

AS PER SUPREME COURT VERDICT

PM announces Trust for building Ram temple in Ayodhya, it gets 67 acres

UP marks 5 acres for mosque off highway, Muslim groups say wish it was in Ayodhya



PM Narendra Modi at DefExpo in Lucknow. Vishal Srivastav

PM: \$5 BN DEFENCE EXPORTS IN 5 YEARS PAGE 7

dependently on the construction of a Ram temple and related issues will be handed over the whole of the 67.703 acres acquired "to maintain the sanctity of Ayodhya and for the con-

struction of the temple, keeping in mind the needs of crores of devotees," Modi said.

On November 9 last year, a five-judge Constitution Bench of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Parasaran first trustee, 15-member Trust office has his home address

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

A FORMER Attorney General during the Congress government and the lead lawyer of the Hindu side in the Ram Janmabhoomi case, K Parasaran, will host the Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust which was approved by the Union Cabinet Wednesday.

A notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs shows the Trust's registered office at

"R-20, Greater Kailash Part-1, New Delhi, 110048" which is the residential address of Parasaran.

Sources said the Trust will operate from the residence of Parasaran. However, the Board of Trustees shall, in the first meeting, decide on a permanent office of the Trust which may also be moved as the trustees may deem fit.

Parasaran, 92, who represented the Hindu side in the Ayodhya case, was nominated a member of Rajya Sabha in 2012

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

'Is deshbhakti educating kids or debating Hindu-Muslim?'

DECISION 2020
DELHI

SOURAV ROY BARMAN,
MALLICA JOSHI
& RAHUL SABHARWAL
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5



P5
THE EXPRESS
INTERVIEW
Tashi Tobgyal

EC acts against police officer for linking gunman to AAP

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE ELECTION Commission (EC) on Wednesday barred Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) Rajesh Deo from poll duty, a day after he gave a statement to the media saying that the Shaheen Bagh shooter had joined the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) last year. The poll panel said Deo's statement was "totally uncalled for" and could "adversely impact elections".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



Delhi Police close to polls.

Azamgarh protests: UP police arrest 19 for sedition

ASAD REHMAN
AZAMGARH, FEBRUARY 5

UP POLICE Wednesday arrested 19 protesters on charges of sedition and fired tear gas shells to disperse a protest against the CAA and the proposed nationwide NRC at a park in Azamgarh.

Those arrested were among 35 persons named in the FIR, police said, including a woman identified as Munni Bano who was released "as she is a heart patient". All those arrested were sent to jail, police said.

The protesters, including a number of women, alleged that

EXPLAINED
E Underlines hard line

THE UP Police's action is in line with their crackdown on the protests in which 20 have been killed. Several have been released on bail after the court indicted police for lack of evidence.

they were pelted with stones by police who also launched a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

2 Depts object, Thackeray OKs land for Pawar-run Trust at nominal rate

EXPLAINED
SANDEEP ASHAR
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 5



Pawar chairs Vasantdada Sugar Institute

THE UDDHAV Thackeray-led government in Maharashtra Wednesday allotted a 51-hectare government plot, valued at Rs 10 crore, in Marathwada's Jalna to NCP president Sharad Pawar-chaired Vasantdada Sugar Institute on nominal rates as a "special case".

In the process, the Thackeray Cabinet, which sanctioned the proposal, overruled objections raised by the state's Revenue Department and the Finance

Department and ignored an opinion submitted by the state's Advocate General's office.

The land in question, measuring 51.33 hectares, and situated in Patharwala village in Jalna, was originally acquired by the state's Agriculture department for a state seed farm. As per an official communication, the state's offi-

cial valuers estimated the plot's market worth at Rs 9.99 crore.

A public trust formed by co-operative sugar barons in 1975, the Pune-based VSI is counted among India's premier sugar research and educational institutes.

While Pawar is VSI chairman, sitting Maharashtra ministers Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, Excise Minister Dilip Walse-Patil, Finance Minister Jayant Patil (Nationalist Congress Party), and Revenue Minister Balasaheb Thorat (Congress) are among the Board of Trustees while two other ministers Rajesh Tope

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

WORLD



VIRUS DEATH TOLL RISES TO 490, CRUISE SHIPS PUT IN QUARANTINE PAGE 14

I-T DEPT ALLEGED EVASION

Haryana Govt clears Lavasa's family in stamp duty case

RITIKA CHOPRA & SUKHBIK SIWACH
NEW DELHI, CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 5

THE BJP RULED Haryana government has given Election Commissioner (EC) Ashok Lavasa

and his family members a clean chit in a case of alleged stamp duty evasion referred to it by the Income Tax (IT) Department.

On December 27, The Indian Express had first reported the IT Department's inquiry into the transfer of an apartment in

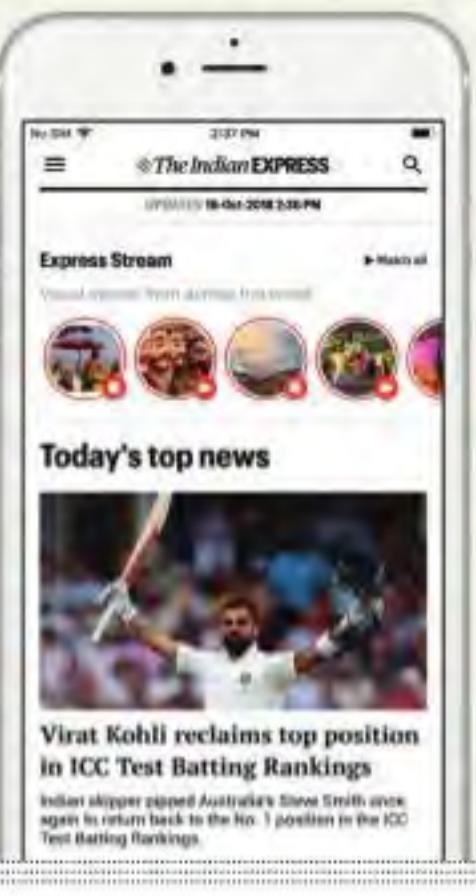
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WEST DELHI											



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VIDEO OF THE DAY



BJP STILL STRONG IN TWO DELHI SEATS, MUSTAFABAD MIGHT HAVE OTHER PLANS

Will it be that easy for BJP to hold on to all three seats? A look at the ground reality this time around reveals that even though BJP enjoys considerable support in Rohini and Vishwas Nagar, the Muslim-majority seat of Mustafabad may slip from its grasp owing to the Citizenship Act and lack of development.

EXPRESS EXPLAINED



TAJINDER BAGGA VS RAJ KUMARI DHILLON

Will Bagga able to pass the challenge of Dhillon in Harinagar

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NEW GAS FIELD IN UAE

At 80 tscf, new reservoir ranked fourth largest in the Middle East

EXPRESS AUDIO

Will the Shaheen Bagh protests strengthen the BJP campaign in Delhi?

Liz Mathew details why the BJP leadership has been lashing out against the protests as the Delhi elections draw closer, what voters in Delhi have to say, and whether the Ram Mandir trust clearance strengthens the BJP campaign

FROM PAGE ONE

Kejriwal

Shaheen Bagh, Shaheen Bagh, Shaheen Bagh", had failed, which is why an "obvious conspiracy" had been hatched to link the Shaheen Bagh shooter to the Aam Aadmi Party.

Responding to the Delhi Police claim that Kapil Baisala, who fired two shots in the air at Shaheen Bagh last week, had joined the AAP last year, Kejriwal said: "Send him to jail. If the jail term is two years, sentence him for four years if he is connected with the AAP by chance. Forty-eight hours before voting, his photos coming out are an obvious conspiracy. Nothing worked for Amit Shah ji. He first got all parties against me – LJP, JD(U), RJD, but that didn't work."

Then he brought in 200 MPs but that failed, he got 70 ministers but that failed, he got 11 chief ministers, which also failed. Then he abused me thoroughly, but that didn't work either. Then he started saying Shaheen Bagh, Shaheen Bagh, Shaheen Bagh, which failed again. Finally, Delhi Police is the last resort. They are going around with some photos, but his (Kapil's) father has said that he isn't a part of AAP."

Kejriwal also responded to Union Minister Prakash Javadekar's remark that he (Kejriwal) had admitted to being an anarchist, and that was no different from being a terrorist.

"Anarchy means the complete state of disrepair of our schools, hospitals, bijli-paani over the last 70 years... The systems are in a bad shape, and when I try to shake that up, the vested interests, the status quoists, they say Kejriwal is an anarchist," he said.

Asked whether he felt the Election Commission had done enough to curb leaders from making divisive statements, he said the poll body had "taken a few measures", but "could have done much more".

He also said that the method of protest at Shaheen Bagh, of blocking the road, "will not be acceptable in any democracy, any society. Gandhi ji would not have accepted this either".

"We are a party born from a protest. The Anna andolan was a kind of protest which did not cause inconvenience to anyone. Maine 15 din ka anashan rakha tha (I was on a fast for 15 days). But no one has the right to cause inconvenience," he said.

Lavasa family

Gurugram from Novel Lavasa, wife of Ashok Lavasa, to his sister Shakuntala Lavasa for alleged evasion of stamp duty.

The Department had flagged "discrepancies" between the income tax returns of Novel Lavasa for the financial year 2017-18 and registered transfer deeds of the property to Haryana's Additional Chief Secretary and Financial Commissioner in November last year.

While Novel Lavasa's returns, according to the IT Department, show that she sold the first floor of the four-storey building in Gurugram to Shakuntala Lavasa for Rs 1.73 crore, the registered transfer deeds reflect that she gifted the property to her husband on December 27, 2018 and Ashok Lavasa, in turn, gifted the same property to his sister, Shakuntala Lavasa, in January 2019.

CLARIFICATIONS & CORRECTIONS

04.02.2020, PAGE 8

THE HEADLINE of the report, 'CM says no compromise on Hindutva, attacks BJP for not honouring seat-sharing promise', is incorrect. It should have read 'CM says no compromise on Hindutva, attacks BJP for not honouring post-sharing promise'.

The error is regretted.

Since gift of immovable property between spouses and between blood relatives (parents, children, grandchildren and siblings) does not attract stamp duty in Haryana, no stamp duty was paid on the above transfer, the IT Department had informed Haryana government and sought a probe.

However, Haryana's Financial Commissioner of Revenue and the Deputy Commissioner of Gurugram replied last month stating that Rs 10.42 lakh had been paid as stamp duty through a supplementary deed on September 16, 2019.

The supplementary deed, a copy of which has been seen by The Indian Express, states that Novel Lavasa sold the Gurugram property to Shakuntala Lavasa for Rs 1.73 crore and the same was not shown in the transfer deeds dated 27.12.2018 and 21.1.2019. To rectify this "error and omission" and to "avoid all disputes about the ownership" of the property, stamp duty of Rs 10,42,200 was paid on September 16, 2019, the supplementary deed further states.

"After payment of Rs 10,42,200 as duty...there is no evasion of stamp duty," says the letter sent by the office of Revenue Commissioner of Haryana to the IT Department in December.

The IT Department, in response to the clean chit, has asked the state government to clarify whether such "corrections and rectification" are allowed under the law. The Haryana government has also been asked to provide a copy of the supporting documents submitted by the Lavasa family for the said rectification.

The Lavasa family, including Ashok Lavasa, have denied evasion of stamp duty. Questioning the timing of the inquiry, Shakuntala Lavasa had said that "baseless allegations" are being levelled against her family only after her "brother's dissent".

As one of the three ECs, Ashok Lavasa, on five occasions, opposed the clean chit given to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former BJP president Amit Shah on charges of violating the Model Code of Conduct during the Lok Sabha elections.

Meanwhile, responding to The Indian Express news report Wednesday on I-T report alleging cash payments and tax evasion by members of Lavasa's family, Novel Lavasa said the I-T Department's investigation was "tainted by vicious illegality". Among the allegations in the I-T report on the Lavasa family are cash deposits amounting to Rs 4.93 lakh after demonetisation; Rs 46.65 lakh paid in cash for construction of a building in Gurugram; a payment of Rs 9.57 lakh to the builder routed through the bank account of domestic help.

"This does not seem to be a report but a compendium of lies and is replete with malafide imputations intended to hurt our reputation and is not meant for the purpose of collection of any tax," Novel Lavasa wrote in an email.

"I and my family members strongly deny each and every allegation...The investigation that has been carried out over the last several months is a glaring instance of arbitrary roving inquiry amounting to 'tax terrorism' where the tax department is engaged in a vicious effort to destroy reputations of people."

Following Deo's remarks on Tuesday, Javadekar had alleged that the incident showed how "AAP instigates youth and misuses them", while Nadda had said Kejriwal had been "unmasked" and the country would "not forgive those who play with its security".

AAP's Singh, who was purportedly seen with Baisala in photos released by the police, shot back: "BJP and Home Minister Amit Shah are using all kinds of tactics and hatching conspiracies. My photo is being used by them

the fact that the investigative officers have focused on non-tax matters like the manner in which I was appointed independent director in reputable companies and whether stamp duty was paid on a property transaction, which was eventually established beyond doubt by the relevant state authorities."

Her son Abir Lavasa said in an email: "The so-called conclusions are premeditated and malicious and motivated with a view to tarnishing our image and harm the future of the members of the family. All my ITRs have been filed in accordance with law and I have paid all taxes as due and as advised by my tax consultant."

EC action

Deo had said on Tuesday that Kapil Baisala, who had fired twice in the air at Shaheen Bagh on February 1 before being caught by the police, and his father Gaje Singh were AAP members.

"We have recovered photos which show that a year ago, Kapil Baisala and his father had joined AAP. Further investigation is on. Photographs were deleted from his phone, but we recovered them with help from technical experts. When we had questioned him initially, he had told us he joined AAP in the first part of 2019. We are trying to establish the exact date. There are photos that establish this and he has agreed to these photos," he had said.

Deo's statement had sparked

a political row, with BJP president J P Nadda and Union Minister Prakash Javadekar targeting the AAP, and AAP's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh alleging a conspiracy by Home Minister Amit Shah. The AAP had said it planned to approach the Supreme Court.

The EC said a "warning" should be issued to Deo, communicating the "dissatisfaction of the Commission on his conduct". Deo did not respond to calls by The Indian Express.

In its letter to the Commissioner of Police on Wednesday, the EC said it had "considered the matter in its entirety". "It shall be ensured that Shri Rajesh Deo is not assigned any work/ matter related to the ongoing election to the Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi," it said, asking for a compliance report in this regard by Thursday 6 pm.

"I am directed to say that an incident of Shri Rajesh Deo, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Crime (SJR&SC) speaking to the media on February 4, on an investigation which has political connotations has been brought to the notice of the Commission. A report obtained in this connection shows that Shri Deo, referring to an investigation into an incident of a firing in the protest site in Shaheen Bagh, made statement to the media that the accused along with his father had joined a particular political party a year ago and the conspiracy angle will be established," the EC said.

The Commission has considered the matter in detail and is of the considered view that the above-referred statements referring to a political party at this stage, even as the investigation is still going on, has the effect of adversely impacting the elections. This action was totally uncalled for. The conduct on the part of Shri Rajesh Deo has consequences on the holding of free and fair elections," it said.

"I and my family members strongly deny each and every allegation...The investigation that has been carried out over the last several months is a glaring instance of arbitrary roving inquiry amounting to 'tax terrorism' where the tax department is engaged in a vicious effort to destroy reputations of people."

Following Deo's remarks on Tuesday, Javadekar had alleged that the incident showed how "AAP instigates youth and misuses them", while Nadda had said Kejriwal had been "unmasked" and the country would "not forgive those who play with its security".

AAP's Singh, who was purportedly seen with Baisala in photos released by the police, shot back: "BJP and Home Minister Amit Shah are using all kinds of tactics and hatching conspiracies. My photo is being used by them

PM announces Trust with 67 acres for building Ram temple

the Supreme Court, in a unanimous verdict, ruled that the entire disputed land be handed over to a trust to be constituted for construction of a Ram temple and that Muslims, in the name of "equity", be given five acres of either the acquired land near the site or at a "suitable prominent place in Ayodhya" for building a mosque. It gave the Centre three months to "formulate a scheme pursuant to the powers vested in it under Sections 6 and 7 of the Acquisition of Certain Area at Ayodhya Act 1993".

The apex court gave the Centre a three-month timeline to set up the trust for the temple at the site where the Babri Masjid had been demolished on December 6, 1992. The apex court also ordered handing over of a 5-acre plot to Uttar Pradesh Sunni Waqf Board and setting up of a trust for construction of the Ram temple.

Making what he called an "important and historic" decision, the Prime Minister lauded the people for displaying "remarkable faith in democratic processes and procedures" after the Supreme Court verdict.

The Prime Minister said the Uttar Pradesh government has agreed to provide land for a mosque and hand it over to Uttar Pradesh Sunni Waqf Board – five acres in Dhananjaypur village in Ayodhya on the Lucknow highway, on the Lucknow highway.

Shah was present in the Lok Sabha while the Prime Minister made the announcement.

There are people of all communities in India whether they are Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis or Jains – we are all part of a larger family. All members of this family develop, they live in happiness, they are healthy, the country prospers – with this sentiment my government is going ahead with the mantra of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas," Modi said.

In the Lok Sabha, as Opposition MPs sat silently, Modi urged everyone to support the construction of a "magnificent" Ram Temple in Ayodhya. As the Prime Minister concluded his statement, BJP MPs thumped the desk with chants of "Jai Shri Ram".

Uttar Pradesh Cabinet Minister and spokesperson Shrikant Sharma said the state government had identified three places for the proposed mosque and finally a plot was identified keeping in mind not just good connectivity, public ease but also "communal harmony" and "law and order".

The plot is about 200 m away from the Raunahi police station. It belongs to the Government and falls outside the "Panch-kosi" and "14-kosi" parikrama marga in Ayodhya town – a demand of seers in Ayodhya. It is near Muslim-dominated villages. One of the litigants, Iqbal Ansari, welcomed the Government's move but added that it would have been better had the plot been in Ayodhya. He said he would propose to build a "dharamshala and school" on the land. Ansari said that the Government had wrongly interpreted "Ayodhya". In the original case, it referred to Ayodhya town but the Government changed the name of the Faizabad district to Ayodhya and has provided land in Raunahi area of Ayodhya district. He said that he hoped the Government would decide after speaking with other litigants.

Said Zafaryab Jillani, member of All India Muslim Personal Law Board and AIMPLB as well as Babri Masjid Action Committee: "While the land has been given to Sunni Central Waqf Board and AIMPLB as well as Babri Masjid Action Committee had already made their stand clear that they are not in favour of taking any land in replacement of a mosque, we need to point out that neither the land is in prominent place nor it is in Ayodhya, which the actual case relates to."

"Faizabad jile ka naam badal dena se woh Ayodhya nahi ho jayegi" (By changing the name of Faizabad district as Ayodhya, it would not become that Ayodhya), he said.

The Sunni Central Waqf Board chairman could not be contacted.

Fadnavis government took over, there was little movement on the proposal till 2017, when the Agriculture Department finally surrendered the land to Revenue authorities. In December, Thackeray visited VSI where the issue of land allotment was reportedly discussed.

Meanwhile, in another decision, the state government sanctioned a Rs 1800-crore government guarantee to the Maharashtra State Cotton Marketing Federation for procurement of cotton at fair and remunerative prices from cotton growers in the state.

Azamgarh

lathi-charge at the site. The police denied they had conducted a lathi-charge but acknowledged that tear gas shells were used against protesters at Jauhar Ali Park in the Kasimganj area.

Bilariyaganj Station Officer, Manoj Kumar Singh, said "six-seven tear gas shells were used on Wednesday morning". There was no lathi-charge...The rioters started pelting police with stones and also women sitting inside the park. Then, tear gas shells were used. The women got hurt because of stone-pelting by people who had gathered near the park," Singh claimed.

The protesters, who had gathered on Tuesday afternoon, claimed that police "surrounded the park from all sides" at around 4 am Wednesday, and beat the "boys and men who were standing nearby".

They claimed that when the women questioned the police action, they were pelted with stones. "Then, the men and boys were caught and arrested. After that, we were lathicharged. Some women have sustained injuries," claimed a 45-year-old woman protester.

"All through this, police used communal slurs and all kinds of abuses," claimed the woman, who refused to be identified fearing a "backlash".

The protesters also alleged that "after the women vacated the park, police flooded" the site with water to prevent them from gathering there again.

In a statement, however, district police claimed that the presence of women and children, who were "put at the front and were holding stones and lathis", was "part of a conspiracy".

"They were raising slogans against the government, nation... They were saying they will snatch azadi and will get azadi anyhow. They were making hateful announcements against the Hindu religion. They were abusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi and also Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath," the statement claimed.

At least one woman – Saroj Bano (65) – was seriously injured in the incident. "My mother sustained an injury to her head and was operated upon today. Doctors say her brain has been damaged. We live next to the park and when there was chaos, she went out to check and was injured. I don't know who threw the stone that hit her," said Bano's son Bilal.

"Doctors have said that she is out of danger," he said.

An FIR was lodged at Bilariyaganj police station under various IPC sections, including 124-A (sedition), 147 (rioting), 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups), 504 (insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), 307 (attempt to murder), 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and under sections of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act and CLA Act.

Azamgarh police have also announced a reward of Rs 25,000 for information on three persons accused of rioting. They have confiscated four motorcycles claiming that they "were used by the rioters".

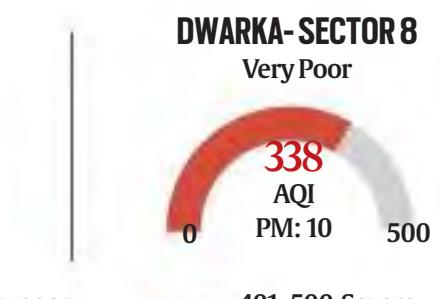
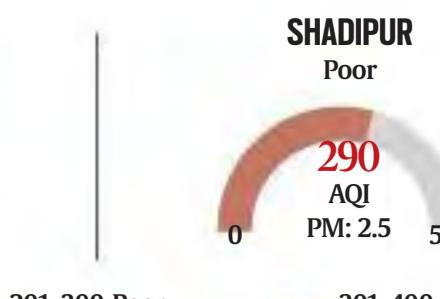
Parasaran named first trustee

during the UPA Government. He has also served as Attorney General under two Congress Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi between 1983 and 1989.

Sources said that the Trust has members from across the country. Parasaran is the first trustee among the 15.



0-50 Good

**'CANNOT BE HANGED SEPARATELY'**

Dec 16 rape convicts get 7 days to avail legal remedies

PRITAM PAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE DELHI High Court Wednesday fixed a seven-day deadline for the four death row convicts in the December 16 gangrape-murder case to exhaust legal remedies available under the law, and ruled that the "death warrants of all the convicts be executed together, but not separately."

It cannot be disputed that all convicts have been found to be guilty of a heinous offence of rape coupled with a bone chilling murder of a young girl which shocked the conscience of the society at large," Justice Suresh Kumar Kait said.

He added the death warrants be commuted together, as convicts of the same crime cannot be hanged separately: "So long as life lasts, it is the duty and endeavour of the court to give to the provisions of our Constitution a meaning which will prevent human suffering and degradation."

Therefore, Article 21 is as much relevant at the stage of execution of the death sentence as it is in the interregnum between the imposition of that sentence and its execution... all procedure, no matter what the stage, must be fair, just and reasonable," the judge said.

Justice Kait rejected the Centre's appeal against a Delhi court's January 31 order staying the execution of the convicts — Mukesh Singh, Pawan Gupta, Vinay Sharma and Akshay

Kumar Singh — until further orders, but gave them the power to deal with the situation after seven days "as per law without delay".

He remarked that convict Mukesh could not be segregated only because he has been sincerely following his remedies.

The court also expressed displeasure over the government and authorities for failing to take steps since May 5, 2017, when the Supreme Court had dismissed criminal appeals of the convicts.

"Nobody had bothered to execute the death warrant. All authorities were waiting and sleeping since May 2017," said the court.

Initially, the four were to be hanged on January 22, which was later fixed for February 1.

The trial court order could not be executed as some of the convicts were to exercise their legal remedies.

The court had postponed the execution of the death warrants, saying the country cannot afford to discriminate against a death row convict in pursuit of legal remedies.

After the setback, the Centre and Delhi government moved the Supreme Court against the rejection of their plea.

As of now, Mukesh has exhausted all legal remedies. The curative petitions filed by Vinay and Akshay have been rejected by the apex court. President Ram Nath Kovind rejected the mercy plea of Vinay on February 1, and that of Akshay on Wednesday.

Pawan is yet to file his curative and mercy petitions.

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

A DAY after Delhi Police said a man, who fired two shots in the air at Shaheen Bagh last week, had joined the Aam Aadmi Party last year, the accused's father maintained that the family has no political affiliations, and insisted that his son was the Prime Minister's "sewak".

Kapil Baisala was arrested from Shaheen Bagh after firing two shots. On Tuesday, police released photos of Kapil and his father Gaje Singh joining AAP last year, starting a fresh political row days ahead of voting.

On Wednesday, Gaje Singh claimed the photos showed a mere "welcome" accorded to party leaders Atishi and Sanjay Singh when they visited the area for canvassing during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

"My son works in the dairy with me. Any person can verify that I never shared the stage



The house of the shooter's father in Dallupura. Amit Mehra

with an AAP leader. Any association is false. There is no denying my son supported Modi and was a *sewak*... the road blockade and traffic snarls (at Shaheen Bagh) bothered him. But I don't know what drove him to this step. I came to know about the incident through the media later," Singh told reporters.

Locals at Kapil's Dallupura village, however, said Singh was an AAP member for a brief period, and Kapil had joined alongside him.

The Indian Express tracked

people in the photographs released by police. In one of them, Kapil's relative Fateh Singh is standing with a bouquet next to Yogesh Dedha, an AAP Gujar leader who unsuccessfully contested municipal polls in the past, as Singh and Kapil wear AAP caps.

"This photo was clicked in Dallupura; all of us had gone there to be a part of canvassing but not in an official capacity. Gaje Singh is a respected person and he was there because of that," said Fateh Singh.

Dedha added that it was a "one-time thing" during canvassing and that there was no interaction post that.

Sources said Singh approached local AAP leaders in the run-up to the 2019 Lok Sabha polls and expressed his wish to contest from Jangpura, which the party was not willing to give. But since that did not materialise, Singh soon went his own way.

Kapil, too, had accompanied his father once or twice during meetings with AAP, a source said.

Jamia protester granted bail for lack of evidence

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

CITING LACK of material evidence, the Delhi High Court on Wednesday granted bail to a 21-year-old man arrested on December 16 last year in connection with the protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) at Jamia Millia Islamia during the anti-CAA protests.

This is the first case of bail being granted to an accused in the incident. The lower courts have, meanwhile, granted bail to all others arrested during the protests in Darya Ganj and Seelampur.

Jaffar was represented by his counsel, Trideep Pais, Surabhi Dhar and N Khaitan.

The court granted Jaffar bail on his furnishing a personal bond of Rs 5,000 and surety of an equivalent amount.

The court has directed him to mark his presence at Jamia Nagar police station every Monday.

olent act."

Jaffar was arrested with nine others on December 16, following the outbreak of violence at Jamia Millia Islamia during the anti-CAA protests.

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ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

AFTER THE Delhi High Court asked Board of Studies (BoS) of Schools and Special Centres at JNU to hold meetings and give recommendations on the conduct of classes and end-semester exams, only three of the 18 have okayed holding exams through alternative modes, including email and WhatsApp. Two others have gone with a mix of regular and alternate mode.

Among the 13 others, two Schools have decided to cancel the exams held through the alternative mode, and said they will be held in the regular mode again.

The School of Languages, Literature & Culture Studies said

Disquiet in Shaheen Bagh over woman posing as protester

SUKRITA BARUAH & SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

SHAHEEN BAGH witnessed commotion Wednesday morning after a burqa-clad woman, later identified as Gunja Kapoor, was caught allegedly recording protesters using a hidden camera.

Kapoor runs a YouTube channel called "Right Narrative" with under 6,000 subscribers, and her Twitter bio reads "analyst, amateur writer".

The pinned tweet on Kapoor's account is a screenshot of PM Narendra Modi's account following hers, with the caption:

"I couldn't have asked for a happier New Year gift! Thanks a ton PM @narendramodi ji for this acknowledgment. We are your foot soldiers in building India as the Vishwa Guru."

In videos doing the rounds on social media, protesters can be seen questioning Kapoor about her intentions, and she can be

protests. On February 3, she posted a two-minute video titled 'Himmat kaise hui Kejriwal?' over his alleged "derogatory remarks against Purvanchalis".

On January 29, she posted a video of an interview with JNU V-C Jagadesh Kumar, where she asked him why news of "anti-national sloganeering" and "students protesting on the streets" come only from JNU.

Saqib, a volunteer at Shaheen Bagh, said: "We asked her to show her Aadhaar card, which showed she is not Muslim. We have no problem with people coming here, but why did she feel the need to pretend to be Muslim and change her identity?"

DCP (South East) R.P. Meena said: "Local police took her out and she was released soon after."

Later, Kapoor tweeted: "I am safe & sound. Thank you everyone for your prayers and support. I am overwhelmed by it. Special thank you & gratitude to @DelhiPolice" She could not be contacted for a comment.

heard identifying herself as 'Barkha'.

Upasna Sharma, a social worker who was at the protest, alleged, "She was sitting among the women in a burqa and attracted suspicion when she started asking a group why they were protesting. People noticed she was repeatedly fiddling with her collar, where we later found a hidden camera."

On Tuesday, she had posted a video on her channel criticising the protester whose four-month-old baby died, allegedly due to exposure to the cold at the

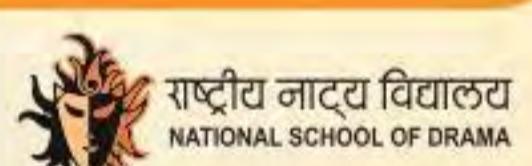
BRIEFLY

Proceedings begin against 58 builders

Gurgaon: The Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority in Gurgaon has begun penal proceedings against 58 builders for offences where penalties may go up to a total of Rs 300 crore, officials said.

Man 'sexually assaulted' minor, held

New Delhi: A 25-year-old man was arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting his neighbour, a five-year-old girl, police said. ENS



त्रिवेन्द्र सिंह रावत

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तराखण्ड

प्रेक्षागृह के लोकार्पण

और

संस्कृति विभाग, उत्तराखण्ड एवं राष्ट्रीय नाट्य विद्यालय, नई दिल्ली के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में आयोजित

21 वें भारत रंग महोत्सव के उद्घाटन

(अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय नाट्य महोत्सव)
के अवसर पर आप सादर आमंत्रित हैं।मुख्य अतिथि
त्रिवेन्द्र सिंह रावत

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तराखण्ड

विशिष्ट अतिथि

सतपाल महाराज

मंत्री, संस्कृति, धर्मस्व, तीर्थांत, पर्टन, सिंचाई, उत्तराखण्ड

यनानन्द गगोड़िया

उपाध्यक्ष (राज्य मंत्री स्तर)

संस्कृति, साहित्य एवं कला परिषद्

अध्यक्षता

उमेश शर्मा (काऊ)

विधायक रायपुर, देहादून

दिनांक : 06 फरवरी, 2020 | सार्व : 5.30 बजे

स्थान : नवनिर्मित प्रेक्षागृह, निकट आकाशवाणी केन्द्र, रिस्पना पुल, देहादून

संस्कृति विभाग, उत्तराखण्ड



उत्तराखण्ड शासन

कार्यक्रमगुरुवार
6 फरवरी6.00 बजे सार्व : उद्घाटन समारोह - तत्पश्चात, हिन्दी नाटक की प्रस्तुति
चारूदत लेखक : महाकाली भास - निर्देशक : भूषण जोशी
समूह : गाया नाट्य दल, दिल्ली, अवधि : 1 घंटा 30 मिनटशुक्रवार
7 फरवरीअ ह्यूमेन एण्डेवर - लेखक एवं निर्देशक : शिल्पिका बोर्डेलोई
समूह : ब्राह्मपुत्र कल्वरल फाउण्डेशन, जोरहट
अवधि : 1 घंटा, भाषा : असमियाशनिवार
8 फरवरीग्रीज द्याका टिट्स - लेखक एवं निर्देशक : निशांत डिसिल्वा एवं रजिता हेतियारच्ची
समूह : आनंद झामा, श्रीलंका
अवधि : 1 घंटा 05 मिनट, भाषा : अंग्रेजीरविवार
9 फरवरीबोलियिन स्टार्स - लेखक : पी.बी. शजिकुमार - निर्देशक : अरुण लाल
समूह : लिटिल अर्थ स्कूल ऑफ थिएटर, पलवकड़ (केरल)
अवधि : 1 घंटा 20 मिनट, भाषा : मलयालमसोमवार
10 फरवरीद्रेजिडी ऑफ़ फ्लाशवाई - लेखक एवं निर्देशक : आजाद अबुल कलाम
समूह : प्राच्यनाट, बांगलादेश - अवधि : 2 घंटे 20 मिनट, भाषा : बंगालीमंगलवार
11 फरवरीमहाभाज - लेखक : मन्जु भंडारी, अनु : बिप्लब प्रतीक
निर्देशक : अनप बराल, समूह : मण्डला थिएटर, नेपाल
अवधि : 2 घंटे 20 मिनट, भाषा : नेपालीबुधवार
12 फरवरीनासिका पुराण - लेखक : अशोक मुखोपाध्याय - निर्देशक : बिप्लब बंघोपाध्याय
समूह : मिनर्वी रेपर्टरी, कालकाता - अवधि : 2 घंटे 30 मिनट, भ



I HEREBY DECLARE

DHARAMPALAKRA (61)
AAP, Mundka

TOTAL ASSETS (2020)

₹291 Cr

MOVEABLE ASSETS

₹3.37 Cr

CASH: ₹ 87,000

JEWELLERY: ₹ 7.6 lakh

IMMOVABLE ASSETS

₹288 Cr

Assets

Agricultural land	₹89 cr
Residential buildings	₹18.09 cr
Commercial buildings	₹80 L

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION:

Mechanic (Diesel) from ITI Pusa, Delhi, 1978-79
*includes Rs 4 lakh from spouseROCKY TUSEED (25)
Congress, Rajinder Nagar

TOTAL ASSETS (2020)

₹55,574

MOVEABLE ASSETS

₹55,574

CASH: ₹ 21,000

IMMOVABLE ASSETS

NIL

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION:

MA, University of Delhi, 2019

SHAHEEN BAGH FINDS ANOTHER MENTION IN SPEECH

Feb 11 results will come as a shock to everyone: Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday termed the February 8 Delhi elections a contest between two "ideologies", and asserted that the poll results will come as a shock to everyone. "This election is related to the security of the country and Delhi. This is an election between two ideologies, and I am waiting to see which ideology people of Kondli are associated with," he said.

In an election meeting in East Delhi's Kondli, Shah kept up his attack on the ruling AAP as well as the Congress, saying that they opposed the BJP on issues such as the Citizenship Amendment Act, Ram Temple and abrogation of Article 370 because of the fear of their "vote bank".

"Are you their vote bank?" he asked the crowd, to which they replied: "No". "Who is their vote bank?" he asked the gathering, which shouted back: "Shaheen Bagh".

Shah urged people to vote along with their families before 10.30 am on February 8 to make Delhi and the country safe.

"I know your decision, the results on February 11 will shock everyone," he said.

Shah has been spearheading BJP's Delhi election campaign with a whirlwind series of meetings and roadshows. "Delhi elections are not a contest between two parties, you have to choose between two ideologies — Rahul Baba, Kejriwal and company, who support Shaheen Bagh (protest), or Modi, who is safeguarding the country."

Shah also attacked Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, calling him "number one liar" and alleging his government failed to fulfill its



Amit Shah and Gambhir at East Delhi's Kondli. Amit Mehra

promises of installing 15 lakh CCTV cameras, procuring 5,000 DTC buses, opening 1,000 schools, regularising temporary workers and providing free WiFi facility.

Shah promised to grant prosecution sanction against JNU sedition case accused Kanhaiya Kumar and Umar Khalid, as well as against JNU PhD student Sharjeel Imam, within one hour of BJP forming the government in Delhi.

"As soon as Sharjeel's statement came to light, Kejriwal tweeted asking for his arrest. I said that for the first time, Kejriwal is talking about patriotism. I immediately got him arrested and he was put behind bars.

"But now that prosecution sanction is

CM invites Shah for public debate

New Delhi: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Wednesday invited Union Home Minister Amit Shah for a public debate on any issue, saying the people of the national capital wanted to know why they should vote for the BJP in the February 8 Assembly polls.

He also asked why the BJP did not clear the roads near Shaheen Bagh, where a public protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) has been going on for nearly two months, and said the party was doing "dirty politics" over the issue to grab power in Delhi.

He said Shah was seeking people's votes saying he will decide who the next chief minister of Delhi will be. "How can the people of Delhi give you (Shah) a blank cheque? They are not fools," said the AAP chief. PTI

needed against Kanhaiya, Umar Khalid and Sharjeel, he (Kejriwal) has not given permission," Shah said. "My throat has run dry asking him if he will give permission or not."

He also assured that the Centre's health scheme, Ayushman Bharat, will be implemented soon after his party forms the government in Delhi.

The Home Minister ended his speech with his trademark appeal: "Press the EVM button on February 8 in Kondli with such anger that its current shocks Shaheen Bagh."

In Old Delhi, Priyanka comes armed with a report card of her own



Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi with the party's Chandni Chowk candidate Alka Lamba and Ballimaran candidate Haroon Yusuf. Anil Sharma

During Congress rule, there were 602 mohalla clinics, which were then called medical dispensaries, AAP started only 190 new clinics. If we talk about roads, Congress constructed roads covering over 5,000 km while not a single new road was built in AAP's regime. The Congress introduced 6,800 new buses, while only 3,800 buses were brought by AAP. The fourth phase of the Delhi Metro has been lying pending, 78 flyovers were built by us and even the upcoming 12 flyovers were planned when Congress was in power. Regularisation of 1,500 unauthorised colonies was done by us. AAP failed to do anything for Lokpal and there was no audit on power companies, which was promised in the last polls," she said.

Rahul Gandhi, meanwhile, targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi for rising unemployment, alleging that the development of the country has stalled as a result.

"Earlier, youth used to plan for a future while going to school and colleges. But today, students don't know what will happen to them the next day. They are scared and Modi takes advantage of this fear. Modi doesn't want the youth to be employed. Kyunki uski (Modi) rajneeti ka oxygen berozaa hai," said Rahul, adding that both Kejriwal and Modi can spread lies for hours without consuming food and water.

Taking on Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Rahul exhorted people not to listen to his speeches. "Unme itna kachra hai ki aap suno hi matt. Itna gand nikalta hai us aadmi ke mukh se, usse aap suno hi matt (His speeches are full of trash, you should avoid listening to him)," he said.

"Congress started four new universities, while AAP failed to build a single university. Twenty-one hospitals were constructed by the Congress in Delhi, AAP did not start a single one. The Congress added 22,000 new beds in hospitals, while they managed to add 3,000," he said.

In Kasturba Nagar seat, a toss-up between candidate and the party



The three candidates: (from left) BJP's Ravinder Choudhry, Congress's Abhishek Dutt and AAP's Madan Lal. Express

will have to see how it affects the results. Pichhli baar AAP ki aandhi thi. Iss baar hawa hai, par aandhi nahi hai," he said.

However, in areas like Kotla Mubarakpur, which is part of the constituency, but does not fall under Dutt's area of jurisdiction, there seems to be more of a tilt towards AAP.

"The BJP should have fielded Pahelwan, who is approachable and always there to help people, but they didn't. As a candidate I like Dutt most, but as a party I am tilted towards AAP. They have done good work in the field of education," said Akash Baisoya (21), a DU student who lives in the area.

Saurabh Chaudhary (33), a property dealer from the area, said, "AAP has installed sewage lines, and made water and electricity free. The party is doing good work all over Delhi. If BJP had fielded Pahelwan ji, it would

have been a very tough fight. But since Dutt has not been a councillor from this area, and Choudhry is not as strong a candidate, AAP has the advantage," he said.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Dutt acknowledged that the perception of Congress not being in the fight was a concern for many voters, but said voters had faith in him that he would do good work. He also brushed aside doubts that he would not get votes from areas like Kotla

Mubarakpur.

"I'll get more votes in Kotla than I'll get in my wards. I have been speaking to people for the last three months about the work we have done, and I'm very positive we will get votes. The current MLA has not done any work," he said.

Lal and Choudhry did not respond to calls and messages.



TALL ORDER

Wrestler Dalip Singh Rana, better known as The Great Khali, campaigns for the BJP at Chandni Chowk on Wednesday. Praveen Khanna

For calling CM 'terrorist', BJP's Parvesh gets fresh campaign ban

New Delhi: The Election Commission Wednesday imposed a 24-hour campaign ban on BJP MP Parvesh Sahib Singh for calling Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal a "terrorist" in an interview. He had earlier been banned for 96 hours for making the statement that Shaheen Bagh protesters could "enter your houses, rape your sisters and daughters, and kill them".

The ban on Singh came into effect at 6 pm

Wednesday, which means he is effectively banned for the rest of the campaign.

It also issued a "warning" to Kejriwal for promising mohalla clinics at all Delhi courts.

The EC said Singh had denied the allegations, but it found that he cast "vitriolic aspersions" against Kejriwal. The commission also issued a notice to BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra over his comments on Kashmir during a TV show on *News 18 India*. ENS

Brinda Karat seeks action against BJP's Parvesh, Thakur

New Delhi: CPI(M) LEADER Brinda Karat moved a Delhi court seeking registration of an FIR against BJP leader and Minister of State (Finance) Anurag Thakur and BJP West Delhi MP Parvesh Sahib Singh for allegedly making hate speeches. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Vishal Pahuja directed Delhi Police to submit an action taken report on February 11.

"Thakur and Singh sought to incite people as a result of which three incidents of firing took place at two different protest sites in Delhi," Karat said in her complaint.

"Let ATB be called from DCP (New Delhi)/DCP concerned," the court said. The complaint sought lodging of FIRs under various sections.

Karat approached the court after her written complaints to the Commissioner of Police and the SHO, Parliament Street, failed to elicit any response, she told the court. ENS

COURT TO HEAR PLEA ON MARCH 3

Kejriwal gone from auto, not from heart, says driver challaned Rs 20,000



Haq shares a one-room house with his wife and three children. "Why are only the poor harassed for earning their livelihood with honesty? My savings don't exceed Rs 10,000. With this budget, I now have to juggle between the auto installment, penalty, food and education," he said.

The HC is scheduled to hear a clutch of petitions against such penalties on March 3. "I hope the court will look into our plight and pass an order in our favour," said Haq.

Around 8 km away at a tea stall in Jasola,

Rajaul Haq lives in a one-room house in Khadda Colony with his wife and three children. Express

vehicles, after the Model Code of Conduct came into force on January 6.

Haq was fined Rs 20,000 at Jasola village — Rs 10,000 each on the owner and driver. Unfortunately for him, he is both, just not on paper. But his plea to traffic police that the vehicle is registered in someone else's name but he is the actual owner did not cut much ice. "I recently bought the auto from Vikas bhai. How can I be charged twice?" said Haq, who moved High Court over the challan.

Traffic police invoked section 66 (1)/192 of the Motor Vehicles Act, which provides for penalties for violating permit conditions.

Haq, who is from Bihar, said the AAP did not pay for the display: "This was my way to appreciate Kejriwal's work."

a group of auto drivers discussed the Assembly polls. Asked if any of them have been fined for displaying political advertisements, some nodded in agreement.

One rushes to fetch a sheaf of papers containing at least 15 challans issued for the same offence on January 14-15, most of them under section 66(1)/192 of the MV Act.

All are unanimous in the declaration that this is a "political conspiracy" to hound them. Rajesh (27), who has been issued a Rs 10,000 penalty and is both the owner and driver of his auto, claimed police had them believe that the fine would not cross Rs 300. "We were taken in. Later, I got a message saying I have to pay Rs 10,000. How is that even possible?"

An auto driver said at least 20 people

faced the crackdown around January 14-15.

Rajesh's lawyer Nitin Gupta said police and enforcement directorate of the transport department have violated the Delhi government's guidelines issued in 2015. These norms state that all public vehicles can display political advertisements. He also questioned if the display can be called an advertisement as there was no exchange of money between his client and a political party.

Police said the drivers of the commercial vehicles — auto-rickshaw, taxi and others (including e-rickshaws) — were informed about the Model Code of Conduct ahead of elections. "People know that it's not allowed. They still take the posters and the ads for some money," said a senior police officer.

EXPRESS INTERVIEW: ARVIND KEJRIWAL

'People of Delhi have given birth to a new kind of politics — of schools, hospitals, power, water'

Days before Delhi votes, the Chief Minister speaks about attempts to make elections a 'Hindu-Muslim' issue, the debate around clearing Shaheen Bagh, the lack of credible alternatives on the national stage, and what the Aam Aadmi Party hopes to accomplish if it comes back to power



Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal campaigns in Sarojini Nagar on Wednesday. Thursday will be the last day of campaigning in the national capital, which goes to polls on February 8. Results will be announced on February 11. Gajendra Yadav

SOURAV ROY BARMAN, MALICA JOSHI & RAHUL SABHARWAL
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

Everyone thought the Delhi polls will be a fierce contest, but did you anticipate it would reach this level of bitterness or intensity?

I didn't expect this. I was hoping we will talk about our work and they have been ruling the MCDs for the last 15 years, so they will talk about what they have done in the corporations. Or perhaps what they have done to improve policing. They don't have any work to show and on top of that, they have nothing in terms of pointing out our shortcomings. So there's a vacuum, and this is why they want to contest the polls on the plank of Hindu-Muslim and distract people from our accomplishments.

With days to go for voting, how do you read the elections?

It is a little difficult to say. Personally, I feel

thing in education and health. We need to do a lot more.

But your relation with the MCDs is strained. How will you ensure Delhi is cleaned up?

See, you can get the Yamuna cleaned, it is under us. We will try to get vacuum cleaning done. In terms of solid waste management, we are thinking of talking to them about specific project-related funding. We will stipulate that the money meant for a specific project cannot be diverted. We will try and work that out in the next two-and-a-half years before MCD elections, and I hope we get to power in the corporations so that more can be done.

AAP's manifesto talks about recruiting more safai karamcharis. How will you do that when they are mostly under MCDs?

We will make certain parameters and revise existing ones. Currently, the number of sanitation workers in the city is based on a 40-year-old population census. And Delhi suffers as a result.

Jan Lokpal and Swaraj Bills figure at the top of AAP's manifesto. How achievable do you think these initiatives are, given that they didn't take off last time?

We will try to make them (the Centre) understand. They don't let us implement these initiatives and then blame us for not implementing them, during polls. So, we will try and let's see how successful we are in doing that.

Yesterday, we were told that the AAP, on returning, will roll out the doorstep delivery of ration scheme within months or perhaps a year.

It is at a very advanced stage. There are no objections. It should be implemented within six months of forming government.

BJP's opponents fear that whatever they say can be branded as minority appeasement. For instance, Manish Sisodia saying he stands with Shaheen Bagh has been cited often by the BJP.

Actually, I want to address this to the people. The time has come to choose what patriotism is. Is educating children patriotic or is it stressing on the Hindu-Muslim debate? Is providing affordable healthcare patriotic or is it Hindu-Muslim? Is improving electricity, water and roads patriotic or is it instigating riots and abusing? Our party is a product of the Anna movement.

When Anna and I used to raise cries of *Bharat Mata Ki*, children sitting in front of TVs used to complete the slogan, saying *Jai*. We handed Tricolours to every child. *Woh asli deshbhakti hai*. The 21st Century India cannot be a product of hatred among people. The day people take a stand that real patriotism comes through education, health, roads, and power, the country will make progress and the politics of these people will end. Even they will have to then build schools and hospitals. If work triumphs in this election, then a new kind of politics will take birth in this country.

You said that your presence in Shaheen Bagh would not have helped in any manner. Why?

Why do you want to send me to Shaheen Bagh? A few days ago, I saw a few TV reporters there. Everyone there had one thing to say, that 'Amit Shah come here and talk to us'. They (protesters) are more smart.

Journalists ask me why I didn't go. I have no role there. Even they (protesters) know whose role it is.

Do you think your visit, as CM, could have helped calm anxieties?

Today, I am occupying a Constitutional post, *meri maryada hai*. Tomorrow, if something happens at the MCDs and I reach there, it would not be appropriate. Let the MCD do its job, or the DDA its own. If I reach the DDA building, there will be chaos, anarchy. If there is a problem in any school, tell me, I will get it solved, or get a road repaired if it is in a bad state. If they (MCD) come over in this area, then that will also be inappropriate. If the MCD interferes in a Delhi government school, that would be improper. People have given us separate responsibilities. I will carry out what is expected of me, they will do what they are expected to.

The word you just used — anarchy — was used by Union Minister Prakash Javadekar while calling you a terrorist. He drew an equivalence between an anarchist and a terrorist, citing a statement of yours. How would you respond to that?

Anarchy means the complete state of disrepair of our schools, hospitals, *bijli, paani* over the last 70 years. In every case of privatisation, the logic given was that since a particular thing is in the government sector, it cannot work. A perception was created that nothing in the government sector would work. We have changed that. We have improved schools and hospitals, which was not done in the last 70 years. The people of this country are really good. They are intelligent; we are blessed with abundant natural resources. The systems are in a bad shape and when I try to shake that up, vested interests, status quoists, they say Kejriwal is an anarchist.

Many voters seem to prefer a more muscular brand of nationalism...

People are supreme. When people do not have alternatives... Say in a state, there are two parties and both are corrupt, then corruption cannot be an issue. So people at times do that (reward) due to lack of an alternative, or when they like a discourse. Some things also happen due to the historical circumstances we go through. But whatever decision the masses make, that is the right decision.

If you get a second term, some say there could be room for someone like you at the national stage. Do you see yourself assuming such a role in the future?

Actually, I am not important. AAP is not important. What is important is that the people of Delhi have given birth to a new kind of politics today. Five years ago, they gave an opportunity to a completely new party, which was unexpected. And today, five years later, if they vote for work, it will be a new kind of politics and ideology. Other governments and other parties will start to work as well. They will also feel that if they work, bigger forces will bow down and weaken.

Have you seen a replication of what you are doing in Delhi in other places?

Many governments are starting mohalla clinics, many are starting the Happiness Curriculum, many officers and politicians from other governments are visiting our schools. People are talking about it (our work).

When you say AAP has given birth to a new ideology, what is that ideology?

The politics of work. It is a new kind of politics of schools, hospitals, power and water. No one has ever spoken about it.

In a country where there are deep fault lines of religion and caste, is it possible to skirt these issues?

The people of Delhi will answer this. Irrespective of whether one is an SC, a Brahmin, from the Aggarwal Samaj, Punjabi, Muslim, Hindu, poor or rich, everyone has to educate their children. Everyone loves their children, right? If they fall ill, they will get them treated. We opened schools for everyone and only that will erase these fault lines. Talking about it over and over again and raising slogans about it will not end it. Make everyone sit together and teach them, treat them, make roads for everyone. In Delhi, we have worked for everyone, for those from BJP, Congress as well as for those from AAP. I found out that this colony is of BJP supporters but we still constructed roads here, gave them water. That is why I am asking BJP supporters to vote for me.

How do you think you are placed (in assembly polls) today?

Whatever people decide. It is in their hands. It is very difficult to say. One should never be overconfident. We will accept the decision that people make. If people say you will have to make do with 40 seats, we will do that. If they give us 70 seats, we will work with that too.

What about the barrage from top BJP leaders, chief ministers and top ministers coming and reiterating the same thing?

I did not expect it to get so abusive. They called me a terrorist, a traitor, a thug, Ravan. What kind of politics is this? The country cannot develop with such a discourse.

Personally, it doesn't make a difference to me at all but I feel extremely bad for the country. How will the country become better and move forward if this is the discourse of the ruling party? The whole world is looking at them.

Before the Lok Sabha polls, you had said that this is going to be the last election in the country if Modi and Shah come back.

We felt that the tendencies they displayed were not right.

What do you say about the allegations that a person who had joined AAP fired at Shaheen Bagh?

Send him to jail. If the jail term is two years, sentence him for four years if he is connected with Aam Aadmi Party, by chance. Forty-eight hours before voting, his photos coming out is an obvious conspiracy. Nothing worked for Amit Shah ji. He first got all parties against me — LJP, JD(U), RJD, but that didn't work. Then he brought in 200 MPs but that failed as well. Then he got 70 ministers but that failed to work as well, then he got 11 chief ministers, which also failed. Then he abused me thoroughly, but that didn't work either. Then he started saying Shaheen Bagh, Shaheen Bagh, Shaheen Bagh, which failed again. Finally, Delhi Police is the last resort.

They are going around with some photos. His father has said that he isn't part of AAP.

AAP has inducted a lot of people over the past few months. Some have been given

tickets within a day of joining...

If they are good people, they can get it. There is nothing wrong with that.

Does it cause some heart burn?

When candidates are selected, there are many considerations. Our 3Cs are important — character, crime and corruption. We don't compromise on that. Then, obviously, we see if the candidate has the capability to win.

Is money also a factor? Does a candidate have to be rich to get a ticket?

I don't think so. *Hamare aaj bhi aise candidates hain jo aaj bhi phakkad hain*.

The richest candidate is from AAP...

It is a coincidence. Maybe you'll find the poorest candidate in our party as well. It shows our range. (laughs)

Doesn't it bother those who have worked for the party for a while?

Some people get angry. If someone wants to contest and they are denied a chance, they are obviously hurt. But we try to keep the

He (Amit Shah) abused me thoroughly but that didn't work. Then he started saying Shaheen Bagh, Shaheen Bagh, Shaheen Bagh, which failed again. Finally, Delhi Police is the last resort

flock together. A few people left, though.

When you talk about clearing Shaheen Bagh within two hours...

That road. That particular road...

Do you mean there should be a dialogue and only after that it should be cleared or do you just bulldoze...

Baatchheet karke hona chahiye. Why can it not be solved through dialogue? Everyone has the right to protest but not to inconvenience other people. If you will block a road and cause pain to so many people, it will not be acceptable in any democracy, any society. Gandhiji would not have accepted this either.

But is it only when it becomes an inconvenience that people start to listen?

Isn't that violence?

Do you think people's anxiety about being stripped of their citizenship...

I completely agree, but I am trying to say that any protest that causes inconvenience is not right. We are a party born from a protest. The Anna *andolan* was a kind of protest which did not cause inconvenience to anyone. *Maine 15 din ka anshan rakha hai*. But no one has the right to cause inconvenience.

Is it time for a woman minister in your cabinet, if you come back to power?

We will cross that bridge when we come to it.

They say an enemy's enemy is a friend. Do you think the Congress could, perhaps, have sat this one out?

Congress is not a player in any case. They are at 1% to 2% right now.

One should never be overconfident. We will accept the decision that the people make. If people say you will have to make do with 40 seats, we will do that. If they give us 70 seats, we will work with that too

the people of Delhi are very happy with our work. Delhi people have thrown up many unexpected results in the past. In 2015, no one imagined that AAP, a new party, will bag 67 out of 70 seats. When we had no real heft, when people were saying our candidates will lose deposits, the people of Delhi had given an opportunity to a new party. This time, the question is whether the voting would be on work or Hindu-Muslim. I believe the people of Delhi are smart and they will reward work.

Today, we are living in the 21st Century. We are talking of 21st Century India. 21st Century India can make progress through technology, good education, industries, roads, highway infrastructure, electricity, water, not through Hindu-Muslim. It will not make progress through creation of divisions in the country. As long as law and order is not robust, or there is absence of peace and stability in the country, there will be no investments, and how does the country grow without that?

What's your view on how the EC has monitored the polls?

The EC has taken a few measures... They have put restrictions on a few people, but I think they could have done much more... Though they have banned a few leaders from campaigning for certain periods of time, they could have done much more.

You earlier said the Supreme Court decision (on division of powers) helped you finally deliver after three years. What is that one thing you would have liked to do, apart from focussing on education, health, power, water?

I think we now want to clean the Yamuna, improve the transport sector, provide 24x7 water supply. We have to carry out all these things. I don't believe we have done every-

IN PARLIAMENT

BUDGET SESSION

FROM THE GALLERY

FROM THE CHAIR

RAJYA SABHA

"When one has to do firing, one has to take permission from their seniors. When one has to do political firing, one has to take permission from the Chair."

M VENKAIAH NAIDU, Chairman, when BJP's Vijay Goel raised the shooting incident at Shaheen Bagh

LOK SABHA

"Parliamentary Affairs Minister, not everything works as per rules and regulations"

OM BIRLA, Speaker, when Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi protested against Opposition MPs raising objections to introduction of the Direct Tax Vivad se Vishwas Bill, 2020.



PARTY MATTERS

SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav and party MP Rewati Raman Singh at Parliament on Wednesday. Anil Sharma

MOTION OF THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Govt's sinister design foiled by people: Adhir in Lok Sabha



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

DURING THE debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, leaders from Opposition parties hit out at the government over the new citizenship law in both Houses of Parliament on Wednesday.

In the Lok Sabha, Congress's Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the people of India have foiled the government's "sinister design" and Trinamool Congress's Sougata Ray accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of pursuing an agenda to "persecute and polarise" against Muslims. In Rajya Sabha, RJD MP Manoj Kumar Jha drew a parallel between the citizenship law and the imposition of Emergency, arguing that both were passed by Parliament.

"Our people are coming out to save the Constitution from you," said Chowdhury, who is the leader of Congress in Lok Sabha. "It was your sinister design (that was) foiled by the common people," he added.

Referring to the protests against the new citizenship law across the country, Chowdhury said people from all sections of the society and of all age-groups have gathered and launched a movement. "It is a victory for democracy as the BJP was compelled to step back," he said.

The Home Ministry on Tuesday said in reply to a question in Lok Sabha that there has been no decision on carrying out a nationwide NRC.

"You cannot weaken Hindustan (India). We all have together made this nation.... Plurality is the heartbeat, we should save it," Chowdhury said, adding that the "true spirit of the Constitution" was that each and everyone should feel that this country was his own. The BJP, he alleged, was dividing the country.

The Congress leader said Swami Vivekananda used to say that "our motherland was a junction of two great forces, Hinduism and Islam". "You are pseudo humanist, nationalist and Hindu... you should become a true Hindu like us (Congress)," Chowdhury said, referring to the ruling BJP.

The Congress leader claimed that cases of stone-pelting in Kashmir have risen after the special status was scrapped. He also asked the government how it plans to deal with rising Chinese interference in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) due to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. He demanded that the House pass a resolution for the integration of PoK into India.

The Congress leader also questioned the government on allowing Chinese companies

Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Wednesday. PTI

for 5G trials in India. "This (5G) is critical infrastructure. China will create a big risk for us," he said and advised the government to think carefully before taking any step.

Trinamool's Ray quoted reports in international media to say that India's reputation has suffered and Modi's global image is being "destroyed".

In the Rajya Sabha, RJD's Jha said, "You say that this law (CAA) was passed by the Parliament. Even (imposition of) the Emergency was passed by the Parliament. Was it withdrawn? Any decision that distances us from the Constitution should most definitely be withdrawn."

"There is a trust deficit and crisis of credibility with this government. If you want to establish trust again, then withdraw NRC and NPR. Listen to your leader Murli Manohar Joshi and sack the JNU Vice-Chancellor."

Speak to the protesters at Shaheen Bagh. You tell us your *mann ki baat* but refuse to listen to others," Congress leader Digvijaya Singh said during the debate.

Participating in the debate, SP's Ram Gopal Yadav said, "It is not that only those communities named in the Act are persecuted. Are Tamils not persecuted in Sri Lanka? Are Rohingya not persecuted in Myanmar? Be large-hearted and offer them citizenship too."

Satish Chandra Mishra of the BSP said, "Whoever calls the CAA unconstitutional, you call them anti-nationals and terrorists."

We opposed the Bill in Parliament and even we called it unconstitutional in Parliament. The moment protesters outside say the same thing, you say they should be abused and shot. Can someone not protest against something he thinks is unconstitutional? CAA has been challenged in Supreme Court. What if the Supreme Court tomorrow declares CAA to be unconstitutional? Will you then call our Supreme Court the Supreme Court of Pakistan?"

The Congress leader emphasised on building trust, the Congress objected to its name, saying that the name of Bills should be in English, considering the diversity of languages used by the population in the country.

Raising an objection, Congress leader in the House Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury pointed out only 43 per cent of the country's population understands Hindi. "Who will understand what Vivad? Do people in your state understand it?" he asked Sitharaman. "In a subtle way, you are imposing Hindi on others,"

If majority is not vigilant, Mughal Raj not far away: Surya

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

YOUNG LEADERS from the NDA camp on Wednesday slammed the Opposition for "misleading people" and targeted the protests against the new citizenship law.

While BJP MP from Bangalore South, Tejasvi Surya, said "Mughal Raj" may return if the "majority community" does not "remain vigilant", Lok Jan Shakti Party leader Chirag Paswan offered to take Opposition leaders to a meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah so that their "confusion" about CAA can be cleared.

Referring to the ongoing protest at Shaheen Bagh during the debate on Motion of Thanks to the President's Address in Lok Sabha, Surya said, "Unless the majority community remains vigilant, the days of Mughal Raj may not be far away." He also praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for resolving several "critical issues" pending for decades.

The CAA, he said, was aimed at resolving issues emanating from Partition and added, "New India cannot be built without healing the wounds of the past."

He said the CAA was about giving citizenship to persecuted minorities in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan and not for taking away anyone's citizenship.

Paswan accused the Opposition of misleading people on the citizenship law. "I offer to arrange a meeting and even take you people to the Home Minister, to clear your doubts," he said.

In the Rajya Sabha, Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, too, stressed that the Opposition is "misleading" people. "I don't think they (women and children protesting at Shaheen Bagh) are anti-nationals. But they have been misled by you people... You are trying to create anarchy in the country," he said.

It is the responsibility of the government

EXPLAINED

Database is key

THE RAJYA Sabha panel has vastly expanded the scope of the Bill. But the key suggestion from a regulator's point of view is to develop a database for monitoring and regulating surrogacy.

aspects to the National Board on Surrogacy to develop a database.

Before tabling the recommendations, the committee visited surrogacy clinics in Anand, Hyderabad, and Mumbai, and interacted with doctors, couples and surrogate mothers.

BJP MP Bhupendra Yadav, who chaired the committee, said: "As families get smaller, it is difficult to find somebody among close relatives who would be willing. So we have allowed altruistic surrogacy where there is no element of coercion, and is done in the spirit of helping somebody. This would ensure that all those who are needy can take advantage of science."

The Surrogacy Bill proposes to allow altruistic ethical surrogacy for infertile Indian married couples with women between the age of 23 and 50 and men in the 26-55 age group. The couple should be Indian citizens, legally married for at least five years, and without a surviving child either biological or adopted except one that is mentally or physically challenged or suffers from life-threatening disorders with no permanent cure.

The Bill, which has already been scrutinised by the Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare, is the second proposed legislation in recent days that deals with reproductive rights. Last week the Union Cabinet cleared a long-pending change to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, which raises the legally permissible limit for an abortion to 24 weeks from 20.

Let any 'willing' woman become surrogate mother: Rajya Sabha panel

ABANTIK GHOSH

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

DON'T LIMIT "altruistic" surrogacy to close relatives, allow any "willing" woman to become a surrogate mother if all norms are followed; permit divorced and widowed women between 35 and 45 years of age to be a single commissioning parent; waive the five-year waiting period for a childless married couple if it's medically certified that the woman cannot conceive.

These are some of the recommendations tabled in Parliament Wednesday by a Rajya Sabha Select Committee on the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2019.

The panel has strongly backed the ban on commercial surrogacy. In its other recommendations, which vastly expand the scope of the Bill, it said that persons of Indian origin are allowed to avail surrogacy services.

It has also asked for the ART Bill — on assisted reproductive technologies — to be brought first so that all technical and medical aspects are adequately addressed in the Surrogacy Bill.

While formulating its recommendations — they are not binding on the government — the committee noted that those who opt for surrogacy are usually keen to keep the move private, and that the "close relative" clause "restricts the availability of surrogate mother and may affect the genuinely needy persons".

"The Committee is, therefore, of the view that it may be removed... a willing woman, shall act as a surrogate mother and be permitted to undergo surrogacy procedures as per the provisions of this Act; Provided that intending couple or the intending woman shall approach the appropriate authority with a willing woman who agrees to act as a surrogate mother."

The Select Committee has also recommended increasing the insurance cover of surrogate mothers from 16 to 36 months.

It has also asked for the "appropriate" state and central authorities to submit data on number of surrogacy procedures, clinics and related

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

WITH LOK Sabha MP and former Jammu and Kashmir CM Farooq Abdullah in detention since August 5, the Opposition alleged in Lok Sabha that the government is keeping the 84-year-old leader in detention "illegally" and sought the Speaker's ruling to allow him to attend the budget session.

"Three former chief ministers, including

Farooq Abdullah,

are languishing in jails for the past six months, they have been put behind bars without giving any proper reason," said Congress leader in the House, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, demanding the MP's release.

The matter was raised by Suresh Kodikunnil, who had given a notice for moving an adjournment motion on the issue. Speaker Om Birla denied the adjournment motion notice, but allowed Suresh to raise the matter in the Zero Hour. "Farooq Abdullah has not been allowed to attend three sessions... This House has a moral responsibility to see to it that his right to attend the House, express his views and raise the issues of his constituency in this House is protected. It has been six months and he has been detained illegally," Suresh said.

It is the responsibility of the government

and House to ensure his welfare and also that he is able to exercise his right as an elected representative, he added. "I want a ruling from you on it," the MP said, addressing the Speaker.

However, the Speaker asked the next person to raise his matter. The Congress MPs started protesting and were joined by members of the DMK and Left parties. Along with NC member Hasnain Masoodi, they went to the Well and started raising slogans. But the Speaker continued the Zero Hour. Then Chowdhury wanted to speak and the Speaker allowed him. He announced that the Opposition was staging a walkout in protest. MPs from the Congress, DMK, the Left parties and National Conference then staged a walkout.

TMC leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay, too, raised the issue of Abdullah's detention and said the issue was also raised during the all-party meeting. "I would request the government to at least intimate this House about his health condition," he said.

the government and for the taxpayer, it becomes a sort of big money-spending exercise

where people are spending money in the court defending their case or we are arguing our case," the minister said.

In her Budget speech, Sitharaman had announced Vivad se Vishwas scheme to resolve 4,83,000 direct tax disputes pending in various tribunals. Under the scheme, taxpayers whose tax demands are locked in dispute in multiple forums can pay due taxes by March 31, 2020, and get complete waiver of interest and penalty.

Tharoor said, "First, the Bill endorses the idea of exempting the defaulting taxpayers of their penalty and interest on the aggregate amount and getting away with the payment of the disputed tax alone. This violates the fundamental right to equality since it is arbitrary and treats equals unequally which leads to an unreasonable classification. So, the honest taxpayer and the dishonest taxpayer are being treated equally and that is not reasonable."

HOUSE BRIEFS

'No plan yet to absorb AI staff in other depts'

We have recommended the formation of an authority... The intending couple and the surrogate can approach it and then they may be allowed. NRIs etc have to approach a board that will take a call, subject to the laws of the country where the couple is based.

Has the committee also recommended that restrictions on who can avail of surrogacy services be removed?

Yes, some of them. We have recommended that it should be available to widowed or divorced women between the ages of 35 and 45 when the chances of remarriage are less. We have not opened it for singles.

How will altruistic surrogacy be regulated?

We have recommended the formation of an authority... The intending couple and the surrogate can approach it and then they may be allowed. NRIs etc have to approach a board that will take a call, subject to the laws of the country where the couple is based.

Are you looking at a regulatory framework like in case of organ transplants?

We have looked at the transplant law and also referred to it. Surrogacy has to be ethical and regulated.

Some of the clauses you want changed were criticised but the government stood its ground. Do you think it will change this time?

We were asked to prepare a report and we have done that with consensus.

DIRECT TAX VIVAD SE VISHWAS BILL

Govt moves Bill, Oppn questions its name

LIZ MATHEW

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

AMID THE Opposition's criticism that the Bill's nomenclature was a bid to impose Hindi, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday introduced the Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas Bill, 2020, in Lok Sabha. The Bill aims to provide for resolution of disputed tax cases involving Rs 9.32 lakh crore.

While the minister said the Bill emphasises on building trust, the Congress objected to its name, saying that the name of Bills should be in English, considering the diversity of languages used by the population in the country.

Raising an objection, Congress leader in the House Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury pointed out only 43 per cent of the country's population understands Hindi. "Who will understand what Vivad? Do people in your state understand it?" he asked Sitharaman. "In a subtle way, you are imposing Hindi on others,"

Opposition's objections and allowed Sitharaman to introduce it.

Responding to the charges, Sitharaman replied, "In my Budget speech, I have very clearly used two different expressions. One was in English. I did say that this relates to no dispute but only trust, and while drafting the Bill, of course, they have used the Hindi name. But that does not mean that there is an imposition of Hindi." The minister said the scheme will not be an open-ended scheme that can be availed for a limited time. The Bill seeks to provide a formula-based solution without any discrimination, she said.

According to the minister, the proposed legislation will reduce the litigation expenditure for the government and at the same time, may help in generating revenue.

"...nearly 4,83,000 cases are pending about which I mentioned in my Budget speech, and approximately Rs 9.32 lakh crore is the amount which is pending for over a year. Many of these cases are not disposed of that easily... For both



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at Parliament House on Wednesday. PTI

Delhi Police has said Kapil Baisala, who opened fire at the Shaheen Bagh protest site last week, is a member of AAP. ENS

GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



PASSION FOR LANGUAGE

ANDHRA PRADESH Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy's decision to abolish Telugu medium in government schools has garnered criticism from various quarters. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, it is learnt, has also personally conveyed his disapproval of the move. Naidu is passionate about mother tongue and is learnt have said that "mother tongue is like the eye; other languages like glasses". Naidu, who is the Chairman of Rajya Sabha, has made an effort to diversify the bouquet of languages in which MPs can speak in the Upper House.

PROTEST TO POLLS

THE PROTESTERS at Shaheen Bagh, who have been agitating against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act NPR and NRC for more than 50 days, had an interesting visitor on Wednesday. Mrinal Kanti Das, retired IPS officer of 1977 batch, appointed special police observer by the Election Commission for the Delhi Assembly elections, went to the protest site and spoke to the people about their voting rights. Das's appointment last week had come in the wake of a youth firing at anti-CAA protesters near Jamia Millia Islamia. Both Shaheen Bagh and Jamia are in Okhla constituency.

EYE ON CLOCK

THE NEW system in Lok Sabha to display time given to each speaker on screens placed in the House is turning out to be a headache for presiding officers. With MPs now able to see the time their colleagues are allotted, it has given room for members to complain. On Wednesday, when BSP MP Danish Ali was called to raise the issue of "police atrocities in university campuses", his microphone was switched off before he was able to complete his submission. Ali was demanding a Supreme Court-monitored probe into police action at AMU, JNU and Jamia Millia. When BJP's Virendra Singh Mast rose afterward to speak about "anti-national statements" allegedly made in JNU during protests, and called for the university to be shut down, amid loud protests from Opposition benches, Ali was keeping an eye on the time. He was heard complaining to the Speaker that Mast had been given two entire minutes while he had received only 30 seconds.

UAPA CASE AGAINST CPI(M) CADRES

Pinarayi writes to Shah to hand over case to state

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
FEBRUARY 5

KERALA CHIEF Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, urging him to hand over the NIA probe — against two CPI(M) cadres suspected of having links with Maoists and facing charges under UAPA — to the state police.

Vijayan told the Assembly that there was no justification for the NIA to take over the case,

which he said had been investigated effectively by the police.

The arrest of Allan Suhail and Taha Fazil of Kozhikode had triggered widespread protests from Left members, including CPI(M) politburo members.

Several intellectuals have been campaigning for the release of the duo, now in judicial custody. However, Vijayan had not budged from his stand that the two workers had Maoist links.

He also told the Opposition not to "extol Maoists".

THESE ARE just some of glaring entries on a list of 797 persons being probed by the Andhra Pradesh CID for allegedly acting as "benamis" in land deals in and around the proposed Amaravati capital region between June 5, 2014, and December 26, 2014. *The Indian Express* has learnt.

All the "benamis", the CID found, are holders of white ration cards meant for low-income families.

The timing of these transactions is significant for investigators because the previous TDP

government had announced that it would develop a capital in Amaravati — between Guntur and Krishna districts — only in October 2014.

Verification of registration records by the CID has revealed that at least 4,069.94 acres were bought from farmers by persons, who allegedly had prior information of the location of the capital, and their suspected "benamis", between June 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014.

On Tuesday, acting on a letter from the CID, the Enforcement Directorate's Hyderabad office registered a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to investigate the Amaravati land deals done in cash.

"It was found that persons who did not even have PAN cards and held white ration cards purchased land spending huge amounts in cash transactions... they did not declare their income and were avoiding payment of income tax," the CID letter stated.

The probe found that a majority of the buyers were employed as drivers, cooks and domestic help, or private security personnel, at the time of the deals. Investigators suspect the actual beneficiaries were political lead-

ers, businessmen and realtors.

The CID probe has revealed that of the 797 persons, 594 bought land for document value ranging from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 60 lakh. "The sale deed value of land purchased is far more than the lifetime savings of the buyers. They acted as fronts for others. The actual value of land purchased was several times more than the sale deed value shown in records at Sub-Registrar offices," an official said.

The CID's findings, which point to "insider" deals, are based on verification of ration cards, Aadhaar details, sources of income, and value of assets or cash, of those in whose name the land parcels were bought.

Two months after the previous TDP government's announcement, the AP Capital Region Development Authority was notified under which 29 villages in Guntur and Krishna were brought under the capital region.

In Guntur, the land deals under the scanner are in the mandals of Thullur, Amaravathi, Tadikonda, Pedakurapadu, Mangalagiri, Peddakakani and Tadepalli. In Krishna, the transactions were mainly recorded in Ibrahimpatnam, Penamalur, Vijayawada Rural and Chandlapadu.

Hinting about FIRs against the official concerned, the bench orally observed that "people are paying taxes and you are giving free housing, electricity and water to them (illegal occupants) for years". In some cases, the original allottee has died and legal heirs are occupying the residence, the court noted.

"This is nothing but your (ministry's) inefficiency," the bench observed.

Muslim outfits slam UP govt for granting mosque land away from Ayodhya

ABANTIKA GHOSH & MAULSHREE SETH

NEW DELHI, LUCKNOW, FEB 5

MUSLIM ORGANISATIONS on Wednesday slammed the UP government's decision to give land for a mosque away from Ayodhya and urged the Sunni Waqf Board against accepting the 5-acre land earmarked for building a mosque.

Iqbal Ansari, one of the litigants in the Babri Masjid-Ramjanmabhoomi title suit, maintained that the government has wrongly interpreted "Ayodhya" in the SC verdict. In the original case, he said, Ayodhya refers to Ayodhya town, spread over a 5-km radius. But the government has changed the name of Faizabad district to Ayodhya and provided land in Raunahi area of the district, he said.

Jilani said, "Faizabad jile ka naam badal dene se woh Ayodhya nahi ho jayegi (by renaming Faizabad district it would not become Ayodhya)." Lok Sabha MP and AIMPLB chief Asaduddin Owaisi, also a member of AIMPLB, told the media outside Parliament House: "It is a wrong decision on part of the Prime Minister said that defence manufacturing would be boosted by the newly created Department of Military Affairs headed by the Chief of Defence Staff. The number of MSMEs in defence manufacturing, he said, should cross 15,000 in the next five years. He said there will be 200 new defence start-ups in the next five years, of which at least 50 will be to develop new technologies.

Modi said that only 217 defence licences were issued before his government came to power, but since then, this number has grown to 460.

The Prime Minister said India has prepared a roadmap to increase the use of artificial intelligence in the defence sector.

Khan is also chairman of Delhi Minority Commission.

The Sunni Central Waqf Board chairman could not be contacted for a comment.

Zafaryab Jilani, member of All-India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) and convenor of Babri Masjid Action Committee, said the UP government's decision to give land "almost 18 km away from the district headquarters of Ayodhya is against the judgment" of Supreme Court in the Ismail Farooqui case. He said, "While the land has been given to Sunni Waqf Board, AIMPLB and the

Jamiat-ul-Ulam-i-Hind president Maulana Arshad Madani reiterated the organisation's stand that a Trust or the Ramjanmabhoomi site would always remain a mosque.

VHP: Temple should be built on basis of map circulating for last 30 yrs

HARIKISHAN SHARMA

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

HAILING THE Union government's move to set up the Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Wednesday said construction of the Ram temple should be started at the earliest, and built on the basis of the same map which is circulating among Hindus for the last 30 years.

"It's a day of joy for all Hindus of the world; a strong and concrete step has been taken for the construction of Ram Janmabhoomi temple," VHP president Alok Kumar said.

"We expect the trust to start functioning as soon as possible. Every Hindu hopes that construc-

tion of a temple will start," he said.

On the map circulating among Hindus, he said, "It is the same map based on which Rs 8.25 crore was collected through donations in 1989. Therefore, we urge the trust that the temple be constructed according to this map."

Kumar said the trust should ensure that the temple is constructed with money donated by Hindus from across the world, and not a single rupee from government coffers is spent on its construction.

Kumar said, "The foundation of temple was laid by our Dalit colleague Kameshwar Choupal in the presence of saints. So I want to express my gratitude towards the Home Minister for making a provision for a Dalit trustee."

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Date: 05.02.2020

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Registrar, IIT Mandi

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PUBLIC NOTICE

1. The applicant above-named has made an application before the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi for determination of tariff for a) 400kV D/C Mandauli-Bawana, and b) 400kV D/C Ballabhgarh-Barnauli Transmission Line.

2. The beneficiaries of the transmission system are: Power Grid Corporation of India & Northern Region Beneficiaries

3. Line length of the transmission system:
a) 23.801 Ckt-km (for 400kV D/C Mandauli-Bawana)
b) 52.803 Ckt-km (for 400kV D/C Ballabhgarh-Barnauli)

4. Approved/Audited Capital Cost of the project:
a) ₹ 3743.00 lakh (for 400kV D/C Mandauli-Bawana)
b) ₹ 5904.00 lakh (for 400kV D/C Ballabhgarh-Barnauli)

5. Authority which has approved the Capital Cost: NA

6. Schedule date of commercial operation: NA

7. Actual date of commercial operation/Date of Acquisition:
a) 01.07.2002 (for 400kV D/C Mandauli-Bawana)
b) 10.03.2004 (for 400kV D/C Ballabhgarh-Barnauli)

8. Capital cost on the date of commercial operation (₹ in lakh): NA

9. Details of tariff (₹ in lakh):

Assets	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
400 kV D/C Mandauli – Bawana Transmission Line	606.17	594.08	582.55	571.08	559.61
400 kV D/C Ballabhgarh – Barnauli Transmission Line	968.71	968.33	950.46	933.34	916.30

10. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website: www.dtl.gov.in

11. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff in the application will be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3rd and 4th Floor, Chanderlok Building, 36, Janpath, New Delhi, with a copy to the applicant within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place: New Delhi.
Date: 05/02/2020

S. K. Sharma
G.M. (Comml. & Reg. Affairs)

India aiming for defence exports worth \$5-bn in next 5 years: PM

KRISHNA KAUSHIK
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 5

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Wednesday projected India as a defence manufacturing hub of the future and said it aims to achieve a defence export target of US\$ 5 billion in the next five years.

Inaugurating DefExpo, the largest-ever biennial defence exhibition hosted by India, in Lucknow, the Prime Minister stressed on the importance of India becoming self-reliant in the defence sector. "How long can the world's second-largest population, second largest Army and the largest democracy remain dependent only on imports?" he said.

Modi cited misuse of technology, terrorism and cyber threat as challenges facing the world and said defence forces are eyeing new technology considering new threats. India is not behind others, he added.

The Prime Minister stated that those who are part of the security establishment know that India is not just a big market, but also a huge opportunity. "India has unlimited possibilities for defence manufacturing. There is



At the DefExpo in Lucknow on Wednesday. Vishal Srivastav

talent and technology, there is innovation and infrastructure, there is favourable policy and security of foreign investment," he said. Inviting foreign defence manufacturers to invest in India, he said India has "demand, democracy and decisiveness".

"After Independence, we did not use our defence opportunities and abilities to its full potential," he said. India's strategies continue to be "focused on import", making it the largest arms importer globally, the Prime

Minister said.

"Our mantra is Make in India, for India, for the world. In 2014, the export of defence equipment from India was about Rs 2,000 crore. In the last 2 years, it has gone up to Rs 17,000 crore. In the next five years, our target is export of US\$ 5 billion, which is about Rs 35,000 crore," he said, adding that Uttar Pradesh is going to be one of the biggest defence manufacturing hubs in India.

The Prime Minister said that defence manufacturing would be boosted by the newly created Department of Military Affairs headed by the Chief of Defence Staff. The number of MSMEs in defence manufacturing, he said, should cross 15,000 in the next five years. He said there will be 200 new defence start-ups in the next five years, of which at least 50 will be to develop new technologies.

Modi said that only 217 defence licences were issued before his government came to power, but since then, this number has grown to 460.

The Prime Minister said India has prepared a roadmap to increase the use of artificial intelligence in the defence sector.

paper.indianexpress.com

Secularism, citizenship under challenge: Chidambaram

New Delhi: Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram on Wednesday said secularism and citizenship are under challenge in the country and if a person is secular today, people will call her anti-national.

Speaking after the release of a book, "Vision for a Nation: Paths and Perspectives", the Congress

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GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI,

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Various parties sent details of funds from poll bonds: EC to SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE ELECTION Commission of India (EC) has informed the Supreme Court that it had "received sealed covers" from various political parties regarding the receipt of funds through the purchase of electoral bonds.

The SC, while hearing a plea by NGOs Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and Common Cause, challenging the Electoral Bond Scheme, had in an interim order dated April 12, 2019, asked political parties which have received donations through electoral bonds to "forthwith" submit the details of these bonds to the EC.

However, the court refused to stay the scheme and said it will hear the matter in detail.

Subsequently, ADR filed a plea for an interim stay saying the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had raised certain objections to the scheme but the government had overlooked these. In its affidavit in reply to this application, the EC said "that being a Constitutional Authority," it "does not propose to take any contentious issues or to join any submission on merits, etc., as these are matters between contending parties".

As per the EC affidavit, the national parties which have submitted the sealed cover details include the All India Trinamool Congress, BSP, BJP, Congress, CPI, CPM and the Nationalist Congress Party.

The Tripura state unit of the BJP, the West Bengal unit of NCP and the Goa unit of the Congress and 20 state parties too have submitted the covers. 71 unrecognised political parties too have filed sealed cover documents, the affidavit said.

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, FEBRUARY 5

THE MADHYA Pradesh Cabinet on Wednesday passed a resolution against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, saying that it would "endanger the secular nature of the country".

The resolution also asked the Centre to start the exercise to update the National Population Register (NPR) only after the new questions, on the date and place of birth of the respondent's parents, are withdrawn.

Chief Minister Kamal Nath had earlier announced that the CAA would not be implemented in the state as long as the Congress was in power.

"The Act (CAA) differentiates between illegal immigrants on religious grounds. It's against the secular spirit



Kamal Nath

of the Constitution. For the first time since the Constitution was adopted, a law has been passed that differentiates people according to their religion. This will endanger the secular and tolerant nature of the country," said the resolution passed by the Cabinet.

"People are at a loss to understand

why such provisions have been included in the law. There is suspicion in the minds of the people. Protests have been held across the country. Madhya Pradesh has seen peaceful protests and people belonging to all classes have been part of them," it said, adding that the new citizenship law should be revoked in order to ensure equality before law for all religions.

State BJP chief and Jabalpur MP Rakesh Singh said the resolution amounts to insulting the Constitution because the CAA was passed by both Houses of Parliament. "The Kamal Nath government is opposing the law only for vote-bank politics. Citizenship is a central subject and states have nothing to do with it," he said.

Former CM and senior BJP leader Shivraj Singh Chouhan said: "Let Chief Minister Kamal Nath make efforts, no

power on earth can stop CAA from being implemented in MP".

"Kamal Nath took oath as CM, swearing allegiance to the Constitution, but is insulting the same Constitution by talking of not implementing a law passed by Parliament," said Chouhan. "Do you want women to be kidnapped, forced to convert, their houses set afire and their properties usurped," he said.

Earlier, the Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan and West Bengal Assemblies had passed resolutions against the CAA.

The CAA allows immigrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, who arrived in India before December 31, 2014, to apply for Indian citizenship through the naturalisation process if they are either Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, Parsis, Jains or Buddhists.

'SEDITIOUS' PLAY IN KARNATAKA SCHOOL

Cong leaders call for CM's intervention for release of women

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 5

THE CONGRESS in Karnataka on Wednesday took up the issue of the arrest of the mother of a class V student and the headmistress of a school in Bidar — on charges of sedition over a play depicting anti-CAA protests — by approaching Karnataka DGP Praveen Sood with a demand to withdraw the case. They also demanded the Chief Minister's intervention in the matter.

A Congress delegation led by the state party chief Dinesh Gundu Rao and senior legislators Ramesh Kumar and U T Khader presented the plea to the DGP and called on Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa to intervene in the matter to facilitate the release of the two arrested women — Najibunissa, the widowed mother of the class V student, and Fareeda Begum, the headmistress of Shaheen Primary School where the play was staged on January 21.

"It is open for misinterpretation to such an extent by the authorities who may think that a school play can be seditious," the letter further said.

"They (authorities) have

withdrawn the case and release the arrested women," the delegation said in its letter to Sood.

The visit came after another delegation went to Bidar to meet the arrested women and school officials on Tuesday.

"There has been widespread misuse of the law against sedition, affecting the lives of the vulnerable. The government cannot be equated with the nation. The nation is a bigger entity than the government," the delegation said while stating that the IPC section on sedition can be misinterpreted.

"It is open for misinterpretation to such an extent by the authorities who may think that a school play can be seditious," the letter further said.

"They (authorities) have called the language used by the children as anti-national and have filed a case against the school. In one week, the police have gone to the school on five occasions and treated them (students) as culprits. This is not befitting of a civic society. When we do not agree with the government or if we disagree with someone in power, it does not become anti-national or treacherous," the former Speaker of the Karnataka Assembly Ramesh Kumar said after meeting the DGP.

"By no stretch of imagination can such an innocent act of protest be perceived as sedition or treason. We suspect the police have succumbed to pressure from vested interests and some local political leaders. The state government should direct the police to

Pro-Sharjeel slogan: Mumbai court rejects TISS student's plea for anticipatory bail

SADAF MODAK
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 5

A SESSIONS Court on Wednesday rejected the anticipatory bail plea of a 22-year-old student of Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), booked on charges of sedition by Mumbai Police for allegedly raising a slogan in support of JNU student Sharjeel Imam at an LGBTQ rally at Azad Maidan on Saturday.

Urvashi Chudawala was among the 51 people against whom an FIR was filed by the Mumbai Police on Monday. According to the FIR, the slogan, "Sharjeel tere sapno ka, hum manzil tak pahuchaenge (Sharjeel, we will fulfill your dreams)", was raised during the gathering.

Imam was arrested by the Delhi Police last month after several states filed sedition cases against him for an anti-CAA speech in which he allegedly spoke about "cutting off the Northeast from India" by blocking roads and railway tracks.

"Even though this court is not dealing with the matters of crime allegedly committed by said Sharjeel Imam, ultimately the intent of the statement uttered by applicant in support of him, in my opinion, prima facie attracts ingredients of 124A (sedition) of the Indian Penal Code," Additional Sessions Judge P P Rajvaidya said in his order.

While Chudawala has not been arrested yet, the court also refused to grant interim bail to her, to allow her to file an appeal before the Bombay High Court.

"They are supporting a person who is an enemy of the country," said Chief Public Prosecutor Jaising Desai, who also cited a post shared by Chudawala on her Facebook ac-

count, which said "Release Sharjeel Imam unconditionally", as part of the evidence.

"Besides the averment in the FIR, there is material in investigation papers, which prima facie supports the allegation that the applicant (Chudawala) shared the photograph of Sharjeel Imam on her Facebook account by giving like to it," the judge said.

Chudawala's lawyer, Vijay Hiremath, submitted that slogans referring to Dr B R Ambedkar, Rohith Vemula and Dr Payal Tadvi were raised at the event. "In the intensity of the slogan, certain names were added. It was not with the intention of inciting violence. To pick up one slogan made only once for two seconds cannot be said to be seditious. It was raised against Imam's arrest, whose sedition is not proved yet. To say that his arrest is wrong cannot be considered sedition. She (Chudawala) has herself seen a lot of discrimination in life, being a transperson. We may disagree with what she has said, but it still does not attract sedition," said Hiremath.

"The fear is that I (Chudawala) will be made an example for the entire city as protests are happening on various issues, to say that cases of sedition will be filed against protesters," he said, adding that Chudawala, a TISS student, has an examination coming up in March.

The court held that it did not find any truth in Hiremath's argument that uttering one slogan for two seconds "is not required to be considered seriously". It held that Chudawala's custodial interrogation was necessary, including access to her Facebook account. "The offences registered against the applicant are definitely serious in nature... the court is required to keep in mind the effect of the order on the public at large," it said.

Firozabad protest: HC grants bail to cancer patient in 1 case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

AHMED NABI, a cancer patient held for violence during anti-CAA protests on charges of attempt to murder, dacoity, damaging public and private property, rioting and criminal intimidation, has been granted bail by the Allahabad High Court. A bail application was filed on Wednesday in the Firozabad district court over another FIR against him under the Arms Act.

Ahmed is the first arrested accused among the 13

to get bail. The order dated January 29 reached Ahmed on Tuesday. Eight of the 13 accused also face charges under the Arms Act for which separate FIRs have been registered against each of them.

Other accused facing charges under the Arms Act are yet to file bail applications as they are trying to secure bail in the attempt to murder case.

Ahmed's advocate Mohammed Nageen said, "We have filed bail application in Arms Act (case)... It may be heard in the next two-three days."

Firozabad Additional District Judge Keshav Goel had earlier rejected the bail applications of all the 13 persons arrested for violence during anti-CAA protests on December 20 last year on charges of attempt to murder, destruction of public and private property, among others.

Ahmed was among the 13 and is receiving treatment under judicial custody in the SN Medical College, Agra. The others have approached the Allahabad High Court for bail.

Ahmed is the first arrested accused among the 13

Rajinikanth throws his weight behind new citizenship law, NPR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 5



Rajinikanth

"A fear is being created as if CAA is a threat to Muslims. How it is a threat to Muslims? CAA is no threat to Muslims, if they face trouble (due to the law), I will be the first person to raise voice for them," he told reporters here.

Responding to the remarks, senior Congress leader P Chidambaram tweeted, "I think

we could create an opportunity when the discriminatory provisions of CAA can be explained to Mr. Rajinikanth. Disappointed with Mr. Rajinikanth's statement on CAA. If he had asked me, I would've explained to him why the CAA is discriminatory and violates Art 14 of the Constitution."

DMK leader Karimozhi said that "Muslims in India have already been affected due to CAA". "Let him (Rajinikanth) come forward and raise his voice for the affected Muslims," she said. She said the members of the community have been protesting as the law leaves out Muslims.

SCs, STs, OBCs will be affected too: BJP leader

Bhopal: BJP leader Ajit Boras has slammed the new citizenship law and the NRC, arguing that not only Muslims but even SCs, STs and OBCs will be affected.

Boras said that he did not have full information about the new citizenship law but realised after reading more about its provisions that it could be misused against SCs, STs and OBCs.

"I don't have a herd mentality. I won't endorse what's wrong," he said in a Facebook post.

A few weeks ago, he had backed the CAA, saying that as far as he understood it was not against any "Hindustani". ENS

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Bid Reference _____ Tender No. CON/T/BLCS/Sub-Assemblies/2020
Tendered Quantity _____ Sub-Assemblies for 162 modules of BLCS wagon (As per "Schedule of Requirement" Clause 1.6 of Section-II)
Bid Security (Earnest) Money Deposit _____ ₹ 10,00,000/-
Cost of Document _____ ₹ 1,000 through online payment gateway to CONCOR
Tender processing fee (Non-refundable) _____ ₹ 5310.00 through GST @ 18% Through online payment gateway to CONCOR.
Pre-Bid Meeting _____ 14.02.2020 (11:30 Hrs)
Period of Tender Submission (Online) _____ From 06/02/2020 (11:00 Hrs.) to 04/03/2020 (18:00 Hrs.)
Date and time of Submission of Bid _____ 05/03/2020 (upto 17:00 Hrs-Indian Standard Time)
Date and time of opening of Bid _____ At 11:00 Hrs. of 06/03/2020
GOM(TECH), Tel-91-11-41673084/41673085, Fax-91-11-41673071,
Email-pamt@concorindia.com

SC on command role for women in Army: Will, mindset needed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

"IF YOU have the will and the mindset, things can change," the Supreme Court said on Wednesday on challenges to granting commanding roles to women in the Army.

Arguing a matter on granting permanent commission to women in the Army before a bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Ajay Rastogi on Tuesday, the Centre's counsel had sought to highlight the difficulties in giving "Command Appointments" for women.

One of the reasons cited was that given the current composition of the troops and their background, they are "not yet mentally schooled to accept WOs (Woman Officers)

in command of units".

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta tried to clarify things on Wednesday and said the Centre was not in any way trying to advance the argument that male officers cannot take orders from women counterparts.

Taking note, the bench wound up the hearing and reserved its order on the Centre's appeal against the March 2010 order of Delhi High Court, directing the government to give permanent commission to women Army officers on Short Service Commission (SSC).

Appearing for women officers, advocate Meenakshi Lekhi pointed out that there was no question of lack of political will, as PM Narendra Modi has spoken in favour of granting permanent commission. She said it

was mostly a lack of administrative will that was responsible for the situation.

Justice Chandrachud remarked, "I did not say political will. I said will – administrative will (is) also required."

Senior advocate Aishwarya Bhati, also representing women officers, said the policy granting permanent commission only prospectively is arbitrary and discriminatory.

The Centre had in February 2019 drawn up a policy to grant permanent commission to women officers on SSC, but this was to apply only prospectively.

Women officers contend that this should be applied retrospectively too, following which the court asked the government whether it wished to alter its stand.

Sajad Lone, PDP youth wing chief out of jail, now under house arrest

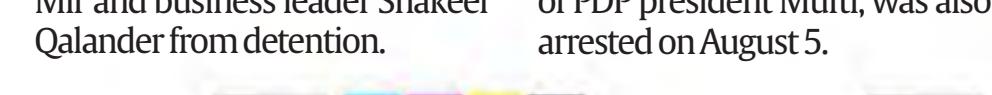
BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 5

WHILE THE three former chief ministers of Jammu and Kashmir continue to remain under detention, the Union Territory administration on Wednesday released People's Conference chairman and former state minister Sajad Lone and People's Democratic Party (PDP) youth president Waheed ur Rehman Parra from jail and put them under detention at their respective homes.

A senior police officer said that while Lone and Parra can enjoy all amenities at home, they will not be allowed to meet the public. The move comes a day after the J&K administration released former PDP legislator Ajaz Ahmad Mir and business leader Shakeel Qalandar from detention.

Sources said most of the political detainees, held at Srinagar's MLA hostel, are likely to be shifted to their residences in the coming days.

Lone, a minister in the PDP-BJP coalition government led by Mehbooba Mufti, was shifted to his official residence at Church Lane in Srinagar and put under detention. Lone was arrested on August 5. Parra, a close confidant of PDP president Mufti, was also arrested on August 5.



Chinmayanand released on bail



Chinmayanand

Shahjahanpur (UP): Former Union minister Swami Chinmayanand was offered flowers by supporters as he walked out of prison on Wednesday, two days after being granted bail in a case in which he is accused of sexually abusing a law student.

The Allahabad High Court had granted him bail on Monday.

But he was not released earlier as the bail papers had not reached the jail. While granting him bail,

Justice Rahul Chaturvedi also transferred the trial to Lucknow, taking note of the victim's apprehension that he could influence proceedings in his hometown.

"The trial court will take up the case on priority basis, preferably on a day-to-day basis and the trial will be concluded within one year," the high court said.

PTI

SABARIMALA REVIEW PLEA

Nine-judge SC bench to decide if larger bench can hear questions of law

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

A NINE-JUDGE Constitution bench of the Supreme Court constituted to hear the Sabarimala reference will on Thursday consider arguments on the question whether a reference can be made from a pending review petition.

A notice said the bench will consider the question "whether this court can refer questions of law to a larger bench in a review petition".

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by the then CJ Ranjan Gogoi had on September 19, 2019 decided to keep the review petitions challenging its September 28, 2018 judgment lifting age restrictions on the entry of women to the temple pending till a larger bench took a call on certain questions arising from it.

The court noted that petitions

Suggest ways to safeguard Sabarimala temple jewels: SC to Kerala govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

TAKING SERIOUS note of internal bickering and litigations in the Pandalam Royal family, which is the custodian of sacred ornaments of Sabarimala temple, the Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Kerala government to suggest measures to safeguard the jewellery.

The top court said the jeweller does not belong to any family but to Lord Ayyappa and it may appoint a person for the custody of ornaments till the disputes are resolved.

A bench of Justices N V Ramana, Sanjiv Khanna and Krishna Murari asked senior advocate Jaideep Gupta, appearing for Kerala government, to take instructions in the issue and listed the matter on February 7.

"There is fighting going on and there is so much of litigation. What will happen if something goes wrong with the ornaments? These ornaments belong to Lord Ayyappa... Why should we not allow ornaments to be kept in safe custody of a responsible person," the bench said.

It asked Gupta's opinion on the matter.

Gupta said that as the voices are being raised from within the family, the state can take a decision in this regard but at present he does not have any instructions. Raja Raja Varma, a member of Pandalam Royal family, has moved an application for impleadment in the pending matter and sought direction for handing over of the keys of strong room, where jewels are kept in custody of secretary of association 'Pandalam Kottara Nirvaka Sangham', to senior members of the family.

A-I cancels ticket of Kunal Kamra's namesake, allows him to board later

New Delhi: National carrier Air India, which has banned comedian Kunal Kamra from its flights, cancelled the ticket of his namesake travelling on its Jaipur-Mumbai flight on Monday, officials told *The Indian Express* on Wednesday.

According to airline officials, a US-based man named Kunal Kamra, whose ticket was initially cancelled, was later allowed to board after the ground staff realised he wasn't the comedian.

An A-I spokesperson said: "Comedian Kunal Kamra is banned... It is mentioned in our systems, that's why his name was automatically rejected. But after verification, we allowed him to board."

ENS

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8th Feb., 2020 Time: 11:00 am to 6:30 PM (Due to Enable People to Vote and Come)
9th Feb., 2020 Time: 10:00 am to 5:30 PM

VENUE: YWCA of Delhi, 1 Ashoka Road, Gate no.1 Near Bangla Sahib Gurudwara, Five Minute Walk from Metro Station.

Fees: Rs. 6,500/- + 18% GST (Inclusive of Lunch, Soft copy of study material)
CONTENTS: Opportunities in Export-Import Business, How to Get IEC, HS Code System For Export Company, How to Search Buyers in International Market, Trade agreements, Communication with Overseas Buyers, Business Contract, E-Commerce in Export Business, Export Documentation, Foreign Exchange Management Act, Shipping & Logistic Management, Packaging Management, WTO's FIP, Modes of Payment, Incidence, Credit Risk Management, Anti Dumping Law, Importers

M.: 8800924880, 9958643361

GOVT. OF INDIA CERTIFICATE WILL BE AWARDED BY MSME

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500030.

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION
INVITES APPLICATION FOR CAREER IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

1. AICTE Approved Post Graduate Diploma in Management - Rural Management (PGDM-RM) 2020-22 Batch-3

Two Years Residential Programme
Eligibility Bachelors Degree with at least 50% Marks (45% for SC/ST/PWD)
Selection based on valid scores in any of the qualifying exams:
CAT/MAT/XAT/ATMA/CMAT/GMAT
for more detail visit: www.nirdpr.org.in

2. Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM) 2020-21 Batch-18

One Year Residential Programme
Eligibility Bachelors Degree with at least 50% Marks (45% for SC/ST/PWD)
Selection based on valid scores in any of the qualifying exams:
CAT/XAT/MAT/ATMA/CMAT/GMAT (or) Qualified in All India Entrance Test conducted by NIRDPR.

i) Last date : 10.04.2020, ii) Commencement of Course: June 2020
for more details visit: www.nirdpr.org.in, Phone - 040 - 24008460 / 442 / 540
email: cpgs.nird@gov.in

EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME (ECHS)

ECHS desires to engage following staff on contractual basis & creating a reserve panel for ECHS Polyclinic at Khanpur, Air Force Station, Tughlakabad, New Delhi as per the following details:-

SI No	Appointment	Basic Qualification	Vacancy	Work Experience	Desirable attribute	Age Limit	Reservation for Ex-Servicemen	Contractual fee (per month)	Place Date & time of interview
01	Peon	Class-8, GD trade in Armed Forces	01	Minimum 5 years experience	Experience more than 10 years	Below 53 yrs	70%	16800/-	ECHS Polyclinic at 1000 Hrs on 24 Feb 20

Note:- For the above posts application to be submitted by 23 Feb 20 at the address mentioned in Gen Inst SI No. 06

General Instruction:-

- Contractual Remuneration:** Contractual fee as per above mentioned shown against vacancy. The contractual employees will not be entitled, any allowances / financial benefits or concessions as admissible to Govt. employees.
- Contractual Terms and Conditions:-** The contractual employment will be for a period of two years wherein the second extension is granted based on satisfactory performance in the first year. The detailed terms and conditions for employment will be available with ECHS Cell Station Headquarters. The services of the staff are also terminated before expiry of the contractual period by either side after giving 30 days notice. ECHS will be at liberty to terminate the contract of the staff with immediate effect by paying the contractual remuneration of one month in lieu of 30 days notice period in the circumstances warrant so. The selection is purely contractual in nature and does not confer any right for regularization and permanent absorption.
- Working Hours:** The working hours for the staff would be 48 hours per week (8x6) from Monday to Saturday.
- Leave:** The staff will be entitled for leave @ 2.5 days for every completed month during the contractual period which will lapse, if accumulated at the end of six months besides Sundays & Gazetted holidays.
- The applicants will report to the place, date and time of interview as indicated above along with the application Form, Medical Fitness Certificate from SMO/CMO, Original degree Certificate and experience certificate with Xerox copies. Application form will be obtained from ECHS website www.echs.gov.in. Results of the interview will be available on 25 Mar 20, 1100 Hrs at Main Guard Room Notice Board and is subjected to approval of competent Authority and intimated by registered post to selected candidates.
- All application to be addressed to C Adm O, Air Force Station, Tughlakabad, MB Road, New Delhi-110080 and also be dropped by hand in drop box placed at Main Guard Room of this station.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

1. Air Officer Commanding, Air Force Station, Race Course, New Delhi - 110003 invites sealed tenders/ RFP from all Indian Citizens having sound financial status for the following SI Regimental Shops / Kiosks (except those marked with #) at New Willingdon Camp, Old Willingdon Camp, Race Course Camp, AF Camp Naraina, VSV (Gurgaon) and Sekhon Vihar for the period commencing w.e.f. 01 May 2020 to 30 Apr 2021 for one year extendable as per terms and conditions and mutual consent for maximum period of five years at Air Force Station New Delhi - 110003. **The shops marked with # are to be allotted after tendering only to categories "War widows/ widow of defense personnel killed while on duty/ disable soldiers / Ex-Servicemen and spouses/ widows of ex-servicemen.**

2. The following 22 SI Regimental Shops are on offer against Rebate (in Rs. Per month for SI). Any shop may be withdrawn from tendering process as per decision by Station Administration. The Rent and Allied Charges fixed for each shop will be charged as per scale and rates laid down by Government and as amended from time to time :

(a) Location at Race Course Camp (RCC)

Sl. No	Shop's Name	Sl. No.	Shop's Name
01	Shoe Shoppe	02	Frozen Food Shop-I
03	Frozen Food Shop-II	04	Vegetable Shop #
05	Dry Cleaner Shop	06	Photocopy, Mobile Repair and Recharge Shop

(b) Location at New Willingdon Camp (NWC)

01	Packers and Movers Shop #
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(c) Location at Old Willingdon Camp (OWC)

01	High End Bakery Shop	02	Fast Food Shop	03	Tailor Shop
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(d) Location at Sekhon Vihar

01	Ironing Kiosks-I	02	Ironing Kiosks-II	03	Ironing Kiosks-III
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(e) Location at AF Camp Naraina

01	Hair Cutting Salon	02	Electronic Shop	03	Ready Made Garment Shop #
----	--------------------	----	-----------------	----	---------------------------

(f) Location at Vayu Sena Vatika (Gurgaon)

01	Electric Repair Shop	02	Barber Shop	03	Dry Cleaner Shop
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(# these shops will be tendered only for categories as given at Para- 1 above)

3. The Tender forms/RFP can be taken from the SI Fund Office, Air Force Station, Race Course New Delhi - 110003 from 0900h to 1300h (Tue- Friday) on 25 Feb 2020 to 28 Feb 2020 @ Rs. 500/- each (**non-refundable**). A sum of Rs. 5,000/- is to be deposited as Earnest Money Deposit (**refundable**) in the form of Cash/ POS/ Demand Draft/ Pay Order in favour of "OIC SI Fund, AFND".

4. Tenders forms duly completed in all respect together with Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) receipt are to be dropped/ deposited in the Tender Box kept in C Adm O's Conference Hall, Air Force Station, Race Course, New Delhi- 110003 addressed to "OIC SI Fund, Air Force Station, New Delhi- 03". All details concerning Rent and Allied charges documents are to be attached, last date and place of dropping/ depositing of tenders in tender box will be mentioned in the tender from itself. In case of any vendor bidding for more than one shop, only one shop will be considered for allotment, if all other criteria for allotment are being met. Highest single bids will not necessarily be accepted. Allotment will be done by Board of Officers taking into account Rebate offered, documents attached, filling up all particulars/ details, financial status of bidders, rates of items proposed to be sold in shops, character verification, welfare of troops and other parameters as mentioned in the tender form.

5. AOC/ Station Cdr is the overall trustee for SI Fund, C Adm O is the President of Service Institute. All correspondence concerning bidding is to be addressed to C Adm O. No query concerning bidding will be accepted beyond 10 days of allotment. Decision of AOC/ C Adm O will be fixed and binding. All ex-servicemen / dependents are expected to follow service norms and ethos in all communication and follow laid down channels.

6. Tenderers may visit the shops before applying on any working day. Air Officer Commanding, Air Force Station New Delhi has the right to accept or reject any tender or application without assigning any reason.

DIRECTOR GENERALS' ASSAM RIFLES CONCLAVE

Lt Gen Sukhdeep Sangwan, AVSM, SM**, Director General & All Offrs Assam Rifles, invite all Offrs & their spouses who have served in, or are associated with Assam Rifles, to a Cultural Evening & Handicrafts Exhibition at 6:00 PM on 15 Feb followed by Dinner at Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt.

Dress: National Dress/ Lounge Suit

Offrs are requested to confirm attendance by 12th Feb.

RSVP

25696862, 25693786, 9649155888 (Dir, LOAR)
9711544568 (GSO-1, MAC)
09582004148 (ADM OFFR)

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, DELHI
OLD ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI-110006
Helpline No. 1800-111-400 and 1950: Website: www.ceodelhi.gov.in

GENERAL ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NCT OF DELHI-2020 PUBLIC NOTICE

Photo identity document to be produced by electors for establishing their identity at the polling station before casting vote

1. It is informed to all electors in the NCT, Delhi that as per the directions of the Election Commission of India, all electors who have been issued Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC) have to produce the EPIC for their identification at the polling station before casting their votes. Those electors who are not able to produce the EPIC shall produce one of the following alternative photo identity documents for establishing their identity.

- (i) Passport,
- (ii) Driving License,
- (iii) Service Identity Cards with Photograph issued to employees by Central/ State Govt./ PSUs/ Public Limited Companies,
- (iv) Passbooks with photograph issued by Bank/Post Office,
- (v) PAN Card,
- (vi) Smart Card issued by RGI under NPR,
- (vii) MNREGA Job Card,
- (viii) Health Insurance Smart Card issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour,
- (ix) Pension document with photograph,
- (x) Official identity Cards issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs, and
- (xi) Aadhaar Card.

2. In the case of EPIC, clerical errors, spelling mistakes etc, should be ignored provided the identity of the elector can be established by the EPIC. If an elector produces an EPIC shall also be accepted for identification provided the name of that elector finds place in the electoral roll pertaining to the polling station where the elector has turned up for voting. If it is not possible to establish the identity of the elector on account of mismatch of photograph, etc. the elector shall have to produce one of the alternative photo documents mentioned above.

3. Notwithstanding anything in para-1 above, overseas electors who are registered in the electoral roll under Section 20A of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, based on the particulars in their Passport, shall be identified on the basis of their original passport only (and no other identity document) in the polling station.

Sd/-

(RAJESH KUMAR)
Special CEO, Delhi

Dip/shabdharth/1348/19-20

ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION - 2020 (OJEE - 2020)

Date : 05.02.2020
Odisha Joint Entrance Examination (OJEE) – 2020 will be conducted in the

1st week of May 2020
for admission to

B.Pharm/ MBA / MCA / M.Tech/ M.Tech (Part Time) / M.Arch / M Plan / M.Pharm / Int. MBA and Lateral Entry to B.Tech / B.Pharm / MCA Courses in Government and Private Universities and Colleges of Odisha

The Entrance Examination will be conducted in Computer Based Test (CBT) mode for all the courses as mentioned above.

Candidates can secure their seats for these courses in various colleges as per their choice and their rank secured in the examination.

Interested candidates are advised to fill up the respective Application Forms online through OJEE websites (www.ojee.nic.in / www.odishajee.com) only.

Please read, carefully, the 'Information Brochure' and the 'Instructions to fill On-line Application Form', which are available in the OJEE websites and can be downloaded.

Also, please visit the OJEE website www.ojee.nic.in / www.odishajee.com for all detailed information regarding OJEE-2020, such as eligibility criteria, reservation policy, examination pattern, syllabus etc.

Please note that **Outside State candidates** are not eligible for admission in Government Colleges, but they are eligible for admission in Private Colleges as per Odisha Government rule.

Candidates may install OJEE android App from Google Play Store for latest information and notices.

(For Admission to B. Tech and MBBS / BAMS / BHMS courses at different Government and Private Colleges of Odisha, candidates have to appear JEE (MAIN) / NEET (UG) conducted by National Testing Agency)

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Tentative Dates for OJEE (Computer Based Test)	: 1st Week of May (Exact dates shall be notified later)
Fill-up of Online Application through OJEE website begins on	: 06th February,2020
Last date to fill-up of Online Application form	: 20th March, 2020

1 killed, five injured by mob over rumours of child-lifting in MP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, February 5

A MAN was beaten to death and five others were injured in Borla village of Dhar district by a mob after rumours of a gang of child lifters being active in the area were spread by people who owed money to the victims on Wednesday, police said.

The police said a monetary dispute between the victims who are all farmers and labour contractors was behind the incident.

The farmers, from Ujjain district, had been called to Khadiya village of Dhar district with a promise to return money they had paid in advance for hiring labourers. They had to recover Rs 1.5 lakh of the Rs 2.5 lakh they had paid to the contractor.

When they reached Khadiya in two vehicles, a dispute reportedly ensued and they were pelted with stones. When they tried to flee, people allegedly spread rumours of the gang of child lifters and said they

were headed towards Borla. At Borla, a mob of about 200 people stopped the cars. While one of the occupants of the car managed to escape, the remaining five were assaulted by the mob. A video showed the victims lying on the ground surrounded by men thrashing them. One vehicle was torched by the mob.

Dhar Superintendent of Police A P Singh told *The Indian Express* that an FIR has been registered against three people and at least 35 others have been identified in the video. He said the mob had killed one victim and the five injured have been shifted to Indore for treatment.

Two of the injured told local TV channels from the hospital that they had informed the police before entering the village and were told that there would be no trouble.

Chief Minister Kamal Nath ordered a probe into the incident saying strict action would be taken against those responsible. The BJP accused the Congress government of failing to control law and order in the state.

CORONAVIRUS: 2 OF 3 PATIENTS SHOW SIGNS OF 'GOOD RECOVERY'

ICMR gets nod for 'restricted use' of two anti-HIV drugs

ABANTIKA GHOSH & ANURADHA MASCARENHAS
NEW DELHI, PUNE, FEB 5

THE INDIAN Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has obtained permission for "restricted use in public health emergency" of two second-line HIV medications for use against the novel coronavirus (nCoV).

Top Health Ministry officials said these medications are to be used only in "vulnerable" cases, as they are not without side-effects.

Senior citizens, children, those with existing conditions such as diabetes and heart disease are among those considered vulnerable.

Meanwhile, two of three nCoV patients in the country have already started showing signs of lower viral load with traditional treatment, officials said. According to sources in the Health Ministry, although they



Security personnel outside the special isolation ward set up at Kochi Medical College in Kerala. PTI

EXPLAINED

Difficult but less severe virus

THE PROGRESS of the three patients who had tested positive is in line with initial estimates which suggest that while it is extremely infectious, nCoV 2019 is not exactly a deadly virus; it has a fatality rate of only 3 per cent, according to officials. Hong Kong-based expert Malik Peiris also said coronavirus is less severe, although it is much more difficult to control. He said that in the absence of specific anti-viral medication or vaccine, "good hospital management can dramatically improve clinical outcomes and survival".

continue to test positive for the virus, the lowering of viral load seems to suggest that in healthy young individuals — like all these three patients — the virus may not need aggressive medication.

A senior official said, "The viral load of the first two nCoV patients has come down tremendously on its own. Although they are still positive, they are showing very good recovery. This shows that if you are young and

healthy, the virus can be controlled." On the second-line HIV medications, officials said 70 per cent of HIV-positive people in India are on first-line drugs. The combination of Lopinavir and Ritonavir has been approved for emergency medical use only if the nCoV situation in India turns into a public health emergency. Guidelines have been framed for their use.

A ministry official said, "The

drugs for which ICMR has got approval are for restricted use in a public health emergency — they have not yet been administered to anyone."

Meanwhile, Hong Kong-based public health virologist Prof Malik Peiris, who played a key role in identifying the SARS virus in 2003, told *The Indian Express* that anti-viral medication used during SARS and MERS-coronavirus outbreaks had included anti-HIV medication.

"The drug works in test tube but it is not clear whether it is beneficial in patients. (So) randomised clinical trials are required," he said. "Another new drug Remdesivir, designed to treat Ebola but which has shown activity against coronavirus, is being tested," Peiris added.



Security forces at the site of the encounter on the outskirts of Srinagar on Wednesday. Shuaib Masoodi

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Two militants, one CRPF man killed in encounter

ADIL AKHZER
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 5

TWO MILITANTS and a CRPF man were killed after a shootout on the outskirts of Srinagar on Wednesday morning.

While security officials said that another "terrorist" was injured in the shootout, the family member of the injured man said he was a "civilian".

On Wednesday morning, a special checkpoint was setup by J&K Police and CRPF at Layawpora area on Srinagar-Baramulla highway in the morning, following intelligence inputs, said officials.

Addressing a press conference in Srinagar, J&K DGP Dilbag Singh said, "Terrorists fired on a special checkpoint of CRPF and police on the city outskirts, on Srinagar-Baramulla road. They were on a two-wheeler, and in the retaliation, two terrorists

were killed and one got injured. He is currently undergoing treatment," Singh said.

CRPF Special DG (J&K Zone) Zulfiqar Hasan, who was also at the conference, said the forces had stopped the two-wheeler as three people were on it and none were wearing helmets. "The last pillion rider got down and immediately from his pheran he took out his pistol and started firing. One of the CRPF men was hit on the head; however, despite this, he fired back," Hasan said to reporters.

The slain CRPF man has been identified as Constable Ramesh Rajan of the CRPF's 73 battalion. "They (security party) retaliated resulting in the death of two militants on spot. The third militant was also shot. He is alive and under arrest and has been shifted to the hospital," Hasan said, adding that significant recoveries were made from the three militants.

Cut off rape convicts' private organs: Haryana women's panel member

SUKHBIR SIWACH
CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 5

HARYANA STATE Women Commission member Namrata Gaur on Wednesday said the private parts of rapists should be cut off to stop them from committing heinous crimes.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* over the phone, she said, "Wherever a probe establishes the rape, the private organ of the guilty should be cut. He and the society should see that this will be the result if such a crime is committed..."

Gaur, a lawyer who is associated with the BJP. On Wednesday visited the women police station, civil hospital, jail and Nari Niketan in Karnal. She added that she wants proper probes in rape cases to prevent an innocent from being punished.

Tender Notice

Kendriya Vidyalaya Sec-8 R K Puram, New Delhi invites firms, having GST No., License etc. and experience in the field of providing Housekeeping, Security, Gardening, Printing & Civil Work. Interested Firms may purchase the Tender documents at the cost of Rs. 200/- from Vidyalaya Office between 10.00 AM to 01.00 PM within 14 days.

Principal

KARANJYA ASPIRATION, RAJASTHAN, RAJ. RAJYA KARSHI VISHWANAND VARDH, VAT ANJMAN
Email ID:- seajm.rsamb@rajasthan.gov.in Ph.No. 0145-2440233
क्रमांक : 1196 दिनांक : 3.2.2020
निविदा संख्या संरक्षण क्रमांक 05/2019-20 (NIB NO. AGM1920A0125)
वृत्त अप्राप्ति के अधिकारी विवाह ग्रन्थालय, उदयपुर, बासवगढ़, अकोटी गांव क्र. 3, म. स., नारायण गांव क्रमांक 6, 7.06, 11.46, 28.79, 8.50, 264.90 तक 24, 72 लाख की अप्राप्ति लाइसेंस नं. प्राकृतिक विवाह (www.eprocrajasthan.gov.in) के माध्यम से प्राप्त की जाएगी। निविदा संख्या संरक्षण क्रमांक संदर्भ से दिनांक 20.02.2020/02.03.2020 तक आपातक कर जाएगी। निविदा संख्या संरक्षण क्रमांक संदर्भ से दिनांक 10.02.2020 से दिनांक 04/08 तक प्राप्त की जाएगी। राज. संस्कार संख्या 5029/2019-2020।

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT NABARD AND RURAL ROADS CIRCLE, SALEM-1

TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No. 15/2019-20/SDO/Dated:04.02.2020
For and on behalf of Governor of Tamilnadu percentage tender through online only will be received upto 10.03.2020 - 11.00 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H) NABARD & Rural Roads Circle in Dharmapuri Division Package No.61 under Upgradation of Panchayat and Panchayat Union Roads - PHASE-II -2019-20 pertaining to Dharmapuri (H) NABARD & Rural Roads Division.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from the Government web site <http://tntenders.gov.in>. If any Changes / Corrections etc in the tender, it will be published on the above website(s) only.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H)

NABARD AND RURAL ROADS CIRCLE, SALEM-1.

DIPR/757/TENDER/2020

TAMIL NADU HOUSING BOARD CHENNAI CIRCLE

TENDER NOTICE NO : CC/ 33/2019-20

Dated : 04.02.2020

Sealed tenders with Pre-Qualification system duly superscribed on the covers with name of work, reference No., due date and name of tenderer are invited for the following works so as to reach the office of the Superintending Engineer (Chennai Circle), Tamil Nadu Housing Board, Chennai - 600 035 upto 11.00 A.M (as per office clock) on the due dates mentioned below. The tenders will be opened by the undersigned at his office at 11.30 A.M on the same day in the presence of the tenderer or their agent who choose to be present.

Sl. No.	Description of work	Approximate value (Rs. In Crores)	EMD in Rupees
1	2	3	4
1.	Construction of 90 flats (30 HIG & 60 MIG) in S.No.256/1A part, 256/2B part, 256/3 part, 257/1 part, 258/12 part, 258/13 part, 258/19 part in Padi village, Ambattur Taluk, Thiruvallur District, in Anna Nagar Western Extension in the place of dilapidated 88 TNGRHS (part of 192 TNGRHS North side)	32.02	16,11,000/-

Last date & time for receipt & opening of tender on 06.03.2020 upto 11.00 A.M & 11.30 A.M respectively. Period for sale 28.02.2020 to 05.03.2020 Cost of tender document is Rs. 15,750/- The tender document can be downloaded [www.tntenders.tn.gov.in](http://tntenders.tn.gov.in) at free of cost. The tender notice & other Conditions details can be had from Superintending Engineer/Chennai Circle, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai - 35.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H)

Chennai Circle

DIPR/ 748 /TENDER/2020

To,

1. Suresh Kumar Chaurasia S/o Lt. Motilal Chaurasia R/o C-59, Shyam Park Extn. Sahibabad Distt. Ghaziabad

2. Smt. Indubala W/o Pradeep Chaurasia D/o Lt. Motilal Chaurasia R/o Chaurasia & Sons, Jaahar Bazar, ITARSI, Madhya Pradesh.

3. Smt. Madhubala S/o Smt. Mathuben Chaurasia D/o Lt. Motilal Chaurasia R/o 213/7534 Royal Complex Godhra Road, Dabhol, Gujarat - 389151

Whereas the applicant abovementioned has made an application to this Court that it may call for the record of the above noted case and pass such order as it may think fit, you are hereby called upon to Inter appearance on or before the _____ day of 02-03-2020 to answer the application. The said application will be heard by Court on such day thereafter as may be subsequently notified in accordance with the rules.

Take notice that in default of appearance on or before the day before mentioned in person or by Advocate or by some person by law authorised to act on your behalf the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this day of 31-01-20.

Sd/- Advocate Date:

SEAL Deputy Register Allahabad

Sd/- Principal

Principal

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this day of 31-01-20.

Sd/- Advocate Date:

SEAL Deputy Register Allahabad

Sd/- Principal

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Sd/- Principal

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Sd/- Advocate Date:

SEAL Deputy Register Allahabad

TELLING NUMBERS

In primary & secondary schools, dropout rates highest in Assam

THE DROPOUT rate in schools is the highest in Assam, at both primary and secondary levels, state-wise figures tabled in Lok Sabha show.

The dropout rate in Assam at primary level was 10.1% in 2017-18, followed by Arunachal Pradesh (8.1), Mizoram (8), Uttar Pradesh (8) and Tamil Nadu (5.9). At secondary level, Assam's dropout rate was 33.7%, followed by Bihar (32), Odisha (28.3), Tripura (27.2) and Karnataka (24.3).

Broken up between the genders, the dropout rate among boys in primary schools in Assam was 11.2%, followed by Arunachal Pradesh (10), Mizoram (8.6), Uttar Pradesh (7.2) and Odisha (6). For girls at primary level, the highest five dropout rates were in Assam (8.9), Mizoram (7.4), Uttar Pradesh (7.1), Arunachal Pradesh (6.1) and Tamil Nadu (6).

At secondary level, the dropout rates for boys were 32.1% in Assam, followed by Bihar (30.3), Odisha (28.7), Tripura (27.1) and Karnataka (26.4). Among girls in secondary school, the highest five dropout rates were in Assam (35.2%), followed by Bihar (33.7), Odisha (27.8), Tripura (27.3) and Madhya Pradesh (24.2).

The Ministry of Human Resource Development said the reasons for children dropping out include poverty or economic reasons, poor health, a child too young to be attending school and a child needed for help in domestic work.



PRIMARY LEVEL (I-V), 2017-2018

State	Dropout rate	Boys	Girls
Assam	10.1	11.2	8.9
Arunachal Pradesh	8.1	10	6.1
Mizoram	8	8.6	7.4
UP	7.2	7.2	7.1
Tamil Nadu	5.9	5.9	6

State	Dropout rate	Boys	Girls
Assam	33.7	32.1	35.2
Bihar	32	30.3	33.7
Odisha	28.3	28.7	27.8
Tripura	27.2	27.1	27.3
Karnataka	24.3	26.4	21.9

Source: Ministry of HRD

TIP FOR READING LIST

THE LIFE & DEATH OF QANDEEL BALOCH

IN 2016, the honour killing of social media celebrity Qandeel Baloch had caused an uproar in Pakistan and drawn strong media attention both at home and abroad. Sanam Maher, a Karachi-based journalist, who has covered politics, religious minorities, and women, gives a detailed account of Qandeel's life in *A Woman Like Her: The Short Life of Qandeel Baloch*.

Baloch, 26 at the time of her murder, had earned both fame and vitriol on social media. Born Fauzia Azeem in a poor family in rural Pakistan, she faced an abusive husband before fleeing from her marriage. Baloch then began to chart a career as a media celebrity, and was often dubbed as the 'Kim Kardashian' of Pakistan. In 2016, she was drugged and then strangled to death by her brother at their parents' house, who believed that Baloch had brought "dishonour" to his family, and expressed no remorse.

In its review, *The New York Times* calls



the book "a model of how to report on celebrity: by focusing on the seedy characters who feed and exploit it, and by harvesting the details, especially at the seam between public and private, that more conventional journalists leave behind".

Maher writes, "I knew that this book wouldn't only be about Qandeel, but also about the kind of place that enabled her to become who she did — a place that ultimately found that it could not tolerate her. The book uses parts of Qandeel's life in order to open up into a story about Pakistan and young Pakistanis at this particular moment, when, with the touch of a button, we are connected to the world like never before. While we might tread in a global space of ideas and possibilities online, we're still very much grounded in a society and culture that may not allow for those possibilities. In Qandeel's story and some of the others in the book, I have sought to reveal what happens when those two worlds collide."

changes in the environment over the past 200 years, which have in turn driven physiological changes.

KABIR FIRAAQE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE THERMOMETER reading of 98.6°F has been a gold standard for a century and a half, ever since a German doctor laid it down as the "normal" human body temperature. If you suspect you have a fever, a reading of 98.6 tells you that you are not.

Over the last few decades, the benchmark has often been questioned. Different studies have found the human body temperature averaging out differently, including at 97.7°, 97.9° and 98.2°F.

Now, new research has found that body temperatures have, in fact, been declining over the last two centuries. This was determined from an analysis of records of Americans dating between the 19th century and 2017.

Why we follow 98.6°F

In 1851, Carl Reinhold August Wunderlich pioneered the use of the clinical thermometer. It was a rod a foot long, which he would stick under the armpits of patients at the hospital attached with Leipzig University, and then wait for 15 minutes (some accounts say 20 minutes) for the temperature to register. He

took over a million measurements of 25,000 patients, and published his findings in a book in 1868, in which he concluded that the average human body temperature is 98.6°F.

Most modern scientists feel Wunderlich's experiments were flawed, and his equipment inaccurate. In 1992, a study by the University of Maryland made 700 temperature measurements of 148 individuals over various times of the day, concluded that the average human body temperature is closer to 98.2°F, and suggested that the 98.6°F benchmark be discarded.

In 2017, a study on 35,000 British individuals published in *The BMJ* found their average body temperature to be 97.9°F. And in 2018, Boston rheumatologist Jonathan Hausmann used an iPhone app, Feverprints, to collect 11,458 temperatures crowd-sourced from 329 healthy adults, and published findings that put the average normal temperature in adults at 97.7°F, measured orally.

Last month came the new study, published in the journal *eLife*, that concluded the average human body temperature has never been constant in the first place.

The body is cooler

Stanford University researchers recorded

temperatures from three datasets covering distinct historical periods. One set was from 1862-1930, with records of Union Army veterans of the Civil War and including people born in the early 1800s. Another set was from 1971-75, from the US National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. The newest set was from adult patients who visited Stanford Health Care between 2007 and 2017.

From 6.77 lakh measurements and statistical modelling, the researchers confirmed some known trends — body temperature is higher in younger people, in women, in larger bodies and at later times of the day. Additionally, they found that the bodies of men born in the early to mid-1990s is on average 1.06°F cooler than those of men born in the early 1800s. And the body temperature of women born in the early to mid-1990s is on average 0.58°F lower than that of women born in the 1890s.

The calculations from the research correspond to a decrease in body temperature of 0.05°F every decade, Stanford University said in a statement.

Explaining the trend

The researchers have proposed that the decrease in body temperature is the result of

decrease in average body temperature in the US, they said, could be explained by a reduction in metabolic rate, or the amount of energy being used. This reduction, in turn, may be due to a nationwide decline in inflammation as a result of better healthcare in the US. Inflammation would have revved up metabolism and raised body temperature.

"The environment that we're living in has changed, including the temperature in our homes, our contact with microorganisms and the food that we have access to. All these things mean that although we think of human beings as if we're monomorphic and have been the same for all of human evolution, we're not the same. We're actually changing physiologically," senior author Julie Parsonnet said in the university statement.

So, what is normal?

While the authors are confident of a cooling trend, they do not offer an updated definition of "average body temperature" to cover all Americans today. The strong influences of age, time of day, and genders on body temperature preclude such a definition, they said.

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How the old Aryan-Dravidian tussle played out in an iconic TN temple

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 5

TENS OF thousands of people thronged Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu's Cauvery delta to witness the *kumbhabhishekam* (consecration) ceremony at the Sri Brahadeeswarar Temple on Wednesday morning. This enormously significant event was held after 23 years — and after the Madras High Court had settled an old argument over the ritual purification process only five days previously.

The judgment delivered on January 31 by the Madurai Bench of the court addressed the struggle for supremacy between the Sanskrit and Tamil traditions that lies at the heart of several cultural battles in the state — and which also played out in the *kumbhabhishekam* ceremony.

Temple and ceremony

The consecration ceremony that culminated with the *maha poornahuthi* or the main *puja* at 9.20 am on Wednesday, had begun on Saturday evening. Between then and Wednesday, about a million devotees are estimated to have visited the temple.

The Sri Brahadeeswarar Temple (also spelt Brihadisvara, and called Peruvudaiy Koyil, which translates simply to 'Big Temple') is the most famous of the many temples in Thanjavur. The temple, one of

the world's largest and grandest, was built between 1003 AD and 1010 AD by the great Chola emperor Raja Raja I (c. 985-1014 AD).

At Wednesday's event, holy water brought from the *yaga salai* — the site of the *yajna* in the temple compound — was poured on the gold-plated *kalasam* that tops the 216-foot *vimana* over the sanctum sanctorum. The other idols at the temple too, were sanctified with holy water from the *yaga salai*.

While several special trains were run for pilgrims, the temple management ultimately cancelled the eagerly awaited classical dance performances that were supposed to be part of the event, given the anticipated challenges in managing the massive crowds.

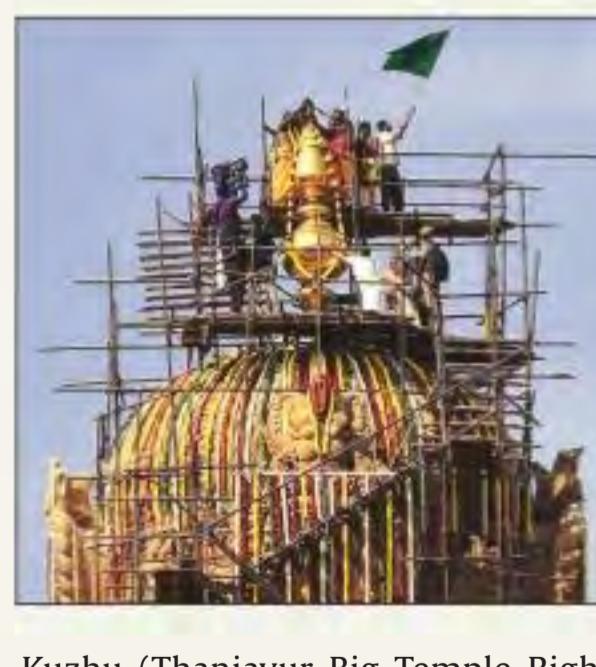
The last *kumbhabhishekam* ceremony in 1997 was marred by a fire at the *yaga salai*, which triggered a stampede in which more than 40 pilgrims were killed.

According to Brahmanical tradition, every temple must be consecrated every 12 years, including repairs and renovation. The 1,000th year of the temple was celebrated in 2010, when M Karunanidhi was Chief Minister.

Before the High Court

On Friday, the court, in a dispute over which language should be used in the *slokas* at the *kumbhabhishekam*, agreed with the state government's affidavit that the ceremony should be in both Sanskrit and Tamil.

The Thanjavai Periya Koil Urimai Meetpu



Kuzhu (Thanjavur Big Temple Rights Retrieval Committee), an organisation that aims to restore Tamil traditions in the Sri Brahadeeswarar Temple, had demanded that the *kumbhabhishekam* should be held only in Tamil. They had received the backing of DMK leader M K Stalin.

However, Minister for Tamil Culture Mafoi K Pandiarajan had said: "The consecration will be performed in both Tamil and Sanskrit. After we received the request from Tamil groups, a committee has been formed on behalf of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, they will find an amicable solution."

The judicial precedent

In writ petitions filed by a 'Hindu Temple Protection Committee' and the hereditary priest of a temple in Ramnad district, the



Kumbhabhishekam ceremony at the Brahadeeswarar Temple Wednesday.

The government's position and ultimately, the High Court's verdict, drew from a judgment delivered by Madras High Court over a decade ago, which refused to accept that the language of prayer could only be Sanskrit. The attempt by conservative clergy "to portray as if the God can understand only Devanagari language and Tamil cannot stand on par with that language, is only stated to be rejected and it does not have any foundation based upon any scripture or religious texts", the High Court Bench of Justices Elipe Dharmrao and K Chandru said. (V S Sivakumar vs State Of Tamil Nadu, March 19, 2010)

In writ petitions filed by a 'Hindu Temple Protection Committee' and the hereditary priest of a temple in Ramnad district, the

question before the court was "whether the... providing for *archanas* to be performed in Tamil at the request of the devotees in addition to the existing practice of reciting *archanas* in Sanskrit, would offend the right to profess Hindu religion guaranteed under Article 25 of the Constitution of India". The petitioners wanted the court to restrain the government from interfering in traditional rituals in temple.

The judgment quoted from Dr S Radhakrishnan's *The Hindu View of Life*: "To many, Hinduism seems to be a name without any content. Is it a museum of beliefs, a medley of rites, or a mere map, a geographical expression?" (p.11) Rejecting the petitions, it said: "If the petitioners' request for a restrained order is accepted, it will only result in the Hinduism becoming mere museum of beliefs."

The judges ruled: "There is nothing either in the *Agamas* (canonical texts) or in any other religious script to prohibit the chanting of Tamil *mantras* in the temples run under the administration of the (government's) HR&CE (Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments) Department..

"...The choice is vested with the devotees to seek for their *archanas* to be performed at their wishes by chanting the *mantras* either in Tamil or in Sanskrit... It is the devotees or *bhaktas* who wish that their prayers or wishes be answered by the God..."

Larger political battle

While Friday's court order provided temporary closure ahead of the *kumbhabhishekam*, the questions in the longstanding tussle involve emotive issues of faith and tradition that are unlikely to be resolved easily. In essence, the disagreement is between the Aryan tradition that claims that Sanskrit is the only language to communicate with the Gods, and that chanting *mantras* in Sanskrit is an essential part of the Hindu religious practice, and the Dravidian tradition that cites the ancient history of the Bhakti movement in Tamil Nadu, during which devotional Shaivite texts such as *Thevaram* and *Thiruvagam* made Shiva a deity of the common man.

Aryan-Dravidian disputes in Tamil Nadu have traditionally pitted Tamil nationalist organisations against upper caste Hindu groups, and, in recent times, Hindutva outfits.

The mainstream Tamil nationalist party Naam Thamizhar Katchi, and other Tamil and Dravidian outfits such as the Cauvery Urimai Meetpu Kuzhu, the Tamil Desiya Periyakkam, and the Hindu Veda Marumalarchi Movement were among those who raised the demand for consecration in Tamil in Thanjavur. The rival camp demanding prayers only in Sanskrit was led by Tamil Nadu Archagargal Samooga Nalasangam, which claimed to hold the flag for "existing tradition and practice".

SIMPLY PUT

The rising defence pension bill

The budget allocation has grown 10½ times in 10½ years, exceeding the Defence Ministry's total capital expenditure. A look at why the pension bill keeps rising, and the challenges this poses

SUSHANT SINGH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE UNION Budget for 2020-21 has allocated Rs 133,825 crore to defence pensions. This is up by 10½ times in a decade and a half, from Rs 12,715 crore in 2005-06.

The numbers in context

The allocation of Rs 133,826 crore is 4.4% of the total expenditure of the central government or 0.6% of GDP. And of the overall allocation made to the Defence Ministry, 28.4% goes towards pensions.



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RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

SIX MONTHS LATER

The voices of those most affected by the August decisions in Kashmir are still to be heard

SI X MONTHS HAVE passed since the central government's August 5 decisions to strip Jammu & Kashmir of its special status through the abatement of Article 370 and downgrade the state to two Union Territories. Years from now, the secrecy and stealth that preceded those decisions, the snapping of communication links and arrests of thousands may pass off as a kind of statecraft unique to the world's largest democracy, should historians be charitable. For the present, two administrations have taken the place of one, and two lieutenant governors, one in Ladakh and another for J&K, have replaced the governor. The resources, assets, liabilities, properties and administrative personnel of the former state are still being divided between the two new entities. As all this goes on, it seems that the decision to repeal Article 35A has been popular in many other parts of the country, but it is still far from clear if it has been accepted by the people directly impacted by it in J&K, especially in the Valley, notwithstanding the claims of cabinet ministers who visited Kashmir last month, and the government's determination to showcase "normalcy" for visiting foreign delegations.

The absence of free communication networks and the continued detention of top mainstream politicians has meant that Kashmiri public and political opinion has been suppressed and not allowed to surface. The government has sought to justify its draconian measures by saying that these have ensured that there is no loss of life. True, there have been no violent protests in the Valley. The people of Kashmir expressed themselves only by imposing a curfew on themselves as a kind of civil disobedience for a few months before resuming their lives to the best of their ability amid the crippling internet blockade, which continues despite some relaxations. There has been more criticism of the decisions in Jammu, where 35A is being remembered with more fondness now than before. But it might be a mistake to think that Kashmir's silence is a sign that the people there have embraced their "integration" with the rest of the country. If anything, the government's actions targeting the fundamental rights of the Kashmiri people, as pointed out by no less than the Supreme Court, have done much to underline their perceived separateness.

While the promised "development" of J&K is still only a chimera, the economic activity that it did have, based on apple cultivation, fruit trade and tourism, has been badly hit. A bureaucracy not answerable to the people holds sway. Militancy continues, as does recruitment by militant groups. Meanwhile, in moves that are in no way a break from the much vilified political culture of the past, and reminiscent of what Congress governments did in the last century, the government is trying to raise a "third front" of politicians ready to make a pact with the BJP to wield power in J&K. Six months may be too early to assess the impact of the August 5 decisions, but the portents are hardly encouraging.

VIRUS ACROSS BORDERS

Travel bans, quarantines are short-term measures. Coronavirus calls for information sharing across nations

THIS WEEK KERALA reported its third case of coronavirus, a student of a university in Wuhan, the Chinese city at the centre of the viral outbreak that has spread globally in less than a month. The student who hails from Kasargode is out of danger, and so are the other two Kerala residents who had contracted the infection in Wuhan. The state government, however, continues to be vigilant. It has placed more than 2,000 people under observation, most of whom are under home quarantine. Another 654 people, seven of them Maldivian nationals, have been placed under quarantine at Manesar in Haryana by the Union government. On Tuesday, the foreign ministry temporarily suspended the e-visa facility for Chinese travellers to the country. It also canceled visas for Chinese and foreigners who have visited the country in the last two weeks, eliciting criticism from the Chinese ambassador to India.

The WHO has recommended against any travel or trade restriction. However, at least eight countries, including Russia, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, have imposed visa restrictions on people travelling to and from China. The US has announced a 14-day travel ban on all visitors from China, irrespective of their nationality. Public health experts, however, caution that such bans can prove counterproductive in containing viral outbreaks in the long run. They point out that in times when viruses increasingly cross national borders, travel bans could hinder sharing information, make it harder to trace the source of an affliction and fuel drug shortages — a warning that should be salutary for India, which imports more than 60 per cent of its bulk drugs from China.

According to the WHO, coronavirus belongs to a family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold and flu to SARS. The virus responsible for the current outbreak is not as lethal as the one that caused the SARS outbreak of 2002–2003 — it has a fatality rate of less than 2 per cent as compared to the SARS's mortality rate of nearly 10 per cent. But there is a growing consensus among scientists that it's more infectious than the pathogen that caused the 2002–2003 pandemic. A more accurate understanding of the virus will only emerge when its capacity to mutate is ascertained and knowledge about its potency across a variety of environmental conditions is shared. Sharing knowledge about the coronavirus's different genetic strains will be critical to the global efforts to develop a vaccine against the pathogen. In a globalised world, the urgency of such preventive steps cannot be overstated. Quarantines and travel bans can, at best, be short-term responses.

SLIGHT OF HAND

Drama over Trump's State of the Union address, punchlines and optics, threaten to drown out all else

THROUGH THE 1990S, obnoxious teenage boys had a "move". They would extend their right hand as if going in for a handshake, and at the last minute withdraw it and run it through their hair, smirking. The joke was this: Observing social niceties, those little conventions that make up civilisation, makes you a chump. Donald Trump differs from obnoxious teenage boys in at least one respect — he did not run his hands through his hair.

It was expected that the State of the Union address, delivered by the US president to the country's Congress, would be more about politics than policy in an election year. But in actual fact, it was more akin to a low-budget, straight-to-TV high-school drama. At the very outset, Trump refused to shake House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's hand, and she responded with near-equal petulance: First, she did not say, as is customary, that it was a "high privilege and distinct honour" to have Trump address the House. And then, playing to the Democrats in the gallery and those watching on TV, she tore up her copy of Trump's speech.

It seems that a section of his opponents have learnt the art of manipulation, of controlling the political optics and narrative, from Trump. After the address, Pelosi took to social media to proclaim that "Democrats will never stop extending the hand of friendship to get the job done", masterfully decrying partisan politics to engage in partisan politics. In all the drama, the heckles of Fred Gutenberg — present in the visitors' gallery to observe the speech — were drowned out. He interrupted Trump while the president was talking about the right to bear arms. Gutenberg's 14-year-old daughter was killed in a school shooting in 2018. There is enough drama in politics — mostly tragic — to deal with. Optics shouldn't take away from that fact.

WORDLY WISE

IT IS ONLY OUR CONCEPTION OF TIME THAT MAKES US CALL THE LAST JUDGEMENT BY THIS NAME. IT IS, IN FACT, A KIND OF MARTIAL LAW. — FRANZ KAFKA

The other budgets

FM tried to address issues facing the economy. But state and municipal budgets are equally critical



NEELKANTH MISHRA

FISCAL DEFICIT TARGETS sometimes lead to vicious cycles. As an economy slows, so do tax collections, and if the government slows down its spending to meet the deficit targets, it exacerbates weak growth — one of the risks flagged in this column last year ('Seize the slowdown', IE, August 30, 2019). This risk has moderated with the government budgeting an increase in the expenditure to GDP ratio for both the current and the next fiscal years. The cuts to expenditure this year in the revised estimate versus what was budgeted are mostly due to the food subsidy being pushed off-budget, a reduction in interest payments (partly as short-term interest rates did fall during the year), and the known shortfalls in PM-Kisan (the number of farmers registering for it so far has been much lower than what was earlier anticipated).

There has been an attempt to address some of the criticism of the last several years: An explicit disclosure of extra-budgetary spending that is to be funded through the budget in future years (about 0.85 per cent of GDP), a more reasonable growth assumption for the next year, and tax growth estimates that do not seem unachievable. This is not to say that 10 per cent nominal GDP growth next year or the 11 per cent and 13 per cent growth for indirect and direct taxes respectively is a given. But, they cannot be written off outright. As expected, the bond market has rewarded the credibility of the numbers and the improved transparency in disclosures by pushing down bond yields quite meaningfully in the first day of trading.

However, there are two important fiscal risks still. The first comes from fiscal pressures felt by state governments. Of the Rs 3 trillion gross tax shortfall at the Centre, transfers to states fell by nearly Rs 1.5 trillion: This is only slightly offset by the pending payments on GST compensation. One needs to watch out for the state budgets this year to assess the impact on their finances. With state governments' borrowings being frozen by October, effectively capping their fiscal deficit, any tax slippage necessarily results in slower spending. As states collectively spend nearly 90 per cent more than the centre, their spending matters for economic growth.

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The second relates to the non-tax receipts that will fund expenditure growth in 2021, providing a counter-cyclical buffer. This makes sense: After all, taxing more and spending is not always a stimulus as the net effect depends on how well the negative impact of higher taxes offsets the fiscal multiplier of expenditure. Non-tax receipts do not run that risk. The challenge in the target achievement is also less macroeconomic (which is hard to control) and more execution-related (which is more controllable). But listing LIC is unlikely to be easy — not just for the legislation that is needed and the political opposition needed to be surmounted as interest groups will find ways to slow down the process, but also the preparatory work that the management and investment bankers will have to do to prepare the internal system and processes for listing. Similarly, getting more than Rs 1 trillion up-front for either telecom spectrum, AGR dues (adjusted gross revenues) or both from the telecom sector whose annual industry revenue is only Rs 2.5 trillion, may be a challenge. Both these sources of funds need speedy action to get done in the next 12 months.

The focus of the government continues to be on lowering the cost of capital. The commitment to fiscal responsibility norms, increasing the threshold for foreign participation in corporate bonds to 15 per cent, and the exploration of a special category of bonds that can be freely accessed by foreign investors, and can thus become part of global bond indices, are steps in this direction. As banks are progressively freed from the need to buy government bonds for the statutory liquidity ratio (SLR), there needs to be an alternate and sizeable source of demand. Lowering of government bond yields is an important part of the rate transmission process, which in turn is a necessary (though maybe no longer sufficient) condition for a revival in growth.

These steps may not suffice: It may be several quarters before the special category bonds are issued, and given that foreign ownership of Indian corporate bonds is only about 5 per cent, the higher limit may not drive inflows immediately. Even as new ideas are explored, given that the country saw a 2.3 per cent of GDP worth of increase in currency reserves

over the past year, measures like the RBI stepping in to buy more government bonds to push down yields may be less risky than they may have been otherwise.

More active intervention may be needed to address the credit risk in the financial system as well. While many financial firms that were in the cross-hairs of the bond market over the past year and a half have already defaulted, a few have not. Their failure may not destabilise the whole financial system, but their zombie nature continues to keep uncertainty high and credit costs elevated. The presentation of the budget may not have been the most appropriate event to address this risk, but the longer the delay in intervention, the greater the economic costs may be.

There were a few fronts on which the intention was perhaps good, but the implementation has created confusion: For example, the personal income tax changes. The introduction of several slabs at short intervals, after the surcharges introduced in the July 2019 budget for high-income earners, now takes the total number of slabs to ten, adding significant complexity to a system which was getting simplified over time. Similarly, getting more than Rs 1 trillion up-front for either telecom spectrum, AGR dues (adjusted gross revenues) or both from the telecom sector whose annual industry revenue is only Rs 2.5 trillion, may be a challenge. Both these sources of funds need speedy action to get done in the next 12 months.

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PRACHINKUMAR GHODAKAR

THE UNION CABINET'S approval of the amended Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Bill 2020 was reported on January 29. This amendment was long due and has made some anticipated changes demanded by women's groups and courts, including the Supreme Court. The Act is not yet available in the public domain and the rules and procedures around it are yet to be formulated. The information available in the public domain, though, raises some issues.

Abortion (unsafe) accounts for almost 10 per cent of maternal deaths in India. The amended Act doesn't have any new substantive provisions to avoid unsafe abortions. The right to safe abortion (at least till 12 weeks, when it is safer) would have made state responsible to provide safe abortion services.

The proposed amendments will definitely reduce the burden on the judiciary, especially given the plethora of cases seeking permission for abortion beyond the prescribed duration of 20 weeks. The court cases are broadly of two types. The first are pregnancies that extend beyond 20 weeks of gestation as a result of rape, incest or minor women. The new Act rightly addresses these by extending prescribed period abortion to 24 weeks. However, such cases form a minuscule proportion of the total number. For such cases, even the 24-week cap can be done away with, provided the abortions can be safely done.

The second group of cases are of pregnancies that become unwanted after congenital anomalies are found upon testing. These foetal anomalies would involve some which are compatible with life and some which are incompatible with life. With advancements in prenatal foetal screening/diagnostic technologies, more such cases are knocking at the doors of courts. The most widely used non-invasive diagnostic test for this purpose is Ultrasoundography (USG). Currently, USG is used to detect different congenital anomalies at different stages: First at 11–13.6 weeks and then at 17–20 weeks. Anomalies detected at 17–20 weeks provide only a marginal interval to conduct an abortion under the current Act. The extension to 24 weeks seems to give cover to these cases for abortion services, reducing the burden on courts.

The amendments have opened up the possibility for any congenital anomaly to be used as grounds for abortion. Anomalies which are incompatible with life provide grounds for access to abortion at any time during a pregnancy — not just 24 weeks of gestation — as long as the woman desires it and it doesn't endanger her health. But with

advancements in diagnostic technologies, more anomalies will be detected, including those which are compatible with life. What constitutes an anomaly changes depending on what is considered socially desirable. Technology-aided detection of "undesirability" could now find social support, as has been the case with female foetuses. This raises concerns that raising children with disability, especially in the absence of state support and poor social attitudes, could go down a similar path.

The new Act's eugenic purpose is clear from the release regarding it on the Press Information Bureau website: "The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020 is for expanding access of women to safe and legal abortion services on therapeutic, eugenic, humanitarian or social grounds."

Abortion beyond 12 weeks carries serious health risks and requires the expert opinion of two registered medical practitioners under the current Act. This requirement has been delayed till 20 weeks, though the physiology of pregnancy and risks associated with procedures for second trimester abortions haven't changed significantly. Without the strengthening of public services, easing second trimester abortions between 12–20 weeks opens the possibilities of more complications and endangers life of the woman.

With congenital anomalies as a ground for abortion, the eugenic mindset of having socially desirable children could push more women into risky late abortions. The approach of medical boards advising courts in cases of late abortions under this Act will be critical to balancing women's right to choose with risk to the woman and the motives for abortion. The rules framed under the Act must address this in no uncertain terms.

The writer is assistant professor at the Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, JNU

foetal anomalies are found upon testing. These foetal anomalies would involve some which are compatible with life and some which are incompatible with life. With advancements in prenatal foetal screening/diagnostic technologies, more such cases are knocking at the doors of courts. The most widely used non-invasive diagnostic test for this purpose is Ultrasoundography (USG). Currently, USG is used to detect different congenital anomalies at different stages: First at 11–13.6 weeks and then at 17–20 weeks. Anomalies detected at 17–20 weeks provide only a marginal interval to conduct an abortion under the current Act. The extension to 24 weeks seems to give cover to these cases for abortion services, reducing the burden on courts.

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advancements in diagnostic technologies, more anomalies will be detected, including those which are compatible with life. What constitutes an anomaly changes depending on what is considered socially desirable. Technology-aided detection of "undesirability" could now find social support, as has been the case with female foetuses. This raises concerns that raising children with disability, especially in the absence of state support and poor social attitudes, could go down a similar path.

The new Act's eugenic purpose is clear from the release regarding it on the Press Information Bureau website: "The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020 is for expanding access of women to safe and legal abortion services on therapeutic, eugenic, humanitarian or social grounds."

Abortion beyond 12 weeks carries serious health risks and requires the expert opinion of two registered medical practitioners under the current Act. This requirement has been delayed till 20 weeks, though the physiology of pregnancy and risks associated with procedures for second trimester abortions haven't changed significantly. Without the strengthening of public services, easing second trimester abortions between 12–20 weeks opens the possibilities of more complications and endangers life of the woman.

With congenital anomalies as a ground for abortion, the eugenic mindset of having socially desirable children could push more women into risky late abortions. The approach of medical boards advising courts in cases of late abortions under this Act will be critical to balancing women's right to choose with risk to the woman and the motives for abortion. The rules framed under the Act must address this in no uncertain terms.

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THE IDEAS PAGE

Assault on the edifice

The current pushback is a long haul, it must use constitutional legacy of Parliament as a living organism to strengthen federalism and democracy



SUGATA BOSE

HOMAGE HAS BEEN paid to the chairman of the drafting committee of our Constitution by our political class in a plenitude of platitudes without applying the creative and critical faculties that were Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar's hallmark. India was extremely fortunate that as stringent a critic of mainstream nationalism as Ambedkar placed his intellectual prowess at the service of the nation for five crucial years from December 9, 1946 to October 12, 1951. As the minorities face the cold winds of exclusion from the powers that be in today's India, it is pertinent to recall what Ambedkar said on the question of minority protection while introducing the draft constitution on November 4, 1948. He said: "Minorities in India have agreed to place their existence in the hands of the majority... They have loyally accepted the rule of the majority which is basically a communal majority and not a political majority. It is for the majority to realise its duty not to discriminate against minorities."

If Ambedkar had profound insights into universal adult franchise, freedom of conscience, minority protection, adequate representation for Scheduled Castes and Tribes, and constitutional morality, he and the Constituent Assembly (CA) collectively fell short on the question of emergency provisions and federalism. The Constitution was framed under the dark shadow of the dislocations wrought by Partition. Ambedkar candidly acknowledged that the Indian Constitution, unlike the American one, was not cast in the pure federal mould. The Constitution of India, he claimed, "can be both unitary as well as federal according to the requirements of time and circumstances... Once the President issues a proclamation which he is authorised to do under the Provisions of Article 275, the whole scene can become transformed and the State becomes a unitary state". We now know from subsequent history how this lacuna in the form of emergency provisions can allow authoritarianism to get the better of both federalism and democracy.

"Though imbibing the principles of democratic Constitutions," Asok Chanda wrote in his 1965 book, *Federalism in India*, "the Indian Constitution is not altogether free from authoritarian trends which it inherited in accepting the basis of the 1935 Act".

It is this colonial inheritance that has created a tension between the spirit and parts of the letter of the Constitution. The uplifting quality of the Preamble being recited all over the country today is undermined by the menacing potential of certain clauses left as the legacy of colonial authoritarianism.

Did no one in the CA foresee the dangers posed to federalism and democracy by the states of exception written into the Constitution? A few did. But their far-sighted amendments were typically voted down or "negated", to use the parliamentary jargon. Hari Vishnu Kamath, a close associate of Subhas Chandra Bose during the freedom struggle, rang the alarm bells during the debate on Article 275 on August 2, 1949: "I have ransacked most of the constitutions of democratic countries of the world — monarchic or republican — and I find no parallel to this chapter on emergency provisions in any of the other constitutions of democratic countries in the world. The closest approximation, to my mind, is reached in the Weimar Constitution of the Third Reich which was destroyed by Hitler taking advantage of the very same provisions contained in that constitution. But those emergency provisions pale into insignificance when compared with the emergency provisions in this chapter of our Constitution."

The president of the CA, Rajendra Prasad, terminated the debate with a show of some impatience. The CA passed the motion empowering the President to proclaim an Emergency if the security of India was threatened "whether by war or external aggression or internal disturbance" or if he was satisfied there was "imminent danger thereof".

The next day Kamath rose to the defence of federalism during the debate on Article 277-A that would let the Union government intervene in the internal affairs of states in case of "internal disturbance". He brought an amendment to replace that phrase with "internal insurrection or chaos". Kamath received some support from K T Shah, Shiban Lal Saxena, Hidayat Khan Kunzru, Renuka Ray and Biswanath Das in taking a stand against the emergency provisions and over-centralising tendencies. They were outvoted and Kamath's plea to lay "the foundation of a real democracy" sounded like a voice in the wilderness.

"I do not altogether deny," Ambedkar conceded, "that there is a possibility of these articles being abused or employed for political purposes... the proper thing we ought to expect is that such articles will never be called into operation and that they would remain a dead letter." That was a pious hope waiting to be belied.

In a critique in January 1950 in the *Indian Law Review*, Sarat Chandra Bose pointed out that Article 21 of the Constitution "does not secure due process of law; it secures procedural process only". This lacuna enabled the suspension of the fundamental right to life and liberty during the Emergency imposed in 1975 and played a key role in the Supreme Court's ruling on habeas corpus. The Supreme Court in a 4 to 1 decision with Justice H R Khanna dissenting upheld the government's position on the inadmissibility of habeas corpus petitions. When the article enabling the suspension of habeas corpus during an emergency was adopted by the CA on August 20, 1949, Kamath had called it "a day of sorrow and shame", adding "May God help the Indian people."

Some of the more egregious legal amendments of the Emergency era were reversed by the 42nd amendment of the Constitution. Yet, most of the colonial inheritance of the states of exception remain on the statute books, including the law on sedition enshrined as Section 124A of the 19th century Indian Penal Code. It is deployed today to brand as "anti-national" those expressing disaffection towards a gov-



As secularism and socialism lost legitimacy as justificatory ideologies of a centralised post-colonial state, an implicit and then explicit resort was made to Hindu religious majoritarianism to shore up central state authority against myriad regional and subaltern challenges. The relentless onslaught on democratic institutions, including the media and the judiciary, in recent years has led opposition leaders and political commentators to talk darkly about an undeclared emergency in today's India. The dominance of a democratically elected authoritarian leader along with the organisational muscle provided by the forces of Hindutva poses a far graver challenge to the world's largest democracy than the one that was overcome in 1977.

The writer is Gardiner Professor of Oceanic History and Affairs, Harvard University and a former MP

ernment that has done incalculable harm to the very idea of India. As secularism and socialism lost legitimacy as justificatory ideologies of a centralised post-colonial state, an implicit and then explicit resort was made to Hindu religious majoritarianism to shore up central state authority against myriad regional and subaltern challenges. The relentless onslaught on democratic institutions, including the media and the judiciary, in recent years has led opposition leaders and political commentators to talk darkly about an undeclared emergency in today's India. The dominance of a democratically elected authoritarian leader along with the organisational muscle provided by the forces of Hindutva poses a far graver challenge to the world's largest democracy than the one that was overcome in 1977.

The Constitution empowers Parliament to supplement constitutional provisions by passing legislation. This power was invoked at the time of enacting the original Citizenship Act of 1956. The US Constitution, unlike India's, categorically provides for the indestructibility of states and, as co-equals with the Union, any adjustments require the consent of the legislatures of affected states. The downgrading of the status of a state to that of a union territory by misusing a parliamentary majority, as was done on August 5, 2019, is repugnant to the principles of genuine federalism.

The purpose of this brief lesson in constitutional history is to tell the brave young men and women demonstrating in the streets the importance of resorting to both reason and emotion in upholding the spirit of the Constitution against the cunning use of certain constitutional provisions by a majoritarianism rampant to transform a democracy into a dictatorship and a federation into a unitary state. We must be prepared for years of satyagraha and as many states as possible must resist the machinations of an overweening Centre. There will be no safe anchor until "We, the People" are able to decisively overturn the current parliamentary majority. We must then use the constitutional legacy of Parliament as a living organism with wisdom to strengthen the features of federalism and democracy, and make fundamental rights and habeas corpus inviolable, so that India may be free from discrimination along lines of religion, caste, class and gender, and free from the scourge of majoritarian tyranny.

The writer is Gardiner Professor of Oceanic History and Affairs, Harvard University and a former MP

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The epidemic won't weaken China's competitiveness. China will eventually win and become more mature and stronger." — GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

Healing old wounds in Northeast

Bodo agreement and rehabilitation of Bru-Reangs in Tripura have placed the region on the path to development



A SURYA PRAKASH

EVEN AS THE false narrative about the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the agitation seeking its withdrawal continue to be flamed by a minority of individuals, the Narendra Modi government has been silently going about its task in resolving long-pending issues pertaining to minorities and ethnic conflicts in the Northeast.

While the CAA has been grabbing the headlines, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has presided over the signing of two significant accords to end the 50-year-old Bodo problem and the 23-year-old issue of the rehabilitation of the Bru-Reangs in Tripura.

According to the Tribal Research and Cultural Institute, Tripura, the Reangs are the second largest tribal community in Tripura and are recognised as one of the 75 primitive tribes in India. It is said that the Reangs came from the Shan state of Myanmar, first to the Chittagong Hill Tracts and then to Tripura. There was also another group which came to Tripura via Assam and Mizoram during the 18th century.

The institute says the Reangs have a population of 1.88 lakh and are divided into two major clans, Meska and Molsoi. They are still a nomadic tribe and a large number of them depend on jhum cultivation.

Their language is known as Kaiburi. A good percentage of them are followers of Vaishnavism. The Reangs' folk life and culture have outstanding cultural components. The most popular of which is the Hozagiri dance.

Apart from Shah, Tripura Chief Minister Biplob Kumar Deb, Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga, Northeast Democratic Alliance chairman Himanta Biswa Sarma, the scion of the Tripura royal family, Pradyot Kishore Debbarma and the Bru representatives were present when the agreement was signed. As per this agreement, each of the Bru families living in Tripura will be given a plot of land, a fixed deposit of Rs 4 lakh, Rs 5,000 cash per month for two years, free ration for two years and another Rs 1.5 lakh to build their house. The land will be provided by the Government of Tripura.

The home ministry began serious efforts to end the problem faced by the Bru tribals when Shah decided to bring the two state governments and the Bru people together some months ago. He also got the erstwhile monarch of Tripura and different tribal groups to support the initiative to settle the Bru people in Tripura itself rather than attempt their rehabilitation in Mizoram. As Shah said after the agreement was signed, this is part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" policy and his emphasis of resolving long pending issues in the Northeast.

Both these agreements show the keenness of the Narendra Modi government to resolve long-pending issues in the Northeast to take those states on the high road to development. However, oblivious of these positive initiatives in the Northeast, a minority of malcontents continue to agitate over non-issues.

The writer is chairperson of Prasar Bharati

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE JURY'S OUT

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'For whom the bell tolls' (IE, February 5). The majority of common law jurisdictions in Asia, including India, have abolished jury trials on the ground that juries are susceptible to bias. Even though infirmities in our trial system of justice are many, yet, justice is said to be the insurance in our lives and obedience the premium we pay for it. We cannot just revert to a system where we are our prosecution, judge, jury and hangman.

Sangeeta Kampani, New Delhi 110049

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 or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301.

NO SAVE CHOICE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Disincentive to save' (IE, February 5). The Union budget proposing to adopt two income tax regimes simultaneously from the next financial year, is going to be a great business opportunity for the tax consultants but at the cost of genuine individual tax payers. The exemptions available to the tax payers used to help people save on their taxes by routing their money to different financial products — thereby instilling a habit of saving and investment among small taxpayers with limited acumen on planning and managing finances.

The proposal to abolish the various exemptions in the income tax over subsequent budgets could result in a scenario where money is spent profusely and improvidently.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Disincentive to save' (IE, February 5). Disincentive to Save (IE, February 5). It correctly points out the need to boost domestic savings. The move to the new tax regime might not only result in in-

creasing India's external liabilities, it could also endanger the social security of millions of households in the long-run. *Raj Anmol Singh Garg, New Delhi*

GOVT DOUBLESPEAK

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The Protest Test' (IE, February 5). On the one hand, a cabinet minister of the government said, a few days ago, that they are ready to talk with Shaheen Bagh protesters. On the other hand, this habit of the BJP leaders to vilify the protesters is not stopping. This hypocrisy will only create doubts in the minds of protesters and they will not get the confidence to believe that the government means what it says. As long as the leaders trade barbs with their political rivals, it can be defended, perhaps, to an extent. But when these become tirades against their own people, then it raises more than a few questions.

Bal Govind, Noida



ARADHANA KATAKI

THE SUPREME COURT of India, by deciding to hear the cases of Assam and Tripura against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act separately, appears to have acknowledged what mainland India — with its habitual disconnect with the Northeast's core problems — fails to see: That it is not only the communal nature of the new law that troubles these states. That as the movement against the CAA, which germinated in Assam, snowballed into a pan-India phenomenon, the narrative about existential threat to the ethnic communities of Assam in particular and the Northeast in general, went unnoticed. And this remains largely unregistered in the pan-Indian as well as the international consciousness.

In Assam, the outrage against the state and central government is not merely because the CAA is communal, and discriminates against one particular religious community; but primarily because it negates all that was promised after the six-year-long Assam Movement from 1979 for the protection of the ethnic communities of the state, whose identity is entwined with the language, culture and land of Assam. An identity now endangered by il-

legal immigrants from Bangladesh. The Assam Movement was triggered when, ahead of the 1980 general elections, the then chief election commissioner, S L Shakhdar, issued a circular legitimising illegal voters as bona fide citizens on the orders of Indira Gandhi, making a mockery of the People's Representation Act and aborting the revision process of the electoral rolls. This same Shakhdar, in 1978, had spoken of attempts by political parties to include the names of foreigners in electoral rolls without "questioning and determining their citizenship status".

Indira Gandhi was merely continuing the policies of Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Patel regarding immigrants in Assam. Unlike Gandhi, both Nehru and Patel were impervious to the legitimate fears of the people of Assam — of being reduced to a minority in their own state, their political rights clipped like the Tripuris next door because of the changing demographic profile. Gandhi foresaw the calamitous fallout and even urged the Assamese leadership to sit in satyagraha against the Congress itself if necessary. The truth was that, although Assam had become

part of the Indian Union, the central leadership, since the beginning felt no obligation to engage with the problems of Assam as Indian problems. This is unsurprising: Indigenous people across the world are victims of colonial policies which disregard their basic rights and thrust upon them policies that take away their land, resources as well as their political power, forcing them to be subsumed in colonial society and culture.

The Assam Movement ended in 1985 with the signing of the Assam Accord, which promised to safeguard the interests of the people of Assam. Yet, the promises as per the Accord regarding the detection, deportation and deletion of names of illegal immigrants who entered after 1971, sealing of the Indo-Bangladesh border, and ensuring full political rights of the Assamese have not been addressed. Instead, the central government is offering citizenship to all Hindu illegal immigrants till 2014 when over 50 lakh illegal immigrants are already squeezing the local inhabitants' space. The unkindest cut of all is that the state government, whose subservience to the Centre is total, comprises leaders who led

The writer is president, Policy Group For Peoples' Rights (PGPR), Dibrugarh, Assam, and convenor, INTACH, Dibrugarh chapter

TOP OF THE WORLD



Former British PM David Cameron

BRITAIN

Bodyguard of ex-PM leaves gun in flight toilet, causes a scare

London: An investigation has been launched after former British PM David Cameron's bodyguard left his gun in a toilet on a commercial flight, police said. The pistol was found by a passenger before take-off on the British Airways flight from New York to London, causing a delay and scaring passengers. The officer had also left Cameron's passport in the loo. "We were waiting to take off when a guy started to show pictures on his phone of a gun and two passports — one was David Cameron's — he said he'd found in the toilet," *The Sun* quoted a passenger as saying.

SYRIA

Regime presses offensive despite Turkey warning

Berit: Syrian regime forces pressed on with their offensive in the northwest that has displaced half a million people, despite heightened tensions with Turkey. Intensive aerial bombardment and ground fighting in the jihadist-dominated Idlib region since December have killed almost 300 civilians and triggered one of the largest waves of displacement in the nine-year war. Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday warned that his country would not allow Syrian forces to gain more ground and accused them of driving "innocent and grieving people" towards the Turkish border.

MALAYSIA

Former first lady goes on trial for corruption

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia's former first lady, who allegedly bankrolled a luxurious lifestyle with kickbacks and stolen public money, went on trial Wednesday for corruption for the first time since her husband lost power. Rosmah Mansor, notorious for making overseas shopping trips and owning vast collections of handbags and jewellery, became a lightning rod for public anger as the government of PM Najib Razak was engulfed by corruption allegations. Her husband's coalition suffered a shock election defeat in 2018 in large part due to claims he plundered billions of dollars from sovereign wealth fund 1MDB.

NEPAL

Oli planning 2nd kidney transplant

Kathmandu: Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on Wednesday said he was planning to undergo a second kidney transplant as it was a better option than undergoing regular dialysis. Oli, 67, underwent kidney transplant in India in 2007 after both his kidneys failed to function. He has been visiting hospitals abroad for health check-up ever since. Oli confirmed that he was planning to have another kidney transplant while interacting with editors of the dailies of Nepal.



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi rips up the speech of US President Donald Trump after his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress in Washington on Tuesday. Reuters

Emboldened Trump makes case for his re-election in State of the Union speech

MICHAEL D SHEAR
WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 5

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump claimed credit for a "great American comeback" in a speech to Congress on Tuesday night, boasting of a robust economy, contrasting his successes with the records of his predecessors and projecting optimism in the face of a monthslong Democratic effort to force him from office.

Trump, who lamented what he called "American carnage" when he was inaugurated in January 2017, described a different country today, declaring in his third State of the Union address that the nation's future was once again "blazing bright."

"In just three short years, we have shattered the mentality of American Decline and we have rejected the downsizing of America's destiny," Trump said in a speech that lasted 78 minutes. "We have totally rejected the downsizing. We are moving forward at a pace that was unimaginable just a short time ago, and we are never, ever going back!"

"The state of our union," Trump declared, "is stronger than ever before."

Welcome by applause from Republican lawmakers, the President marched confidently into the same chamber where he was impeached 49 days earlier. Trump described the nation as enjoying what he called a "blue-

**TRUMP HONOURS LIMBAUGH:** First lady Melania Trump drapes the Presidential Medal of Freedom on Rush Limbaugh. President Trump awarded the honour to the conservative radio host, who recently learned he has advanced lung cancer, during the State of the Union address. Reuters

TRUMP IMPEACHMENT SAGA NEARS ITS END

Washington: The impeachment drama that has consumed Washington since September will come to an end on Wednesday with Donald Trump's expected acquittal in the US Senate. The Republican-controlled Senate was scheduled to vote at 4 pm EST on Wednesday (Thursday, 2.30 am IST) on whether to convict him on charges including abuse of power.

collar boom," fuelled by trade agreements and his success in "restoring our nation's manufacturing might."

On the eve of a Senate vote expected to acquit him, Trump never mentioned the impeachment inquiry that has threatened his presidency and consumed Washington. But his interactions Tuesday night with Speaker Nancy

Pelosi, who started the investigation by Democrats that has forever stained his legacy, underscored the deep bitterness between them.

As he arrived at the rostrum, Trump turned to hand copies of his speech to Pelosi and Vice President Mike Pence. But when Pelosi offered her hand to shake, the president pointedly turned away without taking it.

EXPLAINED E.

Bid to consolidate his support base

DELIVERING THE State of the Union address in the same chamber in which he was impeached so long ago, Trump made it clear at the outset that he was not looking to win over his critics. He refused to shake Nancy Pelosi's hand and took digs at Democratic lawmakers during the speech. Drawing applause from Republicans and other supporters, he doubled down on his views regarding the dangers posed by "criminal aliens" and socialism as he sought to consolidate his base ahead of November's election.

Seated just behind the president, Pelosi grimaced and shook her head several times during his address. Moments after Trump finished and was basking in applause from Republicans, the speaker ripped up the pages of his speech, holding them high for the cameras to catch her unmistakable statement of scorn. NYT

night's caucuses could change with more data, the highly competitive race between Buttigieg, a moderate, and Sanders, a liberal, reflected the divisions among Democrats about the ideological direction of the party, and sets up a crucial test for both wings of the party in the New Hampshire primary, on Feb. 11, where Sanders leads in the polls.

The partial Iowa results also showed Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts in third place, with Biden trailing her by several points and Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota behind him.

Yet there was little evidence in the data released Tuesday that any candidate was on the way to the kind of dominant victory that would have a good chance of transforming the Democratic race. NYT

TURKEY

PLANE CRASHES AFTER LANDING, 21 INJURED



A plane flying into Istanbul's Sabiha Gokcen airport from Izmir skidded off the runway after landing and crashed on Wednesday, injuring 21 people, Turkish officials said. The plane split into three pieces after what Transport Minister Cahit Turhan called a rough landing, adding that there were no fatalities.

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Thousands put under quarantine in cruise ships; toll rises to 490

65 more die in one day; US airlines suspend flights to HK

SE YOUNG LEE & WINNI ZHOU
BEIJING, SHANGHAI,
FEBRUARY 5

THOUSANDS OF passengers and crew on two cruise ships in Asian waters were placed in quarantine for China's coronavirus on Wednesday as airlines, car manufacturers and other global companies counted the cost of the fast-spreading outbreak.

China said another 65 people had died as of Tuesday, the highest daily total yet, taking the overall toll on the mainland to 490, most in and around the locked-down central city of Wuhan, where the virus emerged last year.

The virus has disrupted air travel. American Airlines Group and United Airlines said they would suspend flights to and from Hong Kong after this week, a step that would leave no US carriers flying passengers to the Asian financial hub.

The disruption spread to cruise ships this week, with about 3,700 people facing at least two weeks locked away on a liner anchored off Japan after health officials confirmed that 10 people aboard had tested positive for the virus. Passengers on the *Diamond Princess* posted pictures online of officials in masks and gowns conducting health checks and an empty deck.

In Hong Kong, 3,600 passengers and crew were confined to their ship docked in the city for tests after three people on board tested positive. REUTERS



Officers escort a person (under the blue sheet) who was on board cruise ship *Diamond Princess* and was tested positive for coronavirus, after the person is transferred to a maritime police base in Yokohama, south of Tokyo. Reuters

UK SCIENTIST MAKES BREAKTHROUGH IN RACE FOR CORONAVIRUS VACCINE: REPORT

London: A leading British scientist has made a significant breakthrough in the race for a coronavirus vaccine by reducing a part of the normal development time from "two to three years to just 14 days", Sky news reported. Robin Shattock,

IN EPICENTRE WUHAN, BABY TESTS POSITIVE FOR VIRUS JUST 30 HOURS AFTER BIRTH

Beijing: A baby in China's epidemic-hit Wuhan city has been diagnosed with the novel coronavirus just 30 hours after being born, Chinese state media reported Wednesday. The infant is the youngest person recorded as being infected by the virus, which has killed nearly 500 people since emerging late last year. CCTV quoted experts as saying it may be a case of "vertical transmission", referring to infections passed from mother to child during pregnancy, childbirth or immediately after. PTI

head of mucosal infection and immunity at Imperial College London, said he is now at the stage to start testing the vaccine on animals as early as next week with human studies in the summer if enough funding is secured. Sky said. REUTERS

Avalanche in Turkey wipes out rescue team; 38 dead overall

SUZAN FRASER
ANKARA, FEBRUARY 5

AN AVALANCHE slammed into a mountain road in eastern Turkey on Wednesday, wiping out a huge team of rescue workers sent to find people missing in an earlier avalanche. Officials said 33 emergency workers were killed, 53 were injured and others are still buried under the snow.

Wednesday's avalanche increased the overall death toll from the disaster to 38.

Some 300 emergency service workers were called to a highway near the mountain-surrounded town of Bahcesaray in Van province, which borders Iran, after an avalanche struck late Tuesday. That snow slide killed five people and left two missing.

Members of the school's cross-country team were on the sidewalk, starting their after-school run. According to the police, Townsend's truck suddenly plowed into a vehicle, drove into the cross-country runners on the sidewalk and then struck two other vehicles. He kept driving but was later apprehended.

Rachel Freeman, a senior, was killed Sunday near a city park in Moore, the authorities said, when his car struck another vehicle and then flipped over into a telephone pole.

On Monday afternoon, the



At the site of the incident in Moore, Oklahoma. AP

elder Townsend, 57, was driving his red pickup truck along a busy avenue outside Moore High School at the end of the school day, the police said.

The big question a lot of people have is why — what happened, why did this happen," Sgt. Jeremy Lewis of the Police Department in Moore, Oklahoma, said Tuesday. "We've had investigators working on this since 3.30 yesterday, all night, and will continue to work on this, and I assure you we will find out why."

Townsend's son, Cody, 29, was killed Sunday near a city park in Moore, the authorities said, when his car struck another vehicle and then flipped over into a telephone pole.

Earlier, Governor Mehmet Emin Bilmez said the dead included eight military police officers, three government-paid village guards, three firefighters and nine volunteers. AP

Buttigieg in the lead as Iowa Dems release partial caucus results, but no winner yet

ALEXANDER BURNS & SHANE GOLDMACHER
DES MOINES, FEBRUARY 5

DEMOCRATIC OFFICIALS in Iowa on Tuesday provided a measure of clarity to the muddled outcome of its statewide caucuses, releasing a delayed first wave of partial results that showed Pete Buttigieg and Senator Bernie Sanders with a preliminary lead and former Vice President Joe Biden falling well behind the other top-tier candidates.

The release of the partial data, which accounted for 71% of caucus precincts, came after a night and day of suspense, confusion and silence from the Iowa Democratic Party after major problems with its new results reporting system. Even as the party began preparing to release the

IOWA RESULTS: 71% PRECINCTS COUNTED

Candidate	Buttigieg	Sanders	Warren	Biden
Total S.D.E.s*	419	394	287	241
Pct.	26.8%	25.2%	18.4%	15.4%
Pledged delegates	10	10	4	0

*The vote totals for the Iowa Democratic Party are state delegate equivalents, which are the estimated number of state convention delegates that the candidates would have based on caucus results. Pledged delegates are awarded based on the state delegate count.

Source: NYT

partial results on Tuesday afternoon, it drew sharp criticism from several campaigns that wanted a complete result, either

to have a definitive outcome or frame their Iowa performance in the best possible light.

While the results of Monday

night's caucuses could change with more data, the highly competitive race between Buttigieg, a moderate, and Sanders, a liberal, reflected the divisions among Democrats about the ideological direction of the party, and sets up a crucial test for both wings of the party in the New Hampshire primary, on Feb. 11, where Sanders leads in the polls.

The partial Iowa results also showed Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts in third place, with Biden trailing her by several points and Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota behind him.

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night's caucuses could change with more data, the highly competitive race between Buttigieg, a moderate, and Sanders, a liberal, reflected the divisions among Democrats about the ideological direction of the party, and sets up a crucial test for both wings of the party in the New Hampshire primary, on Feb. 11, where Sanders leads in the polls.

The partial Iowa results also showed Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts in third place, with Biden trailing her by several points and Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota behind him.

Yet there was little evidence in the data released Tuesday that any candidate was on the way to the kind of dominant victory that would have a good chance of transforming the Democratic race. NYT

partial results on Tuesday afternoon, it drew sharp criticism from several campaigns that wanted a complete result, either

to have a definitive outcome or frame their Iowa performance in the best possible light.

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HE ALSO HAS ACCLAIMED 1970s TV SHOW *Lou Grant* TO HIS CREDIT

Gene Reynolds, Emmy-winning architect of *M*A*S*H*, dies at 96

NEIL GENZLINGER
FEBRUARY 5

GENE REYNOLDS, an Emmy-winning producer and director who was a force behind two of the most acclaimed television series of the 1970s and early '80s, *M*A*S*H* and *Lou Grant*, died Monday in Burbank, California. He was 96.

His wife, Ann Sweeney Reynolds, said the cause was heart failure.

Gene Reynolds started his prolific career on the performing side of the camera, appearing in some

80 films and television shows, beginning when he was a child. He developed an unusual sort of specialty: playing the younger versions of characters played by top film stars of the 1930s.

ITALY'S REGIONAL POLITICS

Salvini's Sardine surprise

Another blunder by the populist leader of the Northern League

IT IS PROBABLY the most famous of modern Italian political aphorisms. "Power wears out those who do not have it," quipped the late Giulio Andreotti, a long-serving prime minister. His words had a special relevance this week for Matteo Salvini, leader of the right-wing Northern League, as he pondered the results of his second big miscalculation in five months. On January 26th the League's candidate for governor failed to conquer the region of Emilia-Romagna in a vote that Mr Salvini had touted as a referendum on whether he should lead Italy.

Mr Salvini has only been out of power since August last year. Until then he was one of two deputy prime ministers in the first cabinet of Giuseppe Conte, a technocrat; he wielded a decisive influence over policy as head of the party that has led in the polls since mid-2018. But then he torpedoed the coalition government in a bid to force an election, hoping it would give him an outright parliamentary majority and untrammelled powers. His rivals responded by forming a new coalition without him.

His latest big miscalculation was to put himself at the front of a campaign he should have known would be harder to win than it seemed. Emilia-Romagna, which stretches from central into northern Italy, has drifted rightwards in recent years. The left lost there in the general election in 2018 and the European election in 2019. But it has deep roots in a region the now-defunct Italian Communist Party (PCI) chose as a showcase for its moderate "Eurocommunism". The incumbent governor, Stefano Bonaccini, who cut his political teeth in the PCI's successor party, is widely regarded as heading an effective administration. A poll conducted last December showed that two-thirds of voters in Emilia-Romagna viewed it positively. And almost twice as many expressed confidence in Mr Bonaccini as in his League challenger. Mr Salvini's advisers presumably warned him of similarly daunting findings.

Two other factors played a role in the League's emphatic defeat (its candidate finished more than seven percentage points behind Mr Bonaccini). The first could not have been foreseen: the eruption onto the scene of a new movement, the so-called Sardines, a group of young, left-leaning activists who set out to best Mr Salvini at his own game of packing city squares (hence their name). They succeeded repeatedly, doubtless convincing some voters who might otherwise have abstained to cast their ballots for Mr Bonaccini and the centre-left Democratic Party (PD). The turnout shot up to 68% – 30 points more than at the previous regional election in 2014. The Sardines' role in bringing out the left-wing vote earned them an "immense thank you" from the PD's national leader, Nicola Zingaretti.

The second factor, if not foreseeable, was certainly avoidable. In a region known for its moderation, Mr Salvini mounted his usual, xenophobic campaign. Stunts such as having video cameras record him asking a Tunisian immigrant over the intercom of his apartment block if he was a drug-peddler grabbed headlines, but not apparently very many hearts and minds in tolerant Emilia-Romagna.

In another regional ballot in the southern region of Calabria the right stormed to victory. But that was scant consolation for Mr Salvini, since the new governor is from Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia party, which nowadays represents a less populist and Eurosceptic form of conservatism than the League's. Calabria is anyhow special, a region



Former Italian Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini attends a joint news conference following a cabinet meeting in Rome, Italy, last year. Reuters

in which political choices are heavily conditioned by the pervasive influence of its mafia, the 'Ndrangheta.

Mr Salvini's air of invincibility dissipated last summer. But now his headstrong approach is being openly mocked. Elsa Fornero, a minister in Mario Monti's technocratic government of 2011–13, and author of a labour-market reform Mr Salvini wanted to scrap, asked mischievously if he was foolish, or just pretending to be.

The League leader's chances of returning to power nevertheless remain solid. Both the latest elections were disastrous for the Five Star Movement (M5S), notionally the senior partner in Mr Conte's second government, which also includes the PD. The M5S has almost a

third of the seats in parliament and the power to decide on legislation. Yet its candidates scraped 7% in Calabria and a pitiful 3% in Emilia-Romagna. They were scarcely helped by the resignation four days before polling of the movement's leader, Luigi Di Maio, largely in response to its dismal showing in earlier

ballots and the disarray that had created.

The M5S was set up to challenge the established parties, resists being called a party itself and claims to transcend the division between right and left. Inevitably, it has found itself ill at ease in power, and all the more so now it is in coalition with the mainstream

pd. Since the general election in March 2018, 24 of the M5S's 331 lawmakers have deserted it in parliament.

What happens now is unclear. Mr Zingaretti proposed that the Five Stars formally join the PD in an electoral alliance that already includes other, smaller groups. But his offer was implicitly rejected by the M5S's stopgap leader, Vito Crimi. The movement is to hold a congress in March to decide whether to take a new direction.

That sets a leisurely timetable given the pace at which the M5S is disintegrating. The governing coalition is safe in the lower house where it has a majority of 24. But in the Senate, the Five Star defections have already left it two seats short of a majority and de-

pendent on the support of assorted regionalists and independents.

The PD is more compact. But that is largely because it has lost almost 40 of its parliamentarians to Italia Viva, a group set up last year by a former prime minister, Matteo Renzi. Italia Viva is not yet a party and remains in the government's orbit. But Mr Renzi, who has been wooing the more moderate wing of Forza Italia, remains a wild card. Against this background, Mr Salvini's best course may be to sit tight and do only as much as necessary. But it is one the League's hyperactive, publicity-hungry leader will find hard to follow.

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LOCUSTS IN AFRICA

Severe swarms

Prescient warnings failed to prevent the crisis

"LET MY people go, so that they may worship me. If you refuse to let them go, I will bring locusts into your country tomorrow." So said God, rather vengefully, according to Moses and Aaron. But although the locust infestation wreaking havoc on east Africa is of biblical proportions, it is not a portent of end times, said experts at a press conference in Nairobi this month. Still, the finger-length bugs spell big trouble for the countries most affected.

It is the worst locust invasion in decades for Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia. One enormous swarm, recently over north-eastern Kenya, contains nearly 200bn of the creatures and occupies a space in the sky three times the size of New York City. There are dozens of swarms in Kenya alone. And the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) warns that the number of locusts could increase 500-fold by June, when it is hoped that drier weather will check their spread.

The insects eat a lot. A swarm the size of Paris consumes the same amount of food in one day as half the population of France. Crops such as millet, sorghum and maize are a big part of their diet, making life even harder for the 12m or so people in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia who are already hungry (see map). Northern Uganda and South

Sudan are also at risk; swarms are just 200km away and moving fast. Tempting as it may be to blame God, there are more obvious culprits. The swarms were first noticed a year and a half ago in the Arabian peninsula. Last July the FAO warned that they "could migrate from Yemen in the autumn to the Horn of Africa and reach Kenya by the end of the year, unless urgent preventive and control measures are established in the region." They weren't. The organisation appealed to rich countries for funds to contain the bugs. But little cash arrived.

Soon the locusts had reached Ethiopia, where some farmers lost their entire crop. In September the government there asked the FAO for help in raising \$2m to control the pests. By November they were asking for \$6m. Again, little arrived. As the swarms reached Kenya this month, the UN appealed for \$70m to pay for, among other things, the aerial spraying of insecticide in east Africa. The cost of containment may yet prove higher.

Killing the bugs early is vital. Locusts live for just three to five months, but they multiply quickly. In favourable conditions each generation will be about 20 times larger than the last. Tracking them gets tougher, too. Swarms can travel 150km in a day. But

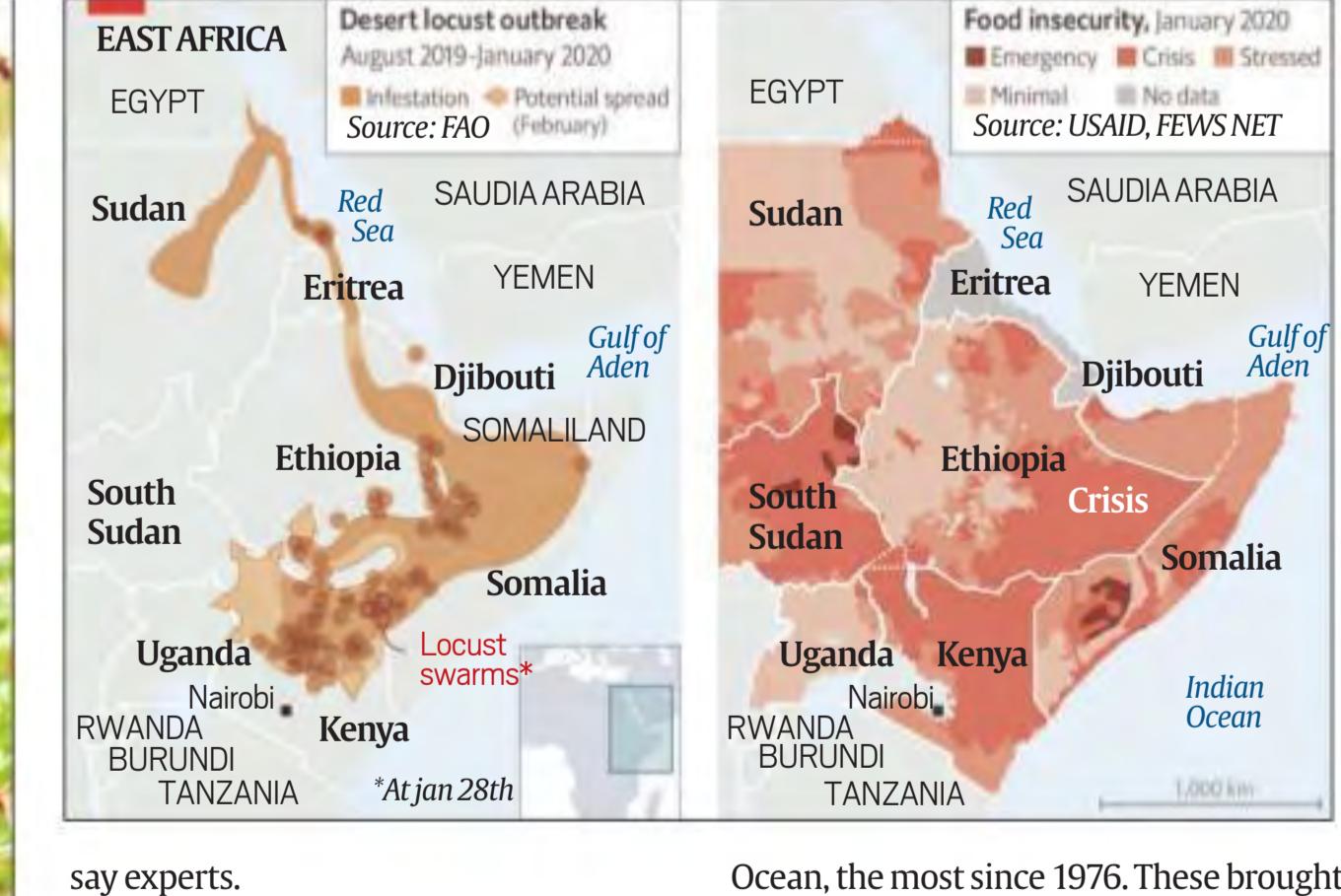


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they can be managed with surveillance and spraying, particularly if they are doused when still young and hopping, and before the population booms. At that stage spraying from cars or on foot can be reasonably effective.

Early action is also cost-effective. The

last big locust crisis, in north-west Africa, lasted from 2003 to 2005 and caused an estimated \$2.5bn worth of damage to harvests. Getting it under control cost almost \$600m, with donors footing much of the bill. That is enough to cover preventive measures in the same region for 170 years,



say experts.

But prevention does not attract much funding. "This is a Catch-22," says Keith Cressman, the Senior Locust Forecasting Officer at the fao. "Donors are interested in funding big emergencies, big problems." And governments, unlike locusts, move slowly. In rich countries insurers often press governments to take preventive actions. In Africa few farms are insured, so there is less pressure. Once the swarms take flight, affected countries often lack the capacity and expertise to control them.

Preventive measures have also been hindered by conflict in Yemen and Somalia, where gaining access to some areas for spraying was deemed too dangerous. Meanwhile, extreme weather has given the locusts six legs up. Last year there were eight cyclones over the northern Indian

Ocean, the most since 1976. These brought heavy rains to parts of the Arabian Peninsula and Horn of Africa. The resulting vegetation gave the insects plenty to munch on.

As the planet warms, climate models suggest that the weather in the Horn of Africa will become less predictable, making it harder to anticipate locust infestations. That seems all the more reason to invest in tracking and control measures, and to make sure that action is taken quickly. Several international organisations are building systems that trigger the release of aid from an existing pot when forecasts of drought, another bane of east Africa, grow dire. The same could be done to stop locusts before they get off the ground.

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Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Satya Prakash, s/o Sh. Jor Singh, R/o C-4/20A, Gali No 1, Sudamapuri, Gamri Extn., Delhi - 110053 have changed my name to Satya Prakash Singh for all future purpose. 0040530488-1

I, Raza Hashmi S/o Abdul Mughni R/o-B-2106, Gali- No.59,Sant Nagar, Hanuman Kunj, Burari, Delhi-110084 have changed my name to Reza Hashmi. 0040530499-4

I, Rajani Devi W/o Mohan Singh Rawat R/o-13-D, Pocket-E, Dilshad garden, Delhi-95, have changed my name to Rajni Rawat for all purpose. 0040530499-2

I, Manoj Singh Rana S/o-Sh. Kuwar Singh, Residence-RC-344, Damodar Vihar, Khora Colony, Ghaziabad U.P.-201309, have changed my name from Manoj Singh Rana to Vinod for all purpose infuture. 0040530499-7

I, ESHAMUDDIN S/o Abdul Hamid R/o-H.No.22A, Bisahra Road, Nyaydarganj, Tehsil- Dadri, Gautam Budh Nagar, UP-202307, have changed my name to ISLAMUDDIN. 0040530499-1

I, Ashni Chetan Mehta W/o Sagar Deepak Jhaveri R/o-W88 G.K.I N.D-110048, have changed my Name to Ashni Sagar Jhaveri for all purposes. 0040530537-4

I, LAROKIA MARY W/O Maria Susai Shekhar, R/o-D-3, New Zealand High Commission, Nyaya Marg Chanaky Puri, N.D.-110021, have changed my name to ALICE SHEKHAR for all future purposes. 0040530499-1

I, Vinod S/o Hardwari Lal Sharma, Resi-L-2,1346,Shastri Nagar, Meerut,Uttar-Pradesh, have change my name to Vinod Sharma for all future purposes. 0040530537-8

I, Vidya Ram Gautam S/o Sh. Dabbali Prasad R/o-670-71 E-Block- Mangolpur Delhi-110033, have changed my name to Vidya Ram, permanently. 0040530486-1

I, Sushila Garg W/o Pawan Kumar R/o-G-27/94-95, 1st-Floor, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Sushila Devi Garg. 0040530498-6

I, Surendra Ram S/o Rupnarayan Ram R/o 31/1/23A Bhujanga Dhar Road, Liliyah, Howrah, WB, 71204, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Surendra Singh. 0070696502-1

I, Sikander S/o Shreepal & Vimlesh R/o-A-377 Third-Floor G.D. Colony Mayur-Vihar-3 Delhi-110069, have changed my name to Sikander Rathi S/o Shripal Rathi & Vimlesh Rathi. 0040530498-4

I, Sarveet Singh s/o Inder Jeet Singh R/o-1/2217-A, Ram Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Sarveet Singh Saini permanently. 0040530537-3

I, Uma Nand S/o Jagdish Prashad R/o Kh.No.53/4, E-block, Pradhan Enclave, Burari, Delhi-110084, have changed to my name Om Maithani for,all purpose. 0040530499-3

I, Sandeep Kumar S/o Madan Pal R/o-16, Gali No.11, C-Block, Mehtagar, Gokulpur, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to Situ Kumar. 0040530498-8

I, Sanah Kausar W/o Ubaid Nasim D/o Nasir Noor R/o B-473, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Sanah Kausar Ubaid for all purposes. 040530406-1

I, Renu Sharma W/o Dhanesh Ieshdhan R/o WB-38 (G.F.) Lane No.3 Shakarpur Delhi-110092, have changed my parental name. In future I shall be known as Renu Ieshdhan for all official purposes. 0040530416-1

I, Rashmin Chhatwal W/o Surinder Pal Singh R/o-B-6/14, Block-B6, Rajouri Garden, N.Delhi-27 have changed my name to Rashmin Kaur Bindra. 0040530498-7

I, Ranjam Kalra w/o Jatin Wadhwa /o B-1/571, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058 have changed my name to Ranjam WADHWA (PAN: AKPK5559B). 0040530490-1

I, Raju G. S/o George R/o-97-B Pocket C-2 Mayur-Vihar-3 Delhi-110096 have changed my name to Raju George, for all purposes. 0040530498-3

I, Rachna Kanchan w/o Siddharth Thapliyal R/o-A-703, Paradise Apartments, 40-I Extension, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to Rachna Thapliyal permanently. 0040530514-5

I, Puja W/o Lalit Kumar R/o Flat No -1602, Tower-2 Sunworld Vanalika, Sector-107, Noida, G.B. Nagar U.P. have changed my name to Puja Wadhera for all purposes. 0040530481-2

I, Nirmal@Nirmal Kumari W/o Surendra Singh D/o Mohar Singh R/o-254/19A, East-Guru Angad-Nagar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Nirmal Rana. 0040530498-9

I, Dara Singh S/o Late Prakash R/o-125, Khasra No.100/28, Village-Rajpur, Sector-9, Rohini Delhi-110085, changed my minor son's name Dhruv Sisodia to Dhruv. 040530498-2

I, Nirmal Kumari(after marriage Neelu Malhotra)D/o Shri Laj Pat Rai Harjai and W/o Shri Rakesh Kumar Malhotra R/o 11/381, Sunder Vihar, New Delhi-110087 hereby delare that my name has been changed as Neelu Malhotra after my marriage. This is for all record and future purposes. Nirmal Kumari and Neelu Malhotra is one and same person. 0040530412-1

I, Meenu W/o Santosh Kumar R/o A-422, New Sanjay Amar Colony,Vishwas Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-32 have changed my name from Madhu to Meenu for all future purposes. 0040530455-1

I, Rajani Devi W/o Mohan Singh Rawat R/o-13-D,Pocket-E,Dilshad garden,Delhi-95, have changed my name to Rajni Rawat for all purpose. 0040530499-2

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I, Amit Srivastav S/o Arun Kumar Srivastav R/o-Vill-Deoria Lala, Post-Deoria- Buzurg, Distt-Ambedkar nagar, U.P.-224137, have changed my name to Amit Kumar Srivastav. 0040530483-1

I, Amit Srivastav S/o Arun Kumar Srivastav R/o-Vill-Deoria Lala, Post-Deoria- Buzurg, Distt-Ambedkar nagar, U.P.-224137, have changed my name to Amit Kumar Srivastav. 0040530483-1

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I, Amit Srivastav S/o Arun Kumar Srivastav R/o-Vill-Deoria Lala, Post-Deoria- Buzurg, Distt-Ambedkar nagar, U.P

SENSEX: 41,142.66 ▲ 353.28 NIFTY: 12,089.15 ▲ 109.50 NIKKEI: 23,319.56 ▲ 234.97 HANG SENG: 26,786.74 ▲ 110.76 FTSE: 7,476.33 ▲ 36.51 DAX: 13,414.42 ▲ 132.68



GOLD

₹40,871



RUPEE

₹71.24



OIL

\$58.02



SILVER

₹46,881

*Indian basket as on January 31, 2020

SECTOR WATCH LENDING

'Only 6% of Gen Z consumers credit active, two-wheelers on top of loan list'

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 5

CREDIT ACTIVE Generation Z consumers — those born in or after 1995 — in India are only nine million, or 6 per cent of those eligible to apply for credit but they are becoming increasingly active in the loan market with as much as 21 per cent in the group taking loans for two-wheelers.

"The percentage of India's population that was classified as Gen Z and over 18, and thus eligible to apply for credit, was 11 per cent, almost 147 million people," said a study by Transunion Cibil, a credit information company. The study revealed that "only 6 per cent of this eligible group were credit active" in calendar year 2019, which is nearly 9 million people.

The percentage of the Indian population that was classified as Gen Z — ranging from age 0-24 as of CY 2019 — was 44 per cent, representing more than 609 million people.

For Gen Z, credit card participation is growing, but remains low compared to the wider national average.

For Indian Gen Z consumers, originations — the rate at which new accounts are being opened — are growing fastest in the consumption lending categories. Looking at year-over-year growth in originations in CY 2019, credit cards grew 150 per cent, consumer durables 113 per cent and personal loans 95 per cent. In the personal loans space especially, the prevalence of NBFCs and the rapid growth of fintech lenders has accelerated the availability and ease of application for this particular credit product, it said.

As per the study, there is a large divide in how Gen Z approaches credit in emerging markets versus established credit markets. While in most established markets more than half of Gen Z are already credit active, the percentages drop precipitously for EMs.

"In EMs, lenders may be more conservative with extending traditional credit products to Gen Z, as those consumers may not yet have the credit histories and track records those lenders use to assess and manage risk," said Kelkar.

Consumer durables loans

CLASSIFYING GENERATION Z

■ The percentage of the Indian population that was classified as Gen Z — ranging from age 0-24 as of CY 2019 — was 44 per cent, representing more than 609 million people

■ The most commonly held products are two-wheeler loans (21 per cent, or 1.26 million), consumer durables loans (13 per cent), and credit cards (11 per cent)

are usually used by the broader population to finance large ticket purchases. However, as the second most popular consumer credit product among Gen Z consumers, they are most likely to be used to buy a smartphone, personal computer or laptop, or even a television, rather than household appliances like refrigerators or washing machines often preferred by older generations.

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AUTO EXPO 2020

Concept cars rule as slowdown puts brake on launches; electric mobility takes a backseat

On the back of sector recording its worst sales fall in two decades last year, Toyota, Honda, Audi, among others give the show a miss

SANDEEP SINGH &
ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

REFLECTIVE OF the flagging sentiment in the country's auto sector, Auto Expo 2020 got off to a tepid start on Wednesday with the smallest number of new launches in over a decade and at least half a dozen key players giving the biennial event a miss.

At least two leading automakers that participated at the event testified that they would not have bothered to display their vehicles had their representatives not been at the helm of industry lobby group and expo organiser SIAM.

The biennial event, billed as Asia's biggest automotive expo in terms of footfalls, was also testament to the sobering realisation that the Centre's electric mobility push is floundering — a marked difference from the visible enthusiasm for electric mobility solutions that was on display at the last edition of the expo two years ago.

Coming on the back of the industry recording its worst-ever sales decline in two decades last year, leading car makers including Toyota, Honda, Audi, Ford, BMW, Fiat, Jeep, Jaguar Land Rover, Lexus and Volvo decided to give the expo a miss. Apart from the sales slump and rising inventory, a running theme was that manufacturers were invested in preparing their lineup for a BSVI emission norms upgrade before the mandated April 2020 deadline. Even the bulk of the launches were largely re-

stricted to concepts. Add to that the overhang of the coronavirus, which clearly dented a Chinese late charge for India's auto market, the setting for the 15th edition of the Auto Expo 2020 was decidedly low-key. The event kicked-off with the unveiling of market leader Maruti Suzuki's unconventional Futuro-E electric concept — billed as an electric SUV-coupe that Kenichi Ayukawa, managing director of Maruti Suzuki, said has been "conceptualised and designed in India". Company executives, however, were of the view that an EV push can work at the mass market level only if the acquisition cost comes down and the charging infrastructure at homes and workplaces achieves a degree of penetration.

Seoul-headquartered Kia Motors, South Korea's second-largest automobile manufacturer and an affiliate of Hyundai Motors, launched the new Carnival MPV at a starting price of Rs 24.95 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi). Having tasted early success with its Seltos compact sports utility vehicle, the Carnival — Kia's second offering in India — will be slotted above Toyota's Innova Crysta and has a top-end limousine version priced at just under Rs 34 lakh. Kia also unveiled a concept sub-compact SUV, Sonet, which is pitched against Hyundai's Venue, Suzuki's Brezza and the Ford Ecosport. Utility maker Mahindra & Mahindra launched an electric version of its KUV compact car at a starting price of Rs 8.25 lakh (ex-showroom), making it India's



1. Maruti Suzuki India MD & CEO Kenichi Ayukawa with the concept Futuro-e.
2. Tata Motors MD & CEO Guenter Butschek and Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran, with the Gravitas.
3. MG Motor India President & Managing Director Rajeev Chaba with Marvel X. Praveen Khanna

cheapest electric car on offer so far.

Tata Motors while launching Harrier 2020, also unveiled the pre-production version of its 7-seater SUV — Gravitas. For Renault, an AMT version of its Triber sub-compact multi-purpose vehicle, a model that is already on the roads and is already a volume driver for the French carmaker, was its main showcase at the event on Day 1. In

line with the growing demand for SUVs and the runaway success of products like Kia Seltos and MG Hector, German car maker Volkswagen unveiled three SUVs for India — the compact T-Roc, the mid-sized Taigun and 7-seater Tiguan AllSpace.

China's largest sport vehicle manufacturer Great Wall Motors unveiled its 'Haval' brand of sport

utility vehicles and vehicle concept 2025 to mark its entry in the Indian market, even though the company was hamstrung by the absence of top executives from headquarters in Baoding in coronavirus-hit China. The company unveiled four SUVs at the event which includes Haval H9, Haval F7X, Haval F7 and Haval F5. Great Wall will be the second vehicle manufacturer from

China to enter the Indian market after SAIC Motor Corp owned Motor India. MG Motors, which too like Kia Motors has seen early success with its Hector mid-sized SUV, unveiled another utility vehicle Marvel X on the first day of the expo. It did not reveal the date for the launch or its prices.

On the EV push, the NDA government has shown lack-of-clarity, given that in 2017, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari announced that he intended for India to move to 100 per cent electric cars by 2030, before backtracking and whittling down this target 30 per cent. At present, EV market penetration is only 1 per cent of total vehicle sales in India, and of that, 95 per cent of sales are electric two-wheelers. CV Raman, senior executive director (Engg) at Maruti Suzuki, said that while the government push is encouraging, the acquisition cost is a key metric to making EVs a mass market product. "From a customer point of view the average price of Indian vehicles (entire range) is Rs 5.5-6 lakh. Now, how much would one pay for an EV, would they pay double of that, would they want to go through the hassle of charging every day. There is a possibility that they may shift but one is not sure... But can the acquisition cost come down and can we put the charging infra at home and in the workplace? Electricity availability is not the issue, for carbon neutrality the question is whether it is coming from renewable energy source. If it isn't, then EV carbon footprint would be more than a hybrid car".

Expect some pick-up in sales after April'

"Everyone is a bit concerned about the future and are hesitating to participate in the new products. If the government encourages people, and the economy improves then we can expect volumes to come back to the industry"

KENICHI AYUKAWA,
MD & CEO, MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA

This year at the Auto Expo we have seen some companies launching their EVs but many are still showing concept vehicles. Do you think there is still a lot of anxiety around whether we are ready as a market and will it work?

When we look at the market, we can't find the customer for the electric vehicles. While the environment is not completely ready, the technology itself is developing. I think a time will come which will demand that we need to be ready with EV product and then we will launch it in the market. We will develop in time. We also plan to bring new products after that and may lead to an uptick in growth.

I, however, think that the economic condition of the country holds the key. Everyone is a bit concerned about the future and

actually things may shape out. February and March are expected to be very tough for the industry because we have to get the transition completed from BSIV to BSVI. After that the market may stabilise and it may revive a bit.

We also plan to bring new products after that and may lead to an uptick in growth.

We have been growing in double digits in the past and, in the short term, it is difficult to regain those kinds of growth rates but right now we are stable as compared to last year. We expect some pick-up in sales after April, however, we are not sure how ex-

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We can't close the door for anyone. Everyone can come to the market and as they come we have to compete. However, I am not sure if they are seriously considering developing business in India. If they show that they are building factory, doing production of cars and delivering it into the market, I think, it is fine. As of now we are seeing just the launch of vehicles.

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ON THE SIDELINES



CISF guards distributing masks at the entrance. The coronavirus overhang was palpable, despite a thin Chinese presence.



Maruti Suzuki executives checking out competition: Kia Carnival's rear seat folding mechanism was a big hit.



MG Motors was decidedly focused on casting aside its Chinese ownership, with a clear emphasis on marketing the British heritage of the MG brand. The expo stall was modelled on the London Underground station. Anil Sasi & Sandeep Singh

Beginning second half, we may slowly start to get back to normal growth path'



MD & CEO, HYUNDAI MOTORS INDIA
SEON SEOB KIM
Praveen Khanna

EV and our mass market EV will be introduced maybe within 2-3 years. Looking at the current mar-

ket situation, in terms of market demand, size, segment and infrastructure situation, I think our mass market EV timing will be right. In the meantime, if necessary, we can think about some additional options as we have more global EV products that are sold in other markets and if necessary we can think about them as options. In the meantime we are trying to set up some alliance or strong collaboration with some energy companies to secure charging infrastructure, not only for Hyundai customers but also for the public and the fleet. Our focus mainly is private customers but government's plan is more focussed on

fleets so we are looking at how to co-operate and move forward.

Are you apprehensive about the progress on electric vehicles?

In our case, we are contacting a lot of local suppliers because if we have to introduce affordable and competitive electric vehicles the localisation will be critical factor. It is early stage as of now for all the OEMs. We are preparing on various barriers because localisation of critical EV parts is important for sustainable business platform.

Is it a too early for battery

Hyundai might be one of the few OEMs which prepares all kinds of electric options — hybrid, plug-in-hybrid, battery EV and fuel cell vehicle (FCV). There might be some transition in the medium term but Hyundai's position is that we will strongly focus on EVs and Fuel Cell. The fundamental solution to emissions is electrification of vehicle. While it is the direction we are working on, it is also the thinking of the Indian government. From a long-term perspective, BEV and FCV are the major focus areas for Hyundai.

With this gain, the Sensex has gained over 1406 points in three session after the 988-point plunge on February 1 when Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the Budget. Market gains were driven mainly by rate-sensitive stocks ahead of the RBI's monetary policy announcement by the Reserve Bank of India. The NSE Nifty rose 109.50 points, or 0.91 per cent, to settle at 12,089.15 — taking the 3-day gains to 427.30 points or 3.66 per cent.

With 353-point jump, Sensex post-Budget gain at 1,406

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Tata Steel, the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rose 5.14 per cent,

Have sought
10 years to pay
AGR principal:
Vodafone CEO

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA
LONDON, FEBRUARY 5

BRITISH TELECOM major Vodafone on Wednesday said it has sought waiver of interest and penalty from statutory dues demand raised by the government from Vodafone Idea, and a time of 10 years to pay only the principal amount with a two-year moratorium.

The Supreme Court in October upheld the demand raised by the government from telecom operators to pay levies on the revenues earned by them.

Vodafone Idea is staring at unpaid statutory dues of Rs 53,038 crore, including Rs 24,729 crore of spectrum dues and Rs 28,309 crore in licence fee, and has already warned of shutdown if no relief is given. "We have requested an immediate two-year moratorium on spectrum payments, lowering of licence fees and taxes, waiving off interest and penalties on the AGR case and ability to make the payment on principal over 10 years with a 2-year moratorium," Vodafone CEO Nick Read said.

IRDAI sets up panel for standalone micro-insurer

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 5

THE INSURANCE Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) has formed a panel under Mirai Chatterjee, director, SEWA, Ahmedabad, to assess the desirability and feasibility of the formation of standalone micro-insurance companies in the country.

Well-known banker with exposure in micro-finance sector Nachiket Mor and Ajit Dayal, founder, Quantum Mutual Fund will be also the members of the panel with eight other experts and the panel would submit its report in three months. India is the largest micro-insurance market in the world. The panel would review the existing legal and regulatory framework to enable a standalone micro-insurance company.

Indian Insurance Company, after analysing similar provisions in other jurisdictions, it will also recommend the maximum sum insured per person which may be accepted by the proposed micro-insurance company.

The panel will also consider the aspect of ease of doing business, suggest on the applicability and or relaxation of extant Act and regulatory provisions for the proposed micro-insurance company, which may be registered as an insurer. The indicative regulatory aspects are: capital and solvency, underwriting, product and claims, finance

Govt: DoT planning to set up Telecom Ombudsman

AASHISHARYAN
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE DEPARTMENT of Telecommunications (DoT) is planning to set up the post of a Telecom Ombudsman to deal with consumer complaints and grievances on poor quality telephony services, the Minister of State for telecom Sanjay Dhotre told Lok Sabha Wednesday.

The ombudsman will be the third level of authority which users can approach, if their complaints on poor quality service is not heard by the telecom services providers. The first level is the complaint centre of the respective telcos, whereas the second level is the appellate authority, which decides on the users' complaints within 39 days.

"In case a grievance is not redressed even after exhausting the two tier procedure as prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), the complainant may approach Public Grievance wing of Department of Telecommunications (DoT), along with all documentary evidence(s) for non-redressal of grievance at concerned service provider level," Dhotre told Lok Sabha.

'Airtel to not bid for 5G spectrum at Trai's price'

New Delhi: Bharti Airtel on Wednesday said it will not buy 5G spectrum in the upcoming auction if its base price is fixed at Rs 492 crore per megahertz as recommended by the telecom regulator Trai. PTI

The concept of a telecom ombudsman was first floated by TRAI in late 2017, after which the Telecom Commission had cleared the proposal in 2018. However, there have been no developments on that front after that, despite repeated reminders sent to the DoT from TRAI. Dhotre response on Wednesday came on a specific question seeking the number of complaints against telecom service providers, and as to what action was taken against them.

In his reply, Dhotre said that until September 2019, a total of 30,131 user complaints had been received, led by Vodafone Idea, which had as many as 12,849 aggrieved subscribers. The CBDT in its communication dated February 4 has asked principal chief commissioners to collate the data and send it by next week. The CBDT has asked the regional Income Tax

'VIVAD SE VISHWAS' SCHEME

Compile data on pending appeals in high courts: CBDT to field officers

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

PURSUANT TO the Budget announcement of the direct tax amnesty scheme, Vivad se Vishwas, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has asked its field officers to compile data for pending appeals in high courts.

"In order to implement the scheme, the CBDT needs a database on such litigations pending at high court level. It is therefore, requested that the data on pending appeals at high court level as on January 31, 2020, be obtained with the help of court registry and the same may be supplemented with the records of the field office," a communication sent to Principal Chief Commissioners stated.

The CBDT in its communication dated February 4 has asked principal chief commissioners to pay dues by March 31 and get complete interest and penalty waiver. After the March 31 deadline, the second deadline would be till June 30, but with the requirement to pay 10 per cent

Department chiefs to personally monitor the exercise and submit the data by February 14 to it through e-mail.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech had announced this scheme, which aims to resolve 4.83 lakh direct tax cases pending at various appellate forums such as the Commissioner (Appeals), the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), high courts and the Supreme Court.

Under the scheme, taxpayers with pending demands can pay

Cases involving serious financial crimes like money laundering, those related to undisclosed foreign assets and where prosecution has been launched under the Income Tax Act and the Benami assets law will not be eligible to be included under the scheme.

Separately, at a CII event, CBDT Chairman PC Mody said the tax department is "reasonably confident" of meeting the revised direct tax collection of Rs

11.7 lakh crore in the current fiscal, adding that the department is doing data mining and using artificial intelligence to augment revenue, and will not undertake any coercive action. "Whatever estimates have now been given, I think there is absolute realism to that... I am reasonably confident that we will be able to meet this year's target," Mody said.

Of the total direct tax collection for 2019-20, estimated income tax collection stands at Rs 5.59 lakh crore and corporate tax mop at Rs 6.10 lakh crore.

Income tax collection target for next fiscal is pegged at Rs 6.38 lakh crore and corporate tax collection at Rs 6.81 lakh crore.

Mody said the tax department will use technology and encourage voluntary compliance. "We are going to make use of technology in a big way. We are doing data mining, using artificial intelligence very extensively. And the results of that will be visible in the time to come," he said.

BRIEFLY

Rosneft keen to bid for BPCL

New Delhi: Russia's largest oil producer Rosneft is keen to bid for acquisition of Bharat Petroleum (BPCL), sources said after the Russian firm's CEO Igor Sechin met oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Wednesday.

IOC signs deal for importing Russian crude

New Delhi: State-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC) on Wednesday signed first term contract for importing Russian crude oil as the world's third largest energy consumer looks to diversify its sources away from the volatile Middle East. PTI

US trade deficit falls in 2019, 1st time in 6 yrs

Washington: The US trade deficit fell for the first time in six years in 2019 as the White House's trade war with China curbed the import bill, keeping the economy on a moderate growth path despite a slowdown in consumer spending and weak business investment.

LinkedIn CEO Jeff Weiner to step down

Bengaluru: Professional networking platform LinkedIn's chief executive officer, Jeff Weiner, said on Wednesday that he would step down from his position effective June 1. Head of product Ryan Roslansky will take over as CEO of Microsoft's LinkedIn, Weiner said. REUTERS

Sebi framework for draft offer papers

New Delhi: Sebi on Wednesday said draft offer documents filed by companies for sale of securities will be kept in abeyance whenever there is a case of probable investigation or a probe is already in progress against the entities. PTI

No proposal to link Aadhaar to social media, says Prasad

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE GOVERNMENT has no proposal to link social media profiles of users to their respective Aadhaar numbers, the Minister for Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Ravi Shankar Prasad told the Lok Sabha Wednesday.

"There is no proposal with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to link social media profiles of users with their Aadhaar number" Prasad told the lower house in a written reply. The issue of whether Aadhaar numbers of individuals should be linked to so-

cial media profiles is also currently pending in litigation before the Supreme Court (SC). In October last year, the top court had transferred all such cases, pending before various high courts, to itself.

The MeitY had then in its affidavit said that though technology had led to economic growth and societal development, it had also been a medium for "exponential rise in hate speech, fake news, public order, anti-national activities, defamatory postings, and other unlawful activities using internet/social media platforms". The ministry had sought time till January 15, 2020 from the SC to finalise on the various suggestions it had received from various stakeholders on the issue.

The Tamil Nadu government had then supported the idea, and said that the move could help check terror messages, pornographic material, and even fake news. Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, and other social media companies had, however, opposed this proposal, and said that such a move would hamper the privacy of their users.

Jan services sector activity growth hits 7-year high on new business orders

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 5

INDIA'S SERVICES sector activity surged to a seven-year high in January driven by sharp increase in new business orders, leading to job creation and business optimism amid favourable market conditions, a monthly IHS Markit survey said.

The IHS Markit India Services Business Activity index rose to 55.5 in January, from 53.3 in December, signalling the strongest upturn in output in seven years.

Earlier this week, another survey said the country's manufacturing sector activity climbed

to a near eight-year high in January.

The IHS Markit India Manufacturing PMI jumped to its highest level in just under eight years, driven by sharp increase in new business orders, leading to job creation and business optimism amid favourable market conditions, a monthly survey said on Wednesday.

The Indian service sector sprung to life at the start of 2020, defying expectations of fragility and building on the momentum gained at the end of 2019," said Pollyanna de Lima, principal economist at IHS Markit.

New work intakes also ex-

panded to the greatest extent in seven years. WITH PTI

ITI withdraws ₹1,400 crore FPO after extending issue deadline twice

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

AFTER EXTENDING its issue deadline twice, state-owned ITI on Wednesday withdrew its follow-on public offer citing "prevailing market conditions".

The announcement came after ITI extended the issue period for its follow-on public offer (FPO) twice amid lukewarm response from investors. At the upper end of the price band, the company expected to mop-up Rs 1,400 crore.

As of Wednesday, the issue was subscribed 62 per cent, as per data available with the NSE. "Pursuant to a resolution passed by the FPO committee of the company dated February 5 the company has decided to withdraw the issue, due to the prevailing market conditions, in consultation with the bookrunning lead managers to the issue," the firm said.

Cooperative banks which are 1500 plus in number, have been brought under the regulation of RBI. Cooperative movement is very strong. It has more than 8.6 crore depositors; Rs 5 lakh crore deposits and 1,540 multi-state, ur-

'Budget light on new structural reforms'

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget for 2020-21 was light on new structural reforms, Fitch Ratings has said

OUTLOOK

■ It is highly unlikely the country's general government debt will be brought within the ceiling of 60 per cent of GDP by FY25, as stipulated in the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act

■ The government debt will remain close to 70 per cent of GDP throughout the period to 2021-22
■ India's high public debt levels are a weakness relative to its rating peers (the BBB median stood at 41.1 per cent in 2019)

GROWTH FORECAST

India's economic growth is set to pick up to 5.6 per cent in FY21 from 4.6% in FY20

SLIPPAGE
The Budget implies a modest degree of slippage from previous targets to consolidate public finances

OUTLYING RISKS
However, risks are likely skewed towards the downside, particularly for revenues in light of previously announced cuts in the corporate income tax rate and newly unveiled income tax rate reductions

NO MAJOR REFORMS
The Budget was light on new structural reforms, although the government had already unveiled some measures last year

Source: Fitch Ratings/PTI

Cabinet approves amendment to allow cooperatives to come under RBI purview

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE UNION Cabinet has approved amendments to the Banking Regulation Act, which will empower the Reserve Bank of India to have regulatory oversight over cooperative banks.

"Cooperative banks which are 1500 plus in number, have been brought under the regulation of RBI. Cooperative movement is very strong. It has more than 8.6 crore depositors; Rs 5 lakh crore deposits and 1,540 multi-state, ur-

ban and other cooperative banks", Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said.

He added, "There will be qualification for appointment of directors and pre-permission will be required for the appointment of CEO and other important office bearers. At the same time audit and other norms of the RBI will be implemented in the sector. This will give financial stability to the sector."

The Cabinet also gave its 'in-principle' approval for setting up a major port at Vadhvan in Maharashtra.

Javadekar said, "The total cost of this project will be Rs 51,000 crore. This is part of Rs 100 lakh crore infrastructure plan of the country."

The Cabinet approved the Indian Institutes of Information Technology Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020 which seek to grant statutory status to five IITs in Public Private Partnership mode at Surat, Bhopal, Bhagpur, Agartala and Raichur, and declare them Institutions of National Importance along with already existing 15 Indian Institutes of Information Technology.

Unemployment rate at 6.1% in 2017-18, govt cites new survey

New Delhi: Unemployment rate in the country as per a new survey was 6.1 per cent in 2017-18, the government informed Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

Minister of State for Labour Santosh Gangwar said the government is conducting a new Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) with new parameters and bigger sample size, and its results cannot be compared with previous surveys in

this regard.

"As per the new Periodic Labour Force Survey being conducted by the government, the labour force participation is 36.9 per cent and the rate of unemployment for 2017-18 is 6.1 per cent," he said.

Replies to supplementaries during the Question Hour, the minister said the report of this survey is very different than the surveys conducted in previous years. PTI

Intellectual property index: India ranks 40

Washington: India has been ranked 40th out of 53 countries on a global intellectual property index, even as the country has shown improvement in terms of scores when it comes to the protection of IP and copyright issues, a top American industry body said on Wednesday.

India was placed at 36th position among 50 countries in 2019. India's score, however, increased from 36.04 per cent (16.22 out of 45) in 2019 to 38.46 per cent (19.23 out of 50) in 2020. PTI

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email: cere_meseb@rediffmail.com

No. MePDCL/CE(RE)/T-191/2019-20/3 Dated the 4th February, 2020.

TENDER NOTICE

The Submission of BIDs of Tender No. MePDCL/RE/T-191/2019-20/Pkg-I, i.e. Tender in e-tendering format are invited from reputed firms for works of Meghalaya Power Distribution Sector Improvement Project under Asian Development Bank for "Supply of Smart Meters and Associated Services" in Meghalaya. The submission of bids has been fixed till 31st March 2020 upto 14:30 IST, the same shall be opened on the same day at 15:00 IST in MeECL Conference Room, Lumjingshai, Shillong.

Interested bidders may download the detailed Bidding Documents, Technical Specification, etc. from the website <http://www.meghalayatenders.gov.in> from 5th February 2020 onwards. Details of the NIT are available at the above mentioned website.

MIPR No. 14

BEHIND THE BUDGET

Road to reform

Modi government is seeking to leverage schemes such as PMGSY to nudge states to liberalise their agricultural markets for seamless trading of produce

HARISH DAMODARAN
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

IN HER Union Budget speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated that the Centre would "encourage" state governments to undertake farm sector reforms based on its "model laws" relating to agricultural produce marketing, land leasing and contract cultivation. The Minister did not, however, quite elaborate how they would be encouraged.

A clue to the Narendra Modi government's strategy is contained in the fifteenth Finance Commission's first report for the fiscal year 2020-21. This report, which even Sitharaman referred to in her speech, has said that states should be given financial incentives "if they enact and implement all features of" the Centre's Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion & Facilitation) Act of 2017, Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion & Facilitation) Act of 2018 and the Model Agricultural Land Leasing Act of 2016.

The Constitutionally-mandated body has further recommended that the state governments "take preparatory action by securing the passage of these Bills in their respective legislatures in 2020-21 to become eligible to avail the grants (performance-based incentives) awarded by us from 2021-22 onwards".

But the above linking of grants-in-aid with agriculture reforms by states has already been kicked off in one of the most successful Centrally-sponsored schemes: the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

This programme — which has helped build nearly 6.1 lakh km of rural roads since its launch in December 25, 2000, and cover 1,67,290 out of the country's 1,78,184 "eligible habitations" (those with a minimum population of 500 in the plains and 250 in hill states, tribal districts and desert areas) that had no connectivity previously — is now into its third phase.

PMGSY-I involved construction of new all-weather roads in rural habitations having nothing more than *kutcha* or non-metalled dirt tracks. In this phase — it formally ended in March 2019 — 5,80,359 km out of the total sanctioned length of 6,46,728 km got built. In PMGSY-II, the focus was on upgradation of existing roads — their strengthening through re-laying of surface, widening or straightening. About 50,000 km of roads was identified under this phase and out of the 49,832 km sanctioned length, 32,163 km have been completed so far. In addition, 1,406 km out of a sanctioned road-length of 8,214 km have been constructed/upgraded under a separate "Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas" approved in December 2016.

In July 2019, the Modi government cleared phase three of PMGSY. Costing Rs 80,250 crore, with the Centre's share at Rs 53,800 crore and the states contributing Rs 26,450 crore, it proposes to consolidate the gains from the scheme by linking already-built roads to agricultural markets. Thus, if a particular habitation has an exist-

TABLE 1: TOTAL COMPLETED LENGTH (IN KM)

2000-01	1,806.86
2001-02	12,034.38
2002-03	10,948.51
2003-04	22,011.34
2004-05	14,355.63
2005-06	20,992.8
2006-07	25,224.66
2007-08	34,128.12
2008-09	50,827.28
2009-10	55,050.21
2010-11	46,676.8
2011-12	31,518.66
2012-13	28,359.93
2013-14	27,378.97
2014-15	38,043.16
2015-16	35,149.76
2016-17	47,457.39
2017-18	48,715.41
2018-19	49,042.25
2019-20*	40,000

*Likely.

ing PMGSY road, the same road will next have a spur route connecting directly to the nearest APMC (agricultural produce market committee) *mandi* or GRAM (Gramin Agricultural Market). In all, it is envisaged to create/improve 1,25,000 km of rural roads under PMGSY-III to enable easy and faster movement of produce from villages.

But the significant part about PMGSY-III is the release of funds from the Centre being made conditional upon the states carrying out amendments to their respective APMC laws. The states adopting reforms in line with the Union Agriculture Ministry-drafted Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion & Facilitation) Act of 2017 "shall be accorded priority in PMGSY-III", states the supplementary note for a Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs meeting held on July 19.

According to official sources, the supplementary note was prepared at the instance of the Prime Minister himself. "His whole point was that when the Centre is giving so much money (the implementation period for PMGSY-III is from 2019-20 to 2024-25), why not use this opportunity to also push agriculture market reforms and allow farmers to sell to anybody and anywhere (as against the current system, where their crop can be brought to and purchased only from regulated APMC *mandis*)?", they said.

The original Cabinet note merely required any state government to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Rural Development for providing adequate funds towards maintenance of PMGSY roads in the post five-year guarantee period, mandatorily taking up roadside tree plantation and also using plastic waste in the construction. "This note had to be re-



drafted to incorporate the reform conditionality," the sources told *The Indian Express*.

As of now, two states have been sanctioned funds under PMGSY-III. Both are, interestingly, ruled by the Opposition Congress. The first batch of proposals, for 355 roads and 10 bridges over 3,729.17 km at an estimated cost of Rs 2,290.13 crore, came from the Chhattisgarh government. The second, for 108 roads and 27 bridges covering 1,444.32 km at a cost of Rs 1,176.12 crore, was from Madhya Pradesh (MP). Both were approved last month, while five others —

Andhra Pradesh (AP), Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Gujarat — have submitted theirs, based on the detailed project reports for individual roads already vetted by the state technical agencies concerned (mainly the Indian Institutes of Technology and National Institutes for Technology).

"Chhattisgarh qualified as its government has implemented reforms such as permitting establishment of private produce markets, direct wholesale purchase from farmers as well as sales to retail consumers bypassing the APMCs, electronic trading, contract

TABLE 2: LEADING STATES (KM LENGTH BUILT)

MP	76,917
Rajasthan	67,187
Odisha	57,782
UP	56,315
Bihar	51,554
Chhattisgarh	32,692
West Bengal	32,667
Maharashtra	26,376
Assam	23,568
Jharkhand	23,462
Karnataka	18,575
Tamil Nadu	18,311
Himachal	15,889
ALL-INDIA*	61,319

*Includes other states; Data as on January 2020. Source: Ministry of Rural Development.

Although initiated by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the programme did not falter even after the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) came to power in 2004-05. In fact, the highest road-length of 55,000 km-plus for any year was achieved in 2009-10. Only in the last two years of UPA (2012-13 and 2013-14) did construction suffer, before being revived again by the current NDA government under Modi (see table 1).

The remarkable thing about PMGSY is that the roughly Rs 2.16 lakh crore of cumulative spending has largely gone to build roads in the states with least connectivity at the turn of the century: MP, Rajasthan, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh (table 2).

PMGSY, moreover, raised the bar in asset quality: The roads built were to meet technical specification and geometric design standards in the Rural Roads Manual, specially brought out in 2002 by the Indian Roads Congress. They were engineered to take at least 2 msa (million standard axles) commercial traffic load at the end of their 10-year design life. The DPRs of all roads had to be scrutinised by designated state technical agencies and the National Rural Roads Development Agency. PMGSY roads were also covered by a five-year maintenance contract. This was over and above the construction contract to be entered with the same contractor, as per a Standard Bidding Document.

"PMGSY's original objective of providing *pucca* road connectivity to all rural habitations has been 95% met. Now is the time to use it to build the road to reform," the sources added.

FARM CREDIT

Warehouse receipts promise more than deliver

Banks have lent just over Rs 1,700 crore against NWRs in eight years and, that too, mostly to traders

PARTHASARATHI BISWAS

PUNE/SANGLI, FEBRUARY 5

YOGESH THORAT isn't impressed with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's latest budget announcement of creating new agri-warehousing capacities or augmenting bank credit to farmers against negotiable warehouse receipts (NWR) that would be integrated with the pan-India electronic National Agriculture Market (eNAM) trading portal.

"In all such announcements, the devil is in the details," declares the 32-year-old managing director of MAHA-FPC, an umbrella organisation of Farmer Producer Companies (FPC) in Maharashtra. In this case, the devil lies not just in building warehouses that adhere to the norms prescribed by the Warehousing Development and Regulation Authority (WDRA). There are at present as many as 1,744 warehouses registered by this authority under the Government of India's Department of food and public distribution.

According to Thorat, while the accreditation process itself takes more than six months and lot of paper work, the country has no dearth of warehouses or even storage capacity *per se*. The real problem is in the NWRs issued by warehouse operators. Despite being so-called negotiable instruments — giving the bearers title to the underlying produce stored in the warehouses — few banks are willing to accept them.

Thorat speaks from personal experience.

LOANS AGAINST NWRs

Year	Total value of commodities deposited (in Rs cr)	Loans given out (in Rs cr)
2011-12	1,356.32	591.00
2012-13	416.26	105.65
2013-14	583.02	108.02
2014-15	1,160.66	388.42
2015-16	845.05	203.47
2016-17	719.93	148.40
2017-18	510.20	118.51
2018-19	631.07	41.89

Source: Department of Food and public distribution

registered warehouses. The depositors — traders or farmers — can now use e-NWRs to get loans against their underlying commodities from banks, while the lender's claim or lien will be marked by a repository storing that data in electronic form. Sitharaman stated that the e-NWRs "will be integrated with e-NAM". That would make them more secure, liquid and tradable, making it easier to obtain bank finance.

The basic idea of NWRs is appealing. Farmers typically sell their crop immediately after harvest. Since all of them bring almost their entire produce simultaneously to the market, it tends to depress prices. One way to prevent such sales — a result of farmers' desperation for liquidity, necessary to pay off old



Janardhan Patil (right) of Star Agriwarehousing at a warehouse. Parthasarathi Biswas

crop loans and buy inputs for the next planting season — is to encourage farmers to stock their produce with warehouses. The latter would, then, issue NWRs, which farmers can use to obtain loans from banks. These could be up to, say, 70 per cent of the prevailing market value of the underlying stored commodities.

In practice, though, things haven't quite worked that way. According to WDRA's annual report for 2018-19, the country has an aggregate warehousing capacity of 162.71 million tonnes (mt), of which 77.68 mt are with private players and the rest with government or cooperative institutions.

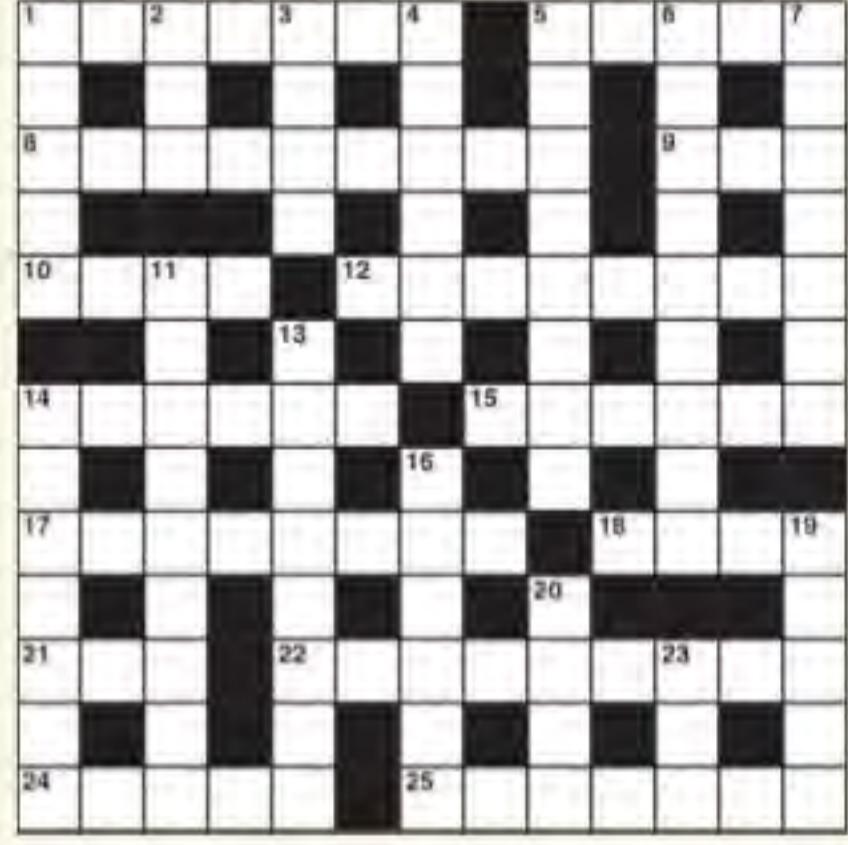
But barely a fourth of the accredited warehouses are currently issuing NWRs. Even the ones keeping their stocks with them are largely traders. "The number of farmers storing their crop in warehouses and taking loans against NWRs would be insignificant. The bulk of commodities against which there are outstanding loans are held in warehouses owned or hired by Food Corporation of India, the Central and State Warehousing Corporations, and other state/operative agencies. Besides, there are traders undertaking delivery against futures contracts at platforms such as the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange. They have to mandatorily transact through e-NWRs," explains a Mumbai-based private warehouse operator. At a 2,000-tonne capacity warehouse in

Tanang village of Sangli district's Miraj taluka, managed by Star Agriwarehousing and Collateral Management Ltd, its manager Janardhan Patil readily admits that few farmers are aware about e-NWRs or the scheme of availing pledge finance against them from banks. "Our customers are all traders," states Patil. His company operates over 800 warehouses across 16 states with a total storage capacity of 1.5 mt. Only 50 out of these warehouses, however, are WDRA-accredited. And even that has been more in order to comply with the requirement of clients dealing in commodity futures exchanges.

MAHA-FPC, back in 2011-12, tried to raise loans against some 20 tonnes of *moong* (green gram) produce from its FPCs. "State Bank of India straightforwardly refused and we ultimately got a loan at 12% annual interest from RBL Bank. Very few banks feel confident to lend against NWRs," claims Thorat. Nor does WDRA inspire much as a regulator, although it is supposed to be one on the lines of Securities and Exchange Board of India or Reserve Bank of India. "Ours is probably the only industry that is calling for strengthening the regulator, but nothing's being done," says a warehouse operator tongue in cheek.

Jaya Prakash Guraja, chief operating officer of Star Agriwarehousing, one of the biggest industry players, is somewhat more optimistic. He believes that e-NWRs, which are more secure compared to paper-based NWRs, would add to the credibility of the warehouses issuing them. Since the information, including pertaining to the quality of underlying commodities, is stored in electronic form with repositories, they will enable greater transparency in trading of produce and also regulation by WDRA. "Being already-established collateral managers, banks find it easier to deal with us. They will feel even more so, once e-NWR issuances pick up," he sums up.

CROSSWORD 4034



- ACROSS**
- Figure needs help about putting on weight (7)
 - He has a simple description for a children's rhyme (5)
 - Breeding place for germs perhaps (9)
 - Free from pride (3)
 - Sort of lottery nobody wins (4)
 - Records? Yes, of course (3,5)
 - Short form of purdah (4,2)
 - Puts one off, in a humble way? (6)
 - Approve of gin? Rubbish! (8)
 - Lies perhaps some way off the coast (4)
 - Frequently found in verse (3)
 - Gives an example in one's attitudes (9)
 - Measures a ladder (5)
 - Came to the point perhaps (7)
- Down**
- Doctor has to die in agony, having no water left (5)
 - Sort of welding used for a circular part (3)
 - They're not excavated, but dug only for fun (4)
 - A dynamic proposition (6)
 - Took out and cleaned (8)
 - Markets in which you see some strange animals (9)
 - They are barely visible to each other (7)
 - Big clash between superior forces (3,6)
 - Keeps us in bad spots (8)
 - Badgers cost her trouble (7)
 - Wager about dumb animal being a dog (6)
 - After some relief a number relaxed (5)
 - Buzzer was quiet (4)
 - Vehicle needing endless attention (3)

Solutions Crossword 4033 Across: 1 Blacking, 5 Bars, 9 Scale, 10 Turnout, 11 Control panel, 13 Resume, 14 Origin, 17 Lamentations, 20 Distant, 21 Nails, 22 Sand, 23 Coolness. Down: 1 Bass, 2 Amazons, 3 Kleptomaniac, 4 Notion, 5 Acorn, 7 Settling, 8 Proportional, 12 Preludes, 15 Gunfire, 16 Castro, 18 Mason, 19 Uses.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



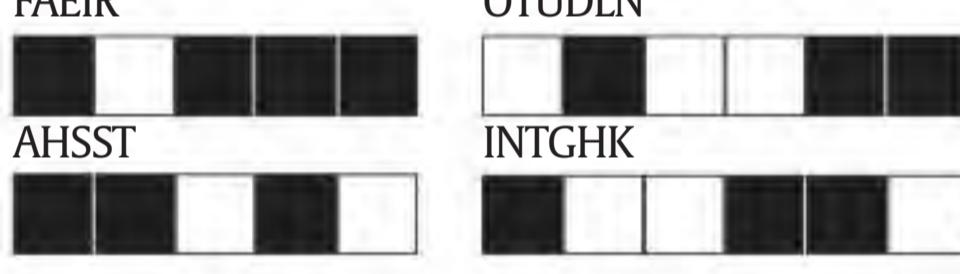
MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



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.

Education is the movement from _____ to _____ - Allan Bloom (8,5)



Answers: A-EFIRE, STASH, UNITD, KINCHT
Address: A-EFIRE, STASH, UNITD, KINCHT
to life! - Allan Bloom

SUDOKU 4112

Difficulty Level 3s

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 4111



DAY TODAY

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

A crop of emotional and contrary planetary alignments culminates in one that is optimistic and hopeful of better times to come. The best thing you can do is sit down and talk to a child, or to a younger person who needs your understanding — and can offer you inspiration.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
Let's get down to brass tacks: this looks like an ideal time to exercise your legendary interior design qualities. If you put your mind to it, you can create a much more pleasing personal environment — and you also have a truly wonderful ability to make practical use of a partner's vague ideas.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Every astrological pattern requires careful handling and right now you need to give family gatherings and domestic duties just a little more of your valuable attention. And remember that old saying: if a job's worth doing, it's worth doing yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
There's a clear pattern to the day, with financial pressures coming from one direction, emotional ones from another. You may spend some time dealing with shopping, investments and other little deals, but it's your heart which really keeps you going — and the desire to make someone else happy.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You will be aware that it's important to be more businesslike, partly because some of your planets are encouraging you to be rather careless and lazy. In fact, to be totally down-to-earth, cash issues will come to dominate. It may even be time for a well-deserved bout of extravagance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
The fact is that even if you don't like what other people say, it's probably true. Or, at least partly true. So listen carefully and decide what is right and useful for you. Also, deal with emotional issues as soon as you can. Otherwise a partner may get the idea that you don't care about them.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You are known for your soft heart and ability to endure all manner of insults. However, if money or material security is involved, the worm is about to turn, so those who are in your debt had better pay up. Actually, there'll be times when all you need is a vote of thanks — and buckets of appreciation.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
You will be ruled by your heart rather than your head. In fact, I would go so far as to say that's a good thing! Just make sure that the emotions you express are full of compassion and care for others. That way you're likely to meet with a much more willing response.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

You will now be able to judge if a gamble has paid off. If you lost out, don't regard it all as wasted effort, for at least your options have been clarified. You'll have a better idea of what to do next time round. Plus, of course, you will be able to help somebody else out of a tight spot.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
By the time evening falls, you will be keeping something important to yourself. Regardless of past emotional tangles, confidences must be respected, so don't reveal partners' thoughts and feelings until they give you the go-ahead. And try trusting a colleague's instincts.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

It's unclear whether a recent emotional outburst occurred at work or home. It's pretty certain it didn't involve friends, though. In any event, whatever happened in the past, today is a time for principled decisions. Only the very highest standards will do.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
You may broaden your horizons and put your ambitions in practice. Don't be afraid to take on more than you can cope with, as once your responsibilities are defined and your affairs settled, you'll be able to drop one or two surplus commitments.

**OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF,
RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION,
JAL "O" PARIMAL BHAWAN, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR-751001, ODISHA**
Tel: 0674-2395734, FAX: 0674-2394946, e-mail: cerwssodisha@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING BID
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT FOR EXECUTION OF
RURAL PIPED WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS IN DIFFERENT DISTRICTS ON EPC CONTRACT
No. 909 / Date: 05.02.2020
Request for Proposal (RFP)

The Engineer-in-Chief, RWSS (Water Supply) Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of the Governor of Odisha is engaged in the execution, operation & maintenance of water supply projects to the villages of different districts in the State of Odisha & as part of this endeavour, Government of Odisha has decided to undertake the work as mentioned below (the "Project") under EPC contract (Engineering, Procurement & Construction) basis, & has decided to carry out the bid process for selection of the eligible Contractors to whom the projects under the package may be awarded eventually for construction as well as operation and maintenance for a period of 5 years.

Name of work Bid Identification No Indicative project cost (Rs in crore) Period for completion & O&M period From To Availability of Bid document for online Bidding

Pkg-I Execution of 03 Nos. Individual Rural Piped Water Supply Project pertaining Malkangiri & Koraput District including 5 years O&M on EPC contract under the package 236.74 24 (Twenty four months) & 60 (Sixty Months) 17.00 hrs of 11.02.2020 17.00 hrs of 12.02.2020

Engineer-in-Chief, RWSS "O" Parimal Bhawan, Unit-V, Bhubaneswar Ph: 0674-2395734/ 0674-2531533 e-mail: cerwssodisha@gmail.com

Name & address of officer inviting Bid:
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>
25040/11/0001/1920

BAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (POWER WING)

Corrigendum-2 Notice Inviting E-Tender
NIT No. 2891/BBMB Dated : 03.12.2019
Name of Office : Superintending Engineer, Dehar Power House Circle, BBMB (PW), Slapper

Name of Work : Reconditioning of 2 Nos. 150T/30T/5T EOT Cranes (Jesson make) installed at Dehar Power House, Slapper.

Last date for upload Pre-qualification documents 24.02.2020 upto 12:00 Hrs.

Last date & time for download tender documents 05.03.2020 at 12:00 Hrs.

Last date and time of online bid Submission 05.03.2020 at 14:00 Hrs.

Date & time of online bid opening 05.03.2020 at 15:00 Hrs.

For detailed NIT/ terms & conditions etc., please visit/download from BBMB website : www.bbmb.gov.in & <https://bbmprocure.abcpurchase.com>

631-PR-GEN-6 FOR YOUR BETTER TOMORROW SAVE ENERGY TODAY

RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION, AMBALA CANTT

No. RE/UMB/S&T/Tele/Gr.286-OD Dated 03.02.2020

1° CORRIGENDUM

As per GM/CORE letter No.CORE/A/cs/GST/Finance dated 15.01.2020, Novation agreement to be made for EBR(IF) funded works. For which Novation Agreement & GSTIN details have been uploaded for the following tenders published in news paper on 24.01.2020.

(I) Tender No.RE-UMB-SNT-Tele-Gr.286-OD

(II) Tender No. RE-UMB-SNT-Tele-Gr.285-ID

(III) Tender No. RE/UMB/S&T/AMC/Exch/2019-21

No.PR/2016/2020 Satya Adv.

Dy. Chief Sig & Tele Engineer

Railway Electrification, Ambala Cantt.

"SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"

O-1003

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
CENTRAL CIRCLE (R&B), BHUBANESWAR**

B-671 No. 349 Dated 29.01.2020

CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER

CALL NOTICE NO. 8 (Estg.) of 2019-20

In partial modification to this office Tender Call Notice No.8 of 2019-20, the following changes are effected due to unavoidable circumstances.

1. The Sale and receipt of tender documents in the website = from 5.00 PM of 04.02.2020 to 5.00 PM 17.02.2020.

2. The Date of Opening of the Tender = 11.00 AM on 18.02.2020

Sd/-

Er.G.C.Sahu

Superintending Engineer

Central Circle (R&B) Bhubaneswar

34005/11/0009/1920

DIESSEL LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI - 221004

Notice Vendor Meet on 24.02.2020

DLW is organizing a Vendor Meet on 24.02.2020 (9.30 AM to 4.00 PM) in the DLW Cinema Hall at Varanasi, to develop new Vendors and enhancing product range of existing vendors. State Bank of India will also educate regarding payment through LC and related benefits. All existing and prospective vendors interested to supply materials to the railways are requested to participate. The interested vendors may get themselves registered in advance over phone with Sri Ankil Saxena, Dy. Chief Materials Manager/Loco/DLW, Mobile No. 9794861705 or E-mail ID: dy.cmm@yahoo.com or with Sri Rajiv Ranjan, Asst. Materials Manager/G/DLW, Mobile No. 9794862030 or E-mail ID: rajivdw99@gmail.com. They may also get registered at the venue at 09.00 Hrs of 24.02.2020.

PRO/DLW-S-134 Dy. Chief Material Manager/Imp-II

dieselloccoworks "Website: www.dlw.indianrailways.gov.in

पश्चिमांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि.

विकारोत्रिया पार्क, मेरठ

निविलित समयी को आगुनि देते हैं निविलित आगुनि को नहीं देते हैं।

(1) विश्वासकरण संस्था यो-यो-एस-एल-एम-टी-कॉम/ 15-19-20 के अंतर्गत 200 नम् 11 के, यो-यो-एस-एक्टोरी (यो) देता।

(2) विश्वासकरण संस्था यो-यो-एस-एल-एम-टी-कॉम/ 16-19-20 के अंतर्गत 100 नम् 33 के, यो-यो-एस-एक्टोरी (यो) देता।

उपरोक्त इनिविलितों को यो-यो-एस-एल-एम-टी-कॉम/ 16-19-20 के अंतर्गत 100 नम् 33 के, यो-यो-एस-एक्टोरी (यो) देता।

उपरोक्त इनिविलितों को यो-यो-एस-एल-एम-टी-कॉम/ 16-19-20 के अंतर्गत 100 नम् 33 के, यो-यो-एस-एक्टोरी (यो) देता।

प्रिसर एवं सभी जानकारी देते हैं www.pvnl.org एवं E-Tendering website www.tender.up.nic.in पर लागू जाने के अधिकारी परिवर्तन यांत्रिक वितरण विभाग विजित वितरण निगम लि. देते हैं।

Remark:- www.tender.up.nic.in

प्राप्ति: 1352 दिनांक: 05.02.2020

गढ़ वितरण वितरण निगम लि.

हस्तान्तर अधीक्षण अभियान (वाणिज्य) क्षेत्र प्रबंध निविलित

E-mail ID-Supenger_rbjp@yahoo.co.in Tel/FAX- 06854-251528

Date:



GLORY GALORE

American singer-songwriter Patti Smith will receive the 2020 PEN America Literary Service Award. She will be awarded at the organisation's annual gala, in New York, on May 19. Previous recipients of the award include Stephen King, JK Rowling, Toni Morrison, Philip Roth and Margaret Atwood.

SNAP SHOTS

Dreamy Return



POPULAR TELEVISION actor Patrick Dempsey, who became a household name with his appearance on *Grey's Anatomy*, is making a comeback on the small screen. Dempsey will star in the political drama *Ways and Means*. Mike Murphy and Ed Redlich have written the series that will air on CBS. Dempsey will portray a powerful Congress leader who has lost faith in politics. He then starts working secretly with an idealistic young Congresswoman from the opposition to subvert the grid-locked system he helped create. Dempsey had a long stint as Dr Derek "McDreamy" Shepherd for 11 seasons in *Grey's Anatomy*.

Final Foray



WEEKS AFTER the seventh season finale of the series *Ray Donovan* was telecast, the show has been cancelled. The last episode of the thriller was a typical cliffhanger and is now the series finale. Liev Schreiber played the titular role of a fixer in the show, who arranged payoffs and threats to ensure the desired outcome. "After seven incredible seasons, *Ray Donovan* has concluded its run on Showtime. We are proud that the series ended amid such strong viewership and on such a powerful note," read a statement from the network.



Master of Perfection

In his centenary year, remembering music composer Naushad, whose quest for soulful melodies led to iconic tracks that changed the topography of Hindi film music

SUANSU KHURANA

IN DIRECTOR Vijay Bhatt's *Baiju Bawra* (1952), a musical megahit that stayed in theatre beyond 100 weeks, a song inverted everything that existed in the musical lexicon of the time, one that was steeped in folk music. The film was the story of Baiju — an unknown singer who wants to avenge his father's death by defeating Tansen in a musical duel. But his guru, Swami Haridas, tells him that a true singer needs to feel pain to be able to find legitimate brilliance. Distraught after his beloved Gauri (Meena Kumari) attempts suicide, Baiju sings, first in a Shiva temple and then on his journey to Agra. The song, *O duniya ke rakhwale...*, written by Shakeel Badayuni and sung by Mohammad Rafi, explores Baiju's agony. Rafi's soulful voice heaves in the post dusk raga, the delicate Darbari. "I could have used the fiery Shankara, but because Baiju had to make the journey with a broken heart, I gave him Darbari's *kornalswaras* for company," said music composer Naushad Ali, before a live performance of the song by Rafi, in a grainy Doordarshan video on YouTube.

The legend goes that Naushad pushed Rafi to the last bit of the *taar saptak* (highest of the three octaves). So much so that his vocal cords began to bleed and he spit blood. Rafi, then, could not sing for about 10 days. "I wanted to showcase his range," said Naushad, years later. The film that won him the Filmfare Award comprised other raga-based songs, such as *Man tadpat* (*Maalkauns*), *Tu Ganga ki mauj* (*Bhairavi*), *Mohe bholu gaye sawariya* (*Bhairav*) and *Bachpan ki mohabbat* (*Maand*).

Baiju Bawra set in stone the seminal nature of what Naushad's music would go on to become in the coming years. "Someone once asked him, if you are to create the greatest song of your life which raga would you choose, he said, I'd invoke the gods to send back Rafi miyaan (Mohammad Rafi) for one hour. Such was their relationship," says Raju Naushad, the composer's son, from Mumbai. As part of the centenary celebrations of the composer this year, Raju is busy preparing for concerts and



(Clockwise from top) Naushad; the music director with Mohammad Rafi; a still from *Mughal-e-Azam*

authoring his father's biography. Naushad would have turned 100 on December 25 last year.

A spate of films that followed *Baiju Bawra* saw Naushad change the topography of Hindi film music, which also had names such as SD Burman, Vasant Desai and Anil Biswas in it. The composer had already lent music for films such as *Rattan* (1944) and Dilip Kumar and Nargis starrers *Mela* (1948) and *Andaz* (1949). Compositions in films like *Mughal-e-Azam* (1960), *Mother India* (1957), *Gunga Jumna* (1961) and *Leader* (1964) turned him into a composer with the Midas touch, one who struck a gentle balance between melody, integrity of a tune and that innate understanding of everything in between the composition and its performance. In a career of 62 years, he only composed music for 65 Hindi films. In an interview, he had said: "We used to agonise over every tune and phrase in music, spend sleepless nights over a song, and work on it until it was perfected." Someone once asked him to name his favourite song. "My father said, 'I haven't created it yet. The day I do that, the artiste in me will die,'" recalls Raju.

Naushad was born to a court clerk and his homemaker wife in Lucknow. He found music during a visit to a dargah in Barabanki, where qawwals sang in reverence to the patron saint. A fan of silent films, Naushad was fascinated by the music played along in the pit in front of the screen. He learned at the feet of Ut Ghurbat Ali and Ut Babban Saheb, among others, and repaired harmoniums. In his

teenage, he came to Mumbai and slept on the footpath opposite Broadway theatre in Dadar and soon found a job as a piano player. Months later, he found work as an assistant to composer Khemchand Prakash, who gave him Rs 60 per month and the opportunity to make music. His first independent film was *Prem Nagar* (1940), but it was *Rattan*'s folk compositions that attracted attention. While *Baiju Bawra* cemented his place in the realm of Hindi film music, *Mughal-e-Azam* and its songs such as *Pyar kiya toh darmi kya*, *Mohe panghat* and the legendary thumri in raag Sohni — *Prem jogan* — by Ut Bade Ghulam Ali Khan, created a musical rapture that is now the stuff of lore. *Mother India*'s folk-based *Dukh bhare din* and *Matwalajaya* were impactful too. *Najariya ki maari* by Rajkumari and Begum Parveen Sultana's *Kaun gal* in *Pakeezah* are still remembered as some of the most cherished pieces from Kamal Amrohi's masterpiece.

In his later years, Naushad composed background music for the television serial *Akbar The Great* and *The Sword of Tipu Sultan*. "Every tune had the fragrance of the soil of Hindustan. You can't separate his music from the land that inspired him. People will know these tunes 100 years later too," says Raju, who is also composing his father's ghazals from Naushad's book *Aathwaan Sur*. Not many know that Naushad wrote poetry too and penned some fine nazms under his name. "They have heard his tunes. Now they will hear the soul of his poetry," says Raju.



Cold Comfort

Mesa Wine Bistro's food is comforting and delicious, even if the menu is unremarkable

POOJA PILLAI

THERE'S NO dearth of choice when dining out in Delhi's Aerocity. Here, in swanky environs, one can dine on food that claims to draw from a number of culinary traditions — French, Spanish, progressive Indian, Italian, Chinese and Thai. It's a dense space — and, given the location, expensive. For a restaurant to stand out here, it would need to go beyond quirky concepts (and provide exceptional food). Does Mesa Wine Bistro succeed on this count? Not quite.

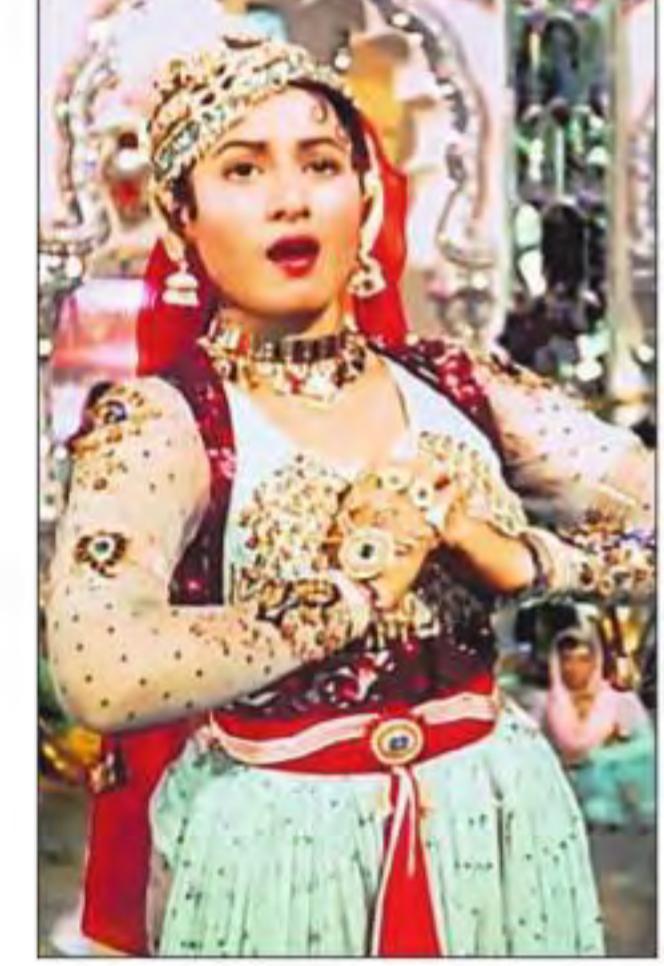
The concept of a wine bistro in a city that is still coming to terms with the idea that some types of alcohol are meant to be sipped and not swilled, seems like a hard sell. But Delhi consumers are becoming more adventurous in their choice of drinks. Also, Mesa has a charming little two-floor space, friendly service and a warm and welcoming ambience that makes it conducive to sobremesa, the delightful but untranslatable Spanish tradition of lingering at a table after a meal, nursing drinks and enjoying convivial conversations. In fact, as we're informed, 'sobremesa' is what inspired Mesa's name. This, combined with an accessible wine list, ticks at least two boxes in the bistro's favour.

There are enough mildly 'exotic' dishes, such as tenderloin carpaccio and chicken liver paté, sprinkled among the familiar pastas and risottos. To be fair, the food is mostly quite good, such as the mildly spicy Spanish lamb meatballs, served in a bed of excellent, fresh tomato sauce. The bubbling paprika prawns and refried beans taco were also delicious. Madagascar (*pictured*) — a dessert made of chocolate mousse that made excellent use of pink peppercorn — was brilliant. The bacon and chorizo paella would have been perfect if the chef had accounted for the salt in the cured meats. The only disappointment was the winter vegetable pie; the crunchy phyllo crust was the only saving grace of a dish that otherwise lacked any personality.

And yet, Mesa isn't a place that one would revisit for the food, which is a shame, because there's clearly some real talent in its kitchen. This is because the menu is uninspired and indistinguishable from other bistro-style restaurants in the city, and even if one were to linger here over a glass or two of merlot, one would still require interesting food to grease the 'sobremesa'.

Meal for two (without alcohol): Rs 2,500

Address: Worldmark 3, Ground Floor, Aerocity



On a Magical Journey

After screening *Bulbul Can Sing* at the Berlin International Film Festival last year, filmmaker Rima Das returns to the festival as a member of the Generation 14plus jury

ALAKA SAHANI

A YEAR after the film *Bulbul Can Sing* (2018) won Special Mention in the Generation 14plus section at the Berlin International Film Festival, its writer-director Rima Das will return to the festival this month as a member of the jury. "Last year, it was a dream come true that my film was shown at the festival. Being part of the jury a year later is something I had never even imagined. I was surprised when I received the festival mail inviting me to join the Generation 14plus jury. It was like magic. I couldn't help crying," says Das.

One of the recent success stories of Indian cinema, Das has been enjoying a lot of international appreciation for her work. "Earlier, actors were mainly recognised. Now, those working behind the scene are also playing a bigger role at film festivals. It's a more exciting time. This is even more

special since the Generation section showcases films for children and the youth, which are very close to my heart," says the self-taught filmmaker, who considers the job of a jury to be a hectic one. She is looking forward to watching some great movies when the festival opens on February 20. Joining her on the jury for the 14plus category are Iran's Abbas Amini and South Africa's Jenna Bass.

Last month, Netflix started streaming two of Das's most popular movies — *Village Rockstars* (2017) and *Bulbul Can Sing*. Both the movies have marked her progress as a storyteller. Interestingly, from having children as protagonists in *Village Rockstars*, she moved to focus on the issues that teenagers grapple with in the latter. "While making *Village Rockstars* was a very 'organic' process, I was more aware while developing *Bulbul Can Sing*. *Village Rockstars* was much simpler in terms of storytelling as it focussed on a mother-daughter relation-



Rima Das (left); a still from *Village Rockstars*

ship. However, the story of *Bulbul...* was more complex since its characters were teenagers. They also underwent physical changes and explored their sexual identity while living in a patriarchal society," says Das, who manages Mumbai-based production house Flying River Films that supports local and independent filmmakers. This year, she won the National Award for Best Feature Film in Assamese for *Bulbul Can Sing*. "The experience of having made films makes me more confident, though I still have my own fears. Each movie is a new

baby. From 2013, I have been making movies almost in a flow. While I was doing the post-production of *Man with the Binoculars* (2016), I started working on *Village Rockstars*. Similarly, when I was shooting the last bits of *Village Rockstars*, I was already thinking of *Bulbul Can Sing*. I was following my instincts," says Das.

For over a year now, she has not shot anything under her production house, even though she has made a documentary fiction in collaboration with BRICS. Das admits to being restless and wants to start

shooting a feature film soon. She has been working on an ambitious idea of directing her next, which will be shot in Mumbai and Assam. This project needs a producer and a proper crew as Das would be expanding the canvas. She is also planning a sequel to *Village Rockstars*. It will feature some of the characters that the audience is already familiar with. But this time round, the bunch of aspiring musicians in the movie will have real instruments. "My *Village Rockstar* actors are my soldiers and they are keen to make another movie," says Das.



LEHMANN HOSPITALISED
Former Australian cricket coach Darren Lehmann will undergo a heart bypass operation after being rushed to hospital on Wednesday suffering chest pains. Cricket Australia reported.

NZ coach takes a break, draws flak



GARY STEAD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HAMILTON, FEBRUARY 5

NEW ZEALAND Cricket (NZC) has defended the under-fire national team's head coach Gary Stead, who is drawing flak for taking a break in the middle of the ongoing home series against India, saying his "week off was planned six months ago".

Stead is under criticism for taking a holiday at a time when the Black Caps are enduring a form slump. Following a 0-3 Test series hiding in Australia, New Zealand were whitewashed 0-5 by India in the Twenty20 series on home soil. They are currently engaged in a three-match ODI series against the visitors.

But NZC chief executive David White has supported Stead, stating that the coach's mid-season break during the ongoing three-match ODI series was pre-planned. "Of any sport in New Zealand, cricket has the most demands for time," White told reporters. "These guys are away from home for a long time and we must manage their workload."

Critics have come hard on Stead for his break with cricket legend Jeremy Coney all but accusing him of deserting the team in its hour of need. "This is probably the most important season we've had for 10 years, with no Zimbabwe, Bangladesh and West Indies to feast on," Coney told Radio Sport Breakfast. "We're facing the three big boys (Australia, India, England) - they were marmalised in Australia and it's now five-zip at home. Wouldn't you think the main coach and selector would be there. Can you see Steve Hansen leaving the All Blacks after they are one-nil down against the Lions, and taking a week off before the second test? This is the job and this is the main part of the season. It's ridiculous this is happening at this crunch time," he added.

Cooney stopped short of suggesting that if Stead was missing his family, he should be replaced before the T20 World Cup later this year. "You don't take your captain away from the helm when you are wanted most, when the ship is stuck amongst the rocks," he said. "Would you call it desertion or would you just say it's really bad look fellas? If I was (chief executive) David White I would say to myself, no I'm sorry Gary, you can wait a week. If you are really finding it tough and have to be away from the family, let's have a chat and find another coach for the T20 format."

Indian team fined

HAMILTON: The Indian cricket team was on Wednesday fined for maintaining slow average for the third successive time after Virat Kohli's side was found four overs short of the target during the opening One Day International against New Zealand here. India lost the match by four wickets, giving the hosts a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Chris Broad of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees fined Indian cricketers 80 per cent of their match fee after the visitors were ruled to be four overs short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration. In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined 20 per cent of their match fees for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time.

Earlier, the Indian team was docked 40 per cent and 20 per cent of its match fee for slow over-rate in the fourth and fifth T20 International against New Zealand on February 1 and February 3 respectively.

MATCH-WINNING 109* FROM 84 BALLS

Taylor swift

Veteran's blitz overshadows Iyer's maiden ton as NZ chase down 348 with four wickets, 11 balls to spare



Ross Taylor hit his 21st One-Day International century in Hamilton to help New Zealand break an eight-match losing streak across formats. AP

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY

FEBRUARY 5

NEW ZEALAND failed to get over the line in three successive T20 games and Ross Taylor was hard on himself. After all, he was out in the middle at the crunch and as the most experienced player in the side, expected to take his team home.

The veteran came good and anchored the Kiwis' highest successful ODI chase (348) with his 21st ton, with the four-wicket win ending an eight-game losing streak across formats.

On a highway-like Hamilton pitch, Taylor and Shreyas Iyer all but cancelled each other with hundreds. KL Rahul and Tom Latham made almost similar impact, batting at No. 5 for their respective teams. But New Zealand eventually triumphed, because their bowlers performed slightly better in the middle overs, while India were let down by Kuldeep Yadav and Shardul Thakur.

It was India's first loss after winning seven limited-overs matches on the spin. This is just a minor blip, as on the night the hosts played better cricket. But the Indian team management would be worried about Kuldeep's loss of form which has had an extended stretch. Over the past 12-odd months, his bowling average has shot up to 37 in ODIs, a significant deterioration from his career average of a little over 26. On Wednesday, he conceded 84 runs for two wickets. Batsmen picked him with consummate ease, accounting for 10 fours and a six off his 10 overs.

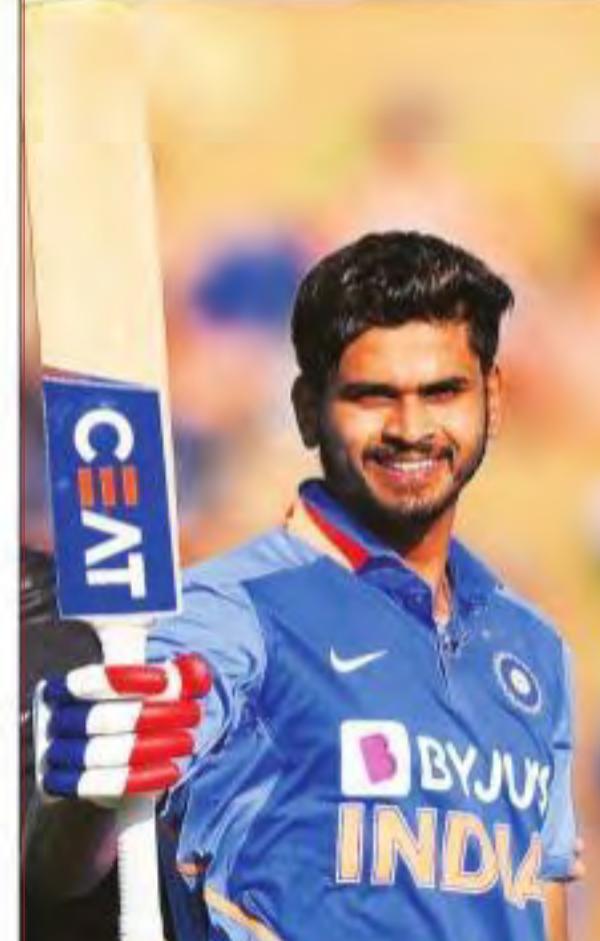
New Zealand lost their first two wickets in quick succession. Till the 17th over, they were going well below the required run rate. Then, the spinners came and Henry Nicholls,

in particular, took the opportunity to up the ante. Kuldeep gave away 13 runs in his first over and although he snapped up debutant Tom Blundell with a break-back, he lost the plot when the charge was on. In fact, his fourth over saw the momentum swing, when Nicholls and Taylor took three fours against him. To make matters worse, Kuldeep dropped Taylor off Ravindra Jadeja when he was on 10 and he went on to make the decisive contribution.

Taylor had been under pressure after failing to take his team over the line in the T20s. A response was due. Following the reprieve, he grew into the game. Some fabulous shots wowed the fans. A six against Thakur over long-on was arguably the best of the lot.

Coming back to Kuldeep, his travails of late offer a throwback to Laxman Sivaramakrishnan, who now aspires to become the next chief selector. A whiz-kid in 1984-85, the leg-spinner faded quickly, his prodigious talent notwithstanding. By early 1986, his Test career was over. Kuldeep is into his third season in international cricket and seemingly has lost his ability to keep batsmen guessing. Head coach Ravi Shastri saw Sivaramakrishnan's rapid rise and fall at close quarters as his team-mate. He could be the best person to help Kuldeep regain his mojo.

The Indian team management's decision to pick Thakur over Navdeep Saini was probably based on having a bowling all-rounder in the lower order. In Rohit Sharma's absence, batting needed some extra cushion. As it turned out, on a featherbed, it was surplus to requirements. In the home ODI series against Australia last month, Saini played the last two ODIs after Thakur had been taken to the cleaners in the series opener. India had rallied to win the series 2-1.



Shreyas Iyer at No.4 made 103 off 107, his first international hundred. AP

Today also, the New Zealand batsmen targeted Thakur during the back-end of the innings and at times, the medium pacer looked clueless against the onslaught. Both Taylor and Latham were severe on him. After a pretty decent first spell - 5-0-27-1 - Thakur finished with 80 runs from nine overs. Yes, the pitch became a little too batting-friendly as the match progressed and only a bowler of Jasprit Bumrah's class could maintain an economy rate of under six runs per over. But Thakur paid the price for bowling too many

boundary balls - six fours and four sixes were taken off him.

Amid a batting slam, there was a moment of spark, when Kohli swooped in from cover and flicked underarm, his body in the air, to catch Nicholls short of his ground. The ICC's official Twitter handle was quick to draw a Jonty Rhodes analogy.

But it wasn't India's day. In the last three T20s, the Kiwis had pressed the panic button after losing a few quick wickets. Here, they didn't bungle the chase despite losing Jimmy Neesham and Colin de Grandhomme in the same over. Chasing down such an imposing total with 11 balls to spare was a fantastic effort.

Ton-up Iyer

Earlier, Iyer scored his maiden ODI hundred and anchored India's innings, which was important because the visitors had lost Kohli in the 29th over. After a rollicking half-century, the India captain was done in by an Ish Sodhi googly, which went through the gate. Kohli probably didn't expect the ball to turn so much.

Iyer had to keep one end tight, which was a reason why he was a little hesitant initially to press the accelerator. He saw out the tough periods and opened up when run-scoring got easier. Still, at No. 4, he would be a touch disappointed with a sub-100 strike rate.

The show-stopper in the Indian innings was KL Rahul's 64-ball 88 not out. In at No. 5 because India decided to open with two debutants — Prithvi Shaw and Mayank Agarwal — Rahul, at times, toyed with the bowling. Consecutive sixes off Sodhi asserted total control. He provided the boost which helped India post what seemed like a competitive total.

SCORECARD »

New Zealand vs India

1st ODI | Hamilton | Toss: New Zealand

INDIA

347/4 IN 50 OVS

P Shaw c †Latham b de Grandhomme 20(21b, 3x4)

M Agarwal c Blundell b Southee 32(31b, 6x4)

V Kohli (c) b Sodhi 51(63b, 6x4)

S Iyer c Santner b Southee 103(107b, 11x4, 1x6)

KL Rahul † not out 88(64b, 3x4, 6x6)

KJadhav not out 26(15b, 3x4, 1x6)

■ Extras: (lb 7, nb 1, w 19) 27

Fall of wickets: 1-50 (Prithvi Shaw, 7.6 ov), 2-54 (Mayank Agarwal, 8.4 ov), 3-156 (Virat Kohli, 28.4 ov), 4-292 (Shreyas Iyer, 45.3 ov)

■ Bowling:

T Southee 10-1-85-2

H Bennett 10-0-77-0

C de Grandhomme 8-0-41-1

J Neesham 8-0-52-0

M Santner 10-0-58-0

I Sodhi 4-0-27-1

NEW ZEALAND 348/6 IN 48.1 OVS

M Guptill c Jadhav b Thakur 32(41b, 1x4)

H Nicholls run out (Kohli) 78(82b, 11x4)

T Blundell st †Rahul b Kuldeep 9(10b, 1x4)

R Taylor not out 109(84b, 10x4, 4x6)

T Latham (c) †c Md Shami b Kuldeep 69(48b, 8x4, 2x6)

J Neesham c Jadhav b Md Shami 9(14b, 1x4)

C de Grandhomme run out (Iyer/Kohli) 1(2b)

M Santner not out 12(9b, 1x4, 1x6)

■ Extras: (nb 1, lb 4, w 24) 29

Fall of wickets: 1-85 (Martin Guptill, 15.4 ov), 2-109 (Tom Blundell, 19.1 ov), 3-171 (Henry Nicholls, 28.3 ov), 4-309 (Tom Latham, 41.4 ov), 5-328 (James Neesham, 45.2 ov), 6-331 (Colin de Grandhomme, 45.6 ov)

■ Bowling:

J Bumrah 10-1-53-0

Md Shami 9.1-0-63-1

S Thakur 9-0-80-1

R Jadeja 10-0-64-0

Kuldeep Yadav 10-0-84-2

■ New Zealand won by 4 wickets

348 Wednesday's chase was the biggest target New Zealand has successfully overcome, bettering their previous best of 347 against Australia in 2007. New Zealand's highest chase against India prior to this was 281 in Mumbai in 2017

3 Ross Taylor has scored centuries in three of the top four successful chases by New Zealand in ODIs. Along with his unbeaten 109 on Wednesday, Taylor contributed 117 (337 vs Australia in 2007) and 181 not out (336 vs England in 2018). Taylor has also excelled in chases against India with two hundreds and a ninety in the top three chases.

Today Shami bowled exactly the same ball and I inside edged down to fine leg or the keeper. Small margins, it could have been two different results but that is cricket. I guess that's why we love the game. Just little things – it went our way today and didn't in the T20s."

ROSS TAYLOR

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

FEBRUARY 5

INDIA MIGHT have lost the game but the Hamilton ODI scoresheet showed that they have learnt from the mistakes they made at the World Cup last summer. The line-up with no specialist keeper, had part-timer KL Rahul behind the stumps this time, and more importantly, he was batting at No.5. Having burnt their fingers, resulting in the World Cup slipping out of their hands last year, the decision-makers didn't think short-term again.

Considering Rahul's phenomenal form in T20s as an opener, the team management would have been tempted to give him the same role in ODIs, more so with the experienced Rohit Sharma injured.

But India went with the untested pair of Prithvi Shaw and Mayank Agarwal.

History of ODI cricket shows opening the innings isn't quite the most difficult job. With fielders inside the circle and scoreboard pressure not having yet set in, the No.1 and 2 have it easy. Meanwhile, batsmen squeezed into the No.5 to 7 slots need to be highly skilled.



KL Rahul made an unbeaten 88 off 64 at No.5. AP

Every international country has deep reserves when it comes to openers, but the batsmen who deliver down the order are a rare commodity.

They also are required to have the perfect temperament to soak in the pressure.

Every international country has deep reserves when it comes to openers, but the batsmen who deliver down the order are a rare commodity. India had struggled to get the right balance in their line-up, and often lacked the fulcrum who could control the innings when the Top 3 failed. It was something that was spectacularly exposed during the World Cup. To understand how India missed a trick at the World Cup, consider India's batting line-up in the last two games against New Zealand.

India vs NZ (World Cup semi-final, 2019)

KL Rahul, Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Rishabh Pant, Dinesh Karthik, Hardik Pandya, MS Dhoni

India vs NZ (1st ODI, Hamilton, 2020)

Prithvi Shaw, Mayank Agarwal, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Kedar Jadhav, Ravindra Jadeja

Read these two batting line-ups — slowly and thoughtfully — to discover how India's near-miss in England last year wasn't only because of the wrong man walking in at No.4. Seven months back in that heart-breaking game against New Zealand at Manchester, except for opener Sharma and No.3 Kohli, all other batsmen were either misfits in their batting positions in the Playing XI or the squad of 15.

Back then India, hampered by the injury to in-form opener Shikhar Dhawan, drafted in three wicket-keepers — Pant, Dhoni, and Karthik — in the Top 7.

However, the bigger mistake, rather than the monumental error, was asking Rahul, who had made himself comfortable down the order, to be Dhawan's replacement as opener.

With Rohit, Dhawan, and Virat at the top and Shreyas Iyer and Rahul to follow, India look more secure. Regardless of the result of the game, Rahul should stay at No.5.

With Rohit, Dhawan, and Virat at the top and Shreyas Iyer and Rahul to follow, India look more secure. Regardless of the result of the game, Rahul should stay at No.5.

been hard. It's not so much the dropping part, all players get dropped, everyone goes through slumps of not scoring well," Bavuma told reporters.

"The awkwardness and discomfort from my side is when you are thrown into talks of transformation. Yes, I am black, that's my skin. But I play cricket because I love it. I'd like to think the reason I am in the team is because of performances I have put forward in my franchise side, and also for the national team

