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DELHI

BJP and AAP supporters on the last day of the campaign for the Delhi Assembly elections on Thursday. Votes will be cast on February 8, while results will be declared on February 11. Amit Mehra

FULL COVERAGE, PAGES 4, 5

**RBI holds rates, eases lending to housing, auto and MSMEs**GEORGE MATHEW  
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 6

THE RESERVE Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee Thursday kept the key policy rate unchanged while admitting that inflation was on a rising trajectory through the fourth quarter of 2019-20 and its outlook remains "highly uncertain."

In a bid to boost flow of bank credit to productive sectors in a sluggish economy, the central bank also announced a cash reserve ratio (CRR) exemption on incremental retail loans in the automobile, housing and the micro, small and medium enterprises

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**E.**  
**Explained**  
**Hiking credit for stressed sectors**

AS OF now, banks are supposed to keep 4 per cent of deposits with the RBI as cash reserve ratio, which doesn't carry any interest. By waiving this, the central bank hopes to ease lending to the stressed housing, MSME and automobile sectors.

**Detained since Aug, Omar, Mehbooba hit with stringent PSA**BASHAARAT MASOOD  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 6

SIX MONTHS after placing them under preventive detention following the abrogation of Article 370 last August, the J&K administration has now invoked the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) against former chief ministers, Mehbooba Mufti and Omar Abdullah. Omar's father and Parliamentarian Farooq Abdullah is already in detention under the PSA.

The administration has also invoked the PSA against NC general secretary Ali Mohammad Sagar and PDP leader Sartaj Madni. Sources said



Former CMs, leaders of Valley mainstream parties

bureaucrat-turned-politician Shah Faesal is also likely to be detained under PSA.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, a senior police officer confirmed that the two ex-CMs, Sagar and Madni "have been booked under the PSA". "But we have not received a warrant against Mufti

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**Mega project to map India's genetic diversity gets govt green signal**

10,000 samples in first stage of project

SEEMA CHISHTI  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

THE GOVERNMENT has cleared an ambitious gene-mapping project that is being described by those involved as the "first scratching of the surface of the vast genetic diversity of India". The project is said to be among the most significant of its kind in the world because of its scale and the diversity it would bring to genetic studies.

*The Indian Express* has learnt that the Rs 238-crore Genome India Project, which will involve 20 leading institutions including the Indian Institute of Science

(IISc) in Bengaluru and a few IITs, will be rolled out soon. Cleared by Union Ministry of Health's Department of Biotechnology late last month, the first stage of the project will look at samples of "10,000 persons from all over the country" to form a "grid" that will enable the development of a "reference genome".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**30 km from Ayodhya, a village gets new identity: Mosque site**AVANEESH MISHRA  
AYODHYA, FEBRUARY 6

DHANNIPUR IS some 30 km short of Ayodhya on the Lucknow-Gorakhpur highway. Until a day ago, most travelling on the highway hadn't heard of it. But now, many are beginning to inquire.

Because this village near Raunahi has been identified by the government as the site for a mosque on five acres, far away from what was the disputed Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid site until the Supreme Court directed the Ayodhya title suit in favour of the Hindu parties, paving the way for the construction of a Ram temple.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Site allotted for mosque at Dhannipur village. Vishal Srivastav

being provided five acres for a mosque, 200 metres from the highway. This is in line with the Supreme Court direction which, while underlining "justice, equity and good conscience", said

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

hiding feelings at first, then fighting against them and just the excitement you feel when falling in love," she says.

"I can still remember the excitement in the body typical to falling in love," Christina recalls. "It was a special time because we had been playing mixed doubles at a high level. But when we played against each other, only one would get this fantastic jump in the career (after winning). We felt we needed to have something together as a goal, so we started playing women's doubles," she says.

While Rio was a dream come true, beating the best Japanese

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**Indian badminton league has a tiny new star attraction — Molly d/o Christinna & Kamilla**PAGE 1  
ANCHORSHIVANI NAIK  
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 6

THIS SEASON, the Premier Badminton League's Awadhe Warriors have a two-feet-tall addition — Molly, daughter of same-sex Danish couple Christinna Pedersen and Kamilla Rytter Juhl.

Not even one yet, Molly is the new source of joy for the couple that won a doubles silver at the Rio Olympics in 2016 and the All England crown in 2018. "She's

lovely. She's not afraid or too shy or scared of new places or people," says Christinna, 33. Kamilla, who gave birth to Molly a year after winning the All England, had started travelling within a month of her birth.

Before parenthood, it had been a decade of top honours for the two — Kamilla, 36, had won the World Championships in mixed doubles in 2009 and Christinna medalled for a bronze in mixed doubles at the London Games in 2012.

BUT bang in the middle of ultra-competitive shuttle, the two rivals from across the court fell in love with each other. "It was like falling in love with the



enemy because we were playing a lot of mixed doubles against each other," says Kamilla.

"I can clearly remember the feeling...we were competing at practice a lot. So it was a lot of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**MODI TARGETS OPPN IN HOUSE****Anti-CAA protests are taking country on the road to anarchy: PM**

'All states notified NPR, some taking U-turn for their vote-bank politics'

AVISHEK DASTIDAR & MANOJCG  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

CALLING THE protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act a "road to anarchy", Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday said "protest marches, violence and arson" against a law duly passed and notified by Parliament will "create a problem for the country". He said the Opposition is building narratives keeping only the vote bank in mind.

"I am sounding a warning against this... this will create a problem for you (Opposition Congress) as well... if the Assembly in Rajasthan, where you have a government, passes a decision and no one there is willing to accept it, and people take out protest marches, commit violence and arson... what will be the situation? Is this road to anarchy right?" Modi said in Lok Sabha while replying to the Motion of Thanks to the President's address.

In Rajya Sabha, he said "in many parts, anarchy was spread in the name of protests. The violence that happened was dubbed as right to agitation. Repeatedly, the Constitution was invoked. In its name, attempts are being made to cover up

## BUSINESS AS USUAL

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undemocratic activity. I can understand the compulsion of the Congress but our Left Front friends from Kerala should understand... they should have known... that Kerala's Chief Minister has said extremists groups have a hand in agitations in Kerala. He had said it in the Assembly."

"Not just that. He had warned of strong action. *Jis arjakta se aap Keral mei pareshan hain, uska samarthan aap Delhi mei ya desh ke anya hisson mei kaise kar sake hain* (the anarchy that is troubling NRC and NPR)."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

IN PARLIAMENT  
PAGE 6

In RS, Oppn unites only in spirit, no plan to show

MANOJ CG & ABANTIKA GHOSH  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

THE OPPOSITION united Thursday to launch a blistering attack on the government in Rajya Sabha on a range of issues, and moved an unprecedented 431 amendments on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address, but "lack of coordination" resulted in Opposition members failing to force voting on the amendments, or turn the tables on the ruling party like they had done in 2015 and 2016.

The Opposition did not reach out to fence-sitters like the BJD and NDA allies Akali Dal, LJP and JD(U) which have openly expressed reservations on plans for a nationwide NRC.

Among the amendments was one which wanted the President's address to express regret on the failure to "allay the people's fear of a nationwide NRC and NPR".

Many senior leaders, including Ahmed Patel and P Chidambaram of Congress and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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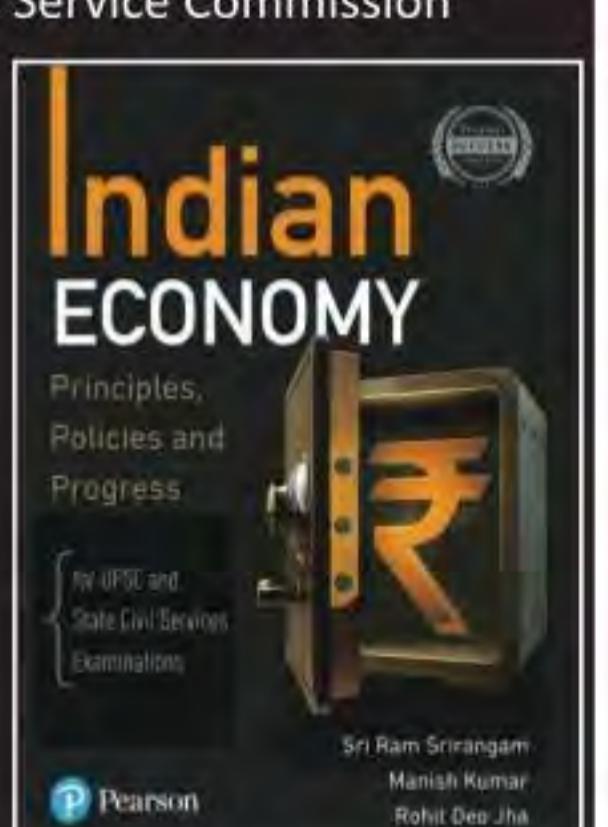
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**WEB EXCLUSIVE**

**DELHI'S LOHAR COMMUNITY SCEPTICAL OF KEJRIWAL'S JHUGGI-MAKAAN SCHEME**

The blacksmith community, especially the Gadia Lohars which is a marginalised community staying in 'informal settlements' of bastis and jhuggis in the NCR for several decades have not been recognised in surveys by the Delhi government or its Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board.

**VIDEO OF THE DAY****DELHI ASSEMBLY POLLS 2020**

**What JNU's neighbouring areas think of elections**

**EXPRESS EXPLAINED****RBI'S FEB MONETARY POLICY**

**Five reasons why it could be game-changer for Indian economy**

**EXPRESS AUDIO****Why the increasing defence pensions are bad for the military**

**NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY**

Today on the 3 Things podcast, we talk about how the increase in defence pensions are impacting the military and the economy

Telangana man gets death for rape-murder of two minors

**SREENIVAS JANYALA**  
HYDERABAD, FEBRUARY 6

A COURT in Yadadri district of Telangana on Thursday awarded the death sentence to Srinivas Reddy, who was found guilty of raping and murdering two minors — aged 12 and 14.

He was also found guilty of raping and murdering an 18-year-old woman, for which he was given life imprisonment.

A mechanic by profession, Reddy committed the crimes over a period of two-and-a-half years. According to the police, he lured the victims by offering them rides home and took them to a field where he raped and strangled them. He then buried the bodies in an abandoned well, police said.

This is the second judgment this year in which a court ordered has handed out the death sentence to rapists in the state.

**Bihar bans govt diesel vehicles older than 15 yrs**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
PATNA, FEBRUARY 6

THE BIHAR government on Thursday announced that all diesel-run government vehicles older than 15 years would be banned across the state with immediate effect. The government also announced that starting March 2021, all diesel-run commercial vehicles will not be allowed to ply in Patna and the adjoining areas of Phulwarisharif, Danapur and Khagaul.

Bihar Deputy CM and Environment Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, after meeting the state pollution control board, told reporters, "We have taken the decision to curb vehicular pollution. From March 2021, all diesel-run commercial vehicles would be banned from plying in state capital and adjoining semi-urban areas." He said the government will give Rs 40,000 for conversion of diesel-run or petrol-run three-wheelers to CNG and Rs 25,000 for conversion to battery.

**FROM PAGE ONE****RBI**

(MSME) sectors until July 31, 2020.

Currently, banks are supposed to keep four per cent of deposits with the RBI as CRR which doesn't carry any interest. The RBI move follows a deceleration in credit growth to the retail sector and the move is expected to channelise credit to areas where demand has not met with commensurate supply.

While announcing the previous monetary policy on December 5, the RBI had indicated that there is monetary policy space for future action after considering the fiscal measures in the Budget and getting more clarity on inflation.

Unveiling the sixth Monetary Policy Statement for 2019-20 on Thursday, the RBI Committee said inflation has surged above "the upper tolerance band" around the target in December 2019, primarily on the back of the unusual spike in onion prices. The panel noted that over the coming weeks and months, while onion prices are likely to ebb as supply conditions improve, the salutary effects on headline inflation are, however, likely to be tempered by hardening of prices of other food items, notably those of pulses.

"While this decision (status quo on rates) may be on expected lines and perhaps widely discounted, it is important not to discount the RBI... It has to be kept in mind that the central bank has several instruments at its command that it can deploy to address the challenges that the Indian economy currently faces in terms of the sluggishness in the growth momentum," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said.

Maintaining a dovish tone, Das said there is "policy space available for future action" although economic activity remains subdued and the few indicators that have moved up recently are yet to gain traction in a more broad-based manner".

Following the RBI's move to ease credit flows, commercial banks will be allowed to deduct the equivalent of incremental credit disbursed by them as retail loans for automobiles, residential housing and loans to MSMEs, over and above the outstanding level of credit to these segments as of the fortnight ended January 31, 2020 from

their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) — or deposits — for maintenance of CRR.

In other words, loans to these sectors can be deducted from the amount to be kept with the RBI as CRR.

The RBI move follows a deceleration in credit growth to the retail sector. "Alongside sustained efforts to improve monetary transmission, the Reserve Bank is actively engaged in revitalizing the flow of bank credit to productive sectors having multiplier effects to support impulses of growth," the RBI said.

Bankers said CRR exemption for incremental lending to auto, residential housing, MSME is a good way to channelise credit in areas where demand has not met with commensurate supply. "The exemption of CRR maintenance for all additional loans given for retail loans will also help to lower cost of funds. Extending the date of restructuring of MSME advances will also help the sector to navigate the current business downturn and is a logical corollary of budget announcement," SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar said.

The RBI also decided to introduce long-term repo operations to facilitate the transmission of monetary policy actions and flow of credit to the economy.

Das said the government has utilised "escape clause" under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act which provides a 50 bps leeway for relaxation of fiscal deficit roadmap during time of stress. It has budgeted a net borrowing Rs 5.45 lakh crore from the market in FY21. "There is no plan to monetise the government's fiscal deficit," Das said.

The RBI MPC said the higher fiscal deficit in 2019-20 has not resulted in an increase in market borrowings compared to the budget estimates. The fiscal deficit of the Central Government for 2019-20 is placed at 3.8 per cent of GDP in the revised estimates as against 3.3 per cent of GDP in the budget estimates. The fiscal deficit is budgeted to decline to 3.5 per cent of GDP for 2020-21.

The RBI's medium-term target for consumer price index (CPI) inflation is 4 per cent within a band of plus or minus 2 per cent, while supporting growth. The MPC decided to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 5.15 per cent and "persevere with the accommodative stance as long as necessary to revive growth, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target".

Food inflation rose to double digits, primarily caused by a spike in onion prices due to unseasonal rains in October-November. Prices of several other food sub-groups such as milk, pulses, cereals, edible oils, eggs, meat and fish also firmed up. Fuel prices moved out of deflation. Inflation in CPI excluding food and fuel (or core inflation) continued to edge up from its October trough.

The RBI panel has revised the consumer price inflation (CPI) projection upwards to 6.5 per cent for fourth quarter of 2019-20 as against 5.1-4.7 per cent for the second half of 2019-20. Retail inflation, measured by the CPI, surged to 7.4 per cent in December, the highest reading since July 2014.

The panel on Thursday projected the GDP growth for 2020-21 at 6.0 per cent - in the range of 5.5-6.0 per cent in the first half and 6.2 per cent in the third quarter — as against 5 per cent estimated for 2019-20. In the December 2019 policy review, the RBI's policy panel, which retained the Repo rate at 5.15 per cent, sharply slashed its GDP growth estimates for the fiscal year 2019-20 to 5 per cent from 6.1 per cent earlier, citing weak domestic demand, further slow-

**'Protests taking country on road to anarchy'**

Kerala, how can you support it in Delhi and other parts of the country," he said.

He said "whatever is being said about the CAA... every colleague should introspect and ask themselves. Should we all stop attempts to misinform and misguide the country? Is it not our responsibility or not?

Should we be part of such campaigns? Nobody is going to benefit politically... maan ke chalye. This path is not right."

Delving into history and invoking nation builders during his twin speeches in Parliament to strongly defend the CAA, he said the sentiment in the country had always been in favour of offering shelter to persecuted minorities from Pakistan and Bangladesh. He read out an extract from a 1947 resolution of the Congress Working Committee and quoted Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, BR Ambedkar and Ram Manohar Lohia to reiterate this.

In a speech that lasted an hour and forty minutes in Lok Sabha, Modi did not mention NRC but was combative in pushing back on the issues of CAA and NRC, two days ahead of the Delhi elections where the BJP has made the protests against the CAA a poll plank.

Later in the day, while speaking in Rajya Sabha, Modi detailed the NRC process and said that those opposing it were "anti-poor" with vested interests. He accused the opposition of committing a sin. He said census and NRC are routine admin-

istrative matters which has taken place in the country in the past as well. "But when vote bank politics create compulsions... those who had brought NRC in 2010 now end up spreading confusion in the minds of the people, are opposing it."

He said even in the case of Census, questions had been added and removed depending on the requirement since the first exercise was carried out after Independence. "These are issues of governance. Small changes do happen... people should not be spreading rumours about it," he said.

"...All states have officially notified the NRC and now, some of them have taken a U-turn and are creating hurdles. They are deliberately denying benefits for the poor. Sitting in Opposition, you are now blocking the work that you did not do in 70 years," he said.

He said the government has records of all the citizens as part of the NRC exercise conducted by the UPA government in 2010. "We are in power since 2014. Kya isi NRC ko lekar ke kisi ke liye khalayi nishan hamne khada kya kya? (Did we ever question the NRC?) We have the record... Why are you lying, why are you fooling the people?... We have not persecuted any citizen of the country on the basis of that NRC," he said.

In Lok Sabha, the motion was passed with a majority but in Rajya Sabha, it was passed amid an Opposition walkout. On the CAA protests, Modi said that

the "Congress and its ecosystem" were keeping up the "ruckus" and were "inciting" people with "imaginary fears".

Defending the CAA, he said it does not affect any Indian citizen and poses no threat to minorities. Those rejected by people in the elections, he said, were fuelling protests against it for their "vote-bank politics".

"In the eyes of the Congress, they are only Muslims. In our eyes, they are Indians," he said, adding that those instigating the people against the CAA were speaking in the same language as Pakistan which had been trying for years to mislead and incite Indian Muslims.

He accused the Opposition of using all its might to stoke "imaginary fears" about the law which grants citizenship to minorities from three Muslim countries in the neighbourhood, and likened its stand to that of Pakistan, saying Islamabad spoke the same language for decades to mislead and incite Indian Muslims.

He said the government has records of all the citizens as part of the NRC exercise conducted by the UPA government in 2010. "So much criticism of the CAA has been made ironically by those who love getting photographed with the group of people who want 'tukde tukde' of India," he said.

Seeking to blunt Congress criticism of the CAA, Modi said Jawaharlal Nehru had accepted that minorities from Pakistan needed to be given citizenship. "In the Nehru-Liaquat Pact (of 1950), it is written to grant citizenship to the minorities of Pakistan. Why did Nehru, who was a big thinker, say 'minorities' and not 'all citizens' of Pakistan?"

When Rahul Gandhi rose from his seat and questioned him on the issue of unemployment, Modi said he had been waiting for the Congress leader's reaction but it took him 30-40 minutes. "I have been speaking for 30-40 minutes but it took this long for the current to reach.

Many tubelight are like this," he said, leading to much merriment among NDA members.

He also took digs at Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury for frequently rising from his seat and interrupting him, saying he is publicising the 'Fit India' campaign of his government in Parliament.

Priorities as a couple changed overnight. "Now it's all about when Molly going to sleep, not which movies we should watch," Kamilla says. "But we've realised we're a good team outside the court also. We ensure we don't get tired simultaneously so one of us is awake to look after her at any given time. All my life's been about badminton. Now it's good to be on a practice court with Christina, play small games and have a good laugh," she says.

"With Molly now, we don't want to plan every single hour of tomorrow," Christina says. "Now we leave days open for impromptu plans. So if a friend calls, we can actually grab a coffee instead of saying 'No, we have to train. No, we have to head to China Open!'"

Badminton goals have changed, too. They've lorded over the world, but now they want to win the Danish club Championship for Vendsyssel Elite Badminton club in Kamilla's hometown Skagen. "It'll be my first in my city though we've won club trophies before," she says.

Kamilla holds a degree in sports management and Christina is trained to be a school teacher though badminton has taken precedence over the last decade. They also own nine apartments, some of which are leased out.

"Molly is a super cute and happy baby," says Adwai mate Ajay Jayaram. "She manages to get everybody on the team upbeat and smiling."

Ajay believes India still has a long way to go in accepting same-sex couples. "I have been witness to many instances of homophobia over the years. I believe normalising same-sex relationships is important. In that sense, it's great for the community as well as for badminton that the two legends came out publicly in this respect," he says, referring to the Danish couple.

As for Christina and Kamilla, can anything top their legendary achievements, their love for each other, and Molly? "Yes, more babies!" Kamilla whoops.

Science Schemes, to create a comprehensive database."

Dr Renu Swarup, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, could not be reached for comment. However, on February 1, Swarup had posted on Twitter: "Thank you Hon'ble FM @nsitharaman for a big boost to Science & Technology in the #Budget2020 Mapping of India's genetic landscape for next generation medicine, agriculture, bio-diversity management. Two new Science Schemes, to create a comprehensive database."

**Badminton**

pairings in the semifinals and final at the All England became a cherished memory. Kamilla, though, had begun preparing for motherhood soon after the Olympic silver. "Parenthood is not a big decision on its own. But it's not easy for an active athlete. And when you're a woman, it's a very big decision! I'd started preparing after the Olympics by talking to friends who've become parents. But you don't know how it pans out till you're actually in it," Kamilla says.

She had a tough time giving birth, and was happiest to return to badminton. "It was tough, because the body has been through all kinds of amazing, crazy things. It's rough physically but every time Molly smiles she's giving back happiness in that moment. Now I've hit the gym, the muscles need to come back to get into shape," Kamilla says.

Parenthood has also sent their clockwork life whirring on a chime of its own. "As an athlete, you plan every single day. Now suddenly, we don't know what mood Molly will wake up in," Kamilla says.

The institutions involved will work on different aspects of the project, including providing clinical samples and assisting with research. "Some IITs will help with new methods of computation, which are essential," sources said.

Steps to get the project underway started in 2017 when Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan set up the Centre for Brain Research at IISc for research in ageing and diseases such as Alzheimer's.

As part of a two-pronged approach, Gopalakrishnan provided funding of Rs 275 crore for a rural pilot project in Kolar and Tata Trusts came up with Rs 75 crore to fund the corresponding urban project in Bengaluru.

The group involved in the initiative then approached the central government for a nationwide project to sequence the Indian genome and push research in medicine.

Last weekend, referring to "new schemes" in the Budget, the government said: "Mapping of India's genetic landscape is critical for next generation medicine, agriculture and for bio-diversity management. To support this development, we will initiate two new national level

**In Rajya Sabha, Oppn unites — only in spirit**

Derek O'Brien of Trinamool Congress, were not in the House when the Prime Minister replied to the debate. The Opposition staged a walkout once his speech was over and did not move the amendments — this raised questions on the "silence" over issues ranging from the CAA to the Kashmir clampdown to the economic slowdown. The BSP did not join the other parties in the walkout.

The Opposition, however, was combative. Senior Congress leader Anand Sharma tore into the government, saying the Prime Minister's address was "disappointing" and "uninspiring" as it did not talk about the current

economic situation and job crisis. He charged the government with "monumental mismanagement of the economy" and said it had embarked on a "grand sale" of national assets created over decades to finance the revenue deficit. The government, he said, was running away from the real issues.

Sharma said it was unfortunate that the government had listed the CAA as an achievement in the Prime Minister's address. "The jury is still out. The matter is pending with the Supreme Court. There is anxiety in several states," he said.

Members across Opposition parties had moved amend-

ments to insert lines in the President's address stating that the CAA undermined the secular concept of citizenship, discriminated on religious lines and had caused hardships and anxiety to people.

The Trinamool Congress amendments, for instance, sought additions to the speech, expressing regret on the failure to "acknowledge the hardships and anxieties of people caused due to the passing of the

**BRIEFLY**

**SC to hear Dec 16 case**

New Delhi: The apex court Friday will hear the Centre's plea challenging the Delhi HC order rejecting its plea to execute the December 2012 gangrape convicts separately and upholding the stay on their execution.

**Jamia students told to shift**

New Delhi: The Jamia Millia Islamia administration Thursday appealed to students protesting outside one of the gates to vacate, after the SHO wrote to the Registrar asking them to remove protesters. The Jamia Coordination Committee said it would move its protest away from gate no. 7 to 4 for two days.

**One dead in Kashmere Gate accident**

New Delhi: A 30-year-old man died and three others were injured after a cluster bus allegedly hit their car in Kashmere Gate Wednesday. ENS

## Shooting at Shaheen Bagh part of larger conspiracy, court told

**ANAND MOHAN J**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6



Kapil Baisala, the accused

KAPIL BAISALA, who allegedly fired twice in the air at the Shaheen Bagh protest site last week, is a member of a political party and the shooting may have been part of a larger political conspiracy, police told a city court Thursday. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Gurumohina Kaur granted police another two days' custody of Kapil.

Police, in a press conference, had alleged Kapil was an AAP member and released photos of him allegedly joining the party. AAP and Kapil's relatives denied the claims. In videos shot by eyewitnesses, Kapil can be heard saying "Jai Shri Ram" and "hamare desh mein kisi ki nahi chalegi, sirf Hinduo ki chalegi (No one except Hindus will have their way in our country)".

In its remand application, police submitted, "Accused revealed his association with a political party... During investigation, it emerged that accused has political ambitions and active in politics. He belongs to a family which has political history. Accused is to be further interrogated as to whether incident is part of any political conspiracy..."

ACPM Manoj Pant, who argued for extension of custody, said, "This incident was not done in a rush of things. He was also trained to raise slogans about the country belonging to Hindus."

Pant said Kapil has been giving misleading replies regarding the identity and address of the gun dealer and location of the remaining live cartridges.

Police said Kapil bought the country-made pistol from an alleged weapons supplier called Sachin. He bought 13 rounds and fired two rounds at the incident site. The rest, Kapil told the CMM, were fired earlier at a wedding.

Kapil's lawyer, Akhil Rexwal, said, "He is not an AAP member, his father and brother are ready to join the probe. Police just want to take his custody. He is ready to give police passwords of his (social media) accounts."

**ARGUMENTS ON SENTENCING TODAY**

## District court convicts PSO who killed judge's wife, son

**SAKSHI DAYAL**  
GURGAON, FEBRUARY 6



ALMOST 16 months after the wife and son of an Additional Sessions Judge were shot dead by his Personal Security Officer (PSO) in Gurgaon, a district court Thursday held the accused guilty under various sections of the Arms Act and IPC, including Section 302 (murder).

"He has been held guilty under offences 302 (murder) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence) of the IPC, and Section 27 of the Arms Act. The arguments on the quantum of sentence will take place tomorrow (Friday)," said Public Prosecutor Anurag Hooda.

"Since capital punishment can be given for 302, this is what we will argue for," he said.

Defence advocate PS Sharma, meanwhile, said, "This should be a case of 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), not 302... there was no premeditation, no intention, and it has been inferred by the statements given by the complainant. Everything happened within five minutes, there is no question of it coming

under 302... Tomorrow is the argument on quantum of sentence, after that when we see the judgment, we will decide on future plans regarding appeal, but we will definitely appeal in this case."

The incident took place on October 13, 2018, at the Arcadia market in Sector 49, where the PSO, Mahipal, opened fire on Judge Kishan Kant Sharma's wife, Ritu, and his 18-year-old son, Dhruv. In videos recorded by bystanders, after the shooting, Mahipal could be seen trying to haul the teenager's body into the Honda City car in which they had arrived. Failing to do so, however, he sped away in the vehicle.

Ritu was shot twice and suc-

cumbed to injuries the same night. Her son, who had been shot thrice, died 10 days later.

The PSO was arrested two hours after the crime, on Gwal Pahari road. He had been posted as Sharma's PSO for over a year and had no previous record of misconduct, police had said.

Calling the case "cold-blooded murder", police alleged the incident occurred in the "heat of the moment" when the judge's relatives rebuked the PSO for being untraceable when they returned to the car after shopping.

The chargesheet had been filed on December 26, 2018, and charges were framed on January 9 last year. The prosecution re-



The spot in Gurgaon Sector 49 where PSO Mahipal (above) shot the victims

lied on CCTV footage as well as accounts of two bystanders, and forensic evidence — such as the facts that gunpowder was found in Mahipal's hand swabs, and his fingerprints on the revolver — to make their case. The final hearing took place on February 3.

While the prosecution argued that the PSO had shot dead two people without any provocation, the defence had argued that the shooting was a case of "accidental firing".

"He had told us that the boy tried to grab the car keys and pistol from his hand, and the weapon accidentally went off in that scuffle," said Mahipal's uncle, who was in court.

**HC allows teen to terminate 24-week-old pregnancy**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

THE DELHI High Court Thursday allowed a 16-year-old rape victim to terminate her 24-week-old pregnancy and ordered that the DNA of the foetus be preserved to aid the investigation against the accused.

Justice Vibhu Bakshu passed the order, giving precedence to the girl and her family's wishes, even though a medical board set up by Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital on February 4 said there was a significant risk to the teenager in continuing with it.

The court asked the doctor from RML to ensure the procedure is carried out soon, preferably within 24 hours.

The plea was filed on behalf of the girl through her advocate. It was filed as Section 3 of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act does not permit termination of pregnancy in case the period of gestation is more than 20 weeks.

The plea had said the rape victim was examined on January 25 and she was found to be 24 weeks pregnant.

A case of rape and criminal intimidation has been lodged against the accused in the case.

## OSD to Sisodia held in alleged bribery case

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

THE CENTRAL Bureau of Investigation Thursday arrested a senior officer attached to the office of Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia in a case of alleged corruption.

Sources said the officer, identified as Gopal Krishna Madhav, is alleged to be involved in a case of bribery to the tune of Rs 2 lakh and was arrested after a trap was laid. His arrest is in connection

with a matter related to GST, sources said.

Sources said the decision to arrest him was taken late Thursday evening and he was eventually arrested at around 11.30 pm. Madhav was taken to the CBI Headquarters for questioning, officials said. Sources said that in 2015, Madhav, then posted with the department of trade and taxes of the Delhi government, was relieved and attached to the office of Sisodia. Since then, he has been an officer on special duty at his office.

## 1,300 objections and suggestions on Central Vista redevelopment

**SHIVAM PATEL**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

ON THE proposed redevelopment of the Central Vista, a report would be prepared of nearly 1,300 objections and suggestions, based on which the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) would submit its recommendations to the Centre about land use for the project.

A hearing was held Thursday at the DDA's INA office, where those who had made the written objections and suggestions presented their "oral evidence" before the DDA's Board of Enquiry and Hearing.

The redevelopment plan includes building a new, triangular-shaped Parliament House and moving all Union ministries and offices to the Central Vista in 10 "doughnut-shaped" identical buildings proposed on four tracts of government land between India Gate, Rail Bhawan and Vayu Bhawan.

DDA vice-chairman Tarun Kapoor said, "A committee formed to look into the objections would prepare a report and present it to the Authority. The Authority, chaired by the Delhi L-G (Anil Baijal), would consider it and send its recommendations to the government."

He added, "The Authority would only decide on the objections pertaining to land use. We have received many objections relating to the type of structures,

the number of floors, and others, which we cannot decide upon."

Among those who presented their "evidence" to the Board was city resident Rajeev Suri, who objected to a public notice issued by the DDA on December 21.

The notice invited objections and suggestions from the public regarding proposed changes of land use, as part of the redevelopment project, of plots falling under Zones D and C.

Suri objected that the notice ultra vires the Delhi Development Act, 1957 as it was published under Section 11A of the Act, which, under sub-section 1, states that the Authority may make any changes to the master plan or the zonal development plan, "which, in its opinion, do not effect important alterations in the character of the plan and which do not relate to the extent of land-users or the standards of population density".

Suri claimed that the proposed change in land use seeks to make fundamental changes in land users and increase population density exponentially which conflict with the inherent premise of Section 11A(1).

Architect Narayan Moorthy, who also presented his objections, said, "My issue was the dilution of the continuum of recognising this space as primarily for the common citizen or public and not for the government. What had happened to justify this change?" The hearing would continue Friday.

He added, "The Authority would only decide on the objections pertaining to land use. We have received many objections relating to the type of structures,



**कांग्रेस ने 15 साल के कार्यकाल में दिल्ली को विश्व की सबसे हरी-भरी राजधानी बनाया था, आओ, फिर से दिल्ली को वही कांग्रेस वाली हरी-भरी दिल्ली बनाते हैं।**

**DEVI - THE DELHI ELECTRIC VEHICLES INITIATIVE**  
के माध्यम से दिल्ली में 15000 नई इलेक्ट्रिक बसें

बजट का 25% पर्यावरण संरक्षण पर खर्च होगा	ग्रीन कवर को 30 प्रतिशत तक बढ़ाना	दिल्ली को ज़ीरो वेस्ट एवं कचरा मुक्त बनाएंगे
डस्ट मैनेजमेंट प्लान से कार्बनोजेनिक कणों को कम करना	12 से 16 साल के छात्रों को 'एन्वायरन्मेंट एम्बेसडर' बनाएंगे	1000 कार इलेक्ट्रिक चार्ज स्टेशन स्थापित करेंगे
रिन्यूअबल एनर्जी के लिए प्रोत्साहन	वाटर माफिया पर कठोर कार्यवाही	जल निकायों के कायाकल्प, संचय और संरक्षण के लिए जल संरक्षण मिशन



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RAKHI BIRLA (32)

AAP, Mangolpuri

## TOTAL ASSETS (2020)

₹76,421

## MOVEABLE ASSETS

₹76,421

## CASH: ₹40,000

## JEWELLERY: NA

## IMMOVABLE ASSETS

NIL

## TOTAL ASSETS (2015)

₹18,000

## MOVEABLE ASSETS

₹18,000

## IMMOVABLE ASSETS

NIL

## EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION

MA, Mass Communication



MANISH SINGH (33)

BJP, Delhi Cantt

## TOTAL ASSETS (2020)

₹92.70 LAKH

## MOVEABLE ASSETS

₹57.20 LAKH

## CASH: ₹1.10 L

## JEWELLERY: ₹6.20 L

## IMMOVABLE ASSETS

₹35.50 LAKH

## Assets

Agricultural land	₹20 L
Non-agricultural land	₹5.50 L
Houses	Nil
Commercial buildings	Nil

## EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION

BA (Honours), Patna University

## BALLOTIN

HC rejects plea by 11 independents

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Thursday refused to entertain a plea by 11 independent candidates against rejection of their nominations from New Delhi Assembly seat for the February 8 polls. A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice C Hari Shankar dismissed the candidates' plea, which had also sought setting aside of the single-judge order dismissing their petition against the rejection of their nominations. The 11 persons, in their plea before the single judge, had sought to contest the upcoming Assembly elections from the New Delhi seat, from where Arvind Kejriwal is also contesting. Their nomination forms were allegedly not accepted by the returning officer (RO) on January 21, the last date for filing the same, despite them arriving at the election office within the stipulated time.

## 'Centre, State not tackling pollution'

New Delhi: The Congress Thursday accused the central and the state governments of turning Delhi into a "gas chamber", saying they did not do anything in the last five years to reduce pollution in the capital. Congress leader Randeep Surjewala alleged that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal wants "dangal" (fight) and Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants "danga" (riots), whereas the people of Delhi want "dil waalon ki sarkar" (government with a heart) that only Congress can provide. "Whatever you see in Delhi, from greenery to education... is the result of the work done by (former Delhi CM) Sheila Dikshit," he said. ENS

## REITERATES CHALLENGE TO SHAH

## CM: BJP leaders farzi Hindus, can't recite Hanuman Chalisa

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

CHIEF MINISTER Arvind Kejriwal Thursday called BJP leaders "farzi (fake) Hindus", hours before the curtains fell on an intense campaign.

Kejriwal told a press conference on Thursday: "I request all BJP leaders to recite the 'Hanuman Chalisa'. It will grant a calm and peaceful mind and the tone and tenor of their speech will develop discipline and restraint. *Wo farzi Hindu hain saare, unko Hanuman Chalisa nahi aati, unko Bhagavad Gita nahi aati, unko kuch nahi aati, kewal galoh galoh aati hai.* Everyone should read the Hanuman Chalisa, it helps calm the mind."

Earlier this week, AAP had circulated a video of Kejriwal reciting the Hanuman Chalisa during a TV show, while his daughter Harshita Kejriwal made public statements on how her father taught her Bhagavad Gita.

Kejriwal, who addressed three roadshows, 15 jansabads and 13 townhalls during campaigning, said the "triumph of work" will establish the "politics of work" in the country.

"Since their strategy of spreading lies did not work, they invited 200 MPs, 11 CMs and 70 Union Ministers to defeat a Chief Minister of a state. But such big leaders have also failed to make an impact... The Opposition is upset and worried that if the politics of work spreads throughout the nation, their politics of religion and caste will be deminated," he said.

The AAP chief also reiterated his chal-



Kejriwal at the press conference, Thursday. Tashi Tobgyal

lence to Union Home Minister Amit Shah for a public debate. "I had challenged the BJP to declare their CM candidate. The people of Delhi are scared that their vote might lead to someone like Sambit Patra as the CM of Delhi. By not declaring their CM face, the BJP has made it evident that they have no one worthy of being the CM of Delhi," he said.

"I am ready to have a debate on any issue related to the development of the nation, including Shaheen Bagh protests. But, unfortunately, Amit Shah has declined the invitation and is not ready to have a debate with me and answer the questions of the people. The Bhagavad Gita mentions that a true Indian

should never run away and be scared of facing challenges," he added.

Kejriwal reiterated what he told *The Indian Express* in an interview (dated February 6, 2020) that 21st Century India will make progress through developmental initiatives in the areas of education, health, infrastructure and science and technology.

"But by their Hindu-Muslim rants, they will take the country backward by 200 years... People are not concerned about dirty politics, they are only concerned about the work done by our government in the last five years," he added.

Shah held 50 public meetings, including roadshows, in the past two weeks, while BJP national president J P Nadda took 44 meetings, including three in Nand Nagri, Hari Nagar and Madipur on Thursday.

The source said Shah has also held meetings with party workers in areas such as Shalimar Bagh, Rohini, Adarsh Nagar and Timarpur on Sunday, during which he heard the point of view of district- and mandal-level workers and advised them on the way forward.

Shah told them they should not have any doubt in their mind since the party is "winning the polls", and they should not fall for "propaganda being spread through different forms of advertisement".

"Some workers complained of groupism among the senior leadership, to which Shah said it hardly matters because the grassroots-level workers ensure votes," the source said.

Before each meeting, Shah had printouts ready of Facebook posts by each leader over the last 15 days, the source said, adding that each leader was deputed keeping in mind the constituency's demographic profile and regional population break-up.

## BJP'S PUSH

- PM Narendra Modi: 2 rallies
- Amit Shah: 11 roadshows, 39 public meetings
- JP Nadda: 15 roadshows, 29 public meetings
- Yogi Adityanath: 16 public meetings
- Smriti Irani: 26 public meetings
- Rajnath Singh: 12 public meetings
- Nitin Gadkari: 10 public meetings
- Manoj Tiwari: 74 public meetings/roadshows

**OVER 200** MPs campaigned in Delhi, each held 3-4 meets

## POPULAR FACES: Devendra Fadnavis, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Jairam Thakur, Manohar Lal Khattar, Trivendra Singh Rawat

**POLITICIANS:** Sunny Deol, Ravi Kishan, Dinesh Lala Yadav, Sapna Chaudhary

## Shah's prediction: BJP on way to forming govt with over 45 seats

ABHINAV RAJPUT  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

AS THE Delhi poll campaign ended Thursday, Home Minister Amit Shah, who led from the front since polls were announced, tweeted: "Got a chance to interact with the people of Delhi during the campaign. Delhi, which has been suffering because of false promises, appeasement and anarchy, wants only development now. Judging the support for BJP in Delhi, it is clear that on February 11, BJP will be on its way to forming a government by winning more than 45 seats."

Ever since he landed in Delhi, Shah has managed the smallest detail, even as over 200 MPs, several ministers, and at least 50 workers from outside the state campaigned in every assembly segment.

A senior BJP leader said that Shah held meetings on most days at the party's state office, where the day's schedule was discussed, the poll pitch for the next day was decided, and leaders were picked to send out specific messages.

"At midnight meetings, in which all MPs and senior leaders were present, Shah would personally guide them on work yet to be done and messages that had to be sent out," a source said.

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"Some workers complained of groupism among the senior leadership, to which Shah said it hardly matters because the grassroots-level workers ensure votes," the source said.

Before each meeting, Shah had printouts ready of Facebook posts by each leader over the last 15 days, the source said, adding that each leader was deputed keeping in mind the constituency's demographic profile and regional population break-up.

"The constituencies were divided into three segments – one where the BJP is certain of winning, one where fence-sitters hold the key, and one where AAP has the edge..."

The party's focus has been the second segment, with more leaders being sent here," the source said.

Party leaders, in their door-to-door and drawing room meetings, were told to make a strong pitch on Shaheen Bagh, the jam caused as a result of it, the "anti-Hindu slogans" raised there, and "AAP's links" to the protest, it is learnt.

Sources in the party said that over 6,000 cars and 1,000 rooms were booked, even as many workers and volunteers stayed with their relatives in areas where they were supposed to campaign.

"Almost every assembly segment has 50 workers from outside the city. Workers came from across India but mostly from UP, Bihar, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh," the leader said.

Key leaders were also asked to visit Jhugis during the night, since slum-dwellers are one of AAP's "most loyal vote bank".



At a rally in Nand Nagri on Thursday. Amit Mehra

## RIVER FINDS MENTION IN ALL MANIFESTOS

## Politics around it superficial, Yamuna problems run deep

SHIVAM PATEL  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

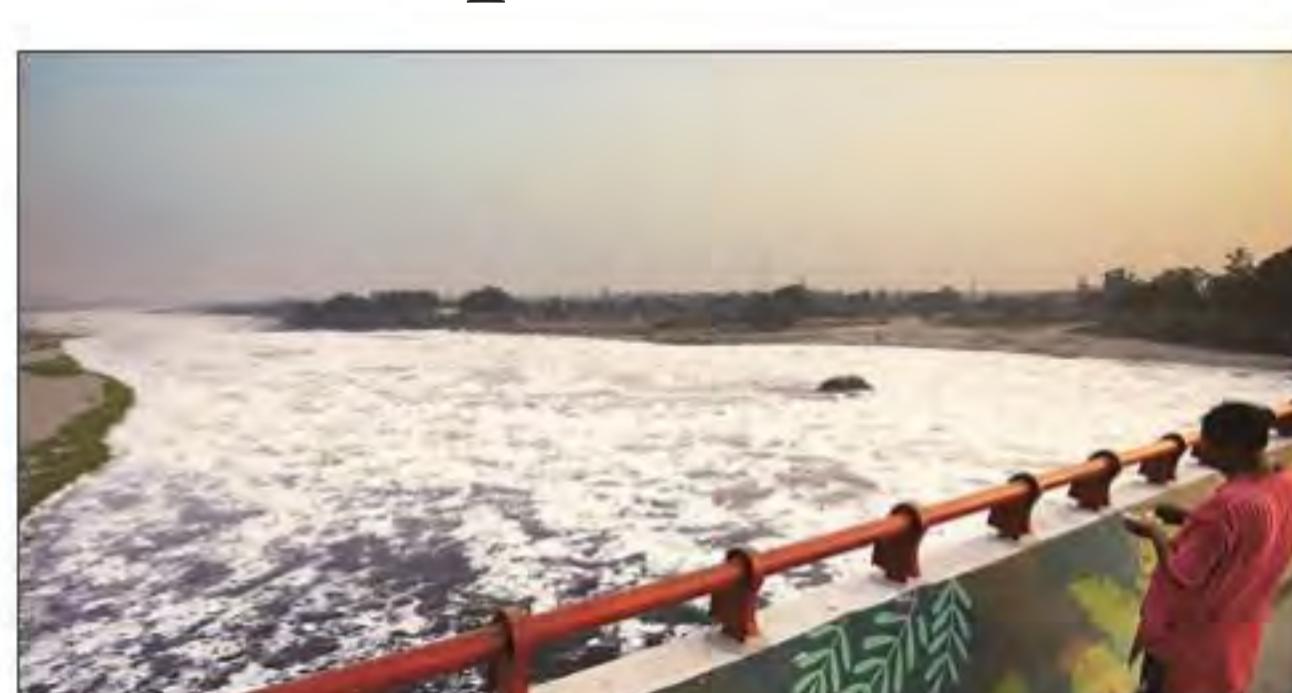
AMID MENTION of bullets, Pakistan, anti-Citizenship law protesters and the Central government's decisions, BJP leaders have hit out at the Aam Aadmi Party-led Delhi government over its promises to clean up the Yamuna. Home Minister Amit Shah has even dared AAP chief and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal to take a dip in the river if he believes it is clean.

Ever since the Supreme Court took cognizance of pollution of the river in 1994, a number of measures have been taken and action plans drafted to control its degradation. However, more than a quarter of a century later, bringing the river back to its "natural state" in the capital still remains a challenge.

Cleaning the Yamuna has found a mention in the manifestos of all three parties as well as in speeches by leaders. In an interview to *The Indian Express*, Kejriwal said one of the things his government will focus on if it returns to power is cleaning the river.

At a public gathering in Matiala last month, Shah had said: "PM Narendra Modi and UPCM Yogi Adityanath have cleaned the Ganga; the new BJP government of Delhi will certainly clean the Yamuna too."

In its 2015 manifesto, AAP had promised to revive the river by prohibiting discharge of untreated sewage and industrial effluents in it. Since then, more than 1,100 km of new



Experts say maintaining flow during dry season is important to preserve the river

sewage lines have been laid and over 370 km of defective or old lines replaced as of September 2019. In the present manifesto, it has again promised to revive the river and work with the Centre to develop a "beautiful riverside" along its banks.

The BJP, in its manifesto, has promised to constitute a 'Delhi Yamuna Vikas Board' to ensure "clean and uninterrupted flow of Yamuna and development of its adjoining areas". The Congress's manifesto promises to launch a "water restoration mission" to rejuvenate, accumulate and protect Delhi's water bodies.

Tackling pollution in the river, however, remains an uphill task.

In January 2015, the National Green Tribunal had delivered a landmark judgment with a revitalisation plan for the Yamuna based on a petition filed by Manoj Misra, a retired Indian Forest Service officer, and Madhu Bhaduri, a former Indian Foreign Service officer.

Misra, who is also the convenor of the Yamuna Jiye Abhiyan, said the condition of the river, in some measures, has worsened since the Tribunal's directive: "Until and unless di-

lution of water is done, by restoring the flow back in the river, it would continue to be a sewage pond for nine months in a year."

Of its total length of 1,370 km, the Yamuna flows for 54 km in Delhi, between Palla and Badarpur. Water drawn from the river for supply to the city is taken before the Wazirabad Barrage. After this, a 22-km stretch between Wazirabad and Okhla – roughly 2% of the river's total length – accounts for a major share of pollution of the Yamuna, as per authorities. During non-monsoon months, the river has no fresh water downstream of Wazirabad. The only flow is sewage, both treated and untreated, through a number of drains that join it.

Figures show there has not been a marked difference in the quality of water in the river over the years. Samples taken by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee on January 6 show that the biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) at Palla was 3 milligram per litre, as is the standard, but began to deteriorate after the Wazirabad Barrage and reached as high as 65mg/l near the Agra Canal in Okhla.

BOD is a measure of organic pollution in a water body – in polluted water bodies more organic matter means more BOD, and less available dissolved oxygen for aquatic life.

The dissolved oxygen level was 7.3mg/l at Palla, against the standard of 5mg/l or more. It, however, began falling after the Wazirabad Barrage and was 'nil' at six locations until near the Agra Canal at Jaipur. Only at Nizamuddin

bridge, it was 1.9 mg/l.

One of the main problems that authorities are trying to tackle is controlling flow of untreated sewage in the river. The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) supplies a little over 900 million gallons per day (MGD) of water to the city, of which around 720 MGD is converted into sewage.

However, Misra believes the actual figure of sewage generated would be higher as the DJB hasn't accounted for a number of unauthorised borewells extracting groundwater in the city.

At present, the DJB treats around 512 MGD of sewage. The rest is either being released into the river or other water bodies, as per authorities.

To tackle this problem, the water department has been working on an Interceptor Sewer Project which would trap sewage flowing into stormwater drains and divert them to sewage treatment plants (STPs). However, officials said, more than half of the DJB's 36 STPs are treating sewage as per old quality standards. In the future, the department plans to upgrade all STPs to meet revised standards.

A monitoring committee set up by the NGT to clean the Yamuna has said that even after commissioning of the interceptor project, around 204 drains would still be left untapped and continue to pollute the Yamuna.

It is believed that unless more fresh water is released into the river to maintain a certain flow during the dry season, chances of improvement

## I HEREBY DECLARE



RAVINDER KUMAR (45)

BJP, Bawana

## TOTAL ASSETS (2020)

₹5.05 CRORE

## MOVEABLE ASSETS

₹2.59 CRORE

## CASH: ₹1.15 L

JEWELLERY: ₹18.17 L

## IMMOVABLE ASSETS

₹2.46 CRORE

## Assets

Agricultural land ₹39.77 L

Houses ₹1.50 Cr

## EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION

Bachelor of Arts (Pass) from Delhi University, 2000



JAI BHAGWAN (38)

AAP, Bawana

## TOTAL ASSETS (2020)

₹1.98 CRORE

## MOVEABLE ASSETS

₹26.21 LAKH

## CASH: ₹1 L

JEWELLERY: ₹7.50 L

## IMMOVABLE ASSETS

₹1.72 CRORE

## Assets

Houses ₹26.2 L

## EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION

Class XII from National Institute of Open School (NIOS)

## BALLOTIN

BSP Badarpur candidate attacked

New Delhi: A 47-year-old BSP candidate was allegedly attacked by three unidentified persons at Badarpur. Narayan Dutt Sharma, who is contesting from Badarpur, was in his car near his home when he was attacked. ENS



Sisodia's final rally passed through colonies in Patparganj, East Vinod Nagar, West Vinod Nagar and Khichripur. Praveen Khanna

Sisodia wraps up campaign with hope: *Dilli mein jhaadu hi jhaadu chalega*SOMYA LAKHANI  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

JUNOON, KAAM, and CCTVs — the last leg of Deputy CM Manish Sisodia's election rally in East Delhi's Patparganj Thursday was peppered with these words. Forty minutes before the clock struck 6 pm, he wrapped up his election campaign at his Mayur Vihar Phase-II house, with a shower of petals, after walking through colonies in Patparganj, East Vinod Nagar, West Vinod Nagar and Khichripur.

"Aaj hum chale hain, parso jhaadu chalega aur 11 taarikh ko poori Dilli mein jhaadu hi jhaadu chalega," said Sisodia from the balcony of his house at the end of the day, to party workers, volunteers and residents who had walked with him.

Among them was 80-year-old Sher Singh,

who joined him once the cavalcade reached Vinod Nagar. Singh said, "There's no one like Manish and Arvind. They have worked for every section of the society.. Electricity bills are zero, my grandchildren go to good government schools, and I went to Vaishno Devi through the teerth yatra scheme."

As AAP's jingle 'Lage raho Kejriwal' played through the walk, dhol players joined in too, with party workers often breaking into a dance and chanting "Lagegi jhaadu, hatagi dhool, naa rahega panja, naa rahega phool".

Sisodia, meanwhile, greeted shopkeepers and residents, held a child in his arms, and greeted a colony elder.

At the end of walk, he told people to be alert about "distribution of liquor, saris and money". "They have money, we have junoon, and in front of money, junoon always wins. If you find anything suspicious, remember there is a CCTV

in every corner of this constituency.. I will get the CCTV footage retrieved," he said.

Chandrakala Negi, a volunteer and resident of Vinod Nagar, said, "There are two mohalla clinics here and even the high-society people of Mayur Vihar-II come there. This party doesn't do Hindu-Musalmaan, they only talk about education and health. The free bus rides too have helped us with finances."

Another resident, Diwakar Gaur, spoke about "Kejriwal's resolve despite him being slapped and chilli powder being thrown at him". "Yahan har ghar mein Arvind hai, Manish hai," he said.

Sisodia urged people to "ensure no one misses voting because they're sleepy or lazy". He said, "They have lies, we have work on our side... After seeing the atmosphere in Patparganj, I feel you have already given us a margin of 40,000 (votes)."

## AS CAMPAIGN ENDS

## EC notice to Yogi over 'biryani' jibe at CM Kejriwal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

THE ELECTION Commission (EC) Thursday issued a showcase notice to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for his statement in which he alleged that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal offered biryani to Shaheen Bagh protesters.

The poll panel has asked him to respond to the notice by 5 pm Friday. The EC said prima facie, by making such remarks, the senior BJP leader has violated provisions of the Model Code of Conduct MCC.

Adityanath had made this remark during a speech in the capital on February 1.

The EC also issued a notice to AAP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh for his statement, in which he said the BJP is planning to cause "major trouble" on February 2 in Shaheen Bagh and Jamia areas.

The EC, in the notice, said his statement prima facie was a violation of the MCC and could also "create confusion and panic among the general public and electors".

They have given Singh time till noon on Friday to reply.

Singh had reportedly made the remarks in an interview to a broadcast news agency.

The EC said it has given time to Singh to explain his position, failing which the commission shall take a decision without any further reference to the AAP leader.

The notices to Adityanath and Singh are in a line of notices issued to other leaders of BJP



Both Yogi and AAP's Sanjay Singh have been served notices

and AAP.

Earlier, BJP MP Parvesh Sahib Singh and Minister of State (Finance) Anurag Thakur were removed as "star campaigners" of the BJP, and were banned from campaigning for 96 hours and 72 hours respectively for their statements. While Singh had said "Shaheen Bagh protesters could enter homes and rape women", Thakur had egged on the crowd to chant the slogan "shoot the traitors".

On Wednesday, Singh was further banned for 24 hours for calling Kejriwal a terrorist, while Kejriwal was also issued a warning for promising mohalla clinics in all city courts.

those at the bottom of the economic pyramid.

Muslim voters, too, don't seem particularly divided, at least in seats where they are not the deciding factor. "The Congress is not in the competition here," says Asif, a paneer supplier in Model Town, where the BJP has fielded Kapil Mishra, who had courted controversy by tweeting that the upcoming elections are a contest between India and Pakistan. "Congress is the third umpire. They are watching the match from the gallery," quipped Asif's friend.

With campaigning coming to an end Thursday, it has become increasingly clear that both AAP and BJP have managed to deftly and successfully set their respective agendas, but their narratives have not appealed across classes.

And interestingly, there is no sense of voter disillusionment among supporters of both parties. While Kejriwal's supporters are not unhappy with Modi, they say the CM's populist schemes are just more appealing in local elections. And both Modi and Kejriwal, they say, are agents of change.

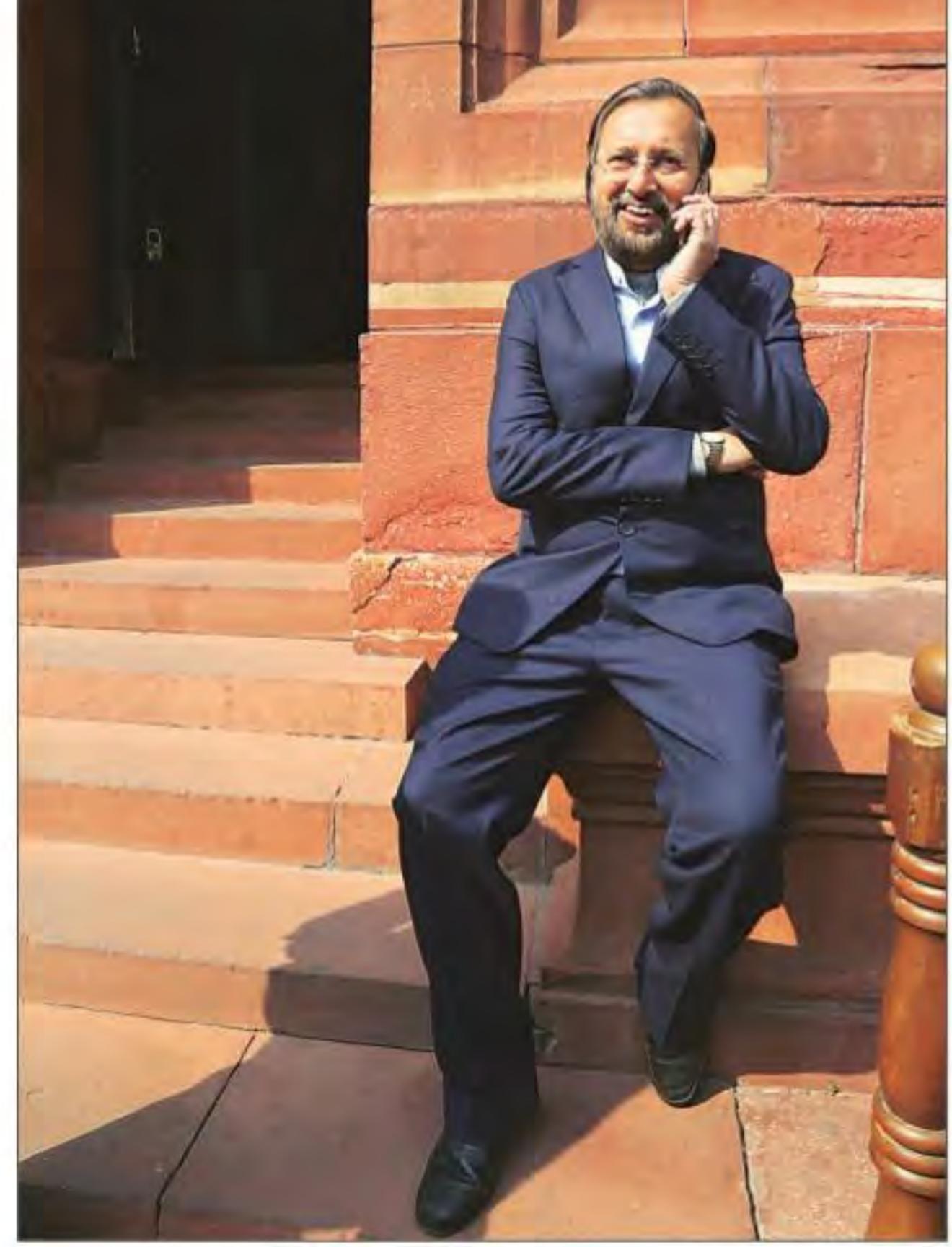


At the AAP office. Praveen Khanna

Tum ekjut ho sakte ho, hum nahin? Hindu kyun Pandit, Thakur, pichade main bata raha re?

Not far away in Azadpur in Adarsh Nagar

constituency, Taran Jaiswal, a property dealer, mentions the Shaheen Bagh protests with a taunt: "Do you need a visa to go to Shaheen Bagh? Because some media people



Union Minister Prakash Javadekar at Parliament. Renuka Puri

## 'Our politics is of empowerment, AAP's of entitlement'

Union Minister and BJP election in-charge Prakash Javadekar on barbs at the Chief Minister, the Centre's approach towards Shaheen Bagh, and how his party hopes to counter AAP on subsidies

ABHINAV RAJPUT & RAHUL SABHARWAL  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

Two days before voting, how is the BJP placed in Delhi?

The Modi model of governance has been appreciated, as opposed to what people saw in the Delhi government, which was only quarrelling. He (CM Arvind Kejriwal) did not allow the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna in Delhi, Rs 6,000 each to Delhi farmers. He delayed the hanging of the December 16, 2012, gangrape convicts and stopped Phase 4 of the Delhi Metro for three years over the nominal issue of funding. Even now, he is sitting on a file to remove *kikar* trees for the Dwarka highway, though even the Supreme Court has said these are not good quality trees and ought to be removed. And in the last six months, he suddenly wakes up and gives concessions, which nobody believes will be permanent.BJP has come out with laudable schemes to rebuild Delhi, with regularisation of unauthorised colonies, '*jahan jhuggi wahan makaan*', more floor area ratio for group housing societies. Legal hurdles have been removed for development.

They (the AAP and its leaders) have, meanwhile, supported Shaheen Bagh, an anarchy where Sharjeel Imam comes and says he wants to break India and North East must be cut off, and the country must become an Islamic state. That's the vision with which they want to work, and Kejriwal and these citizens want to support it.

The people of Shaheen Bagh, though, are as much your citizens as those in neighbouring Sarita Vihar. So when a

party's leadership, in speech after speech, focuses on vilifying a set of people, isn't their insecurity justified?

They are our citizens. See, CAA has nothing to do with anybody's citizenship. But their main demand is to withdraw CAA, which is an unjustified demand, or fear mongering done in the community. Whoever comes to us, we discuss with them and they leave satisfied.

Even if one agrees they are misguided, there are two approaches to deal with them — one is discussion...

They have not asked us, but sat on a dharna; they have not sent any letter that they want discussion. Our doors are always (open), wherever an agitation happens and whoever comes for dialogue, whether it is trade unions or anybody, whoever approaches for discussion. But these people have not. You cannot expect ministers will go there, because they are not just misguided but they are hitting journalists, giving platform to people raising anti-national slogans. There have been incidents of children saying 'we will kill Modi and Amit Shah'. Do you expect the government will hold dialogue with such elements?

But there have been incidents in the past when interlocutors have been appointed by the government for talks.

I have not seen any request from them (for talks) in your newspaper.

But if the government is the mother and citizens its children, shouldn't the government go to them?

Looking at your campaign — CAA, Article

The rule in a democratic system is that if someone has sat without legal permission, then they have to approach, the government can't go everywhere. And our police has not disturbed them, they go everyday and request them (to disperse).

Every now and then there are statements by some leaders that roads will be cleared on February 11 (day of results)?

That is simple — the political judgement is that this is politically motivated, so what happens on the 11th matters. If BJP wins, people will disperse on their own — that is what some people think and they spoke.

Referring to your anarchist remark, the CM told us that whenever one tries to disrupt a system in bad shape, he is termed an anarchist.

But when you try to disturb the January 26 parade, which no Chief Minister has thought of? Isn't it anarchist to not grant permission to police to prosecute those who say '*Bharat tere tukde honge, Inshaallah, Inshaallah*'.

Your MP has also called the CM a terrorist but remains unapologetic.

We always take corrective measures if our MPs make bad statements. Already the election commission has taken cognizance.

What about the party intervening?

We always tell people to maintain restraint in speeches.

Looking at your campaign — CAA, Article

370 — an outsider might think it is for the national elections.

We are running a development-oriented campaign; the media always picks up juicy things, and development is not juicy for the media.

Subsidies are AAP's major poll planks, some of your leaders have said these are inducements...

Our politics is of empowerment. We are giving Rs 2 lakh to each girl child born to a poor family. We want to give cycles to each girl child who goes to school, scooter to college girls. We are doing politics of empowerment and Congress and AAP are doing politics of entitlement. We want to increase pension. Modi ji has provided gas chullah, bank account, house, electricity, toilets, houses — but there is a theme of why to give and whom to give. We are on the forefront (of social welfare schemes), not them. They came to power on the basis of Jan Lokpal, but it was passed by the Modi government and has already started functioning. Now, they are saying they will try to roll it out in the next five years.

Two Deputy Commissioners of Police being pulled up by the Election Commission is unusual during an election campaign. Allegations are being levelled of the Home Ministry's interference.

I don't want to speak on the decision of the EC because India has the best election commission. Police are doing an extremely important duty. The AAP and Congress legislators instigated mobs to pelt stones on police, burning cars and buses, looting shops. Was there any lathi charge? Police have shown restraint to a great extent. They were injured but they still did not react, nobody fired.

THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW  
WITH  
PRAKASH  
JVADEKAR  
UNION MINISTER

Looking at your campaign — CAA, Article



# IN PARLIAMENT

BUDGET SESSION

## FROM THE GALLERY

## FROM THE CHAIR

## RAJYA SABHA

"Unfortunately, people are now saying that it is not defection, it is only affection and they are doing it with perfection. We must put an end to this."

M VENKAIAH NAIDU,  
Chairman, on slow disposal of  
anti-defection complaints.

## LOK SABHA

"He is not in the habit of speaking like that. He may look like that but he is soft at heart."

OM BIRLA,  
Speaker, to TMC's Sudip Bandyopadhyay,  
who had complained that Union Minister  
Hardeep Puri was replying to questions in an "arrogant manner".

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"In these six months, I will do more surya namaskar so that my back is ready for the beating... I have been subjected to abuses in the past 20 years, I will make myself gaali-proof (abuse-proof) and also danda-proof (stick-proof)"

PRIME MINISTER  
NARENDRA MODI

## ROLL CALL

**PRIME MINISTER:** Present  
**SONIA GANDHI:** Not present  
**RAHUL GANDHI:** Present

## 5 QUESTIONS



CONGRESS LOK SABHA MEMBER FROM ERNAKULAM IN KERALA HIBI EDEN TELLS LIZ MATHEW THAT WHAT HAPPENED IN JNU WAS AN ATTEMPT BY THE ABVP TO DOMINATE THE INSTITUTE THROUGH VIOLENCE.

## What was the issue you raised during zero hour today?

I raised the issue of violence over the students of JNU. We had a fact-finding committee appointed by the Congress president... We had a 12-hour conversation with students, teachers, teachers' unions including the unions of the RSS and the ABVP. We understood that right from the fee hike, there has been a series of incidents that led to the violence on campus... On January 5, for the first time, people from outside came to the campus with the help of Vice Chancellor, security agencies and the RSS-led teachers' organisations and the police were kept away. Till date, no one has been arrested.

## What was your demand?

My demand was to remove the Vice Chancellor because he was the person who would have been protecting the students and taking care of their interests. Also there should be an independent inquiry into this matter and the culprits should be arrested.

## The ruling party says there have been anti-national activities on campus.

...JNU has an intellectual atmosphere and thereby many debates happen there. It is the culture of JNU... If there is any anti-national activity happening, there is a procedure to handle it. This is not the way.

## JNU has been centre of controversies ever since 2014.

A particular organisation does not have backing there. Its an institute established in 1969 in the name of India's first Prime Minister. This government does not want anything linked to Nehru.

## What do you have to say about the demands of some BJP leaders that JNU should shut down?

How can an MP or any leader talk like that? Is that a solution? When you have a headache, do you cut your head off?



Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Lok Sabha on Thursday. LSTV/PTI

## PM slams Abdullahs, Mufti, says they made anti-India remarks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Thursday said the NDA government could abrogate Article 370 because it placed its trust in the Kashmiri people even though three former Chief Ministers of the state — Mehbooba Mufti, Omar Abdullah and Farooq Abdullah — had warned that the move would not be acceptable.

"Many said that Kashmir would be on fire if Article 370 was removed. Many are questioning us for detaining some political leaders. On August 5, Mehbooba Mufti said that India had betrayed Kashmir and we would have been better with deciding otherwise in 1947. Can we accept such people?" Modi said in his reply to the Motion of Thanks to the Presidential Address in Lok Sabha.

"Omar Abdullah ji ne kaha tha ki Article 370 ka hataaya jaana aisa bhukamp laayega ki Kashmir Bharat se alag ho jayega (Omar Abdullah had said that if Article 370 is removed, then an earthquake will separate Kashmir from India)," Modi said, adding that Farooq Abdullah said if Article 370 was removed, then no one would unfurl the national flag in Kashmir.

The Prime Minister said that these former J&K CMs did not have trust in the people of the state. "These people talk like this because they do not have trust in the people of

Kashmir. We have placed our trust in the people of Kashmir and abrogated Article 370 and are now bringing in development of Kashmir at a fast pace," Modi said.

Opposition members kept asking the Prime Minister "Where is Farooq Abdullah?", pointing to the fact that the Kashmiri leaders have been kept under detention since the removal of the special status of J&K last year.

In response, Modi said, "And you speak for such people? You approve of such people?"

Calling Kashmir the "crown jewel of India", Modi said that the "identity of Kashmir" was buried on January 19, 1949, with the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits. "Who made Kashmir only about land grabbing? Who made Kashmir's identity only about bombs and guns? Can anyone forget that dark night of January?" he said, adding that the abrogation of Article 370 has led to the complete integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of the country.

In Rajya Sabha, the Prime Minister slammed Leader of the Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad for stating that the decisions on J&K were passed without discussion. He reminded the Congress of the scenes in Lok Sabha when the Bill for bifurcating Andhra Pradesh was passed in 2014. "The doors (of Lok Sabha) were shut, live telecast was stopped... there was no discussion... nobody can forget how the Bill was passed," he said.

He said the Bills related to J&K were passed after long and detailed discussions.

Elaborating his government's initiatives in J&K, Modi said that for the first time in 70 years, the poor people of Jammu and Kashmir got benefits of reservation, an anti-corruption body was set up, BDC elections were held peacefully and the RERA came into force. The daughters of Kashmir will not be deprived of property rights now if they marry outside J&K, he said. For the first time, he said, J&K has got a comprehensive startup, trade and logistics policy.

Modi attacked the Opposition for not offering any "constructive suggestion" during the debate, saying they made a "virtue out of stagnation". He said steps are being taken to stop funding for separatists from across the border and the state police and Central forces are jointly taking action against terrorists.

In Lok Sabha, the PM said that the real identity of Jammu and Kashmir is its egalitarian attitude towards all faiths and its Sufi tradition, and added that the region cannot be left behind.

The Prime Minister said the restrictions imposed in the Union Territory are being removed and Union ministers are going to various parts of the region, getting direct feedback from the people. The government would definitely act upon the feedback, he said.

Modi said his government is committed to work for the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and for its all round development. He said Ladakh would be developed as a carbon-neutral Union Territory.

## In speech, quotes Nehru, Ambedkar, Shastri on welcoming Hindu refugees

MANOJ CG & AVISHEK DASTIDAR  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

FROM READING out an extract from a 1947 resolution of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) to quoting Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, B R Ambedkar and Ram Manohar Lohia, a combative Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday dipped into history and invoked nation-builders in his twin speeches in Parliament to strongly defend the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

He argued that the sentiment in the country has always been in favour of offering shelter to persecuted minorities from Pakistan and Bangladesh.

"The Congress is further bound to afford full protection to all those non-Muslims from Pakistan who have crossed the border and come over to India or may do so to save their lives and honour," Modi said in Rajya Sabha, replying to the discussion on Motion of Thanks to the President's Address.

He also quoted Shastri as having told Parliament in 1964 that "as far as East Pakistan is concerned, its decision seems to indicate that all non-Muslims will be driven out from there. It is an Islamic state... non-Muslims cannot live there..."

"The language you are talking today... I don't believe the Congress on November 25, 1947, was communal. (And) I don't believe it has suddenly become secular today. On November 25, 1947, instead of writing non-Muslims... you could have written all people coming from Pakistan... why didn't you write that? Why did you write non-Muslims?"

Modi then quoted "some great men".

He quoted from former PM Shastri's speech in Parliament on April 3, 1964: "...in view of insecurity of life, property and honour of the minority communities in the eastern wing of Pakistan and general denial of all human rights to them, the government of India should... (relax) restrictions in migration of people belonging to the minority communities from East Pakistan to the Indian Union..."

Pointing out most of the Hindus who remained in Pakistan after Partition were Dalits, Modi quoted Ambedkar as having told them, "I would like to tell the Scheduled Caste who happen today to be impounded inside Pakistan to come over to India."

He asked, "Will you call him communal?"

In Lok Sabha, Modi quoted Nehru extensively to emphasise that the move to bring in CAA was something Nehru himself had advocated on several occasions. He said the Nehru-Liaquat Pact mentioned grant of citizenship to "minorities" from Pakistan. "Why did Nehru, who was a big thinker, say 'minorities' and not 'all citizens' of Pakistan?"

Modi read out Nehru's 1950 letter to Assam's first CM, Gopinath Bordoloi, where Nehru said that the Assam government needed to differentiate between "Hindu refugees and Muslim immigrants".

"Was Pandit Nehru communal? Did he want to create a Hindu Rashtra," he asked.

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FULL REPORT ON  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## Prasad: Expressing views through Internet a fundamental right, subject to restrictions

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

THE USE of Internet for expression of views is a fundamental right, but "reasonable restrictions" can also be imposed to protect public order and integrity of the country, IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad told the Rajya Sabha Thursday.

Prasad, while responding to a question on Internet blockade, said that the country's security is as important as the right to Internet.

"Can we deny that Internet, a fine creation of human mind, is not being abused by terrorists, by agent provocateurs, by giving fake news... for communal violence? Therefore, what the law agency does is that they do it (block access) periodically across the country," the minister said.

"Abuse of Internet is there not (just) in India, but globally. The whole ISIS prospered because of the Internet. What the Supreme Court has done is that they have said that temporary suspension of (Internet) rules

must be periodically reviewed. We have the Home Secretary, the Law Secretary and the IT Secretary in the Central Government. Similarly, we have the Home Secretary and others in the states. This periodic review should be done quickly, so that process is also going on," he said.

When asked about the Internet blockade imposed in Jammu and Kashmir by Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad, Prasad said

that 783 white-listed websites related to government, banking, tourism, e-commerce, transportation and education, are now accessible in the state.

"People in Kashmir are happy," he said, adding that voice, SMS and landline services have been restored in Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir and Broadband services are functional in Jammu.

Replying to another question on the health of public sector telecom companies, Prasad assured the House that the government considers BSNL and MTNL as "strategic assets" and that there was no intention of shutting them down.

"We consider BSNL and MTNL as strategic assets, as they have come to the aid of the people during natural calamities. There were problems in these companies, but we will revive them soon. Don't be under this impression that BSNL and MTNL will be shut down. We have infused a revival package in them and I assure you that these companies will not be shut down," he told the House, adding that the revival package contains the core of optimal utilisation of the assets of these companies.

IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad

must be periodically reviewed. We have the Home Secretary, the Law Secretary and the IT Secretary in the Central Government. Similarly, we have the Home Secretary and others in the states. This periodic review should be done quickly, so that process is also going on," he said.

When asked about the Internet blockade imposed in Jammu and Kashmir by Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad, Prasad said

## Oppn rips into govt: Economy afflicted with coronavirus, cold medicine given

BJP's Sinha says new target should be \$10-trn economy

LIZ MATHEW

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

WHILE THE ruling party claims that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman are already working on making India a \$5-trillion economy by 2024, and that the new target should be \$10 trillion, the Opposition on Thursday ripped into the government and accused it of pushing the economy into a crisis.

Initiating the debate on the Union Budget in Lok Sabha, Congress member Manish Tewari said, "India's economy is at a very critical stage... The economy has been affected with coronavirus while the government is giving medication for common cold. It is very unfortunate."

Citing data to show the state of the economy, Tewari maintained that those in the government are not aware of the issues on the demand side, and that its solution does not come from the supply side. "Sometimes it appears that this government, by hiding behind the economic slowdown, is trying to help the capitalists," he alleged.

"Every single number in the Budget is a lie. If you want, I can put that statement on the floor of the House," he said, adding that India's GDP growth at 5 per cent is the lowest in 11 years, and that the employment rate is the lowest in the last few decades.

Countering Tewari, BJP's Jayant Sinha said the Congress leader is looking at the rearview mirror. The BJP, he said, is looking ahead at a \$10-trillion economy.

Asserting that crony capitalism — which he termed "billionaire raj" — and "fake socialism" were at their peak under the Congress-led UPA, Sinha said, "Like the Prime Minister said, if you want to have a new India, you should have a new energy, a new development model."

Sinha said that expenditure proposed in the Budget is aimed at creating assets, a new financial architecture was created with the

insolvency and bankruptcy law, and that the restructuring of banks would pave the way for a stronger economy. Sinha called it a "feel good" Budget that is for the common man — "we have to look forward."

He also maintained that the economy was moving at a great pace. "If we look at the GST collection numbers, we will find that the economy is moving ahead," he added.

DMK member Kanimozhi asked how the government will meet the targets proposed in the Union Budget when the GDP grows at 5 per cent. She said the crop insurance scheme has failed to protect farmers from natural disasters, as the insurance amount is too low and "insulting" to farmers.

Criticising recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission on divisions of tax revenue between the Centre and states, she said these are unfair to states that have controlled population growth, as the commission considers demography as a basis for its proposals.

Kanimozhi pointed out the change in terms of reference, asking states to pay for defence allocation, and said it comes under the Centre's purview and its expenditure should be by the Union government. "Why should states pay for things which are entirely under the Centre, unless you have intention to move defence into concurrent list," she asked.

TMC member Abhishek Banerjee alleged that Sitharaman's 160-minute speech had nothing for 130 crore people. "Clearly, the government went ahead with the motto that if you cannot convince the people, confuse them," and the Budget speech succeeded in that, he said.

The Budget, he said, comes in the backdrop of GDP growth touching an 11-year low, unemployment rate at a 45-year high, investment rate at 17-year low, and the lowest household savings in eight years. Criticising the disinvestment proposals, Banerjee said the government has embarked on a "Bech India (sell India)" drive and cited the decision on listing of LIC as one of putting "another family jewel on the block".

## Govt trying to rewrite India's history: Kanimozhi

LIZ MATHEW

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

DMK MP Kanimozhi on Thursday criticised Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for terming the Indus Valley Civilisation as the "Saraswati-Sindhu Civilisation" and accused the BJP government of "not only painting the present India in saffron but going back in history to paint the past saffron too".

Kanimozhi accused Sitharaman of "going out of way to rename the Indus Valley Civilisation", adding that even experts have not come out with any conclusive proof of the existence of the "mythical" Saraswati river, accusing the BJP of attempting to rewrite history.

While participating in the debate over the Union Budget, she said, "I would like to tell her

that there is no conclusion about it, people are still debating about it and nobody has actually been able to read what is there. So, I humbly request the government and the BJP to leave things like this to the scholars and historians. I would again request the politicians to stay out of this and stop using their versions of religion to rewrite what India is."

The DMK MP said, "The Finance Minister has followed the footsteps of some people who actually would like to push the Vedic age to 10,000 years BCE and to say that the river Saraswati mentioned in Rig Veda is the same river on which the Indus Civilisation flourished which is farthest from the truth."



# EXPRESS NETWORK

## PROTEST WATCH

### MAHARASHTRA



Mahatma Gandhi's great-grandson Tushar Gandhi at a sit-in at Mumbai's Nagpada as it entered Day 12.

### BIHAR

## Kanhaiya convoy attacked again ahead of CAA rally

**Patna:** Stones were hurled at the convoy of Kanhaiya Kumar when the Left leader was on his way to address a rally against the CAA in Bihar's Madhepura district on Thursday, which was second such incident in less than 24 hours. The Communist Party of India, which had fielded the former JNU student leader

against BJP firebrand Giriraj Singh in Lok Sabha polls last year, issued a statement here condemning the incident and warned of an agitation if preventive steps were not taken. Police officials were not available for comment. A similar attack took place in Supaul on Wednesday. No one was injured on Thursday. PTI

### WEST BENGAL



Trinamool Mohila Congress activists participate in a silent rally in Kolkata on Thursday. PTI

### UTTAR PRADESH

## Aligarh protesters warned they may lose property

**Aligarh:** District authorities are issuing notices to about 1,000 people sitting on an anti-CAA dharna here, warning that they may lose their property if they do not give a satisfactory explanation on why they are "violating prohibitory orders". In addition, police are sending out "red notices" to

some local leaders, cautioning them against "disrupting law and order". Senior Superintendent of Police Akash Kulhari said the notices being sent to about 1,000 people say that if they do not give a satisfactory reply, the formalities for attaching their property will start. PTI

**MP man killed over child-lifting rumours: BJP leader among four arrested**

### MILIND GHATWAI

BHOPAL, FEBRUARY 6

**AMID** a political row over the assault of six people in Borlai village at Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district on Wednesday, which led to the death of one, police on Thursday arrested a BJP leader for allegedly provoking the mob.

Police said Ramesh Junapani led the mob that was made to believe that a gang of child-lifters was active in the region. Three others involved in assaulting the six victims – all farmers from Ujjain and Indore district – were also arrested. The police have named 45 accused in the FIR.

The victims had travelled to Khidkiya village in Dhar district to collect money they had paid as advance to a labour contractor.

Despite getting the advance, the labourers reportedly did not show up for work. They fled after they were attacked by local residents. They were then intercepted at Borlai village, where a group of some 200 people assaulted them.

On Thursday, five police officials were suspended. Dhar SP A P Singh told *The Indian Express* that four persons, including the BJP leader, have been arrested and the police are looking for other accused in the village.

Meanwhile, the incident led to a political war of words with the Opposition BJP comparing the incident with the "Taliban way of functioning".

Chief Minister Kamal Nath's media coordinator Narendra Saljuji responded, saying, "You are alleging that MP has become Talibani Pradeshi, but the main accused is a BJP leader."

## TN forest minister makes tribal boy remove his slippers

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

UDHGAGAMANDALAM (TN), FEBRUARY 6

A TAMIL Nadu minister made a tribal boy remove his slippers during the inauguration of an elephant camp in Theppakkadu near here on Thursday, a video of which went viral, drawing flak from the DMK and a section of social media users.

The incident occurred when Forest Minister Dindigul C Srinivasan came to inaugurate the elephant rejuvenation camp in Theppakkadu, in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, 40 km from here.

Facing criticism, the minister, a senior AIADMK leader, sought to downplay the incident, saying the boy was like his "grandson", what happened was "coincidental", and that his intention was not to hurt anyone.

DMK president M K Stalin hit out at Srinivasan, saying he had "violated the oath" taken as a minister.

The incident also caused outrage on social media with several condemning it and seeking action against the minister un-



Dindigul C Srinivasan was in Theppakkadu, in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, to inaugurate an elephant rejuvenation camp.

ficials were proceeding to the camp, he called a tribal boy and asked him to remove his footwear so as to enter a temple there and perform pooja. The boy readily obliged and removed the slippers.

It is not clear as to why Srinivasan asked the boy to remove his footwear.

The incident also caused outrage on social media with several condemning it and seeking action against the minister un-

der the SC/ST Act. In his defence, the minister said he didn't know who the boy was.

"He looked like my grandson. I called him and asked to remove the buckle of my footwear which he did. That is all. I don't even know who he was. It was just a coincidence," he told reporters.

Saying that it was not proper for some to raise up the issue, he said he did not intend to hurt anyone.

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"He looked like my grandson. I called him and asked to remove the buckle of my footwear which he did. That is all. I don't even know who he was. It was just a coincidence," he told reporters.

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In all, 38 locations in Chennai and Madurai – owned by AGS Cinemas, film financier Anbu Chezhiyan, and actor Vijay, one of the top stars in Tamil film industry, were searched over the last two days, the department said.

A large number of property documents, promissory notes and postdated cheques taken as collateral security, among others, were recovered during the search, and these have been seized, it was informed.

"As per evidence detected during the search, it is estimated that the concealment in this case is likely to exceed Rs 300 crore," the I-T department stated.

Parallel searches held at premises owned by Chezhiyan and AGS

### ARUN JANARDHANAN

CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 6

INCOME TAX raids targeting top players in Tamil film industry, which began on Wednesday morning, continued on Thursday. The department stated that the searches led to evidence that nearly Rs 300 crore income was allegedly concealed.

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Parallel searches held at premises owned by Chezhiyan and AGS



State Cong chief Alagiri said Vijay was targeted for dialogues against demonetisation and GST in his 2017 film 'Mersal'

Cinemas reportedly seized unaccounted cash and documents of properties and other assets.

Searches at Vijay's residences, and his questioning, was going on

on Thursday evening.

Without naming anyone, the I-T department stated, "The common thread among all these entities was the success of a recent film, which was a box office hit, collecting around Rs 300 crore. About 38 premises of the group were covered in search and survey actions spread over Chennai and Madurai."

It was an apparent reference to the film *Bigil*, in which all three had a stake – AGS Cinemas was the producer, Chezhiyan had reportedly funded it, and Vijay was the lead actor.

"The highlight of the search is seizure of unaccounted cash of about Rs 77 crore from hideouts and secret places located at Chennai and Madurai, purportedly belonging to the financier," the department stated.

Earlier on Thursday, I-T officials informally shared images of currency bundles stacked in

multiple travel bags, apparently indicating that they were seized from one of the premises of Chezhiyan.

A senior I-T official said Vijay was added to the list after the search operation was launched to probe Chezhiyan, who funded not only *Vijay's Bigil* but also had a stake in Rajinikanth's last film, *Darbar*, and several other big ticket projects.

Three days ago, distributors of *Darbar* protested outside Rajinikanth's residence in Chennai's Poes Garden, seeking compensation for losses they suffered after the film failed at the box office.

Meanwhile, as pressure mounted on Rajinikanth from the distributors, filmmaker A R Murugadoss, who directed *Darbar*, on Thursday moved the Madras High Court seeking police protection from alleged threats from distributors. He stated that over two dozen people, who claimed to be distributors, trespassed into his residence and demanded compensation for their losses.

## Ahmedabad cops cite 2002, Patidar stir to defend move to impose Sec 144

### PARIMAL DABHI

AHMEDABAD, FEBRUARY 6

DEFENDING ITS decision to continuously impose CrPC Section 144 – that restricts the assembly of more than four persons – in the city since at least 2016, Ahmedabad police cited incidents in the state such as the 2002 riots, Patidar quota agitation, the Dalit agitation after public flogging of a Dalit family in Una, attacks on North

Indian migrant labourers and protests against the movie *Padmavat* as reasons to justify the move.

In an affidavit filed before the Gujarat High Court, in response to a petition challenging the continuous imposition of the restrictions, Ahmedabad police stated that the city has witnessed close to 500 rioting incidents in the last three years and that the city has a history of such serious events since the 2002 riots, which requires that law and

order is taken care of.

The affidavit was filed by Assistant Commissioner of Police, Special Branch, Ilesh Patel in response to a petition moved by five persons, who have questioned "perpetual repetition" of imposition of Section 144 by Ahmedabad city police "without adequate publicity" to prohibit peaceful public protests in the city while calling it violation of freedom of speech and expression.

The petitioners have sought

a direction from the court to quash a notification issued by Ahmedabad Police Commissioner in December 2019 and any such notification issued further under the provisions of Section 144 of CrPC and relevant section of Gujarat Police Act prohibiting assembly of more than four persons in the entire city. They have cited such orders posted on the commissioner of police, Ahmedabad's official website, since 2016. As per the website, the last such or-

der under section 144 of CrPC and another under the GPA was issued on January 31.

The first order effective till March 31, directs dealers of bicycles, motorbikes and four-wheelers to sell vehicles only after verifying proof of identity and issuing bills along with full details of the vehicle sold. The order cites "intelligence inputs" on possible blasts at heritage and other sites in the city. The orders under this section are re-issued from time to time, keeping in

place a restriction continuously.

The second order forbids "shouting, loud singing, playing of musical instruments, mimicry, provocative speeches, showing of signs/symbols" and other such acts in public as violative and punishable. The order is valid till February 15.

Defending the continuous imposition of Section 144 (prohibiting unlawful assembly) in the city, ACP Patel has in his affidavit stated, "Ahmedabad city is the biggest city in Gujarat and it

is very active politically as well as socially. Therefore, any incident not only in Ahmedabad, but also outside it... creates sensitive situation in Ahmedabad city. There are many incidents within Ahmedabad as well as outside... which has created situation, wherein there have been massive rallies, protests across the streets of Ahmedabad."

The petition is slated for hearing before a single judge bench of Gujarat High Court on February 13.

## Poet talks about CAA protests, taken to police by Uber driver

### TABASSUM BARNAGARWALA & SRINATH RAO

MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 6



Bappaditya Sarkar

A POET from Jaipur, Bappaditya Sarkar (23), has alleged that he was questioned by the Mumbai police for over two hours on Wednesday night, after he was taken to the police station by an Uber driver who reportedly told the police that he had overheard, and recorded, his phone conversation on the anti-CAA protests.

Police confirmed the incident, a senior officer said both the driver and passenger were "asked to go" as there was "no cognizable offence". An Uber spokesperson said they were "reviewing the matter".

Sarkar, who is in Mumbai since February 3 for the Kala Ghoda festival, said that he had hired an Uber cab, from Juhu Silver Beach to Kurla, at 11 pm Wednesday. After getting into the vehicle, he said he called up a friend in Jaipur.

"We were talking about protest cultures in different cities, what happened at Shaheen Bagh yesterday, people's discomfort with Laal Salaam and how we could make Jaipur's protests more effective," Sarkar said in a WhatsApp message. Screenshots of his text message have been posted on social media.

Sarkar said that about 20 minutes after he sat in the cab, the driver, identified as Rohit Singh, stopped the vehicle outside the Santacruz police station and asked if he could withdraw money from a nearby ATM. Minutes later, Singh returned with two constables. "That's when I realised he had gotten me to a police station," said Sarkar.

Singh reportedly told the police that he had recorded Sarkar's phone conversation. According to Sarkar, Singh told the police: "He was talking about burning the country, saying he is a Communist, he will make the entire country a Shaheen Bagh. I have managed to earn money while attending protests."

Sarkar, a Mass Communication graduate from Fergusson College in Pune, writes poems and works as a multimedia freelancer.

The Mumbai Police, however, denied asking these questions.

"Both the driver and passenger had come to Santacruz police station. They were asked basic questions about where they were going. After verifying the driver's claims, no cognizable offence was made out and both men were asked to go," said a senior police officer.

On Thursday morning, Uber apologised to Sarkar and promised to take action. "As soon as the incident was brought to our attention, we took it up on priority. We are in touch with both the rider and the driver, and are reviewing the matter," said an Uber spokesperson.

The Mumbai Police, however,

denied asking these questions.

"Both the driver and passenger had come to Santacruz police station. They were asked basic questions about where they were going. After verifying the driver's claims, no cognizable offence was made out and both men were asked to go," said a senior police officer.

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## SABARIMALA REVIEW PETITIONS

**On Feb 10, SC to rule on objections to reference order**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

A NINE-JUDGE Supreme Court Bench will on February 10 pronounce its decision on objections to the reference order made by a five-judge bench which heard the Sabarimala review petitions.

After the order, the court will frame the issues for hearing if necessary and resume hearing next week.

On Thursday, the bench headed by Chief Justice of India S A Bobde reserved its order on the question "whether this court can refer questions of law to a larger bench in a review petition?". The CJ observed that "by making a reference order, the Court has not prejudicially affected anybody's rights. At the most, it may be an innovative procedure, but has not affected anybody's rights".

The CJ also expressed surprise over arguments that the SC could not have made such a reference and said, "it was being argued that the President can make a reference and seek opinion but this court cannot."

The nine-judge bench also comprised Justices R Banumathi, Ashok Bhushan, LNageswar Rao, MM Shantanagoudar, SANazeer, R Subhash Reddy, B R Gavai and Surya Kant.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said though the five-judge bench which made the reference was hearing a review, they have passed the order in exercise of their original powers and not in furtherance of the review.

"Technicities never come in the way of your Lordships' duty to do

justice. It is the justice that is relevant and not technicalities," he said.

He referred to a case in which the SC had kept a review pending and referred the larger questions of law to a Constitution Bench.

Opposing the reference, senior advocate Fali S Nariman said that in the case that Mehta had referred, the review was admitted and the main case reopened. He said a three-judge bench had in 2007 referred the Sabarimala matter to a larger bench and a five-judge bench answered these questions.

"Then a review is filed. The scope of a review is not like in an original petition. It is extremely limited," he said. Nariman wondered how the court was going to answer the questions referred to without facts.

"We have left that to the hearing," remarked the CJL.

Senior advocate Indra Jaising pointed out that several writ petitions were also filed along with the review petitions and said the court must first decide whether the reference order was made in the writ petitions or the review. She said that a judicial order cannot be challenged by way of a writ petition under Article 32 and contended that the reference order amounted to intra-court appeal.

Appearing for Kerala, senior advocate Jaideep Gupta opposed the reference.

He pointed to a situation where the reference lays down a new law and asked how that can be applied to the facts of the case which was decided on the basis of the existing law.

**ABANTIKA GHOSH**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

CANCER IS often said to be many diseases, rather than one disease, because of the vastly different way that different kinds of cancers are known to behave.

But in a series of papers published in the journal 'Nature', scientists from several international consortiums have mapped the handful of genes whose mutation causes several different kinds of cancer. This raises hopes of treatment tailored for specific cancers.

"On average, cancer genomes contained 4-5 driver mutations when combining coding and non-coding genomic elements; however, in around 5% of cases no drivers were identified, suggesting that cancer driver discovery is not yet complete," researchers wrote.

About half of these mutations are in the same set of nine genes. They analysed 2,658 whole-cancer genomes and their matching normal tissues across 38 tumour types from the Pan-Cancer Analysis of Whole Genomes (PCAWG) Consortium

**EXPLAINED** **E.** Second most frequent cause of death

CANCER IS the second most frequent cause of death worldwide, killing more than 8 million people every year, and the incidence of cancer is expected to increase by more than 50 per cent over the coming decades. One in 10 Indians will develop cancer during their lifetime, and one in 15 Indians will die of cancer, according to a latest WHO report.

of the International Cancer Genome Consortium (ICGC) and The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA). Driver genes are genes whose mutations are linked to development of a disease, in this case cancer.

Dr Ashok Vaid, chairman, Medical and Haemato Oncology at Medanta, the Medicity, said: "It

## TOURIST FEE IN BHUTAN

**Given assurance that Indians will not be inconvenienced, says MEA**

New Delhi: With Bhutan set to levy a fee on regional tourists, India on Thursday said the neighbour has assured it will ensure Indians are not inconvenienced.

MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said there is a discussion in the Bhutanese Parliament on the Tourism Levy and Exemption from July 2020. ENS

is an exciting development. Identifying the driver gene means a lot because that decides whether I can do targeted treatment or go with traditional options like chemotherapy. But the time taken for developing a drug from identifying a gene varies. In case of ALKB1, identified as the driver gene for 5-7 per cent lung cancers, the time from its identification in 2006-7 to a drug was just five years."

However the path is not always as short. Currently, when a tumour is sent for genetic analysis, there is capacity to analyse about 1,000 genes in a standard laboratory. Of these, less than 200 are implicated in various cancers, of which there are medicines for less than 40, Dr Vaid said.

"For more than 30 cancers we now know what specific genetic changes are likely to happen and when these are likely to take place. Unlocking these patterns means it should now be possible to develop new diagnostic tests that pick up signs of cancer earlier," Peter Van Loo, of Francis Crick Institute in London, one of the project leaders of the 'Nature' paper, said in a media statement.

The court granted bail to Peter on a surety of Rs 2 lakh and directed him to surrender his passport to the police and barred him from leaving the country. He was also asked not to contact his children Rahul Mukerjea and Vidhi Mukerjea and other witnesses in the case till further orders.

Further, he was barred from asking for further adjournments in

## SHEENA BORA MURDER CASE

**HC grants Peter bail: No prima facie evidence to show involvement**



Peter Mukerjea was arrested in 2015. Express file

the ongoing trial before the special court.

Advocate Shrikant Shivade, appearing for Mukherjea, had told the court that his client had no role in the crime, in which Indrani and her ex-husband Sanjeev Khanna are co-accused.

Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh and advocate Sandesh Patil, representing CBI, opposed the bail plea arguing that call data records of Peter and Indrani suggested that he was involved in the

crime.

Justice Sambre, however, noted that the call data records produced before the court do not prove this adequately and instead, indicate that prime accused Indrani was instructing her driver Shyamvar Rai in connection to the alleged crime.

Maintaining that Peter was not in India when the incident took place, the court noted he had been in jail for more than four years and had recently undergone a bypass surgery. "Except for the statement of the approver in the case, Shyamvar Rai, there is no reference to Peter Mukerjea in any evidence. There is no other evidence to show his involvement," it added.

The prosecution has alleged that Sheena was murdered in 2012 by Indrani and Khanna in a conspiracy that also involved Peter, her then husband. While Indrani and Khanna were arrested in April 2015, Peter was arrested in November that year.

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF HARYANA  
Mahendergarh - 123031 (Haryana)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for information of all concerned that the Sixth Convocation of the University will be held on Thursday, the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020. All students who have passed their academic programmes between 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 shall be awarded their respective degrees at the Convocation. For registration login: www.cuh.ac.in/convocation.aspx

Registrar

LICENSE NO: 61 & 62 of 2014, DATED 07.07.2014  
HRERA REGISTRATION NO. 137 of 2017, DATED 28.08.2017

## DRAW OF FLATS

This is to inform that the draw of flats in the Green Court, Residential Apartment, Sector-90, Gurugram, Haryana, to be developed by M/S Aster Infrahome Pvt. Ltd. will be held on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2020, 11:00 am onwards at Office of Senior Town Planner, Department of Town Country Planning, Haryana, Sector-14, HUDA Complex, 3rd Floor, GURUGRAM, HARYANA in the presence of Govt. Officials. All the applicants are cordially invited to attend the draw of Flats.

**Kindly Note:** Please carry your acknowledgment slip, Voter ID Card and Pan Card. Only one person is allowed per acknowledgment slip.

**Aster Infrahome Pvt. Ltd. (CIN : U70200HR2011PTC057905)**  
Office: 21-22, Ground Floor, Vipul Agora Complex,  
M.G. Road, Gurugram (Haryana)-122002  
Ph.: +91-124-4501050, E-mail: greencourt90@gmail.com

King George's Medical University U.P., Lucknow  
India ICMR Sponsored

## Post MD-PhD Programme-2020

Post MD/MS-Ph.D Super-specialty Program has been initiated to promote State of the Art interdisciplinary research programme leading to Ph.D sponsored by the Indian Council of Medical Research.

**Eligibility-** MD or Ms or Equivalent in any Medical Subject.  
**Number of Post :- Five**

**Application - Free of cost** from Department of Medical Education, KGMU, Lucknow, to be submitted along with processing fee of Rs. 1500/- (DD drawn in favour of "KGMU-PhD Program A/C" PAYABLE AT Lucknow) in person/post to the Head, Department of Medical Education, King George's Medical University, and Lucknow-226003 by 2nd March-2020

**Entrance Examination:-** will be held on 3rd & 4th April 2020 at Administrative Block, King George's Medical University, U.P. Lucknow.

**Head**

Contact:- www.kgmu.org Department of Medical Education

## KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED (KPDC)

(Fully Owned Government of J&K Undertaking)

## OFFICE OF THE

## SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (Planning)

PLANNING & PROCUREMENT WING, KASHMIR

E-mail: epndcs@gmail.com

## e-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE

e-NIT No: SE/EPL/e-NIT-04 of 2019-20 Dated: 04.02.2020

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, KPDC, Superintending Engineer, Planning Circle, P&P Wing, KPDC invites Online e-Bids from Govt. Registered Original Equipment Manufacturers for Supply of 33kV Control & Relay Panels for 33/11KV Power Transformers for the requirement of KPDC as under:

Sr. No.	Material Description	FOR ECSD Pampore (Qty. In No's)
1.	33kV Control & Relay Panels with Numerical Relays, SCADA Compatible with L/R SWITCH on Panel for 33/11KV Power Transformers	15 Nos.

The complete Tender Document is available at website: <http://ktders.gov.in>. Interested Bidder/Tenderers may view, download the e-Bid Document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bids Online upto the Date and Time mentioned in the Table below. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bills of Quantities, Terms and Conditions of the Contract and other relevant details.

i) Date and Time of Downloading/ Sale (Start) of Tender Document 04.02.2020; 16.00 Hrs.

ii) Date & Time of Download/Sale (End) of Tender Document 25.02.2020; 15.00 Hrs.

iii) Date & Time of Bidding Queries/ Clarifications 07.02.2020; 10.00 Hrs. to 10.02.2020; 16.00 Hrs.

iv) Date & Time of Bid Uploading (Start/End) 11.02.2020; 10.00 Hrs. to 25.02.2020; 15.00 Hrs.

v) Submission of Hard Copy (End) of Date & Time 26.02.2020; 16.00 Hrs. in the Office of CE P&P Wing, PDD Complex, Bemina, Srinagar

vi) Commercial/ Technical Bid Opening 28.02.2020 at 14.00 Hrs.

vii) Financial Bid Opening Shall be declared later on for the Technically Qualified Bidders

viii) Venue of Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Soft Copy Electronically and Hard Copy in the Office of CE P&P Wing, KPDC

ix) Cost of e-Bid Document Rs. 500.00 (Rupees Five Hundred only) for local Firms of J&K and Rs. 5000.00 (Rupees Five Thousand only) for Firms Outside the J&K (Non-refundable)

x) Amount of Earnest Money Rs. 5000.00 (Rupees Five Thousand only) for Local Firms of J&K and Rs. 127000.00 (Rupees One Lac Twenty Seven Thousand only) for Firms Outside the J&K.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Planning (KPDC)

## GOVERNMENT OF

## NCT OF DELHI

## TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

## 5/9, UNDER HILL ROAD,

## DELHI- 110054.

## PRESS RELEASE

In order to facilitate the polling personnel and supporting staffs to reach their destination in time on the day of Poll i.e. 08.02.2020, the services of Delhi Metro (DMRC) and DTC as well as Cluster Buses would resume at 4:00 A.M. on that day.

DIP/Shabdharth/1352/19-20

## GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

## Executive Engineer South Mumbai

## Electrical Division P.W.D. Mumbai

## TENDER NOTICE NO. 84/2019-20

ONLINE tender in B1 form are invited through E-tendering mode by Executive Engineer South Mumbai P.W.D. Electrical Division Mumbai from registered Contractor with P.W.D. Government of Maharashtra in appropriate class/having experience for execution of similar type of work. Online blank tender form are available on site <http://mahatenders.gov.in> can be downloaded from 06.02.2020 at 1200 Hrs to 20.02.2020 at 1500 Hrs. Online E-tender will be opened in the office of Executive Engineer South Mumbai (Electrical) Division P.W.D. Mumbai on 24.02.2020 at 1200 Hrs, if possible. Right is reserved to accept or reject the tender without giving any reason.

**NOTE :** To Participate in the tender it is necessary that bidder should have class II/III digital signature and register with above site. There is 02 tenders in the above tender notice. Details tender notice is available on the notice board of office of Ex. Engineer South Mumbai P.W.D. Electrical Division Mumbai

**(Estimated Cost Of The Work Above 50.00 Lakhs)**

ow/No/746/EE/SMED/TENDER/2019-20

Dt. 04.02.2020

Sd/-

**Executive Engineer**

South Mumbai Electrical Division P.W.D. Mumbai

DGIPR 2019-2020/4860

DIPK-NB-2462/M

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - III, DELHI  
4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI- 110001.  
Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules

Davinder, four others in 15-day judicial custody

Jammu: Suspended police officer Davinder Singh and four others, who were arrested by the J&K Police for alleged involvement in terrorist activities, were Thursday remanded in 15-day judicial custody by a special court here.

Special Judge Subash Gupta sent Davinder Singh to Hiranyak jail in Kathua district. Hizbul Mujahideen commander Syed Naveed Mustaq Shah alias Naveed Baba, his younger brother Syed Irfan Ahmed who has been accused of harbouring militants, Hizbul militant Rafi Ahmed Rather and advocate Irfan Shafi Mir were sent to the high-security Kot Bhalwal jail in Jammu. The NIA had sought 30-day judicial custody of the accused, saying custodial interrogation was not required for the time being. The request came before the end of the 15-day police remand granted last month.

ARUN SHARMA

## Two weeks on, most broadband services yet to be restored in Valley

ADIL AKHZER  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 6

### J&K Home Department had on January 24 ordered the restoration of broadband and 2G mobile services in the Valley with some restrictions

TWO WEEKS after the Jammu and Kashmir administration issued orders to restore broadband connectivity in the Valley, a majority of fixed line broadband services are yet to be restored as Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has been unable to install the firewall that will block social media and all other websites barring the 329 sites whitelisted by the government.

The J&K's Home Department on January 24 had ordered the restoration of broadband and 2G mobile services in the Valley with some restrictions. While 2G mobile internet services were restored a day after the order, broadband services are yet to be restored.

"We had received instructions from the government to restore the broadband Internet in Valley.

At present, around 90 per

cent of the total broadband connections in the Valley are from BSNL.

Sources told *The Indian Express* that private Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have resumed broadband Internet connectivity, with only the whitelisted sites accessible. The ISPs have also taken an undertaking from customers.

"We had received instructions from the government to restore the broadband Internet in Valley.

At present, around 90 per

But there are some conditions (for the restoration), and under those conditions, we are seeking technical assistance for setting up firewalls which is in process and will be commissioned as well," BSNL Srinagar public relations officer Masood Bala said.

A senior BSNL officer said several teams based in Chandigarh, Noida, Bengaluru and in Jammu and Kashmir have been working to install firewalls. "Our broadband equipment (in Srinagar) is very old and it is very difficult to restore broadband with access to only whitelisted sites and block social media. We have not been successful so far in doing so..." the officer said.

However, another official said BSNL is close to setting up the firewall. "We are hopeful that we will restore Internet very soon since we have procured the hardware for setting up the firewall.

## UP investment policies better than others: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 6

ON THE second day of the DefExpo, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday said there is immense opportunity for investment in Uttar Pradesh and claimed that the state government's policies for seeking investments are much better than other states. He was speaking at a seminar organised by Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).

Claiming that his government has worked to change the perception about Uttar Pradesh, the chief minister said the state has immense possibilities as it has better roads and air connectivity, and a conducive environment to invest. He added that the state government is developing new infrastructure at a "war-footing level".

"Uttar Pradesh ek sambhava wala Pradesh hai (UP is a land of opportunities)," said Adityanath speaking further about existing and upcoming expressways in the state and how both eastern and western freight corridors also pass through the state.

Underlining that the expo is very significant for the state, the chief minister said UP would play a significant role in making India self-dependent in defence production.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh referred to Adityanath as a "captain with zeal" and said despite a global economic slowdown, India is the fastest growing economy in the world and UP is a major contributor.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at the DefExpo in Lucknow on Thursday. Express

## India, African nations sign declaration for enhanced collaboration

enhancing the role of women in peace keeping and propagating the culture of peace".

Speaking at the event, Singh iterated that Africa is "at the top of India's priorities" and also said "our partnership with Africa is an open partnership with all the possibilities and avenues for collaboration from our side being open to you to choose from and decide as per your priorities".

At another event organised by the US-India Business Council, Singh spoke on India's relationship with the United States. He said that the "Indo-US relationship will move towards collaboration approach from the traditional 'buyer-seller' approach" and added that he was "confident that this relationship will be more dynamic and vibrant in future".

The fifth round of the India-Russia Military Industrial Conference was also held on the sidelines of the expo and 14 MoUs were exchanged between Russian original equipment manufacturers and Indian companies.

FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## HARYANA GOVERNMENT CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP/AUTH.	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/E-MAIL
1.	DHBVN, HISAR	NIT NO. 01/CAO /A&R	Date extended up to 12.02.2020	<a href="http://www.dhbvn.org.in">www.dhbvn.org.in</a>	98125-56369 cao@dhbvn.org.in
2.	UHBVN PANCHKULA	27/MRBD/PROJECTS/2020	Date extended	<a href="http://www.uhbvn.org.in">www.uhbvn.org.in</a>	9317554907 seoprojects@uhbvn.org.in
3.	HVPNL ROHTAK	E-TENDER ENQUIRY NO. 11/CWR/2019-20 DATED, 13.01.2020 (ONLINE TENDER ID: 2020_HBC-115039_1)	Corrigendum No.01, The last date of online bid submission is extended upto 25.02.2020 (13.00 hrs)	<a href="https://www.hvpn.org.in">https://www.hvpn.org.in</a>	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
4.	HVPNL ROHTAK	MEMO NO. CH. 04/NIT NO. 24/2019-20XEN/TS/RTK DATED.28.01.2020.	Making of trench cover for yard trench of 132KV S/Sin. Sec.-03, Rohtak. The last date of online bid submission is extended upto 13.02.2020 (13.00 hrs)	<a href="https://www.hvpn.org.in">https://www.hvpn.org.in</a>	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
5.	HVPNL ROHTAK	E-TENDER ENQUIRY NO. 12/CWR/2019-20 DATED, 14.01.2020 (ONLINE TENDER ID:2020_HBC-115088_1)	Corrigendum No.01, The last date of online bid submission is extended upto 25.02.2020 (13.00 hrs)	<a href="https://www.hvpn.org.in">https://www.hvpn.org.in</a>	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
6.	HPCGL PANIPAT	(NIT NO. 296/BMD-III- U-5/PTP) (TENDER ID 2019_HBC- 87071_1)	Start dt.15.07.2019 at 18:00 Hrs & Last dt. 20.02.2020at 13:00 Hrs	<a href="http://www.hpcgl.org.in">www.hpcgl.org.in</a> & <a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0180-2668015 xennetcplg1@gmail.com
7.	UHBVN PANCHKULA	NIT NO.3/ODY/2019-20 DATED- 27.11.2019	Enquiry No.-1 & Enquiry No.-2 of NIT No.3/ODY/2019-20 is extended upto 13.02.2020 at 3:30 PM. Date of Closing 13.02.2020 at 1:00 PM. Date of Opening 3:30 PM.	<a href="http://www.uhbvn.org.in">www.uhbvn.org.in</a>	xenopynr@uhbvn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)

79744/HRY.

## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, DELHI OLD ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI-110006 [www.ceodelhi.gov.in](http://www.ceodelhi.gov.in)

### DEHLI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION - 2020

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### ATTENTION : ALL DIFFERENTLY ABLED VOTERS

Persons with Disabilities Electors have equal rights at par with other voters to come out and vote. Kindly note and avail the facilities/ administrative arrangements made to assist you in casting your vote:

1. Voters with disabilities are to be given priority for entering the polling station, without having to wait in the queue.
2. Seamless access for wheelchairs by providing ramps of adequate slope, wherever required and clear space for movement within the polling room till the voting compartment.
3. Transport Facility is being provided for PwDs & 80+ years Senior Citizens Electors upto Polling Station and back.
4. If due to disabilities, an elector is unable to vote on his/her own; the Presiding Officer shall permit the elector to take a companion of not less than 18 years of age to the voting compartment (preferable a relative) for recording the vote on his/ her behalf and in accordance with his/her wishes. (Reference: Rule 49N, Conduct of Election Rule, 1961).
5. Staff on Polling duty, including Police Personnel, are trained/ sensitized about the special needs of the voters with disabilities, courteous behaviour and for providing necessary support to them.
6. Volunteers will be deployed at polling locations to assist the voters with disabilities.
7. Wheelchairs are being provided at polling stations for convenience of PwD Electors.
8. Nodal Officers have been specially appointed in all districts for assisting voter with disabilities. Their names / contact numbers are given below :

S. No.	District	Name	Designation	Mobile No.	Email-ID
1.	North	Sh. A.K. Singh	Nodal Officer	8826690472	<a href="mailto:nopwd2020@gmail.com">nopwd2020@gmail.com</a>
2.	North East	Sh. Vinod Kumar	Nodal Officer	9958747776	<a href="mailto:vinodmig346@gmail.com">vinodmig346@gmail.com</a>
3.	South West	Sh. Ashok Kumar Verma	Nodal Officer	9999959150	<a href="mailto:nodalpwdsw2020@gmail.com">nodalpwdsw2020@gmail.com</a>
4.	East	Sh. Subrata Kundu	Nodal Officer	9599924214	<a href="mailto:sdmelectioneast@gmail.com">sdmelectioneast@gmail.com</a>
5.	North West	Sh. Rakesh Dahiya	Nodal Officer	9868810716	<a href="mailto:pwdcell2020@gmail.com">pwdcell2020@gmail.com</a>
6.	New Delhi	Sh. Niranjan Lal Saini	Nodal Officer	7073860728	<a href="mailto:niranjanjp77@gmail.com">niranjanjp77@gmail.com</a>
7.	Central	Sh. Madan Lal Sharma	Nodal Officer	9868212008	<a href="mailto:nodalpwdcentral@gmail.com">nodalpwdcentral@gmail.com</a>
8.	West	Sh. Pankaj Sood	Nodal Officer	9868411675	<a href="mailto:nopwdwest@gmail.com">nopwdwest@gmail.com</a>
9.	South	Sh. Tejpal Singh	Nodal Officer	9911127494	<a href="mailto:nopwdsouth@gmail.com">nopwdsouth@gmail.com</a>
10.	Shahdara	Sh. Raj Kumar	Nodal Officer	9990463588	<a href="mailto:raj.kmr72@nic.in">raj.kmr72@nic.in</a>
11.	South East	Sh. Manish Jain	Nodal Officer	9810867700	<a href="mailto:manishjain808@gmail.com">manishjain808@gmail.com</a>

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8th FEBRUARY 2020 (between 08.00 AM TO 06.00 PM)

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(SHILPA SHINDE), IAS  
CHIEF NODAL OFFICER-II, Delhi

DIP/Shabdharth/1349/19-20

NO VOTER TO BE LEFT BEHIND

Once the firewall is set up, we will restore Internet in the Valley," the official said.

A senior police official based in Srinagar and privy to the matter told *The Indian Express* that the government had already ordered BSNL to restore broadband services. "It is up to them to restore. We have no role in its restoration," the officer said.

On January 10, the Supreme Court directed the J&K Administration to "review all orders suspending Internet services forthwith" since "an order suspending Internet services indefinitely is impermissible". It ruled that "freedom of speech and expression and the freedom to practice any profession or carry on any trade, business or occupation over the medium of Internet enjoys Constitutional protection under Article 19 (1) (a) and Article 19(1)(g)".

## UP investment policies better than others: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 6

ON THE second day of the DefExpo, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday said there is immense opportunity for investment in Uttar Pradesh and claimed that the state government's policies for seeking investments are much better than other states. He was speaking at a seminar organised by Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).

Claiming that his government has worked to change the perception about Uttar Pradesh, the chief minister said the state has immense possibilities as it has better roads and air connectivity, and a conducive environment to invest. He added that the state government is developing new infrastructure at a "war-footing level".

"Uttar Pradesh eksambhava wala Pradesh hai (UP is a land of opportunities)," said Adityanath speaking further about existing and upcoming expressways in the state and how both eastern and western freight corridors also pass through the state.

Underlining that the expo is very significant for the state, the chief minister said UP would play a significant role in making India self-dependent in defence production.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh referred to Adityanath as a "captain with zeal" and said despite a global economic slowdown, India is the fastest growing economy in the world and UP is a major contributor.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at the DefExpo in Lucknow on Thursday. Express

## India, African nations sign declaration for enhanced collaboration

enhancing the role of women in peace keeping and propagating the culture of peace".

Speaking at the event, Singh iterated that Africa is "at the top of India's priorities" and also said "our partnership with Africa is an open partnership with all the possibilities and avenues for collaboration from our side being open to you to choose from and decide as per your priorities".

At another event organised by the US-India Business Council, Singh spoke on India's relationship with the United States. He said that the "Indo-US relationship will move towards collaboration approach from the traditional 'buyer-seller' approach" and added that he was "confident that this relationship will be more dynamic and vibrant in future".

The fifth round of the India-Russia Military Industrial Conference was also held on the sidelines of the expo and 14 MoUs were exchanged between Russian original equipment manufacturers and Indian companies.

FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

### U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED TENDER NOTICE

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER  
Airports Authority of India (AAI) Airport, Guwahati Invited E-Tender for Concession (Short term)

## TELLING NUMBERS

Longest spaceflight by a woman, and why her work matters



NASA astronaut Christina Koch is helped out of the Soyuz MS-13 spacecraft near Zhezkazgan, Kazakhstan on Thursday. NASA/Bill Ingalls

## LONGEST SINGLE SPACEFLIGHTS BY WOMEN

Christina Koch (NASA)	328
Peggy Whitson (NASA)	289
Anne McClain (NASA)	204
Samantha Cristoforetti (ESA)	200
Sunita Williams (NASA)	195
Shannon Lucid (NASA)	188

those future exploration missions, including research into how the human body adjusts to weightlessness, isolation, radiation and the stress of long-duration spaceflight.

One particular research project Koch participated in is the Vertebral Strength investigation, which better defines the extent of spaceflight-induced bone and muscle degradation of the spine, and the associated risk for broken vertebrae. This is expected to provide insight into the development of future countermeasures, such as preventative medicine or exercise. These results also could provide recommendations for limiting the amount of force astronauts are subjected to during launch.

Other experiments included work on the Microgravity Crystals investigation, which crystallises a membrane protein that is integral to tumour growth and cancer survival. Results may support the development of cancer treatments that target the protein more effectively and with fewer side effects.

## Lessons from her flight

Koch's extended mission will provide researchers the opportunity to observe effects of long-duration spaceflight on a woman as the agency plans to return humans to the Moon under the Artemis program and prepare for human exploration of Mars.

Her work included participation in a number of studies to support

the development of future countermeasures, such as preventative medicine or exercise. These results also could provide recommendations for limiting the amount of force astronauts are subjected to during launch.

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VAJIRAM & RAVI  
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## Story of 67 acres in Ayodhya adjoining Babri site, now with Ram temple trust

## SEEMA CHISHTI

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi announced in Lok Sabha on Wednesday that a trust named Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Tirtha Kshetra will be handed over the whole of the 67.703 acres acquired "to maintain the sanctity of Ayodhya and for the construction of the temple, keeping in mind the needs of crores of devotees". The trust will take independent decisions on the construction of the Ram temple and related matters, Modi said.

In its final order on the Ayodhya matter on November 9 last year, a five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court gave the 2.77 acres of disputed land to a trust that would construct the temple. These 2.77 acres included the 1,480 sq yards that the Babri Masjid compound occupied until the demolition of December 6, 1992. The 67

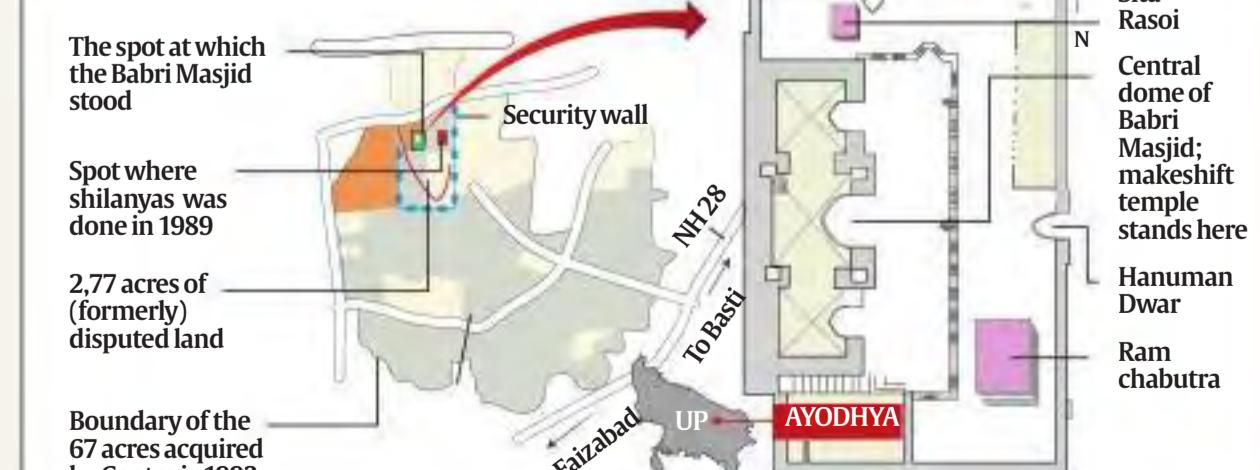
acres that have been handed to the trust are adjoining the (formerly) disputed 2.77 acres.

After kar sevaks demolished the Babri Masjid, the government of Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao acquired all the adjoining land around the disputed spot, for the Centre to keep and allot at its discretion. This land included other mosques, temples, farm land, and graveyards.

An Ordinance titled Acquisition of Certain Area at Ayodhya Ordinance was issued on January 7, 1993 to acquire 67.703 acres of land in the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid complex. A reference to the Supreme Court under Article 143 of the Constitution was made on the same day. The Ordinance was subsequently replaced by The Acquisition of Certain Area at Ayodhya Act, 1993.

In its Ismail Faruqui judgment (*Dr M Ismail Faruqui and Ors vs Union of India*, October 24, 1994), the Supreme Court upheld the acquisition of the land by the

## WHERE THE MASJID STOOD, AND SURROUNDING LAND



Centre, but said that the land was held to enable a meaningful implementation of the final resolution of the four original suits in the Ayodhya matter. (There were five suits originally, one was withdrawn, and the Supreme Court ruled on the remaining four

last year.)

"However, it is with the caveat of the Central Government's duty to restore it to its owner, as indicated earlier, if it is found later to be unnecessary; and reservation of liberty to the owner to challenge the need-

less acquisition when the total need has been determined," the court said.

There were attempts from the affected parties to get the land back.

In June 1996, the Ramjanmabhoomi Nyas asked the government to return the excess land, but this request was denied "on the ground that... (it) can be considered only after the suits relating to the disputed area are adjudicated by the Hon'ble Allahabad High Court...". (The Allahabad High Court delivered its judgment on September 30, 2010, dividing the disputed 2.77 acres equally among the Nirmohi Akhara, the Sunni Central Waliq Board, UP, and Ramlalla Nyas.)

More recently, in January 2019, the central government asked the Supreme Court to allow it to "restore/revert/hand over back the superfluous/excess land" from the 67.703 acres it had acquired in 1993 to the "original owners", including the Ram Janmabhoomi Nyas.

The Centre said in its application (which, however, was not listed for hearing) that the judgment in *Ismail Faruqui*, which had upheld the constitutional validity of The Acquisition of Certain Areas of Ayodhya Act, 1993, under which the 67.703 acres were acquired, had also established that the "interest claimed by the Muslims was only over the disputed site of 0.313 acres where the disputed structure stood before its demolition".

On Wednesday, one of the advocates on record for the Babri Masjid side between 2011 and 2019, M R Shamshad, said: "As expected, the central government has declared that the entire 67 acres would go in favour of the Ram temple Trust." However, there were graveyards on three sides of the Babri Masjid, Shamshad said. "The central government may well have considered not using the graveyard of Muslims for constructing the grand temple of Lord Ram. Lord Ram would have never wanted this to happen."

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## SIMPLY PUT

## Sedition law: what courts said

After Sharjeel Imam, Mumbai student has been booked for sedition for slogans in Sharjeel's support. A look at what courts and the Maharashtra govt have said about the validity and applicability of Section 124A IPC

SADAF MODAK  
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 6

ON WEDNESDAY, a sessions court in Mumbai rejected the anticipatory bail application of a 22-year-old student booked under Section 124A (sedition) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) along with 50 others. The sedition charge was filed on the basis of slogans that the student had raised in favour of another student who has already been booked for sedition. The court said the slogan "attracts the ingredients of sedition".

## The grounds, the arguments

The FIR filed by the Azad Maidan police on February 3 claims that Urvashi Chudawala is seen raising the slogan, "Sharjeel tere sapno hum manzil tak pahuchaenge," at the LGBTQ Solidarity Gathering on February 1. Sharjeel Imam, a JNU student, was booked for sedition and on other charges for an anti-CAA speech in which he is reported to have spoken about "cutting off the Northeast from India" by blocking roads and railway tracks. He is in custody.

Chudawala's lawyer, Vijay Hiremath, argued that "in the intensity of sloganizing", certain names were mentioned. He said Imam's name was said only once, "for two seconds". "It was raised against Imam's arrest, whose sedition itself is not proved yet. To say that his arrest is wrong, cannot be considered sedition. We may disagree with what she has said, but it still does not attract sedition," Hiremath said.

Chief public prosecutor Jaising Desai, on the other hand, submitted that the slogan "was in support of a person who is an enemy of the country". He said the police had also found that Chudawala had shared and liked a Facebook post that said, "Release Sharjeel Imam Unconditionally."

The court, while rejecting the application, said the offences registered against Chudawala were "serious". "The court is required to keep in mind the effect of the order on the public at large," the judge said.

Hirimath has filed an appeal against the sessions court order in the Bombay High Court. The appeal is likely to come up for hearing on Friday.

## The law and its validity

Section 124A IPC states: "Whoever, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite dis-



Sharjeel Imam of JNU, in custody on sedition charges, is escorted to a court appearance in New Delhi last week. AP

affection towards, the Government established by law in India, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, to which a fine may be added; or, with imprisonment which may extend to three years, to which a fine may be added; or, with fine."

Section 124A has been challenged in various courts in specific cases. The validity of the provision itself was upheld by a Constitution Bench in 1962, in *Kedarnath Singh vs State of Bihar*.

That judgment went into the issue of whether the law on sedition is consistent with the fundamental right under Article 19 (1) (a) which guarantees each citizen's freedom of speech and expression. The Supreme Court laid down that every citizen has a right to say or write about the government, by way of criticism or comment, as long as it does not "incite people to violence" against the government established by law or with the intention of creating public disorder.

In the current Mumbai case, Chudawala's lawyer submitted that the slogan was not raised with the intent of inciting violence, nor had it led to any public disorder.

## The Maharashtra circular

During his arguments, Hiremath also re-

ferred to preconditions laid down in a 2015 circular issued by the Maharashtra government to its police personnel before invoking sedition. Hiremath claimed that police did not adhere to these while slapping the sedition charge on Chudawala. This was, however, not accepted by the court.

The 2015 circular came during the hearing of a public interest litigation in the Bombay High Court, after cartoonist Aseem Trivedi was booked for sedition. Trivedi had been arrested in 2012 for cartoons during the anti-corruption protests by Anna Hazare, on charges including sedition as it was claimed that they defamed Parliament and the Constitution. The sedition charge was subsequently dropped by the police; a PIL was filed in 2015 on the alleged "arbitrary" application of the charge.

## What the High Court said

The High Court in 2015 referred to the *Kedarnath* judgment and said there was a need to lay down parameters for the invocation of Section 124A. "Otherwise a situation would result in which an unrestricted recourse to Section 124A would result in a serious encroachment of guarantee of personal liberty conferred upon every citizen of a free

India," the court said.

## How much money is at stake?

According to reports, over Rs 9 lakh crore worth of direct tax disputes are pending in the courts. The government hopes to recover a big chunk of this in a swift and simple way, while offering the taxpayers the relief of not having to fight the case endlessly. For a government that is staring at a big shortfall in revenues, especially tax revenues, the scheme makes a lot of sense.

## What was the response to the Sabka Vishwas scheme?

At last count, the government expected to have raised Rs 39,500 crore from the Sabka Vishwas scheme, which was only about indirect tax disputes. The amnesty window for Sabka Vishwas closed on January 15 and close to 1.90 lakh crore ap-

plications, in relation to taxes worth Rs 90,000 crore were received.

One of the standout successes of this scheme was Mondelez India Foods Pvt Ltd (which was earlier known as Cadbury India) settled one of its most controversial tax disputes, pertaining to its alleged plant in Baddi, Himachal Pradesh, with the government under this scheme. The firm was accused of evading taxes to the tune of Rs 580 crore (excluding taxes and penalties). In the end, Mondelez paid Rs 439 crore on January 20 under the amnesty scheme.

## Has the government responded to the Opposition for its criticism of the name of the scheme in Hindi?

The official name of the Bill is Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas Bill. However, in her Budget speech, the Finance Minister had mentioned the English name of the scheme — No Dispute, But Only Trust. She said the name has nothing to do with imposing Hindi.



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## BANKING ON CREDIT

With limited space to cut rates, RBI is using other tools to ease funds flow and stimulate economic activity

**W**IITH INFLATION SURGING above the upper band of the RBI's monetary framework, and expected to remain elevated in the coming quarters well, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has chosen to maintain the status quo on rates along expected lines. But the tone of the policy statement was decidedly dovish with the MPC repeating its intention to maintain its accommodative stance till as long as necessary to revive growth. Even though the outlook for inflation remains highly uncertain, governor Shaktikanta Das repeatedly emphasised that there was scope for further rate cuts down the line. But when and by how much rates will be cut depends on how quickly inflation falls. The RBI expects retail inflation to average 6.5 per cent in the fourth quarter of the current financial year, trending down thereafter to 3.2 per cent in the third quarter of the coming financial year, which could then open up space for monetary easing.

Higher inflation has restricted the policy space for the MPC, but not the RBI. The central bank has taken recourse to credit policy and other tools available to it to stimulate the economy. These measures signal its unequivocal intention to boost growth. The strategy broadly operates at two levels — first, hasten the transmission of interest rate cuts to the broader economy, and second, boost credit flow to select sectors. The first leg has been operationalised through tweaking the liquidity framework, and conducting Rs 1 trillion long-term repo operations. This will enable banks to fund at a lower rate, and also bring down the term premium at the short end of the yield curve. Short-term G-sec yields should now gravitate towards the benchmark rate. This strategy is a continuation of its existing programme — dubbed operation twist — where the RBI has sought to bring down long-term yields through open market operations. By opting for this route, as analysts have pointed out, the central bank has delivered easing without cutting the policy rate. With the risks of an NBFC contagion slowly abating, over time, these measures should also lead to a lowering of credit spreads, effectively lowering the cost of borrowing across the broader economy.

The second leg of the strategy aims to boost credit flow to select sectors. The RBI has provided relief to banks for incremental loans extended to auto, real estate and MSMEs, by reducing the cost of lending by waiving off the requirement of cash reserve ratio. This outcome-based cost intervention, which seeks to direct credit to select sectors will presumably have high multiplier effects, and could stimulate a recovery in the broader economy. But the strategy of directing credit to select sectors is questionable. And though other measures to ease stress in the commercial real estate sector and of MSMEs have been welcomed, the central bank should be mindful of the risks of forebearance.

## DERIVATIVE SEDITION

The sedition law has been taken to ridiculous lengths, and repeal is the universal specific for a chronic problem

**H**OW RECKLESSLY PROGRESSIVE of the judicial system to venture into the derivatives market for sedition, and to take the dramatic step in the context of an LGBTQ rally. The market is the most appropriate frame of reference for the denial of anticipatory bail to a 22-year-old student of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) charged with sedition. She was one of the 51 protesters against whom an FIR was lodged by the Mumbai police for participating in a rally. Her case drew attention because of a single slogan which, according to her counsel, she raised only once, in which she referred to Sharjeel Imam, a former JNU student, against whom several states have filed sedition cases for speaking against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. This is definitely the first known derivative of sedition, surpassing the charge of sedition by association that people like Binayak Sen have been accused of.

Perhaps the policemen who filed the FIR were not cognisant of developments in sedition law, but lower judiciary cannot be ignorant of the substantial case law which has developed thanks to the government's propensity for using sedition as a handy solution for containing people who disagree with it. Most recently, in 2016, a Supreme Court bench had recalled a judgement from 1962 dismissing a sedition matter, to observe that only action taken towards a "violent revolution" could attract the charge. A slogan raised only once about a person accused of sedition fails to tick the requisite box. Sloganeering is an organic activity, widening the ambit of the central message by absorbing current political references, and the student's counsel had argued that Imam's name had been voiced in the heat of the moment, along with routine points of reference like B.R.Ambedkar and Rohith Vemula.

However, the sessions court in Mumbai held that the charges were serious enough to merit custodial interrogation, and has denied anticipatory bail. It has paid scant regard to the case law which has developed on sedition and effectively, the lower court is in contempt of the Supreme Court. The law of sedition is deeply problematic anyway, since it is a device introduced by a colonial power to keep a subject population in check, and does not belong in a democratic nation which is owned by the people. Cases like this one, where the law is applied completely arbitrarily, reaffirms the general conviction that the law should be repealed.

## HE WAS SPARTACUS

Like his most iconic character, Kirk Douglas refused to bow down to bigotry and exploitation in Hollywood

**I**N 1960, "BEING woke" was just a grammatical error and in Hollywood, standing up against the powers-that-be — solidarity — required more than just a tweet. That year, *Spartacus* was released and gave credit to Dalton Trumbo as a scriptwriter. The film was based on a novel by Howard Fast, another "communist sympathiser". It was also arguably the most iconic character played by Kirk Douglas, who died at 103 earlier this week. Douglas also produced the film and insisted on defying the McCarthy-era "blacklist", the hunt in the US for the urban Naxal equivalents of that time.

Douglas was born Issur Danielovich Demsky to Jewish immigrants from Russia in New York state in 1916. His was a poor family, living in working class neighbourhoods and could perhaps explain his aversion to the studio system of the time, which was exploitative and demeaning to the people who actually made films. He was determined not to put up with anti-semitism and bigotry and eventually formed his own production company. From the 1940s onwards, Douglas was a staple leading man but he also explored negative characters. Both types of roles reflected some of his own characteristics — he was ruthless, ambitious as well as able to thumb his nose at authority. Douglas also wrote films, as well as novels and memoirs. In his later years, he even worked with his son, actor Michael Douglas.

Despite being nominated multiple times, the only Oscar Kirk Douglas won was for lifetime achievement. And with his body of work, he certainly deserved it. He also donated millions to charitable causes. Douglas was a proud artist — and a political one. And the first facet of his personality fed into the second. The eponymous character he played in *Spartacus* — a performer who refused to live without dignity or stand by as a state treated some people as less than others — epitomised in many ways the actor himself.



MANISH SABHARWAL AND DEEPAK PHATAK

GOOGLE'S LETTER TO THE US Federal Reserve two months ago asking them to learn from Indian digital payments must be an unfamiliar feeling for the central bank. Indian regulators, used to lectures and advocacy from global firms and diplomats peddling their models — not intellectually different from Thomas Macaulay's quip in 1835 that a single shelf of a good European library was worth the whole native literature of India — should be proud of reaching our target of a billion monthly digital payments. We make the case that digital payment transactions on the Universal Payment Interface (UPI) platform rising from 0.1 million in October 2016 to 1.3 billion in January 2020 represents the magic of entrepreneurs, nonprofits and policymakers working together. And gives us a new target — a billion transactions a day.

India was long a financially excluded nation — only 17 per cent of Indians had a bank account in 2011. The World Bank suggests it would have taken 50 more years for 80 per cent of Indians to get a bank account at the pre-2011 speed. Yet, we reached that milestone in 2018. How? A magical combination of political will (Jan Dhan Yojana and Aadhaar embedding), a proactive central bank (creating a non-profit market participant entity and leveling the playing field between non-banks and banks), and a technology stack with three layers (identity, payments, and data).

India's payment revolution comes from a clear vision (shifting the system from low volume, high value, and high cost to high volume, low value, low cost), a clear strategy (regulated and unregulated private players innovating on top of public infrastructure) and trade-offs balanced by design (regulation vs innovation, privacy vs personalisation, and ease-of-use vs fraud prevention). Consumers wanted a payment experience that was mobile-first, low-cost, 24/7, instant, convenient, interoperable, fintech friendly, inside banking, and safe. This was UPI, a platform operated by the entrepreneurial nonprofit National Payments Corporation of India. UPI created interoperability between all sources and recipients of funds (consumers, businesses, fintechs, wallets, 140 member banks),

India has crossed the target of a billion monthly digital payments. Now, to a billion transactions a day

There is more work to be done. The central government must deadline digitising all its payments. the RBI must implement the 100-plus action items arising from its own Vision 2021 document and the Nandan Nilekani Committee for Deepening Digital Payments. It must also make UPI and Rupay fit for use in our \$70 billion inward remittances that currently come through exploitative financial institutions which don't have clients but hostages. More importantly, the RBI must replicate the core design of UPI — fierce but sustainable private and public competition — in bank credit because our 50 per cent credit to GDP ratio is one of the reasons India is poor.

settled instantly inside the central bank in fiat money (state-issued money declared by the sovereign to be legal tender) and blunted data monopolies (big tech firms have strong autonomy but weak fiduciary responsibilities over customer data). A new paper by the Bank for International Settlements ('The design of digital financial infrastructure: lessons from India') suggests that India demonstrates how "a central bank can be proactive and equal partners with private sector counterparts when it comes to fostering technological innovation in finance".

UPI offers five policy lessons. First, how the India stack — interconnected yet independent platforms or open APIs — are a public good that lowers costs, spurs innovation, and blunts the natural digital winner-takes-all. Replicating this in education, healthcare, and government services are likely to be a harbinger of large scale multi-domain collaborative innovation. Second, collaboration can create ecosystems that overcome the birth defects of its constituents — the execution deficit of government, the trust deficit of private companies, and the scale deficit of nonprofits. Third, complementary policy interventions are important. Demonetisation and GST are changing the stories that firms and individuals tell themselves around cash and informality. Fourth, human capital and diversity matter. This revolution needed academic bureaucrats to partner with academics, tech entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, global giants and private firms. The final lesson is that India doesn't need to be Western or Chinese to be modern. If our policymakers had copied Alipay or US banks, we wouldn't have leapfrogged their birth defects.

Google's letter to the Federal Reserve counters powerful lobbying by US banks against the "FedNow" payment system that will undermine their supernormal profits. FedNow will do far less than UPI, but its launch delay supports the thesis of the new book, *The Great Reversal*, by Thomas Philippon that American capitalism, once a model for the world, is giving up on healthy competition. Many sectors are more concentrated than 20 years ago, dominated by fewer and bigger players who lobby politicians ag-

gressively to protect and expand their profit margins. But capitalism without competition — India has seen that movie before — hurts growth, investments, productivity and wages.

There is more work to be done. The central government must deadline digitising all its payments. The RBI must implement the 100-plus action items arising from its own Vision 2021 document and the Nandan Nilekani Committee for Deepening Digital Payments. It must also make UPI and RuPay fit for use in our \$70 billion inward remittances that currently come through exploitative financial institutions which don't have clients but hostages. More importantly, the RBI must replicate the core design of UPI — fierce but sustainable private and public competition — in bank credit because our 50 per cent credit-to-GDP ratio is one of the reasons India is poor. China's 300 per cent is the wrong number, but reaching the OECD average of 100 per cent needs the RBI to do many things — raising its human capital and technology game in regulation and supervision, catalysing an ecosystem for lending against the rapidly expanding digital exhaust of small firms and individuals, issuing more private bank licences, facilitating management changes in old private banks with market caps that signal questions about book value, and shepherding a governance and human capital revolution at PSUs (their risk-weighted assets being lower than two years ago despite a capital injection of Rs 2.5 lakh crore should be unacceptable).

Converting the collective independence our citizens got in 1947 to individual freedom surely involved universal financial inclusion. The gap between this aspiration and reality was not a lie but a disappointment because our capital got handicapped without labour and our labour got handicapped without capital. Change has begun — the RBI, the finance ministry, and many individuals deserve our gratitude and dues for a billion digital payments a day.

*Sabharwal and Phatak are with Teamlease Services and IIT Bombay respectively*



PARTHA S GHOSH

THERE IS TOO much seriousness all around. I am as old as the Indian state, but I cannot recall another moment so rife with concern about the future of India. We have fought three wars with Pakistan (if Kargil is added, four), one war with China, faced innumerable internal challenges from Left extremism across the country, ethnic separation in the Northeast and Tamil Nadu, even an Emergency. But never have we felt so afraid about the territorial and social integrity of the country. We seem to be infested with the microbes of *tukde tukde*, Urban Naxals and anti-nationals, who continue to multiply geometrically, as all bacilli do.

Hindus are worried that even "1,000 years of Muslim rule" pale against the danger posed by India's 14-per cent-strong impoverished and demoralised Muslim minority. Muslims are worried that they will soon be thrown into Pakistan, which they rejected in 1947. Even if they dodge that possibility, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's "innocent" theorisation will see to it that they call themselves Hindus. Christians are worried that Donald "Jesus" Trump will start another World War. Buddhists, observing the behaviour of their co-religionists in Myanmar and Sri Lanka, are left wondering about Lord Buddha's sermons about peace and non-violence. In short, everyone is concerned.

Against this background, if someone comes up with a joke that makes us laugh, my kudos to them. The Narendra Modi government's Citizenship Amendment Act

## NUMBERS DON'T LIE

A cost benefit analysis shows CAA in extremely poor light

To register Assam's 3.3 crore people, the NRC cost Rs 1,600 crore and involved a work force of 50,000 officials. The estimated population of India in 2019 was 137 crore. A nation-wide CAA/NPA/NRC would thus cost Rs 66,424 crore (\$9.5 billion dollars). Now, add to this the huge cost in terms of money and time that millions of Indians will bear preparing documents, standing in line, returning with additional documents, and appealing against bureaucratic mistakes.

(CAA), 2019 is just such a joke. If there is a Nobel for jokes, we have found India's entry. The only fear is of disqualification: It is, we must admit, a PJ (poor joke). After all, one does not even need to read the details of the Act (though I would advise everyone to), to know that its central purpose is crystal clear: How to earn political (actually electoral) brownie points from the vast number of Hindus, the BJP's vote bank.

Now that the BJP has exhausted almost all weapons in its arsenals (Article 370 is abolished; triple talaq has been criminalised; the Ram Temple seems to be coming soon), it must invent something new to keep distracting its hard core supporters. As soon we conduct a simple cost benefit analysis of the CAA (and the ancillary NPA and NRC), it should be evident that no other explanation makes sense. Any law, that too one which involves every one of India's 1.3 billion people (excluding some communities in NE), must necessarily pass the test of fiscal probity. Indeed, such a test must precede deliberations over theories of international migration and the question of refugees (on which reams have been written, including many that address the Partition of the Subcontinent and its aftermath).

We can estimate the cost of the national exercise by extrapolating from NRC expenditures in Assam. To register Assam's 3.3 crore people, the NRC cost Rs 1,600 crore and involved a work force of 50,000 officials. The estimated population of India in 2019 was 137 crore. A nation-wide CAA/NPA/NRC would

thus cost Rs 66,424 crore (\$9.5 billion) and involve just under 21 lakh officials. Now, add to this the huge cost in terms of money and time that millions of Indians will bear preparing documents, standing in line, returning with additional documents, and appealing against bureaucratic mistakes. Add to it the money needed to build and maintain thousands of detention centres necessary to house the roughly eight crore stateless persons likely to be so identified (extrapolating the Assam NRC's 19 lakh "non-Indians").

Now comes the political question. By now it is clear that 75 per cent of the so-called stateless in Assam are non-Muslims who will be granted citizenship through the CAA. That leaves about five-lakh Muslims, who are to be "de-Indianised". Extrapolating to West Bengal, which matters most in the immediate electoral context, we arrive at about 15-lakh Muslims. Now, think over it: Just to label approximately 20 lakh Muslims in Assam and Bengal as "non-Indians", 137 crore Indians will have to show their papers. To victimise one person, 700 others will be terrorised. Varun Grover makes enormous sense when he sings, *hum kaagaz nahi dikhayenge* (we will not show you our papers). If you still think that the CAA is not a joke, I pity your sense of humour.

*The writer is senior fellow, Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi and formerly, ICSSR National Fellow, and professor of South Asian Studies, JNU*



## FEBRUARY 7, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

## INDO-PAK DIALOGUE

THE TWO-DAY OFFICIAL-LEVEL visit concluded in Islamabad, with the Indians disclaiming any design to exploit Pakistan's present difficulties and seeking to impress upon that country the need to guard against the military involvement of the big powers in the region. The discussions ended amid clear signs of divergence in the standpoints of the two countries on the Afghan developments, but with an agreement to continue the dialogue to narrow the differences. Indian Foreign Secretary RD Rathe, rounded off the talks with a second session with the Pakistan Foreign Secretary Shah Nawaz. Both sides acknowledged that there was scope for mean-

ingful dialogue on ways to meet the critical situation in the region and to carry forward the process of normalisation of relations.

## ASSAM DEMANDS

THE CENTRE HAS accepted in principle five of the eight demands made by Assam students. This is expected to defuse the crisis in the riot-torn state on the issue of foreign nationals. These demands include steps for detection and deportation of foreign nationals, removal of their names from electoral rolls and issue of identity cards to Indian voters living in Assam. But, the home ministry sources emphasised that students had been told that normalcy must be restored with

out delay to facilitate early implementation of these demands.

## ZIA'S REQUEST

PAKISTAN PRESIDENT ZIA-UL-HAQ offered full cooperation to India to force the Soviet Union to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan. The "level" of relationship which Afghanistan enjoys with the Soviet Union and with its status as a "regional power", means it can bring pressure, including moral", on the USSR and ensure "Russian troops are out of Afghanistan," he said. Zia said he had received a "very kind and very reassuring letter from Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and I shall reciprocate by sending her a reply very soon".

# THE IDEAS PAGE

## Self-rule and shared rule

The Bodo Accord visualises an expansive autonomous framework within the state of Assam to protect the political, social, cultural and ethnic identities and interests of the community



KHAM KHAN SUAN HAUSING

**NUMBERS MATTER** IN politics, yet they do not tell us everything. This is evident in the just signed Bodo Accord – the third such tripartite agreement within a span of 27 years – among various factions of the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) and the governments of India (GoI) and Assam, on January 27. Within three days of the Accord, 1,615 NDFB cadres surrendered and are now waiting rehabilitation.

On the face of it, transforming over 1,600 rebels to stakeholders in the Indian state and democracy presents an impressive arithmetic. The NDFB, in its avatars as the Bodo Security Force (BSF) from 1986–1994 and as NDFB from 1994 to 2005, had been opposed to any negotiation within the ambit of the Indian Constitution.

The Rs 1,500 crore committed by the GoI for the next three years to develop infrastructure and the devolution of 12 additional subjects to the new entity, the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), make for good optics. It may augur well for the electoral prospects of the Bodoland People's Front (BPF) and BJP in the BTR Council elections due in six months.

Although the political will displayed by the BPF and BJP to settle this vexed issue is commendable, the Accord is the culmination of a complex and long drawn process, where multiple factors were at play. The protracted fratricidal war NDFB fought against Bodoland Liberation Tigers (1996–2003), internal dissensions, GoI's counterinsurgency during the Congress-led UPA (2004–2014) and BJP-led NDA rule (1998–2004, 2014–20), and the Bhutanese army operation against the ULFA and the NDFB's Sonbhabijit faction in 2003, considerably weakened the Bodo insurgency and compelled the NDFB to enter into ceasefire agreements with the GoI.

A consensus had emerged among various Bodo armed groups and civil society organisations that waging war against the Indian state is futile. This consensus has also made these groups amenable to an expansive autonomous framework within the state of Assam to protect the political, social, cultural and ethnic identities and interests of the Bodos. There has been a tacit understanding between the BPF and the BJP since 2016 as partners of the NDA – two years after the BPF left a 13-year-old alliance with the Congress over slow progress of the implementation of the 2003 Accord. The focus has since shifted to augmenting Bodoland's autonomy. The success of the BJP-BPF alliance in the 2016 Assam assembly elections also created a favourable political climate for this Accord.

The Accord envisions a more expansive "self-rule" and provides for novel "shared-rule" provisions by creatively broadening the area, scope of power and autonomy enjoyed by the Bodos, albeit in vague generalities. Unlike the 2003 Accord which clearly identified 3,082 villages to be included in Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), this Accord ambiguously points to the inclusion of contiguous tribal majority villages outside BTC area within BTR while simultaneously excluding non-



tribal majority areas that are not contiguous with the Sixth Schedule area within BTC. It is thus clear that the Accord seeks to perpetuate Bodos' "self-rule" and territorial control in BTR by exclusively privileging their political, social, cultural and identity interest over everything else.

Again, unlike the two tripartite accords signed by the Bodo rebels in 1993 and 2003, the 2020 Accord specifically seeks to invest BTC with "legislative" power in addition to "executive, administrative and financial" powers on 12 additional subjects including trade and commerce, welfare and development of minorities/indigenous faith. While five of the 12 subjects devolved under this Accord only reiterate what was said in the 2003 Accord and hence amount to mere window dressing, the current deal continues to put premium on the Assam government to provide legislative safeguards to land rights of tribals (read Bodos) outside tribal belts and blocks. This makes Bodoland autonomy model less robust than the Nagaland model, which has extensive control over "land and resources" under Article 371A of India's Constitution. Clearly, the Bodoland autonomy model continues to pivot on development, not land.

An interesting aspect of this Accord is the way in which it extends the territorial remit of ethnic conflict regulation. While the change in the nomenclature of Bodoland Territorial Area Districts (BTAD) to Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) is tailored to reflect this intent, the provision of Bodo-Cachari Welfare Councils outside the existing BTAD to cater to the development and welfare needs of the Bodos in other parts of Assam is a novel institutional experiment envisaged by this Accord. By envisioning an institutional framework under this rubric, where Bodos outside and within BTR define and regulate their developmental priorities in concert with the Assam government, it is likely to institutionalise a multilayered "cascading autonomy" – to borrow Jyotindra Das Gupta's term – where powers and responsibilities are being negotiated within the framework of "shared-rule".

The Accord also enlarges the scope of representation by increasing the strength of BTC from 40 to a maximum of 60 members. However, unlike the 2003 Accord which clearly reserved 35 of the 40 elected seats for tribals (read as Bodos), this agreement does not specify the seat share of Bodos and other

The failure to envision a power-sharing arrangement with non-Bodos makes BTR a very weak 'shared-rule' model of autonomy. This weakness could induce violence and deepen ethnic fractionalisation. The conspicuous absence of reference to legal safeguards to land extended by the 2003 Bodo Accord to non-Bodos on matters pertaining to, inter alia, land settlement, ownership and inheritance of property would make them more vulnerable. Riding on the tide of an increasing sense of insecurity and powerlessness, Bodoland recently witnessed intense segmental electoral mobilisation that deeply polarised Bodos and non-Bodos. The overwhelming consolidation of the non-Bodo population around Naba Sarania, a former ULFA leader and a non-Bodo who won the Kokrajhar Lok Sabha seat in 2014 and 2019, is a clear pointer to this. This coincided with the electoral fragmentation of the Bodos within the BTC itself, a case borne out by the electoral decline of the BPF, whose seat share in the BTC fell from 31 out of the 40 elected seats in 2010 to 20 seats in 2015.

The entry of yet another cluster of NDFB factions into Bodoland's electoral fray is likely to further fractionalise the Bodo electoral base. Thus it is plausible that inter/intra ethnic outbidding may take complex and conflictual turn unless robust power-sharing arrangements within and across Bodo/non-Bodos are institutionalised. The complexity of intra-ethnic outbidding within the Bodos itself is apparent if we carefully scrutinise how this Accord seeks to distribute various infrastructural projects across the four districts of Baksa, Chirang, Kokrajhar and Udalguri. It would be interesting to see how infrastructure projects and delimitation of electoral constituencies in Bodoland will drive the power dynamics and redefine not only the arithmetic of autonomy and power, but also of inter and intra-ethnic relations.

The writer is professor of Political Science, University of Hyderabad

non-Bodo communities. If the first Bodo Accord of 1993 is any useful guide, the BTR might yet set apart a conflictual inter-ethnic relationship where the local minority, the politically dominant Bodos, would exploit this vague provision to gerrymander constituencies to consolidate their dominance.

The failure to envision a power-sharing arrangement with non-Bodos makes BTR a very weak 'shared-rule' model of autonomy. This weakness could induce violence and deepen ethnic fractionalisation. The conspicuous absence of reference to legal safeguards to land extended by the 2003 Bodo Accord to non-Bodos on matters pertaining to, inter alia, land settlement, ownership and inheritance of property would make them more vulnerable. Riding on the tide of an increasing sense of insecurity and powerlessness, Bodoland recently witnessed intense segmental electoral mobilisation that deeply polarised Bodos and non-Bodos. The overwhelming consolidation of the non-Bodo population around Naba Sarania, a former ULFA leader and a non-Bodo who won the Kokrajhar Lok Sabha seat in 2014 and 2019, is a clear pointer to this. This coincided with the electoral fragmentation of the Bodos within the BTC itself, a case borne out by the electoral decline of the BPF, whose seat share in the BTC fell from 31 out of the 40 elected seats in 2010 to 20 seats in 2015.

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## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"This election is about more, of course, than restoring sanity to the Republican Party, essential as that is. Mr. Trump's speech was a fantasy. America is not thriving under his leadership."

— NEW YORK TIMES

## Keeping the southern neighbour engaged

During Mahinda Rajapaksa's India visit, New Delhi is likely to talk to Colombo on the Tamil issue and counterbalance Beijing's influence in Indian Ocean



CHRISTOPHE JAFFRELLOT AND HAIDER ABBAS RIZVI

SRI LANKAN PRIME Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's official visit to India, that begins on Friday, is taking place a few months after he assumed office and his brother Gotabaya Rajapaksa was sworn in as president. The two were voted to office on a Sinhala nationalist wave, a sentiment that isn't primarily anti-Tamil this time, but a fallout of the Easter attacks on Christian shrines, including the Saint Anthony's shrine, in April last year. The attacks had killed more than 250 people, six months before the elections. The polarisation worked in favour of the Rajapaksas vis-à-vis Sri Lanka's 10 per cent Muslim population, mostly Tamils, who are especially numerous on the country's east coast.

The "Easter tragedy" remains mysterious. The Sri Lankan authorities did not pay adequate attention to the warning signals that India had sent them about an imminent attack. Moreover, on September 22, 2019, Gotabaya's official spokesperson admitted in an interview that Zahran Hashmi, the chief architect of the Easter tragedy, had been supported by Gotabaya himself when he was the defence secretary. Whatever the circumstances and politics behind this massacre, it fostered ethno-religious polarisation before the elections.

Muslims were targeted by the Bodu Bala Sena. For instance its chief, Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara, is reported to have said: "If the (Buddhists) monks could get the support of even 7,000 temples in Sri Lanka for one political front during the elections, and each temple can garner 10,000 votes for that front, there could be a Sinhala government". Today Sri Lanka's government has 49 Sinhalese Buddhists, two Tamil Hindus and no Muslims.

While Muslims have become the number one scapegoat for the Easter tragedy, the Rajapaksas have not tried to engage the Hindu Tamils, who voted against the duo. Hindu Tamils, who make about 11 per cent of Sri Lanka's population, have had an acrimonious relationship with Mahinda Rajapaksa ever since he wiped out the LTTE in 2009 — many members of the community became collateral victims in the process. Gotabaya was the defence secretary at that time. The Hindu Tamil factor may complicate India-Sri Lanka relations.

The China factor is likely to aggravate the complication: The Rajapaksas are known to be pro-Sri Lanka. Mahinda Rajapaksa was largely responsible for opening Sri Lanka to massive — and strategic — Chinese investments. The Hambantota Port and 15,000 acres have been conceded to China on a 99-year lease, causing considerable consternation in New Delhi, which apprehends that this deep sea port could be used for military purposes, and not just trade. The deal was

put on a hold by former PM Ranil Wickremasinghe but the present dispensation wants it to be restored. This Sri Lanka-China axis was the main reason why India is reported to have helped the opposition to the Rajapaksas before the 2015 election. In fact, Mahinda had accused India's top espionage agency for engineering his defeat in 2015.

New Delhi has tried to engage the new Sri Lankan government after the Rajapaksas assumed office. India's foreign minister S Jaishankar, landed in Sri Lanka on November 20, 2019 to invite Gotabaya for his first visit to India — rather than to China. Gotabaya visited New Delhi for three days in late November last year. Jaishankar is said to have told Gotabaya that India expects his government to treat Tamils with dignity in the process of reconciliation. There is speculation that India might appoint an ambassador of Tamil origin to Colombo.

India's effort were also designed to thwart China extending its influence in Sri Lanka at a time when the Narendra Modi administration is trying to counter Beijing's clout in the Indian Ocean. Modi's visited on May 30, 2019, just after beginning his second tenure as PM. Few days later, Modi visited the Saint Anthony's shrine to show his solidarity with terrorism-affected Sri Lanka.

The Indian PM went further when Gotabaya Rajapaksa visited New Delhi: He announced a \$50 million line of credit for security and counter-terrorism and another \$400 million for development and infrastructure projects in Sri Lanka. Modi did not miss the opportunity to explain that the counter-terror fund would further strengthen cooperation against terrorism after making an obvious reference to Easter bombings. In return, Gotabaya allayed India's fears on China by saying that Sri Lanka would not allow a third country to affect Sri Lanka-India ties.

This question will again be part of the conversation that Mahinda will have in Delhi during his visit. But other issues are likely to be raised in relation to the domestic situation in Sri Lanka. In the Citizenship Amendment Act the Indian Parliament passed in 2019, the persecuted minorities of Sri Lanka are not taken into account.

However, the Hindu Tamils of Sri Lanka are feeling insecure again. They look at Rajapaksa brothers as hostile to minorities.

After all, when the new president took oath in Anuradhapura, the historical capital of the pre-British Raj Buddhist kings — he publicly regretted that the minorities had not supported him during the elections.

Moreover, the BBS leader Gnanasara declared that he would disband his organisation if the Rajapaksas win the general election in April 2020 because he would then consider his mission to have been accomplished. India may not wait for these elections to show its interest in protecting the minorities of Sri Lanka in order to be true to "India's tradition to sheltered persecuted in neighbourhood" as BJP General Secretary Ram Madhav tweeted after the passing of the CAA on December 5, 2019.

Jaffrelot is senior research fellow at CERI-Sciences Po/CNRS, Paris and professor of Indian Politics and Sociology at King's India Institute. Rizvi is information commissioner, Uttar Pradesh

## Truth before reconciliation

Step to moving forward must be to acknowledge Kashmiri Pandit suffering



AANCHAL MAGAZINE

IT WAS THE fall of 2018 when after a four-day stay in Srinagar, Kashmir, I, along with my mother, was checking out from the hotel, the hotel manager initiated a conversation with her, asking her to spread a good word about the hotel, and then mentioned the 1990s — when most Kashmiri Pandits were forced out of the Valley.

"I belong to a place near Pahalgam. Us waqt bahut dehshat hui, mere yahaan se bahut ladke us taraf training ke liye gaye. Aur aap logon ko bhi Jagmohan ki wajah se nikalna pada

(That time there was fear all around and many from my place crossed the border for arms training. You also had to leave because of Jagmohan)," he said. My mother quietly listening all this while, spoke up, "Haan bahut kuch hua. Par Jagmohan ne humein nahi nikala,

ja mosques se humare khilaf slogans bole gaye, Kashmiri Pandits mein se kuch ko muara gaya, hit lists lagayi gayi, threats diye, isliye humein jaan bachane liye baqqa pata (Yes, a lot happened. But Jagmohan did not force us out, threatening slogans against Kashmiri Pandits were shouted from mosques, some were killed, hit lists were prepared, threats were issued and so we had to flee to save our lives.)

"Mistake ho gayi. Nahi hona chahiye tha (That was a mistake. Should not have happened)," he replied after a pause.

The false Jagmohan theory, peddled repeatedly to us over the 30 years of our forced exodus, has always found a way in the narrative against Kashmiri Pandits, even passed

on to the generation that wasn't born at that time. And, Kashmiri Pandits, apart from carrying the burden of the forced exodus, restarting lives from scratch, are also expected to carry the burden of producing proof of what happened with them. The onus then completely falls on the victims, the Kashmiri Pandits, to prove the truth.

Memories and lived experiences are not enough.

In the editorial 'Exile and return' (IE, February 4), it was stated, "...the loss of a way of life is central to the imagination of the 'minority' Pandit, as it is for most exiles...the Kashmiri Pandits are left with a heightened consciousness of being a minority in a majority". The way of life isn't a figment of imagination, Kashmiri Pandits lived through it. From our own homes in Kashmir to tents in Jammu and cramped rented accommodations ever since. Not everyone has rebuilt a home, some are still working towards it.

Terming the Kashmiri Pandits issue as a political issue or heightened consciousness of being a minority is yet another fallacy. Kashmiri Pandits were forced to leave because they were attacked and threatened due to their religious identity, which was a minority. My parents and relatives recount specific slogans blared from the loudspeakers of mosques there, asking Kashmiri Pandits to "leave, convert or die", or to announce that only "Nizam-e-Mustafa" will work, or that Kashmiri Pandit men should

vacate, leaving behind their womenfolk. The last slogan had forced my aunts to resort to keeping naked wires in close proximity on the night of January 19, 1990 as a possible counter to the threats being carried out. It was definitely not "heightened consciousness". Nobody leaves their home willingly, not even during earthquakes or other natural calamities.

If Kashmiri Pandits speak their truth, they are then also accused of seeking "revenge". Celebration of the abrogation of Article 370 by some is termed as "revenge", while what most of them instead seek is acknowledgement of the true reasons behind their forced exodus (it's certainly not the Jagmohan theory), justice, no denial of their ethnic cleansing and a safe facilitation of their return to their homeland, Kashmir.

There are questions being raised about proposed separate Pandit colonies. First, the truth of the displacement itself is not acknowledged, and then there are conditions on the way Kashmiri Pandits should return. Are the original homes even available to live? There have been either distress sales or the homes have been burnt or occupied by erstwhile neighbours.

The dignity of our truth would be the first key step in moving towards reconciliation. Our truth can co-exist with all other truths, there is no need to discredit it. The other significant step is to bring to book the ones who committed crimes against Kashmiri Pandits.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### DELHI POLICE OBJECTS

THIS REFERS TO 'Business as usual by Unny' (IE, February 6). It is found to be quite derogatory, and of a kind that hurts the sentiments of the entire police force. The caricature (sic) has portrayed objectionable distortions in the Delhi Police logo. It should be clearly appreciated that a logo is sacrosanct to any force or institution. Needless to say, Delhi Police is absolutely neutral and has been successful in conducting elections in a fair and impartial manner in the past. Hence, any such type of direct or indirect aspersions affecting its professional image is strongly rebutted and vehemently refuted.

Mandeep Singh Randhawa, PRO Delhi Police

### ASSAM'S FEARS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Rage and reason', (IE, February 6). The apprehensions of the people of Assam about their state's unique demographic fabric must be respected within constitutional arrangements. Clause 6 of the Assam Accord could offer many possibilities for safeguards to ensure the preservation of Assam's identity.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata

### KERALA EXAMPLE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Virus across borders' (IE, February 6). The views expressed in the piece on CAA are my personal views and not of the INTACH, of which I am a convener of the Dibrugarh chapter.

Aradhana Kataki, via e-mail

### 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.

more on preventing such epidemics. That needs a lot of political will and administrative skill. Cues can be taken from Kerala government which implemented the WHO guidelines and protocols on a war footing immediately after the outbreak was declared a global emergency.

Richaran Dasgoswami, via e-mail



**BRITAIN**  
Philip Barton to take charge as UK envoy to India

*London:* The UK government on Thursday announced career diplomat Sir Philip Barton as the new British High Commissioner to India, to succeed outgoing envoy Sir Dominic Asquith. The UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) said Barton will take charge at the British High Commission in New Delhi in the coming weeks of spring. "Sir Philip Barton KCMG OBE has been appointed British High Commissioner to the Republic of India in succession to Sir Dominic Asquith KCMG. Sir Philip will take up his appointment during Spring 2020," the FCO said.

**AUSTRALIA**  
Amid bushfire reprieve, Australia braces for cyclone

*Sydney:* Many Australians were experiencing a bitter-sweet break from the threat of bushfires on Thursday, with flooding rains deluging some parts of the eastern states and miners preparing for a tropical cyclone to hit the country's iron ore heartland over the weekend. The Bureau of Meteorology issued severe thunderstorm warnings for the southeast of Queensland state and a flood alert for more than 20 areas in New South Wales after the start of heavy rain that is expected to continue for several days. Warm, moist air feeding in from the east was bringing the rain, BOM forecaster Mike Funnell.

**WEST ASIA**  
Palestinian killed in West Bank as tensions simmer

*Jerusalem:* A car ran down a group of Israeli soldiers in Jerusalem early Thursday in a suspected Palestinian attack and, in a separate incident, Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian during clashes in the occupied West Bank, authorities said. Unrest in Palestine has been stoked anew by anger at US President Donald Trump's Middle East peace plan, which was embraced by Israel and rejected by the Palestinians when it was announced last week. The Jerusalem car-ramming took place on David Remez Street, which is close to the Arab neighbourhoods of eastern parts of the city that Palestinians want for a state.

**ROBERT BERKVIST**  
FEBRUARY 6

**KIRK DOUGLAS**, one of the last surviving movie stars from Hollywood's golden age, whose rugged good looks and muscular intensity made him a commanding presence in celebrated films like *Lust for Life*, *Spartacus* and *Paths of Glory*, died on Wednesday at his home in Beverly Hills, California. He was 103.

His son actor Michael Douglas announced the death in a statement on his Facebook page.

Douglas had made a long and

difficult recovery from the effects of a severe stroke he suffered in 1996. In 2011, cane in hand, he came onstage at the Academy Awards ceremony, good-naturedly flirted with co-host Anne Hathaway and jokingly stretched out his presentation of the Oscar for best supporting actress.

By then, and even more so as he approached 100 and largely dropped out of sight, he was one of the last flickering stars in a Hollywood firmament that few in Hollywood's Kodak Theater on that Oscars evening could have known except through viewings of old movies now called classics.

"To me, acting is creating an illusion, showing tremendous discipline, not losing yourself in the character that you're portraying," he wrote in his best-selling autobiography, *The Ragman's Son* (1988). "The actor never gets lost in the character he's playing; the audience does."

He was born Issur Danielovitch on Dec. 9, 1916, in Amsterdam, New York, northwest of Albany. The town's mills did not hire Jews, so his father, Herschel, became a ragman, a collector and seller of discarded goods. He was a powerful man who drank heavily and got into fights, and was often an absentee father, letting his family fend for itself.

After attending St. Lawrence

University, Douglas studied acting for two years, played in summer stock and made his Broadway de-

but in 1941. The next year he enlisted in the Navy and was trained in anti-submarine warfare. He and Diana Dill married in 1943, just before he shipped out during World War II. They had two sons, Michael and Joel, before divorcing in 1951. She died in 2015.

In 1954 Douglas married Anne Buydens, and they too had two sons, Peter and Eric. Eric Douglas died of an accidental overdose of alcohol and prescription pills in 2004 at the age of 46.

In addition to his son Michael, Kirk Douglas is survived by his wife and his two other sons, as well as five grandchil-

dren and a great-grandchild.

He made his screen debut in 1946 in *The Strange Love of Martha Ivers*, but it was the 1949 film *Champion*, produced by the young Stanley Kramer, that made him a star.

*Spartacus*, released in 1960, was Douglas' third blood-and-thunder spectacle set in the ancient past. One of the last cast-of-thousands spectacles to come out of Hollywood, the movie's popularity has been long lasting. It was restored and rereleased in 1991.

There were setbacks in his personal life. In 1986 Douglas was fitted with a pacemaker to correct

an irregular heartbeat. In 1991 he survived a helicopter crash that left two other people dead. In January 1996 he suffered a debilitating stroke that left him with seriously impaired speech and depression so deep, he later said, that he considered suicide.

The last films in which he starred shared something of a theme: the reconciliation between fathers and sons. One was a comedy, *It Runs in the Family* (2003), in which his son was played by his actual son Michael. The other was the drama *Illusion* (2004), in which he played an ailing father in search of his estranged son. **NYT**

**IMPEACHMENT SAGA COMES TO AN END**

**SENATE VOTES NEARLY ALONG PARTY LINES**

**DEMOCRATS BADLY HURT NATION: TRUMP**

**Trump acquitted of all charges**

**AGENCIES**

WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 6

AFTER FIVE months of hearings, investigations and cascading revelations about President Donald Trump's dealings with Ukraine, a divided US Senate acquitted him on Wednesday of charges that he abused his power and obstructed Congress to aid his own reelection, bringing an acrimonious impeachment trial to its expected end.

In a pair of nearly party-line votes whose outcome was never in doubt, the Senate fell well short of the two-thirds margin that would have been needed to remove Trump, formally concluding the three-week-long trial of the 45th president.

But in a stinging symbolic rebuke of the country's leader aimed at history, Senator Mitt Romney of Utah broke with the party and voted to convict Trump of abuse of power, saying that the president's pressure

campaign on Ukraine was "the most abusive and destructive violation of one's oath of office that I can imagine."

Trump on Thursday called

the Democrats who pursued his impeachment "dishonest and corrupt" and accused some of his political foes of invoking religious faith to justify wrongful acts.

Speaking at the annual National Prayer Breakfast event in Washington, he said, "As everybody knows, my family, our great country and your president have been put through a terrible ordeal by some very dishonest and corrupt people." — **DONALD TRUMP**, U.S. PRESIDENT

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## Classifieds

## PERSONAL

- I, Verinder Kumar Chanana S/o Des Raj Chanana R/o-S-52, 2nd Floor, Janta Market, Rajouri Garden, N.Delhi-110027, have changed my name to Verinder Chanana. 0040530666-1**
- I, Sabina W/o Kamal Sehgal R/o-WZ-12, Gali-22, Preml Nagar, Uttam Nagar, Delhi, have changed my name to Muskan Sehgal. 0040530666-2**
- I, Vishnu Bansal R/o 247/3, Friends Enclave, Sultanpuri Road, Nangloi, Delhi-110086. Changed My Child Name Anshika To Anshika Bansal. 0040530727-4**
- I, Vishnu Bansal R/o 247/3, Friends Enclave, Sultanpuri Road, Nangloi, Delhi-110086. Changed My Child Name Tanway Bansal To Tanway Bansal. 0040530727-3**
- I, VANISHA TOMAR W/o ROHIT TOMAR R/o B-809, KAROR APARTMENT, SECTOR-6, DWARKA SOUTH WEST DELHI -110075 INDIA. I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM VANISHA SINGH TO VANISHA TOMAR FOR ALL PURPOSES 0040530733-1**
- I, Sumanjot Sahni W/o Ranbir Singh R/o 1/2-22, 2nd Floor, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi-110089 have changed my name to Sumanjeet Kaur for all purposes. 0040530728-1**
- I, Sonali Arora W/o Amit Kumar Arora R/o RZF-1/384, B-Block, Flat No.303, Mahaveer Enclave, Gali No.2, Palam, New Delhi-110045 have changed my name from Sonali Arora to Sonali Saluja, vide affidavit dated 06/02/2020 before NCT Delhi. 0040530627-1**
- I, Shashi Mudgal S/o Mohan Lal Sharma R/o C-7/43, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my minor daughter's name from Ananya Mudgal to Suhani Mudgal. 0070966827-1**
- I, Ruqayya Fatima Siddiqui D/o Mohd Shakir R/o-C-6, Noor Nagar-Extn., Jamia-Nagar, Delhi-110025, have changed my name to Ruqayya Fatima for all future purposes. 0040530793-3**
- I, Rekha Rani W/o Gaurav Miglani H.No.6/27 Gali No.1 Railway-Road Sant-Colony Bahadurgarh Distt.Jhajjar Haryana-124507 changed my name to Rekha Miglani. 0040530750-4**
- I, Ranjna Rani W/O Vineet Kumar R/O 410-A, Wardno.24, Bhagto Wala Mohalla, Bahadurgarh, Hjajjar-124507. Changed My Name To Ranjana Rani. 0040530727-8**
- I, Raju S/o Late Jaan Mohd. R/o-H.No.1H, Ghaffar Manzil Extension-2, (Haji-Colony), Jamia Nagar, Okhla, Delhi-110025 have changed my name to Raju Khan for all future purposes. 0040530760-6**
- I, Raj Kumar Gandhi S/o Jagdish Chander Gandhi R/o-28, Priya Darshani-Vihar Part-2, Model-Town-II, Delhi-110009, have changed my name to Raj Gandhi. 0040530750-9**
- I, Preeti D/o Ved Prakash Chauhan R/o 204/3 Palhera Modipuram Meerut UP-250110 changed my name to Preeti Chauhan. 0040530704-7**
- I, Pranjal Pranav Gorthekar W/o Sh. Pranav Balwant Gorthekar R/o-55, Anandhan Vivek Nagar, Nanded Taroda BK, Nanded, Maharashtra-431605 inform that Pranjal Pranav Gorthekar & Pranjal Pradip Ekbote both are one & the same person. 0040530634-1**
- I, Pramod Singh Chauhan s/o Bachan Singh Chauhan r/o 35/15, Trilok Puri, Delhi-110091 have changed my name to PRAMOD SINGH. 0040530724-2**
- I, Pradeep Singh Siwach S/o/S. Sultan Singh R/o 2502, Sanchar Vihar, Plot No.-15, Sec-4, Dwarka, New Delhi-78. have changed my minor daughter's name from ANGEL to ANGEL SINGH for all future purposes 0040530719-1**
- I, Perninder Kaur W/o Bhupinder Singh Arora R/o-E-504, R.G.Residence, Sector-120, Noida, UP have changed my name to Perninder Kaur Arora. 0040530704-4**
- I, Pawan Kumar S/O Om Prakash Hno.115, Block & Pkt-A2, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi-110085. Changed My Name To Pawan Kumar Goel. 0040530727-1**
- I, Odayamadath Padmanabhan Nambiar S/o. Shri.Teniseri Veetil Padmanabhan Nambiar, Saket, New Delhi inform that my Passport No.Z294881, valid upto August-2024, in the said passport my wife's name mentioned Padmuni Nambiar instead of Marie Claude Rispaud Nambiar.Her exact and correct name is MARIE CLAUDE RISPAUD NAMBIA. Concerned note. 0040530750-2**
- I, Neha D/o Chander Bhan R/o-1542-A-13, Govindpuri, Kalkaji, Delhi-110019 have changed my name to Neha Yadav. 0040530727-6**
- I, Bijendra S/o Nanak R/o P.Road, Pyawali Tajpur, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh have changed my name to Bijendra Pal. 0040530704-2**
- I, Bachan Singh Chauhan s/o Makhan Singh r/o 35/15, Trilok Puri, Delhi-110091 have changed my name to BACHAN SINGH. 0040530724-1**
- I, Mohd Aalamgeer S/o Mehboob Ahmed R/o L-30, Abul Fazal Enclave 1st, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025 have changed my name to Mohd Aalamgeer Saifi 0040530635-1**
- I, Mir Zubair Yousuf S/o- Mohammad Yusuf Mir R/o-Village-Rajpora, Pulwama, J&K-192306, changed my name from Mir Zubair Yousuf to Zubair Yousuf in my passport. 0040530750-1**
- I, Manzoor Ahmad, S/O Mehboob Ahmad, D-11/A, Gali No-17, R.K.Marg, Chauhan Bangar, Delhi-110053, Have Changed My Name To Haji Manzoor Qureshi. 0040530750-7**
- I, Manju Bala, W/O Mr. Pramod Kumar Khanna, R/O-9-B, Pocket-14, Himgiri Apartments, Kalkaji-Extension, New Delhi-110019, Have Changed My Name To Manju Bala Khanna, For All Purposes. 0040530704-10**
- I, Manjeeta Devi D/o Prahlad Singh R/o 418/20 Shankar Garden line-Par Bahadurgarh Distt.Jhajjar (Haryana) changed my name to Manjeeta 0040530750-8**
- I, Maansa W/o Puneet Munjal, R/O 579, 1st Floor, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009 have changed my name to Maansa Munjal. 0040530704-6**
- I, Kshma Shukla (Existing Name of spouse as per change of Next-of-Kin POR/Service Documents), spouse of Vayundhan Shukla R/o 24-B, MIG DDA Flats, Motia Khan, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi-110055 have changed my name from Kshma Shukla (Existing Name of spouse as per change of Next-of-Kin POR/Service Documents) to Kshma Shukla (adopted New Name) affidavit dated 05/02/2020 at New Delhi 0040530628-1**
- I, Nittin Gupta s/o Anil Kumar Gupta R/o B-11/10, Third Floor, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063 have changed my minor (DOB:22-06-2009) daughter's name from Kashvi Gupta to KAASHVI GUPTA. 0040530711-1**
- I, Sunil Kumar Mishra, S/O Sh.Brij Bihari Mishra, R/O-B-3/8, Pocket-B, Ph-III, Ashok-Vihar, Delhi-110052, Have Changed My Name, From Sunil Kumar Mishra To Sunil Mishra,For All Purpose. 0040530727-7**
- I, Km Shabina Parveen W/o Mohd Aalamgeer Saifi, R/o-L-30, Abul Fazal Enclave 1st, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025 have changed my name to Shabeena Parveen. 0040530635-2**
- I, Khalique Rehman S/o Jamil Ahmad R/o H.No.1559, Katra Pathan Wala Sarai Khalil Sadar Bazar Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Khalique Ahmed for all purposes. 0040530726-1**
- I, Kavita Panwar W/o Tarun Rawat R/o B-201, Plot No.21, Dwarka Apartment, Sector-7, Dwarka New Delhi-110075 have changed my name to kavita Rawat for all future purposes. 0040530782-1**
- I, Kaswant Singh S/O Mohinder Singh R/O N-23, Vishnu Garden, Streetno.2, Khylia, Delhi-110007. Changed My Name To Piyush Saraswal. 0040530727-5**
- I, Pranjal Pranav Gorthekar W/o Sh. Pranav Balwant Gorthekar R/o-55, Anandhan Vivek Nagar, Nanded Taroda BK, Nanded, Maharashtra-431605 inform that Pranjal Pranav Gorthekar & Pranjal Pradip Ekbote both are one & the same person. 0040530634-1**
- I, Mohd Shahnawaz Siddiqui S/o Mohd Shakir R/o-84-A, Noor Nagar, Jamia-Nagar, Okhla, South-Delhi, Delhi-110025, have changed my name to Mohd Shahnawaz for all future purposes. 0040530793-4**

**I, Ankita Mathur D/o Dinesh Babu R/o Flat No-75, F-64, C/4,Near Sai Mandir, Sector-40, Noida, G.B.Nagar(U.P.) my father correct name is Dinesh Babu as per Adhar & Affidavit date 20Jan2020 before notary N.K. Yadav. 0040530637-1**

**I, Akanksa Goel W/o Anshul Goel R/o 18/20 Shakti Nagar Delhi-110007 have changed my name to Akanksa Goel 0040530636-1**

**I, Aliman Fatima Siddiqui D/o Mohd Shakir R/o-C-6, Noor Nagar-Extn., Delhi-110025, have changed my name to Aliman Fatima for all future purposes. 0040530793-2**

**I, Abdul Majeed S/O Nasibuddin R/O Village-Dayapur, Basti, Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh-250101, Have Changed My Name To Majid. 0040530727-2**

**I, Anand Agarwal S/o Debi Prasad Agarwal R/o-H.No.8/11 S.F. West Patel Nagar New Delhi-110008 changed my name to Anand Jasasara. 0040530760-8**

**I, Thitherto known as Hari Kishan son of Babu Lal residing at A-133 Street No.4 Mahavir Gali Pratap Nagar, North East Delhi-110093 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Hari Kishan Anand. 0040530697-1**

**I, I have changed my name from Manoj Jindal/Manoj Kumar to Manoj Kumar Jindal S/o Sh.Kishan Chand R/o-B-228, Ramprastha-Colony, Ghaziabad,Uttar Pradesh-201011, Manoj Kumar, Manoj Kumar Jindal. Manoj Jindal are the same person. Henceforth, I will be known as Manoj Kumar Jindal,for all future purposes. 0040530705-3**

**I, It is notified for the information that my Original Qualifying Examination Certificate of Main Senior Secondary Examination of Year-2006 and 2008 and Roll No.6118600 and 6215645 respectively issued by CBSE has been actually lost. AGRIM RANA S/o Rakesh Rana D.O.B-07/04/1989 R/o Flat-No.1, BLK-B-12,Pocket-1,Mankomappa Apartments, D.D.A-Flats, Sector-34, Rohini-110039, India 0040530697-1**

**I, It is notified for the information that my Original Qualifying Examination Certificates of Main, Higher Secondary and Senior-Secondary Examination of Year-2006 and 2008 and Roll No.6118600 and 6215645 respectively issued by CBSE has been actually lost. AGRIM RANA S/o Rakesh Rana D.O.B-07/04/1989 R/o Flat-No.1, BLK-B-12,Pocket-1,Mankomappa Apartments, D.D.A-Flats, Sector-34, Rohini-110039, India 0040530760-9**

**I, 10th Class Gradesheet 2014 with roll number 8110987 and 12th Class Marksheets 2016 with roll number 9106848 LOST. If found please contact 7042110382 005162023-1**

**I, Yogesh Sen S/o Rajender Kumar R/o H.No-30, Ganga Toli Road, Village Pooth Kheri, Delhi-110039, have changed my name to Yogesh. 007096834-1**

**I, TVikas S/o Sh. Siya Ram Bansal Residence of A-12, Gali No 1, East Arjun Nagar, Shahdara, East Delhi 110032 Have changed my name to Vikas Bansal. 007096828-1**

**I, Urvi Joseph D/o Joseph Varghese R/o 3097/4, Gali No-4, Ranjeet Nagar, Patel Nagar South, Delhi-110008, have changed my name to Adi Joseph. 007096825-1**

**I, Sunil Kumar Mishra, S/O Sh.Brij Bihari Mishra, R/O-B-3/8, Pocket-B, Ph-III, Ashok-Vihar, Delhi-110052, Have Changed My Name, From Sunil Kumar Mishra To Sunil Mishra,For All Purpose. 0040530727-7**

**I, ISonveer Singh S/O Surajveer, R/o C-1/141A, DDA Flat, Mayur Vihar Phase-3, East-Delhi, Delhi-110096, Changed my name to Sonveer Choudhary. 0040530727-10**

**I, Ishri Niwas S/O Dharamnath Kunwar R/O-Flat-No-204, Green View Appartment, Pockt-2, Sector-19, Dwarka New Delhi-110075.Changed My Name To Ishri Niwas Kunwar. 0040530760-2**

**I, Shri Niwas S/O Dharamnath Kunwar R/O-Flat-No-204, Green View Appartment, Pockt-2, Sector-19, Dwarka New Delhi-110075.Changed My Name To Ishri Niwas Kunwar. 0040530760-5**

**I, Piyush S/o Rajesh Sirswal R/o 3364 AryaPura Subzi Mandi Delhi-110007. Changed My Name To Piyush Saraswal. 0040530727-5**

**I, Nidhi D/o Sh.Ramesh Kumar R/o 45/7, Rajpur Road, Civil Lines, North Delhi, Delhi-110054 inform that name of mine has been wrongly written as Nidhi Sehgal in my L.L.M. Certificate. The actual name of mine is Nidhi, which may be amended accordingly. 0040530629-1**

**I, Monu D/o Jagdish Chander R/o H-1140/51, Ward No-20, Police Line, Rohtak, Haryana-124001, have changed my name to Monu Moan. 007096832-1**

**I, Akanksha Gupta W/o Anshul Goel R/o 18/20 Shakti Nagar Delhi-110007 have changed my name to Akanksa Goel 0040530636-3**

**I, I Hiteshwar Bhardwaj R/O.H.No.420, Ground Floor, Sector 10A, Gurgaon, Haryana 122001 Have Changed My Name To Hiteshwar Sharma AS Per Document 0070969751-1**

**I, Maanik Rattan Katuria S/O Narendra Kathuria, H.No-2678, Sec-16, Faridabad-121002. Changed My Name To Maanik Rattan Kathuria. 0040530760-1**

**I, Deepthi Das/Deepthi Negi W/O Ashutosh Negi Flat-No-701, Eternia Mahagun Maple, Sector-50, Noida, Gautambudh-Nagar, U.P.-201301. Changed My Name To Deepthi Nair Negi. 0040530727-9**

**I, Asad Anwar S/o Anwarul Haque R/o-5/15, Indr-Enclave, Block-A, Phase-I, Village-Kirari Suleman-Nagar, Delhi-86 inform that my father name has been wrongly mentioned as Hafiz Anwar in my Service-Record And His Aadhaar Card My Son's Name Has Been Wrongly Written Rajeev Kumar But Actual Name Is Rajiv Kumar Prasad,For All Purposes. 0040530715-1**

**I, Dildar Singh S/o Sh. Labh Singh R/o V.Mian Puri Changer, P.O. Kharjabad, Teh Kharar, Distt. Mohali have changed my name to Dildar Singh Mavi for all purposes. 0040530705-1**

**I, Anju Agrawal W/o Anand Jasasaria, H.No.8/11 S.F. West Patel Nagar New Delhi-110008 changed my name to Anju Jasasaria. 0040530727-6**

**I, Bijendra S/o Nanak R/o P.Road, Pyawali Tajpur, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh have changed my name to Bijendra Pal. 0040530704-2**

**I, Bachan Singh Chauhan s/o Makhan Singh r/o 35/15, Trilok Puri, Delhi-110091 have changed my name to BACHAN SINGH. 0040530724-1**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
General Public is hereby informed that my Clients Sh. Balbir Singh & S/o Late Sh. Taru Chandra and Sh. Dinesh W/o Sh. Balbir Singh & R/o Vilas Singh, Plot No. 102, Pali Near Central Bank of India, Tehsil-Kashmere, District Dehradoon, State-Uttarakhand, India-248001, Son-Devin Dahiya and his wife Shamila along with their movable and immovable properties, present in Dehradoon due to control behaviour and involvement in unlawful activities.

My clients also have no concern with them in any manner, further Mr. Parveen Dahiya, Shamila along with their respective heirs, movables and immovable properties, present in Dehradoon due to control behaviour and involvement in unlawful activities.

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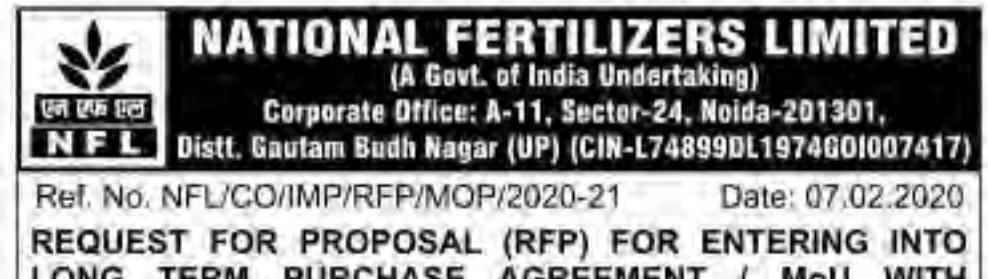
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My clients also have no concern with them in any manner, further Mr. Parve



NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)  
Corporate Office: A-11, Sector-24, Noida-201301,  
Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar (UP) (CIN-L74899DL197400100741)

Ref. No. NFL/CO/IMP/RFP/MOP/2020-21 Date: 07.02.2020

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR ENTERING INTO LONG TERM PURCHASE AGREEMENT / MoU WITH MANUFACTURERS FOR SUPPLY OF MOP (FIRM 4,00,000 MT / OPTIONAL 1,00,000 MT).**

For more details, visit website: [www.nationalfertilizers.com](http://www.nationalfertilizers.com), [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in) under open Tender category. RFP with all supporting documents must be submitted latest by 17:30 hrs of 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2020. Corrigendum / Addendum, if any, shall be published on above websites only.

Executive Director (Materials)

**CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION**  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)  
Corporate Office: 4/1, Sir Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016  
WAREHOUSING FOR EVERYONE

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Tender No. CWC/I-PCMM/R&P/2019 Dated : 06.02.2020

Central Warehousing Corporation, a Schedule-A, Mini Ratna Category-I, CPSE, invites online bid for the following Consultancy work:-

Streamlining the Human Resource practices in Central Warehousing Corporation by internal improvement journey to comply with the practices against Maturity Level-3 as per People Capability Maturity Model (P-CMM').

For details, please visit Tenders section of CWC's website [www.cewacor.nic.in](http://www.cewacor.nic.in) or website [www.cwcprocure.com](http://www.cwcprocure.com).

Note : Last date for downloading of Tender Document for the work is 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020 upto 1800 Hrs and the last date for submission of online Bids is 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020 upto 2359 Hrs.

Sd/- Deputy General Manager (Personnel)

**BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -III, DELHI**  
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001  
Notice under Section 19(4), of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993.  
In the matter of O.A. No.358/2019/DRT-III  
**ANDHRA BANK VS. M/S ROYAL CONFECTIONERS**  
Applicant Defendants  
To,  
D-1 M/s Royal Confectioners, through its proprietor Mr. Vijay Kumar, At-B-10, Kiran Garden, Near Hanuman Mandir, Gali No.12, Utam Nagar, New Delhi-110059

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal on 26.02.2020 at 10.30 A.M.

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

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on the 03<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 2019.

By Order of the Tribunal, Registrar, DRT-III, New Delhi

**Pashchimanchal viyavit vitran Nigam Ltd., Victoria Park, Meerut.**

**TENDER DATE EXTENSION NOTICE**

E-tenders were invited for supply of-

- (1) 200 Nos. 11 KV TVM Cat-B Meter against tender specification no. PVVNL-MTCOM/15/19-20.
- (2) 100 Nos. 33 KV TVM Cat-B Meter against tender specification no. PVVNL-MTCOM/16/19-20.

The date of opening of Part-I & II of above tenders is hereby extended from 04.02.2020 to 19.02.2020

For detailed information please log on [www.pvvnl.org](http://www.pvvnl.org) & E-Tendering website [www.tender.up.nic.in](http://www.tender.up.nic.in) till the date of submission of bids. Superintending Engineer (Commercial) "Help-line Number for Information of Theft of Electricity: 1800-180-3002 (Me ru) & 9412207451"

Remark : [www.tender.up.nic.in](http://www.tender.up.nic.in)

Sd/-

Superintending Engineer (Commercial)

For Managing Director

"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION"

प्राप्ति: 1352 दिनांक: 05.02.2020

**BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -III, DELHI**  
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001  
Notice under Section 19(4), of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993.  
In the matter of O.A. No.352/2019/DRT-III  
**ANDHRA BANK VS. M/S ALLY INDIA PRODUCTS**  
Applicant Defendants

D-1 M/s Ally India Products, through its proprietor Mr. Anurag Prabhakar, AT- 3rd Floor, Plot No. 6, Vishnu Garden, Punjabi Market, New Delhi-110016.  
Also At- Plot No. 33, Block-WZ, First Floor, Navayug Block, Vishnu Garden, Tilak Nagar, West Delhi-110019

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal on 26.02.2020 at 10.30 A.M.

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Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on the 03<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 2019.

By Order of the Tribunal, Registrar, DRT-III, New Delhi

Government of Karnataka

**Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Department, Project Division,**  
Near Shamli, Mandavi Towers , 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Ambalapady, Udupi - 576103. Land line /Fax: 0820-2532704 E-mail: kn-udu@pmgcy.nic.in  
No:EE/PD/U/Tender Notification/2019-20/ 474 Date: 30.01.2020

### Short Term Tender Notification

On behalf of Government of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, Project Division, Udupi invites short term tender for the Road construction work mentioned below as per standard tender document in two cover system. The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in I.T.B. cause-3 of standard tender document to qualify for award of the contractor. Tender document may downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka viz. [www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in](http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in).

SI. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost(Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Period of Completion
<b>Head of Account: NGNRY</b>				
1	<b>Package-KS 26-62</b> a): Improvements to Road from Pre-University College to Badabali Road.	4,35,53,658.23	8,72,000.00	11 Months (Including Rainy Season)
2	<b>Package-KS 26-63</b> a): Improvements to Road from Ajikku Temple to Hosablu Bridge Road	4,33,13,406.80	8,67,000.00	11 Months (Including Rainy Season)
<b>Head of Account: 5054-03-337-0-7-5</b>				
3	<b>Package-KS 26-64</b> a). Improvements to Road from Thallur Mainroad to Hattiyangadi Cross-Devalkunda road. b). Improvements to Road from Kolluru main road to Vandse - Noojadi Hakladi-Kattinamakkki road. c) Improvements to Road from Badaker(SH) mainroad to Arehole-5 Cents Colony road. d) Improvements to Road from Iduru mainroad to Hallu hosuru -Bogi haadi road. e) Improvements to Road from Kolluru mainroad to Kattinamakkki -Narkali road. e) Improvements to Road from Hattiyangadi - Chitteri all roads in Byndooru Constituency.	9,28,98,691.48	18,58,000.00	11 Months (Including Rainy Season)
4	<b>Package-KS 26-65</b> a). Improvements to Road from Kolluru main road to Gantihole mainroad (via Varsa -Kadodi). b) Improvements to Road from Kolluru mainroad to Kudru (via Golihole-Huchini-Elluru ) road, c) Improvements to Road from Kolluru mainroad to Muddodi-Nagararamakki road. d) Improvements to Road from Uppunda SH road to Ambiguli Kanchikan Kabse road. e) Improvements to Road from Kergalu SH road to Hoskot road. f) Improvements to Road from Heruru MDR road to Kalthodu MDR all roads in Byndooru Constituency.	8,88,34,986.54	17,77,000.00	11 Months (Including Rainy Season)
5	<b>Package-KS 26-66</b> a) Improvements to Road from Siddapura Mainroad to Amparu Balkatti Krodaballuru road. b) Improvements to Road from SH-27 to Naikambli road. c) Improvements to Road from Keradi Mainroad to Shadaberi Hosamane road. d) Improvements to Road from Hosangadi Mainroad to Mavinamane road. e) Improvements to Road from Amparu Halkal MDR to Gudri	7,71,85,006.17	15,44,000.00	11 Months (Including Rainy Season)

**Calendar of events:** (1) Date from which tender documents downloaded from e-portal: **06.02.2020** . (2) Date of pre bid meeting & Place: **17.02.2020, 11:30 hours**, Office of the Executive Engineer Project Division, Udupi. (3) Last date for clarification: **18.02.2020**. (4) Last date for receiving bids: **20.02.2020, upto 16.30 Hours**. (5) Time & date of open tender bids: **24.02.2020, upto 16.35 Hours**. (6) Place of opening tender bids: Office of the Executive Engineer, Project Division, Near Shamli Hall, Mandavi Tower, First Floor, Udupi.

**Information:** (1) The Class-1 contractors who have registered in PWD/CPWD and enrolled in Panchayat Raj Engineering Department (Government of Karnataka) are eligible in participation of tendering Award of contract depends on technical capacity, work carrying capacity and financial resourcefulness of the bidders. (2) The Contractors who are terminated from KRRDA for non completion of works and who have been terminated for not maintaining PMGSY/NGNRY roads are not eligible for participating in the tendering. (3) For any further information, the concerned Executive Engineer, Project Division may be contacted. (4) Details can be obtained from the <http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Project Division, Udupi

**MEGHALAYA POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED**  
**Office of the Chief Engineer (Distribution)**  
Lum Jingshai; Short Round Road; Shillong - 793001  
CIN U40101ML2009SGC008394

Phone: (0364) 2590229 Fax: (0364) 2591174 CIN U40101ML2009SGC008394

No. MePDCL/CE(D)/T-52(Pt-I)/ 2019-20/1 Dated Shillong, the 5th February, 2020

### INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expression of Interest (EOI) is invited from reputed Firms for design, Engineering, installation, maintenance and operation for 5 (five) years advanced infrastructure with latest technology for the reduction of AT&C losses at Consumers end and Distribution Transformer level on Build, Own, Operate and Transfer model (BOOT). For details scope of work, interested Firms may contact the office of the undersigned.

Firms submitting their proposal may be invited to give a presentation on the subject. Interested Firms shall submit their proposal by either in hard and/or in soft copy to the following address and email address. The same shall reach to the Office of the undersigned on or before 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 by 17.00 hrs.

**Chief Engineer (Distribution)** Email id: [cedist.mepdcl@gmail.com](mailto:cedit.mepdcl@gmail.com)  
Lum Jingshai Office Complex, Short Round Road, Shillong-793001.

(W.L. Diengdoh)  
Chief Engineer (Distribution)  
MePDCL :: Shillong

**NLC India Limited**  
"NLC" - Government of India Enterprise  
Rep'd. Office : First Floor, No. 8, Meyer Sahayam Road,  
FSD, Egmore Complex of Food Corporation of India, Chennai - 600 011  
Corporation Office : Block-1, Neyveli-607 801, Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu  
CIN No.: L33090TN1956G0003507, Website: [www.nlcindia.com](http://www.nlcindia.com)

**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR SUPPLIES (e-tender) S.I.No.2 to 8)**

SI.No.	Tender Ref./Scope of supplies / Qty. Req'd.
1	1.UNIT : NTPL / TUTCORIN : ENQ / NTPL / 19-20 / 000505 / C&P01 (01) dt.30.01.2019: Purchase of 35/40 Watts, LED Wall Glass fitting with bulb. EMD : ₹ 50,000/-
2	2.UNIT : MM COMPLEX : ENQ / 19-20 / 003154 / MM01(06) dt.24-01-2020: 8 Items of Drive Drums. Due Date of opening: 27-02-2020
3	3.ENQ / 19-20 / 003263 / MM17(01) dt.01.02.2020: Procurement of Timber (6 Items) Due Date of opening: 28-02-2020
4.ENQ / 19-20 / 003235 / MM01(05) dt.01.02.2020: 3 Items of BUSH Due Date of opening: 04-03-2020	
5.ENQ / 19-20 / 003204 / MM01(06) dt.03.02.2020: Gear Rim Set Due Date of opening: 05-03-2020	
6.ENQ / 19 - 20 / 003260 / MM05 (02) dt.01.02.2020: Procurement of Rails for Stacker & Reclaimer. Due Date of opening: 28-02-2020	
7.ENQ / 19 - 20 / 003242 / MM05 (4) dt.30.01.2020: Procurement of Combustor Roof/Wall panel. Due Date of opening: 28-02-2020	
8.ENQ / 19 - 20 / 003245 / MM01(05) dt.03.02.2020: 2 Items of teeth for 700 Litres Capacity Bucket Wheel Excavator. Due Date of opening: 06-03-2020	

Si.No. Tender document cost Date & time of opening  
1 ₹ 1000/- 21-02-2020 At 15.00 Hrs.

FOR e-TENDER DOCUMENTS/DETAILS/CORRIGENDUM VISIT: [www.nlcindia.com](http://www.nlcindia.com)

### PUBLIC SECTOR IS YOURS : HELP IT TO HELP YOU

Government of Karnataka  
**KARNATAKA SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION BOARD**

6<sup>th</sup> Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560 003  
Ph: 080- 23349434 Fax: 23347670  
No:B6/DPSC/L08/Ka.Le.Sa/2019-20/Call-02 Date: 06.02.2020

### SHORT-TERM e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Director, Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board, hereby invites short-term e-tenders from eligible tenderers for "The Printing, Supply and Overprinting of AML and Centre Nominal Rolls of 2020 S.S.L.C. Examinations" as per KTPP Act-1999, through e-procurement portal only. Tender documents may be downloaded from [www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in](http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) or [www.kseeb.kar.nic.in](http://www.kseeb.kar.nic.in) Tender commencement date is **07.02.2020**. Pre-bid meeting is on **11.02.2020 at 11.00 A.M.** The last date for submission of tender is **14.02.2020 at 4.00 P.M.** Date of opening Technical bid is on **17.02.2020 at 11.00 A.M.** Date of opening Commercial bid is on **18.02.2020 at 11.00 A.M.** The approximate value of tender is **Rs.10,00,000/- (Rs.Ten Lakhs Only).** The Earnest Money Deposit is **Rs. 20,000/-** other details may be obtained from the KSEEB during office hours.

Sd/- Director (Exams)

## &lt;h

SENSEX: 41,306.03 ▲ 163.37 NIFTY: 12,137.95 ▲ 48.80 NIKKEI: 23,873.59 ▲ 554.03 HANG SENG: 27,493.70 ▲ 706.96 FTSE: 7,503.81 ▲ 21.33 DAX: 13,560.28 ▲ 81.95



GOLD

₹41,019



RUPEE

₹71.18



OIL

\$53.92



SILVER

₹46,881

\*Indian basket as on February 5, 2020

International market data till 1900 IST

**RBI BI-MONTHLY MONETARY POLICY REVIEW**

# RBI to introduce long-term repo to boost monetary transmission

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 6**E**  
**EXPLAINED**

## Cost of funds for banks to come down

THE INTRODUCTION of long-term repo operations (LTRO) for one year and three year tenor for a total amount of Rs 1,00,000 crore at policy repo rate will bring down cost of funds for banks without effectively cutting deposit rates. This decision is likely to make reverse repo rate as the operative policy rate over a point of time.

into the banking system that will enable banks to reduce their lending rates," Das said.

The RBI has been increasingly focusing on improving monetary transmission, especially with respect to bank credit to productive sectors. "This is a bold measure and should definitely help banks to kickstart credit growth in these tenors and help to reduce their cost/improve margins. This measure has led to a sharper rally in the short end of the gilt yield curve post-policy where yields have fallen in the 2-4 year segment by 10 to 15 basis points, said Bekky Kuriakose, head-fixed in-

come, Principal Mutual Fund.

Lakshmi Iyer, CIO (debt) & head of products, Kotak Mahindra AMC, said: "The masterstroke by the RBI is announcement of LTRO of one- and three-year tenors for up to Rs 1 lakh crore at the repo rate. This is a step towards credit transmission and demonstrates the RBI's intent towards supporting growth."

After the introduction of the external benchmark system, most banks have linked their lending rates for housing, personal and micro and small enterprises (MSEs) to the policy repo rate of the RBI. During October-

December 2019, the weighted average lending rate (WALR) of domestic (public and private sector) banks on fresh rupee loans declined by 18 basis points (bps) for housing loans, 87 bps for vehicle loans and 23 bps for loans to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

While the RBI slashed repo rate by 135 points in calendar year 2019, the 1-year median marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) declined by only 55 bps during February 2019 and January 2020. The WALR on fresh rupee loans sanctioned by banks declined by 69 bps and the WALR on outstanding rupee loans by 13 bps during February-December 2019.

Monetary transmission across various money market segments and the private corporate bond market has been sizable. As against the cumulative reduction in the policy repo rate by 135 bps since February 2019, transmission to various money and corporate debt market segments up to January 31, 2020 ranged from 146 bps (overnight call money market) to 190 bps (3-month CPs of non-banking finance companies), the RBI said.

## Loans to medium enterprises to be linked to external benchmark

Mumbai: The RBI has decided to link pricing of loans by scheduled commercial banks for the medium enterprises to an external benchmark like the repo rate with effect April 1, 2020.

All new floating rate personal or retail loans and floating rate loans to micro and small enterprises extended by banks were linked to external benchmarks—the policy repo rate or any benchmark market interest rate produced by the Financial Benchmarks India, including Treasury bill rates—from October 1, 2019. "Subsequent to the introduction of an external benchmark system, the monetary transmission has improved to the sectors where new floating rate loans have been linked to the external benchmark," it said. ENS

## Outlook for inflation highly uncertain: RBI

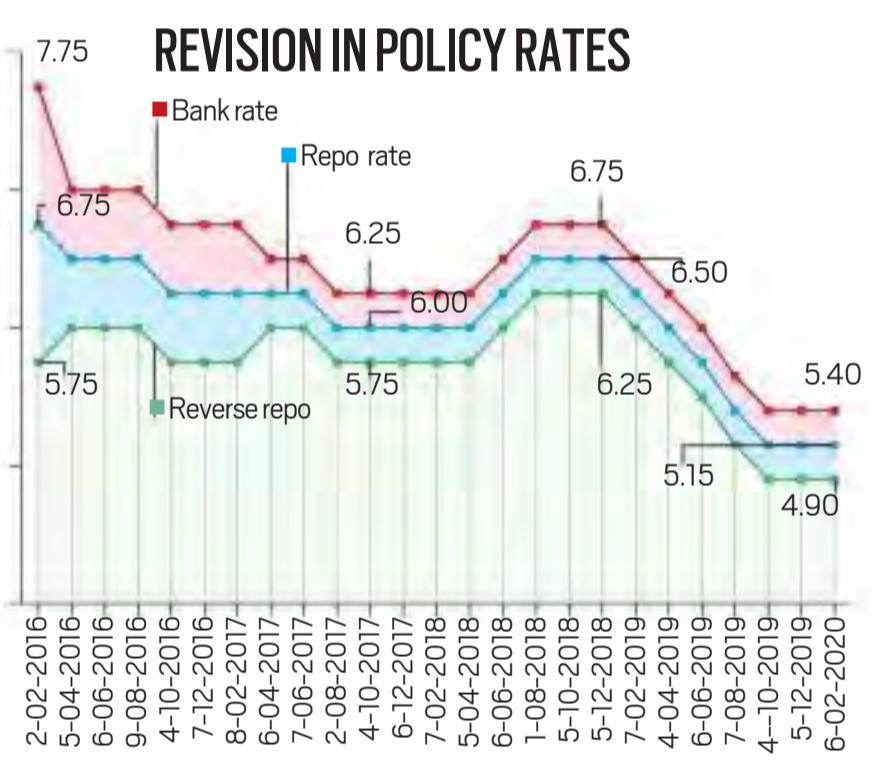
The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee, headed by Governor Shaktikanta Das, on Thursday decided to keep the interest rate steady at 5.15 per cent as "the outlook for inflation is highly uncertain at this juncture and economic activity remains subdued"



**UNANIMOUS DECISION:** All members of the MPC voted in favour of the decision.

**INFLATION OUTLOOK:** Food inflation is likely to soften from the high levels of December and the decline is expected to become more pronounced in Q4 2019-20.

**ECONOMIC OUTLOOK:** Economy continues to be weak and the output gap remains negative. While



some high-frequency indicators have turned around and point to a lift in the momentum of economic activity, there is a need to await incoming data to gauge their sustainability.

**RATE TRANSMISSION:** While the repo rate was cut

**5.1%**

is the current repo rate, the rate at which the RBI lends funds

**4.90%**

is reverse repo rate, the rate at which RBI borrows from banks

**6%**

GDP growth projected for H1 of 2020-21 as against 5 per cent estimated for 2019-20

**6.5%**

Inflation projected for fourth quarter of 2019-20

by 135 bps last year, the 1-year median MCLR has declined 55 bps. The weighted average lending rate on fresh rupee loans sanctioned by banks declined by 69 basis points.

## CRR dispensation to boost retail loans

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 6

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das at the central bank's headquarters in Mumbai Thursday. Ganesh Shrikar

mand and time liabilities (NDTL)—deposits— for maintenance of

CRR. In other words, the loans to these sectors can be deducted from the amount to be kept with the RBI as CRR. Currently, banks are supposed to keep four per cent of deposits with the RBI as CRR which doesn't carry any interest.

The RBI move follows a deceleration in credit growth to the retail sector. "Alongside sustained efforts to improve monetary transmission, the RBI is actively engaged in revitalizing the flow of bank credit to productive sectors having multiplier effects to support impulses of growth," it said.

Bankers said CRR exemption for incremental lending to auto, residential housing, MSME is a good way to channelise credit in area where demand has not met with commensurate supply. "The exemption of CRR maintenance

for all additional loans given for retail loans will also help to lower cost of funds. Extending the date of restructuring of MSME advances will also help the sector to navigate the current business downturn and is a logical corollary of budget announcement," SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar said.

The RBI has decided to permit extension of date of commencement of commercial operations of project loans for commercial real estate, delayed for reasons beyond the control of promoters, by another one year without downgrading the asset classification. This is in line with treatment accorded to other project loans for non-infrastructure sector, it said.

"This would complement the initiatives taken by the government in the real estate sector," it said.

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used to give insurance cover up to Rs one lakh deposits in banks. Banks will now insure deposits up to Rs 5 lakh per customer with the DICGC as per the Budget proposal.

It has surplus funds of Rs 87,995 crore as of March 2019, according to the Annual Report of the Corporation. It reported Rs 152 crore worth of claims in 2018-19 as against Rs 183 crore in the previous year.

When a bank collapses, depositors will get Rs 5 lakh from the Corporation. However, now depositors holding more than Rs 5 lakh in their account have no legal remedy in case of the collapse of the bank. Irrespective of the deposit amount, be it Rs 25 lakh or Rs 5 crore, the depositor will now get only Rs five lakh if a bank collapses.

DICGC, a subsidiary of the RBI,

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In its affidavit to the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), the MCA has said IBC does not "envise any role of the central government to check that the resolution plan submitted during the course of a corporate insolvency resolution process satisfies the conditions" set forth in various provisions under the Code.

Specifically, with respect to Section 32 (A), the onus has been placed by the Code on the adjudicating authority and the investigating authorities to ensure that conditions prescribed under Section 32 (A) are met, before approval is granted for any resolution plan," the MCA said in its affidavit, a copy of which has been sent to The Indian Express.

In its affidavit, the MCA has, for the first time, also said it is mandatory for the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), which is the adjudicating authority, to ensure that before approving any resolution plan, it seeks relevant comments and clearance from investigating authorities.

The ED, which is probing

## MCA shifts stance, says onus of probing if JSW Steel complies with IBC is on NCLT, agencies

AASHISH ARYAN  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

IN A shift of stance, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has said the onus of checking whether the resolution plan for Bhushan Power & Steel, submitted by JSW Steel, passes all Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) checks, lies with the adjudicating authority and investigating agencies, and not the central government.

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The ED, which is probing

Blushan Power for alleged irregularities and money laundering against the latter. This was after the ED had remained firm on its idea to attach the properties of Blushan Power, as well as its former promoters and directors for alleged money laundering.

The ED had in October started attaching properties worth nearly Rs 4,000 crore, belonging to Blushan Power. Following the raids, JSW Steel approached the NCLAT. The appellate tribunal, after hearing the responses from all the parties, had on February 4 reserved its judgment on whether JSW Steel would get the immunity from ED probe.

The government's move to bring the ordinance which ring-fenced new bidder for corporate debtors was seen as a reaction to JSW Steel being wary of proceeding with the resolution plan of Blushan Power.

JSW Steel, which had at Rs 19,700 crore placed the winning bid for Blushan Power, had been wary owing to cases pending against the latter. This was after the ED had remained firm on its idea to attach the properties of Blushan Power, as well as its former promoters and directors for alleged money laundering.

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## Deposit insurance premium for banks to rise by 20%

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 6

### SET TO RISE FROM 10P TO 12P PER ₹100

■ Reserve Bank Deputy Governor B P Kanungo on Thursday said the premium will increase from 10 paisa to 12 paisa per Rs 100 for the time being.

■ Given the size of insured deposits is likely to increase, the deposit insurance premium paid by banks will increase the operating

expenses of banks and will be negative for their profitability to the extent they are not able to pass it on to the bank customers.

■ As on March 31, 2019, 28 per cent of deposits (in value terms) and 92 per cent of depositors (in terms of number of accounts) were covered by deposit insurance

banks will increase the operating expenses of banks and will be negative for their profitability to the extent they are not able to pass it on to the bank customers. As on March 31, 2019, 28 per cent

of deposits (in value terms) and 92 per cent of depositors (in terms of number of accounts) were covered by deposit insurance, which is likely to increase to 40-50 per cent.

DICGC, a subsidiary of the RBI,

proposed to increase the insurance cover on bank deposits from Rs one lakh to Rs five lakh in the Union



## SOUTH-EAST ASIA'S SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES

## Viva Laos Vegas

South-East Asia is sprouting Chinese enclaves



In 2018, China was the source of nearly 80% of foreign direct investment in Laos. Reuters/representational photo

In a remote part of northern Laos, the bamboo forest gives way to cranes. A city is being carved out of jungle: tower blocks cloaked in scaffolding loom over restaurants, karaoke bars and massage parlours. The beating heart of Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone (so called because it sits at the point where Laos, Myanmar and Thailand converge) is the casino, a palatial confection featuring faux-Roman statuary and ceilings covered in frescoes. "Laos Vegas" does not cater to Laotians, however. Croupiers accept only Chinese yuan or Thai baht. Street signs are in Chinese and English. The city's clocks are set to Chinese time, an hour ahead of the rest of Laos.

Over the past decade, China has become one of the biggest investors in South-East Asian countries: in 2018 it was the source of nearly 80% of foreign direct investment in Laos. Some of this capital is flowing along well-worn routes to places like Mandalay, a city in Myanmar where there is a long-established Chinese community. But much of it is flooding into "special economic zones" (SEZs) to take advantage of assorted incentives such as faster permitting, reduced tax or duties and looser controls on the movements of goods and capital.

Chinese businesses don't need much convincing. The Chinese government began encouraging them to invest abroad in the 2000s. The Belt and Road Initiative, China's giant

scheme to develop infrastructure abroad, has accelerated the trend. In addition to railways, highways and pipelines, it promotes SEZs, which "are now a preferred mode of economic expansion for China", says Brian Eyler of the Stimson Centre, an American think-tank. Under the banner of belt and road, 160 Chinese companies have poured more than \$1.5bn into SEZs in Laos, according to Land Watch Thailand, a watchdog. Between 2016 and 2018 China invested \$1bn in one SEZ alone: Sihanoukville, a city on Cambodia's coast.

Where Chinese capital goes, labour follows. In Mandalay the Chinese have swelled from 1% of the population in 1983 to 30%-50% today. In places with SEZs the shift has been even sharper. In 2019 the governor of the surrounding province told the Straits Times newspaper that the number of Chinese in Sihanoukville had soared over the previous two years to almost a third of the population. The economic clout of Chinese migrants grows with their numbers. In Mandalay 80% of hotels, more than 70% of restaurants and 45% of jewellery shops are owned and

operated by ethnic Chinese, according to market research conducted in 2017.

The influx of migrants has fuelled anti-Chinese sentiment across the region. But poor

South-East Asian governments court Chinese investors anyway because they hope Chinese money will kick-start their economies. In some respects the investment has borne fruit. In Laos foreign investment has contributed to effervescent GDP growth, which averaged 7.7% a year over the past decade.

But in a study of SEZs in 2017 Focus on the Global South, a think-tank headquartered in Bangkok, concluded that the "legislative and governance structures" underpinning SEZs in Cambodia and Myanmar "have been skewed toward the interests of investors and against those of locals and the environment".

Alfredo Perdigero of the Asian Development Bank agrees that SEZs in Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar "have not yet been able to spread the benefits" to the broader economy.

In part this is because Chinese companies tend not to hire locals. By 2018 Laotian workers had secured just 34% of the jobs created by all 11 SEZs in Laos—a far cry from the 90% the government had promised. Chinese firms argue that local workers lack skills, but

Strangio, author of a forthcoming book on China's growing influence in South-East Asia. That, along with the tax breaks, mean there is little benefit for host governments: in 2017 the Laotian exchequer raised just \$20m from its SEZs—less than 1% of its revenue.

**Over the past decade, China has become one of the biggest investors in South-East Asian countries. Much of the capital is flooding into SEZs to take advantage of assorted incentives such as faster permitting, reduced tax or duties and looser controls on the movements of goods and capital**

civil society groups in Myanmar respond by pointing to a technical college near Kyaukpyu, a Chinese-inspired SEZ and port; nobody from the college has been hired to work there, according to a report published last year.

There is little local sourcing of other inputs, either. The garment factories of Sihanoukville SEZ, for instance, import their cloth, buttons and thread. The Chinese workers and visitors in South-East Asia's SEZs often patronise Chinese-owned shops and restaurants, and circumvent sales taxes by paying for goods and services via Chinese apps like Alipay. "The money doesn't even leave China essentially," says Sebastian

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**Extraterritorial and unreasonable**

As is common with big developments in the poorer countries of South-East Asia, locals are seldom consulted about the construction of SEZs. Golden Triangle SEZ was built over the rice paddies of Ban Kwan village; over 100 households were forced to relocate against their will. And then there is the question of law enforcement within the SEZs, whose light regulation can be as attractive to criminals as to legitimate businesses. In 2018 American authorities declared that the Golden Triangle SEZ was a hotbed of "drug trafficking, human trafficking, money laundering, bribery and wildlife trafficking". They called the company that operates the SEZ a "transnational criminal organisation" and placed sanctions on its chairman, Zhao Wei. He denied the accusations, calling the move "unilateral, extraterritorial, unreasonable and hegemonic". Many South-East Asians might say something similar about the way the region's SEZs are run.

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## ELECTRIC VEHICLES

## Car stock racing

Tesla is proving itself as a carmaker

**Tesla's market capitalisation surpassed \$100bn in January and is now only exceeded by one other carmaker, Toyota. It is worth more than Germany's Volkswagen, which made more than 10m cars last year**

Earlier in the month Tesla also revealed delivery numbers that pleased analysts and seemed to show that the firm has put behind it what Mr Musk had called "production hell" around the Model 3, its first mass-market car.

Profits and production are not the only reasons Tesla is joining the automotive mainstream. New products and plants are also on track. Its Cybertruck, an angular pick-up straight out of a 1980s sci-fi flick, which Mr Musk unveiled in November, is set to hit roads in 2021. This year Tesla will launch the Model Y, a smaller SUV, and the Roadster, a pricey sports car. It has just started making Model 3s at a new "Gigafactory" in China, showing that it could react far more swiftly than leaden-wheeled competitors; it got the plant in Shanghai up and running in 11

months. It is set to break ground on another in Germany.

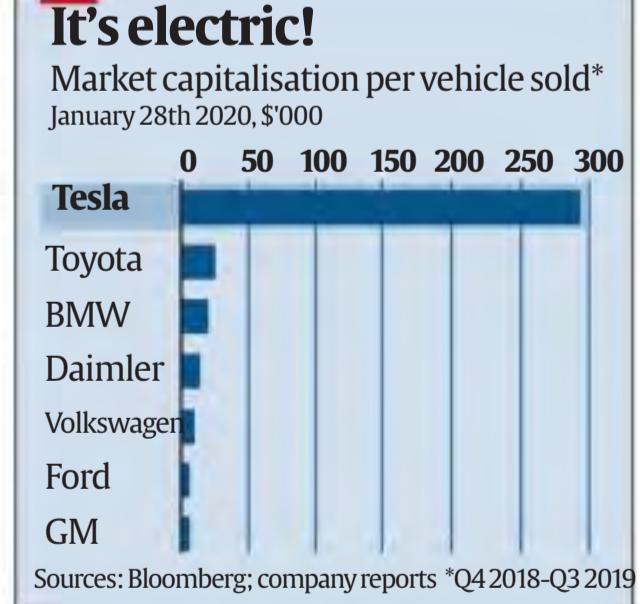
If all goes to plan, reckons Morgan Stanley, a bank, Tesla will be making 2m vehicles a year by 2030 and its operating margin over

the next decade will average 8.3%. That would put it close to the current output and profitability of both BMW and Daimler (at least before their margins began to be squeezed by heavy investment in electrification, both to catch up with Tesla and to meet European emissions rules).

But then why is Tesla worth twice as much? For one thing, its electric-car technology leaves rivals in the dust. It is also unen-



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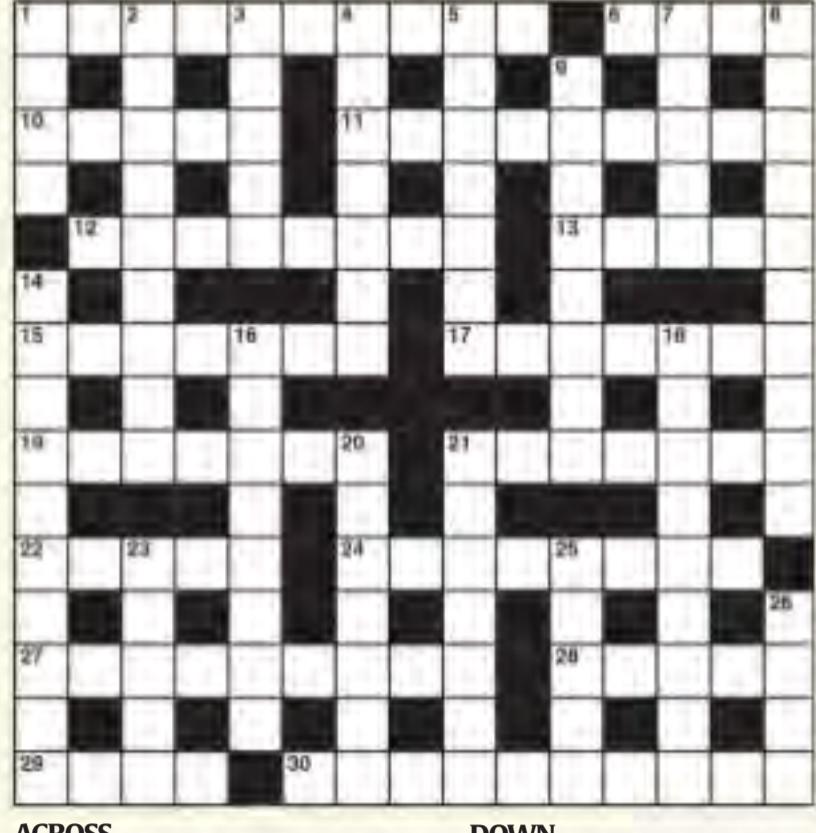


cumbered by the legacy of a business based on internal combustion engines, which, reckons UBS, another bank, could make it the world's most profitable carmaker. Jefferies, one more bank, points out that a stronger balance-sheet (should it in fact strengthen) would allow Tesla to start thinking beyond merely making cars. It speculates that the firm may confirm it is working on a project to develop a "million mile" battery, which will set a new standard for energy density and lifespan.

Its ambitious expansion nevertheless faces many challenges of the car industry: spiralling labour costs, warranty issues, cut-throat competition as rivals (including getting Chinese ones) close the technology gap. For the time being, Tesla may bask in a Big Tech valuation, predicated on its disruption of carmaking. Investors appear keenest than ever to condone its joyride. But if recurring profits do not materialise, expect them to confiscate the keys.

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## CROSSWORD 4035



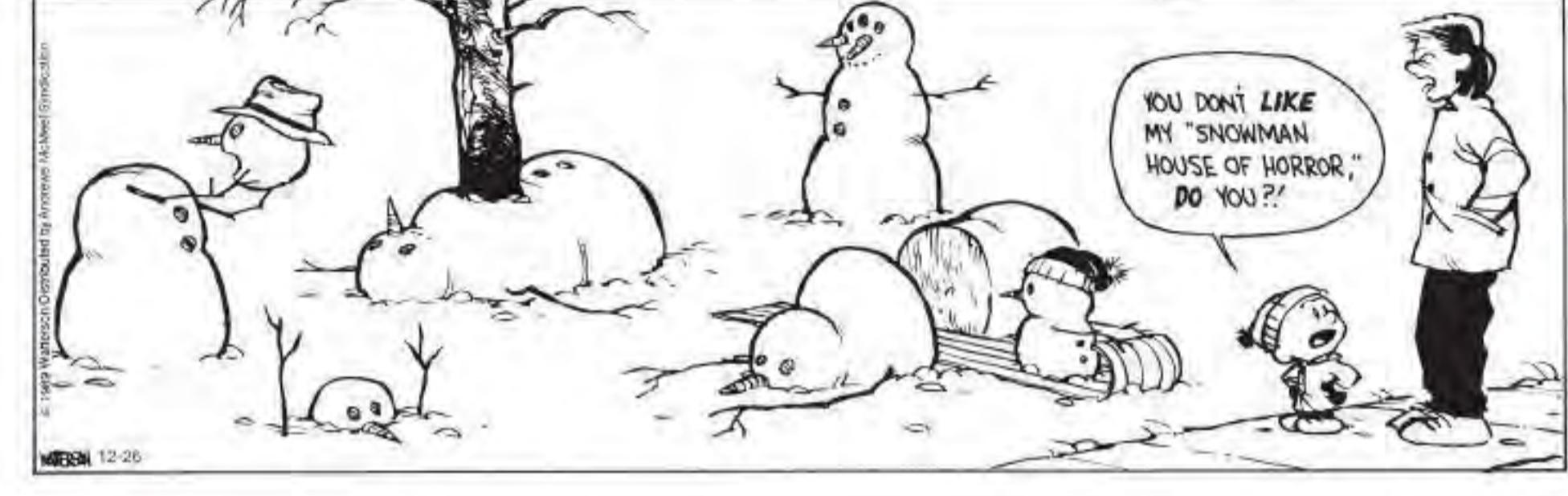
- ACROSS**
- An occasion for displaying one's bloomers (6,4)
  - Stud manager (4)
  - It's usual to leave things in them (5)
  - It's up to a cafe to provide hot drink (1,3,2,3)
  - He'd put in a variety of clues in the timetable (8)
  - Want, we hear, to work as a masseur (5)
  - Girls and men said to be different (7)
  - He sweats he's a soldier (7)
  - Not pictured as sheathed (7)
  - New role man organised as a charity worker (7)
  - Goodbye to a Frenchman (5)
  - Dog raves after fruit (8)
  - Sid cheats perhaps and is punished (9)
  - Victor loses his head going round the bull (5)
  - Dispose of an outbuilding (4)
  - Stream of notes composed by Handel? (5,5)
- DOWN**
- Bird with a notably loud hoot (4)
  - He won't grow into an uncle (4,5)
  - Follow directions and prosecute (5)
  - Figures in U.S. taste, perhaps (7)
  - Being wealthy put Noel in an awkward position (7)
  - Way-out version of true love (5)
  - They're not good reporters (10)
  - Devourer of knowledge (8)
  - They call for patient driving (10)
  - It's clear the girl has a cute wiggle (8)
  - They are a sorry lot (9)
  - A coin is newly minted in Cyprus (7)
  - Shorten a river crossing? (7)
  - Silly Annie gets confused (5)
  - It's self-evident a team gets the doctor back (5)
  - If there's a man around, he's from the U.S. (4)

**Solutions Crossword 4034:** Across: 1 Diagram, 5 Simon, 8 Incubator, 9 Rid, 10 Draw, 12 Log books, 14 Hard up, 15 Defers, 17 Claptrap, 18 Isle, 21 oft, 22 Instances, 24 Steps, 25 Tapered. Down: 1 Fried, 2 Arc, 3 Ribs, 4 Motion, 5 Scrubbed, 6 Marmosets, 7 Nudists, 11 Air battle, 13 Sustains, 14 Hectors, 16 Bassett, 19 Eased, 20 Wasp, 23 Car.

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry &amp; I Lewis



## CALVIN &amp; HOBBES 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.

Quiz: Not seasonable to call a man traitor, that has an army at his heels.

Answers: ENEMA WORDS MASSEI SHAWY SOLUTION: ENEMA WORDS MASSEI SHAWY

EFSYLM

AASSHY



## SUDOKU 4113

## Difficulty Level 4s

## 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; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

## SOLUTION SUDOKU 4112



**LUCKNOW MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
T.N. MARG, LALBAGH, LUCKNOW Ph/Fax - 0522-2612639  
e-mail: mnko@up.nic.in www : https://lmc.up.nic.in

No. 1157/GM/P/LSLC/19/20 Date: 06/02/2020

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR "SELECTION OF AGENCIES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PINK TOILET AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN LUCKNOW"

Lucknow Municipal Corporation invites online Request for Proposals from reputed firms having experience in similar nature of jobs for "Development of Pink Toilet at Various Locations in Lucknow". Tender document with all other details can be downloaded from www.etender.up.nic.in from 07.02.2020 at 10.00 Hrs. to 25.02.2020 (15:00 Hrs). Pre-bid Meeting will be held on 12.02.2020 (12:00 Hrs.) in at ICC building, Lalbagh Lucknow. The last date for submission of bids is 25.02.2020 till 15:00 Hrs. Technical Bids will be opened on 25.02.2020 at 16:00 Hrs.

For all further corrigendum/addendums in this regard, please regularly visit www.etender.up.nic.in

## PROJECT MANAGER

Letter No.: 146-Med/C/Cleaning/Nallah/NB/19 Dated - 25.01.2020

E-TENDER NOTICE

The Divisional Railway Manager (Medical), Northern Railway, Moradabad for & behalf of President of India, invites sealed open E-Tender on the Prescribed form for the under noted work:

N.I.T. No. 146-Med/C/Cleaning/Nallah/NB/19 Dated - 25.01.2020

Name of work Cleaning and de-silting of Nallah in Najibabad Railway area on A.M.C. basis for three years.

Approximate cost Rs. 4,96,440.72 Paise for Three years. (Including EPF, ESI & GST)

Earnest Money Rs. 9,900/- Online.

Completion period Three years

Date & Time of opening of tender E-Tender shall be opened on Dt. 18.02.2020 at 12:30 hrs. If date of opening happens to be a holiday the tender shall be opened on the same time on next working day.

Indian Railway Website Additional relevant information may be checked on the Indian Railway Website : [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Cost of E-Tender Document Rs. 1000/- Online

406/20 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER HASDEO GANGA BASIN WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT AMBIKAPUR (C.G.) e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**

eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

(1st Call )

System Tender No.: 60466/NIT No.: 04/SAC/2019-20, Dated : 01.02.2020

Online Tenders are Invited for the following works up to 22.02.2020 at 17:30 Hour

Name of Work : CONSTRUCTION OF EARTHEN BUND FROM RD. 00 TO 240 M. & 420 M. TO 720 M. WITH 2 NO. HEAD SLUICE, OF LOCHALI TANK SCHEME.

Probable Amount of Contract : Rs. 328.18 Lakhs

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 07.02.2020, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards.

NOTE :- All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Sd/-

(Uma Shankar Ram)

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

Water Resources Division No.2

RAMANUJGANJ

DISTT. BALLAMPUR- RAMANUJGANJ (C.G.)

For, Chief Engineer

Hasdeo Ganga Basin, W.R. Deptt. Ambikapur, Sarguja (C.G.)

76558

## Office of the Project Director Project Implementation Unit

## JICA Assisted Guwahati Water Supply Project

2nd Floor, Saikia Commercial Complex, Christian Basti Guwahati-781005, Assam, India

Tele-Fax: +91-361-2340132; e-mail: md.gj@nic.in

website: [www.gmdwsb.assam.gov.in](http://www.gmdwsb.assam.gov.in)

IFB No.: GWSP/LCB/C-05E, 06A, 07A & 7B/2019-20/480 Date: 05-02-2020

## Invitation for Bids under

## Local Competitive Bidding- II Call

JICA Loan No. and Title: ID P-201 Guwahati Water Supply Project.

Government of India has received loan from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) towards the cost of Guwahati Water Supply Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for Procurement of Works (Item rate) for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of MS & HDPE Pipes and Installation & Commissioning of the Employer furnished DI Pipes for the balance works under the Distribution Network in South Central Zone. Accordingly, Project Director, Project Implementation Unit [PIU] JICA Assisted Guwahati Water Supply Project, Guwahati invites sealed Bids for construction and completion of the works. The details of the Bid and the Bid Documents are available in the official website – [www.gmdwsb.assam.gov.in](http://www.gmdwsb.assam.gov.in). Time duration for obtaining the Bid Documents from the Employers or downloading from the designated website is from 04-02-2020 to 15-03-2020.

Sd/- Project Director  
PIU, JICA assisted GWSP

## OFFICE OF MISSION DIRECTOR, NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION, UTTARAKHAND

(Uttarakhand Health & Family Welfare Society, Deptt. of MH&FW, Govt. of Uttarakhand) Danda Lakhond, Sahasradhara Road, Dehradun - 248001

Email: [mnhmuk@gmail.com](mailto:mnhmuk@gmail.com); Phone - 0135-2608646

Letter No.: 2896 /HR/INHMUK/2019-20/43 TENDER NOTICE

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING PROCESS

1. Purpose of RFP

2. Tender No. and Date of Issue

3. Earnest Money Deposit

4. Tender Fee

5. Pre Bid Meeting

6. Last Date for Submission

7. Bid Validity

8. Address for Submission of bid

9. Date of Opening of Technical bid

10. Date of Opening of Financial bid

11. Date and Time of availability of tender documents (RFP) on

On 07/02/2020 by 04:00PM

12. Contact for any queries

mnhmuk@gmail.com

All related corrigendum / addendum will be uploaded on website [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in).

Note- Original DD of EMD and Tender fee to be submitted by Post / hand on or before last date of submission.

Sd/- Mission Director  
National Health Mission

Letter No.: 2896 /HR/INHMUK/2019-20/43 TENDER NOTICE

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National Health Mission

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On 07/02/2020 by 04:00PM

12. Contact for any queries

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## AROUND TOWN



## In the Spirit

THE SIKH Research Institute, US, in collaboration with the National Museum, has organised an exhibition, titled 'Guru Nanak Sahib 1-Ness to 1-Identity', retelling the story of the first Sikh guru. It presents his message of oneness through panel discussions, music sessions, poetry and guided tours. Till February 9, at National Museum, Janpath.



## Flavour Full

THE UNPLUGGED Courtyard – with an alfresco setting in the middle of Gurgaon's Udyog Vihar – has launched a new menu, including dishes such as Pulled Chicken Bao, Konjee Lamb Taco, and Kasundi Paneer Tikka. At Phase II, Udyog Vihar, Gurgaon. Meal for two: Rs 1,500.



## Three's Crowd

PULITZER PRIZE-WINNER Edward Albee's play *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?* follows Martin, an architect who despite having a loving wife and son, ends up having a love affair. Theatre group Alchemy will perform at Akshara Theatre, 11-B, Baba Kharak Singh Road, on February 9, at 5 pm and 7 pm. Tickets on Bookmyshow.



## Spring is Here

MEHFIL-E-BASANT is an evening of music and poetry that celebrates spring with musical compositions by the Nizami Brothers in traditional khanqahi style. At Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, on February 8, 7 pm onwards. Tickets available on Bookmyshow.

## Memory Games

FAIRY-TALE WRITER Jorge Luis Borges's short story on a boy who has a talent of remembering everything is being brought to the stage by Kaivalya Plays. *Funes The Memorious* will be staged at Instituto Cervantes, 48 Hanuman Road, February 7-9, 7 pm onwards. Entry is free.



*Shikara* gives a platform to the stories of suffering that Kashmiri Pandits faced; Vidhu Vinod Chopra (below)

# 'The film is about my home and how we lost that'

Writer-director Vidhu Vinod Chopra on the film *Shikara*, his connect with Kashmir, the Pandit exodus and why the only solution to hate is love

## ALAKA SAHANI

You have been working on a movie on Kashmiri Pandits for 12 years. Why did you take so long to make *Shikara*?

I started work on *Shikara* after the demise of my mother (Shanti Devi Chopra) in 2007. It's a tribute to her. The Kashmiri Pandit exodus is a known issue but the complexities and the events that led it are not known. This movie required significant research so that we could tell an engaging story, which helps in bringing this conversation to the fore. This was perhaps my most challenging work as I had to remain dispassionate to depict the truth and yet make a compelling argument that the only solution to hate is love and that is at the centre of my movie. The love between Shiv Kumar Dhar (played by Adil Khan) and Shanti Dhar (Sadia) forces us to think beyond hate. The shooting was done mostly in Kashmir, which was under heavy security. The writing also took time as I had to sift through tons of documentation and video footage to bring reality to celluloid.

To what extent did your mother's memory of Kashmir and her life influence you?

In 1989, my mother came to Bombay for the premiere of my film *Parinda*, but couldn't go back to Kashmir. *Shikara* is about her home, my home and how we lost that home. So, it's a deeply personal story. Despite all that, she only had love for the people, the valley, our home, and that love truly overpowered every other emotion – be it disappointment, anger or loss. That's why I made this movie. The other important aspect is that people across the world need to know

what led to the Pandit exodus. The aim was to give their suffering and sheer neglect, a platform.

How much do you borrow from your personal life, family and friends, for *Shikara*?

I have lived in and experienced a heaven on earth called Kashmir. I was born and raised in the valley. I saw the political and ideological shift first hand. I could sense the scenarios changing but never ever imagined that it would lead to driving out of an entire community. The pain cannot be explained when people had to leave everything and run for their lives within minutes. Friends turned foes overnight. Fundamentalism overpowered people's connection and love for each other. External forces drove the agenda and brought death and destruction in the valley. I have lived through the pain. Hence, most of what you will see in the movie are my personal experiences told through the eyes of Shanti the character, and also Shanti my mother. I also had Rahul Pandita, whose book *Our Moon Has Blood Clots* (Penguin, 2013), is a narration of the horror of the exodus and documentation of several stories. Screenwriter Abhijit Joshi also worked with me.

You showed the film to Kashmiri Pandits. How do they look back at the events of 1990s?

The film screenings have left them speechless. I could see emotions of anger, betrayal, nostalgia and pain of leaving their beloved Kashmir but they were hopeful that this movie will tell their story, of grit and determination and love, and that things will resolve. The movie shows

how we should engage in *samvad* (discussion) and not *vivad* (disagreement).

Do you see things changing after the abrogation of Article 370? Do you see any real prospect of Kashmiri Pandits returning to their native land?

For 70 years, we had Article 370. It did nothing good for the people, the economy and their overall well-being. Now, the current government has shown courage and removed Article 370 to bring these regions into the mainstream. Let us see what it does. I want to see Kashmiri Pandit's return with dignity and pride to their homeland and their status restored.

Do you think that the state administration and subsequent governments – both at the state and centre – have failed Kashmiri Pandits?

It deeply saddens me and leaves me angry that successive governments, media, civil society, and intellectuals have turned a blind eye to the Kashmiri Pandit issue. The insurgency and our inability to handle the internal conflict within Kashmir, kept the focus on Kashmir as a troubled state. So, the question of their return was lost in discussion. Had the Kashmiri Pandits returned, the region would have been better, more peaceful, and economically powerful because local people want communities to come together.

You have shot with real refugees. How do they look back at their displacement? Are they still yearning to go back home?

Yes, I shot with real Kashmiri Pandit refugees for *Shikara* because I wanted the film to look real. If I was to cast artistes from Mumbai to play the refugees, the film would lose its authenticity. It was incredibly generous of the inhabitants of Jagti refugee camp and all the other camps, to agree to be part of this film. They spent days and nights in difficult conditions. They were more driven than me. They look at this movie with renewed hope that finally someone will hear their plight and pave a path for their return. They want to be home.

For full interview, visit  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## TALK CHECKS OUT

## Shine Like a Diamond

Tiffany & Co. opens its first India store in New Delhi

## EKTA MALIK

THE CAVERNOUS space of 2,600 sq ft that houses the first-ever Tiffany & Co. in India has been besieged by a strange request ever since they opened their doors last week – 'Do you serve breakfast?'. The question is a nod to the iconic 1961 film *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, starring Audrey Hepburn. But fortunately the questions veer towards jewellery as well.

Tiffany & Co. is at Chanakya Mall, the luxury destination of New Delhi, with brands like Chanel as prominent neighbours. The store displays its premier jewellery collections in a sedate, minimal ambience. Colours of grey slate, beige and a distinct amazonite dominate the space. The absence of heavy



Interiors of Tiffany & Co.

velvet pouffes – the signature of most Indian jewellery stores – is very welcome.

On display is the signature Tiffany Tea

Collection, where turquoise is embedded in gold and sterling silver, along with black onyx to make dainty pendants, highly detailed bracelets and rings. The other collections include the Tiffany T collection, which use the letter 'T' to an interesting effect. While the Atlas collection is a nod to the Roman god who bears the burden of the earth on his shoulders, there is the Paper Flower collection which uses a dainty three-pronged flower as a leitmotif.

We see the 3-carat, six-pronged solitaire, with a separate window dedicated to it, and the cat-eyed sunglasses and their ilk, too have a display space to themselves. For those who think that Tiffany is out of their budget, there is good news. A bracelet can be found upwards of Rs 11,000, while the six-pronged solitaire starts at Rs 1.5 lakh.

The store owes its origins to Charles Lewis Tiffany in 1837, when it began in Brooklyn, New York. Since then the franchise has grown to 321 stores globally. In 2019, Louis Vuitton, the French luxury fashion house had bought Tiffany & Co. for 16.2 billion US dollars. For its India presence, it has tied up with Reliance Brands Limited.

## THE GOLDEN HOUR

A new television series on late Hollywood icon Marilyn Monroe chronicling the final months before her death in 1962 is underway. Titled *The Last Days Of Marilyn Monroe*, it is based on Keith Badman's non-fiction book *The Final Years of Marilyn Monroe*.

## dally invited



Saraswati Rajagopalan

ON WEDNESDAY evening as saraswati veena player Saraswati Rajagopalan strummed the first notes of an *alaap* in raag Charukeshi – the late afternoon/evening raga – amid the serene setting of Hazrat Inayat Khan Dargah, in the Nizamuddin dargah complex, the significance of it wasn't lost on those who attended the concert. Rajagopalan's performance was an ode to the 93rd Urs celebration of Khan and was preceded by rudra veena player Bahauddin Dagar. It was followed by Kirana gharana vocalist Ut Mashkoor Ali Khan.

through music," she said. After the meditative *alaap* and *taanam* (*jod*) in Charukeshi, Rajagopalan played a Tyagaraja composition, followed by a joyous thillana in raag Basant Bahar. The backdrop to the music was stark white wall with only a star crescent – the symbol for Islam – as the median.

Rajagopalan, who grew up in Mumbai and is Delhi based, plays the relatively unobtrusive and restrained Tanjore style while playing her Saraswati veena, the tone of which is full yet has a metallic timbre to it. She trained in Mumbai under the tutelage of KS Narayanawamy and had a strict taskmaster of a mother who made sure that her *riyaz* was in place. She joined All India Radio's famous band Vadya Vrinda in 1987 and worked with composer Anil Biswas and many others. Vadya Vrinda was Pt Ravi Shankar's brainchild and as a part of it Rajagopalan was performing in temples. So from that point of view, performing in a dargah is special," said Rajagopalan, who, in the past too, has paid her musical tributes to Khan. "No one has ever felt a divide here between Hindus, Muslims, and Christians. It's a place where people get united

## Veena's Voice

Saraswati Rajagopalan's veena recital in Delhi's Hazrat Inayat Khan Dargah was an ode to the Sufi saint

## SUANSHU KHURANA

ON WEDNESDAY evening as saraswati veena player Saraswati Rajagopalan strummed the first notes of an *alaap* in raag Charukeshi – the late afternoon/evening raga – amid the serene setting of Hazrat Inayat Khan Dargah, in the Nizamuddin dargah complex, the significance of it wasn't lost on those who attended the concert. Rajagopalan's performance was an ode to the 93rd Urs celebration of Khan and was preceded by rudra veena player Bahauddin Dagar. It was followed by Kirana gharana vocalist Ut Mashkoor Ali Khan.

Inayat Khan, a Hindustani classical vocalist, found the Sufi order in the West in 1914, and was given the title of Tansen by the Nizam of Hyderabad. Every year, on February 5, musicians come together to celebrate him. "As a Carnatic classical musician I am used to performing in temples. So from that point of view, performing in a dargah is special," said Rajagopalan, who, in the past too, has paid her musical tributes to Khan. "No one has ever felt a divide here between Hindus, Muslims, and Christians. It's a place where people get united

Pakistan bank on good old formula, their fast bowlers

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
RAWALPINDI, FEBRUARY 6

**SKIPPER AZHAR** Ali hopes Pakistan will strengthen their credentials -- both as a team and as hosts -- when they face a depleted Bangladesh side in the first Test in Rawalpindi starting Friday. The match will further Pakistan's efforts to host Test cricket, which returned to the country just two months ago after a 10-year gap with a series against Sri Lanka.

International cricket was suspended in Pakistan after a militant attack on the Sri Lankan team bus in Lahore in March 2009, forcing them to play home fixtures in the United Arab Emirates. With improved security, Pakistan hosted limited-overs internationals between 2015-19 before security confidence improved. Bangladesh, initially reluctant to make a lengthy stay in Pakistan, only agreed to tour in three phases, having played Twenty20s last month. After this Test they head home, before returning to play a one-day international (April 3) and second Test (April 5-9) -- both in Karachi.

Azhar said the split series will give Pakistan further opportunity to establish itself as a Test host nation. "Credit to the two Boards for making this series possible," Azhar told reporters. "Would have been good if the series was not split but we are focused as this is a World Test Championship match."

Pakistan are currently fourth in the championship, which features the top nine Test nations and is currently led by world number one India (360 points) followed by Australia (296) and England (146). The top two teams will play the final in June 2021.

"Hosting matches in Pakistan will send a strong message that we are a safe country," said Azhar.

Bangladesh will be without Shakib Al Hasan, who is banned for one year in a spot-fixing case, and Mushfiqur Rahim, who opted not to tour Pakistan over security fears. Bangladesh skipper Mominul Haque admitted Rahim will be missed.

"It's difficult to play without your best players, but it gives an opportunity to younger players and we look forward to playing good cricket," said Haque, who lost his first series as skipper in India 2-0 last year.

Also hurting Bangladesh will be the fact they have not won any of 10 Tests against Pakistan (nine defeats with one draw), and lost all five Tests they played last year.

Seasoned opener Tamim Iqbal -- fresh from a triple hundred in a domestic match in Bangladesh -- along with Haque and Mahmudullah will be Bangladesh's main hopes against a strong Pakistan bowling attack which includes sensational 16-year-old pacer Naseem Shah.

Pakistani opener Abid Ali, meanwhile, will target another hundred in this Test to equal Indian maestro Mohammad Azharuddin's record of three consecutive centuries in his first three Tests. Azharuddin achieved the feat against England in 1984-85 in his first three Tests. Pakistan's confidence is boosted by Bangladesh appearing vulnerable without Mushfiqur Rahim and Shakib Al Hasan for the first test starting on Friday. Mushfiqur withdrew from the test because of security concerns, while allrounder Shakib is suspended.

Pakistan captain Azhar Ali said on Thursday they must reap the advantage of the semifinals of the Youth World Cup. Besides, all Bangladesh sides travelled the world with their blinking-in-big-moments reputation. Time and time again, they've lost high-pressure games because they couldn't handle the accompanying pressure, not for want of skills. His senior counterparts Mushfiqur Rahim himself would testify. But Joy ensured

TO PLAY INDIA IN UNDER-19 WC FINAL ON SUNDAY

# Bangladesh's pride and Joy

No.3 Mahmudul Joy scores a mature century to help team beat New Zealand and enter maiden ICC final



Bangladesh players celebrate their six-wicket win in the semifinal against New Zealand at the Under-19 World Cup in Potchefstroom. ICC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
FEBRUARY 6

**IN BANGLADESH'S** domestic youth circuit, Mahmudul Hasan Joy is renowned for pulling off the big games. For, he could go anonymous in those games his team is comfortably winning, but the slightest hint of a crisis, Joy emphatically announces his presence. Like he did against New Zealand in the U-19 World Cup semifinal, where his 100 off 127 balls guided Bangladesh to their maiden appearance in any ICC tournament.

Typically, he was enduring a lean patch in the tournament. In five innings before the semifinal, he tallied only 76 runs, including two ducks. But coach Naweed Nawad knew his ward quite well. So in the pre-match press conference, he defended him: "He's a class player. We need to back him. I'm sure he will get the runs when it matters the most for us."

His conviction was based on strong evidence. Last year, he scored a second-innings hundred on a wearing fourth-day surface against England U19 to fashion a series-sealing win. Bangladesh were chasing 333 and kept losing wickets in a heap, but Joy kept his cool as Bangladesh sneaked in by three wickets. A few months before that, Krira Shikkha Protishitan (the equivalent of National Cricket Academy) product racked up 126 in a deciding youth ODI against New Zealand U19s.

The context, this time around, was bigger. Bangladesh had never gone beyond the semifinals of the Youth World Cup. Besides, all Bangladesh sides travelled the world with their blinking-in-big-moments reputation. Time and time again, they've lost high-pressure games because they couldn't handle the accompanying pressure, not for want of skills. His senior counterparts Mushfiqur Rahim himself would testify. But Joy ensured



Mahmudul Hasan Joy was the glue that held the Bangladesh innings together. ICC

that the enormity of the situation didn't overwhelm him. He went about the chase, as if he's playing a club game in Dhaka. It seemed history repeating when Bangladesh lost two quick wickets in their chase of 212. But Joy soaked the pressure. He kept his aggressive streak on hold and staved off the new-ball threat.

## Risk-free batting

He meticulously left anything outside the off-stump, and waited for the full balls. An instinctive cutter off the ball, he didn't attempt the stroke until he progressed into his 30s. A firm straight-driven four and a flurry of singles kept him going initially. Only when New Zealand resorted to leg-spinner Aditya Ashok that he started searching for the boundaries. Even then, he was looking to execute risk-free shots, like the sweeps, flicks and glides, per-

fectly placed with lots of power and precision.

The combination of power and precision was the standout feature of his game. It's a rare mix for Bangladesh batsmen, who are either power-players or touch players. Seldom both.

Joy blended both the worlds. He would unfurl silken drives -- there was a gorgeous cover-drive off medium-pacer David Hancock later in the innings -- as well as the powerful cuts, a bit like Mushfiqur in his penchant cut in front of square.

Like most Bangladesh batsmen, he was ruthless on spinners. Ashok and Jesse Tashoff fully bore on the brunt (they conceded 102 off their 20 overs). Whenever they erred on the shorter or fuller side, he would latch onto it. But at point he seemed in a tearing hurry -- often Bangladesh batsmen convey the impression that they want to wrap

up the innings as early as possible. He would calmly ride the storm, pile on the dot balls (he didn't score off 63 deliveries) without feeling the pressure, and when a loose ball beckoned, he knew the gap and which stroke to play. Invariably, he completed his hundred with a thunderous sweep off Tashoff.

Around his assurance blossomed stroke-makers Towhid Hridoy (40 off 47) and Shahadat Hossain (40 off 51), who kept the run-rate within their grasp. "The way they (Joy and Hridoy) batted was exceptional. They work really hard, and it's commendable. But it was our three spinners who put us in that situation," observed captain Akbar Ali.

Their left-arm spin pair of Rakibul Hasan and Hasan Murad conceded only 69 runs for three wickets in 20 overs. Both, unsurprisingly, have leaked 3.10 and 3.15 runs an over in this campaign. New Zealand batsmen simply didn't have the skill to manoeuvre them, and the pressure just kept mounting on them. Throw off-spinner Shamim Hossain (who is comparatively more expensive at 3.75) into the mix, and Bangladesh have perhaps the thriestiest bowling unit in the World Cup. On them would hinge their dreams of landing the first-ever U-19 World Cup in the frenzied streets of Dhaka.

For that, though, they have to beat India, easily the strongest side in the tournament. But Ali asserts his team is not frazzled by the situation. "We will play it as a normal game. We can't take the pressure of thinking that this is our first final. India is a very good side, and we have to play our 'A' game. We have to do the best in all three departments," he says.

And an even bigger stage awaits Hasan Joy.

**BRIEF SCORES:** New Zealand Under-19: 211 for 8 (Wheeler-Greenall 75, Lidstone 44, Islam 3-45, Shamim 2-31) lost to Bangladesh Under-19: 215 for 4 (Joy 100, Shahadat 40\*) by six wickets

"Indian cricket is at top now because look at the number of matches they are playing at home and they are also getting better on overseas tours. In comparison Pakistan hardly plays regular Test series."

MUSHTAQ MUHAMMAD, FORMER PAK SKIPPER

Pitch under scrutiny after 2-day finish in Patiala

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY  
KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 6

The BCCI has asked for an explanation from its neutral curator on the Patiala pitch that hosted the Ranji Trophy match between Punjab and Andhra. Ishtyaque Khan was the neutral curator at the venue from the BCCI's Emerging Panel, while Talwinder Singh was the local curator. As per the BCCI rules, neutral curators supervise pitch preparations for the Ranji Trophy matches.

The match between Punjab and Andhra, played on February 4 and 5, finished inside two days, with Punjab winning by four wickets. Spinners from both sides accounted for 31 wickets in the game. It is learnt that BCCI general manager (cricket operations) Saba Karim has written to the head of the cricket board's panel of curators Ashish Bhowmick, asking for a report from the neutral curator on the pitch. The BCCI does this when it feels the pitch is not conducive (to good cricket). Apart from the neutral curator, match referee Prakash Bhatt, too, will have to submit a report to the BCCI.

The Patiala District Cricket Association secretary RP Pandove informed that the neutral curator took charge of the ground on January 29. "He came here on 29th. After that our local ground staff/curator worked under his direction," Pandove told The Indian Express. He, however, defended the pitch, saying: "I didn't see any problem with the pitch. Rather, what I felt was that the batsmen tried to play too many shots. Fast bowlers got purchase from the surface as well. Siddarth Kaul took five wickets in the first innings."

With five teams qualifying for the knockouts from the Elite, Group A and B combined, six points against Andhra took Punjab to the fourth position - 24 points from seven matches - with one game remaining. "It's a big issue. It could be seen as an abuse of the points system," a state association office-bearer told this paper.

## Archer out of IPL, Sri Lanka tour

**London:** Fast bowler Jofra Archer was ruled out of England's two-Test tour of Sri Lanka and the Indian Premier League next month because of a right elbow injury. The England and Wales Cricket Board made the announcement on Thursday after a scan revealed a low grade stress fracture.

Archer missed the three recent Tests in South Africa, and came home when he was ruled out of the three Twenty20s next week.

The 24-year-old Archer was one of several of England's Cricket World Cup winners rested from the One-Day International series but he was expected to return alongside Ben Stokes, Jos Buttler and Mark Wood for the three T20s.

After Sri Lanka, Archer was scheduled to feature in the IPL, where he, Buttler, Stokes and Tom Curran are registered with Rajasthan Royals. Archer will begin rehabilitation at home and undergo another scan in four weeks. The ECB hope for him to be available for England's home Test schedule from June, when a three-Test series against the West Indies begins.

PTI

## RANJI ROUND-UP



PARVEZ RASOOL

sit atop the group with 39 points.

**BRIEF SCORES:** J&K 329 & 306 for 9 declared beat Tripura 187 & 119 (MB Mura Singh 58; Parvez Rasool 5/28) by 329 runs. Points: J&K 6, Tripura: 0.

## MP FIGHT BACK VIA ADITYA'S TON

Madhya Pradesh middle-order batsman Aditya Shrivastava struck a fighting unbeaten century to keep Karnataka at bay. Madhya Pradesh were reeling at 123/4, after Karnataka piled 426 in the first innings, before Shrivastava and Venkatesh Iyer combined an unbroken 198 runs. With the match likely to end in a stalemate, both teams will be looking for precious first-innings lead points on the final day.

**Brief Scores (In Shimoga):** Karnataka 426 lead Madhya Pradesh 311/4 (Aditya Shrivastava 109 not out, Venkatesh Iyer 80) by 115 runs.

## DOUBLE HUNDRED FOR ARINDAM

Railways' Arindam Ghosh struck an unbeaten 204 to help Railways post a 545/7 declared in response to Himachal Pradesh's 283. Railways were in a spot of bother, at 88/3, when he walked out to bat. Though he kept losing partners, he kept an end up and guided Railways to a massive total. The 398-ball knock was laden with 11 fours and five sixes.

**Brief Scores (In Delhi):** Himachal Pradesh 283 and 240/0 trail Railways 545 for 7 declared (Arindam Ghosh 204 not out, Karn Sharma 82, Mahesh Rawat 60; AP Vashisth 3/110, MJ Dagar 3/114) by 238 runs.

Jammu and Kashmir all-rounder Parvez Rasool snared 5 for 28 runs to help his side beat Tripura by a massive 329 runs. Set a target of 449, Tripura were bowled out for 119 runs. Rasool had picked 7/45 in the first innings, scoring 56 in the second innings. Jammu and Kashmir now

have 12 points.

## RASOOL'S 12 WRECKS TRIPURA

Tamil Nadu's knockout hopes suffered a crushing blow as Tamil Nadu beat them by an innings and 57 runs. Medium-pacer K Vignesh was the wrecker in chief as he picked five wickets for 52 runs to help Tamil Nadu, who are out of knockout contention, post a face-saving win. Among Baroda's batsmen, only Krunal Pandya and No. 9 Atit Sheth showed some resistance with 74 and 70 respectively.

## Brief Scores (In Vadodara):

Baroda 174 and 259 (Krunal Pandya 74; A Sheth 70; K Vignesh 5-62) lost to Nadu 490/7 declared by an innings and 57 runs. Tamil Nadu: 7 points, Baroda: 0 points.

# Rawat gives Delhi an opening

## VISHAL MENON

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

DELHI WICKETKEEPER Anuj Rawat made his first-class debut in October 2017. In the subsequent two seasons, spanning 18 matches, the team management has shuffled him up and down the order -- from an opener to a lower middle-order batsman. And whenever the incumbent Rishabh Pant returns to the fray, Rawat is included in the team as a batsman. This constant chopping and changing has played a part in his below-par career numbers -- 877 runs at an average of just over 30.

These numbers suggest that the youngster is yet to realise his full potential in this format. On Thursday, he showed what he is capable of when he walked out to bat as an opener. Against Gujarat at the Feroz Shah Kotla, Rawat brought up his second first-class century and gave his team a chance of going for a win. His brilliant counter-attacking knock of 133 was laced with 15 boundaries and two sixes. The circumstances under which he showcased this knock makes it more special. Delhi had conceded a crucial 42-run first-innings lead after Gujarat were bowled out for 335. Support came in the form of Jonty Rhodes' unbeaten 96-ball 44. Together, their 106-run fourth-wicket alliance took them to a fairly comfortable 228/4 at stumps on Day Three -- their overall lead swelling to 186 runs.

However, he admits that playing in the opening slot gives him utmost satisfaction. "That's the slot where I love to bat. It frees me



Anuj Rawat made 133 off 194 balls against Gujarat. Amit Mehra

from the pressures of batting down the order," he quips.

In this season, he has featured in seven matches. But it's an opener that he's orchestrated highly impactful knocks. Before Thursday, he produced a well-compiled 87 in the opening fixture against Kerala. That match may have meandered into a draw but Rawat's was a standout innings. Rawat's all-round efforts are highly commendable. He led his team's charge on Thursday after keeping for over 86 overs, and then batted for 63 overs. It just shows the kind of stamina the youngster possesses. When asked about his efforts to do well, the 20-year-old had only this to say: "The results are there for everyone to see."

The former India U-19 captain will now be hoping that this innings is a catalyst of change. For that to happen, he would do well to become more consistent. "This is a team of youngsters. Barring Dhruv Shorey and Nitish Rana, the rest of our order is very fluid.

But I would love to bat in one particular slot for a sustained period," he says.

Going forward, Rawat would like to become a lot more consistent in this format -- something that could earn him call-ups to India A tours in the future. The good news is that even Rahul Dravid, the National Cricket Academy director has earmarked him as the player for the future. On Thursday, he may have survived two dropped catches early in his innings. But there's little denying that it was an innings that has given Delhi hope of going for a win on the final day. "We will assess the conditions in the morning. The truth is that we don't have a target in our minds. The morning session tomorrow will be crucial," he says.

Rawat is not off the mark. With the winter in full bloom, pacers from both teams have held sway in these three days' play. On Day 1, Gujarat's bowlers picked up three wickets in the opening session. The second day accounted for five scalps, while the third day saw as many as six wickets. Such was the scenario that even Rana bowled military medium seam-ups today, and picked up two wickets.

The match is still tantalisingly poised. Delhi's batsmen hold fort in the first session, it will give the home team a realistic chance of going for a win. Rawat, though, remains optimistic. "The wicket is good for batting but it is slightly up and down at times. But yes, bowlers need to bend their backs for getting rewards," he concludes.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Delhi 293 and 228/4 (Anuj Rawat 133, Jonty Rhodes 48) lead Gujarat 335 (Manprit Juneja 124, Dhruv Raval 94) by 186 runs.

BREAKING BARRIERS

# Man from across the fence

A FEW coloured kids are playing cricket with an upturned tomato crate as stumps in the streets of Ravensmead in the Western suburbs of Cape Town. It's the '90s. It's an impoverished suburb; people trapped in a whirlpool of socio-economic problems – from unemployment to drug abuse and gang culture. One of those cricket kids was Vernon Philander.

"That's why I rate the rise of Vernon as a huge achievement. He rose above it all," says his mentor in life and sport Johannes Adams, who has known Philander from the age of 12. "He grew up with a single mom in her parents' home and had the fierce determination and tremendous appetite for hard work to rise above the social ills in his region. It's a phenomenal achievement, really."

The colour of his skin and the socio-economic issues weren't the only obstacles. The South African cricketing system too was a back-breaker. As many as 90 per cent of professional cricketers emerge from traditional and privileged cricket schools. Philander came through the hard grind: playing club cricket with men from the age of 15.

"Not many come through that avenue. Philander, me and just a handful really," says Ashwell Prince, whose own rise in 2000s is an inspirational tome for disadvantaged kids in South Africa. Ahmed Amla, the brother of Hashim, once said, "Prince is the only batsman who came through the transformation phase of apartheid. The rest like Hashim are younger lot who didn't have to face what Prince faced. He is very tough upstairs."

Prince unpacks the cricketing system. "Philander and me are what I call as players from 'across the fence'. Both of us were products of club cricket. In Australia, that is

termed as Grade cricket and is highly respected. Not here. You are training thrice a week, matches on weekends, your cricket growth is accelerated by the presence of adults, sometimes international players too would be there. It's great learning, really. Instead, our system is skewed towards schools. Even if you are playing in a school team, you are 15 and just playing with 17-year olds. The growth in club culture is way better. But because it isn't common, it isn't trusted," Prince says.

RICKY PONTING

FORMER AUSTRALIA CAPTAIN

Prince had played a few international games and was the captain of Cape Cobras when the 19-year old Philander joined the team in the provincial competition. The age difference melted within a few car rides; Prince would drive the teenager to matches.

"We don't believe that anyone is better than you just because they have a lighter skin than you. Whether the other guy is black, Indian, white, or Muslim – or whatever the case maybe – it doesn't matter. It's not about your skin or whether you studied in a traditional cricket school. Vernon and I have got along really well over the years partly because we see many things the same way."

But the first thing about Philander that gobsmacked Prince was his knowledge of the game and the innate confidence. "I had never seen a 19-year old have as much knowledge as Vernon. He would talk about an U-19 tour to Bangladesh and would break down minutely the changes and adaptations needed. What line to bowl in South African conditions, different match scenarios. The game sense."

"And that confidence. Never seen someone until then or after that with so much self-belief. What I told you about the race and stuff, it's not as if we sat down and had chats about it. I knew right away that he was a sorted-out kid. What drove him was the determination to rise above his background, the system and excel. He was a doer. And he knew he was good enough to do it."

Of course, it didn't prove an easy journey. It's one thing to unpack all those issues of gravitas internally, but to fight the system with an in-built prejudice in the real world is different. It took Philander a few years, reserves of patience and fiery bolts of ambition – and a visit to a sports psychologist which stubbed out the thought of quitting cricket and joining the Navy.



Gill Taylor, who works with the Sports Science Institute of South Africa these days, remembers Philander dropping in for a chat. He was in his early 20's, had played a few limited-overs games for South Africa, and had been dumped like a sack. A recall seemed distant. The fire within was burning; he wanted some direction, control over his life.

"He came in because he wasn't sure which direction to go in terms of career path. Should he throw himself completely into cricket or should he start another career. He was conflicted. He wanted structure and not drift around in uncertainty," Taylor remembers. She recalls Philander wondering aloud at one stage whether he should join the Navy. "He felt that would give him the structure. Remember where he came from. If he wasn't moving ahead, it would not just feel as if he was stagnating but actually like a drifter. He certainly didn't want to be one. Navy was one option. We discussed everything and at the end, decided to give cricket some more time. Now that he had clarity about the what else he could do; I think he went back to the game with greater vigour."

Around this time, another significant little moment had happened. The mentor Adams, who was like Philander's shadow

Vernon Philander has overcome socio-economic problems and various prejudices to forge a stellar career. But has his achievements been appreciated enough? SRIRAM VEERA finds out.



and a chief trigger behind the clarity of thought and the personality of Philander that would leave such an indelible impact on Ashwell Prince, had decided to step back a touch. "I remember we had gone to see a doctor for an injury. Early 20s. The perceptive doctor suggested that I should perhaps step back a little. Allow him to grow on his own. That stayed with me. Since I knew his family well, and would pick him at 10 to take him to the club and matches, I had become a constant voice in his head. I thought it would be best if I did step back. Allow him to find his space. He had grown into this beautiful confident young man; I wasn't actually needed anymore," Adams says.

Until his last series against England, Adams was a constant presence at the stadium in Cape Town. Every time Philander would take a wicket, his eyes would look for Adams and he would wave. For every wicket. "What can I say, I am happy and proud. All the years, the effort, the sweat had come through. Philander was where he wanted to be."

To understand Philander's formative years one need to know Adams. A club cricketer, a coach, and above all, an educator in the western suburbs of Cape Town. One of his primary motivations was to unearth success stories from within Ravensmead who can later be role models and show other kids the way to get out of the social mess. It's not just Philander but he also mentored the likes of Alphonso Thomas.

"Role models are very important. I saw the burning desire in the 10-year-old Philander. I knew he didn't want to get trapped there. Some of the kids who played cricket with him have long disappeared. Cricket saved Philander and kept him on the right path. His grandparents are religious and he was close to them. And his mother, a single mom, did everything possible. I don't remember even once where I had to drag him for training; he was always

keen. That emotional support at home was important. They had lots of things on their plate and cricket wasn't necessarily top of their mind but once they realised the game was helping the kid, they entrusted him to me," Adams says. "I was just glad to help a boy rise out of that background with what little I could do – converse, mentor, and just take him around to the cricket. He studied in ordinary schools, and rose above all those challenges. No father figure at home. We needed him to grow, achieve and be a role model. That's why I got so involved with him to do my bit."

Pepper steak pies too helped along the way. A throaty laughter escapes Adams. "The young Philander was in love with them. It didn't matter whether we were coming from training or a match, he would always make me stop and have one.

@amlahash will be allowed to do what he wants?" Next tweet popped out. "(Graeme) Smith did say AB could do whatever he wants to. There must be a tipping point where players become bigger than the nation." When Paul Harris, another former player, intervened to say the discussion should not be carried on social media, Prince replied, "Didn't hear you say that when both Biff (Smith) and Faf hung Vern out to dry in public, did I? Some #proteafire they have going out there."

A year on, Prince says his comments came from the right place. "Whatever I am today is because of South African cricket. From the time I remember opening my eyes as a kid, cricket has been a part of my life. I just want South African cricket to grow. One thing is for sure, Philander will go down as an all-time great in South African cricket. One of the main reasons for us to go up to No.1 in Test ranking. Even 40 years later, he would feature in top bowling averages in the history of the game."



Cue up the Virat Kohli set-up in Cape Town from 2018. Ball after ball, it kept bending away. Mind you, Kohli was already in his 20s, and Philander had returned for his second spell. Kohli looked secure, kept walking across the stumps, reach off peg, and shoulder arms.

What was Philander thinking? Four years before he ran into Kohli, he had revealed his head space in an interview. "Hold, Hold, Hold, then click". For me, it's all about the timing when to strike. I will decide that it's time ... to deliver that one specific ball," he had told Cricinfo.

So, he was now holding at Kohli. The ball kept squirming away. Kohli kept leaving them. Time to click the finger and Kohli was on his walk across when he was startled by the hip-backer that trapped him lbw. "You might have one specific delivery with which you can get a batsman out, you have to produce it at the right time," Philander's mantra.

What made him the most destructive modern-day seamer on pitches that had some help was also perhaps the reason Philander wasn't as effective on other surfaces. The not-extravagant-but-just-enough deviation on spicy tracks would get the ball to collide with the edge or miss the bat to crash into the pad. The flip-side of this hypothesis is self-evident but why did so many top batsmen lose their poise – be late on the ball, cagey and their balance yanked away?

Former Australian opener Chris Rogers has nailed the issue in the past. And so has Ricky Ponting, who has said that Philander was the toughest bowler he ever faced in his career on helpful pitches. But here is Rogers with some clarity.

"With most swing bowlers they tend to angle the seam, so you kind of know which way the ball's going to go. I always found with him, his seam would point directly at you, and you never knew what it was going to do; as a left-hander, was it going to swing back into you? Or was it going to hit the seam and move away? That was his skill. He just does enough both ways. You're almost guessing; sometimes you're just hoping the ball hits the bat," Rogers had told 91.3 Sport FM radio station.

Ponting certainly agreed last year. "He is probably the hardest I faced in world cricket with those type of conditions because you don't get any visual clues with the swinging ball. Most other guys when there's movement, the ball actually swings in the air first and you have some sort of idea of which way the ball is going to go," he told BT Sport. "He doesn't swing the ball at all. It comes out of his hand dead straight. So you sort of end up trying to find and feel... for which way the ball is going to go. We saw a couple of replays today; the release was exactly the same two balls in a row, they landed in almost exactly the same spot, one seamed away and the other one seamed in. He's just a class act when the ball is seaming."

The second-quickest to 50 Test wickets (just 13 innings), sixth quickest to 100 (19 Tests, quicker than Dale Steyn), and finishing with an average of 22.32 at an economy rate of 2.63. Since his debut, no other bowler, who has taken more than 150 wickets, has a better average. In South Africa, he took 146 wickets at 19.08. In England, 23.54, in New Zealand 22.95. On the flip side, just 16 wickets from 10 games in Asia at an average of 38.06 though the economy rate was still great at 2.5. In Australia, in five Tests, he took 16 wickets at 30.12. Is it the average of 35.36 in 16 Tests outside home, England and New Zealand that has led to a general lack of buzz around his farewell, forgotten in South Africa as they didn't turn up for even Jacques Kallis, but in the cricketing world at large?

Not long back, he started a foundation to help his neighbourhood kids and schools and roped in Adams to help. Not just cricket but the foundation has helped kids playing other sports and built infrastructure like libraries and sporting equipment. "The foundation also helps kids who can't afford the money for education. Vernon wants to give back to his society," Adams says.

A boy from 'across the fence', to use Prince's words, has crossed personal and social barriers to reach where he wanted and now wants others to cross over.



Vernon Philander with his mother Bonnie (right), wife Mandy and son Hayden. AP

"Never seen someone until then or after that with so much self-belief. I knew right away that he was a sorted-out kid. What drove him was the determination to rise above his background, the system and excel. He was a doer. And he knew he was good enough to do it."

ASHWELL PRINCE,  
FORMER SOUTH AFRICA TEST  
CRICKETER

## GETTING LUCKY

LAURENCE VINCENT-Lapointe, the 11-time world champion canoeist, was cleared to compete after an anti-doping panel accepted that traces of Ligandrol detected in her samples was because of sex with her boyfriend. The Canadian had failed a dope test just before last year's canoe sprint World Championships. The 25-year-old got off the hook because Ligandrol was found in supplements her former lover was using. Ligandrol is known to increase muscle growth. The International Canoeing Federation accepted evidence provided after her ex-boyfriend's hair was tested.

**PS:** American sprinter Dennis Mitchell tried to connect his high levels of testosterone to having sex four times a day with his wife. The US track and field body believed him but the World Athletics didn't buy the theory.

## HIGH TEA

Peru football captain Paolo Guerrero tested positive for cocaine after a 2018 World Cup qualifier. His argument was that it was a result of drinking coca tea, native to South America, at the visitors' room of the hotel. There was logic in his argument because the leaf of the coca plant is used to derive cocaine, classified as a stimulant under anti-doping rules. A Swiss Supreme Court allowed him to play the World Cup by lifting the 14-month ban temporarily. The Court of Arbitration for Sport didn't buy Guerrero's story.

**PS:** Recreational drugs like cocaine and cannabis are not known to have performance enhancing benefits. The World Anti-Doping Agency may reduce the ban period to just three months from 2021 – down from anywhere between 12 months and four years.

## BLAME THE PIGEONS

Cycling is a sport notorious for doping but

# Sex, lies and a whole lot of bunkum

Recently, a canoeist was given a clean chit after failing a dope test as she could prove that exchange of body fluids during sex was the reason for contamination. Over the years, sportspersons have come up with bizarre explanations to convince hearing panels that they ingested the drug unintentionally.

this excuse took the cake. In 1983, Dutch cyclist Adri van der Poel tested positive for Strychnine, listed as a banned stimulant. Strychnine is found in rat poison but when taken in micro doses it can help delay the onset of leg cramps. Van der Poel came up with an amusing reason for his positive test – consuming pigeon pie. His father-in-law, a race pigeon aficionado, baked the pie using one of the pigeons. Van der Poel, argued that this particular pigeon had been doped. He returned to compete when his ban ended.

**PS:** Petr Korda, the 1998 Australia Open winner tested positive for nandrolone and blamed it on eating veal. He would have had to eat 40 animals (pumped with steroids for fattening) a day to reach the levels in his body, experts concluded.

## WHERE THERE IS A WILLY

American LaShawn Merritt, the 2008 Olympics 400m champion, failed three separate drug tests between 2009 and 2010. Merritt admitted to using a penis enhancement product which contained the banned substance dehydroepiandrosterone, a banned steroid. Merritt pleaded that he used the product during a time when he wasn't competing or training. "I hope my sponsors, family, friends and the sport itself will forgive me for making such a foolish, immature and egotistical mistake," he later said. "Any penalty that I may receive for my action will not overshadow the embarrassment and humiliation that I feel inside." He was banned for two years. He returned to competition



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

and won the gold at the 2015 World Championships and bronze at the Rio Olympics a year later.

## OH DEER

Musk deer glands used in Chinese medicine to treat players who were struck by lightning was the reason North Korean officials gave when five members of the women's football team tested positive for banned steroids at the 2011 Fifa World Cup. The use of animal parts, in this case a gland which can be cut open and the extract used to make medicine, had anti-doping experts concerned about the rise of naturally-occurring substances used by sportspeople. Fifa banned the five players for 18 months and kicked out North Korea from the next World Cup.

**PS:** At the 2010 men's World Cup, experts were concerned about stimulants derived from African medicines. They were not banned but studies showed they could give an unfair advantage and were undetectable.

## KISS AND TELL

French tennis player Richard Gasquet kissed a girl at a nightclub where he had gone to watch a dance music festival after withdrawing from a tournament in Key Biscayne. The girl, according to Gasquet was perhaps a cocaine user. Gasquet had tested positive for cocaine in 2009. He escaped a lengthy ban because of two key factors – the amount of cocaine was so little in his body that if a test was conducted a few hours later

he would have been 'negative'; that the music festival was known to be a hub for recreational drugs also went in Gasquet's favour. The International Tennis Federation had pushed from a two-year ban but was instructed to impose a retroactive ban of just over two months.

## TWIN TROUBLE

When cyclist Tyler Hamilton was caught for blood doping his defence team came up with a novel explanation. He blamed a 'disappearing twin' in his mother's womb, or because of what is called chimerism – person has two sets of DNA – a rare condition that can happen during fetal development when two separate eggs and sperms merge. Those defending the American put forward this theory to explain why the cyclist had two types of blood in his body. Hamilton received a two year suspension in 2004. Six years later, he was called by a testify in the probe against Lance Armstrong. He admitted he had indulged in doping and a year later also implicated Armstrong.

## A CIA PLOT

High jump great Javier Sotomayor tested positive for cocaine at the 1998 Pan-American Games. In Cuba, there was outrage and Granma, the official newspaper of the central committee of the Cuban Communist party, floated a conspiracy theory in which Sotomayor was the victim of a plot of the United States' Central Intelligence Agency. Fidel Castro used his influence to ensure Sotomayor's two-year ban was reduced by half, which allowed him to participate in the 2000 Sydney Olympics. He won a silver to go with the gold he had won at Barcelona in 1992.

**PS:** A year after the Sydney Olympics, Sotomayor – who still holds the world record of 2.45 metres – tested positive for anabolic steroid nandrolone and immediately announced his retirement.

NIHAL KOSHIE

## Mosque on wheels for the faithful in Tokyo

REUTERS  
TOKYO, FEBRUARY 6

FOR THE thousands of Muslim athletes, officials and supporters arriving in Tokyo for the Olympic Games later this year, it may be a struggle for them to find an appropriate place to pray. The answer might just be found roaming the streets of Tokyo on the back of a truck.

By the time the Games start in July, there will be prayer rooms available at the currently under-construction athlete's village. However, some venues may not have a designated space.

There is also a dearth of prayer spaces in hotels and public areas across the Japanese capital. This is where the Mobile Mosque, a fully-equipped 48-square-metre prayer room that opens up on the back of a parked truck, comes in.

The back of the modified truck can be widened in seconds and the vehicle also includes Arabic signage and outdoor water taps for pre-worship cleaning.

The Yasu Project, the organisation behind the enterprise, plan on pitching up outside venues during the Olympics, which run from July 24-Aug. 9. The organisation's CEO Yasuharu Inoue hopes athletes and supporters alike will use the truck.

"I want athletes to compete with their utmost motivation and for the audience to cheer on with their utmost motivation as well. That is why I made this," said Inoue, pointing to the white truck parked next to Tokyo Tower on Wednesday.

"I hope it brings awareness that there are many different people in this world and to promote a non-discriminatory, peaceful Olympics and Paralympics."

Tokyo 2020 said on Wednesday that they were looking at various avenues to provide appropriate facilities for all religious groups.

"The Organising Committee is preparing a list of religious or faiths centres that could be contacted or visited if requested by residents of the Villages during the Games," Tokyo 2020 told Reuters in an email. "In the Games' venues, multi-faith prayer spaces for athletes and spectators are under consideration in venue operations planning."



A Mobile Mosque seen at a parking lot in Tokyo on Thursday. Reuters

## A loss to Soonwoo

Prajnesh suffers defeat to Soonwoo Kwon in second round as Indian singles challenge ends at Pune Open

SHAHID JUDGE  
PUNE, FEBRUARY 6

NOTHING ON a tennis court sounds as sweet as a full-blooded thump off the sweet spot on a racket. The Prajnesh Gunneswaran forehand, on centre court at the Balewadi Tennis Stadium in Pune, often produces such high notes. But it isn't just there for the cosmetic effect – that left-handed punch is one of his biggest weapons.

On Thursday, he relied heavily on it when he took on Soonwoo Kwon in the second round. Running around his weaker backhand many times to unleash another ripping topspin drive, to open up the court or strike a winner. It's not to say that he shies away from his backhand.

Trailing 4-6 in the second set tiebreaker, the first match point he faced, Prajnesh stepped up and played a flat, powerful cross court return. Kwon was on the right side of the court, but the pace at which Prajnesh hammered the shot saw the South Korean get a weak forehand shot back into the net.

At 30, India's highest ranked singles player had developed an aggressive baseline game. He plays all his ground-strokes with power, be it for a percentage shot or an angled effort. And he likes his forehand.

"I believe in my backhand quite a lot but have more options on my forehand. More angles, more spin to open up the court," he says.

While he excels in power, he lacks in variation. On the next point, Kwon's second match point, the South Korean made a smart angled return to Prajnesh's serve, played an inside out forehand deep into Prajnesh's forehand side and glided up to the net. The 22-year-old volleyed once into the opposing corner, stretched to his backhand to volley into Prajnesh's left corner. The Indian hustled, got to the ball, returned, and Kwon still poised at the net, casually guided the ball home for the match, winning it 6-3, 7-6.

It was a contest that lasted an hour and 44 minutes, but it was a lesson for Prajnesh to explore a world beyond a hard-hitting fest.

"He holds the baseline better than I do and he plays fast," the Chennai lad says of the world no 88. "Normally I try to dictate points, but he hits it flat with a lot of power so it becomes harder to win the point. Playing opponents this fast, I need to hold the baseline better. I need to learn how to use the slice to take off the pace, use (the opponent's) speed to time the ball and redirect the return – probably both. So that the next time he's attacking I can use it to my advantage."

Kwon was good in defence, fluid in his movement across the baseline and clever in his approach to the net – that too in his first match at the event as he received a bye by being the fourth seed.

**Kwon was good in defence, fluid in his movement across the baseline, clever in his approach to the net – that too in his first match at the event as he received a bye by being the fourth seed.**

Yannick Maden for his first ever main draw win at the Indian ATP.

"It's good that I'm making progress, winning matches. But I'm still not satisfied," he says. "I have a long way to go. These are the matches that I feel I should win. This is the thing I need to do to stay at this level. But I need to win consistently."

**Six-time champ Paes ousted**

Veteran Indian Leander Paes, a record six-time champion in doubles at the Indian ATP,

lost in the quarterfinal of his last appearance at the Tata Open Maharashtra. Pairing with Australia's Matthew Ebden, the 46-year-old lost out to Indian team of Purav Raja and Ramkumar Ramanathan 6-2, 6-1.

The 18-time Grand Slam champion is next scheduled to play at the Bangalore Challenger next week.

Meanwhile, the Raja-Ramkumar pairing



Prajnesh Gunneswaran went down 6-3, 7-6 to South Korea's Soonwoo Kwon on Thursday. Daniel Stephen

## Lower-ranked players most hurt by calendar rejig due to virus scare

Pune: IN THE aftermath of the coronavirus, several sports events have been affected. And tennis is no exception. After the Asia-Oceania Group 1 Fed Cup event was postponed last week, four ATP Challenger Tour events, that were to be held in China, too have been pushed back or cancelled due to the outbreak of the deadly virus. As a result, the change in schedule has had a harsh impact on the lower ranked players who were set to compete.

"It's a tough situation for everybody because many tournaments have been cancelled with the outbreak of the coronavirus. For now the plan is to stay in Europe and play. I don't know what's going to happen going forward. The Olympics are at stake at the moment if it keeps on going like this. It's a new situation for everybody," says world no 263 Sasikumar Mukund after his first round loss at the Tata Open Maharashtra. "I can't really give a perfect explanation (about where I play next) because I don't have a schedule. Where can I plan next? The tournaments got cancelled last Tuesday. Now we just have to wait and watch."

A last-minute cancellation of an event would cause greater problems to lower-ranked players, as tournaments accept entries based on rankings. As such, a shortage in the supply of tournaments may force lower-ranked players to miss a week's play. But the outbreak of

the coronavirus, which has reportedly claimed nearly 500 lives after breaking out in Wuhan, has caused tennis authorities to take serious steps. The regional Fed Cup tie, which was originally to be hosted in Dongguan, had been shifted out to Nur-Sultan in Kazakhstan before the International Tennis Federation (ITF) decided to postpone the tie. As far as the ATP Challenger tour goes, though, China and the other countries in the Far East have been a favoured destination for Indian players.

Last year, Mukund played seven tournaments in China – including events in Shenzhen and Zhangjiagang which have been cancelled this year – one in Taiwan and three in South Korea. World no 182 Ramkumar Ramanathan played in China three times, twice in South Korea, and one each in Japan and Taiwan. Meanwhile, India's highest ranked player, Prajnesh Gunneswaran played five events in China and one in Taiwan. Placed at 122 in the world, the task of making it to Challenger events around the world would be much easier for Prajnesh. "I was supposed to play Challengers in China, but I am not going because the tournaments are cancelled. But it doesn't really make it more difficult," he says. "There are other tournaments which I will be playing. It is a bit more tricky in the sense that it involves more travelling."

SHAHID JUDGE

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