part of the country. Reuters

## Virus may force football behind closed doors

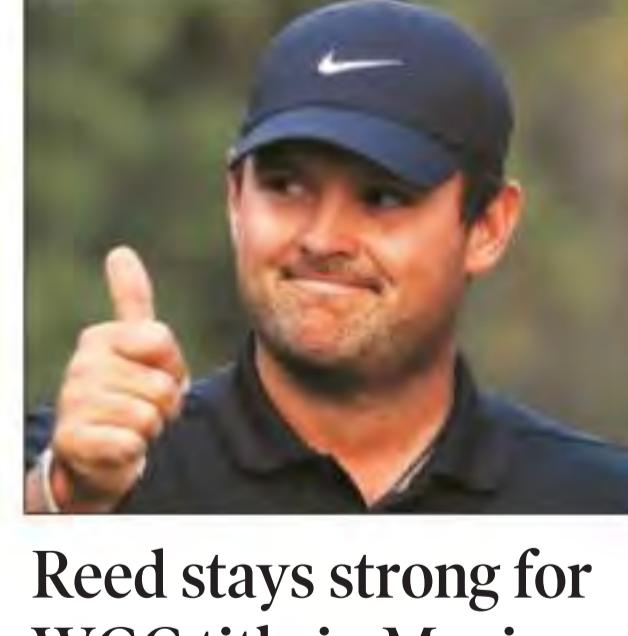
The Italian government is moving towards having football matches played behind closed doors in affected areas as authorities try to contain a spreading virus that has made northern Italy the focal point of the outbreak in Europe. Serie A president Paolo Dal Pinto sent a letter to the government on Monday asking that games no longer be postponed in the affected areas but played without fans in attendance – noting there is little time for make-up dates considering all elite football competitions must be completed by May 24 because of the upcoming European Championship. Sports Minister Vincenzo Spadafora also proposed the closed-door plan to Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte – although no final decision had been made. "Playing all sports behind closed doors for the next week could be possible, because then fans can more easily stay at home," said Maurizio Casasco, the president of the Italian federation for sports physicians. "But the clubs have to be in agreement. There's more than just soccer in Italy. It's an issue that regards all sports."

## Bazie scores as Real Kashmir beat Arrows

Real Kashmir bounced back from two consecutive defeats as they beat Indian Arrows by a solitary goal to remain in the top half of the I-League points table on Monday. Ivorian midfielder Bazie Armand scored the all-important goal in the 70th minute at the picturesque TRC Ground in Srinagar. Real Kashmir, who lost to Punjab FC and Churchill Brothers – both away games – in their previous two matches, now have 18 points from 12 games to occupy the fifth spot in the 11-team league table. Indian Arrows remained at the bottom of the pile with eight points from 13 games.

## Marcelo drives with suspended licence

Brazil defender Marcelo has been in court for driving with a suspended licence for the second time in seven years and speeding, a Madrid court revealed on Monday. The high courts of justice in the Spanish capital said that the Real Madrid left-back had admitted to the offences after reportedly being clocked driving at 134 kmph (83.2 mph) in a 120 km/h zone in December. He was subsequently found to be without a valid licence. Marcelo was told to appear at a second hearing in March when sentencing could be handed down. In March 2013, the 31-year-old was fined €6,000 (\$6,492) for driving with his licence had been revoked.



## Reed stays strong for WGC title in Mexico

Patrick Reed came through in the clutch, firing three late birdies in a four-under par 67 for a one-shot victory over Bryson DeChambeau in the WGC Mexico Championship. Former Masters champion Reed stayed patient through a frustrating front nine at Chapultepec Golf Club on Sunday, and as a string of leaders fell away powered to the victory with an 18-under par total of 266. Birdies at the 15th, 16th and 17th pushed him to 19-under for the tournament, giving him a two-stroke lead. The cushion proved enough after he pushed his tee shot at 18 well right, Reed limiting the damage to a bogey for the narrow win. DeChambeau appeared to take control with four birdies in a five-hole stretch. But a three-putt bogey at the par-three 17th proved too much to overcome as he settled for a six-under par 65 and a 17-under total of 267.

## BRIEFLY

## Fury vs Joshua fight 'will happen'

A fight between British champions Anthony Joshua and Tyson Fury for the undisputed world heavyweight title "will happen" and could be the biggest in the history of the sport, Joshua's promoter Eddie Hearn said on Monday. Hearn told Sky Sports television he would do everything possible to agree a deal, and both sides would be "clowns" and "idiots" if they did not make the fight happen. He warned, however, that while both men would want the fight to be in Britain, the money coming from overseas might be too much to turn down. Joshua, whose last fight was in Saudi Arabia, holds the WBA, IBF, WBO and IBO belts while Fury annexed the WBC belt with a seventh round stoppage of American Deontay Wilder in Las Vegas on Saturday.

## Farah in more trouble over injection use

Mo Farah repeatedly denied to the United States Anti-Doping Agency taking a legal supplement prior to the 2014 London Marathon, before changing his account once he learned the doctor who injected him had told the investigators he had taken it, the BBC reported on Monday. The four-time Olympic champion had been asked by USADA whether he had been injected with L-carnitine, a naturally occurring amino acid, as part of its investigation into his former coach Alberto Salazar.

## PSG's Neymar sent off late in thrilling win

Paris St Germain extended their Ligue 1 lead to 13 points with a 4-3 home victory against Girondins de Bordeaux on Sunday but the French champions were again exposed at the back and had Neymar sent off. A Marquinhos double, Edinson Cavani's 20th PSG goal and a goal by Kylian Mbappe put the capital side on 65 points from 26 games but they lost captain Thiago Silva to a muscle injury and Neymar picked up a straight red card for a late challenge in stoppage time. Bordeaux, who scored through Hwang Ui-jo, Pablo and Ruben Pardo, are 12th on 35 points. The supplement had been obtained through a contact of Salazar's in Switzerland. As a result of the overall investigation, Salazar has been banned from athletics for four years over doping violations.

## 'Racism has won': Rudiger disappointed

Chelsea defender Antonio Rudiger says "racism has won" and that he had been made a "scapegoat" after Tottenham Hotspur and London police said they found no evidence to back his allegation he was abused during a Premier League match in December. Rudiger was involved in an incident in which Tottenham's Son Heung-min was shown a red card and indicated shortly afterwards that he had been the victim of a monkey gesture from the home section of the crowd. However, Spurs and the Metropolitan Police said they had found no evidence of racial abuse. "Racism has won. The offenders can always come back to the stadium, which shows these people have won," Sky Sports quoted Rudiger as saying after Chelsea beat Tottenham 2-1 on Saturday. Rudiger was subjected to jeers from some Tottenham fans during the match at Stamford Bridge.

AGENCIES

## NEW BEGINNINGS

## A 20-year-old from war-torn Syria finds new goals in Khelo India

SHAHID JUDGE  
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 24

A ROAD trip, around 400 kms long, from Aleppo in the north of Syria to Beirut in Lebanon down south can be one of great risk. The highway makes its way along what was once a beautiful landscape, which has now been replaced by rubble and ash. All along you may find buildings and homes left in ruin – and in some places, the threat of snipers – as the nine years of unrest in Syria continues to this day.

Six months ago, a 20-year-old, Ahmed Habbab embarked on this journey in his first ever trip abroad, for the promise of greener pastures that were far greater than the perils of the trip. From Beirut, he caught a flight to Sharjah, then went on to Mumbai and finally landed in Bhubaneswar three days later. He's here on a scholarship, studying in the first year of a Bachelor of Technology degree at the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), but the real reason is to pursue a career in football. The irony of Habbab's decision is that



he comes from a country that was on the brink of making it to the 2018 FIFA World Cup, but is looking to launch a career in India, a world football minnow. And now

**The thing in Syria is that you cannot make a living as a professional footballer. The stadiums have been damaged quite a bit back home, so the only way to even train is to go abroad and find a club to accept you. That's what I hope to get from here."**

AHMAD HABBAB  
SYRIAN FOOTBALLER

he's gearing up for his first moment in the spotlight when he lines up for his college at the Khelo India University Games.

"The thing in Syria is that you cannot make a living as a professional footballer," Habbab says through a translator, a fellow-Syrian classmate and boxing hopeful Ali Mahfoud. "The stadiums have been damaged quite a bit back home, so the only way to even train is to go abroad and find a club to accept you. That's what I hope to get from here."

The unrest in Syria first started in 2011 when rebels sought to overthrow President Bashar Al-Assad. Hundreds of thousands of civilians have fled the country for fear of getting caught in the crossfire. Habbab too recalls that fear:

"Six years ago, when the civil war was at its peak, Habbab remembers being stuck inside his home in Aleppo with his family (four siblings and parents), as gunfire and shelling threatened to kill anyone daring to step outside."

"For 10 days we all stayed at home, with no food, no water," he says, choking as he recalls. "Stepping outside was not an option. We just had to stay indoors and wait. When things calmed down a bit, food became so expensive. For a kilogram of rice, which would normally come for 200-300 Syrian pounds, you'd have to pay 10,000. That's just what it had become."

## Revival call

Football at the time took a backseat for the budding striker who played in the Syrian youth league. The call of the hour was survival. But for those who still con-

tinued playing, they did so at their own peril. Zakaria Youssef, a footballer, was "killed in government shelling in 2012" and former national team captain Jihad Qassab's body was identified two years later, according to The Independent.

"There was also one player hit while training, and so many coaches and officials have lost their lives during that period," Muhammed Al-Fakeer, a FIFA technical delegate, had told The Indian Express in December 2018.

When the dust settled, just enough for Habbab to give football another try, the youngster was back in training. He trained and played for domestic clubs in the country, becoming immune to the faint sound of explosions in the backdrop, buoyed by the heroics of the national team that lost to Australia in extra time, in the 2018 World Cup qualifier, hoping that all this could lead him somewhere.

Then, six months ago, when he got the scholarship offer to study in India, it all fell into place. He now hopes to impress at the university games and attract a few scouts from the Indian Super League.

## Guru Nanak Dev Uni bags fencing gold

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar won two gold medals -- in senior men's epee and senior team men's sabre -- while Punjab University, Chandigarh finished on top of podium in senior team women's foil fencing event in the Khelo India University Games on Monday. Guru Nanak Dev University's first gold of the day came in the men's epee when the team of Neelkreet Singh, Udaibir Singh, Shubham and Prashar Rajan defeated their opponents from Dr BR Ambedkar University from Aurangabad 45-22. In the men's sabre finals, it was the team of Amit Chib, Sehajpreet Singh, Prince and Javed Choudhary from Guru Nanak Dev University who defeated Shivaji University, Kolhapur 45-33. PTI

## Thomas eager to silence doubters

Out of favour under Germany coach Loew, Mueller keeps delivering for club and will be key in Chelsea tie

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
BERLIN, FEBRUARY 24

A YEAR after being dumped by Germany head coach Joachim Loew, Thomas Mueller is set to showcase why he is so important for Bayern Munich – and Robert Lewandowski at Chelsea in the Champions League.

Alongside Erling Braut Haaland, Bayern's star striker Lewandowski is joint top-scorer in the Champions League with 10 goals going into the last 16, first-leg clash on Tuesday.

In order to keep him fresh, Mueller was a second-half replacement in Friday's 3-2 league win over bottom side Paderborn when Lewandowski netted twice. The Poland striker is on a career-high 38 goals after 32 games in all competitions and is happiest with Mueller alongside him.

"It's easier with Thomas next to me, he helps me out a lot," Lewandowski has said of Mueller. "We always have one player more in the penalty area when he plays, I have more space and not always two or three opponents against me."

It's no coincidence that Lewandowski is enjoying his highest goal tally just when Mueller's 14 assists in Germany's top flight also puts him near his personal best.

## Flourishing under Flick

The 30-year-old is back to his best after significant setbacks for club and country in 2019. Alongside fellow 2014 World Cup winners Mats Hummels and Jerome Boateng, Mueller was told last March he was no longer needed by Germany as Joachim Loew rebuilt his squad following the 2018 World Cup debacle. Then last autumn, Mueller found himself repeatedly benched by Bayern to make room for Philippe Coutinho, who is on loan from Barcelona. When Niko Kovac was sacked in November, caretaker coach Hansi Flick restored Mueller to the starting line-up, often at Coutinho's expense, and he has flourished. Mueller was superb in their recent 4-1 win at Cologne, drawing defenders to create goals for Kingsley Coman and Lewandowski as Bayern raced into a 3-0 lead after 12 minutes. Flick is probably wise to pick Mueller, who joined Bayern as a schoolboy in 2000 and made his first-team debut in 2009 just before his 19th birthday.

Such lengthy service means he has the ear of the club's senior bosses and an unhappy Mueller is never good for a Bayern coach in the long run. His relationship with Pep Guardiola became strained after Mueller was benched for the 2016 Champions League semi-final, first-leg defeat at Atletico Madrid.

Mueller was part of a disgruntled group of senior players whose complaints contributed to the sacking of Guardiola's successor Carlo Ancelotti in 2017 after poor results.

## Space invader

What makes Mueller unique is that he is neither a striker, nor an attacking midfielder, but describes himself as a 'Raumdeuter' – an interpreter of space. He is at his deadliest with perfectly-timed runs and quick passes so that his presence in the penalty area creates space for Lewandowski. "I like to be active in the space in behind the opposition's midfield," Mueller has said on his favourite position.

"That's where I can hurt the opponent most. I'm a mix between a striker and a midfielder – I'm a 'Raumdeuter'."

## Messi gives Barca hope

Lionel Messi has said Barcelona are not playing well enough to win this season's Champions League but his four goals against Eibar on Saturday were a reminder that with him there will always be hope.

Barca play Napoli in the first leg of the last 16 on Tuesday and will be expected to go through, even if their opponents are on a strong run, having won six out of their last seven matches, including victories over Juventus and Inter Milan.

Yet despite a whirlwind couple of months of political wrangling, remarkably Barcelona approach this tie sitting top of La Liga and with a spring in their step, in large part due



Thomas Mueller, who has five goals and 14 assists in Germany's top flight this season, during a training session ahead of their match at Stamford Bridge. Reuters

to Messi. His quadruple in the 5-0 rout at Camp Nou on Saturday was cathartic and not only because Real Madrid, whom Barca face in the Clasico on Sunday, failed to regain first place after losing to Levante a few hours later.

"It was a win we needed," said coach Quique Setien. Messi has scored seven quadruples in his career but none executed amid such an intense time of pressure, with the spotlight on the Argentine.

While other players might have sulked or crumbled, Messi delivered with another breathtaking performance that underlined his ability to drag this troubled team through even the most turbulent of periods.

"He's been in this form for 14 or 15 years and he keeps performing like this," said Setien. "He's a guarantee for any club and for any coach and that's what makes him the best player in the world. He can do things that others can only dream about." Messi could have had many reasons to feel upset but he hasn't let them affect his performances. Barcelona's board sacked Ernesto Valverde last month, despite Messi's public backing three days before, and failed to sign a striker in the transfer window with Luis Suarez and Usamane Dembele both out injured.

## No margin for error

The club's technical secretary Eric Abidal then said the squad were the main reason for Valverde's departure while the president, Josep Maria Bartomeu, has been accused of hiring a PR company that criticised key players, including Messi, in a bid to improve his image online.

Barcelona have denied the allegations but when asked in an interview with Mundo Deportivo last week if he was convinced, Messi said he would wait to see if they were true. He also admitted, "the way we are at the moment, I don't think it's enough to win the Champions League" and identified Real Madrid, Juventus, Paris Saint-Germain and Liverpool as greater threats.

## RECENT FORM

The Blues have cooled off since the turn of the year, winning just two league games, one coming this past weekend against a toothless Spurs despite missing N'Golo Kante and Christian Pulisic. Bayern are undefeated in 2020, dropping points just once to RB Leipzig in a stalemate.

However, recent performances have shown clear defensive vulnerabilities. With both teams imperfect, the tactical battle between Lampard and Hansi Flick will be one to watch.

## INTERESTING MATCH-UPS

The youthful Chelsea side going up against the experienced Bavarians offers numerous clashes that catch the eye. Star man Robert Lewandowski will go against experienced Cesar Azpilicueta. Young Fikayo Tomori could prove to be an interesting option for Chelsea while Reece James, who has dazzled fans so far, will take on the lightning pace of Alphonso Davies and Kingsley Coman in the Bayern camp. In the midfield, Chelsea's Jorginho and Bayern's Thiago will look to create chances for their front line.

RAHULASANI

## Frank Lampard has twice out-witted Mourinho this season.

manager. He had stepped up after John Terry picked up a red card in the semifinals against Barcelona. He was also on target from the penalty spot. He has guided Chelsea to fourth spot in the EPL.

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## REUTERS

FEBRUARY 24

HEADING THE ball in training sessions has been outlawed for primary school children under the age of 12 in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland as part of the Football Association's updated "heading guidance" for the game.

The English, Northern Irish and Scottish Football Associations said in a statement on Monday that they are also set to use a "graduated approach" to headers for 12 to 16-year-olds at grassroots level with immediate effect.

The heading guidelines follow last year's publication of Football's Influence on Lifelong Health and Dementia Risk (FIELD) study undertaken by Glasgow University, which found former professionals were at more risk of dementia.

The FA said the new guidelines will take effect immediately but it will not recommend an end to headers during youth matches.

"This updated heading guidance is an evolution of our current guidelines and will help coaches and teachers to reduce and remove repetitive and unnecessary heading from youth football," FA chief executive officer Mark Bullingham said.

"Our research has shown that heading is rare in youth football matches, so this guidance is a responsible development to our grassroots coaching without impacting the enjoyment that children of all ages take from playing the game."

The FIELD study did not state that heading a ball was the reason behind the increased prevalence of degenerative neurocognitive disease among footballers but the FA said the decision was taken to mitigate any potential risks.

The FA confirmed the updated heading guidance has been produced in line with UEFA's medical committee, which is seeking to publish Europe-wide guidelines later this year. Dr Carol Routledge, director of research at Alzheimer's Research UK, welcomed the new guidelines but said the sport's governing bodies must go further to find any potential links between football and dementia.

"The recent FIELD study highlighted an increased dementia risk for ex-professional footballers in Scotland," she said.

"While we don't yet know the cause or causes of this increased risk, limiting unnecessary heading in children's football is a practical step that minimises possible risks, ensuring that football remains as safe as possible in all forms."

"We need to see more research in order to unpick any link between football and dementia risk but until we know more, making sure the nation's best loved game is played as safely as possible is a sensible approach."

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MARK BULLINGHAM

FA CEO