

DOWNLOAD APP
■ VISUAL STORIES
■ DAILY BRIEFING
■ PODCASTS
■ CUSTOMIZABLE NEWS EXPERIENCE
Indian Express ★★★★ 4.6

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD THE APP

WEB EXCLUSIVE



WHY HAS EPFO CUT INTEREST RATE TO 8.5%? HOW WILL YOU BE IMPACTED?

Labour and Employment Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar said that the reduced interest rate of 8.5 per cent will leave a surplus of Rs 700 crore

VIDEO OF THE DAY



DELHI RIOTS: SHIV VIHAR RESIDENTS RETURN

They take us inside what they once called their home

FULL COVERAGE



CORONAVIRUS INDIA UPDATES MARCH 5

Cases rise to 30; more visa curbs imposed, Govt swings into action

EXPRESS AUDIO

Why the Lokpal work differently for the PM

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In today's episode of the 3 Things podcast, we take a look at the Lokpal rules and understand exactly how they work

FROM PAGE ONE

Delhi toll 53

Sangram Singh at Khajuri Khas police station.

On Wednesday, Hussain had filed an anticipatory bail application and it was to be heard Thursday at the Karkardooma court. However, due to a large gathering of lawyers inside the court room, Hussain offered to surrender before the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate at the Rouse Avenue courts complex.

He showed up with his lawyer Mukesh Kalid and submitted to the ACMM court that there was grave apprehension to his life due to the charged "environment" in the Karkardooma court. He was arrested around 3 pm by the Delhi Police Crime Branch, which is probing the riot-related cases, after his application to surrender was dismissed by the court.

Before his arrest, Hussain told reporters that he had "full faith" in the courts. "I am a victim of the riots. I had to run to save myself and my family. Senior police officers can testify to this. I should not be framed because of a political conspiracy," he said.

Iran Leader

On Thursday, Khamenei, who has been Iran's spiritual leader since 1989, tweeted: "The hearts of Muslims all over the world are grieving over the massacre of Muslims in India. The govt of India should confront extremist Hindus & their parties & stop the massacre of Muslims in order to prevent India's isolation from the world of Islam." He concluded the tweet with a hashtag: #IndianMuslimsInDanger.

On Monday night, Zarif's tweet made Iran the fourth Muslim-majority country to officially react to the riots. A day later, India summoned the Iranian Ambassador in New Delhi, Ali Chegeni, and lodged a "strong protest" against what it called, "unwarranted" remarks by the Minister.

Responding to Zarif's comments, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said that it was conveyed to the Ambassador that "selective and tendentious characterisation of recent events in Delhi are not acceptable".

On Thursday, minutes before Khamenei's tweet, the MEA spokesperson had responded to adverse comments made by UK's Junior Foreign Minister Nigel Adams and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

"We have seen certain comments made on the recent incidents of violence in Delhi. At this stage, we would like to highlight that the situation is fast returning to normal. The law enforcement agencies are on the ground to restore confidence and ensure that law and order is maintained," Kumar said.

The Prime Minister has appealed for peace and brotherhood. Senior officials have visited the place of violence, peace committees have been formed and other steps have been taken in this direction. At this sensitive time, we would urge people not to make any irresponsible comments and not to be influenced by selective and unsubstantiated narrative on the matter," he said.

"As far as comments by the Turkish President are concerned, they are factually inaccurate and are driven by his political agenda. We do not expect such irresponsible statements from a Head of State. On March 3, we made a strong demarche on the matter with the Turkish Ambassador in Delhi," Kumar said.

Coronavirus

The World Health Organisation defines community transmission as the "inability to relate confirmed cases through chains of transmission for a large number of cases, or by increasing

positive tests through sentinel samples (routine systematic testing of respiratory samples from established laboratories)". This means that the virus is now circulating within the community and can affect people with no history of travel to affected areas or contact with an infected person.

In addition to 15 functioning laboratories and 19 more coming up, the government is in talks with the private sector to augment services for coronavirus patients and suspects. Fourteen of 16 Italian tourists who have tested positive are the first patients at a private hospital – in Medanta in Gurgaon. The hospital said they are on an isolated floor.

Announcing additional restrictions, the government said: "In addition to visa restrictions already in place, passengers travelling from/ having visited Italy or Republic of Korea and desirous of entering India will need certificate of having tested negative for COVID-19 from the designated laboratories authorised by the health authorities of these countries. This will be enforced from 0000 Hrs of 10th March, 2020 and is a temporary measure till cases of COVID-19 subside."

Efforts are also on to evacuate Indian students and pilgrims stranded in Iran. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, in a tweet, said: "Update for Indians stranded in Iran and for their families. Our medical team for screening arrives in Iran today. Hope to establish first clinic at Qom by evening. Screening process will start immediately. Working on logistics of return with Iranian authorities."

Besides NIV-Pune, testing of clinical samples has been initiated in 15 laboratories. Another 19 laboratories are being prepared to test samples to ensure adequate geographical spread across the country. "The network is being further expanded," Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said.

The total number of positive cases of COVID-19 are now 30. These include the previous three cases from Kerala, who have now been discharged. In addition, there are three from Delhi and NCR (two with travel history to Italy, and one with travel history to Iran); six contacts of the first Delhi case with travel history to Italy; one from Telangana with history of Dubai travel and Singapore contact; 16 Indians and one driver (Indian) who was with the Italian tourist group," the Health Ministry said in a statement, adding that all patients were stable.

Poultry

posing the risk of contracting COVID-19 infection.

This, despite the Union Animal Husbandry Commissioner Praveen Malik clarifying, in a communication dated February 10, that poultry products have "not been found to be involved in transmission of 2019-nCov (novel coronavirus) to humans so far in any report globally". He added that past outbreaks of coronavirus (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in 2002-03 and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome in 2012-13) or corona-associated common colds "had no involvement of poultry or poultry products worldwide".

That and subsequent circulars – including by Malik's Maharashtra counterpart Sachindra Pratap Singh, who, on February 20, even filed a complaint with the cyber crime cell of Pune police against social media posts linking the COVID-19's spread with chicken meat – have had little impact on the ground, though.

"It is a bloodbath," said Balram Singh Yadav, managing director of Godrej Agrovet Ltd, India's largest compound cattle, poultry and aqua feed manufacturer. The country's total weekly production ("placement") of broilers is roughly 7.5 crore live birds (of 2-2.5 kg weight each) or 30 crore per month. At current realisations of Rs 30-35/kg and production cost of Rs 75-80/kg, the loss comes to Rs 100 per bird or Rs 3,000 crore for a full month.

RBI supersedes Yes Bank board

rium effective from Thursday," the RBI said.

The RBI directed Yes Bank that it should not grant or renew any loan or advance, make any investment, incur any liability or agree to disburse any payment or otherwise enter into any compromise or agreement and transfer or dispose of any of its properties or assets. However, it will be able to pay salaries to its over 20,000 employees, the central bank said.

The financial position of Yes Bank, the fifth largest private bank, has undergone a steady decline largely due to the bank's inability to raise capital to address potential loan losses and downgrades, triggering invocation of bond covenants by investors and withdrawal of depositors, the RBI said.

The RBI said it came to the conclusion that in the absence of a credible revival plan, and in public interest and the interest of the bank's depositors, it had no alternative but to apply to the Central Government for imposing a moratorium under Section 45 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. "Accordingly, the Central government has imposed morato-

rium effective from Thursday," the RBI said.

Earlier, in a last-ditch attempt, there was a proposal suggesting that a consortium of investors led by State Bank of India is likely to pick up a significant stake in Yes Bank to provide much-needed equity support to the troubled lender and to ensure that stability in the financial system is maintained.

As part of the proposal, lenders, led by SBI, were considering subscribing to a preferential share issue to acquire a sizeable stake of around 49 per cent in Yes Bank. There were indications that Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) and some private sector banks could be part of the consortium. However, this proposal didn't work out.

Earlier, in response to a query from stock exchanges on reports of an SBI-led consortium picking up stake, Yes Bank said: "We would like to clarify that as on date, the Bank has not received any such communication from RBI or any other the Government or Regulatory authorities or from the SBI and we are unaware of any such decision."

SBI, in a late evening disclosure to the stock exchanges, said it discussed the Yes Bank proposal in its board meeting and that "an in-principle approval has been given by the Board to explore investment opportunity in the Bank."

Yes Bank has been passing

through a turbulent period ever

since RBI, in August 2018, asked

the then MD and chief executive and co-founder Rana Kapoor to leave by January 31,

2019, amid concerns over governance and loan practices. The bank had disclosed higher under-reported stressed assets under Kapoor's successor Ravneet Gill.

The bank, which was struggling to raise capital since the middle of last year, had initially planned to raise over \$2 billion in the current fiscal. Later, its board rejected a \$1.2-billion investment in the bank by Canadian investor SPGP Group/ Erwin Singh Brach.

The current promoters of Yes Bank – Madhu Kapur, Yes Capital (India) Pvt Ltd and Mags Finvest – hold only 8.33 per cent stake, according to the stock exchange data. Rana Kapoor has sold his entire stake in the bank after his exit as CEO. Besides, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) hold 15.17 per cent stake, state-owned LIC has over 8 per cent and mutual funds own 5.09 per cent.

Mumbai-headquartered Yes Bank was incorporated in 2004. The bank's asset size stood at Rs 3,71,160 crore at the end of June 2019. The bank has 1,120 branches and 1,456 ATMs across the country.

Scare after PMC, hope for revival plan

A senior official in the finance ministry said that the one-month moratorium will help work out a rescue plan, infuse adequate capital and avoid undue panic in the market. "It is a decisive step to protect all stakeholders, especially depositors," he said.

The Yes Bank implosion comes at a time when the RBI has asserted that the worst of the bad loans crisis is over. On Thursday, Yes Bank share prices jumped 27 per cent over reports of capital infusion and takeover by consortium led by the State Bank of India but the RBI's announcement late in the evening came as a surprise to many.

While RBI indicated that Yes Bank has been facing liquidity outflow, it is not clear by how much its deposit base has dwindled since the lender is

yet to present its financials for the October-December 2019 quarter. Said the CEO of a leading mutual fund: "While the first loss of a bank should go to shareholders and then to perpetual bond holders and finally to depositors, in this arrangement by keeping a limit of withdrawal at Rs 50,000 for almost a month, the pain has been inflicted on the depositors."

There are some who question the timing of the announcement. A top official with a private sector bank said that ideally such announcements should be done on Friday or Saturday evening so that the market absorbs the news and the bailout should be announced before the opening of banking hours on Sunday night or Monday morning. "Hopefully, there will be an an-

nouncement before banking

hours tomorrow to soothe the

nerves of the market and depositor holders," he said.

The bank, which has a de-

posit base of around Rs 2 lakh crore, has insured deposits up to Rs 1 lakh per depositor with the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation, a subsidiary of the RBI. This was hiked to Rs 5 lakh in the last Union Budget. "Small depositors have nothing to worry. Moreover, the RBI has assured that it will work out a bailout plan for the bank within 30 days," said the former CEO of a nationalised bank.

While withdrawal has been cap-

tured, the bank can pay a higher amount for medical treatment of the depositor or any dependent; cost of higher education of the depositor or any person actually dependent upon him.

The bank, which was struggling to get capital infusion, saw a decline in deposits by six per cent to Rs 2.09 lakh crore. As on March 31, 2019, the deposits of top 20 depositors aggregated to Rs 24,673 crore, representing 10.84 per cent of total deposit base.

The RBI has earlier taken over bankrupt cooperative lender PMC Bank and ordered restrictions on deposit withdrawals. The regulator has also ordered resolution under the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal for DHFL.

But by then, a group of Congress MPs, including Gaurav Gogoi, T N Prathapan, Dean Kuriakose, Benny Behanan, B Manickam Tagore, Rajmohan Unnithan and Gurjeet Singh Aujla for their "gross misconduct" in the House. The motion was adopted by a voice vote and all seven MPs were suspended for the remainder of the session.

Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said: "All the Opposition (parties)... we are on the same page... none of the Opposition parties will allow this... We will not budge from our own demand that the Delhi riots issue has to be discussed inside Parliament."

the meeting, retaining interest rate at 8.65 per cent would have left a deficit of around Rs 350 crore, while 8.45 per cent would have resulted in a surplus of Rs 1,000 crore, two officials said.

Both the finance committee and the Central Board of Trustees (CBT) met today to decide the interest rate based on EPFO's income projections for the current financial year.

Among other decisions taken at the meeting, the CBT also cleared ratification of the restoration of normal pension after 15 years from the date of commutation, which will benefit about 6.3 lakh pensioners who had opted for commutation under the erstwhile Para 12-A of Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995 on or before 25.09.2008. The decision to restore full pension is expected to cost Rs 1,300 crore as payment of arrears as against Rs 650 crore estimated earlier, an official said.

Congress MPs

"suggestions" to the government on how to deal with the virus threat. Beniwal was the last to speak following a number of MPs including Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Saugata Roy, Supriya Sule and Bhartruhari Mahtab.

Referring to the virus, Beniwal made a comment about Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi. As Congress members rose in protest, BJP MP Rajendra Agarwal, who was in the Chair, directed that Beniwal's remarks not be included in the records.

But by then, a group of Congress MPs, including Gaurav Gogoi, T N Prathapan, Dean Kuriakose, Benny Behanan, B Manickam Tagore, Rajmohan Unnithan and Gurjeet Singh Aujla for their "gross misconduct" in the House. The motion was adopted by a voice vote and all seven MPs were suspended for the remainder of the session.

Shreya's blood type was compatible with Sachin. On the same day – August 9, 2017 – a transplant stretching over 13 hours was conducted by a team of 20 surgeons and a 16-member anaesthesia team. The hand of the donor was first attached by bone, then arteries, veins and tendon muscles before the skin was stitched to Shreya's upper limb.

For a year-and-a-half, she remained in Kochi to undergo intensive physiotherapy. The peripheral nerves took time to develop, and sensation grew by 1-2 mm every day.

One of the first changes was reduction in weight as the extra fat slowly dissolved to match her leaner upper limb.

Explaining the shift, Pune-based physiotherapist Ketaki Doke, who has been working with Shreya, says behind this could be the muscle reconditioning itself to the new host. "The nerve begins to send signals, it is called reinnervation, and the muscles function according to body needs. A man will have muscle function different from a woman. The muscles in her hand may have started adapting to a female body," says Doke, adding, "It was still not anticipated that her hands will transform so much."

In the last 3-4 months, Shreya's mother Suma noticed that her fingers were becoming leaner, slightly longer. "I see her hand every day. The fingers have become like a woman's, the wrist is smaller. These are remarkable changes," she says.

Doctors believe that when Shreya lost 12 kg due to an infection last year, extra fat from her hand was shed making it leaner. While her mother says her finger looks longer and thin after that, "they still have a masculine stubby look of a man that only we can make," she says.

Meanwhile, Shreya has quit engineering and is now pursuing BA in Economics from Fergusson College, Pune. Last semester, she wrote her exams on her own hand.

FULL REPORTS
www.indianexpress.com

his personal appearance on February 14. A second summons has also been sent to him.

Confirming the receipt of the summons, Patel told *The Indian Express* that he has been unwell and busy with Parliamentary work and that one of the two summonses was sent to him on his Parliament email. He said, "Such contributions are received by every political party and I will respond to the summons soon, probably after the upcoming Parliament session."

Finance Ministry officials said that the summons to the Congress Treasurer had been sent since the party had sent only junior officials before them in response to summons sent earlier to the party in October 2

3

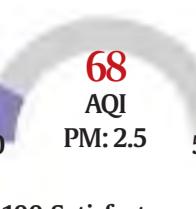
THE INDIAN EXPRESS, FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2020

THE CITY



ASHOKVIHAR

Satisfactory



SIRIFORT

Moderate



SHADIPUR

Satisfactory



DWARKA- SECTOR 8

Satisfactory

**KVs CLOSED TOO**

Primary classes in schools shut till Mar 31: Govt



Students appearing for their board exam, outside a school in Noida. Abhinav Saha

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

WITH A person in Ghaziabad testing positive for COVID-19 Thursday — the third case in NCR so far — the Delhi government has ordered all schools in the city to shut the primary section (up to Class V) till March 31.

"As a precautionary measure to prevent the possibility of spread of COVID-19 among children, Delhi government has directed immediate closure of all primary schools, including private schools, till March 31," said Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who also holds the education portfolio. Delhi has become the first city in the country to shut schools to stop the spread of COVID-19.

The final examinations are currently underway in most Delhi schools. Many schools had scheduled a short vacation after the exams. The new academic

session will begin in April.

Senior officials of the education department said the aim was to reduce travel by children and avoid large assemblies. Schools in the city have already cancelled morning assemblies, exchange programmes, fairs and exhibitions. Many have also cancelled biometric attendance for teachers.

Meanwhile, sources in the health ministry said there is apprehension that the Delhi government's decision would add to the panic. "On Wednesday, the health minister said there is no need for children to stay away from schools. Such mixed signals can cause confusion, undoing all our efforts to keep things under control," said a senior official on condition of anonymity.

Primary classes of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Delhi will remain closed till March 31, officials of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan said Thursday.

ASTHA SAXENA

NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

AS MANY as 14 passengers from coronavirus-affected countries and showing symptoms of the virus were hospitalised Thursday, data collated by the Delhi government's health department stated. Of these, five are admitted to RML Hospital and nine to Safdarjung Hospital. On Thursday, a resident of Ghaziabad tested positive for the virus, making him the 30th person to be infected in India. The middle-aged man had travelled to Iran, where the death toll from the virus has hit 107.

The death toll globally rose to 3,285 Thursday, with over 95,481 confirmed cases. Over 53,000 people have recovered, leaving about 38,508 active reported cases.

The health department, in a statement, said, "Till date, 1,30,332 travellers from coronavirus-affected countries have been screened at the Delhi airport and placed under surveillance. Out of this, 6,094 passengers stayed in Delhi; 5,994 passengers were approached by the state and put on surveillance; and 4,602 passengers were found asymptomatic and advised home isolation (self-quarantine). Symptomatic patients — 29 of them, including two positive cases in the capital and the 14 hospitalised today — were admitted to designated hospitals."

A resident of Uttam Nagar, with a travel history to Italy and France, tested positive for the virus Wednesday evening. All four of his family members are asymptomatic and have been put under home quarantine, said the statement.

A "contact tracing" of the patient's co-workers at his office was done and names of 91 employees came up. Of these, 18

were from Delhi, one each from Faridabad and Noida, and 71 from Gurgaon. The health department has sent the names to the respective districts, it said.

Meanwhile, Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain visited Lok Nayak Hospital Wednesday evening to take stock of preparations. The state-run hospital has earmarked 11 separate rooms and isolation wards for patients.

"The Delhi government has set up a separate ward in Lok Nayak Hospital to treat coronavirus-affected people. We have 11 separate rooms where only

GOVT STEPS UP PREPARATIONS



Health Minister Satyendar Jain at Lok Nayak Hospital, Thursday. Gajendra Yadav

CONTROL ROOMS

- Health dept sets up control rooms in 11 districts
- Central control room is at the office of the Directorate General of Health Services, Karkardooma
- 62 calls received on Wednesday, 67 on Thursday

DESIGNATED HOSPITALS

- 25 hospitals in the capital: 19 govt, 6 private
- Private hospitals include Sri Balaji Action Medical Institute; Apollo; Max Super Speciality; St Stephens; BLK; Sir Ganga Ram
- Govt hospitals include Lok Nayak, Ram Manohar Lohia, AIIMS, Hindu Rao, GTB

confirmed patients will stay on a single occupancy basis. Suspected patients will be treated in the ward which is isolated. This ward has a separate entrance as well, so that there is no risk to others. Our government is fully prepared to increase the strength of the hospital to treat such patients," said Jain.

Dr Sunil Kumar, medical director of GTB Hospital, said: "We have created two isolation wards of 12 beds each to provide treatment to patients. The procurement process of personal protective equipment (PPE), gloves and medical consumables has also begun. We have everything in place as of now."

The government Thursday also directed all departments at the Delhi Secretariat to suspend biometric attendance of employees to avoid any kind of transmission of the virus.

Around 150 people arrived at RML Hospital Wednesday for screening. Among these, eight suspected cases were admitted to the ward. At AIIMS, resident doctors are planning to send awareness material to students.

tive equipment (PPE), gloves and medical consumables has also begun. We have everything in place as of now."

The government Thursday also directed all departments at the Delhi Secretariat to suspend biometric attendance of employees to avoid any kind of transmission of the virus.

Around 150 people arrived at RML Hospital Wednesday for screening. Among these, eight suspected cases were admitted to the ward. At AIIMS, resident doctors are planning to send awareness material to students.

Staff of hotel where Jaipur tourists stayed quarantined at home

ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

DAYS AFTER 16 of 21 Italian tourists who arrived from Jaipur and checked in to The Suryaa hotel in New Friends Colony on March 2 tested positive for coronavirus, 8-10 employees who came in contact with them have been under home quarantine since March 3.

Hotel spokesperson Vani Wadhwa said they checked the tourists out the same day. "As per instructions, the rooms have to be sealed for 72 hours; they are still sealed. The employees they came in contact with show no symptoms, so they haven't been tested yet, but they will be under home quarantine for 14 days."

The tourists had landed in India on February 21 and left for Jaipur by bus. "Staff reported that they did not exhibit any symptoms when

they checked in. Around 8.30 pm, we got a call from Dr Stuti Singh, district surveillance officer of the Southeast district, informing us they had coronavirus. We checked them out by 11.40 pm," said Wadhwa.

She said the hotel has thermal scanners at the entryway, staff is equipped with masks and surgical gloves, and lifts and other areas such as staircases are sanitised every hour.

The hotel has received directions to not allow Italian tourists who got visas on or after March 3 to check in without the district surveillance officer's permission.

Dr Hazari, medical health officer at the South body, said, "Earlier, we sought reports only from five countries (China, Taiwan, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and Singapore). Now, we are screening international tourists from all nations and sending reports to the Delhi government."

Paytm office shut, samples of 4 more sent for testing

Gurgaon: A day after a 26-year-old man working at the Paytm office in Gurgaon tested positive for coronavirus, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of the district said the samples of four others who worked closely with him have also been sent for testing.

Meanwhile, on Thursday, Medanta-The Medicity confirmed that 14 of the 16 Italian nationals who had tested positive for coronavirus have been shifted to the hospital. "Medanta has received, at special request of the government, 14 asymptomatic persons suspected to have COVID-19. They are housed on a completely separate, isolated quarantine floor, with no contact with the rest of the hospital. There is a dedicated medical team wearing protective gear looking after them," said a spokesperson. ENS

toms but has been isolated at AIIMS," said the CMO.

Meanwhile, on Thursday, Medanta-The Medicity confirmed that 14 of the 16 Italian nationals who had tested positive for coronavirus have been shifted to the hospital.

"Medanta has received, at special request of the government, 14 asymptomatic persons suspected to have COVID-19. They are housed on a completely separate, isolated quarantine floor, with no contact with the rest of the hospital.

"Medanta has received, at special request of the government, 14 asymptomatic persons suspected to have COVID-19. They are housed on a completely separate, isolated quarantine floor, with no contact with the rest of the hospital. There is a dedicated medical team wearing protective gear looking after them," said a spokesperson. ENS

APPEAL!



Delhi Police request the cooperation of Residents of Delhi including Media Persons to send Video Footages/Pictures or any information that will help in the investigation of the incidents of Rioting in North East Delhi

These may be sent on:

WhatsApp No. 8750871243

Email : crimebranch1sit@gmail.com

Telephone:
8750871221, 8750871227, 22829334, 22829335

Identity of the person will be kept secret

E-mail to CP, Delhi at : cp.snsrivastava@delhipolice.gov.in

Write to CP, Delhi at P.O Box No. 171 GPO, New Delhi

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL : 112

TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090

Attention!

DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

Spreading Rumours or Hate Messages

is punishable upto 5 years' Imprisonment!



Spreading or sharing hate or inflammatory messages or videos on social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc. and Messaging Apps is a punishable offence under Section-153-A IPC, 295-A IPC & 505 of IPC. The guilty will be liable for fine or imprisonment upto 5 years.

Don't pay attention to rumours.

Please verify these rumours on 112 or respective district control room

1. East District	011 - 22231905	9. Central District	011 - 23270000
2. North-East District	011 - 22829334/35	10. North District	011 - 23818595
3. Shahdara District	011 - 22131114	11. North-West District	011 - 27229834
4. South District	011 - 26523967	12. Rohini District	011 - 27579011
5. South-East District	011 - 26825825	13. Outer North District	011 - 21710111
6. West District	011 - 25441909	14. New Delhi District	011 - 23362229
7. Dwarka District	011 - 28042979	15. South-West District	011 - 26140054
8. Outer District	011 - 27034876	16. Railway	011 - 23219007

E-mail to CP, Delhi at : cp.snsrivastava@delhipolice.gov.in

Write to: CP, Delhi at P.O. Box No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

Govt raises relief amount for damage to homes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

THE DELHI government Thursday enhanced the compensation for damages to residential properties during the riots in Northeast Delhi.

Under the new guidelines, each floor of a multi-storey building will be treated as a residential unit for the purpose of providing compensation.

"Earlier, a compensation of Rs 5 lakh was being provided in case of total damage — Rs 4 lakh to the owner(s) and Rs 1 lakh to the tenant(s). However, during disbursal of compensation on ground, it was found that there were multiple owners and multiple tenants living in the same building itself. Therefore, the government has now decided to treat each floor as a different residential unit. As per the decision, for total damage to a residential property, a compensation of Rs 4 lakh will be provided to the owner of each floor and Rs 1 lakh for loss of household items to be divided among occupants/tenants of that floor," the statement said.

The government also approved a proposal for providing compensation for schools damaged during the riots. A compensation of Rs 5 lakh will be extended to schools with enrollment of up to 1,000 students, and Rs 10 lakh for schools with enrollment of over 1,000 students.

"It has been decided that a compensation of Rs 1 lakh for cases of complete theft/loot/vandalism of residential units, and Rs 50,000 for partial looting and theft shall be provided. It was also decided to include 'looting/theft' in the category of damage to uninsured commercial properties," it added.



People queue up outside a makeshift ration shop in Khajuri Khas, Thursday. Amit Mehra

NORTHEAST DELHI VIOLENCE: DEATH TOLL 53

Won't go to Shiv Vihar with brother's body, too dangerous: Victim's family

SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

by a mob on February 27. On Tuesday, he succumbed to injuries at GTB Hospital.

The riot toll has now risen to 53, with GTB Hospital Thursday confirming six more deaths. While 44 deaths were reported from GTB, five bodies fished out from drains were sent to RML; one patient died at Jag Pravesh Hospital; and three deaths were reported at Lok Nayak Hospital.

"On February 25, there was a mob setting homes on fire in our lane. We were scared so we ran for our lives. On February 27, my brothers Jamaluddin and Nizamuddin returned to Shiv Vihar to check on the house... They never made it to the house as a mob stopped them metres away," said Jamaluddin, adding that Nizamuddin is still admitted at the hospital.

"Nahi jaenge Shiv Vihar bhai ki body leke, khatra hai," said Jamaluddin. And so, preparations for his brother's last rites began at an acquaintance's house in Babu Nagar on Wednesday.

Two days after they escaped, Jamaluddin (34) was beaten up



Jamaluddin was beaten up by a mob on Feb 27. He died on March 3

mob stopped them and asked their names, then their IDs... suddenly someone hit Jamaluddin on his head with a hockey stick and he fell down," said Jamaluddin.

When the mob turned to Nizamuddin, he lied that his

name was Raju but as he couldn't recite a prayer, he too was beaten up.

"He managed to run after being beaten up and reached Chaman Park. He told police there that his brother was lying near our house in Shiv Vihar... An ambulance was sent and Jamaluddin was taken to GTB," said Jamaluddin.

Jamaluddin is survived by his four children. He used to sell biscuits for a living.

"I am shocked. When we managed to survive the attacks in our lane, we were relieved that we lived to see another day but two days later, this tragedy struck us. One brother dead, another battered and bruised. What do I tell Jamaluddin's children now? It pains me that we are unable to take his body back home and have to use an ac-

quaintance's house for his last journey," said Firazuddin.

Among the 44 dead at GTB are 43 men and a woman. According to sources, a total of 11 people died at the hospital during treatment while 33 were brought dead.

The Delhi government-run hospital has treated 298 patients so far and only 17 patients are admitted presently. The hospital administration claimed that most of the injured belong to the 30-35 age group, followed by the 20-25 years age group. The victims were aged between 20-40 years.

"We have been collating data of the injured who visited the hospital. The bodies have been handed over to the families and post-mortems have been completed," said Dr Sunil Kumar, medical director, GTB Hospital.

Ex-SC judges meet displaced families

New Delhi: Three former Supreme Court judges visited riot-hit areas in Northeast Delhi Thursday evening to meet victims of the violence.

Former Justices A K Patnaik, Kurian Joseph and Vikramjit Sen visited Shiv Vihar and later met displaced families at the relief camp in Mustafabad's Eidgah.

While Justice Joseph said that their visit was out of "concern", Justice Patnaik said that they were there to "collect first-hand information" about the riots.

At Shiv Vihar, the judges began by visiting the Auliya mosque which had been torched during the riots.

"What happened to the people who lived in the building," asked Justice Joseph, to which he was told that most victims are either living with relatives, in relief camps or have returned to their villages.

Both the Delhi HC and the Supreme Court have been hearing pleas seeking FIRs against four BJP leaders for hate speech.



The former judges examine a house in Shiv Vihar. Express

"The courts are too far away from what is happening on the ground. It has to have first-hand information and someone needs to come with complete concrete facts," said Justice Patnaik, on criticism of the court's handling of the current situation.

Before leaving, Justice Patnaik observed, "It does appear to be the case that there has been targeted attacks on Muslims" adding that, "There has been a lot of property damage but it is very difficult to ascertain how it happened and who is responsible". ENS

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

UNDER FIRE after allegations of inaction, as well as videos of personnel pelting stones during the Northeast Delhi riots came to light, Delhi Police officers went door to door in the district to gather videos that might show how they were attacked by a mob on February 24.

Sources said senior police officers tasked local personnel to visit residents and collect footage of the attack during which Head Constable Ratan Lal was shot at, and DCP (Shahdara) Amit Sharma and ACP Anuj Kumar were attacked, along with over 60 other policemen.

Lal succumbed to injuries at GTB Hospital later.

The five videos, which police say were recorded at 12.40 pm on February 24, show personnel being attacked near Chand Bagh. The mob can be seen surround-



Grab from a video that shows police being attacked by a mob near Chand Bagh

ing police and pinning them against the fence that divides the two carriageways. Police were equipped with anti-riot gear but were outnumbered. Men and women near the protest site are seen charging at police with sticks and stones. Sources said police had gone to Chand Bagh to shift protesters, who had

blocked the road, to the side.

In a different video, police personnel can be seen carrying the injured DCP to a lane nearby, from where he was taken to a nursing home for initial treatment.

ACP Anuj Kumar, posted at Gokulpur police station, said,

"They had stones, construction

material and firearms, which they used. We only tried to control the situation with lathis. The distance between the protesters and the police team wasn't much. Once they started attacking us, it was difficult to retreat because of the fence. Over 65-70 policemen struggled to cross the fence and were injured. The rioters had surrounded DCP Sharma. A few of them used lathis while others had sharp tools and stabbed him. I acted quickly and pulled him from the spot. While I was trying to take him back, people were pelting stones and hit me with sticks. One such blow broke my helmet and I started to bleed."

Both officers have been on medical leave since then. Police said they didn't fire at the protesters as they wanted to control the crowd using minimal force.

Police said Head Constable Lal, who sustained a gunshot injury, was also picked up by his colleagues who took him to a police van.

Sources told The Indian Express that Golcha held the

Plant trees in riot-hit areas, will help heal society: HC to MCD

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

THE DELHI High Court has ordered the MCD to plant 500 trees in riot-affected Northeast Delhi, observing that the presence of large number of trees and greenery will facilitate in healing of a bruised and battered society.

The order was passed by Justice Najmi Waziri Tuesday in an industrial disputes-related case in which the MCD is a party.

Justice Waziri relied on photographs of the riot-hit areas accessible on the internet, noting that they show "long stretches of public roads and streets without a blade of grass, let alone any tree or a bush on either side of



MCD has been asked to plant 500 trees. Express

the road or on the road divider".

"The court is of the view that visual relief and therapeutic effects of greenery around one's place of work, residence or in one's neighbourhood cannot be overemphasised. All-the-more, in a post-riot scenario where thousands of citizens have suf-

fered damages in body and mind, the presence of large number of trees and greenery will surely facilitate in healing of a bruised and battered society," read the order.

The HC has ordered the MCD to consider planting 24 kinds of trees including jackfruit, mango, teak, anjeer, banyan, butter tree, and black plum. Justice Waziri has directed that the trees shall be of "deciduous indigenous variety and they shall have a nursery age of 3.5 years and a minimum height of six feet".

The MCD has been directed

to water and nurse the trees.

The HC also directed that photos be filed before and after the plantation before the next date of hearing on March 17.

Hours after seeing burnt house, destroyed shop, 62-year-old man dies in relief camp

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

A 62-YEAR-OLD man died inside the Eidgah relief camp for riot victims at Northeast Delhi's Mustafabad Wednesday night.

The man, Ameen Khan, had shifted to the camp with his family three days ago. A resident of Shiv Vihar, Khan and his family had fled after mobs began pelting stones and petrol bombs in their area.

According to his family, Khan went to the house to see if they could move back but returned disappointed and depressed.

His son, Asif (28), said: "He

came back and didn't speak to us for an hour. After we urged him



The Eidgah relief camp was flooded during Thursday's rain. Express

to talk to us, he said the house had been burnt down and that our jewellery and other belongings looted. He was shattered. After some time, he fell unconscious.

When police fail, so does democracy, says NSA Doval

SAKSHIDAYAL
GURGAON, MARCH 5

HIGHLIGHTING THE importance of a police force, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval Thursday said they are the enforcers of the law and "if they fail, democracy fails".

"Law making is the most sacrosanct job in a democracy. It is done by the representative of the people. You are the enforcers of that law. If you fail, democracy fails. If you are not able to enforce the law, then making of that law is immaterial. A law is as good as it is executed on the ground," said Doval, speaking at the Young Superintendent of Police two-day conference organised in Gurgaon.

The NSA's comments come in the wake of the Northeast Delhi riots, where the role of the police has been questioned.

He also said "perception management" is critical for police to attain "confidence" of people in a democracy and "enhance their trust". "In a democracy, it is extremely important that you should not only be totally dedicated to the law... it is also important that it seems like that, you are credible... But then people will take one stray aberration somewhere, of some policeman having done something, and that will be the headline, and people think that probably he is the standard prototype. So, it is also our responsibility that we are able to create this right perception, because it is the perception that provides confidence to people, enhances trust... if they feel they have a police which is alert, efficient, honest, objective, professionally competent, and friendly," said Doval.

"How do we bring about societal change where people feel that police is for them? Can technology enhance that process and if it can, please try for that. Who are the people who are most neglected... who feel there is a lack of safety for them? How can you disabuse them of these impressions and thoughts? Technology can be a very important tool in bringing about that," he said.

Pointing out that India is "a country that has the technology to hit at a satellite with an anti-satellite, has plans to go to the moon... that still, the same country does not have adequate technology for policing in a village- or kasba-level", Doval said there is a need to ascertain where that gap lies.

Among other dignitaries present were Haryana DGP Manoj Yadav, President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Sangita Reddy and Director General of the Bureau of Police Research and Development VSK Kaumudi.

Arrest all involved in riots, irrespective of religion: Special CP

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

TO ENSURE a fair investigation into all riot-related cases in Northeast Delhi, Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order, Northern Zone) Satish Golcha has told officers in the Northeast district to arrest all those involved in rioting "irrespective of religion and caste" and "without any pressure".

The directions, issued in a meeting of Eastern range on Wednesday, come days after several videos of alleged police inaction — with some showing personnel allegedly pelting stones — surfaced on social media.

This also comes after Delhi Police chief N Shrivastava asked the Northeast district police to investigate all riot cases, after the SIT formed to probe the violence wrote to him requesting transfer of all murder cases to them and riot cases to the district police.

Preliminary probe suggests "petty criminals" had stocked country-made pistols and bullets and handed them out to "unemployed youths and labourers".

During raids, police also recovered stockpiles of swords and petrol cocktails, it is learnt.

Police have so far registered 654 FIRs, 47 cases under the Arms Act and arrested 35 people.

meeting at DCP (Northeast) Ved Prakash Surya's office in Seelampur, JCP (Eastern range) Alok Kumar, DCP Surya, all ACPS and SHOs and recently inducted inspectors, who have a good intelligence network and have earlier worked in the Northeast district, were in attendance.

"Golcha assigned tasks to all inspectors — he asked some to get CCTV footage of all areas, others were told to prepare lists of all registered criminals in their areas," said police sources.

Golcha asked officers to conduct raids in their areas and arrest all outsiders. He also asked them to recover sharp-edged weapon, stones, petrol bombs, and country-made pistols," said sources.

"Preliminary probe suggests "petty criminals" had stocked country-made pistols and bullets and handed them out to "unemployed youths and labourers".

During raids, police also recovered stockpiles of swords and petrol cocktails, it is learnt.

Police have so far registered 654 FIRs, 47 cases under the Arms Act and arrested 35 people.

lost hope of ever getting our house back," said Asif.

Meanwhile, as heavy rains lashed the capital Thursday night, the Eidgah camp was flooded. A government official said, "It started raining around 9.30 pm. While mattresses are under waterproof tents, the roads got waterlogged and water entered the camp... mattresses and blankets were soaked.

"We remember the day the violence broke out. To save the children and our parents, we rushed through the back door and ran to my sister's house. After the camp was opened, we shifted there. Abbu thought everything would go back to normal but after he visited the house, he was shocked. He cried a lot... he had

SAFETY, CONVENIENCE, COMFORT

100 MORE NEW AC BUSES ON DELHI'S ROADS



UNIQUE FEATURES

- 12 Meter Low Floor AC Bus
- Bus Kneeling with ramp for differently abled
- Fire Detection and Suppression System
- GPS
- Panic Button
- CCTV
- Pink Seats for Ladies
- Live Video Streaming in case of emergency

FLAG-OFF CEREMONY

Friday, 6 March 2020 at 4:00 pm
Rajghat Cluster Bus Depot

Chief Guest
Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi

Guest of Honour
Kailash Gahlot
Transport Minister, Delhi



SC to hear
Centre, Delhi's
plea in case

New Delhi: Expressing concern over the likelihood of death sentence convicts taking advantage of the legal process to delay their execution, the Supreme Court Thursday said it will examine whether convicts in a common crime can be executed separately.

A bench of Justices R Banumathi, Ashok Bhushan and A S Bopanna fixed March 23 to hear the petition filed by the Centre and NCT government challenging a Delhi High Court ruling dismissing the petition which sought permission to execute the convicts in the December 16, 2012, gangrape and murder case separately.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said two convicts, Mukesh (31), Pawan Gupta (24), Vinay Sharma (25) and Akshay Kumar Singh (33), have exhausted their legal remedies.

ANAND MOHAN J & SRISHTI JHA

NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

A DELHI court has set a fresh date of execution for the four death row convicts in the December 2012 gangrape-murder case on March 20 at 5.30 am. Additional Sessions Judge Dharmender Rana observed that the Additional Public Prosecutor and the counsel for the convicts have conceded that it is obligatory on part of the court to issue death warrants.

All four convicts, Mukesh (31), Pawan Gupta (24), Vinay Sharma (25) and Akshay Kumar Singh (33), have exhausted their legal remedies.

"There is no statutory bar in

exercise of powers under 413/414 CrPC, rather it is obligatory on the part of this court to discharge the duties cast upon it under the relevant provisions... In view of the same, it is hereby directed that the death warrants, as issued by this court vide order dated 07.01.2020 with respect of the condemned convicts, namely Mukesh, Pawan, Akshay and Vinay, shall now be carried into effect by causing the said convicts to be hanged by the neck until they are dead on 20.03.2020 at 5.30 am," read the court order.

After the new date of execution was fixed by the court, the victim's mother welcomed the decision. "The morning of March 20 will be the morning of our lives," she told reporters outside



The four convicts have exhausted their legal remedies

Patiala House court.

The death warrants have been stayed three times in the past, pending legal remedies of the four convicts. On March 2, the court had deferred their execution till further orders observing that the "convict must not meet his Creator with a grievance in his bosom that the

courts of the country have not acted fairly in granting him an opportunity to exhaust his legal remedies..."

The Delhi government Wednesday had moved court seeking fresh date for the execution, hours after President Ram Nath Kovind rejected Pawan's mercy petition.

He also submitted that he wanted to meet Akshay to dis-

cuss the future course of action. He, however, conceded that as of date, there was no legal impediment upon the powers of the court to proceed with execution of the death warrant.

Ravi Qazi, lawyer for convict Mukesh, also conceded that there was no statutory impediment to proceed with the execution of the death warrant as the convict has exhausted all his legal remedies except for the option of mercy petition.

The hearing on the execution of death warrants had moved forward last year after the victim's mother moved an application to shift the case from a vacant court, where the matter remained unheard for months. The Tihar Jail administration had also submitted a status report in court, stating that the four convicts had exhausted their legal remedies except for the option of mercy petition.

The case dates back to December 16, 2012, when a 23-year-old woman was gangraped and assaulted inside a moving bus in South Delhi by six persons, before being thrown out on the road. She died on December 29, 2012.

(Srishti Jha is an intern with The Indian Express)



(H.P. GOVT. ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY)
Block 8-A, SDA Complex, Kasumpti, Shimla-171009
CORIGENDUM

In view of the requests received from various Firms regarding clarification on certain points on the Expression of Interest for determining the lowest rate for empanelment of Firms for the Supply, Installation and Commission of Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Power Plants to be installed on the Roofs of the Domestic/Government or other Buildings of different capacities all over the State of HP as per the guidelines of MNRE. G.O. under the Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Programme. Phase-II scheme, a pre-bid meeting has been fixed on 09.03.2020 at 11.30 A.M. in HIMURJA Office.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
HIMURJA, Urja Bhawan,
Kasumpti, Shimla-171009.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, गुमला।

निविदा रद्द सूचना का प्रकाशन

इस कार्यालय के E-Tender No. WRD/MID/GUMLA F2-21/ 2019-20 (2nd Call) Renovation of Shahi Toli M.I. Scheme Block-Raidhi Dist. Gumla जिसका प्रकाशन PR No. 223999 MI/2019-20D है तथा निविदा दिनांक 05.02.2020 को सम्पन्न किया गया था । मुख्य अभियंता लघु सिंचाई रांची के पत्रांक 398 दिनांक 27.02.2020 के आलोक में तत्काल प्रभाव से अगले विभागीय निर्देश प्राप्त होने तक रद्द की जाती है ।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, गुमला।

PR 226481 (Minor Irrigation) 19-20 (D)

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, गुमला।

निविदा रद्द सूचना का प्रकाशन

इस कार्यालय के E-Tender No. WRD/MID/GUMLA F2-23/ 2019-20 (2nd Call) Renovation of Pandarni M.I. Scheme Block-Bharno Dist. Gumla जिसका प्रकाशन PR No. 224001 MI/2019-20D है तथा निविदा दिनांक 05.02.2020 को सम्पन्न किया गया था । मुख्य अभियंता लघु सिंचाई रांची के पत्रांक 398 दिनांक 27.02.2020 के आलोक में तत्काल प्रभाव से अगले विभागीय निर्देश प्राप्त होने तक रद्द की जाती है ।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, गुमला।

PR 226482 (Minor Irrigation) 19-20(D)

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, गुमला।

निविदा रद्द सूचना का प्रकाशन

इस कार्यालय के E-Tender No. WRD/MID/GUMLA F2-32/2019-20 (2nd Call) Renovation of Raisa Nala M.I. Scheme Block-Jari Dist. Gumla जिसका प्रकाशन PR No. 224016 MI/2019-20D है तथा निविदा दिनांक 05.02.2020 को सम्पन्न किया गया था । मुख्य अभियंता लघु सिंचाई रांची के पत्रांक 398 दिनांक 27.02.2020 के आलोक में तत्काल प्रभाव से अगले विभागीय निर्देश प्राप्त होने तक रद्द की जाती है ।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, गुमला।

PR 226492 (Minor Irrigation) 19-20(D)

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PRISON
PRISON HEAD QUARTER : NEAR LAJWANTI
GARDEN CHOWK, JANAK PURI : NEW DELHI
PROVISION BRANCH

F-7/DS(Prov-Fact)/TPT/LAB/CJ-2 & 14/2020-21/CD003595314/916
dated: 4/3/2020

Tender ID No.: 2020_CJT_189135_1

e-TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tender (online procurement website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>) are invited for SUPPLY OF TRANSPORT & LABOUR FOR JAIL FACTORY CJ-2 & CJ-14 Tihar, Delhi, for the year 2020-21 for 01 year from the date of issue of rate contract (extendable upto 03 months). The NIT has been uploaded and available along with terms and conditions and detailed specifications. All the tenderers participating in e-tendering and should have a Digital Signature/ Smart Card and should apply online before the Last Date and Time. In case (25.03.2020) is being declared Govt. Holiday the next working day will be treated as Tender Date).

Estimated Cost of Work : Rs. 45 Laks. (Approx)

Date of release of tender through E-procurement website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

: 04/03/2020

Last date/ Time of receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution : 25/03/2020 at 12:00 Noon

Date of on line opening of Pre-qualification bids : 25/03/2020 at 12:30 PM

Sd/-
Superintendent: PHQ-II

Tihar, New Delhi

DIP/Shabdharth/1435/19-20

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION NO. 2, GADCHIROLI

SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 18/2019-2020

Online percentage rate e-tenders in 'B-1' form are invited by Executive Engineer, Public Works Division No 2, Gadchiroli for the following works from registered contractors in appropriate class of the Public Works Department of the Maharashtra State.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (Rs.) Lakhs	Earnest money (Rs.)	Cost of E-Tender (Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Time limit for completion (months)
1	*Specified Repairs to Judicial Quarters (Lower Grade J) At Chormorshi Tahil Chormorshi Dist. Gadchiroli	5.00	5000/-	560/-	Class VIII & Above	03 Months
2	Current Repairs to Rural Hospital Building At Chormorshi in Taluka Chormorshi Dist. Gadchiroli	7.00	7000/-	560/-	Class VII & Above	03 Months
3	Current Repairs to Talsildar Quarter Building At Chormorshi in Taluka Chormorshi Dist. Gadchiroli	6.00	5,000/-	560/-	Class VIII & Above	03 Months
4	Construction of Guard Room near the entrance gate and Shed for petition writer and clerk of advocates in the premises of court building chormorshi Dist. Gadchiroli	8.00	6,000/-	560/-	Class VII & Above	02 Months

UnEngineer

1	Appointment of Outsourcing Technician (CMMAS Expert) and Computer Operator for Operating Online Management Monitoring and Accounting System (OMMAS) in RCP/LWE (RPP-II Additional Phase-I, Batch-I) for 12 Months. Distt. Gadchiroli.	13.60	Exempted	560/-	Class VI & Above	12 Months
---	---	-------	----------	-------	------------------	-----------

Society

1	Providing Repairs under addl CR to shed building at Dhanora Distt-Gadchiroli.	6.00	Exempted	560/-	Class B & Above	03 Months
2	Construction of Compound Wall With Gate for Government science college Gadchiroli	30.00	Exempted	560/-	Class A & Above	03 Months
3	CONSTRUCTION OF TOILET BLOCK/PARKING AREA AND REPAIR TO COMPOUND WALL FOR DISTRICT COURT BUILDING GADCHIROLI, TAHSIL AND DISTRICT -GADCHIROLI.	30.00	Exempted	560/-	Class A & Above	03 Months
4	Supply Of Various Types of Furniture To science college Gadchiroli , taluk and district -Gadchiroli	22.00	Exempted	560/-	Class A & Above	03 Months
5	Construction of C.C. drain From Shri Pandhari Chalukh's House to Ullabai Alam At Mouza Dahegaon Tah Chormorshi	6.15	Exempted	560/-	Class B & Above	03 Months
6	Construction of Samajik Sabhagruh At Shivaji Highschool premises At mouza Chormorshi Tah Chormorshi Distt. Gadchiroli	8.80	Exempted	560/-	Class B & Above	03 Months
7	Construction of C.C. Road From Main Road to Shri Sulekhiji Dhadhale/House At Mouza Chormorshi Tah Chormorshi	8.80	Exempted	560/-	Class B & Above	03 Months
8	Construction of C.C. Road From Lal Dongari To Kewalramji Harda Collage At Mouza Chormorshi Tah Chormorshi	13.50	Exempted	560/-	Class B & Above	03 Months
9	Construction of Compound Wall for ADR Center Building Gadchiroli, Tahsil and District -Gadchiroli.	30.00	Exempted	560/-	Class A & Above	03 Months
10	Construction of Guard room & Vehicle Shed for ADR Center Building Gadchiroli, Tahsil and District -Gadchiroli.	20.00	Exempted	560/-	Class A & Above	03 Months
11	Current Repairs to Store Shed for Mechanical Workshop Gadchiroli.	5.00	Exempted	560/-	Class B & Above	03 Months
12	Current Repairs to Electrical Substation Building ,District jail at Gadchiroli, Ta.Gadchiroli & Distt.Gadchiroli	5.00	Exempted	560/-	Class B & Above	03 Months

Note :-

1. All the Details of Tender are available on portal [https://pwd.maharashtra.etenders](https://pwd.maharashtra.etenders.in)

IN PARLIAMENT

BUDGET SESSION

FROM THE GALLERY

FROM THE CHAIR

RAJYA SABHA

"This is Parliament, not a bazaar."

M VENKAIAH NAIDU, Chairman, to members during protests in the House over Delhi violence.

LOK SABHA

"The honourable Speaker has been very sad."

B MAHTAB, BJD MP in Chair, on Speaker Om Birla's absence.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

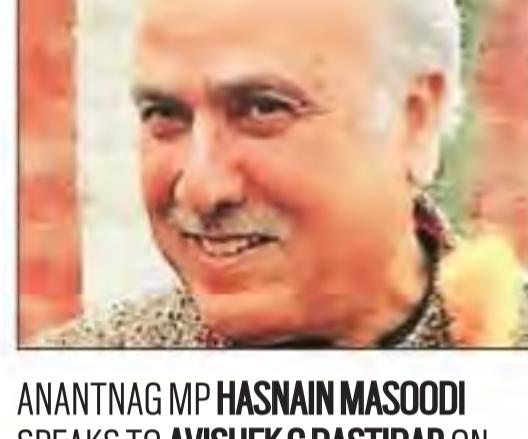
"The government is taking all necessary measures to prevent spread of COVID-19 in India."

HARSH VARDHAN, Health Minister, speaking on the issue of novel coronavirus outbreak in the Rajya Sabha.

ROLL CALL

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

5 QUESTIONS



ANANTNAG MP HASNAIN MASOONI SPEAKS TO AVISHEK G DASTIDAR ON RAISING THE ISSUE OF 350 KASHMIRI STUDENTS STRANDED IN IRAN AMID THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK.

Why did you raise the issue of the Kashmiri students in the House?
I have been raising this issue with the government separately. Some 350 of them are stranded in Iran for the past many days. Today, since the Health Minister made a statement on coronavirus, I thought it apt to bring it to the notice of the House.

Who have you spoken to in the government about this?

I have spoken to the External Affairs Minister twice sometime ago. In my opinion, no concrete steps have been taken so far; I feel it has not been taken very seriously.

Are you satisfied with the response of the government?

They have been evacuating people from China. The government is alive to the fact that after China, Iran is the place affected by coronavirus. Kashmir and Iran have educational ties. Children from Shia community in Kashmir go to Iran to study... The government should do something to bring them home.

Are you in touch with their families here?

Yes, I have been in touch with them. They are in tremendous trauma. They have even demonstrated in Kashmir to draw the attention of the government. The children are in panic too, they are hardly in their 20s. But so far nothing has been done...

Are you hopeful that something will be done for these students?

Today I also spoke to Dr Harsh Vardhan about this after his statement in the House. He has assured me of help. Let's see.

Govt to press for termination of LS membership of one suspended MP

PRADEEP KAUSHAL

NEW DELHI, MARCH 5



Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi in Lok Sabha. PTI

THE GOVERNMENT on Thursday said it will press for the termination of Lok Sabha membership of one of the seven Congress lawmakers who were suspended after unruly scenes in the House.

"We will seek the expulsion of one member from the House," Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi told the media. He refrained from naming the member, but official sources disclosed that the reference was to Gaurav Gogoi, Congress MP from Kalibazar constituency of Assam and son of former chief minister Tarun Gogoi.

The minister said the government will shortly submit a letter to Speaker Om Birla to request him to set up a committee to inquire into the conduct of Congress members. Joshi said the tearing of a document after snatching it from the Speaker's table was "unprecedented". He maintained that no BJP member, while in the Opposition, had ever snatched papers from the Speaker's table. "Let them cite one such instance," Joshi said. A BJP leader said a committee will be set up soon to look into whether the conduct of Opposition MPs in Lok Sabha on Thursday could invite termination of membership.

The Congress MPs were suspended under Rule 374 of the Rules of Procedure For The Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha. According to 374(1): The Speaker may, if he "deems it necessary, name a member who disregards the authority of the Chair or abuses the rules of the House by persistently and wilfully obstructing the business thereof". The next clause, (2), says, "If a member is so named by the Speaker, the Speaker shall, on a motion being made forthwith put the question that the member (naming such member) be suspended from the service of the House for a period not exceeding the remainder of the session..."

As for the criticism that the resolution had been carried through in the absence of the Speaker, Rule 9(1) says: "At the commencement of the House or from time to time, as the case may be, the Speaker shall nominate from amongst the members a panel of not more than 10 Chairpersons, anyone of whom may preside over the House in the absence of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker when so requested by the Speaker or, in the absence of the Speaker, by the Deputy Speaker."

A member can be expelled (under different provisions) if he holds any office of profit under the Government of India (other than an office permitted by Parliament of India by law); if he possesses an unsound mind; is declared insolvent; has ceased being a citizen of India; disqualified by any law made by Parliament; disqualified on the ground of defection (under the 10th Schedule); has been convicted for promoting enmity between different groups; convicted for bribery; has been punished for preaching and practising untouchability, dowry, or sati; has been convicted for an offence and sentenced to imprisonment and has been dismissed for corruption or for disloyalty to the state (as a government servant).

Cong reaches out to other Oppn parties

MANOJ CG

NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

AMID SIGNALS that the government is pushing for termination of one of the seven Congress MPs who were suspended from Lok Sabha for the remaining period of the Budget Session for "misconduct", the Congress on Thursday reached out to other Opposition parties to put up a united front to stall such an attempt. The Congress said the suspension of the MPs was a "dictatorial decision" and was motivated by "revenge politics".

Sources said the Congress has already discussed the issue with some Opposition parties. Leaders of some of the parties, including the DMK and the NCP, are likely to meet the Speaker Friday to register their protest and demand revocation of the suspension. Congress leaders said the party will not take the decision lying down and alleged that the government is unnecessarily provoking the Opposition to ensure that the Budget session continues to be stormy and there is no discussion on the Delhi riots.

"All the Opposition (parties)... we are on the same page... none of the Opposition parties will allow this government which is hell-bent on throttling the voice of the Opposition parties. We wouldn't budge from our own demand that the Delhi riot issue has to be discussed inside Parliament," Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said.

The suspended Congress MPs are Gaurav Gogoi, T N Prathapan, Dean Kuriakose, Manickam Tagore, Rajmohan Unnithan, Benny

Behanan and Gurjeet Singh Aujla. Sources said the government is seeking the termination of Gogoi's membership. "We will seek termination of the member's membership. What the Congress did in Lok Sabha showed their utmost disrespect to the Chair," Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi told reporters.

Chowdhury said what happened in Parliament was shameful for Parliamentary democracy. Chowdhury said the Opposition was ready to cooperate with the Government in passing Bills but there has to be a discussion on the Delhi riots first.

"We readily agreed when the Speaker told us in the morning that the government wants to give a statement in the House on coronavirus... We cooperated with the government and also gave suggestions... We stuck to our demand for a discussion even after objectionable remarks were made against Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi..." he said.

"The government says it is thinking about allowing the discussion on March 11... If a discussion can be held on March 11, why not earlier?... And now they have suspended seven of our MPs. What does that mean?... they want to weaken us when we take part in the discussion... this is the decision of the Speaker... this is the decision of the government..." he said.

"If this government does not want to discuss legitimate issues, this government will be recognised as an authoritarian regime," he said.

Congress communication department head Randeep Singh Surjewala said, "If the Prime Minister will trample upon India's Parliament... you might as well throw out the entire Opposition forever..."

RS adjourned after protests over Delhi riots

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

RAJYA SABHA proceedings were adjourned for the day on Thursday amid protests and unrelenting sloganising by Opposition members over the Delhi riots, which have left 53 people dead so far.

With the protests continuing, Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said, "This is Parliament, not a bazaar."

Before adjournment of the House, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan made a statement on the coronavirus situation in the country and members, including those from the Opposition, made constructive suggestions. But as soon as Naidu asked MPs to start with their Zero Hour mentions, Congress members were up on their feet and were joined by other Opposition MPs.

Later, Opposition MPs, including from the Congress, the Trinamool Congress, and the AAP, entered the Well of the House and started raising slogans against the government and Home Minister Amit Shah over the violence. Naidu warned that if a member whose Zero Hour notice has been accepted and does not raise it despite being present in the House, he or she will not be given another chance during the remaining period of the current session. Around noon, Naidu asked protesting members to return to their seats so that the Question Hour could be taken up. But with opposition parties not yielding, he adjourned proceedings for the day.

Earlier, when the House met for the day, Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad said the Congress and other opposition parties had previously decided that business in the House will be allowed only after a discussion on the Delhi riots takes place. But in view of the situation arising out of the coronavirus outbreak, opposition parties do not want to deprive people of information about the government's steps to deal with the situation and have thus decided to allow the Health Minister to make a statement on the issue, he said.

LS looks at first week washout as ruling, Oppn sides lock horns

LIZ MATHEW

NEW DELHI, MARCH 5



BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi in the Speaker's chair in Lok Sabha. PTI

WITH THE Opposition showing no signs of compromise on its stand that Parliament should discuss the Delhi riots before taking up other issues, the first week of post-recess Budget Session appears headed for a complete washout. And amid the high-decibel protests by the Opposition, led by Congress members, the government's poor floor management has also come under fire for the stalemate in Lok Sabha since Monday.

The communication between the government and the Opposition, and even among the government and BJP MPs, has been "ineffective", according to a source.

One ruling party leader said, "We (Treasury benches) have not been communicating our strategy in the House. On many occasions this week we have been caught off guard when the Opposition became aggressive. This is one reason why the Opposition managed to get proceedings adjourned."

BSP member Danish Ali asserted that there has been "no effort from the government" to engage the Opposition in a dialogue to end this stalemate.

And that communication is unlikely to gain strength, with a combatant BJP keen on taking further action against seven Congress MPs suspended on Thursday for having "insulted the Chair and violated all rules", according to ruling party leaders.

Opposition members, on the other hand, took exception to the "strong action" against Congress MPs in Lower House — as it was read out not by the Speaker but by a panel member.

"There will be an inquiry committee to look into the possibility of disqualifying these MPs, who have committed gross misconduct," a senior BJP leader said, adding that the House had taken such action during the term of then

Speaker Somnath Chatterjee (between 2004 and 2009).

Senior BJP leader and Union minister Bhupender Yadav's tweet offered a hint at likely action: "...The deplorable conduct of these MPs in the Lok Sabha is disgraceful and embarrassing to the parliamentary system."

Some Opposition members, however, pointed out that the Speaker should have been present in the House when the action was announced. "Disciplinary proceedings were announced without the Speaker present," BSP's Danish Ali said.

He was critical also of the government's "inconsistent" response to MPs showing posters and banners inside the House. He told *The Indian Express*: "Many members have brought posters and banners in the past. TDP members used to protest vehemently with banners and posters demanding special status for Andhra Pradesh. Earlier, TRS members brought huge

banners to the House during their agitation for creation of Telangana," he said.

Meanwhile, the Speaker, who has been particular about chairing the proceedings without any major breaks ever since he took over as the presiding officer of Lok Sabha, did not come to the House for the second consecutive day on Thursday.

According to sources, Birla was "totally disappointed" at continuing physical scuffle in Lok Sabha despite his strict warning. They said Birla had assured leaders of opposition parties during a meeting he convened on Tuesday morning that there would be a discussion on the Delhi riots after Holi. "Opposition leaders had agreed to it, but (in the House) they pretended as if nothing of that sort happened," a BJP leader said. "Despite warnings, Congress members, including its top leaders in the House, went to the Treasury side to provoke ruling party MPs."

'Hurt' over House ruckus, Speaker skips LS proceedings again

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR & MANOJ CG

NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

AFTER CHAIRING meetings with floor leaders of all parties to ensure that the House runs smoothly and after almost imploring in vain for days that the protesting MPs go back to their seats without creating ruckus, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla is reportedly "hurt" that no one paid heed to his requests for order.

For the second consecutive day on Thursday, the Speaker remained conspicuous by his absence during the proceedings of the House. MPs Bhartruhari Mahtab, Rama Devi, Rajendra Agarwal and Meenakshi Lekhi filled in for Birla as the House witnessed continuous ruckus, first over communal violence in Delhi and then over a remark by Nagpur MP Hanuman Beniwal. This eventually led to seven Congress MPs getting suspended. In the meetings with Birla, floor leaders of various parties had reportedly "promised" to let the House run smoothly.

No matter what the political temperature of the House, Birla usually chairs the sessions in the morning starting with Question Hour. But this time there was a departure from that routine.

Instead, Mahtab on Thursday assumed the chair at 11 am when the House assembled and conveyed to the protesting Congress MPs that Birla was saddened at the state of the House.

"The honourable Speaker was very sad about the things that happened day before yesterday. You are very much aware of this and some of you must have met him and you must be very much aware that the manner in which the House is getting disrupted does not give any credit to anyone. The honourable

Speaker has been very sad," Mahtab told a group of some 30 MPs from Congress who had been raising slogans.

Sources said Birla was to attend the wedding reception of BJP MP Ganesh Singh's son in the evening.

During the Question Hour, Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari answered a couple of questions, but it got drowned in the din.

At one point, Mahtab asked Congress floor leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury to ask his party MPs to go back to their seats. Soon, he had to adjourn the House till noon.

Chowdhury later said that he had a word with the Speaker and requested Birla to resume chairing the sessions. "For the last two days, Speaker has been absent from the House and on more than a couple of occasions, I have personally approached and begged the Speaker that... please occupy your Chair, the Chair is befitting for you only. Don't send the Chairman or other Presiding official during the Question Hour," Chowdhury said.

Parents' date, place of birth essential for back-end: Govt on NPR

DEEPTIMANTIWARY

NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

IN AN indication that the government is reluctant to drop contentious questions from the National Population Register (NPR) form, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had told a Parliamentary standing committee that these questions were asked in the past as well and are necessary for back-end data processing.

The committee has, however, observed that with the government unable to build a consensus on the NPR process, there is a danger of the Census exercise being stymied.

The NPR exercise is to be carried out with the house-listing phase of Census 2020 and is scheduled to begin on April 1.

The Standing Committee on Ministry of Home Affairs tabled its report on Demands for Grants (2020-2021) in Rajya Sabha on Thursday. The committee is headed by Congress MP Anand Sharma.

EXPLAINED Why govt backs linking Aadhaar, NPR

THE GOVERNMENT says linking the two will facilitate Aadhaar's integration with other databases and help clean the various other databases. The MHA says government-created databases such as Aadhaar, Voter ID, birth & death register, NPR, driving licence and passport may contain "many spurious and incorrect entries in databases". These databases, the ministry told the House panel, do not communicate with one another since there is no common identifier. "Collection of Aadhaar number (on voluntary basis), Voter ID, passport number and driving licence number during updation of NPR will facilitate communication among these databases, subject to the existing laws," it said. The Aadhaar number, the MHA reasons, can act as a common link among these large databases.

observed that there is a lot of dissatisfaction and fear among people regarding the upcoming NPR and Census. The Committee feels

these apprehensions should have been duly ventilated in the media. The MHA must consider some way out so that the Census goes

smoothly."

Otherwise, the committee noted, there is a "chance of the entire process being stymied in many states".

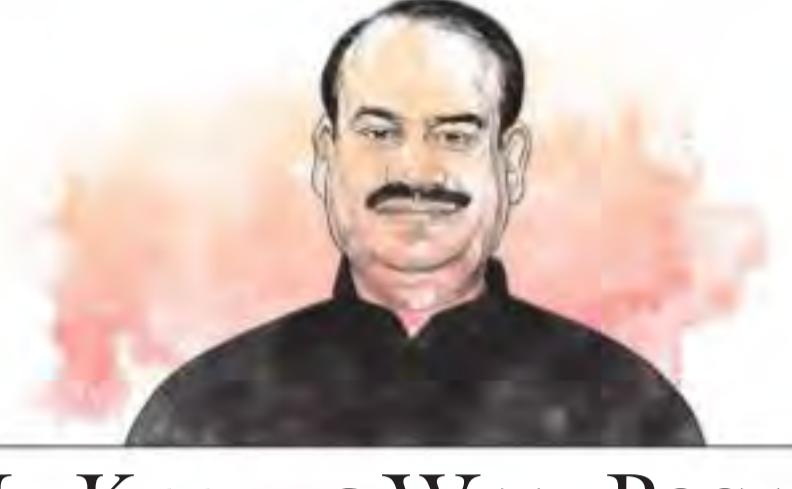
In its conclusion, the committee even urged the government to take appropriate steps to build consensus. It recommended all states and Union Territories to be "fully convinced on various issues pertaining to the NPR which commences in April to have a national consensus so that there is absolute clarity and no apprehension" among the people. This, the committee noted, will help conduct both exercises in a smooth manner.

The committee sought to know about the proposals for use of digital technology and biometric identification for data collection for the Census. The MHA replied that there was no proposal to undertake biometric identification in Census 2021.

The committee also asked about the possibility of using the Aadhaar database for updating NPR without undergoing fresh exercise of NPR to prevent duplication of efforts



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



IN KEEPING WITH POST

SPEAKER OM Birla's profile on the official Lok Sabha website grabbed attention on Thursday as some key changes were made to it. While the profile on the website after he was elected Speaker stated that he was a "Primary Member of Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh", the updated one does not mention it. Another omission was that Birla was "imprisoned in Uttar Pradesh due to active participation in Ram Mandir construction movement; Led the movement of starting Sawai Madhopur Cement Factory in Jaipur and Sawai Madhopur and was imprisoned in various jails of the State in this connection". The new profile mentions only his activities as a Parliamentarian, including charity initiatives he has undertaken. The profile, it is learnt, was updated to protect the neutrality of the post he holds.

GOING AHEAD

EVEN AS President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have decided to cancel their Holi Milan programmes — the Rashtrapati Bhavan, in fact, has announced that the Mughal Gardens will be closed for the public from Saturday as part of precautionary measures — and several Union ministers and other leaders have followed suit, the Women and Child Development Ministry, and others holding events for Women's Day on March 8, for now seem to be going ahead with their scheduled programmes. While a large section of the Women's Day campaigns comprise televised programmes — screening of women-centric films and a special series hosted by celebrity chef Sanjay Kapoor on recipes for pregnant women and lactating mothers, among others — the events being organised by the ministries and organisations under their patronage have so far shown no signs of being cancelled.

GUIDELINES ON TRACK

THE INDIAN Railways has joined the effort to spread awareness about coronavirus among passengers and its employees. The medical department of Northern Railways has issued an advisory for its hospital staff, detailing the precautions required to keep the virus at bay. It also asks employees to not hug, kiss, and shake hands while greeting; advises against smoking in public places and indulging in excessive physical exercise. It also asks the staff to avoid frozen meat as part of the gamut of precautionary measures. The Railway Board Chairman on Thursday had a meeting with all general managers through video-conferencing to take stock of measures being adopted to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Eye on Bengal polls, PM meeting state BJP MPs

LIZ MATHEW

NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

WITH THE 2021 West Bengal elections being a big battle for the BJP, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is holding one-on-one sessions with all party MPs from the state to take stock of the situation.

In the meetings held so far, Modi has urged the MPs to work hard to ensure that schemes initiated by the Central government are implemented so that the party could earn goodwill from the situation.

The issue surrounding the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) came up during the Prime Minister's meeting with the MPs and the Prime Minister was keen to know how people have reacted to the changes in the citizenship laws, it is learnt.

Bankura MP Subhas Sarkar said, "I told the PM that the protests against CAA are now confined to TMC people. No public is protesting now. We have been able to convince people that it is a good move."

"MPs agreed with him that the BJP should win West Bengal for national interest," Sarkar told *The Indian Express*.

John Barla, MP from Alipurduar, said he has "listed the issues faced by the voters in my constituency". "I explained to him that the tea gardens in my constituency are facing severe crisis. I told him we should help the people, irrespective of whether they are our supporters or not, as our motto is *sabka saath sabka vishwas*," Barla told *The Indian Express*.

He added that he also raised the issue of "police atrocities on

innocent people" during the meet. "I told the Prime Minister that unless we come to power, the state will become like Bangladesh," Barla said.

The issue surrounding the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) came up during the Prime Minister's meeting with the MPs and the Prime Minister was keen to know how people have reacted to the changes in the citizenship laws, it is learnt.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Paswan also narrated the horror of the riots that followed the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984. Referring to the recent riots, he said, "Delhi violence has happened at a time when the US President Donald Trump was in the city. This has sent a very wrong signal," Paswan said. He

He also attached a circular issued by the Secretariat dated December 23, 2019 which said the "annual parking labels for 2020 will be issued from February 24" and that existing labels will "continue in working" till March 31.

Chowdhury said: "What is happening in Delhi. We have to come to Parliament several times. Me and (Gurjeet Singh) Aujla sahab were stopped and had to walk down..."

Another MP said, "The PM asked us about the state, the Assembly segments in our constituencies; the strength and weakness of both the TMC and the BJP and what are the main issues."

With the BJP banking on the "goodwill" it claims to have earned after CAA, Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J P Nadda toured the state and held a rally in support of the law in Kolkata on March 1.

Results of 2017 SSC exam upheld by SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to cancel the results of the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) combined graduate level examination of 2017 over allegations of a question paper leak.

A bench of Chief Justice of India S A Bobde and Justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant however said that the case had "shaken our confidence in the system".

The bench, which perused

the report of a seven-member Committee set up by it, noted that the committee said it was not possible to record a conclusive finding in the matter.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the petitioner, sought cancellation saying the CBI had found that the question papers were indeed leaked. But the court said it was reluctant to cancel the entire exam — taken by over 1.5 lakh applicants. ENS

MILIND GHATWAI

BHOPAL, MARCH 5

A DAY after ruling Congress in Madhya Pradesh claimed to have staved off a potential crisis for the Kamal Nath government, Hardeep Singh Dang, one of the three party legislators who are believed to be in Karnataka, purportedly resigned on Thursday.

Amid speculation that the ruling party had also managed to get a BJP legislator to quit, Narayan Tripathi, BJP MLA from Maihar, left the CM's residence late evening and denied reports that he had quit.

Tripathi, one of two BJP MLAs who had voted against the party line last year, claimed to have gone to meet Nath to discuss his constituency's development.

In a purported resignation letter circulated on WhatsApp, Dang, the Congress MLA from Suwasara, stated that he was hurt after being repeatedly ignored by Nath and other ministers.

Dang's phone continued to remain switched off through Thursday evening, but Congress



Kamal Nath

leaders said he is the "only casualty so far".

Senior Congress leader and former CM Digvijaya Singh had alleged that the BJP had taken Congress MLAs Dang, Bisahul Singh and Raghuraj Kansana to Karnataka in a chartered flight. Independent MLA Surendra Singh Shera, who also went with them, is the only one so far to have spoken to the media over phone — he claimed to have gone to Karnataka with family.

Chief Minister Nath and Assembly Speaker N P Prajapati, whom Dang addressed in his letter, said they have received the news but were yet to receive the letter. Nath said Dang has neither

spoken with him nor met him, so he would not comment on the issue until he meets the legislator.

Prajapati said he would take a call as and when Dang hands over his resignation letter in person.

The party admitted there was no word from the other two MLAs — Bisahul's son has lodged a missing complaint in Bhopal; there has been no word from Kansana.

The Congress in MP received another jolt on Thursday when two BSP and one SP MLAs ridiculed the charge that they were held hostage at a Gurgaon hotel.

BSP's Rambai Singh and Sanjeev Singh, and the state's lone SP lawmaker, Rajesh Shukla, said they had gone to Gurgaon on their own and sought action against ministers and Congress leaders who claimed they had been taken against their wish by BJP.

"How can anyone take us against our wish? I went on my own," said Rambai, who is under suspension for going against the BSP line on the new citizenship law. "Nobody can touch me and

get away without facing consequences," she said when asked about some Congress leaders' claim that she had been roughed up at the hotel.

Sanjeev Singh, BSP MLA from Bhind, said the Congress should penalise ministers and leaders who claimed that they had been held hostage. "If they (Congress) indeed freed us, why are they unable to free their own MLAs?" he asked, referring to the three Congress MLAs.

Shukla said, "It's our misfortune that we agreed to return to Bhopal with Congress leaders on their plane."

All three had returned to Bhopal and met the CM on Wednesday. On Thursday, they denied the BJP offered them money or that they were flown to Delhi against their wish.

While Digvijaya stuck to his guns, claiming that the BJP had made two similar unsuccessful attempts in the past, state minister Jeetu Patwari changed tack on Thursday and claimed that he had never used words like "hostage or kidnapped", and that all he had said was the Congress

had succeeded in exposing the BJP's "conspiracy to topple the government".

State BJP chief V D Sharma said Digvijaya should apologise for making such "baseless allegations".

While forthcoming Rajya Sabha elections are seen as the immediate trigger for the rumblings in the Congress camp in MP, sources in BJP said the party is egging on the disgruntlement to tilt the scale against the Kamal Nath government far beyond the Rajya Sabha polls. Maintaining that the party's central leadership is not involved, a source said senior state BJP leaders who command influence at the central leadership level are trying to pull the strings.

"We do not even need to wade into their (Congress's) troubles. Just look at the remarks of those three 'returned' MLAs. The disgruntlement is writ large..." a BJP leader said.

"Rajya Sabha elections are secondary — our main aim would be the CM post," confided another senior leader.

WITH INPUTS FROM ENS, DELHI

MP govt shifts DGP, names Johri as new police chief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

BHOPAL, MARCH 5

ENDING DAYS of speculation over the fate of Madhya Pradesh DGP V K Singh, the state government on Thursday replaced him with another officer of the 1984 batch, V K Johri, who is deputation to the Centre.

Singh was made director of Sports and Youth Welfare, pending further orders.

Johri, who is director general of the Border Security Force (BSF), was one of the three officers on the panel sent recently by the Union Public Services Commission (UPSC) to the MP government for appointment as DGP. The state government rejected the panel on the grounds that Johri had not given his willingness in writing.

Singh and Maithilisharan Gupta were the two others. Senior IPS officer Rajendra Kumar, who is DG of Cyber Cell, will hold the post of acting DGP along with his current responsibility. The 1985 batch officer is currently heading the team set up to probe the honey trap case.

HC stays notice to Polish student to leave India

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

KOLKATA, MARCH 5

THE CALCUTTA High Court on Thursday stayed the Centre's notice to a Polish student of Jadavpur University asking him to leave India for allegedly taking part in a protest rally against the new citizenship law (CAA) in Kolkata.

Claiming that Siedczynski did so "unwittingly and out of curiosity", Mitra told the court that the event was a peaceful protest.

Mitra said that the student soon got separated from the others and stood on the sidelines when he was asked few questions by a person who also clicked his photograph. It later transpired that he was a photojournalist of a Bengali daily and the student's picture and some related news were published in the daily later. Mitra also said that some statements had been wrongly attributed to Siedczynski in the news report.

"The court has ordered an injunction to the notice, which means the Centre cannot give effect to the notice till March 18. The matter will appear again on March 18 when the court will deliver its judgement on it," Mitra told *The Indian Express*.

Kamil Siedczynski, who hails from Szczecin in Poland and is pursuing a Masters in the Department of Comparative Literature at Jadavpur University, was served the notice from the Foreigners' Regional Registration Office (FRRO), that comes under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), for allegedly engaging in anti-government activities and, therefore, violating visa norms.

The notice, dated February 14, had asked Siedczynski to leave India within 14 days of receiving it. Since Siedczynski received the notice on February 24, he was required to leave by March 9.

In his petition, Siedczynski urged the court to restrain authorities from giving effect to the notice. He also appealed to the FRRO for reconsideration since he had only four months left to complete his course and "expressed remorse stating he had learnt a lot from his mistake and he understood not to repeat the mistake".

Calling the Centre's notice, "arbitrary" and contrary to principles of natural justice and violative of the fundamental rights guaranteed to all persons under the Indian Constitution, the court has stayed the Centre's 'Leave India Notice' to the student till March 18. On that day the court will deliver its judgement on the case, Edulji told *The Indian Express*.

Shahabuddin dropped from RJD national executive panel

Patna: The RJD has dropped jailed party strongman and former MP Mohammad Shahabuddin from its national executive committee which was announced on Thursday.

The party has, however, accommodated Shahabuddin's wife Hina Shahab in the 45-member committee. The party had faced criticism for retaining Shahabuddin, who is jail in connection with multiple cases.

The composition of the RJD's national executive committee looks an attempt to keep all senior leaders in good humour and also maintain the fine social balance of Yadav and Muslim faces.

There are now 10 Muslim leaders have been in the national executive committee.

ENS



COMBATING CORONAVIRUS

Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad offers hand sanitiser to party colleagues Jairam Ramesh and Vivek Tankha outside Parliament House in New Delhi on Thursday. Anil Sharma

Paswan recalls 1984, calls on Oppn to join discussion on Delhi riots

HARIKISHAN SHARMA

NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

RECOUNTING THE horror of the 1984 Sikh riots, Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and LJP leader Ram Vilas Paswan on Thursday asked the Opposition to join the discussion over Delhi violence, saying that "Parliament is not a battlefield, it's a place for debate. It's the highest institution in the country..."

"LJP wants to appeal all members of Opposition to take part in the debate," Paswan said.

He further said, "An inquiry has been ordered, the matter is in the knowledge of court, and culprits will be punished. Now,

the issue is that people of the country should know the reality of the incident.. Therefore, a discussion should take place in the Parliament. It should be an open discussion with members of all parties. If anyone knows the reasons of the incident, he or she should tell the truth so that such

an incident does not occur in the future, if you don't take part, it means you are running away from the debate. The Parliament is not a battlefield, it's a place for debate. It's the highest institution in the country..."

"LJP wants to appeal all members of Opposition to take part in the debate," Paswan said.

The Opposition has been protesting in the House, demanding resignation of Home Minister Amit Shah over the Delhi violence.

Recounting the horror of the 1984 riots, Paswan said his house was burnt during the riots. "While the 1984 riots were backed by the Congress party and spread across the country, this time the government has been able to control the violence and it has happened only in a part of Delhi," Paswan said.

He should tell the truth so that such

greater global good".

"As a fellow public broadcaster of global repute, it is dismaying that the BBC has filed such a singularly one-sided version of the incidents of violence in Delhi which rather than help break the cycle of violence has only contributed to further vitiling the atmosphere while insinuating the brave men and women in uniform who are charged with the onerous responsibility of maintaining law and order," Vempati wrote in a letter dated March 4.

He wrote that the report was also "damningly silent" on the murder of an Intelligence Bureau official. Vempati had been invited to the BBC Indian Sportswomen of the Year Awards Night.

Referring to a video news report by the BBC on March 3, Vempati wrote, "In the said report certain visuals have been shown of the Delhi Police without context to insinuate communal behavior. Unfortunately nowhere in the entire report have the BBC journalists mentioned the murderous assault on the men in uniform by a mob which resulted in the death of a Head Constable while in the line of duty and also resulted in the fatal injuries received by a Deputy Commissioner of Police in uniform."

He wrote that the report was also "damningly silent" on the murder of an Intelligence Bureau official. Vempati had been invited to the BBC Indian Sportswomen of the Year Awards Night.

Shashi Shekhar Vempati



Shashi Shekhar Vempati

SC JUDGE'S PRAISE OF PM

Improper, unnecessary: Bombay Bar Association

OMKAR GOKHALE

EXPRESS NETWORK

CORONA WATCH

JAMMU AND KASHMIR



Patients during free meal distribution, outside Medical College Hospital in Jammu. PTI

Five kept in isolation in Srinagar hospital

Srinagar: Five persons are in the isolation ward of the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences in Srinagar, officials said on Thursday. However, health officials said four of the five persons who were admitted to the hospital have tested negative for coronavirus infection while the test report of one is awaited. A senior health official said that 230 people in J&K with a travel history to foreign countries are under surveillance. The government issued public appeals in local dailies on Thursday, asking people not to panic and to

TELANGANA



People wait to receive prophylactic medicines for coronavirus illness at AYUSH centre, in Hyderabad. PTI

MANIPUR

No biometric attendance for officials till March 30

Imphal: Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Thursday announced to suspend biometric attendance system for employees in all the state government offices and secretariats. The announcement was made during an emergency press conference held at the CM's secretariat after a state-level review meeting on coronavirus attended by top officials of the state health de-

partment. Soon after the announcement, an order was also issued by Manipur Chief Secretary Dr J Suresh Babu, ordering the immediate suspension of biometric attendance system till March 30 until further orders. The Chief Minister said the government is closely monitoring the situation and taking all precautionary measures to counter the outbreak in Manipur since January 18. ENS

ASSAM



Medics wait for passengers at the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport in Guwahati. PTI

COVID-19

Govt in touch with Iran for evacuating Indian pilgrims, students, says Harsh Vardhan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

AFTER CHINA, India is in touch with Iran for possible evacuation of Indian pilgrims and students stuck in the coronavirus-hit nation, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Thursday.

Making a statement in both Houses of Parliament, he said 29 people in India have tested positive, including three initial cases in Kerala who have since recuperated and discharged. Later in the day, the 30th case of infection in the country was confirmed.

The minister said that the new cases include one in Delhi with a travel history of Italy and another in Telangana who came in contact with a Singapore national in Dubai. Six people, who came in contact with the person infected by the virus in Delhi, have tested positive, he said. Detailing the steps taken by the government to contain its spread, the minister said, "The government is taking all necessary measures to prevent spread of COVID-19 in India."

After the minister's statement, several opposition members in Lok Sabha urged the government to check the black marketing of hand sanitizers and masks and to ensure their availability in remote and rural areas.

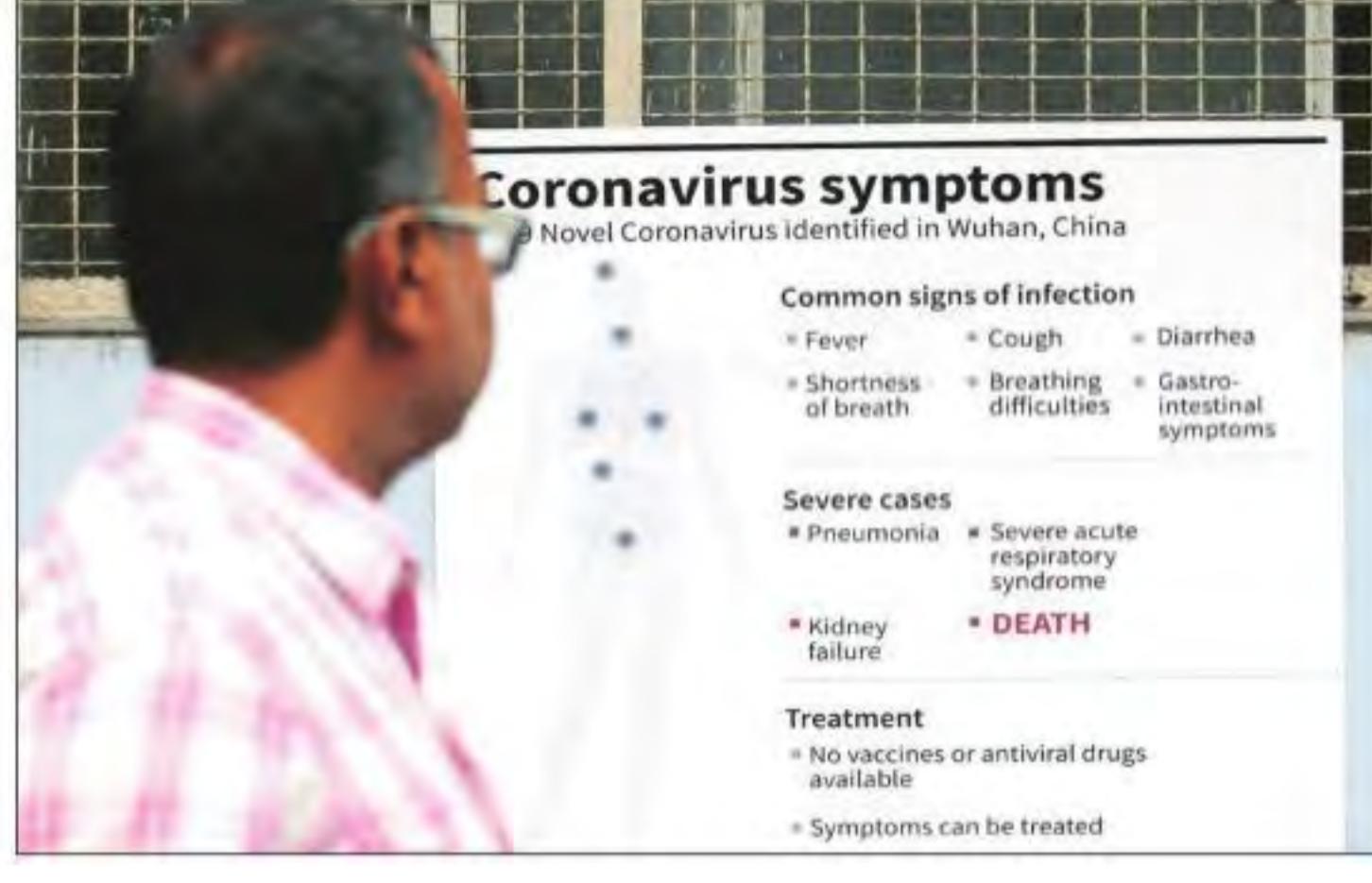
Congress leader in the House Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury raised the issue of rising prices of sanitizers and masks. He also said there is an urgent need to check rumours regarding spread of the disease. Chowdhury said his party leader Rahul Gandhi had forewarned the government on the COVID-19 outbreak.

BSP MP Ritesh Pandey said the government should ensure the availability of sanitizers and masks in the market. DMK MP Kanimozi said there are airports in the country with no thermal screening facility available.

Trinamool Congress leader Sougata Roy suggested that the government show small video clips on TV to spread awareness about the steps to be taken to contain the virus. Shiv Sena leader Arvind Sawant said the government should take some steps to relieve Indians stuck in different coronavirus-affected countries.

Raghunath Krishna Raju of the YSRCP said greeting people in the form of 'namaste' is the best way to prevent the spread of the virus, inviting sharp reactions from some Opposition MPs from Kerala.

The summit was scheduled



A man reads a poster carrying messages on symptoms of coronavirus in Kolkata on Thursday. The total number of cases detected across the country touched 30 on Thursday, including three in Kerala who were discharged last month. Reuters

PM trip for India-EU summit postponed

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

IN THE first impact of coronavirus on diplomatic engagements, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not travel to Brussels to attend the India-EU summit, which has been postponed amid the COVID-19 outbreak.

The summit was scheduled

for March 13.

The first coronavirus cases struck the EU institutions on Wednesday. An official at the general secretariat of the EU council of member-states tested positive for COVID-19 following local transmission in Belgium.

On Thursday, the Ministry of External Affairs' official spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said, "With regard to the proposed India-EU Summit, both sides have agreed that due to health authorities advising against travel between regions, it would be wise to reschedule the Summit to a later mutually convenient date. The decision has been taken in the spirit of the close cooperation between India and the EU who share the same concerns and commitment to global health and hope that the

outbreak is contained soon."

The EU mission in Delhi said in a statement, "In view of precautionary measures related to the global spread of COVID-19, the EU and India have jointly decided to postpone the EU-India summit foreseen initially for 13 March in Brussels."

"The two sides will now look

to agree on a new summit date through mutual consultations. In the meantime, we will continue work on our joint agenda to make progress across all aspects of our relations," the EU stated.

According to EU Observer, an online newspaper covering EU affairs, another official working at the EU's European Defence Agency also tested positive after he had returned from Italy on February 23.

"The colleague is currently receiving the appropriate medical care and the GSC [general secretariat of the council] is taking all necessary measures to limit the risks of transmission of COVID-19 to others," a council official told EU Observer.

Meetings at the headquarters of the Brussels-based agency, some 2 km from the council building, have been cancelled until March 13.

Two from Telangana test negative

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HYDERABAD, MARCH 5

TWO PEOPLE from Telangana tested negative for coronavirus on Thursday as the government asserted it was prepared to deal with any situation and advised people not to panic.

Speaking to reporters, Health Minister E Rajender said the two samples – one who had visited Italy and another, of a sanitary worker who works in an IT company, tested negative.

Their samples had been sent to National Institute of Virology, Pune after local tests for coronavirus returned "borderline", days after the state reported its first positive case of a 24-year-old software engineer, who had returned from Dubai.

Hoping that COVID-19 would not spread in the state, the minister said the state government is capable of tackling any situation.

The minister appealed to the IT industry not to worry, saying only a single person in the state has been infected so far. The only one who tested positive was suspected to have contracted it in Dubai, he added.

Home Secy reviews status, Nathu La sealed

ESHA ROY
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

WITH THE number of confirmed coronavirus cases in India touching 30, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla on Thursday reviewed the status of screening of people coming to India from neighbouring countries.

Meanwhile, security at the borders in the Northeast has been tightened. Sources said the Nathu La pass has been sealed and Sikkim is not allowing foreigners to enter the state.

"Home Secretary held a video conference with Chief Secretary/Additional Chief Secretary and DGP/Additional DGP of States viz., Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Punjab, besides Secretary Border Management and DsG of BSF/SSB," an MHA statement said.

Home Ministry officials said the states have informed the home secretary that doctors are conduct-

ing regular screening at various transit points and the community in border areas has been sensitised through gram sabhas about the precautions to be taken.

Sikkim on Thursday issued orders to seal the India-China border at Nathu La in the light of increasing cases of coronavirus infection. This comes after a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Secretary S C Gupta on Wednesday.

Nathu La pass is a traditional trading post between the local Chinese and Sikkimese who live on either side of the border. After the meeting on Wednesday, an order issued by the Home Department of Sikkim on Thursday suspended the trade.

"We have banned the visit of even Indians to Nathu La as it neighbours China," said DG and Secretary, Health, Sikkim, Dr Pemba Bhutia. The Sikkim government has also stopped issuing Inner Line Permits (ILP) to foreign nationals, making it the first state to ban the entry of foreigners.

Intel employee may be discharged today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, MARCH 5

AN INTEL Corporation employee, who has been under observation after his roommate in Bengaluru tested positive for the novel coronavirus infection on March 2, is likely to be removed from the observation list on Friday after showing no signs of infection.

The 24-year-old software engineer may be asked to remain in home isolation for two more weeks as precaution.

The Intel employee had self-reported his close contact with a data scientist from another company, with whom he shared a flat in southeast Bengaluru, after the data scientist tested positive for COVID-19 this week.

"The flatmate of the person who tested positive in Telangana has shown no symptoms after the lapse of nearly 14 days since coming in direct contact with the patient. He may be considered for discharge on Friday," a senior official of the firm said.

Isolation over, first 2 patients look ahead with hope

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
MARCH 5

WHEN WUHAN city in China turned into the Ground Zero of the novel coronavirus outbreak in January-end, a 20-year-old woman from Thrissur and a 23-year-old man from Alappuzha fled the city. In the next few days, they became two of the first three confirmed coronavirus cases in India.

Now, when the number of confirmed coronavirus cases has touched 30, the two third-year students of a medical course at Wuhan University are finally out of isolation.

The woman, who was the first

positive coronavirus case in the country, was under isolation for 25 days from January 27. Subsequently, she was put on home quarantine, which ended on March 1.

She said during the isolation period at a hospital, she read news about the outbreak on her smartphone. "I read the chilling news reports about deaths in Wuhan. We left in a rush a day before the lockdown," she said. She said that she knew the infection is new. "I looked at the profile of victims and read a lot about the infection. I found solace that those who died had other health issues and were aged above 50. I was physically fit and hoped to survive."

Recalling the days in isolation,

nurses collected samples for testing. It was on the 19th day of isolation that I tested negative."

Besides the woman, her mother was kept under isolation at the hospital. Her father and brother remained under home quarantine. "Local people were scared about the spread of virus. All needs at my home were attended to by relatives," she said.

She recalled that she had come to know that she is the first confirmed coronavirus case in India through the media. "My friends who had returned from Wuhan shared a video of the state health minister announcing about the first case in Thrissur," she said.

"Every day, doctors and nurses in protective equipment would

turn up at my room. Nurses changed duty three or four times a day. There were regular calls from doctors, health inspectors and psychiatrists. For 25 days, I did not step out of the room. Friends and relatives kept me engaged over the phone. When I felt dejected, I would call the doctors for mental support."

The student said the isolation period had made her stronger. "I have learnt how to face such a situation. In the future, as a doctor, I hope this would help me support my patients better," she said.

The youngster from Alappuzha, the second confirmed case in India, said he now felt like a "free bird". "We were part of a group of students who travelled

from Wuhan to Kerala. When one of us tested positive in Thrissur, I voluntarily went to the hospital for isolation. I wanted to ensure that I do not trigger a new set of infections," he said.

He said they had initially planned to leave Wuhan by flight on January 23, but the flight was cancelled. So they took a train to Kunming, from where they took a flight to Kolkata and then Kochi.

The student said they are in touch with teachers at Wuhan who are working from home. "Classes have started online and we are getting projects from teachers. Until normalcy is restored, online classes would continue," he said.

CBI to probe if pistol found in creek was dumped by Dabholkar shooter

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, MARCH 5



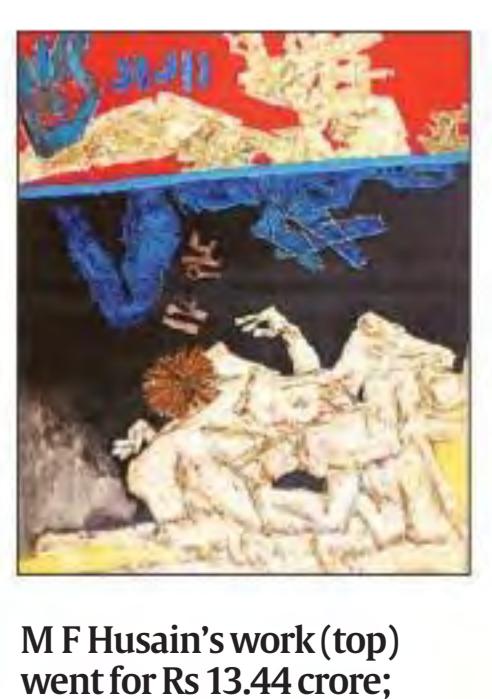
Narendra Dabholkar was killed in 2013

The CBI has said that it has recovered a pistol from a creek of the Arabian Sea near Thane following a search for weapons possibly dismantled and dumped by one of the accused in the Narendra Dabholkar murder case in July 2018. The weapon will be examined by forensic and ballistic experts to ascertain whether it was linked to the murder, officials said.

The CBI had made the first arrest in 2016 by apprehending Sanatan Santha member Dr Virendra Tawade, an ENT sur-

geon and alleged mastermind of the conspiracy. In 2018, the agency named Sachin Andure and Sharad Kalaskar as the two shooters, who allegedly opened fire at Dabholkar on the morning of August 20 in 2013, and arrested them. In May last year, Mumbai-based Sanatan Santha lawyer Sanjeev Punalekar and his aide Vikram Bhave were arrested.

The rusted body of a country-made pistol has now been recovered from the creek with help of expert divers and special equipment and will be examined before a conclusion is drawn, CBI sources said.



M F Husain's work (top) went for Rs 13.44 crore; Amrita Sher-Gil's work (left) fetched Rs 15.68 crore

The Boys with Lemons (1935) by Amrita Sher-Gil stood out as the highest selling work at Rs 15.68 crore. A major portion of the live auction was allocated to watches and bags, which saw competitive bidding. Several handbags, with makes such as Chanel and Hermès, sold well above their estimates. They have performed well partly owing to the fact that these categories don't come for auction in India as often as fine art. A Girard-Perregaux "Opera One" triple bridge tourbillon wrist watch performed the best in the watch category, going at Rs 95.20 lakh.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

SALES WORTH RS 53.45 CRORE AT NIRAV MODI ASSETS AUCTION

Husain work fetches Rs 13 cr — his highest ever

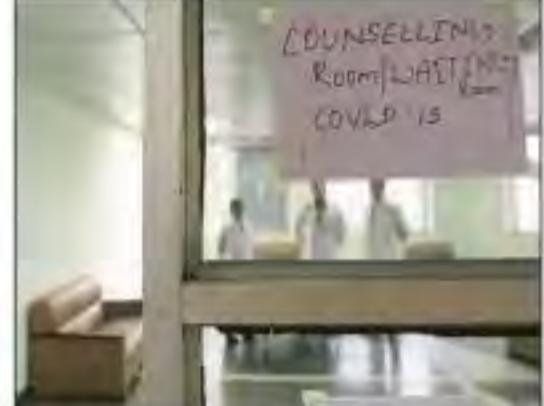
BENITA FERNANDO
MUMBAI, MARCH 5

DURING HIS lifetime, M F Husain faced his fair share of trials and tribulations for his depiction of Hindu gods and goddesses. However, the auction of fugitive diamantaire Nirav Modi's seized assets came as a definitive win for the late artist. His *Battle of Ganga and Jamuna: Mahabharata 12* (1972) sold for Rs 13.44 crore (including buyer's premium), making it the highest selling work by the artist.

The live auction was conducted on Tuesday evening by auction house Saffronart on be-

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK
YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED DAILY

What should you do if you have symptoms, travel/contact history?

LNJP Hospital, Delhi. *Cajendra Yadav*

ABANTIKA GHOSH

GO TO any of the 106 medical colleges/district hospitals designated by the government as Viral Research & Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDLs). (Full list with contact details on www.indianexpress.com) Private hospitals/clinics may or may not have the technology or expertise, and an infected person may end up only expanding their network of contacts and facilitating spread of the disease.

"We do not know if the private sector has the wherewithal. Our entire focus has been on reducing (infectious) contact and protecting people from being charged more for tests by private players. We have seen that happen during outbreaks earlier," a senior official at the National Centre for Disease Control (formerly National Institute of Communicable Diseases), Delhi told *The Indian Express*.

Two tests are ordinarily done before pronouncing a person as coronavirus-positive.

In the first stage, a nasal or throat swab is tested for the presence of the virus — to detect the "viral load". Strands of genetic material (for the novel coronavirus it is RNA) are isolated through a process called Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). This

APEX LAB: ICMR-NIV, Pune

TESTING LABS:

ALREADY ACTIVE

Delhi: AIIMS, Delhi

UP: KGMU, Lucknow

Rajasthan: SMS, Jaipur

West Bengal: NICE, Kolkata

Assam: GMC, Guwahati

Maharashtra: IGGMC, Nagpur;

KMC, Mumbai

Gujarat: BJMC, Ahmedabad

Telangana: GMC, Secunderabad

Karnataka: BMCRI, Bengaluru;

NIV Field Unit, Bengaluru

Tamil Nadu: KIPMR, Chennai

Kerala: NIV Field Unit, Alappuzha

ACTIVE BY MARCH 6

J&K: SKIMS, Srinagar; GMC, Jammu

Chandigarh: PGIMER

Rajasthan: SNMC, Jodhpur

Bihar: RMRM, Patna

Assam: RMRC, Dibrugarh

Tripura: GMC, Agartala

Odisha: RMRC, Bhubaneswar

Chhattisgarh: AIIMS, Raipur

MP: AIIMS, Bhopal; NIRTH, Jabalpur

Andhra Pradesh: SVIMS, Tirupati

Puducherry: JIPMER

Punjab: GMC, Amritsar

UP: IMA BHU, Varanasi

Uttarakhand: GMC, Haldwani

Gujarat: MP Shah MC, Jamnagar

Tamil Nadu: GMC, Theni

test can happen at any of the labs in the chart alongside.

In the next stage, the identity of the virus is confirmed through genome sequencing. This test is available only at the National Institute of Virology, Pune. The test was developed almost overnight after the identity of the novel coronavirus was revealed in December last year.

UNTIL THURSDAY

6,49,452

passengers of 6,550 flights screened at airports

29,607

persons under IDSP community surveillance, contact tracing



Have a question on the COVID-19 outbreak and what you should/should not do?

[Write to explained@indianexpress.com](mailto:explained@indianexpress.com)

VAJIRAM & RAVI
INSTITUTE FOR IAS PREPARATION

INTERVIEW MODULE 2020

- 2 MOCK INTERVIEWS & 1 PERSONAL SITTING
- INTERVIEW BY EXPERIENCED CIVIL SERVANTS
- VIDEO RECORDING OF MOCK INTERVIEW

9-B, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-110060, Ph: 011-41007500

www.vajiramandravi.com | Email: vajiram.office@gmail.com

Pleas, safeguards: Why the delay in Delhi gangrape convicts' hanging

PRANAY MODI
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

THE FOUR convicts in the 2012 Delhi bus gangrape case — Mukesh Kumar Singh, Pawan Gupta, Vinay Sharma, and Akshay Kumar Singh — will be hanged at 5.30 am on March 20, a Delhi court said on Thursday. The mercy plea filed by Pawan was rejected by the President on Wednesday.

The fresh date is in line with the requirement of a gap of 14 days between the date of rejection of the mercy petition and the date of hanging.

Fourth date in 2 months

This is the fourth time since January that a date has been set for the executions. Multiple petitions have been filed and rejected during this period, and multiple death warrants have been issued and postponed. This is because the regular legal procedure in death penalty cases has multiple checks, and because the realisation of past failures has resulted in the addition of an extra layer of protections for death row convicts.

The process of the law

It is a principle of criminal law that it is preferable to exonerate 10 criminals to con-

demning even a single innocent. The legal procedure by which a convict is sent to his death is complex and packed with safeguards.

Thus, a trial court may pronounce the death sentence only in the "rarest of the rare" cases — and such a sentence is automatically referred to the High Court for confirmation. A warrant of execution may only be issued once the sentence has been confirmed by the High Court.

The convict then has the option of approaching the Supreme Court against the High Court's decision. After the Supreme Court's decision, the convict may file a review petition, and a separate curative petition before the Supreme Court. Both are standard legal processes, meant to rectify egregious errors in judgments.

Thereafter, a mercy petition before the President may be filed. Such a petition is disposed of after a process involving a recommendation from the relevant state government, and sanction from the Home Ministry.

The convict may then approach the Supreme Court again by filing a petition questioning the legitimacy of the President's decision in the mercy petition. The disposal of this petition ends the process, and the death sentence may be executed thereafter.

This adds up to four separate petitions

LONG ROAD TO THE GALLOWS

FILED	PROCEEDINGS	REJECTED
Nov 6, 2017	Review Petition, Mukesh	Jul 9, 2018
Dec 15, 2017	Review Petition, Pawan, Vinay	Jul 9, 2018
Dec 10, 2019	Review Petition, Akshay	Dec 18, 2019
Jan 7, 2020	Death Warrant 1, Execution date Jan 22	
Jan 8	Curative Petition, Vinay	Jan 14, 2020
Jan 9	Curative Petition, Mukesh	Jan 14
Jan 14	Mercy Petition, Mukesh	Jan 17
Jan 17	Death Warrant 2, Execution date Feb 1	
Jan 27	Writ against Mercy rejection, Mukesh	Jan 29
Jan 29	Curative Petition, Akshay	Jan 30
Jan 29	Mercy Petition, Vinay	Feb 1
Jan 31	Application before trial court to stay death warrant; granted	
Jan 31	Mercy Petition, Akshay	Feb 5
Feb 11	Writ against Mercy rejection, Vinay	Feb 14
Feb 17	Death Warrant 3, Execution date Mar 3	
Feb 28	Curative Petition, Pawan	Mar 2
Mar 2	Mercy Petition, Pawan	Mar 4
Mar 5	Death Warrant 4, Execution date Mar 20	

available to a convict even after the Supreme Court has confirmed the conviction. Thus, while a death warrant may be is-

sued once the High Court has confirmed the sentence, it may not be executed until all these remedies have been exhausted.

Additional complications

In 1975, three persons sentenced to death for the same crime ended up suffering different punishments because separate legal processes had been followed for each convict. Shocked by the inconsistency that resulted in one convict being hanged while another had his sentence commuted, and in order to ensure that this does not happen again, the Supreme Court directed that convicts in the same crime must be executed together.

This meant that as long as a convict's petition remained pending before any forum, all co-convicts were protected by default. This safeguard has been invoked by the convicts in the Delhi bus gangrape case to secure extensions — and the four petitions available to them after confirmation of the conviction by the Supreme Court have in effect, become 16 — four for each convict, one followed by the other.

Current status of the case

The first death warrant was issued on January 7, two years and eight months after the Supreme Court confirmed the sentences. Thereafter, each convict filed separate petitions, typically moving just before the scheduled date of execution, and thereafter approaching the court to secure a postponement on grounds of pendency of the

petition. Thus Pawan's mercy petition was filed on Monday, with the hanging scheduled for Tuesday.

As of now, all remedies up to the mercy petition stage have been filed and rejected for all convicts. Petitions in the Supreme Court by Mukesh and Vinay challenging the rejection of their mercy petitions have been rejected. However, similar petitions have yet been filed for Pawan and Akshay.

Counsel for the convicts, A P Singh, has indicated that he intends to file a curative petition against the Supreme Court's rejection of Pawan's plea of juvenility. He is also likely to challenge the rejection of the mercy petitions of Pawan and Akshay before the Supreme Court.

Given the record in this case, however, these two remaining remedies could be exhausted quickly. Mukesh had preferred a petition against the rejection of his mercy petition on January 28, three days before the hanging scheduled for February 1 by the second death warrant — however, the Supreme Court had dismissed it the very next day. The date of execution was postponed only after Vinay preferred a mercy petition on January 29.

(Pranay Modi is a Research Fellow at Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, New Delhi)

@ieExplained

#ExpressExplained

If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

SIMPLY PUT

Behind Meghalaya violence

A clash on the border, a stabbing spree in Shillong and three deaths have thrown the spotlight on the ethnic complexities of Meghalaya. Which communities are in conflict, and where does CAA figure in it?

ABHISHEK SAHA
SHILLONG, MARCH 5

LAST WEEK, ethnic violence left three dead in Meghalaya. An Khasi tribal was killed in a clash in a village near the Bangladesh border, followed by a stabbing spree by masked attackers in Shillong and attacks elsewhere, leading to the death of two non-tribal men, both Muslims. The violence underlined the ethnic complexities of Meghalaya, with tensions coming back to the fore following the passage of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

Multi-ethnic Meghalaya

Meghalaya became a state in 1972, when it was carved out of Assam. Before that, Shillong, now Meghalaya's capital, used to be the capital of Assam. Sharing a 443-km border with Bangladesh, Meghalaya has seen decades of migration from areas that are now in Bangladesh, as well as from various Indian states via Assam. Besides the indigenous groups, Meghalaya's residents include Bengalis, Nepalis, Marwaris, Biharis and members of various other communities.

Meghalaya is a tribal majority state, and the indigenous Khasis, Jaintias and Garos are entitled to 80% reservation in government jobs. Groups such as the Khasi Students' Union (KSU), established in 1978, have continuously expressed concerns that illegal migration from Bangladesh and growth of "outsiders" from other states would overwhelm the indigenous communities.

The CAA context

The CAA, passed by Parliament in December, relaxes the norms for Hindus from Bangladesh (among six religious groups from three countries) for eligibility to apply for Indian citizenship. Long before that, the legislation was already facing protests in the Northeast, including Meghalaya. Eventually, the Centre decided the CAA will not apply in Sixth Schedule areas. The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution has special provisions for administration of certain areas in the Northeast, including almost the whole of Meghalaya.

Despite the large exemption, the concerns have persisted in Meghalaya, and demands for an Inner Line Permit (ILP) regime have gathered fresh momentum. If the ILP system is introduced, every Indian citizen



Last week in Shillong, which has seen violence against non-tribals several times in the last 40 years. Abhishek Saha

from any other state would require a time-bound permit to visit Meghalaya.

The violence last week has an immediate context in the anti-CAA campaign and ILP demand. On Friday last week, a KSU team went to Ichamati village, near the Bangladesh border, to hold a meeting on these two issues. It was during this campaign that a clash took place between student activists and non-tribal villagers, leading to a Khasi man being killed.

This sparked violence in other parts of the state, with non-tribal persons targeted. In Shillong, at least 10 persons were stabbed by masked persons, leading to the death of a Muslim from Assam. Another Muslim (married to a Khasi woman) was killed in a village called Pyrken.

Border flashback

Ichamati houses mixed communities, largely Bengali Hindus but also Manipuris and Hajongs. Five Bengalis and three Manipuris have been arrested after the killing of the Khasi activist. A KSU member

said non-tribals in Ichamati neither oppose the CAA nor want the ILP, hence the delegation was attacked.

"The CAA-ILP cocktail has just exacerbated the problems and sharpened the di-

vide even between people who traded with each other in normal times," said Patricia Mukhim, editor of *The Shillong Times*. She also cited a link between the violence in Ichamati and the mechanics of a limestone business across the border, and cattle smuggling.

Mukhim said that in Ichamati and nearby Bholaganj, there are more Bengali residents than there are Khasis and Garos. "This is what happens when new borders are drawn between countries that were once part of each other... In fact there have been occasions last year when people allegedly from across the border attacked tribals in Shella, Ichamati etc."

Shillong, then and now

Shillong has seen violence against "outsiders" several times in the last four decades. The targets were Bengalis in 1979, Nepalis in 1987, and Biharis in 1992. In 2018, Shillong saw clashes between Khasis and Punjabi-origin Dalit Sikhs whose ancestors had settled

Why tax on disability pension upsets veterans

IN THE DOCK

There are many guilty men of Delhi. Putting an activist in the dock is a waste of the court's precious time and a travesty

IF THE COSTLY toll of the communal riots in Delhi points to serial institutional abdications and political failures, its aftermath doesn't seem to be breaking from that dispiriting story. Survivors and victims of the violence have been left to fend for themselves. Outreach by government and political parties has been far too belated, too little. It is into this bare and denuded landscape that public spirited citizens and civil society activists have stepped in, to lend a listening ear and reach out a helping hand. It would not have been out of place, therefore, to assume that someone like former civil servant and activist Harsh Mander — whose citizens' group established a 24x7 control room in Delhi to respond to distress calls and who knocked on a judge's door late at night to prod Delhi Police to ensure safe passage for ambulances to move the injured to bigger hospitals — should have been seen, in this difficult time, as a friend of the court. It is disturbing and disappointing that, on the contrary, the Supreme Court should deny a hearing to Mander's petition for registering FIRs against those who made hate speeches, because of a speech he himself made in December in which he allegedly showed disrespect to Parliament and the court.

It is not just that the speech Mander made on December 16, 2019, at Jamia Millia Islamia was an exhortation to fight against a discriminatory and divisive citizenship law with non-violence and love. And that, far from expressing disrespect to institutions, it was an argument for protesting under the ambit of the Indian Constitution. The point also is that the apex court, which has shown a big heart and broad shoulders in so many moments when both were needed, now appears thin-skinned and quick to take offence when it ticks off Mander — "till we sort this out, we will not hear you, but will hear others", it said. That's a chilling signal from the highest court — that its criticism may be a reason to deny a citizen due process. The fact also is that the affidavit Delhi Police subsequently filed in court, accusing Mander of instigating violence by his speech, sounds bizarre and absurd, given its inability or unwillingness till now to register FIRs against the real instigators, those who made publicised hate speeches in the run-up to the Delhi violence.

Undoubtedly, the court has a difficult task in this moment. The CJI-led bench is right when it says "we don't think violence can be curbed by court orders". The police, too, has a set of challenges as it tries to hold the peace after its spectacular inaction. But there are some things the court can and must do in the aftermath. For one, it should prod an unresponsive police to bring the guilty to book and lend its considerable weight to calls for accountability. At a time when institutions seem to be failing the citizens, it should ensure that the state respects and protects their right to safety and relief and compassion. There are many guilty men of Delhi. Putting an activist with a formidable record of civic action in the dock in this moment seems to be a waste of the court's precious time, and a travesty.

BRACING FOR THE VIRUS

With coronavirus spreading across the world, forecasts for growth are being pared down. A global response is needed

THE CORONAVIRUS HAS quickly morphed into a global public health crisis. While there continues to be uncertainty surrounding the extent of its spread, the fear and panic it has induced across the world is evident. So far, the policy response to alleviate its impact on economic activity has largely relied on conventional tools. On Tuesday, the US Federal Reserve cut interest rates by 50 basis points. Central banks of other countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Australia have also cut rates, though of a lower magnitude. Others like Hong Kong, Singapore and South Korea have opted for aggressive fiscal stimuli. While such moves signal a willingness on the part of policymakers to take measures to prevent the slowdown in economic activity from deepening, these measures by themselves are unlikely to offset short-run supply-side disruptions and fear-induced lower household discretionary spending.

The centrality of China to the global economy means that the ripple effects of this crisis will be felt across the world. Forecasts of global growth are already being pared down. Stock markets across the world have reacted negatively over the past few weeks with trillions of dollars of wealth being eroded. Commodity markets are also feeling the pain. The disruptions to global supply chains, of which China is an integral part, are beginning to show up. The short-run costs to growth, especially in the Asian region, that is intensively interlinked to China, will be severe and this will have spillover effects on the global economy. While the full impact of the epidemic can only be gauged once it starts showing up in economic data, the longer it persists, the more extended and deeper the slowdown will be. Fear and panic, especially in countries where new cases are rising, are likely to restrict discretionary household spending. And as demand takes a hit, firms may respond by slashing wages and laying off workers. Further, as countries start to impose restrictions on travel, the tourism industry will also be hit.

For India, which is in the midst of a slowdown, the crisis could not have come at a worse time. While sectors such as pharmaceuticals, electronics such as mobiles, gems and jewelry and textiles, are expected to fare the worst, the government must undertake a comprehensive assessment of the fallout of the disruptions in supply. The top priority, however, should be to contain the virus. Monetary easing, fiscal stimulus, and other measures will only stimulate economic activity once that happens.

WATCH THE BIRDIE

The tenure of Jack Dorsey at Twitter could be as evanescent as the platform's new feature — 'fleets' that vanish next day

ON WEDNESDAY, TWITTER announced that it was running an experiment in Brazil with "fleets" — tweets that self-destruct the next day. Simultaneously, it came to light that the career of its co-founder and CEO Jack Dorsey could be almost as short-lived, as Wall Street walked into the boardroom. "Vulture capitalist" hedge fund Elliott Management has ploughed \$1 billion into Twitter and has put four directors on a board of eight. Dorsey could be crowded out.

Silicon Valley stands apart from the rest of American capitalism in protecting founders. In the brick and mortar world, CEOs who do not optimally enrich shareholders are soon replaced. But in California, founders remain pillars of the organisation. They may be protected by special shareholding structures or elevated to a holding company for their protection, as those of Google were. On Dorsey's watch, Twitter has been growing at a snail's pace compared to other social media giants, and has struggled as hard as the vastly more profitable Facebook in tackling hate speech and political polarisation online. Besides, Dorsey spends less time on the company than his peers, taking time out for personal interests, which is against the industry's driven work ethic. The company was wide open for someone like Paul Singer of Elliott to buy an entry ticket.

Loyal employees are organising a hashtag fightback, but in these matters, words don't really count. Only the numbers do, and they look ominous. It's clear that if Dorsey goes, it won't be alone. A sizeable number of employees would follow him out, and maybe build something new. Twitter was born in a San Francisco playground in 2006, where Dorsey had legendarily stood atop a children's slide and spoken extempore about his idea. Now, if he is ousted, he would have the time to think up the next big idea.

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

IF LIBERTY MEANS ANYTHING AT ALL, IT MEANS THE RIGHT TO TELL PEOPLE WHAT THEY DO NOT WANT TO HEAR. —GEORGE ORWELL

Congress, stoop to conquer



MANI SHANKAR AIYAR

Kerala's UDF and its rival LDF provide a template for surviving and taking on saffron forces

DESPITE WIDESPREAD DESPAIR in Congress circles that the party is showing no signs of even trying to revive itself, liberal opinion in the country at large is of the view that only the Congress can take on the nation-wide challenge of restoring the nation to the "Idea of India" expounded during the freedom movement and through the first 65 years of modern nation-building but now under severe stress from an alternative idea that seems to have caught the imagination of a disturbingly large section of our population. I use the expression "liberal opinion" because many of the most searching questions come from liberals who for years have been disenchanted with, and distanced from, the Congress as a party but are now thoroughly alarmed at the lemming-like rush to national suicide which, they reluctantly concede, only the Congress can stem.

This has sparked an open debate among Congress intellectuals in full public glare — unprecedented in the last two decades — on how to pull the party out of the morass in which it finds itself. Participants include prominent Congress parliamentarians such as Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Shashi Tharoor and Manish Tewari, as also the relatively younger element in the person of Sandeep Dixit, Jyotiraditya Scindia and the Sanjay Jha-Salman Soz duo. I am, therefore, tempted to dip my paddle into the creek even if it means rowing against the tide.

Broadly speaking, two trends of thought have emerged, one that regards organisational elections as the key to recovery and the other that gives precedence to securing ideological and programmatic clarity by holding a series of Pachmarhi-type think-through sessions to consider how to make the four ideological pillars of the party — democracy, secularism, socialism, and non-alignment — relevant to the demands of the 21st century and the people's changing perceptions. The two approaches are, in fact, complementary and the argument is essentially over sequencing: Which should come first, the chicken or the egg?

I would like to add a further dimension in the sense of asking a completely different

question: Should the party aim at coming to power on its own in the foreseeable future or at comprehensively defeating the forces of Hindutva by forging a united front of the Opposition? Most Congress leaders would say defeating the BJP requires the restoration of the Congress as the "natural party of governance". But there has to be an acceptance of the ineluctable reality that the country is simply not willing to so reverse the falling curve of Congress support as to enable it to do so on its own. Equally, the results of both the Lok Sabha elections of 2014 and 2019 have shown that the combined vote of the secular parties exceeds by a wide margin the vote garnered by the Modi-Shah machine. Is it, therefore, feasible for the Congress to bring on board a coalition of disparate parties to arrest the saffron wave?

I believe this is a feasible political project principally because the Congress (which has never included the word "party" in its official name) had, during the freedom movement, provided a platform for a range of diverse political opinion united only in the objective of freeing the nation from the clutches of foreign rule. Only two political tendencies were excluded or had no desire to join — the communists and the communists. Can we restore the Congress to the status of a "movement"?

I think that might be possible if we stooped to conquer. If in the tortuous negotiations to set up a common platform, the Congress were to opt for a lower than a higher profile, characterised by a willingness to accommodate and compromise and sacrifice, we might be able to secure throughout India the kind of stable alliance which has held in Kerala for decades. The United Democratic Front, which includes the Congress, and even the rival Left Democratic Front, that includes the two leading Communist parties, provide the template for successfully confining the saffron forces to the margins. Both fronts have stabilised their alliances by determining well in advance which constituencies the partners in the alliance will fight and which portfolios will go to which partner in the event of a coalition

government being formed. And notwithstanding these electoral arrangements, the constituent parties are left free between elections to draw up their own political programmes and seek to strengthen their respective holds on the electorate.

Using this lived experience as a template, and adjusting it to ground realities in different states, it might be possible to build a stable, long-term national coalition which would bring to bear its combined weight on restoring the "Idea of India" on which all but the saffron forces are agreed, while pursuing, if possible by consensus, our respective programmes and policies on other matters. For if we do not do so now, it may be too late in 2024 or later to forge a last-minute secular front against the saffron juggernaut. "United we stand, divided we fall" is the tired old cliché that we now need to make our clarion call.

Of course, such an approach can only succeed if the Congress were to have transparent inner party elections that would throw up a collective charismatic leadership, as Tharoor et al have been urging, as well as clarity on ideology and the pressing issues of the day, as Tewari has been urging, arrived at not in closed-door meetings behind drawn curtains but through "open covenants, openly arrived at", as Woodrow Wilson might have said. This means linking the rejuvenation measures already aired by both the senior and younger echelons of the party to the strategic objective of uniting with others to restore in the 21st century our joint Vision of India, even if means disappointing aspirants at the grassroots who would otherwise pressurise the leadership, as they have been doing in a number of recent elections, to field them as candidates even when defeat is a certainty. That is the lesson to be learnt from petulantly fielding candidates for virtually all constituencies in UP knowing full well that not even a handful would prevail and the even sorrier spectacle of all but three of our candidates in the Delhi elections failing to recover their deposits and none winning even a single seat.

The writer is a former Union minister



YOGINDER K ALAGH

THE TRUMP VISIT is over. There were mutual gains. Homeland Security is an American expression. For us to own it shows our concerns on cross-border sponsored terrorism. The media did not discuss enough the GE nuclear turbines. Our nuclear VVER power plant technologies are state of the art and of Russian and French design. Good, but one more is better. We are well on the way to the fast breeder on the thorium route and these nuclear turbines are an essential step. We don't have much uranium but unlimited thorium, so in the long run, apart from solar, this is the energy future. Obviously, the insurance obstacle, as to who will bear the cost of insurance against disaster damage, which the Americans were raising earlier, has been resolved. We have to build nuclear power to provide the initial feedstock for the thorium-based reactors.

We get along very well at the personal plane with Americans and this is generally true with President Trump, who knows the Indian economy first hand. It is one thing for a leader to speak from briefs; it's another for him to be a Wharton graduate and a successful businessman. There are obviously differences between the two nations on the trade pact. There is "progress", diplomate to say we were not at odds, but otherwise we don't know the way forward. Since the event was Ahmedabad-based, Amul is invading America and dairying is real politics. Incidentally, the original Motera was started by Sheth Jaykrishna Harivallabhdas, who was also chairman of Gujarat Narmada Valley

The Americans generally rally behind the President on foreign policy. We are more advanced now and have kicked the bipartisan approach to foreign affairs. When I was doing my doctorate and teaching at the University of Pennsylvania, leaders like Madhu Limaye, Balraj Madhok and others defended India abroad. Now courtesies are denied to Sonia Gandhi in a Foreign Office planned banquet. Seven decades of a bipartisan policy are thrown away without a word in explanation.

President Trump also went to the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania when I was doing my doctorate there and later, teaching there and at Swarthmore College, a small well-known liberal arts college. My teacher Lawrence Klein, later to get the Economics Nobel, was annoyed at my constant cribbing on Paul

Fertilisers Company Ltd. In those days, the joint sector was a great innovation.

The US concern on Kashmir and minority rights is real. I had to respectfully remind old friends who on channels were taking the position that these are internal matters that we have always raised issues on prejudice on colour and minorities in the US and the rights of the diaspora with POTUS. If the largest foreign office establishment in the world is raising issues through their chief, let's not bury our head in the sand. I wouldn't be surprised if our defence minister expressing sadness at former chief ministers of Jammu and Kashmir being in detention was a gesture to the US President's stand on pursuing solutions.

The Americans generally rally behind the President on foreign policy. We are more advanced now and have kicked the bipartisan approach to foreign affairs. When I was doing my doctorate and teaching at the University of Pennsylvania, leaders like Madhu Limaye, Balraj Madhok and others defended India abroad. Now courtesies are denied to Sonia Gandhi in a Foreign Office planned banquet. Seven decades of a bipartisan policy are thrown away without a word in explanation.

President Trump also went to the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania when I was doing my doctorate there and later, teaching there and at Swarthmore College, a small well-known liberal arts college. My teacher Lawrence Klein, later to get the Economics Nobel, was annoyed at my constant cribbing on Paul

Samuelson's Economics being the required text on the ground that its chapters on developing countries were poor. Samuelson was his teacher. So Klein said: "Yoginder, you lecture to the entire class of Introductory Economics on what you think is appropriate." So I did that in College Hall, lecturing to more than a thousand kids. Trump was required to be there. But knowing him it is also possible that he played hooky and went out on a date.

More seriously, shall we now turn our attention to the systematic attempts to hack the foundations of the Republic. Every right is tampered with. Your religion, your identity in a country that never questioned it, you name it, it's in question. The Aadhaar card, passport, ration card, election card are not enough. One office doesn't accept another's card, even if they carry the same information. People like me are privileged. We breeze in and get the next card. Meanwhile, she who is in the queue from the morning and has missed her daily wage looks on sullenly. She doesn't have the courage to say "check my Aadhaar, ration card or election card" for the fear that she may lose her most prized possession. A study funded by the Canadian IDRC showed the poor only keep under lock and key the ration and election cards. One saves them from starvation, the other gives them dignity. At least once every five years, the mightiest knock at their door. We must not destroy, we must build.

The writer, a former Union minister, is an economist

AFTER THE TRUMP VISIT

India and US must ignore blips in relations, talk business



MARCH 6, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

NEW DELHI'S MESSAGE

INDIA HAS SENT a message to the Soviet Union through Hungarian Foreign Minister Frigyes Puja, stressing the urgency of finding a solution to the Afghan crisis, according to well-placed sources. Puja left Delhi on March 4 after talks in India. While details of the message are not known, the sources indicated that broadly India has suggested that the Soviet Union should help in creating some openings so that non-aligned nations can come forward with concrete proposals to resolve the deadlock over Afghanistan. The message to Moscow has been sent nearly three weeks after Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko's talks in Delhi.

VOTE ON ACCOUNT

A TWO WEEK-SESSION of the Lok Sabha beginning on March 11 will pass a vote on account after a two-day discussion on March 12 and 13 to enable the government to continue the various direct and indirect levies at the existing rates pending the passing of the 1980-81 budget later in summer. Finance Minister R Venkataraman is likely to bring before the Lok Sabha new tax proposals only during the next session of Parliament.

AASU FOR NRC

THE ALL ASSAM Students' Union, which is sending a team to meet the prime minister, declared its inability to make any compro-

mise over the base year. AASU president Prafulla Mahanta said the agreement could be reached only on the basis of the 1951 NRC. He said the Assam government had been deporting some 4,000 to 6,000 persons every year on the basis of the NRC.

MUGABE'S COALITION

ZIMBABWE'S PRIME MINISTER designate Robert Mugabe and his war-time guerilla ally Joshua Nkomo agreed to form a coalition government. Mugabe an avowed Marxist and Roman Catholic, is scheduled to meet his enemy of many years, former prime minister Ian Smith, to discuss the possibility of bringing whites into the government.

THE IDEAS PAGE

Why Delhi burned

Riots in the city were the outcome of the failure of institutions — police, courts, media — in standing up for rule of law and ensuring accountability



ABHINAV KUMAR

IT REALLY HAS been a bleak winter for the Delhi Police — starting with the clashes with lawyers in November, then the clashes with students in Jamia in December, which contributed a great deal to the ongoing protests in Shaheen Bagh, the allegations of inaction during campus violence in JNU in January, finally culminating in the communal violence in February that has left at least 47 dead and several hundred injured. Public trust and confidence in the police seems to be at an all-time low. It will be a long haul trying to restore it; not just in Delhi, but across the country.

What happened in Delhi on February 24 is a matter of grave concern and raises troubling questions, regardless of one's ideological affiliations. First and foremost, if the nation's capital can experience this kind of sustained mayhem over hours and days, then what hope is there for law and order in the supposedly less well-policed parts of the country? Second, what are the larger implications of pervasive communal tension for India's internal security, economy and social stability?

The timing of this violence couldn't be worse. It coincided with a high-profile visit by the US president that was meant to showcase the strategic partnership between our two countries. Predictably, everyone is busy connecting the dots according to their political leanings. In the international media and the left-leaning sections of our civil society, the dominant narrative is that some kind of a pogrom has taken place. While it does not quite fit in with the facts in the public domain regarding the religious identity of the victims, suddenly India is being projected as some kind of a fascist police state where the minorities are facing an imminent Holocaust. This perception needs to be corrected urgently. But doing so will require a variety of measures to restore the faith of all our citizens, especially our minorities, in the rule of law.

First and foremost, we need to focus on the relief and rehabilitation of the victims and their families. This must be accompanied by proactive measures to initiate dialogue and restore trust between community leaders at the grass roots. It requires administrative resolve and political consensus to step back from the blame game and make a concerted effort to douse inflamed passions on all sides.

Second, the Delhi Police must register and investigate all riot-related complaints without fear or favour in a time-bound manner. It is widely believed that inflammatory speeches by various leaders led to this violence. That aspect must also be investigated. However, to primarily blame hate speech for this kind of violence is mere posturing. The actual perpetrators of specific acts of violence need to be identified and prosecuted. All too often we are content to justify our descent into mob violence on hate speech. It is necessary, but not sufficient to do so.

Third, a thorough inquiry must also identify those police officers who committed spe-



C R Sasikumar

cific lapses that led to the riot and suitable action should be taken against them. Violence on this scale simmers for a while before erupting. There must have been plenty of warning signs that were missed or worse, not responded to. The Delhi Police themselves have lost one head constable and many others, including a DCP, have been injured. But their sacrifice and bravery cannot take away from the failure of the force to prevent the riot in the first place.

Fourth, and this is probably the hardest part, care must be taken to correct the systemic failures that allow such riots to take place. Without doing so, we cannot prevent further outbreak of mob violence. This requires a host of measures, most urgent of which is to seriously rethink the professional autonomy and accountability of our police officials.

In any democratic system, there are basic institutional mechanisms to ensure police accountability. The police leadership, of course, bears the primary responsibility for the front end of day-to-day functioning. The political executive is meant to be responsible for the back end of policy-making and allocation of adequate resources. The police leadership is guided primarily by loyalty to the party in office and faces an incentive structure that rewards obedience over professional competence and integrity. Regardless of the party in office, this is the political consensus on how the police ought to function.

Coming to the courts, despite the regular output of high-minded judgments, they too have failed miserably in ensuring police accountability. Our courts are prompt in passing sweeping judgements about certain aspects of police functioning such as arrests and encounters. But they are extremely ineffective in doing their basic job of dispensing justice in a time-bound manner, or in ensuring that the police receive proper backing in ensuring the rule of law. One example is the frequent misuse of Section 321 CrPC by all governments to withdraw riot-related cases with the consent of the court. All parties use this section to withdraw cases against their activists when they come to power. This gives rioters a powerful sense of impunity. Unless rioters know that they will face trial without fail, rioting will continue to serve as a viable

Keeping our minorities poor and fearful in ghettos is a recipe for all-round disaster. It is not only unethical and unconstitutional, it will also ensure that we never achieve our full national potential. By all means take firm measures against terrorism and radicalisation, but they cannot succeed by indiscriminately alienating the entire community. They need to have greater faith in our criminal justice system and in our social fabric. One way to do so would be to dramatically increase minority representation in all areas of our criminal justice system, especially in the police and judiciary. Their insufficient presence adds a great deal to the perception of bias.

tool of political mobilisation. The Supreme Court ought to frame strict guidelines that regulate the use of this provision of law.

The media too has not played its role of ensuring police accountability. Like our police leaders, too few editors and owners of media houses have the guts to say no to the party in power. This has disastrous consequences for democratic accountability in general, and police accountability in particular. Unless the media sets its own house in order, we will continue to miss a crucial piece in this puzzle.

It would be extremely foolish to think that the dominant narrative about the Delhi riots in the international media will not be seriously detrimental to our national interest. Just as it would be madness to think that the current feeling of insecurity and anxiety in our minority community will not damage our social fabric and have disastrous consequences for our aspirations for economic growth. Our national security challenges of cross-border terrorism and stabilising Kashmir become that much harder in the absence of communal harmony.

Keeping our minorities poor and fearful in ghettos is a recipe for all-round disaster. This is not only unethical and unconstitutional, it will also ensure that we never achieve our full national potential. By all means take firm measures against terrorism and radicalisation, but they cannot succeed by indiscriminately alienating the entire community. They need to have greater faith in our criminal justice system and in our social fabric. One way to do so would be to dramatically increase minority representation in all areas of our criminal justice system, especially in the police and judiciary. Their insufficient presence adds a great deal to the perception of bias. This must be rectified as a top priority.

The core issue remains that the police leadership has to step up and do a lot more to regain public confidence. Among other things, in crisis situations it requires them to stand up to political authority, firmly and visibly. Unless this starts to happen, irrespective of the party in office, riots will continue to take place with sickening regularity.

The writer is an IPS officer serving in Uttarakhand. Views are personal

Clearly there is national capability and we need to set our house in order. The restructuring of military regions in China commenced in the mid-1950s and was carried out over three phases. Their 12 separate commands were rationalised, and now number five. From the statements made publicly, it seems we are planning to complete some of our restructuring in a matter of months. Clearly, this is an unrealistic timeframe.

The primary task for CDS is to define — through consultations with service chiefs and operational commanders — a suitable defence policy for the country. Once accepted by the government, this should become the basis for determining the defence budget, for which the CDS has to justify to the Cabinet Committee on Security. Thereafter, the CDS, once again in consultation with service chiefs, is to recommend which areas must receive priority in terms of spending. Should there be any differences among them, these too have to be brought out.

Finally, my suggestion for the CDS is to take a balanced and consultative approach in defence restructuring. There are no prizes for chasing unrealistic timeframes. Let us maintain an even keel.

The writer is a retired vice admiral of the Indian Navy and former flag officer Commanding in Chief, Western Naval Command

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"In 2018 Malaysians ousted not just a party that had ruled for six decades but a corrupt old order. A monarch's act threatens to return it to power."

— THE GUARDIAN

Online versus offline

Should competition laws place higher weightage on assumed losses of competitors or on apparent gains of consumer? There is no simple answer



ISHAN BAKSHI

THE ONLINE marketplace or the platform/intermediation service market is now largely characterised by duopolies in most segments: Amazon and Flipkart in e-commerce, Uber and Ola in transport, Zomato and Swiggy in food service, MakeMyTrip and Yatra in travel bookings. Some niche players do exist in these segments, but by and large the market has been carved up by large players.

Of late, several of these companies have come under the scrutiny of the Competition Commission of India (CCI). The issues involved here have far-reaching ramifications for both online and off-line market places. Some of the more contentious issues are: Do such market structures restrict online competition? Are the players engaging in predatory pricing? If so, is it driving out both online and offline competition and does this adversely impact consumer welfare? Is there need for price intervention, and, if so, what should be the underlying framework?

In theory, the online market structure should facilitate greater competition given the lower barriers to entry. But this may not be the case. Most other firms in the segments mentioned above have either been taken over or have folded up.

One explanation for the emergence of these market structures is that as companies grow, with more users coming on board these platforms, they benefit from what CCI calls positive feedback loop. This leads to market concentration. Given the network effects, which are common in digital spaces, it becomes difficult for new players to enter these spaces, and gain market share as there isn't much space for many such networks.

Another possible explanation is that, contrary to perception, the online space is highly capital intensive. Deep pockets are required to fund the discounts to get customers on board initially. Such market structures are more likely in capital deficit countries like India. Incumbents, as in other sectors, may also engage in various strategies to restrict entry and thus competition. Even small actions by these platforms coupled with the network effects can adversely impact competition.

This would suggest that competition is likely to be restricted and new entrants in the online space will be rare, unless facilitated by technological changes, regulatory intervention or through deep discount pricing backed by deep-pocketed firms. The question is: Do such online market structures also adversely impact offline competition and thus consumer welfare?

Many allege that these two-sided online platforms engage in predatory pricing or below cost pricing either by funding it themselves (deep pockets) or by squeezing producers. This drives out competition — both online as well as offline. Predatory pricing is anti-competition to begin with. While consumers do benefit in the short run, once the competition is driven out, the

platform starts raising prices to recoup previous losses. But is it that straightforward?

First, assessing whether a platform is engaged in predatory pricing — in India, it is defined as price falling below average variable cost — may not be a straightforward exercise. The dynamics of online pricing (prices change over time), their unique cost structures — in such two-sided platforms, prices/costs on both sides should be seen in conjunction — as well as the impact of economies of scale and organisational efficiency in lowering costs, all need to be factored in. Besides, one would also have to take into account that even offline firms engage in deep discounting to clear inventories. As do both online and offline firms to acquire customers in the early stages of their business.

Second, the impact of such pricing strategies on competition and on consumer welfare must be carefully assessed. It is quite likely that once competition is eliminated and the platform starts to raise prices, new players will enter the market, attracted by higher prices. Driving out competitors may not be the same as driving out competition — though the extent to which new firms are able to enter the market will depend on the degree to which barriers to entry exist. Platforms will be mindful that losses will be hard to recover, and may not engage in below-cost pricing to drive out competitors for extended periods. Consumers are unlikely to loose out as prices are likely to remain low.

But, on the other hand, there is also an argument for closer examination of such market structures because of the possibility of collusion. In most such markets, as the consumer has little to differentiate between the two platforms, it is price that sets them apart. Consumers tend to gravitate towards the cheaper option. This ensures continuous competition between the major players to offer low prices. But there are limits to this strategy. It is possible that at some point, the players will find it in their interest to venture into some sort of agreement that allows both of them to survive, rather than be engaged in a race to the bottom — as has seemingly happened in the telecom sector.

Further, linking predatory pricing with an abuse of dominant market position must be reexamined. As the experience of the telecom sector shows, a dominant position may not be a prerequisite for predatory pricing. Accepting this argument would imply that if regulatory intervention is required to check predatory pricing, it could kick in before market power or dominance is established. Alternatively, the definition of market dominance could be expanded to take into account deep pockets.

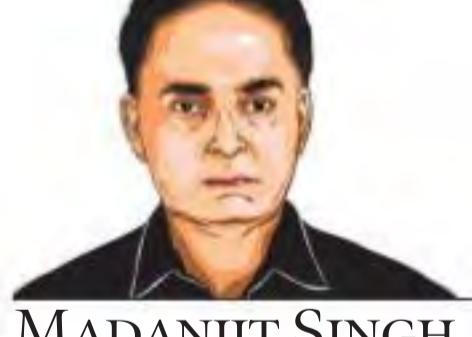
Any intervention to "correct" pricing essentially involves placing a higher weightage on the assumed losses of competitors/producers than on the consumer's apparent gains. This is not a straightforward exercise. Having a fixed predetermined framework unlikely to be helpful. Instead it would be more useful to have a set of guiding principles based on which regulatory intervention, if required, can be undertaken.

Competition policy should be driven by safeguarding competition, not competitors. It should seek to bring about greater transparency in pricing and reduce information asymmetry.

ishan.bakshi@expressindia.com

Slow and steady

Chief of Defence Staff must ensure patient decisions on complex issues



MADANJIT SINGH

IT HAS been suggested that the newly-created post of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) proceed slowly and think through the issues, along with the service chiefs, before making pronouncements. There have been several reports in the media that suggest that the entire concept of Theatre Commands and the functioning of the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) have already been fully conceptualised. At this juncture, revisiting the report of the post-Kargil task force report may be useful. The report included important inputs from all former chiefs of staff as well as government functionaries who dealt with issues of national security.

The major areas in which changes were needed were higher defence management, jointness in operations as would be necessary in any future conflicts, and associated requirements of national security. In addition, a review of defence procurement/inigenous production, the DRDO, policy research and manpower were also looked at. Change comes with many complexities and in this regard, "speed must be tempered by caution and logical thought". The welcome impetus for change has finally come from the political leadership. It places a responsibility on the CDS and service chiefs to chart out a clear roadmap for the required changes. It must be kept in mind that — as defined by the government — the forces will continue to be operationally commanded by the respective chiefs, who should not face any am-

biguity as regards their roles and functions. Media reports since the creation of CDS seem to suggest that the complexities of the entire process of this change does not seem to reflect the inputs from the service chiefs. The CDS is only the "first amongst equals" and it is essential that the views of the service chiefs are also taken into account, particularly if they are contrarian.

Let us start with the proposed structure for the predominantly maritime theatre — the Peninsula Theatre subsuming the Western Naval Command (WNC), Eastern Naval Command, Southern Naval Command and Southern Air Command. The suggested structure reflects, once again, sea blindness. We need to comprehend the Navy's extent of maritime responsibilities, including search and rescue, and the interests of the country's Exclusive Economic Zone and the tasks/missions that complement national diplomacy requirements. These extend to the Indian Ocean and, increasingly, the Asia Pacific regions. The Navy does not guard borders but manages maritime frontiers and attendant activities. The complexities of maritime activities clearly bring out that one theatre command for the maritime responsibilities (7,612 kms and island territories) of the Navy is functionally inadequate and unacceptable. It is almost as laughable the suggestion that HQ WNC should be relocated to the sea border with Pakistan.

In the 1960s, the Government of India had engaged US consultants (Arthur D Little) to conceptualise defence production. One of the key recommendations was the creation of partnerships between the public and private sectors. This was not allowed to happen for many years. Hence, the private sector was not given an opportunity. It may be interesting note that the Navy was a pioneer in establishing a capable defence shipyard in Mazagaon. However, despite such achievements, we have had the dubious distinction of being the biggest importer of armaments.

Clearly there is national capability and we need to set our house in order.

The restructuring of military regions in China commenced in the mid-1950s and was carried out over three phases. Their 12 separate commands were rationalised, and now number five. From the statements made publicly, it seems we are planning to complete some of our restructuring in a matter of months. Clearly, this is an unrealistic timeframe.

The primary task for CDS is to define — through consultations with service chiefs and operational commanders — a suitable defence policy for the country. Once accepted by the government, this should become the basis for determining the defence budget, for which the CDS has to justify to the Cabinet Committee on Security. Thereafter, the CDS, once again in consultation with service chiefs, is to recommend which areas must receive priority in terms of spending. Should there be any differences among them, these too have to be brought out.

Finally, my suggestion for the CDS is to take a balanced and consultative approach in defence restructuring. There are no prizes for chasing unrealistic timeframes. Let us maintain an even keel.

The writer is a retired vice admiral of the Indian Navy and former flag officer Commanding in Chief, Western Naval Command

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1984 AND NOW

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'A majoritarian majority' (IE, March 5). In many ways as pointed out in the article, the Delhi 2020 riots follow the template of 1984 massacre. But there are some notable and dangerous differences. First, in today's India, majoritarian entitlement is much more brazen and has pervaded all levels of the society. Second, the regime in Delhi has shed all pretence of even a lip service to the equality of all religions in public space. As Arundhati Roy has said in one of her recent essays: "The conceit of secularism, hypocritical though it may be, is the only shard of coherence that makes India possible. That hypocrisy was the best thing we had. Without it, India will end." As the author asks at the end of article, how shall be this fought and India's soul reclaimed is the question.

Rahul Gaur, Gurgaon

HOME DEMAND

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Way out lies within'. (IE, March 5). The education system needs serious reform to make sure that it is relevant to the country. The higher education system in India clearly encourages rote learning of concepts, which have little relevance to the lives of people. Most of my college mates don't use even 5 per cent of what they studied in their engineering classes.

Nitin Garg, Delhi

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.

age its inherent strengths to safeguard its domestic economy from global shocks.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata

WHAT WE STUDY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A disconnected pedagogy' (IE, March 5). The education system needs serious reform to make sure that it is relevant to the country. The higher education system in India clearly encourages rote learning of concepts, which have little relevance to the lives of people. Most of my college mates don't use even 5 per cent of what they studied in their engineering classes.

Nitin Garg, Delhi



The President faulted his ministers for poor performance

UKRAINE

Zelensky fires his cabinet

Moscow: Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelensky, fired his Cabinet of ministers on Wednesday after suggesting in a speech that they had become overly solicitous of Western nations that financially support Ukraine by appointing foreigners to the boards of state companies. "With all respect to our international partners and with all appreciation for their help, the citizens of our country on governing boards of our companies are feeling like an ethnic minority," Zelensky said in the speech in Parliament, where a vote was needed to dismiss the Cabinet. He also faulted the ministers for poor performance but offered thanks that none had become entangled in a corruption scandal.

PAKISTAN

11 die in Karachi building collapse

Karachi: Eleven people were killed and 36 others injured when three multi-storey residential buildings collapsed in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi on Thursday, according to media reports. The buildings collapsed in the city's Gulbahar area and rescue operations were underway, led by the police and the Pakistan Rangers, the Dawn News reported. Of the 11 deceased, one was suspected to be a woman, a Geo News report said. Karachi Mayor Wasim Akhtar has ordered the 36 injured be provided with the best possible medical care.

VENEZUELA

Maduro urges women to have six children

Caracas: President Nicolás Maduro wants Venezuelan women to have many children as a way to boost the country, which has seen millions of people flee in recent years to escape its economic crisis. Maduro made the exhortation during a televised event Tuesday evening for a government programme promoting various birth methods. "God bless you for giving the country six little boys and girls," the socialist president told a woman at the event. "To give birth, then, to give birth, all women to have six children, all. Let the homeland grow!"

Putin said he and Erdogan

THE WORLD



MEANWHILE

'TIME' HONOURS AMRIT KAUR, INDIRA GANDHI

Former PM Indira Gandhi and freedom fighter Amrit Kaur have been named by *Time* magazine among the world's 100 powerful women who defined the last century in a project that "spotlights influential women who were often overshadowed". It named Kaur 'Woman of the Year' for 1947 and Gandhi for 1976 in special covers created by the publication.

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK: GOVT'S TAKE DRASTIC MEASURES

When can we go to school? 300 mn children missing class across globe

VIVIAN WANG & MAKIKO INOUE
HONG KONG, MARCH 5

THE CORONAVIRUS epidemic reached deeper into daily life across the world Wednesday, with a sweeping shutdown of all schools in Italy and warnings of school closings in the US, intensifying the educational upheaval of 300 million students globally.

Only a few weeks ago, China, where the outbreak began, was the only country to suspend classes. But the virus has spread so quickly that by Wednesday, 22 countries on three continents had announced school closings of varying degrees, leading the UN to warn that "the global scale and speed of the current educational disruption is unparalleled."

Students are now out of school in South Korea, Iran, Japan, France, Pakistan and elsewhere — some for only a few days, others for weeks on end. In Italy, suffering one of the deadliest outbreaks outside China, officials said they would extend school closings beyond the north, where the government has imposed a lockdown on several towns, to the entire nation. All schools and universities will remain closed until March 15, officials said.

On the West Coast of the US, the region with the most American infections so far, Los Angeles declared a state of emergency Wednesday, advising parents to steel themselves for school closings. Washington state, which has reported at least 10 deaths from the virus, has closed some schools, while on the other side of the country in New York, newly diagnosed cases have led to the closing of several schools as well.

The speed and scale of the educational tumult — which now affects 290.5 million students worldwide, the UN says — has little parallel in modern history, educators and economists contend. Schools provide structure and support for families, communities and entire economies. The effect of closing them for days, weeks and even months could have untold repercussions. NYT



Chloe Lau, a high school student, does her schoolwork at home in Hong Kong Wednesday. Schools have been shut in South Korea, Iran, Japan, France, Pakistan and elsewhere. NYT

California declares emergency, Britain reports first virus death

AGENCIES
LOS ANGELES, DUBAI, MARCH 5

THE US death toll from coronavirus infections rose to 11 on Wednesday as new cases emerged around New York City and Los Angeles, while Seattle-area health officials discouraged social gatherings amid the nation's largest outbreak.

The first California death from the virus was an elderly person in Placer County, near Sacramento, health officials said. The person had underlying health problems and likely had been exposed on a cruise ship voyage between San Francisco and Mexico last month.

It was the first coronavirus fatality in the US outside of Washington state. Hours after the person's death was announced, California Governor Gavin Newsom declared a statewide emergency in response to the coronavirus.

Britain has recorded its first death in the new coronavirus outbreak.

People line up to buy face masks in Seoul Thursday. AP



People line up to buy face masks in Seoul Thursday. AP

Iran toll rises to 107

Iran will keep schools and universities closed for another two weeks and check up on people in the worst affected areas by telephone, the health minister said on Thursday. In the past 24 hours, 15 more people had died, bringing the total deaths to 107, ministry spokesman Kianush Jahanpur said. There were 3,513 confirmed cases in all, up by 591 from the day before.

Iranian police officers have been deployed to enforce the closure of schools and universities.

China allocates \$16bn

In China, various government entities have allocated 110.48 billion yuan (\$16 billion) in coronavirus-related funding as of March 4, Vice Finance Minister Xi Hongcai said. Of that amount, about \$10.3 billion has been used, leaving \$5.63 billion to spend, Xu said.

Presidents of Russia, Turkey announce ceasefire in Syria

VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
MOSCOW, MARCH 5

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin and his Turkish counterpart, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, said they reached agreements that could end fighting in northwestern Syria.

They said a ceasefire would come into force in Idlib from Friday.

Erdogan also voiced hope that the deal would end civilian suffering and help contain a humanitarian crisis.

The two countries' foreign ministers said that the agreement involved a ceasefire that must be enforced starting Friday along the existing battle lines.

The deal also envisages setting up a 12-km-wide security corridor along the M4 highway. The corridor will be jointly patrolled by Russian and Turkish troops, starting March 15.

Putin said he and Erdogan



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Moscow. Reuters

reached agreement on a joint document during the talks in Moscow that lasted for more than six hours.

A Russia-backed Syrian offensive to regain control over Idlib — the last opposition-controlled region in the country — has resulted in Turkey sending thousands of troops into Idlib to

repel the Syrian Army. Clashes on the ground and in the air have left dozens dead on both sides. Russia, which has helped Assad reclaim most of the country's territory, has signalled it wouldn't sit by while Turkey routed his troops. The fighting has also pushed nearly a million Syrian civilians toward Turkey. AP

International court nod for war crimes probe against Taliban, US forces in Afghanistan

ASSOCIATED PRESS
THE HAGUE, MARCH 5

APPEALS JUDGES at the International Criminal Court gave the green light Thursday for prosecutors to open an investigation targeting the Taliban, Afghan forces and US military and intelligence personnel for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The global court upheld an

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, MARCH 5

A BRITISH court found that the ruler of Dubai conducted a campaign of fear and intimidation against his estranged wife and ordered the abduction of two of his daughters, documents un-

Both Afghanistan and the United States have strongly opposed the investigation

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

appeal by prosecutors against a pretrial chamber's rejection in April last year of Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's request to open a probe in Afghanistan.

The global court upheld an

</div

G.B. PANT NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HIMALAYAN ENVIRONMENT (NIHE)
Kosi-Katarmal, Almora - 263643, Uttarakhand, India
Walk-in-Interview will be conducted on 20.03.2020 (10:00 hrs.) for purely project based temporary positions of Research Associate (01 No.), Senior Project Fellow (01 No.), Junior Project Fellow (01 No.), Junior Research Fellow/Project Fellow (04 No.), Field-cum-Lab Assistant (02 No.) and Field Attendant (01 No.) under various projects of the Institute. For details (age, emoluments, qualification, etc.) please see Institute website (www.gbpnied.in).
Administrative Officer

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - III DELHI - 11TH FLOOR JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001. Debits due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal Rules (Parliament Rules) 1993. Advt. No. 185/2019
AMIT DAWAR & SONS VERSUS
AMIT DAWAR & SONS
Defendants
To: M/s. Meagor Sehri Komes Pat. Ltd. Gurgaon Office at: D-59, Ground Floor, Sector-63, Noida, 201301. Registered Office at: B-22, Gaipur Village, Gaipur, New Delhi - 110095
Also at: Site Office at: G-48/1, Sector-16, Greater Noida-201307.
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, notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before this Tribunal on 20.03.2020.
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 the Tribunal on 20.03.2020.
**By Order of the Tribunal
Assistant Registrar, DRT-III, New Delhi**

"IMPORTANT"

Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

POST GRADUATE GOVT. COLLEGE FOR GIRLS SECTOR-11, CHANDIGARH**63rd Annual Convocation**

For Post-Graduates, PGDCA, Graduates (Pass-Course First Division holders only) and Graduates with Honours (First Division holder only) of the Session 2018-19 will be held on

**16th March, 2020 at 9.30 A.M.
Professor (Dr.) Nishtha Jaswal**

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla, has kindly consented to preside over the function and deliver the convocation address.

Compulsory rehearsal for the Post-Graduates, PGDCA, Graduates (Pass-Course First Division holders only) and Graduates with Honours (First Division holders only) of the Session 2018-19 will be held on 15th March, 2020 at 9.30 A.M. in the College Auditorium.

Sd/- Prof. Dr. Anita Kaushal Principal

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI 4 th FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001		Applicant
OA. No. 1168/2019 Allahabad Bank VERSUS M/s Mahawar Enterprises & Ors		Defendants
1. M/s Mahawar Enterprises Through its proprietor Shri Hari Ram, Plot No. 383, Village Tilar Tandur Chowk, Near Girls Govt. S.S. School, New Delhi. 2. Mr Hari Ram Proprietor of M/s Mahawar Enterprises RZ-54/345, Pankha Road, Mohan Nagar, New Delhi Also at: House No. 64, Rewari Road, Ward No. 3, Namoli, Haryana 3. Mr. Surender Kumar (Guarantor) RZ15A, Shankar Park, West Sagerpur, New Delhi Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 54,09,236.33 (Rupees Fifty Four Lakh Nine Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Six and Paisa Thirty Three only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before this Tribunal on 11.03.2020 at 10:30 AM. 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 the Ld. Registrar on this 03rd February of 2020. By Order of this Tribunal Sd/- For Registrar		

Bank of Baroda

Walni Branch, Phulwari Sharif, Distt.-Patna, Bihar
Phone: +91-612-2452336, e-mail: walmec@bankofbaroda.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Property)

[As per Appendix V read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002] Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 11.12.2019, calling upon the Borrower/Guarantor M/s Swastik Star Marketing & Service PVT. LTD, through its Director (1) Sri Arun Kumar (2) Manish Kumar Gaurav (3) Kumari Renu Sinha to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being ₹21,30,445/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Thirty Thousand Four Hundred Forty Five Only) as on 11.12.2019 together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described hereinbelow in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this the 29th day of February of the year 2020.

The Borrower/Guarantors/Mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Bank of Baroda** for an amount of ₹21,30,445/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Thirty Thousand Four Hundred Forty Five Only) as on 11.12.2019 and further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property charged to Dena Bank

Now Bank of Baroda, Phulwari Sharif Branch
All that part and parcel of the Landed Property Situated at Mauza Pahari PS- Agamkuan, Town and Distt.-Patna, Sub Registry Office- Patna City, Bearing Thana No. 14, Taizi No. 09, Govt. of Bihar, Khata No. 180, Plot No. 1745, Property in the name of consisting of Sri Arun Kumar & Sri Ganesh Prasad

Bounded by: North: Part Plot No. 1745 Smt. Parvati Devi, South: Alang, East: Part Plot No. 1745 Sri. Chandra Kishore Prasad, West: Part Plot No. 1745 Sri. Surendra Prasad.

Date : 29.02.2020
Place : Patna
Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, TIRUPATI
(An Autonomous Institution under Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India)
Karakambadi Road, Tirupati - 517 507
RECRUITMENT FOR VARIOUS NON-TEACHING POSITIONS
IIISER Tirupati invites online applications from Indian nationals having excellent academic record and relevant work experience for various Non-teaching positions
For detailed advertisement, please visit www.iiiser-tirupati.ac.in and click on the link "Opportunities-Technical/Administration".
The last date for submission of online applications is April 22, 2020.
Advt. No. 08/2020/IIISER-T/Rect./05.03.2020
Sd/- Registrar

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF HARYANA
Mahendergarh - 123031 (Haryana)
Short Term Tender Notice
Central University of Haryana, Mahendergarh invites techno-financial proposals for supplying, installing and integrating the system(s) in Civil Engineering Lab of School of Engineering and Technology. The interested parties/firms/OEM may send their sealed offers to undersigned by 20/03/2020 up to 12 Noon. For more information and updates please visit www.cuh.ac.in
Registrar

SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY

General public is here by informed that one boy Namely: Ishwar Singh, S/o Sh. Azad Singh, R/o D/672, Mandir Marg, New Delhi. Age: 24 years, Height: 5'8", Complexion : Fair, Face: Oval, Built: Thin, Wearing: Grey Shirt, Orange Sweater & Black Pyjama has been missing since 23.01.2020 at 09:30hrs. from the area of

PS. Mandir Marg, Delhi.
In this regard a DD No. 13-A dated 15.02.2020 has been registered at P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this boy but no clue has come to light so far.
Any person having any information or clue about this boy kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

In the Court of
Sh. Dharmender Rana, Additional Sessions Judge-02, Patiala House Court, New Delhi.
PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
(See Section 82)
Directorate of Enforcement
Vs
Guzar Ali & Sons.
CC No. 45/18
Under Section 3 punishable
under Section 4 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002
(hereinafter referred to as PMLA or Act)
WHEREAS complaint has been made before me that Tilakraj Lohiya @Tinku S/o Sh. Kalidas, R/o 28/669, DDA Flats Madangir, Chhattarpur, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence punishable under section of the Indian Penal Code, and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Tilakraj Lohiya @ Tinku, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Tilakraj Lohiya @ Tinku has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said Tilakraj Lohiya @ Tinku is of required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on the day of 14.04.2020.
Date 05.02.2020 Sh. Dharmender Rana, Additional Sessions Judge-02, New Delhi

In the Court of
Sh. Dharmender Rana, Additional Sessions Judge-02, Patiala House Court, New Delhi.
PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
(See Section 82)
Directorate of Enforcement
Vs
Guzar Ali & Sons.
CC No. 45/18
Under section 3 punishable
under section 4 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002
(hereinafter referred to as PMLA or Act)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that Shiv Shakti @ Shakti S/o Sh. Late Rattiram, R/o. No. 263, Village Chhattarpur, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence punishable under section of the Indian Penal Code, and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Shiv Shakti @ Shakti cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Shiv Shakti @ Shakti has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said Shiv Shakti @ Shakti is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on the day of 14.04.2020.
Date 05.02.2020 Sh. Dharmender Rana, Additional Sessions Judge-02, New Delhi



PRAGATI POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) - U74899DL2001SGC 109135
(Regd. Off. - Himadri, Rajghat Power House Complex New Delhi- 110002)
Tele Fax No. 011-23284797; Website : www.ipgcl-ppcl.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PUBLIC RESPONSE

Petition for True up of expenditure for FY 2018-19 and determination of Generation Tariff for FY 2020-21, for Pragati Power Station-I (PPS-1) of Pragati Power Corporation Limited (PPCL)

1. PPCL has filed Tariff Petition before Hon'ble Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) for True up of expenditure for FY 2018-19 and for determination of Generation Tariff for FY 2020-21. PPCL has requested for necessary orders under the provision of Electricity Act, 2003. The Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission has admitted the petition No. 05/2020 for truing up of Tariff for FY 2018-19 and ARR for FY 2020-21 vide its order dated 24.01.2020 and 20.02.2020 respectively.

2. The salient features of petition are as under:-

Pragati Power Station-I:

S. No.	Description	Unit	FY 2018-19	FY 2020-21
a.	Gross Generation	MU	1515.59	2457.18
b.	Net Generation	MU	1479.42	2389.61
c.	Total Fixed Cost	Rs.Cr	198.65	165.01
d.	Total Variable Cost	Rs.Cr	730.42	1423.38
e.	Total Cost (c + d)	Rs.Cr	929.07	1588.39
f.	Variable Cost Per Unit	Rs./kWh	4.937	5.957
g.	Fixed Cost Per Unit	Rs./kWh	1.343	0.691
h.	Total Cost Per Unit (f + g)	Rs./kWh	6.280	6.648
i.	Availability	%	88.36	85.00
j.	Heat Rate Combined Cycle	kCal/kWh	1989	2000
	Open Cycle		3105	2900
k.	Auxiliary Consumption	%	2.39	2.75

3. In accordance with the provisions of the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission Comprehensive (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2001 notified by the Commission, the consumers and stakeholders are requested to submit response on the above Petition. The response may be sent to the Secretary of the Commission by 20.03.2020. The response may be sent personally or by post or email to the Commission at the address given below.

DELHI ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Viniyamak Bhawan, C-Block, Shivalik,
Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110017.

Email id: secyderc@nic.in Telefax: 011-26673608

4. The Commission shall conduct Public Hearing with the responding stakeholders subsequently. The details of the public hearing is submitted as under:

Date	Venue	Time
18/03/2020	NDMC Convention Centre, Jai Sing Road, New Delhi-110001	10:30AM to 01:30PM & 02:30PM to 05:00PM

5. The complete Petition can be downloaded from the website of the Commission (www.derc.gov.in) and the website of the PPCL (www.ipgcl-ppcl.gov.in). Soft copy of the Petition may be obtained in CD on payment of Rs 25/- per CD or a hard copy of the Petition may be purchased from the Registered Office of IPGCL located at Himadri, RPH Office complex Rajghat, New Delhi - 110002 on working day till 20.03.2020 between 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM on payment of Rs 100/- either by cash or by Demand Draft/Pay Order in favour of "PPCL" payable at New Delhi.

For Pragati Power Corporation Limited

**(Surender Mohan Verma)
Director (Technical)**

PR-16



INDRAPRASTHA POWER GENERATION CO. LTD.
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) - U40103DL2001SGC111530
(Undertakings of Govt. of NCT of Delhi)
(Regd. office: Himadri, Rajghat Power House Complex, New Delhi-110 002)
Tele Fax No. 011-23284797; Website : www.ipgcl-ppcl.gov.in

Classifieds

PERSONAL

It is for general information that I, RAZAUL ALI KHAN, S/o Late Sh. MAQSOOD ALI KHAN R/o-188, Shaheen Bagh, Okhla, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025, do hereby inform that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as RAJAAUL ALI S/o MAQSOOD ALI in my High School Certificate, Serial No. HSIBUP-86/0504049, Dated 30.06.1986. The actual name of mine is RAZAUL ALI KHAN, S/o MAQSOOD ALI KHAN, which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

0040534579-4

It is for general information that I, MOHAMMAD ASIF IQBAL, S/o Late Sh. MOHAMMAD NAEEM, R/o-8, Third Floor, Abul Fazal Enclave, Part-I, Okhla, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025, do hereby inform that name of mine has been wrongly written as MOHAMMAD ASIF in my Secondary School Examination Certificate, Serial No. SSE/92/000102031, Dated 10.08.1972. The actual name of mine is MOHAMMAD ASIF IQBAL, which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

0040534579-3

It is for general information that I, IQBAL HUSSAIN, S/o NASRUDIN, R/o-D-178/1, Shaheen Bagh, Abul Fazal Enclave, Part-II, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025, do hereby inform that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as IQBAL HUSSAIN, S/o NASRUDIN and NASARUDIN KHAN in my 10th and 12th Educational Documents. The actual name of mine and my father are IQBAL HUSSAIN, S/o NASRUDIN respectively, which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

0040534579-2

It is for general information that I, AJAZ HUSSAIN ANSARI, S/o-MAQBOOL HASAN, R/o-12, First-Floor, Near-Hari Masjid, Joga Bai-Extn, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025, do hereby inform that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as AZAZ HUSSAIN ANSARI/AZAZ HUSSAIN ANSARI and MUQBOOL HASSAN in my Service Record and 10th and 12th Educational Documents etc. The actual name of mine and my father are AJAZ HUSSAIN ANSARI and MAQBOOL HASAN respectively which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

0040534579-1

I, SAVITA Garg W/o Vishnu Garg R/o Katra Nadbai, Bharatpur, Rajasthan. Declared that Savita Garg, Savita Gupta & Savita Devi are one and same Person. For All Document and Policy. No-10320215

0040534579-6

Vinit Chauhan S/o Jag Pal Singh R/o-Village & Post-Barola, sector-49, Noida, U.P.- (201301), have changed my name to Vinit Kumar for all purposes infutre.

0040534569-1

I, Narottam Dass S/O Mangtiram R/O Nadbai Distt. Bharatpur Rajasthan. Declared that Narottam Lal are one and the same person for All Documents and Policy. No-10272357.

0040534579-5

I, Mahesh Kumar, S/o Shri Dori Lal Sharma, R/o-B-44, Bindapur Extension, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Mahesh Kumar Sharma.

0040534574-2

I, Vidyana Sukanya, W/o - service No. 15665094A Rank.HAV. Kannababu Vidyana, R/o-1-38, Sambara Kottugumada, Sri Kakulam, Andhra Pradesh 532460, inform that my name wrongly mentioned Sukanya in my husband army service record but my actual and correct name is Vidyana Sukanya.

0040534579-4

I, Veena Lalchandhani, W/o- Shri. Nand Kumar Lalwani R/o- H.No.-WZ-91A, Third-Floor, Street-No.27, School Road, Shoe Market, Uttam-Nagar, New Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Deepa Lalwani after marriage, for all future purpose.

0040534579-4

I, Uday Pratap Singh, S/o Late Puran Singh, R/o VIII-Udi, Post-Udi, Dist- Etawah, have changed my name from Uday Pratap Singh Bhadouria to Uday Pratap Singh vide affidavit dated 22/02/2020

0050163464-1

I, Surekha W/O Brij Mohan Gupta R/o 48, Anand Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi-110034. Have Changed My Name To Surekha Gupta. 0040534567-4

I, Subodh Kumar S/O, Brijendra Pal Gupta R/o A-157, 3rd Floor, Block- A, Dilshad Colony have changed my name to Subodh Kumar Gupta for all purposes. 0040534598-2

I, Shailendra Kuamr (as per High School Certificate) S/o Sh. Veerhan Singh R/o 14, Gali No. 1, Nand Gram, Radha Kunj, Ghaziabad-201001, UP have changed my name to Shailendra Kuamr and Shailendra Singh Chauhan is the name of the same and one person. 0040534566-1

I, Saumya Kaushik, D/o Sh. Onkar Kumar R/o-H. No.464, Near-Rao Chaturbhuj, Behrampur, Gurugram, Haryana, have changed my name to Saumya Kaushik, for all, future purposes. 0040534597-3

I, Saroj Wadhwa W/O Arjun Kumar Wadhwa, Resident 171-R, Model Town, Sonipat, Haryana Have Changed My Name To Saroj Rani. 0040534567-10

I, Rosy Sharma W/O Ritesh Bhardwaj R/o-117 pocket-12 Sector-22 Rohini Delhi-110086 Have Changed My minor daughter name Shreeya to Shreya Sharma. 0040534564-1

I, Rizavi Salim Nasim @ Saleem Naseem Sayyed S/o Sayyed Naseem R/o 2715, 2nd Floor, Gali masjid Kaale Khan, Kucha Chalan, Darya Ganj, New Delhi-110002, have changed my name to Sayyed Saleem. 0040534541-2

I, Kingzen Son of Ravindran Appunni Resident of A-303, Maharani Avanti Bai CGHS, Plot No.15B, Sector-22, Dwarka New Delhi-110077 Have Changed My Name From Kingzen To Kingzen Ravindran Vide Affidavit 5/3/2020 Before Delhi. 0040534574-9

I, Rishi Kumar Laur, S/o Sh. Ajit Singh aged about 45 yrs, residing at H.No-C-45, Near Gopal Nursing Home, West Jyoti Nagar Extension, Shahdara Delhi-110094, have changed the name of my minor son Siddhartha Laur aged 12-year and he shall hereafter be known as Siddhartha Singh. 0040534574-10

I, Sukhdeep Singh S/o Kuldip Singh R/o 309, S.F. Chand Nagar Tilak Nagar New Delhi have changed my name to Sukhdeep Singh. 0040534598-4

I, V Kartthikeyan s/o Shiv Shankar Singh R/o J-371, Mangolpuri, Delhi-110083, have changed my name to Maan Singh. 0040534543-1

I, Rashid Ali S/o Aley Ali R/o 3120, Gali Dharam Sushila, Bazar Sita Ram, Delhi-110006 have changed the name of my minor daughter from Sumbul to Sumbul Aleena. 0040534598-1

I, Rajesh Khanna s/o Late Sudhir Kumar Khanna R/o SH-7/112, Second Floor, New Moti Nagar, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Rajesh Kumar Khanna. 0040534545-1

I, Rajender Malik S/o Late Sh. Tika Ram Malik, R/o House No.102, Jal Shakti Vihar (NHPCESAS), Plot-6, Sector-P4, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201310, hereby declare that my name should be considered as Rajendra Singh Malik for all future records and affirm that Rajender Malik OR Rajendra Singh Malik OR Rajendra Singh Malik are one and the same person. DOB 02-January-1957.

0040534529-1

I, Nazeer Ahmed S/o Bashir Ahmed R/o 1403 Street Kalu Khawas, Bazar Chitil Qabar Jama Masjid, Delhi-110006, have changed my name to Nazir Ahmed. 0040534541-1

I, Mukesh Kumar S/o Jagdish Chander R/o 211 Second-Floor Sainik Vihar Pitampura Delhi-110034 changed my name to Mukesh Khatter. 0040534564-8

I, Mohammed Naved S/o Mohammed Sharif R/o House No-12/2, Railway Colony, Seva Nagar, Delhi-110033, that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as Md Naved and Md Sharif respectively in my School Certificate of 10th Class. The actual name of mine and my father is Mohammed Naved and Mohammed Sharif respectively. 0070701597-1

I, Mohammad Ashif Malik S/o Mohammad Yusuf H/o M 10, Dda Flats Police Bhawan Turukman Gate, Delhi-110006 Have Changed My Name To Mohd Asif. 0040534567-8

I, Mithlesh Kumari W/o Rajesh Kumar Pal R/o H-49, Street No.5, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092 have changed my name to Mithlesh for all future purposes. 0040534567-7

I, Md.Shabd Israli S/O, M.D. Israel, H.No.Flat D-14 3rd-Floor Okhla Vihar Jamia Nagar New Delhi-110025 Have Changed My Name To Shabd Israli. 0040534564-6

I, Manoj Kumar S/o Rajender Singh R/o 1177, New Syndicate Bank, Banana, West Delhi, Delhi-110039 have changed my name to Manoj Kadian for all purposes. 0040534567-9

I, Manmohan Kumar Chozzer S/o Late Krishan Lal Chozzer R/o-79 Gali No.5, East Azad Nagar Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Manmohan Chozzer for all purposes. 0040534574-4

I, Mandira Pathak D/o Mukesh Pathak, R/o-RZF-1/151, House No-303, Street No-2, Mahavir Enclave, Palam, New Delhi-45 Have Changed My Name to Vaishnavi Pathak. 0040534564-9

I, Mahesh Kumar, S/o Shri Dori Lal Sharma, R/o-B-44, Bindapur-Extention,Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Mahesh Kumar Sharma. 0040534597-2

I, Laxmi W/o Vilas R/o A-350, Nehru Camp Govindpuri, Kalkaji, Delhi-110019 have changed my name to Priya. 0040534574-2

I, Shilpi Rani W/O Sumit Agarwal H.No-B-6/2, Upper Ground Floor Rana Pratap Bagh Delhi 110007 Have Changed My Name To Shilpi Agarwal. 0040534609-1

I, Lakshmi Gupta S/O Prem Prakash Gupta R/o 37-2, Banta Flat, Rampura, Oknagar, Delhi-110035, Changed My Name To Lakshay Gupta. 0040534567-3

I, Lakshay, S/O Pawan Kumar, R/o-H.No.65, Tilangpur, Kotla-3, Near Primary School, Delhi-110041, have changed my name to Lakshaya Permanently. 0040534567-11

I, Lakshay, S/O Pawan Kumar, R/o-H.No.65, Tilangpur, Kotla-3, Near Primary School, Delhi-110041, have changed my name to Lakshaya Permanently. 0040534597-1

I, Km. Jaishree Verma W/o Abinav Gupta R/o-487, 2nd-Floor Block-C Sector-1, Avantika Rohini Delhi-85 changed my name to Jaishree Verma. 0040534564-5

I, Kiran Bala W/o Jai Prakash Gupta R/o 11944D, Gali No.3A, West Gorakhpur, Shahdara Delhi-110032 have changed my name to Swati Gupta. 0040534574-5

I, Kanta Kumari Yadav W/O Naresh Kumar, H.No-Flat 729, GHG Metro View Apartments Sector-13, Phase-2 Dwarka Delhi-110078 Have Changed My Name To Kanta Yadav. 0040534564-3

I, Divya Mahendru D/o Sh. Vinay Mahendru W/o Mr. Avik Anup Prabhul R/o Aashrav, Osho Drive, Gadi Pur, Osho Drive, Delhi-110030 have changed my name after marriage to Divya P Prabhu for all purposes. 0040534564-7

I, Ankur Aggarwal S/O Manoj Kumar Aggarwal Resident D-42 A, Street No.1 Lalita Park, Shastri Nagar Delhi-110052 have changed my name to Ankur Kumar Aggarwal. 0040534567-2

I, Megha Agarwal W/o Sandeep Agarwal R/o, KA-32, Kavi Nagar, Ghaziabad-201002 have changed my name from Megha Ashok Kumar Kanodia to Megha Agarwal for all future purposes. 0040534609-2

I, Pankaj S/o Mahesh chand Jain R/o c-288 chankya Marg Chhajpur Babarpur Shahdara Delhi-110032 have changed my name to pankaj Jain to all purposes. 0040534537-2

I, Swati Amit Gupta W/o Amit Gupta R/o-N-24, Ground-Floor, Street.No.3,Vijay-Vihar, Uttam-Nagar,Delhi-110059,changed my name to Swati Gupta. 0040534487-9

I, Sudhir Singh Pal R/o-87-A, Block-B, Rajat Vihar, Sector-62, Noida, UP have changed my son's name from Divyansh to Divyansh Pal. 0040534501-4

I, Ankit Garg S/o Shiv Kumar Garg R/o 429/3, Pathan Pura, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my minor son's name from Aarush Garg to Shaurya Garg, for all purposes. 0040534538-1

I, Namam Sarbar/Aman Sarwar W/O Shadab Israel H.No-Flat D-14 3rd Floor Okhla Vihar Jamia Nagar New Delhi-110025 Have Changed My Name To Shadab Israel. 0040534564-5

I, Aksheen Kaur Malhotra D/o Harneet Singh Malhotra R/o J-9/41 Rajouri Garden New Delhi have changed my name to Aksheen Malhotra. 0040534598-5

I, Varinder Singh Bhalla s/o Lakhvinder Singh Bhalla R/o 279,new friends colony, Delhi-110065 changed my daughter name from Samaira bhalla to Samaira bawa. 0040534574-7

I, Jaswala Singh S/O Munshi Ram Resident Village-Chatiya Auliya, Distt-Sonipat, Haryana Have Changed My Name To Jawala Singh. 0040534598-3

I, Tirok Singh, s/o Nain Singh R/o-B-166, block-B camp.no-4 JawalaPuri new delhi-110087. have changed my name to Tirok Singh Chaudhary. 0040534564-2

I, Sweeta Kumari Alias Shweta Kumari D/o S/K Jaha and W/o Ravi Shankar Choubey R/o House No-2499, B-12, Adarsh Nagar, Ram Leela Ground, Naya Gaon, SAS Nagar, Mohali, Punjab-160103, have changed my name to Shweta Kumari. 0070701622-1

I, Subhash Chandra S/o Nathu Ram Resident 1698-99, Outram Line G.T.B.Nagar Kingsway Camp Delhi-110009 have changed my name to Subhash Chandra Bansal. 0040534567-1

I, Sourab Sehgal s/o Ashok Kumar Saigal Resident DP 201 Pitam Pura Delhi 110088 have changed my name to Saurabh Sehgal 0040534587-1

I, Raj Kumar S/o Amit Lal R/o House No-221, Street No-6, Ward No-8, Dashmesh Nagar, Doraha, Ludhiana, Punjab-141421, have changed my name to Rajveer. 0070701593-1

I, Nirmal Bhardwaj W/o Late Krishan Chand Bhardwaj R/o 831, Sirmour Marg, Kaulagarh Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand-248001, have changed my name to Nirmala Bhardwaj. 0070701596-1

I, Manoj Winayak S/o Prem Pal Vinayak R/o 29/27, West Patel Nagar, Delhi-110088, have changed my name to Manoj Vinayak. 0070701587-1

I, Krishan S/O Mukesh Kumar Garg H.No-219, Near Jain School, Jain Colony, Ballabghar Have Changed My Name To Krishan Garg. 0040534564-3

I, Divya Mahendru D/o Sh.Vinay Mahendru W/o Mr. Avik Anup Prabhul R/o Aashrav, Osho Drive, Gadi Pur, Osho Drive, Delhi-110030 have changed my name after marriage to Divya P Prabhu for all purposes. 0040534609-2

I, Megha Agarwal W/o Sandeep Agarwal R/o KA-32, Kavi Nagar, Ghaziabad-201002 have changed my name from Megha Ashok Kumar Kanodia to Megha Agarwal for all future purposes. 0040534564-7

I, Pankaj S/o Mahesh chand Jain R/o c-288 chankya Marg Chhajpur Babarpur Shahdara Delhi-110032 have changed my name to pankaj Jain to all purposes. 0040534537-2

I, Swati Amit Gupta W/o Amit Gupta R/o-N-24, Ground-Floor, Street

SENSEX: 38,470.61 ▲ 61.13 NIFTY: 11,269.00 ▲ 18.00 NIKKEI: 21,329.12 ▲ 229.06 HANG SENG: 26,767.87 ▲ 545.80 FTSE: 6,670.34 ▼ 145.25 DAX: 11,858.90 ▼ 268.79



GOLD

₹44,250



RUPEE

₹73.33



OIL

\$51.17



SILVER

₹47,517

Indian basket as on March 4, 2020

International market data till 1900 IST

TACKLING COVID-19 DISRUPTION TO PHARMA SECTOR

Claims of drug price hikes 'unsubstantiated', no shortage of key ingredients: NPPA chief

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
AHMEDABAD, MARCH 5

CLAIMS OF medicine price hikes due to shortage of ingredients are "unsubstantiated" and the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has already asked all states to ensure these products are not hoarded, said the drug pricing regulator's chief on Thursday.

"There are all unsubstantiated reports. The government is monitoring the situation and we have no indication of any increase in prices," NPPA chairperson Shubhra Singh told *The Indian Express* on the sidelines of the India Pharma 2020 and India Medical Devices 2020 conference.

"We have written to the chief secretaries that they can take action against black marketers and hoarders under the Essential Commodities Act," she added.

"The government of India has taken all initiatives to see that, as far as our country is concerned, the coronavirus should be stopped and there should not be

any hazards... My secretary (PD Vaghela) took stock of things about one week back and there is no shortage of any API (active pharmaceutical ingredient)," said Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers DV Sadananda Gowda.

"There are certain confusions with regards to the medicine availability and other things. We have got sufficient medicines. We have got sufficient APIs so that, for three months, there is no shortage for production of medicines in the pharma sector," he added. APIs are key ingredients that give a drug its therapeutic effect.

Meanwhile, the All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD), representing over 8 lakh chemists in India, has written to its members as well as all manufacturers, dealers and distributors stating that certain types of surgical masks, among other products, were also experiencing such shortages and price hikes.

"As you aware that, due to international outbreak of coronavirus, there is a huge shortage

EXPLAINED

Invoking EC Act among options to check misuse

THE GOVERNMENT says there is enough stock of drug ingredients to last another three months, yet certain companies have already begun claiming scarcity and higher prices of these products.

Officials feel certain players in the pharma supply chain may be using the COVID-19 outbreak to exploit others for more profits, and that invoking the EC Act might dissuade them from hoarding and artificially hiking prices.

and hike in prices of N95 masks, surgical masks, alcohol based hand sanitizers, handwash, infrared thermometers...," stated AIOCD's letter. In a separate letter, the organisation asked that these products be made available "at reasonable rates" in order to curb black marketing, "if any".

NPPA on Thursday evening also stated in a tweet that it has asked the Himachal Pradesh drug controller to "take notice" of

reported problems faced by pharmaceutical companies in Baddi and "act immediately to ensure uninterrupted availability of APIs."

The Indian Express reported on March 3 that several pharmaceutical units in Himachal Pradesh had claimed that prices of APIs like paracetamol had nearly doubled since January and warned of suspension of production claiming scarcity of im-

ports of such raw materials.

The NPPA's move to invoke provisions of the EC Act was recommended by a standing committee set up by the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) over a month ago, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

The committee, chaired by Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSO) joint drug controller Eswara Reddy, had observed traders and importers had begun to raise prices of some raw materials for widely used medicines, sources said. The ingredients were among a list of 58 APIs and key starting materials (KSMs) that the committee had identified as important for India to become self-reliant in so that the country could safeguard its pharma industry and ensure uninterrupted supply of medicines here.

The committee had suggested that the government invoke the EC Act to ensure that such price hikes do not occur and that states be issued advisories to ensure that importers, stockists and domestic manufacturers of these APIs and KSMs do not "hoard" or create "artificial scarcity".

Over next 30 days, RBI will try to put in place a "scheme for reconstruction or amalgamation" for Yes Bank with assets of ₹3,71,160 cr in June 2019

AT A time when confidence in the NPA-laden Indian banking sector is at its lowest, and the economy is facing external headwinds – the global spread of the coronavirus – the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) finally stepped in and superseded the fifth-largest private sector bank's board.

With year-long efforts by the Yes Bank management to raise fresh funds coming to a nought, the RBI moved in to place curbs on Yes Bank to ensure stability in the financial sector, already hit by the collapse of mortgage firm DHFL, core investment company IL&FS and several other defaults.

Over the next 30 days, the RBI will try to put in place a "scheme for reconstruction or amalgamation" for the bank with assets of Rs 3,71,160 crore in June 2019. The collapse of Yes Bank could adversely impact sectors such as real estate, construction and NBFCs since these account for almost 25 per cent of the bank's advances. The RBI, which is the banker of last resort, will look for a suitor to take over the bank at the earliest

to restore confidence among depositors, who are jittery after the Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank incident.

The central bank has signalled several times in the past that it will ensure financial stability to tackle domestic and global issues and retain the trust and confidence of people in the banking system. Responding to a specific question on market concerns on stability of certain financial institutions such as Yes Bank, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had, in a recent interview to *The Indian Express*, said, "We are very mindful of the aspect of financial stability in the case of banks... RBI will always ensure that stability of the banking sector is maintained." The RBI action on Yes Bank comes when the private

bank has failed to bring any credible plan for the much-needed capital infusion, along with "serious deterioration in the financial position".

On Tuesday, when global central banks came together for a co-ordinated action following the spread of coronavirus and volatility in financial markets, the RBI also made it clear it stands ready to act. The RBI had said it was monitoring global and domestic developments closely and continuously and stands ready to take appropriate actions to ensure orderly functioning of financial markets, maintain market confidence and prevent financial stability.

The RBI moratorium on Yes Bank is the third major prompt corrective action by the central bank to bring stability and restore the confidence of investors and depositors in the financial system in the last one year.

Last year, the RBI slapped curbs on mortgage firm DHFL and Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative bank for mismanagement and fund diversion. The larger economy has benefited from the timely interventions of the central bank when things appeared to go out of control.

RBI steps in for stability in times of coronavirus, low confidence in NPA-laden banking sector

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MARCH 5

AT A time when confidence in the NPA-laden Indian banking sector is at its lowest, and the economy is facing external headwinds – the global spread of the coronavirus – the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) finally stepped in and superseded the fifth-largest private sector bank's board.

With year-long efforts by the Yes Bank management to raise fresh funds coming to a nought, the RBI moved in to place curbs on Yes Bank to ensure stability in the financial sector, already hit by the collapse of mortgage firm DHFL, core investment company IL&FS and several other defaults.

Over next 30 days, RBI will try to put in place a "scheme for reconstruction or amalgamation" for Yes Bank with assets of ₹3,71,160 cr in June 2019

to restore confidence among depositors, who are jittery after the Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank incident.

The central bank has signalled several times in the past that it will ensure financial stability to tackle domestic and global issues and retain the trust and confidence of people in the banking system. Responding to a specific question on market concerns on stability of certain financial institutions such as Yes Bank, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had, in a recent interview to *The Indian Express*, said, "We are very mindful of the aspect of financial stability in the case of banks... RBI will always ensure that stability of the banking sector is maintained." The RBI action on Yes Bank comes when the private

Airlines may lose \$113 bn in revenue due to China virus: IATA

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MARCH 5

THE INTERNATIONAL Air Travel Association (IATA) has estimated that the financial impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on the passenger business of airlines would be somewhere between \$63 billion and \$113 billion.

Earlier, when the virus was still confined to China, IATA's revenue impact estimate was significantly lower, at \$29.3 billion.

Industry players fear that the impact of this Black Swan event on the industry will be similar to that of the global financial crisis of 2008. "Airline share prices have fallen nearly 25 per cent since the outbreak began, some 21 percentage points greater than the decline that occurred at a similar point during the SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) crisis of 2003," IATA said on Thursday.

Assuming a decrease in passenger numbers in all the markets, which have at least 10 confirmed COVID-19 positive cases as of March 2, the IATA estimated a 19 per cent loss in worldwide passenger revenues, aggregating to around \$113 billion. FE

SECTOR WATCH
CREDIT'Women borrowers growing faster than men; Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu lead list'
64% of self-monitoring women consumers are millennials: CibilENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MARCH 5

THE PARTICIPATION of Indian women consumers in the credit market is increasing rapidly, with the number of women borrowers in India increasing by 26 per cent since September 2013, showing a faster growth than male borrowers who showed an increase of 21 per cent, says a report from TransUnion Cibil.

According to TransUnion Cibil, 30 million women borrowers have gained access to credit products, with the share of women borrowers to total borrowers rising to 26 per cent as of September 2019, up from 21 per cent in September 2013.

As the number of women borrowers has grown, awareness and credit consciousness among these women borrowers has also improved with self-monitoring women consumers growing 62 per cent between 2018 and 2019.

Awareness and credit consciousness among women borrowers has improved, with self-monitoring women consumers growing 62 per cent between 2018 and 2019

Indian credit and loan landscape, lenders are looking to onboard credit conscious consumers who will comply with the loan agreement and will repay the amount in full on time. A consumer's score and report is a reflection of this credit-consciousness," says Sujata Ahlawat, VP and head of direct-to-consumer interaction, TransUnion Cibil.

Indian women consumers are indeed much more cautious, conscious and responsible when it comes to credit, and it is interesting to see that their top loan preferences range from personal loans and consumer durables to credit cards. Women consumers may be viewed more positively because of better credit profiles than their male counterparts, and that will translate into more access to credit and faster loan approvals, too," Ahlawat said.

Within three months of checking their credit score and report, 52 per cent of women consumers apply (enquire only) for at least one loan account or credit card. Additionally, 35 per cent of the overall base will go on to open a loan account or avail a credit card. Women have demonstrated their credit consciousness and within six months of checking their score and report, 45 per cent of them have improved their credit profiles.

The government and lenders are acknowledging this credit consciousness among women consumers. They have introduced various initiatives to boost women's access to loans by providing them affordable credit. Lenders are also creating loans and credit card offerings that are specifically aimed at the woman consumer.

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
AHMEDABAD, MARCH 5

THE GOVERNMENT'S move to restrict exports of drug ingredients like paracetamol, Vitamin B12 and progesterone is only a temporary measure to ensure India has enough stock of these products while it waits for operations in a COVID-19-affected Chinese province supplying these products to resume. The situation is being reviewed daily and export obligations of companies are not expected to get affected, according to officials and industry executives close to the development.

China accounts for nearly 70

'DRUGS FROM HUBEI NOT COMING'

■ "Operations in other provinces have restarted, we have been told... Hubei is still not operational and the drugs that are made there are not coming here as of now," said DoP Secretary PD Vaghela

percent of India's total imports of raw drug materials like active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs)

and the key ingredients used to make them (KSMs).

"The responsibility of the government is such that, when some issues and some situations arise, for a few days, we need to take some (measures). For that it (the export restrictions) has been done," Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers DV Sadananda Gowda said on the sidelines of the India Pharma 2020 and India Medical Devices 2020 conference here.

Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) Secretary PD Vaghela said the move was "a very temporary" measure, as only exports of drugs made using ingredients sourced from China's Hubei province (still on lockdown) were

restricted by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade earlier this week.

"Operations in other provinces have restarted, we have been told. But Hubei is still not operational and the drugs that are made there are not coming here as of now. So, naturally, we would have to restrict exports a little so that India does not experience a scarcity of these products," said Vaghela.

"Even in this case, we are allowing exports of those companies with a Letter of Credit or with goods already in transit. And this is being reviewed everyday. As soon as the situation gets resolved (the restrictions will be relaxed)," he said, reiterating that the move

OPEC backs biggest oil cut since 2008 crisis, awaits Russia nod

REUTERS
VIENNA, MARCH 5

OPEC AGREED on Thursday to cut oil output by an extra 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd) in the second quarter of 2020 to support prices that have been hit by the coronavirus outbreak, but made its action conditional on Russia and others joining in.

The oil demand outlook has been pummelled by governments' steps to halt the spread of the virus, prompting OPEC to consider its deepest cut since the 2008 financial crisis.

Demand growth forecasts in 2020 have been slashed as factories have been disrupted, people have been deterred from travelling and other business activity has slowed. Oil prices edged lower on Thursday as the coronavirus epi-



Equatorial Guinea's Mines and Hydrocarbons Minister Gabriel Mbaga Obiang Lima (left) greets an employee of OPEC in Vienna on Thursday.

demic showed no signs of slowing, with deaths mounting. Brent

was trading almost 2 per cent down at \$45.85/bbl (1:20AMIST).

Lower than FY20 It is lower than the CAGR of 30 per cent in unsecured loans for the fiscal years till FY2019

REASONS

- Rising propensity for personal loans
- Attractive risk-adjusted returns

STATUS CHECK

The going has been very difficult for the NBFC segment since the crisis at infra-focused lender IL&FS in September 2018, with liquidity getting scarce and the economy slowing down

25% The growth in the unsecured books at

9% The share of unsecured loans in the overall assets under management for the non-bank lenders is set to grow by 1.50 percentage points in a single year to 9 per cent now

Under 3% Delinquencies in the personal and consumer durables loans are expected to inch up this fiscal but will still be under 3 per cent

Source:
Crisil/PITI

CHALLENGES FACING THE SECTOR

- Constrained funding access amid rising borrowing costs
- Re-calibration
- De-risking of loan books

9%

The share of unsecured loans in the overall assets under management for the non-bank lenders is set to grow by 1.50 percentage points in a single year to 9 per cent now

25%

The growth in the unsecured books at

25%

Under 3% Delinquencies in the personal and consumer durables loans are expected to inch up this fiscal but will still be under 3 per cent

Source:
Crisil/PITI

For three-year single premium for new private cars between 1000 cc and 1500 cc capacity, the rate has gone up from Rs 9,534 to Rs 10,149. The five-year single premium for two-wheelers between 75 cc and 150 cc has gone up from Rs 3,285 to Rs 3,845.

Every year,

CBDT ISSUES FAQS ON VIVAD SE VISHWAS SCHEME**AAR cases, STT, disputes over ₹5-cr tax demand out of ambit**EN Economic Bureau
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

THE DIRECT tax dispute resolution scheme (Vivad se Vishwas) would not cover certain kinds of disputes, including those pending before Authority for Advance Ruling (AAR) and cases with tax demand above Rs 5 crore arising from search and seizure operations, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) clarified Thursday.

It also said that disputes related to wealth tax, security transaction tax (STT), commodity transaction tax (CTT) and equalisation levy are also out of the scheme's ambit. The CBDT had earlier clarified that the scheme barred disputes related to undisclosed foreign income/asset assessment or reassessment made on basis of information received under DTAAs and where prosecution for any offence under Indian Penal Code/ Prevention of Money Laundering Act/Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act has been instituted or a person who has been convicted under the Acts.

On the eligibility of cases where prosecution has been instituted against the assessee, CBDT said that such disputes can't avail the scheme

It further said that if the tax arrears include tax on issues that are excluded from the scheme, such cases are not eligible to file declaration. "There is no provision under Vivad se Vishwas to settle part of a pending dispute in relation to an appeal or writ or SLP for an assessment year. For one pending appeal, all the issues are required to be settled and if anyone of the issues makes the declaration invalid, no declaration can be filed," the Board said in a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs).

On the eligibility of cases where prosecution has been instituted against the assessee, CBDT said that such disputes can't avail the scheme. "However, where

only notice for initiation of prosecution has been issued with reference to tax arrears, the taxpayer has a choice to compound the offence and opt for Vivad se Vishwas," it added.

The scheme seeks to cut down on nearly 4.8 lakh tax disputes involving an amount of Rs 9.32 lakh crore (up to November 30, 2019) by giving the taxpayers the facility to escape interest on the disputed tax amount and any penalty. All direct tax related cases pending before the Commissioner (Appeals), Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, high courts or the Supreme Court as on January 31, 2020 are eligible for the scheme.

Rakesh Nangia, chairman at Nangia Andersen Consulting, said both taxpayers and tax authorities would be constrained by time as the former has to opt for the scheme and make payment of necessary taxes, which would then be followed by evaluation of all the applications and issue a final order granting necessary certificate by tax authorities by March 31, 2020. **FE**

which the ICICI Bank Board of Directors terminated her employment. On January 30, 2019, the Board informed her that it has decided to treat her separation from the Bank as 'termination for cause' under the internal policies and requires clawback of all bonus paid from April 2009 until March 2018.

Thereafter, Chanda Kochhar challenged denial by the employer for agreed remuneration as managing director and chief executive officer, without previous approval of the RBI.

During earlier hearings, ICICI Bank had argued that termination of its former CEO was on account of her being in violation of the code of business conduct, ethics, and failing to disclose conflict of interest.

STATE BUDGET 2020-21**Amid 'economic difficulties', no new schemes from Karnataka CM**JOHNSONTA
BENGALURU, MARCH 5

INDICATING FINANCIAL difficulties of an unprecedented magnitude on account of a shortfall in central grants and deficiency in GST compensation, Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa on Thursday presented the Budget for 2020-21 with no new programmes, a slashed outlay for many old ones and a hike in state taxes on fuel and liquor to boost revenues.

"Due to reduction of state's share of central taxes as per the 15th Finance Commission report and other developments, serious difficulties are being faced in resource mobilisation efforts. This magnitude of economic difficulties was never faced in the previous years by our state," Yediyurappa said in his Budget speech, where he announced a barely 2 per cent increase in outlay.

The Karnataka Chief Minister also announced a 1 per cent dip in



Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa arrives to present the Budget 2020-21 at Karnataka Assembly, in Bengaluru, Thursday. **PTI**

gross state domestic product (GSDP) from 7.8 per cent in fiscal 2018-19 to 6.8 per cent in 2019-20, on the back of a weak performance by the services and industries sectors which form the backbone of the state's economy.

The industries and services sectors, which reported a growth rate of 5.6 per cent and 9.8 per cent, respectively, in 2018-19 reported a fall in FY20 at 4.8 per cent and 7.9 per cent, respectively.

The state government is set to see a shortfall of nearly Rs 11,000 in revenues for FY20, leaving little scope for allocating resources for the new fiscal without violating fiscal responsibility norms, the Chief Minister said in his speech.

"Revenue resources of the state government include state's own taxes, non-tax revenue, share of central taxes and grant-in-aid from central government. However, the state's share in central taxes has come down in 2019-20 as per the Revised Estimates of the central government."

"Due to this reason, there is a reduction of Rs 8,887 crore to Karnataka. Therefore, state's revenue resources have been reduced. Apart from this, Rs 3,000 crore GST compensation will also be reduced as collections from the

GST compensation cess is not as expected," Yediyurappa said.

"It has become difficult to reach the 2019-20 Budget targets due to these reasons. To manage this situation within the bounds of the Karnataka Fiscal Responsibility Act, an inevitable situation has arisen this year to cut down the expenditure of many departments," he said.

Further, the proposed allocations to the state from central taxes as per the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission's interim report is 3.64 per cent as against 4.71 per cent recommended by the 14th Finance Commission, and this will lead to a reduction of Rs 11,215 crore in the state's share of central taxes in 2020-21 when compared to 2019-20, Yediyurappa said.

For FY20, total receipts are estimated to be Rs 2,33,134 crore, with revenue receipts of Rs 17,992 crore and capital receipts of Rs 53,214 crore including borrowings of Rs 52,918 crore.

LIC buys 2.38% stake in RITES via OFS

New Delhi: Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has bought 2.38 per cent government stake in RITES via secondary market purchases, taking its total stake in the railway PSU to 7.83 per cent.

'SBI Cards IPO subscribed 22.45 times'

New Delhi: The IPO of SBI Cards and Payment Services was subscribed 22.45 times on the final day of bidding on Thursday, as per NSE data.

New Sebi app for investors to file grievances

New Delhi: Sebi on Thursday said it has launched a mobile application for convenience of investors to lodge grievances in Sebi Complaints Redress System (SCORES). 'Sebi SCORES' is available on both iOS and Android platforms, Sebi said. **PTI**

DCGI gives nod to liver disease drug by Zydus

Ahmedabad: Zydus Cadila received approval from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for its new drug application for Saroglitazar for treating Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH) in the domestic market. "The DCGI approved molecule becomes the first ever drug anywhere in the world for treatment of NASH. It ranks as one of the major causes of cirrhosis, behind hepatitis C and alcoholic liver disease, and is a leading cause for liver transplant," said Sharvil Patel, MD, Zydus Cadila. **FE**

HC dismisses Chanda Kochhar's plea against termination by ICICI BankOMKARGOKHALE
MUMBAI, MARCH 5

THE BOMBAY High Court Thursday dismissed former ICICI Bank MD and CEO Chanda Kochhar's plea challenging her termination last year and clawback of bonuses she received until March 2018.

A division Bench of Justices Nitin Jamdar and Makarand SKarikar passed a ruling on Kochhar's plea filed in November last and said, "As a result, we uphold preliminary objections by respondent (ICICI Bank). Writ petition is dismissed as not maintainable."

Appearing for Kochhar, senior counsel Vikram Nankani argued that the Reserve Bank of India's (RBIs) approval to termination

Vishwanathan decides to step down as RBI Deputy Govt'

Mumbai: RBI Deputy Governor N S Vishwanathan has decided to step down by March 31 due to ill health, three months before the end of his extended one-year tenure, as per sources.

While the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has accepted his request to be relieved by March 31, the same has to be accepted by the Cabinet as well, which is likely to happen any day given his health condition, a person in the know of the development said.

His one-year extension was to end on July 3.

RBI spokesperson Yogesh Dayal refused to confirm or deny the development. **PTI**

Major telcos cite industry health, seek data price floor for 2-3 yearsENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

THE COUNTRY'S three major telecom operators, Reliance Jio Infocomm, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea, have joined hands to jointly suggest that there should be a floor price for data prices in India.

In their suggestions to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai), which had sought comments on fixing a floor price for telecom services, the telcos have said that while rationalisation of taxes will help the struggling industry, it will not help them generate sufficient revenues and sustain operations in the long run. In its letter to Trai, Jio has said

that as "heavily streaming smartphone users in India are currently paying the lowest possible data tariffs across the world," a data price hike would not be out of sync with the global trends.

Voluntary tariff hikes by the telcos have not been successful due to a competing telco announcing a cut in tariff within 2-3 days. "This establishes the fact that a regulatory regime of forbearance and letting market forces determine the tariff is not a sustainable solution for ensuring higher revenue generation for the telecom service providers. Given the current competitive environment in the sector, we recommend that the authority should intervene and fix the floor for re-

alised price for wireless data services," Jio's letter said.

In its response, Bharti Airtel has that the telcos had to engage in the data price war as "there was no option." "Either recover costs and lose market share dramatically or attempt to protect the business but go into mounting losses. Events have come to such a pass that in the last 3 years, the industry has seen unprecedented consolidation, shut down of several operators and a cumulative return on capital that is now deeply in the red," Bharti Airtel said in its letter.

Vodafone Idea said a "temporary" regulatory tariff intervention in the form of a floor price is much needed.

Stocks drop in US, Europe as virus worries dominate

New York: Stocks slid more than 3.5 per cent intra-day, cutting another 1,000 points off the Dow Jones Industrial Average, as fear of the economic fallout from the spreading virus outbreak once again grips markets. Thursday's drop nearly wiped out the surge of 4.5 per cent the day earlier.

The S&P 500 was down 3.26 per cent, as of 12:00 am IST. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell

921.34 points, or 3.4 per cent, to 26,169.52, and Nasdaq was down 2.74 per cent. Japan's Nikkei 225 rose 1.1 per cent, South Korea's Kospi gained 1.3 per cent and stocks in Shanghai jumped 2 per cent. But markets turned lower as trading moved west to Europe. The French CAC 40 fell 1.9 per cent, Germany's DAX lost 1.5 per cent and the FTSE 100 in London dropped 1.6 per cent. **REUTERS**

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF HARYANA

Mahendergarh - 123031 (Haryana)

Short Term EO Notice

Central University of Haryana, Mahendergarh invites techno-financial proposals to Design, Build and install 2.15 Meters high Statue of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar in the University campus, from reputed firms having expertise and experience in the relevant field. The interested firms may send their sealed offers to undersigned by 18/03/2020 up to 2PM. For more information and updates please visit www.cuh.ac.in

Registrar

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SPACE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (IIST)

Department of Space, Government of India

Thiruvananthapuram 695 547, Kerala State, India.

Phone: 0471-2564151, Fax: 0471-2564406, mail: purchase@iist.ac.in

PUBLIC TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited from accredited manufacturers/suppliers for supply & installation of following items/ services at IIST.

1. PARAMETRIC ANALYZER - Tender No. 20190747901 - 1 No. (TWO PART BID)

2. TUNABLE EXTERNAL CAVITY DIODE LASER - Tender No. 20190747901 - 2 No. (TWO PART BID)

3. DISTRIBUTION LINES - Tender No. 20190766001 - 1 Lot (TWO PART BID)

4. SPUTTERING UNIT - Tender No. 20190766201 - 2 No. (SINGLE PART BID)

5. RATE CONTRACT FOR ADVERTISEMENT - Tender No. 20190765101 - 03 Years (SINGLE BID)

The tender documents including detailed Terms and Conditions & Quantity can be downloaded from our website: www.iist.ac.in. The due date of receipt of tender shall be 23.04.2020 at 14.00 Hrs. The tender shall be opened in the presence of bidder's representatives on the next day i.e. 24.04.2020 at 10.30 AM at IIST, Haryana.

Date: 06.03.2020

Deputy Registrar (Istate), Purchase for and on behalf of Director, IIST

Deputy Registrar (Istate), Purchase for and on behalf of Director, IIST

Deputy Registrar (Istate), Purchase for and on behalf of Director, IIST

Deputy Registrar (Istate), Purchase for and on behalf of Director, IIST

Deputy Registrar (Istate), Purchase for and on behalf of Director, IIST

Deputy Registrar (Istate), Purchase for and on behalf of Director, IIST

Deputy Registrar (Istate), Purchase for and on behalf of Director, IIST

Deputy Registrar (Istate), Purchase for and on behalf of Director, IIST

Deputy Registrar (Istate), Purchase for and on behalf of Director, IIST

Deputy Registrar (Istate), Purchase for and on behalf of Director, IIST

Deputy Registrar (Istate), Purchase for and on behalf of Director, IIST

Deputy Registrar (Istate), Purchase for and on behalf of Director, IIST

Deputy Registrar (Istate), Purchase for and on behalf of Director, IIST

Deputy Registrar (Istate), Purchase for and on behalf of Director, IIST

Deputy Registrar (Istate), Purchase for and on behalf of Director, IIST

Deputy Registrar (Istate), Purchase for and on behalf of Director, IIST

Deputy Registrar (Istate), Purchase for and on behalf of Director, IIST

Deputy Registrar (Istate), Purchase for and on behalf of Director, IIST

Deputy Registrar (Istate), Purchase for and on behalf of Director, IIST

Deputy Registrar (Istate), Purchase for and on behalf of Director, IIST

Deputy Registrar (Istate), Purchase for and on behalf of Director, IIST

Deputy Registrar (Istate), Purchase for and on behalf of Director, IIST

Deputy Registrar (Istate), Purchase for and on behalf of Director, IIST

Deputy Registrar (Istate), Purchase for and on behalf of Director, IIST

Deputy Registrar (Istate), Purchase for and on behalf of Director, IIST

Deputy Registrar (Istate), Purchase for and on behalf of Director, IIST

Deputy Registrar (Istate), Purchase for and on behalf of Director, IIST

Deputy Registrar (Istate), Purchase for and on behalf of Director, IIST

Deputy Registrar (Istate), Purchase for and on behalf of Director, IIST

SPEECH AT WORK

None of your business

Companies are increasingly worried about what their employees say

LAST DECEMBER, a British employment tribunal ruled that the Centre for Global Development, a think-tank, had acted legally when it did not renew Maya Forstater's contract because she had tweeted that a person's biological sex is immutable. Ms Forstater, a researcher, had tweeted several messages critical of the idea that natal males can become women. She did so from her personal account but listed her employer in her Twitter profile. After colleagues complained to the human-resources department about her conduct online, she was asked to add the disclaimer "views are my own". She did so. According to her employer, co-workers objected to her posting a picture of herself at a protest with a banner that said "Woman, noun, adult human female".

Trans-rights activists cheered, and women's rights and free-speech advocates were horrified, because a precedent had been set. In court, Ms Forstater had argued that her conviction that men cannot become women should be protected in the same way as a religious belief would be. The judge disagreed, ruling that her "gender-critical" views were "not worthy of respect in a democratic society," and did not qualify for protection.

By contrast, another British tribunal ruled in January that ethical veganism did. Jordi Casamitjana was dismissed from the League Against Cruel Sports, an animal-welfare charity, after disclosing that its pension fund invested in companies involved in animal testing. Mr Casamitjana is appealing against his sacking. He says that he was fired because he is a vegan on ethical grounds. If he proved that to be the case, his firing would be discriminatory. His employer says he was fired for gross misconduct and that his beliefs were irrelevant.

A confluence of technological and cultural change has made such cases almost inevitable. Thanks to Twitter and other social networks, employees have many more opportunities to broadcast their opinions; off-colour comments that would once have been uttered in a bar now ricochet around the world. Companies that strive to demonstrate their progressive character are likely to find that troublesome.

Meanwhile, the nature of belief has changed. People in rich countries are less likely to say that they belong to a church. Even in America, which is more pious than most, the proportion of people who say they have no religious affiliation has climbed from just 6% in the early 1970s to 22%, according to the Pew Research Centre. Among millennials, who represent more than a third of the workforce, the proportion is twice as high. Yet the hole left by the decline of organised religion has been filled by a diversity of other beliefs, held just as fervently. Companies and courts must grapple with the question: how far should laws written to protect employees against discrimination on religious grounds be applied to those beliefs, too?

The case law on religious discrimination is well established. Legal judgments about job requirements often turn on the question of whether an employer could have made a reasonable adjustment to accommodate a person's religious beliefs. A school in Denmark that fired a Jehovah's Witness in 2018 who refused to dance around a Christmas tree was found guilty of unlawful discrimination because it could easily have accommodated



Women employees stage a walkout at their Googleplex offices, in November 2018. Google has been accused of trying to silence dissenting voices, including those that criticised the firm's response to sexual harassment. *Reuters*

such wishes. But in 1994 a Dutch casino was allowed to sack a Christian croupier who refused to take customers' cash because doing so was an essential part of the job.

Many Western countries also ban discrimination on the basis of "belief", though none defines the term clearly. Increasingly, non-religious workers want similar protections to those afforded to religious groups, says Peter Daly, an employment lawyer involved in the cases of both Ms Forstater and Mr Casamitjana. British courts are leading in this area.

The bar for beliefs to qualify for protection was lowered in 2006 when Britain removed the requirement for such beliefs to be "similar" to religious ones. Then, in 2009, a tribunal ruled that Tim Nicholson's belief in man-made climate change was akin to a religious conviction and should enjoy the same protections.

Mr Nicholson had been head of sustainability at Grainger PLC, a property-investment firm, until he was made redundant. Grainger claimed this was a result of changing staffing needs. Mr Nicholson argued that his redundancy was the result of his environmental beliefs: he often urged executives to improve their green credentials. The

firm's lawyer claimed that Mr Nicholson's views were opinions, as opposed to beliefs that enjoyed special protections. But the fact that his daily life was guided by his convictions, influencing how he travelled and lived, helped convince a judge that this was a belief worthy of protection, a decision that has been influential in much of Europe.

The ruling set five criteria for a protected belief. It must be genuinely held; be more than an opinion or viewpoint based on the present state of information available; be a weighty and substantial part of life; attain a certain level of cogency, seriousness, cohesion and importance; and be worthy of respect in a democratic society and compatible with human dignity and the rights of others. The last criterion was set explicitly narrowly to rule out particular noxious beliefs. White Supremacy has failed on that test.

Over the past decade European tribunals have concluded that various non-religious

beliefs clear the bar. Anthroposophy, opposition to hunting, Darwinism, faith in the "higher purpose of public broadcast journalism" and ethical veganism have been ruled in. Being sympathetic to China, disliking asylum-seekers and the conviction that 9/11 and 7/7 were "false flag" operations have been ruled out. On vegetarianism and Marxism countries disagree.

It is illegal in most European countries, particularly former communist ones, and some American states, to fire someone for their political beliefs. Several Silicon Valley employees have used such laws in California to argue that they were fired for being conservatives. But most Americans enjoy no protection of their political beliefs at work. In 2004 a woman in Alabama was legally fired from a housing-insulation company for having a John Kerry bumper sticker on her car. In December a man playing Father Christmas at a mall in Georgia

was replaced after photos emerged online of him wearing a pro-President Trump baseball cap while on duty (he claims it was a joke). Christopher Olmsted, an employment lawyer in California, expects political disputes on the workfloor to heat up as elections approach later this year.

Employers say they need to restrict the expression of certain views in order to create inclusive workplaces. Consider the sacking of James Damore, a Google engineer, in 2017 after he penned the "Google Memo", which argued that women were biologically less suited to tech jobs. Diversity officers at many firms protested, arguing that firing someone with views that are different from the norm was the opposite of inclusivity. Human-resources and employment lawyers defended the dismissal as the only way to protect employees from hostility and the company from litigation—and bad press.

But firms are increasingly concerned about what their employees say and write outside the office. In 2018 a film director was fired by Disney for tweets in which he joked about rape, sent years before the company hired him. In 2019 a "greeter" for ASDA, a supermarket, was dismissed for Islamophobia after sharing a Billy Connolly video on

Facebook (a comedian whose work is sold by ASDA). Both have since been reinstated, but only after hassle, and "all because their employers had a panic attack over what was happening on social media," says Jodie Ginsberg, the outgoing CEO of Index on Censorship, a charity. Pascal Besseling, a Dutch employment lawyer, estimates that about one in ten on-the-spot firings in the Netherlands are now related to social media. Few have garnered much attention because companies tend to settle disputes quietly. Even when firms are in the right they prefer to stay out of the limelight, so will buy off fired employees in exchange for their silence.

The courts are puzzling their way through such cases. Last August the Australian High Court upheld a decision by the Department of Immigration to fire a public servant who had sent thousands of anonymous tweets critical of her employer. More complex are firings over posts that are unrelated to work but which are deemed to bring an employer into disrepute.

Employee activism can be particularly tricky. Amazon employees recently claimed to have been threatened with dismissal for criticising the firm's climate policies to journalists. Google has been accused of trying to silence dissenting voices, including those that criticised the firm's response to sexual harassment and its secretive work in China. The firm denies any claims of retaliation, which would be unlawful, but does not dispute that it has reduced the frequency and changed the scope of its "Thank God It's Friday" town halls, once a celebration of free speech.

Loose lips bring pink slips

To forestall conflicts, firms are moving to spell out their expectations in codes of conduct and social-media policies. The level of detail varies. Intel simply asks employees to "use common sense". General Motors' 12-page social-media policy includes a reminder that "your online communications will not be excused merely because they occurred outside of work hours or off GM premises." There are few limits to what an employer can demand in its terms of employment, says James Laddie, a barrister. But social-media use is now so widespread that extreme restrictions, such as blanket bans on Twitter, are no longer realistic. "It's yet to be tested what view a tribunal would take on someone fired for refusing to abide by such a ban. They may well say 'we don't care what your T&C restricts', it's not fair to dismiss someone for speaking their mind."

In the midst of all these prescriptions, Pam Jeffords of PWC wonders whether companies might more usefully replace demands for "respect" with requests for "civility" in employment conditions. "It's not realistic to demand I respect someone who believes women don't have a right to drive," she says, "but it's reasonable to ask me to be civil."

The workplace is where most discrimination disputes emerge. It is where people are most likely to spend time with those with whom they fundamentally disagree. Most employers simply want a pragmatic approach to regulating speech at work that allows people to get on with their jobs while avoiding both the courts and the media. That is easier said than done.

©The Economist Newspaper Limited 2020

EU TRADE

Hulk Hogan

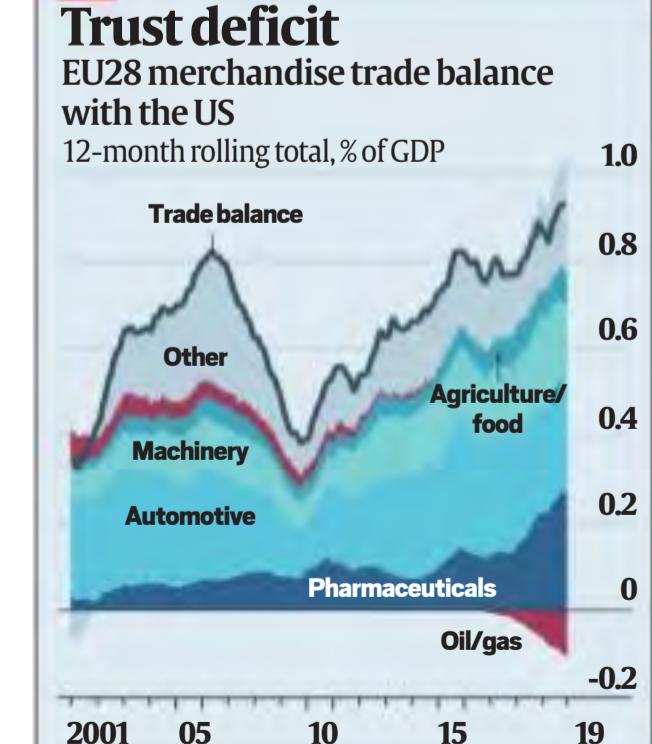
The European Union's trade policy will involve some tough negotiations. Is Phil Hogan the person for the job?

IF THE Trump administration's America is the bully of the global trading system, the European Union is the finger-wagging school prefect. Instead of threatening tariffs, its leaders have called for countries to play fairly. As a trade war has raged between America and China, the EU suggested a rules-based solution. When the Trump administration wrecked the system of solving disputes at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the EU led the search for a fix. As the world's biggest exporter of services and second only to China for goods, it has a sizeable stake in preserving order.

Enter Phil Hogan, the EU's burly trade commissioner since December 2019. The EU is still a stickler for rules and the multilateralism that Mr Hogan says is "in our DNA".

But he wants to wield a bigger stick. "We have to stand up for our rights more assertively and aggressively, in my view," he tells *The Economist*. By this he means defending the EU against unfair trading practices. The challenges range from concerns about China's state-led system of capitalism to fears that the EU's trading partners are not living up to their commitments.

Part of his brief involves continuing efforts to rescue the system by which the WTO solves disputes. Meanwhile he will have to manage the tense transatlantic relationship. If the job was daunting enough, he will



help negotiate what he hopes will be an "amicable" trade deal with Britain.

Mr Hogan's reputation as a canny politician willing to make tough decisions—his nickname in Irish politics was "the enforcer"—suggests that he may be right for the job. On behalf of his home county of Kilkenny, where he entered Irish politics at the age of 22, he haggled effectively (for example, ensuring that the region's salt de-

pot was in Kilkenny, partly so that in case of ice the local roads would be salted first). He is "no flat tyre", as one Leinster admirer puts it. Later he drew controversy when in 2011, as Ireland's Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government, he was put in charge of introducing unpopular water charges. It damaged his reputation. But as a consolation prize, the Irish government backed him as the EU's agriculture commissioner.

His experience over the following five years meant that he became intimately acquainted with the EU's most sensitive spots. Alongside Cecilia Malmström, then the EU's trade commissioner, he boasts of concluding no fewer than 15 trade agreements. According to some of the negotiators who were on the opposite side of the table, while he could be both charming and funny, his strategies to avoid giving concessions could be deeply frustrating. In some cases, he simply declined to show up.

The American government may roll its eyes at the talk of a tougher EU trade regime. Some in America could accuse the bloc of being too timid about using tariffs to get its own way with trading partners, and too weak to overcome the protectionist instincts of its member states. They ask why, if the EU is so concerned about the demise of the WTO's dispute-settlement system, it ignored America's complaints about it for so long? Where, they ask, was the EU while America was filing WTO disputes against China? Tough talk is cheap, results will require action.

Mr Hogan's first priority is to add muscle to the EU's defences. From May 1st he will oversee a new "chief trade-enforcement officer", as well as new enforcement unit dedicated to making sure that existing trade deals are implemented properly. The European Commission is proposing new rules that would sharpen the EU's teeth, including an amendment to enforcement regulations that would allow tariffs against

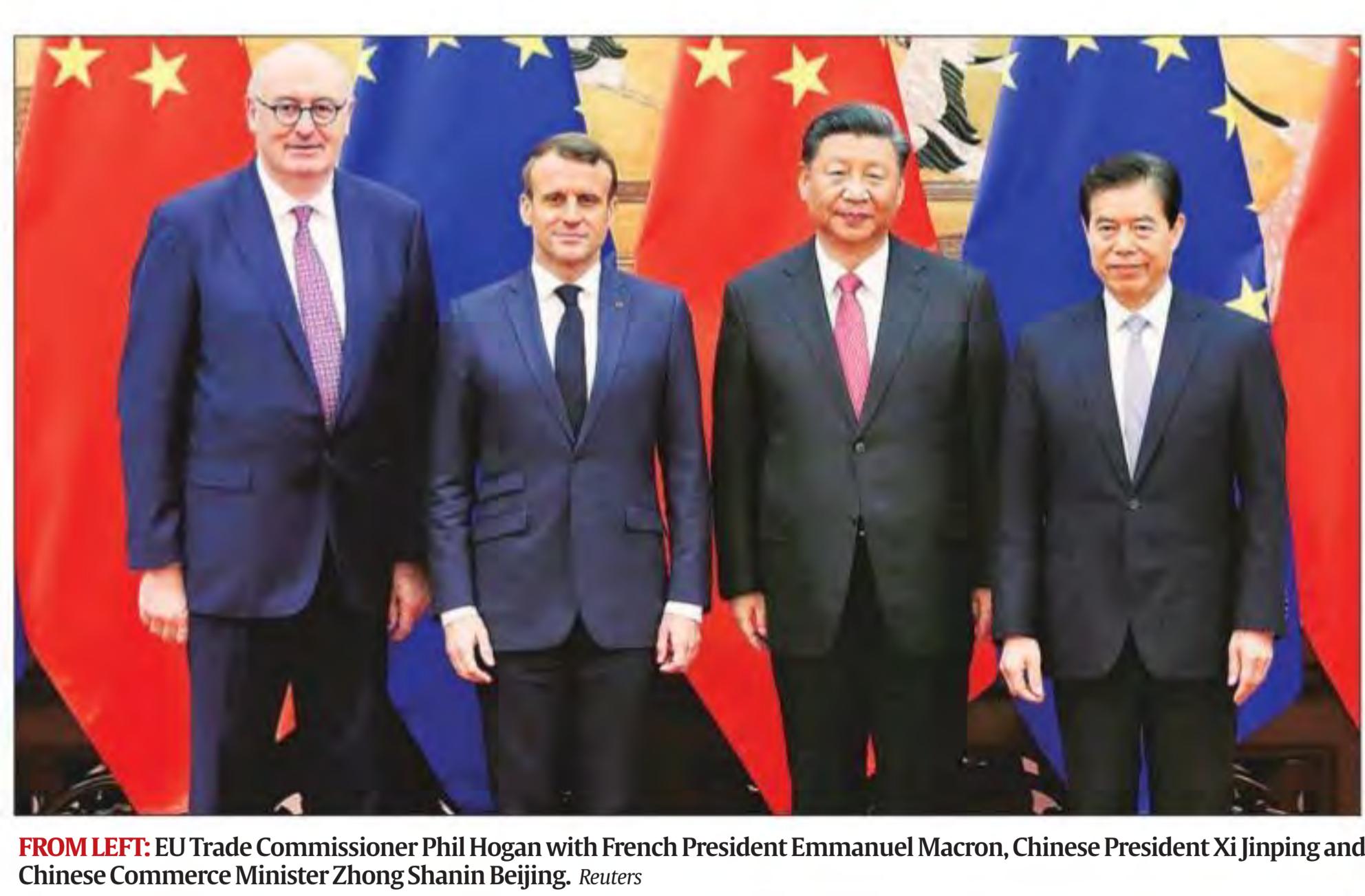
other governments blocking the WTO's dispute-settlement system. On the topic of the WTO's appellate body, Mr Hogan acknowledges some of the American concerns, but adds that he would love to see detailed proposals for solutions to the problems from the Trump administration.

Whether he can maintain stable trade relations with America is another matter. He raised hackles in September after an interview in which he promised to teach Mr Trump "the error of his ways". Then in a meeting in January he seems to have clashed with Robert Lighthizer, the United States Trade Representative. If he tries to bring more assertiveness into the EU's side of the transatlantic relationship it could end badly. Stephen Vaughn, an ex-colleague of Mr Lighthizer, warns that attempts to play hardball "could backfire".

The Americans want, above all, broad access to the EU's agricultural market—more than the lobsters, scallops and nuts that are on offer. (Seafood technically counts as an industrial product.) But as Mr Hogan knows well from his previous job, anything much broader than dismantling a few non-tariff agricultural barriers is un-

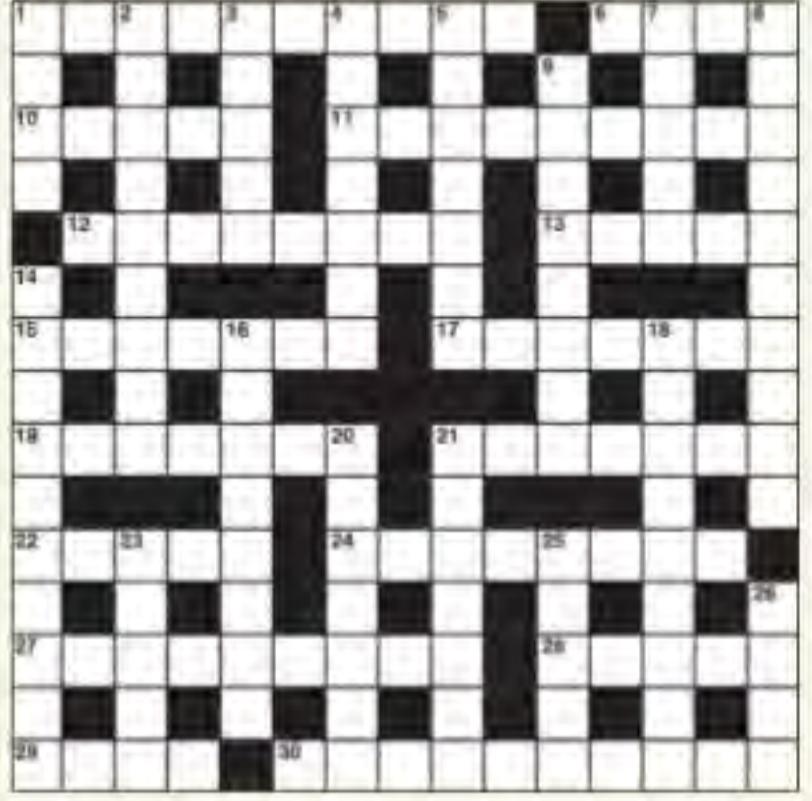
palatable to member states.

He remains upbeat about the transatlantic relationship. "I think that we're in a better place now than we were some months ago," he says. On February 14th a tariff announcement related to a dispute over aircraft subsidies was milder than expected. A reduction in car tariffs could be on the table, he adds, if member states agree. His challenge is not just to get trade partners to play by the rules. It is to get his own side on board, too.



FROM LEFT: EU Trade Commissioner Phil Hogan with French President Emmanuel Macron, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Chinese Commerce Minister Zhong Shan in Beijing. *Reuters*

CROSSWORD 4059



ACROSS

- Whatever the cost, it could make a nice party (2,3)
- They give a better interest (4)
- Scotch governor? (5)
- Insect presented by a bird to a fish (9)
- I react in a disaster instantly (2,1,5)
- Ovals? Possibly rounds (5)
- A stye isn't a pretty sight (7)
- Made ends meet sailor-fashion? (7)
- Pet animals? (7)
- A new car coat? (7)
- Sound of amusement (5)
- Gently reprove a doctor in broken Danish (8)
- It brings down the tone when depressed (4,5)
- The new man or woman (5)
- The position is reversed with the heartless (4)
- Sort of lay we hate to go before (4,3,3)

DOWN

- Call of the sea? (4)
- Anne Bronte's alternative instruction to boxer (5,4)
- Cathy rocks the boat (5)
- Admit that you take in stolen goods? (7)
- Catchesenvorting seals (7)
- Rather slow speech appears to attract a number in Rome (5)
- Happiest time for those not attending night classes? (10)
- Comes to grips in sporting fashion (8)
- They provide simple remedies (10)
- It may be regarded as a form of curiosity (3,5)
- It's taken firmly in hand before bottlenecks can be cleared (9)
- Badly angered a noble foreigner (7)
- Showing a decreasing need? (7)
- Unsuitable description of those in poor health (5)
- Man in the orchestra gives Beethoven's choral symphony (5)
- It's army manoeuvres for her (4)

Solutions Crossword 4058: Across: 1 Strange, 5 Picks, 8 Espionage, 9 Nun, 10 Rate, 12 Measured, 14 Static, 15 Drivel, 17 Activity, 18 Odds, 21 Owe, 22 Refresher, 24 Mused, 25 Eardrum. Down: 1 Smear, 2 Rip, 3 Noon, 4 Enamel, 5 Pleasure, 6 Contived, 7 Syndical, 11 Traitors, 13 Silvered, 14 Sea room, 16 Stifle, 19 Serum, 20 Tear, 23 Had.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED 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 quip.

You are always a ___ never a ___. You have to keep moving forward. - Conrad Hall (7,..)

TAEER

AMUNTT

ATSSST

LUMPED

Answer: You are always a student, never a master. You have to keep moving forward.

SUDOKU 4141

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; 2s = Easy;
3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;
5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4140



DAY TODAY BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Although a general atmosphere of confusion is still obscuring the truth, don't procrastinate over important issues. By giving people the impression that you could jump one way or the other you will only make matters worse. If you really can't decide, then at least keep them up to date with your thinking.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

You have worked too hard and sacrificed too much to allow anyone to get the upper hand or take you for a ride. Eventually, you will be in a position to persuade people of the truth of your cause, but first you've got to deal with your own lingering doubts.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

The Moon's relationship with your second solar house is a marvellous indication that your financial cycle is about to improve. It is especially auspicious that a one-year cycle and an eighteen-year pattern are now coinciding in a most delightful manner.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Your very personal affairs seem to have been in a state of flux ever since Mars, planet of energy and anger, set the cat among the pigeons at home, stirring up strange emotions amongst people you live with. You have one important task to complete, and that is to come to a partner's aid.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

The Moon falls in a new sector of your solar chart,

inaugurating a phase of dynamic optimism. At least, this is the most positive reading of your current celestial prospects. Just be prepared for the possibility that you'll have to do certain jobs yourself at work.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Spend a little time by yourself if possible. There is a great deal to be learnt from quiet contemplation and, in any case, you'll need to recharge your batteries. Your travel stars remain bright, but with an emphasis on visits to much-loved and familiar places.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

There's a great temptation to spend more than you can afford. I'd like to remind you that now is not necessarily the best time to make speculative gains. Indeed, gamblers will almost certainly be losers. The best risks are those taken with a complete understanding of the odds.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You're famously tolerant, yet you do

about intensely personal or domestic issues. On the lighter side, before long you can expect to hear from loved ones you haven't seen for some time: you should appreciate the fact that they've been thinking about you.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

No experience is wasted, and you should try to realise that all the testing experiences you are undergoing are designed to sharpen up your act. You may have to accept that a partner is bound to criticise or accuse you unfairly, but let's hope they'll listen to reason in the end.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

At last there are signs that you're getting your own way. In fact, very soon you ought to be covering a lot of new ground. The Moon's benign alignments will eventually send you off in search of extra excitement and adventure but first you need to sort out a small cash complication.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

In your solar chart, the emotional sign of Cancer represents your reliance on money as a means of guaranteeing your future security. Today's lunar picture implies that all will be well in this department. It also advises you to turn to people you've known for a long time, and can trust totally, for the best advice.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Your very personal affairs seem to have been in a state of flux ever since Mars, planet of energy and anger, set the cat among the pigeons at home, stirring up strange emotions amongst people you live with. You have one important task to complete, and that is to come to a partner's aid.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

In the long-term you can and will derive lasting benefits, even from enforced changes in your lifestyle. But the present phase of uncertainty is likely to continue until at least the beginning of next week. If you take a different perspective, then you'll see that when confusion reigns you have a chance to change your mind.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You're famously tolerant, yet you do about intensely personal or domestic issues. On the lighter side, before long you can expect to hear from loved ones you haven't seen for some time: you should appreciate the fact that they've been thinking about you.

PASCHIMANCHAL VIDYUT 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. PVNL-MT/15/19-20, (2) 100 Nos. 33 KV TVM Cat-B Meter against tender specification no. PVNL-MT/COM/16/19-20. The date of opening of Part-I & II of above tenders are hereby extended from 05.03.2020 to 20.03.2020. For detailed information please log on www.pvnl.org & E-Tendering website www.etender.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 (Meerut, J&E, 9412074751). Remark: www.etender.up.nic.in Sd/-Superintendent Engineer (Commercial) For Managing Director "SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION" पत्रका:- 2451 दिनांक:- 05.03.2020

DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226 010 (U.P.), Phones : 0522-4918504, 4918511, Fax : 0522-4918506 Website : www.drlmis.ac.in, Email-drlmis@drmis@gmail.com

E-Bid Ref. No.: 6154/RMLIMS/C2020

Dated : 05.03.2020

E-BID NOTICE

E-Bids are invited from "Contractors/ Suppliers/ Agencies" in two bid system for the

Rate Contract of Supply and Installation of Hepa Filters, diffuser cloth & Micro-Vee

Filters in Operation Theatres and A.H.U. of the Institute.

E-Bids can be submitted from date 07.03.2020 to 28.03.2020 & will be opened on

date 30.03.2020. The details of submission of E-Bids are available in the E-Bid

document uploaded on E-tender portal <http://etender.up.nic.in> and website www.drlmis.ac.in. The Director reserves the right to cancel any or all E-Bids or annul the bidding process without assigning any reason thereof.

MANIPUR UNIVERSITY

CANCHIPUR - IMPHAL-795003 MANIPUR

TENDER NOTICE

Dated, 05th March, 2020

No.MU/FIN/EQUIP/2019(pt):

Manipur University invites sealed tenders. Details available at the

University website www.manipuruniv.ac.in

Sd/- Purchase Officer

Manipur University, Canchipur

BANK OF BARODA

Zonal Office, Lucknow Zone, "Baroda House" V-23,Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010

TENDER NOTICE

Bank of Baroda, Zonal Office, Lucknow invites sealed tenders (1) From eligible Architects in

two bid system for providing Comprehensive Architectural Consultancy Services for

Construction of Baroda Swarojgar Yojna Sansthan (BSVS) / Rural Self Employment

Training Institute (R-SETI) at Faizabad, (2) For Auction of 1 car on "As is where

is basis". Interested bidders may visit our website www.bankofbaroda.in/tender.htm for complete details. Correspondendum/Addendum (if any) shall be issued on Bank's website only. Last date of submission of tender is 30.03.2020 upto 03.00 P.M.

Deputy General Manager

Bank of Baroda, Zonal Office, Lucknow invites sealed tenders (1) From eligible Architects in

two bid system for providing Comprehensive Architectural Consultancy Services for

Construction of Baroda Swarojgar Yojna Sansthan (BSVS) / Rural Self Employment

Training Institute (R-SETI) at Faizabad, (2) For Auction of 1 car on "As is where

is basis". Interested bidders may visit our website www.bankofbaroda.in/tender.htm for complete details. Correspondendum/Addendum (if any) shall be issued on Bank's website only. Last date of submission of tender is 30.03.2020 upto 03.00 P.M.

Deputy General Manager

Bank of Baroda, Zonal Office, Lucknow invites sealed tenders (1) From eligible Architects in

two bid system for providing Comprehensive Architectural Consultancy Services for

Construction of Baroda Swarojgar Yojna Sansthan (BSVS) / Rural Self Employment

Training Institute (R-SETI) at Faizabad, (2) For Auction of 1 car on "As is where

is basis". Interested bidders may visit our website www.bankofbaroda.in/tender.htm for complete details. Correspondendum/Addendum (if any) shall be issued on Bank's website only. Last date of submission of tender is 30.03.2020 upto 03.00 P.M.

Deputy General Manager

Bank of Baroda, Zonal Office, Lucknow invites sealed tenders (1) From eligible Architects in

two bid system for providing Comprehensive Architectural Consultancy Services for

Construction of Baroda Swarojgar Yojna Sansthan (BSVS) / Rural Self Employment

Training Institute (R-SETI) at Faizabad, (2) For Auction of 1 car on "As is where

is basis". Interested bidders may visit our website www.bankofbaroda.in/tender.htm for complete details. Correspondendum/Addendum (if any) shall be issued on Bank's website only. Last date of submission of tender is 30.03.2020 upto 03.00 P.M.

Deputy General Manager

Bank of Baroda, Zonal Office, Lucknow invites sealed tenders (1) From eligible Architects in

two bid system for providing Comprehensive Architectural Consultancy Services for

Construction of Baroda Swarojgar Yojna Sansthan (BSVS) / Rural Self Employment

Training Institute (R-SETI) at Faizabad, (2) For Auction of 1 car on "As is where

is basis". Interested bidders may visit our website www.bankofbaroda.in/tender.htm for complete details. Correspondendum/Addendum (if any) shall be issued on Bank's website only. Last date of submission of tender is 30.03.2020 upto 03.00 P.M.

Deputy General Manager

Bank of Baroda, Zonal Office, Lucknow invites sealed tenders (1) From eligible Architects in

two bid system for providing Comprehensive Architectural Consultancy Services for

Construction of Baroda Swarojgar Yojna Sansthan (BSVS) / Rural Self Employment

Training Institute (R-SETI) at Faizabad, (2) For Auction of 1 car on "As is where

is basis". Interested bidders may visit our website [www.bankof](http://www.bankofbaroda.in/tender.htm)

AROUND TOWN



Feminine Spirit

IN THE lead up to International Women's Day on March 8, the event titled 'Changing Narratives – Kal Aaj Aur Kal' celebrates the theme of womanhood through workshops for children on calligraphy, a talk on mental health, craft mela, music and dance performances. At IGNCA, Janpath, till March 8, 10 am onwards.



Just for Laughs

THE 'KHUSHWANT SINGH' Humor Fest 2020 – With Malice' celebrates humour in our everyday lives. Attend sessions such as 'Humour in Law' and 'History of Delhi through the eyes of Humour', and a performance titled 'Kyunki Ladkiya Funny Nahin Hoti' by Mahila March from Gujarat. At Hotel Ambassador, Sujan Singh Park, till March 7.



Cleanliness First

THE NGO Sulabh International has organised a photo exhibition chronicling the journey of the Sulabh sanitation movement that completes 50 years of public service this year. On March 6, at Silver Oak, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road.

Step by Step

POPULAR INDIAN-AMERICAN DJ and record producer Kshmr, whose real name is Niles Hollowell-Dhar, will present his sets along with Swedish DJ Alessio at Backyard Sports Club in Gurugram on March 8.

VIRUS SCARE

The coronavirus has led to the cancellation of events across the world



An earlier edition of Art Fair Tokyo

THE OPENING of the prestigious Venice Architecture Biennale has been postponed from May 23 to August 29 (till November 29). Following Art Dubai, the 15th edition of Art Fair Tokyo has also been cancelled. It was scheduled to take place from March 20, with 146 exhibitors. In a statement, the organisers said, "We considered measures to minimise the deleterious effects to the health of the exhibitors and visitors as much as possible, however, we have determined that we cannot 100 percent eliminate uncertainty and the possibility of infection." Meanwhile, Louvre Museum in Paris, which attracts nearly 30,000 visitors everyday, has reopened after remaining shut since March 1.

LONDON BOOK Fair, which was to be held at Olympia London from March 10 to 12, has been cancelled. The decision was taken after major publishers pulled out of the fair, including HarperCollins UK, Hachette and Pan Mac. The Paris Book Fair, where India was the guest of honour, has also been postponed. Originally slated for March 20-23, the National Book Trust had invited 20 Indian authors and publishers to participate in the literary programmes at the fair.

THE LATEST casualty at the hands of the coronavirus seems to be the fashion fraternity, both at home and abroad. The Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) has postponed the Lotus Makeup India Fashion Week (LMIFW), a five-day affair, which was scheduled to start on March 12. In a statement issued, Sunil Sethi, President, FDCI, said, "With regards to the growing concerns around the spread of Covid-19 virus in New Delhi and keeping the health and safety of our fraternity, the FDCI has decided to postpone the LMIFW to a later and more appropriate date." Several participating designers, including Gaurav Jai Gupta – who was opening the LMIFW – have also released the news of their respective shows being postponed. Globally, big names from the ilk, including Versace, Ralph Lauren, Giorgio Armani, Gucci, Chanel and Prada, have also postponed their shows and events. The venues were across the globe, from Beijing to San Francisco, New York and Dubai.

Going Old School

Actor Deepak Dobriyal on his two new releases, investing in a character and working with Irrfan



Deepak Dobriyal with Irrfan Khan in a still from *Angrezi Medium*; (right) Dobriyal

EKTA MALIK

IT WAS not difficult to get actor Deepak Dobriyal on the phone. The affable actor is very accessible, but the tricky part was to get unhindered five minutes of talk time with him. The actor, whose film *Kaamyaab* hits theatres today, will see another release this month – the much-anticipated *Angrezi Medium*. He has been busy with film promotions for 14 straight hours. "I know yaar, yahan fil mein saalon saal nahin aati, aay han ek hi saptah ke antar main do-do" (sometimes you don't get films for years and here you have two releases in a week). I think mera big Bollywood launch ab ho raha hai (I think this is my big Bollywood launch)," chuckles Dobriyal, over the phone.

Dobriyal's last outing was *Laal Kaptaan* in 2019, which didn't really make a splash. In *Kaamyaab*, he plays a casting director, Gulati, who has been tasked to find the role of a lifetime for Sanjay Mishra for his 500th screen appearance. We are sure Dobriyal has had his share of run-ins with casting directors. "Yes, we have all been there, bahut chakkar kaate hain humne inke offices ke (We have made many rounds of their offices). But in *Kaamyaab*, I have tried to give a human touch to them and have made the audience empathise with their kind. Normally it's difficult to show a person in a position of authority, who can perhaps make or break careers, in an empathetic light. I know many casting directors, aur main inka dard bhi samajhita hun, they face pressures from all sides. There is the brief from the director, and then there are the actors who claim that they have been sidelined because of the subjectivity and preferences of the casting director," shares the 44-year-old actor.

Adding his own flair, and improvisation on the given brief has been Dobriyal's calling card ever since he made his big Bollywood debut as Rajoh in *Omkara* (2006). His characters, be it the bumbling Pappiji in the *Tanu Weds Manu* (TWM) franchise or even Shyam Prakash Kori in *Hindi Medium*, are always remembered. Does he harbour concerns about being stereotyped

None of my suggestions, for a character or a scene, have been rejected. I have even suggested that some of my scenes be removed

DEEPAK DOBRIYAL

as the 'supporting actor' and 'friend of the hero'? "Yes, there have been times when I have thought the same. But the joy of learning and developing a new character overrides the fear of being stereotyped. Like my role in *Laal Kaptaan*, as a tracker – the research I did, the work I do on myself, it's a huge learning and attraction for me," adds Dobriyal. "None of my suggestions, for a character or a scene, have been rejected. I have even suggested that some of my scenes be removed. Like I hassled Aanandji (L Rai) to cut short some of my scenes in *TMW*. He would get hassled and ask me to leave. He had such a belief in that character of Pappiji, and it worked. I still don't like many things of that character, but in Aanandji's words, 'fab ek character ladla ho jaata hai' (when a character becomes a favourite), then that character is no longer of the actor or the script, it belongs to the people."

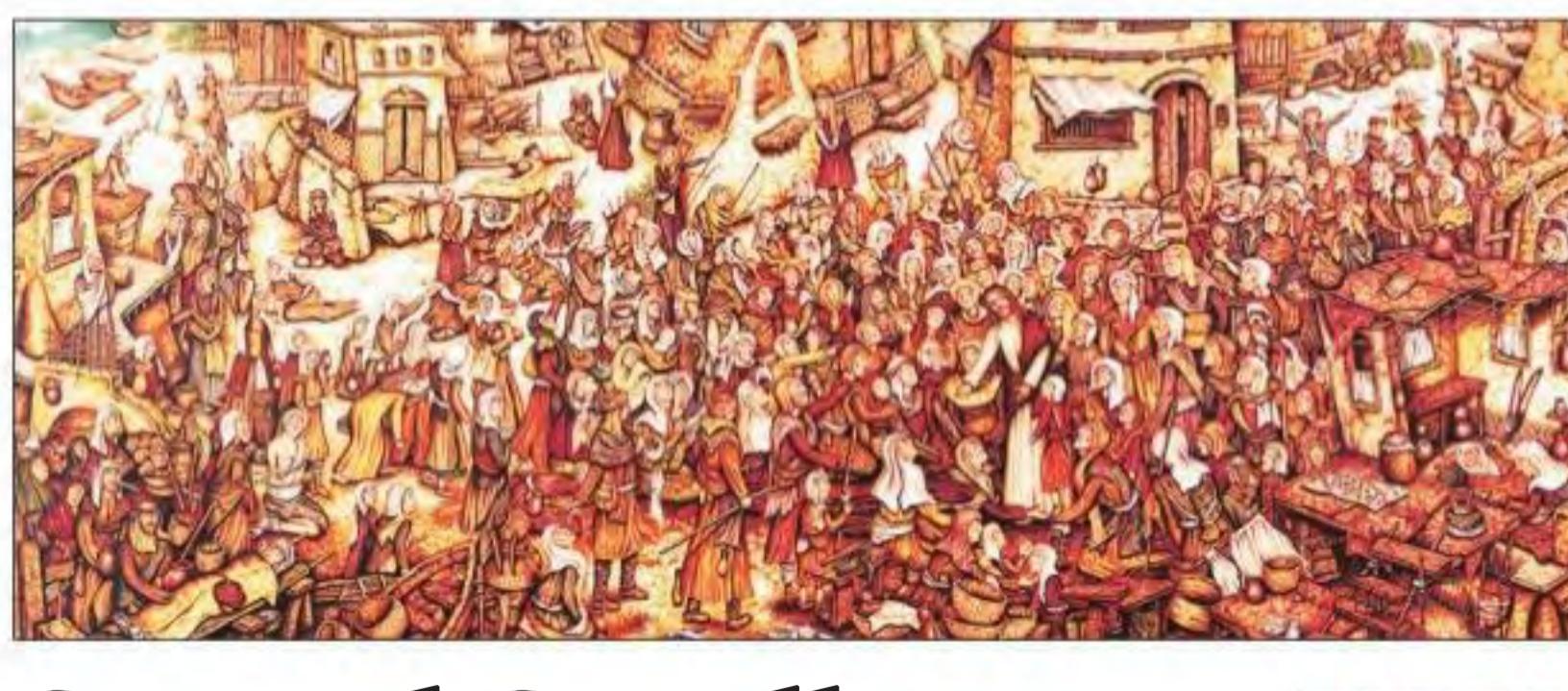
Dobriyal was at the forefront of the new phase of Bollywood, where the writing focused on the secondary characters and the narrative moved away from the stars. But stars are still stars, feels Dobriyal. "Nayak, nayak hi rahega, even if he has just two scenes in the film, it's his name that makes the ticket window open in the morning. But the writing has changed, it's supporting actor is no longer a peon to the star alone. As a play, *Othello* is a global phenomena, every corner in the world has had its versions. But when *Omkara* came out, BBC took a special meeting with me, as they had never seen Rodrigo presented this way. That was be-



cause of the writing", he adds.

Writing and obsession with reading good writing is what made Dobriyal choose the stage and acting as a way of life. "I used to mug up entire scripts of plays, that's how I got involved with theatre," he says, adding that he was born with an acting bone. "I always used to crack jokes, tell stories and make people laugh. A friend suggested I act. I got involved with Act One and Asmita Theatre group in Delhi. I did about 40-50 plays and that has been my grounding in the world of acting," he says. He has played Aazam in *Tughlaq*, and Dario Fo in *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, among others. "The decade that I spent in and around Mandi House was the best training I could have asked for; the whole area – Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, Urdu Academy, the many auditoriums around Shri Ram Centre and the art galleries further down. This whole circle will give you a grounding in the world of Indian art and literature. I come here every year to meet people, catch a play and have the customary cup of tea," says Dobriyal, who grew up in Qutub Institutional area in Delhi, as his father worked in the Indian Statistical Institute.

Dobriyal's next release is *Angrezi Medium*, where he plays Ghasitaram Bansal, a *mithai* shop owner. He is also sharing screen space with Irrfan and Kareena Kapoor. "Irrfan bhai, Irrfan bhai kaise bane, yeh film batati hai. It is so inspiring that even after such big films and varied characters, he invests so much in a role. It's a master-class in acting," says he.



Sacred Scrolls

Mumbai-based artist Milburn Cherian paints present-day chaos using biblical references

PALLAVI CHATTOPADHYAY

ARTIST MILBURN CHERIAN'S acrylic canvases at first glance appear like scenes from the Bible. The multiple narratives have hundreds of people. On closer inspection, one understands how the Mumbai-based artist has used biblical references to highlight the tragedies and catastrophes impacting mankind. For instance, *Tsunami*, triggered by the 2004 tsunami that struck the coast of Tamil Nadu, is riddled with broken houses and people trying to rebuild their lives from scratch. In the corner is a woman selling gold, attempting to restart life after one of the deadliest natural disasters occurred a day af-

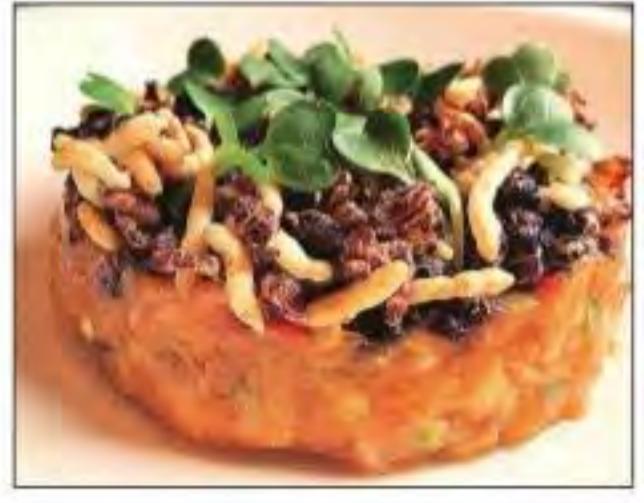
ter Christmas that year.

The work is part of the exhibition 'Living Between the Times 2020' at Visual Arts Gallery in Delhi. Featuring works created in the last 20 years, the overriding themes are displacement, suffering and hope. Earthy tones and a sepia tint bring alive the paintings that borrow from chapters from the Bible, such as *Crucifixion Revisited*, *The Last Supper* and *Give Ear To My Prayer*. One of the central works is the canvas titled *The Healing*, with Christ talking to more than 200 people. It is special for Cherian. She calls it a "blessed work". It was painted by her for the Diocesan Commission for Sacred Art, and displayed during the exposition of the sacred relics of St Francis Xavier in Old Goa in 2004. Touched



FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

The World Health Organization (WHO) has joined the popular video sharing platform TikTok to offer advice on coronavirus and clear misconceptions around it. One video features Benedetta Allegranzi, WHO's technical lead of infection, prevention and control.



(Clockwise from left) Gluten-free sweet potato gnocchi; Norwegian salmon belly, Kelvin Cheung

'Family influences my cooking in major ways'

Chef Kelvin Cheung on his influences and the menus of his two new ventures in Delhi

POOJA PILLAI

A FEW years ago, when Kelvin Cheung reversed the fortunes of the floundering American fine dining restaurant Ellipsis in Mumbai, he became a name to reckon with in a city that is not short of talented chefs. The Toronto-born Cheung cemented his reputation as a chef with One Street Over and, then Bastian, which quickly became the city's hottest restaurant and Bollywood's favourite hangout. After the demise of his father last year, Cheung left Bastian and returned to Canada. He's now back in India, working with two new ventures in Delhi – restaurant Kiko-Ba and cocktail bar Dadel. Excerpts from an email interview:

What drew you to Delhi? Is the Mumbai chapter over?

At the end of July, I packed up from Mumbai with full intentions to move back to North America. And then Delhi chose me. Actually Arjun Jain and Aman Kumar, the duo behind GrubFest, chose me. They already had an amazing space and a clear vision of the design, but were lacking in the food department. When they asked me if I'd take on this project, I knew it was time to take on a new challenge. While my heart belongs to Mumbai, especially after the birth of (son) Bodhi, my family and I have settled in Delhi quickly, met tons of friends, and are excited to start feeding everyone at Dadel and Kiko-Ba. I have no idea what the future holds, and as much as we can try to plan, extraordinary things change our path. For now, my focus is only on Delhi.

You've said that Kiko-Ba harks back to a 'bygone era of cooking'. You've also stated that this is your tribute to your father. Could you elaborate?

Eddy was known for his modern Hong Kong style Cantonese food, like black pepper lobster and young ginger fried rice. His buns' were worth their weight in gold.

Just like my previous two stints in Mumbai in Bandra and Colaba, everything was completely different, but everything also stayed the same, if that makes sense. While my plating style has changed with age, you can always expect a focus on exhibiting the diversity of Asian food, highlighting traditional cooking techniques and contemporary globally-inspired flavours, along with native, sustainably sourced ingredients.

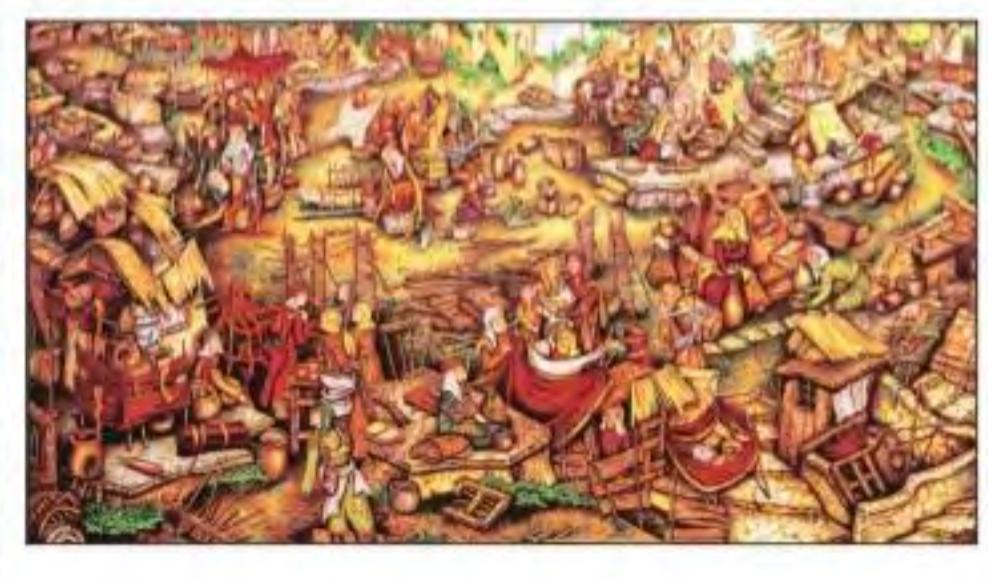


You've spoken about the excitement of using fresh seafood to create dishes unlike anything that Mumbai

had seen until then. What are the ingredients that have excited you in this part of the country?

One of my favourite things about cooking in Delhi is the proximity to so many incredible farms and farmers doing fantastic work. Everyone seems to be oozing with passion and it's infectious. I'm a massive fan of building long-term relationships with farmers and working towards a product that they are proud of, is purchased at a fair price, and that is, sometimes, even customised for my menu. In the past, I've worked with cheesemakers to perfect burrata, helped hydroponic green growers perfect their salad, and persuaded a farmer that picking vegetables at their peak was better for him than waiting for them to grow to their largest. If we're willing to pay a fair price, we will get a higher quality product. While I've been working on the Kiko-Ba menu, I've been scouring local farms for ingredients I haven't cooked with before or that weren't easily available in Mumbai. I'm currently very excited about baby heirloom corn supplied in the husk. It takes me back to this summer, picking corn at the farms in Toronto, where we spent many summers.

Cherian;



(Clockwise from below) Cherian; *The Healing*; *Tsunami*



surreal twist to it. I have human bodies without hands and limbs. They appear like shells with clothes on. But I show the full bodies of children, since they are innocent. Although there is so much suffering, we still go about our daily lives."

In some of the works, Cherian indirectly refers to the recent violence in Delhi and the current political climate. The canvas *Towards Salvation* was painted in the aftermath of the 2002 Gujarat riots. It has bandaged followers seated together in clusters in their houses, gazing at the sky with hope.

A self-taught artist, she is inspired by Dutch Renaissance master Pieter Bruegel. The actors in her canvases are usually the poor. Explaining the reason, she says, "In Mumbai, we have the biggest slum Dharavi. The living conditions there are really bad. There's a lot of poverty. We need to unite and start asking questions – why does one percent have all the wealth? Why is everything made in China?"

The exhibition is on till March 7 at India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road

Alpha-males don't always win

Virat Kohli needs to understand that his much-hyped and unsure team is not always capable of playing 'brave and fearless' cricket

SIRRAM VEERA

MUMBAI, MARCH 5

OF ALL Virat Kohli's responses at the press conference after the series defeat, his reaction to a query on his on-field behaviour took centre stage. However, it was his comments about his team-mates that was more significant, as it revealed the state of affairs of his captaincy.

"I truly believe that we made too much of the conditions from the first day onwards of the first Test: overcast, a bit of dampness on the pitch. We never used to speak of these things before. So yeah, it can creep in every now and then, it's about not letting it grow ... we don't go into conditions and think that we might not be able to execute what we want to... If you're not clear in your head, then the feet don't move. You're not quite sure whether to play the shot or not, leave the ball or play the ball."

Those comments strengthen the impression gained over time that Kohli has not just over-rated his team-mates but also deceived himself that his alpha-male-approach of 'being brave and fearless' is the team's default mental state.

It's that thought that has driven his captaincy style for a while now. It's an appreciable quality but needs a judicious mix of attitude-shaping strategies and appreciation of reality. One without the other, is counter-productive. Better captains know this reality, they strive to seal that gap by inspiring the players to extend themselves.

The great Imran Khan had the right balance. He regularly instilled fearlessness in his pack but also knew his very talented team mates all too well. His attitude-reshaping method was reflected in the story of him walking up to Aaqib Javed, sensing the young bowler was over-awed about bowling to an imperious Viv Richards, to tell him, "Maaro B***** od ko ek bouncer." In Aquib's telling almost three decades later, "After that I began to think like a lion."

Even if you disregard the talent pool under him, the Imran way wasn't just restricted to that courage-through-irreverence yell of an expletive. He also hand-held all the bowlers, carefully raising their skills with his cricketing wisdom. He would also pick the brains of the team's seniors — Javed Miandad and Mudassar Nazar — to strategise and manage other cricketing affairs.

The New Zealand tour party had many unsure cricketers. They were dealing with the demons of the mind as they faced the mercilessly disciplined bowling attack.

Prithvi Shaw was troubled by swing and the bouncer. Mayank Agarwal was hobbled by the inswinger. Hanuma Vihari is gutsy but not without batting problems. Rishabh Pant hasn't the defence or the confidence in his attack to handle the Kiwi pacers or the conditions. As for Ajinkya Rahane, we will come to him later.

Expecting spunkiness from this anxious bunch wasn't just naive but insensitive too.



The biggest lesson from this nightmarish New Zealand tour is that India needs a more flexible and sensitive leadership approach from Virat Kohli. PTI

During the last Test series in England, in 2018, a few players had shared some concerns showing that insecurity was seeping into the camp over the chopping and changing. It makes sense to reiterate a couple of concerns from that period. "You start to second guess, kyun aisey kar rahe hain? (Why are they doing this?) You then start feeling you are on your own here," a player said.



Rishabh Pant looked out of sorts against the New Zealand pacers.

During the last Test series in England, in 2018, a few players had shared some concerns showing that insecurity was seeping into the camp over the chopping and changing. It makes sense to reiterate a couple of concerns from that period. "You start to second guess, kyun aisey kar rahe hain? (Why are they doing this?) You then start feeling you are on your own here," a player said.

He has always had an instinct to counter-attack his way out of semi-crisis on the field and it does coat itself with a dash of panic or injudicious shot-selection when he isn't his confident self.

Even in 2016, during a home series against England when he had problems against spinners, his attempted escape routes were strewn with such an approach. Watch his 43-ball 9 in the second Test in Christchurch — a collage of outlandish pulls, bizarre cut shots, shimmies towards off and leg side — to see Rahane's last ditch effort that reflects the confusion in the camp.

It's time Virat Kohli pauses to rethink his team's game plan. For this he needs to show empathy to players grappling with career-threatening personal crisis. He has done this before. During that Test series in England, a night before the last day of the final Test at the Oval, he had called Rishabh Pant to his room. Before that knock, the wicket-keeper batsman had scores of 24, 1, 0, 18 and 5.



It's time Kohli pauses to rethink his team's game plan. For this he needs to show empathy to players grappling with career-threatening personal crisis. He has done this before. During that Test series in England, a night before the last day of the final Test at the Oval, he had called Pant to his room. Before that knock, he had scores of 24, 1, 0, 18 and 5.

"That night, he called me to have a talk," Pant had shared last year. "He said that it's not compulsory that you have to play 30 matches or something to get experience. It can come in even two matches. Jo koi nahin kiya, tu kar sakta hai. Kuchh likha thodi hai, if you are young, you can't do it in Tests."

That talk helped me a lot. For him to sit me down and make me understand things, was a very big thing for me." Pant hit a century the next day; it was admittedly a flat track but considering his prior performances in that series, it wasn't a small thing.

So what has been going on in the Pant headsphere in recent months? Sample what he said in December, months after the batting implosions at the World Cup. "There's nothing called a natural game and we need to play as per the demands of the team. Good players are those who play as per the demands of the team and situations," he had said.

This sounds right but it hasn't played out that way in the middle. Pant didn't have the defensive game or the confidence in attack the bowlers in New Zealand. What he is saying is right, good players certainly play as per the demands of the team and situation but they are also aware about their own limitations and their current form. Pant in New Zealand seemed like a batsman caught in an indecisive mental limbo, neither attacking or defending well.

Interestingly, this team's biggest high — first away Test win in Australia — hasn't been driven by Kohli's gung-ho approach. It was built around Pujara's cautious resilience and utmost self-restraint. However, in Kohli's world, even Pujara's methods were appropriated to suggest the resilience was part of the team's alpha-male philosophy. But by his own admission, Pujara had decided to shut out all external noise, chose his own way, and stuck to it.

Maybe, the biggest lesson of this tour is the team needs a flexible and sensitive leadership approach.

Ganguly denies Jadeja permission to play Ranji final

DEVENDRA PANDEY

MUMBAI, MARCH 5

RAVINDRA JADEJA won't play in the final of Ranji Trophy as the Indian cricket board has cited 'country first' policy while turning down the request from Saurashtra Cricket Association (SCA). Cheteshwar Pujara will play the final for Saurashtra and Wriddhiman Saha will turn out for Bengal but since Jadeja is part of the Indian ODI team that plays its first game against South Africa on March 12 — Ranji Trophy final starts on March 9 — he won't be released to play the final.

Sourav Ganguly, the BCCI president, was requested by Jaydev Shah, the SCA president, to allow Jadeja to play. "I spoke to him [Ganguly] and was told that the board can't allow Jadeja to play Ranji as country comes first," Shah revealed. He suggested that international games should not be scheduled during the final of Ranji Trophy, the premier domestic competition. He made a reference to the board policy with IPL to state his case.

"If BCCI wants people to watch their premier domestic cricket then no international game should be held during Ranji final, henceforth. It's my suggestion. Will BCCI keep an international match during IPL? No, because it gives money. Ranji Trophy can only be popularised if star players play at least in the finals. Don't keep any international cricket during finals, have a proper window," the former Saurashtra captain Shah said.

"I would have loved to see him (Jadeja) play the Ranji Trophy final for us, why only Jadeja, I would have loved to see Mohammad Shami (for Bengal) also," Shah said. It will be fourth Ranji Trophy final for Saurashtra team in the last eight years and Jadeja's inclusion, Shah feels, could have been a big boost to the side. Saurashtra will have Pujara while Bengal will have the services of Saha to hunt down a triumph in the premier first-class competition after a gap of 13 years.

Saurashtra defeated Gujarat by 91 runs in the semi-final at home and the final will also be held at the same venue in Rajkot. It will be their first final at home; last year they lost to Vidarbha in Nagpur. Saurashtra captain Jaydev Unadkat is happy that Pujara will at least be playing in the final. "I was in constant touch with Chintu (Pujara) when he was in New Zealand. He cares for the team as much as do. He was in the flight back from New Zealand when we won. The top-order hasn't been scoring, so having him back will be really good. whenever Cheteshwar is around, our batting unit plays differently. They have that confidence and reliance when he is there," the captain said.



BCCI has cited 'country first' policy while turning down Saurashtra Cricket Association's request.

Australia dodge the rain to book World T20 showdown against India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

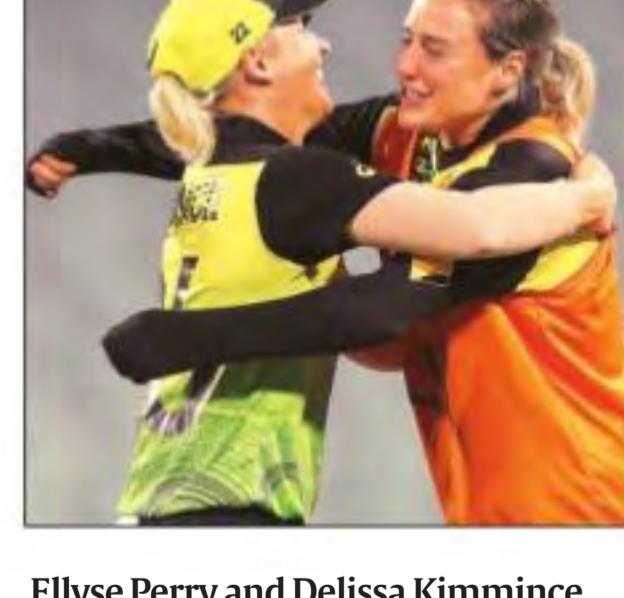
SYDNEY, MARCH 5

FOUR-TIME CHAMPIONS Australia used their rich big-match experience to surpass a spirited South Africa by five runs in a rain-hit semifinal here on Thursday, setting up a title clash against first-timers India.

There were fears that the second semifinal between Australia and South Africa at the SCG too will be washed out like the India and England match earlier in the day. But the weather improved just enough to get a game albeit a curtailed one.

Australia skipper Meg Lanning led from the front with unbeaten 49 off as many balls to take her team to 134 for five in 20 overs. Rain returned during the innings break and South Africa were set a revised target of 98 runs in 13 overs as per the D/L method. South Africa ended at 92 for five despite a fighting 41 not out off 27 balls from Laura Wolvaardt, leaving them dejected. South Africa were reeling at 24 for three before Wolvaardt and Sune Luus (21) brought them back in the game with a quickfire 47-run stand. In the end, Wolvaardt, who smashed three sixes and two fours, had too much to do on her own.

Hosts Australia, who did not have the services of injured star all-rounder Elysse Perry, were ecstatic after Jess Jonassen was able to defend 19 runs in the final over with South Africa getting only 13. With the win, Australia advanced to their sixth successive



Ellyse Perry and Delissa Kimmince rejoice after Australia won the Women's World T20 semifinal against South Africa on Thursday. AP

final out of the seven editions held so far.

"It was extremely tense. Even in the last couple of balls it just wasn't safe. They needed 19 off the last over and we knew we had to nail it. But that's T20 cricket for you; I was extremely nervous," said skipper Lanning. On the final against India, she added: "India are a class side, they have been playing excellent cricket. We are going to have to play really well. We have been improving each day, it hasn't been an easy road.

"We wanted to give ourselves a chance of playing in the finals, and now we just need

to enjoy ourselves. We are travelling to Melbourne tomorrow, train on Saturday and play on Sunday. I doubt there'd be much sleep happening tonight."

South Africa skipper Dane van Niekerk said her team tried its best. "...we have to give credit to Australia for the way they bowled and we just came six short. We brought them back with the ball really well, they got off to a flier and we thought they'd get to 160.

"All the bowlers did really well, and credit to them for how they brought it back. It was very emotional to see the ladies like that. To come short every time is difficult, and we aren't a team that blames anything or anyone; but unfortunately it just wasn't our year and it wasn't our day," she said.

BRIEF SCORES: Australia 134/5 (Lanning 49*, Mooney 22*, de Klerk 3-19) beat South Africa 92/5 (Wolvaardt 42*, Schutt 2-17) by 5 runs (D/L method).



BOTH CAPTAINS — Harmanpreet Kaur and Heather Knight — agreed semifinals should have had a reserve day, a request which was made by Cricket Australia but turned down by the ICC.

IN THE earlier seven editions, India had never reached the final but this time, they have emerged as serious title contenders after a string of superlative performances. ICC

TRACKING
THE VIRUSArchery teams pulls
out of Asia Cup

Kolkata: The Archery Association of India (AAI) on Thursday withdrew its team from the upcoming Asia Cup world ranking tournament in Bangkok owing to the coronavirus threat there. The season-opening stage 1 tournament is scheduled to be held in Thailand's capital from March 8 to 15. This would have been India's first international competition since their return from a five-month suspension. "After reviewing the current alarming situation on account of coronavirus and taking into consideration the travel advisories issued by SAI and IOC, Archery Association of India is worried about the health of our team and cannot take any risk under the circumstances," AAI assistant secretary Gunjan Abrol wrote to World Archery secretary general Tom Dielen. A copy of the letter is in possession of PTI. "Hence it has been decided to withdraw the team from the Asia Cup Stage 1 World Ranking Archery tournament to be held in Bangkok from March 7-15." India were to send a second-string team for the tournament and all the tickets and booking arrangements had been done. The decision to pull out was taken after getting the Sports Authority of India advisory on Wednesday evening. PTI

Six Nations rugby
game postponed

Bagshot: England's final Six Nations encounter against Italy in Rome next week has been postponed amid fears over the coronavirus outbreak, tournament organisers said on Thursday. The game had been due to be played without fans present after an Italian government ruling this week on all sports events but organisers decided to postpone the match. Italy's game in Ireland this Saturday had already been postponed. "Six Nations notes the decree issued by the Italian Government with respect to all upcoming sporting events in that country," Six Nations organisers said in a statement. "The decision has now been taken to postpone the three matches between Italy and England (Men's, Women's and U20) set to take place over the weekend of 13/14/15th March, with the intention to reschedule them at later dates. REUTERS

Cycling races
cancelled

Paris: The coronavirus outbreak continued to take its toll on cycling as teams withdrew from racing and organisers started to cancel events on Thursday. Race organisers in Italy, the European country most affected by the outbreak, said on Thursday they were cancelling Saturday's Strade Bianche one-day race after Rome decided to hold events without fans. "RCS Sport will request the UCI (International Cycling Union), via the Italian Cycling Federation, to allocate a new date on the international cycling calendar for Strade Bianche and Strade Bianche Women Elite," RCS said in a statement. RCS has not yet said whether the Milan-Sanremo major classic and the Tirreno-Adriatico stage race - both scheduled for this month - will go ahead but some teams have already pulled out. "We have chosen to protect the health of our riders and staff and to take our responsibility for the society in not further spreading the virus," said Astana manager Alexandre Vinokourov. REUTERS

With virus in air, BCCI calls ministry

Participation of foreign players and crowd management at games during the IPL are key issues

MIHIR VASAVDA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

DAYS AFTER cricket board president Sourav Ganguly and IPL Governing Council chairman Brijesh Patel ruled out any threat to the Indian Premier League because of coronavirus outbreak, high-ranking BCCI officials got in touch with the Sports Ministry on Thursday to assess the situation.

The BCCI officials held a teleconference with their Sports Ministry counterparts to seek advice on the health impact ahead of the IPL, which begins on March 29. They were subsequently directed to the health ministry.

"The BCCI is having some internal meetings and wanted to assess the situation arising out of coronavirus. They are collecting all the data and would be taking an appropriate decision in the next 2-3 days," a source said. "The Sports Ministry cannot interfere with where and when events should be organised. So it has been suggested to the BCCI that they talk one-on-one with the secretary and joint secretary of the health ministry."

Apart from BCCI, the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), too, got in touch with the Sports Ministry on Thursday. The NRAI will be hosting shooting World Cup in Delhi from March 16. The visa restrictions imposed by the government in the aftermath of the coronavirus means close to a dozen nations, including shooting powerhouses like China, Italy, Iran and Italy, will not be competing in the tournament. The tournament was dealt a further blow on Wednesday after International Shooting Sport Federation decided to strip off ranking points that were on offer at the event because of the withdrawals.

Both these governing bodies, the source said, are staring at two situations: ensuring participation of foreign players and crowd management. The latter will be a bigger issue for the BCCI since thousands fill up the stands to watch an IPL match. However, experts advising to reduce mass gatherings to avoid the spread of the virus. "If people do not go to watch the games, it affects the IPL's significance and revenues. So spectator control is one issue that BCCI is facing," the source said.

The bigger issue for BCCI and NRAI, the source added, is ensuring the participation of players or them being sent to quarantine. "If an athlete belongs to a country where a visa is currently not being issued, then what will be the impact? And if the athlete comes from a country where he has to be put in quarantine, then what is the impact? These are the situations that are being assessed."

The IPL will see 60-odd players from countries like Australia, England, New Zealand, South Africa and the Caribbean - regions where cases of coronavirus have been very few. The BCCI has so far denied that IPL could be impacted because of the virus.

While Patel, on Thursday, said they are assessing the situation, Ganguly added the BCCI hasn't even 'discussed the issue.'



The IPL attracts full houses, not an ideal situation when experts advise staying away from mass gatherings. File

All England: Shetty, Reddy and Prannoy pull out

SHIVANI NAIK
MUMBAI, MARCH 5

SPORT IN the time of Covid-19 is a humbling competitive retreat for some, while others will forge ahead taking risks and hope to stay safe, according to shuttler Chirag Shetty. The top doubles shuttler pulled out from the March 11-15 All England on Thursday morning after a "four-times increase" in Coronavirus positives cases in UK within a week.

Partner Satwiksairaj Rankireddy is amongst seven Indians who will not travel to Birmingham, alongside singles stars HS Prannoy, Sameer Verma, Sourabh Verma as well as the other doubles pairing of Manu Attri and Sumeet Reddy.

"We spoke to coaches, BAI and SAI in the morning. A few parents too were skeptical. In our case we had almost qualified so it was not important to risk it," Shetty said.

Those seeking qualification like Saina Nehwal and K Srikanth are scheduled to travel as of now, as are PV Sindhu and B Sai

Praneeth, whose qualification isn't under threat. "It's a very difficult choice for players. We were unsure about the tournament itself being cancelled or not. We decided not to travel," he said.

UK had recorded 115 cases by mid-Thursday, and authorities were moving from the "contain" stage of dealing with the virus outbreak to "delay" after media reported there was evidence of the virus spreading between people who had no connections to foreign cases or returning from overseas travellers. UK's chief medical officer Chris Whitty was quoted by Business Insider as saying "an epidemic is the country is now highly likely."

Satwik-Chirag had missed the first four months of 2019 to injury, so they aren't defending any points either and reckoned it was a straightforward choice. The Indonesian contingent had announced it will travel full-strength on Thursday evening, but situation is being monitored by the hour.

The Hyderabad camp itself is disbanding with most players heading to their hometowns. "There have been few cases in the

academy vicinity, so we are definitely going back home for a week. If things improve we'll go back or I've asked Saatwik to travel to Mumbai and we'll train there till India Open," Chirag said. "This week, we will train at our respective hometowns."

Shetty said that though Birmingham city was safe per se, travel was a risk. "The most vulnerable places are airports. But chances of contracting the virus should you come into contact with an affected passenger are 100 percent," he said.

Being quarantined, a worry

He said travel posed various challenges. "It's not deadly for most people. I'm personally not scared. But even if you're running a mild fever or have temperature, you'll be put into quarantine." It's cold and rainy in England, and Shetty says those are not conditions conducive to the virus subsiding.

While Shetty has penned in India Open as a certainty (should the tournament itself go ahead), he stressed that even Singapore and Malaysia would be calls the players would take carefully. "The Asian

AFI restricts
athletes' movement

New Delhi: In the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has released an advisory that bars athletes from leaving the training camp premises. In a meeting on Friday, chaired by the AFI president Adil Sumariwalla and attended by planning committee chief Lalit Bhambhani, it was decided that the national campers should avoid all contact with outsiders.

However, the AFI clarified that there was no need to panic and as this should be seen as a precautionary measure. Delhi athletics president Sandeep Mehta, who helped in drafting the advisory, told *The Indian Express* that they are also considering distributing masks and sanitizers to the campers.

Prior to the outbreak, AFI had plans to send athletes to South Korea and China for pre-Olympic camps but now there is talk of a possible Plan B. The AFI president Adil Sumariwalla said, "We are monitoring the situation and we will do whatever it takes to keep our athletes safe. We will not risk sending them anywhere where there is a chance of getting infected. We had a lot of plans. We were thinking of Korea, Japan and even China but who could foresee this. But it is a part of our job and we will explore more options within our time zone to organise camps."

ENS

ADVISORY TO ATHLETES

- Don't leave camp.
- Don't attend any private or public functions.
- Don't train with anyone from outside the camp.

All sports in Italy, including Serie A, to be played minus fans



Inter Milan had to play their Europa League match against Ludogorets behind closed doors on Feb. 27. File

REUTERS
ROME, MARCH 4

Italy has ordered all major sporting events throughout the country, including top-flight Serie A soccer games, to be played without fans for one month in a bid to curb Europe's worst coronavirus outbreak.

The move, announced in a government decree, will also affect the Six Nations rugby international between Italy and England, due to be played in Rome on March 14, and the Champions League soccer match between Juventus and Olympique Lyonnais on March 17. All schools and universities were closed on Wednesday to try to slow the spread of the coronavirus in Italy where there have been more than 3,000 cases and the death

toll has reached 107.

The ban on the public watching sports events, which had already been in force in three regions in the north but has now been extended nationwide, will last until April 3 at the earliest.

The decree said that "sports events and competitions of any order and discipline, carried out in any place, both public and private, are suspended" but could go ahead if there were no spectators.

It added that "sports associations and clubs, through their own medical staff, are required to carry out appropriate checks to limit the risk of spreading (the coronavirus) among athletes, technicians, managers and all accompanying persons participating."

Until now, Serie A has preferred to call off games in the affected regions rather than

play them in empty stadiums and 10 matches have been postponed as well as this week's two Coppa Italia semi-final ties.

However, after a meeting of club and Serie A representatives earlier on Wednesday, Inter Milan chief executive Giuseppe Marotta said that playing without fans could be the only way of finishing the Serie A season.

"Playing behind closed doors could be the only way to complete the championship in the light of the emergency and the restrictions that the government is rightly adopting," he said as he left the meeting.

"The aim is to finish the championship as normally as possible, without creating a competitive imbalance, but as you can see the scenario is constantly changing."

Marotta suggested that the six matches

which had been postponed last week — including the heavyweight Juventus v Inter clash — could be rescheduled for the coming weekend.

Six Nations organisers have postponed the match between Ireland and Italy in Dublin on March 7 but said on Monday that all other games would go ahead, including Italy's game against England in Rome, which was not affected by the original ban in the northern regions.

The organisers and the Italian rugby federation could not immediately be reached for comment.

UEFA has said it is in constant contact with local authorities and decisions over whether games should be played behind closed doors, or postponed, would be taken at the last minute.

Harika stuns world champion Ju Wenjun

Indian Grandmaster Dronavalli Harika stunned world champion Ju Wenjun in the third round to grab a share of the top spot in the FIDE Women's Grand Prix chess tournament in Lausanne. Harika, the world No.9, has two points after three rounds along with four others. The Indian outlasted the 29-year-old Chinese player, ranked No.3 in the world, in 54 moves with white pieces late on Wednesday. The others on two points include Russians Alina Kashlinskaya and Alexandra Goryachkina, Anna Muzychuk of Ukraine and Georgia's Nana Dzagnidze. Three of the six games on the day were decisive ones with Kashlinskaya and Muzychuk registering wins.

HI to organise U-21 Khelo India League

Sports Authority of India, in association with Hockey India, on Thursday announced the first edition of the Khelo India Women's Hockey League (U-21). It will be organised by Hockey India at three different venues in three phases between March to November. While phase one will be held from March 23 to 29 at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi, the second phase will be held from July 13 to 19 at the SAI Center in Bengaluru, followed by the final one from November 22 to 29 at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.



Manish Kaushik is one win away sealing an Olympic berth. File

Ashish, Manish enter quarters of boxing Qualifiers

World championship bronze-winner Manish Kaushik (63kg) and Ashish Kumar (75kg) made the quarterfinals with facile wins to continue India's strong showing at the Asian Olympic Qualifiers for boxing in Amman on Thursday. Manish, also a Commonwealth Games silver-winner, had no trouble going past Taiwan's Chu-En Lai in a unanimous 5-0 result to set up a contest with third seed Chinorizig Baatarsukh of Mongolia. Baatarsukh, who defeated Papua New Guinea's John Ume in his last-16 bout, is a 2018 Asian Games silver-medallist besides being a two-time podium finisher at the Asian Championships. In the morning session, Asian silver-medallist Ashish notched up a thumping win over fourth-seeded Kyrgyz Omurbek Bekzhigit Ulut, prevailing 5-0 in the lop-sided contest to set up a clash with Indonesia's Maikhel Roberd Muskita. Muskita defeated New Zealand's Ryan Scaife in his pre-quarterfinal bout. Making the semifinals would assure both Ashish and Manish of their maiden berths in the Olympics scheduled in July-August this year.

ISL: Mumbai City part ways with coach

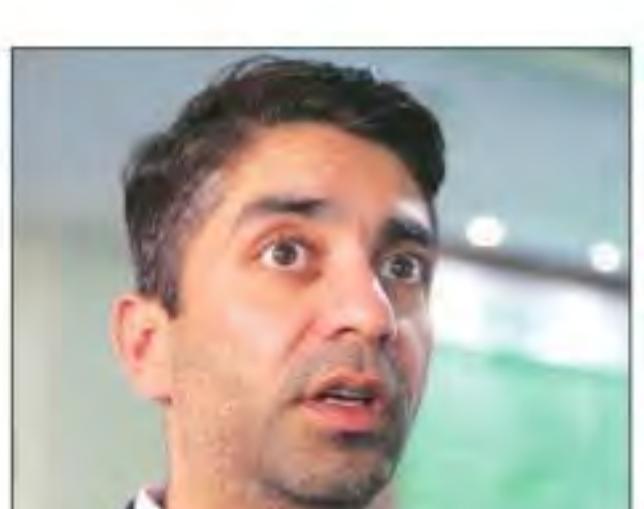
ISL franchise Mumbai City FC on Thursday announced that its head coach Jorge Costa will be leaving the club. Jorge's contract expires shortly and has not been renewed. The Islanders finished the 2019/20 ISL campaign in 5th place, just missing out on the final play-off position, stated a media release issued by the club. Mumbai City CEO Indranil Das Blah said, "We would like to thank Jorge sincerely for his immense contribution to the club during his two seasons with us, including a memorable run to the play-offs in his first season. Everyone at the club wishes Jorge well for the future." Assistant coaches Marco Leite and Pedro Miguel Correia will also be leaving the Club.

Katsumi's goal halts Bagan juggernaut

Mohun Bagan were held to a 1-1 draw by defending champions Chennai City, a Katsumi Yusa strike halting the I-League leaders' juggernaut in Kalyani. Bagan's Papa Babacar Diawara continued his fine form in front of goal, finding the back of the net for the eighth game on the trot, in the 45th minute. His strike broke the deadlock at the stroke of half time but Katsumi came back to haunt his former club, netting the equaliser for Chennai in the second half and deservedly walked away with the Hero of the Match Award. Bagan remained on top with 36 points, while Chennai stayed seventh with 20.

India shooting team favourites at Olympics'

Abhinav Bindra on Thursday said India will go into the upcoming Tokyo Olympics as the "favourites" in shooting, with its strongest-ever squad. Asked whether India were favourites going into the Olympics in shooting, Bindra said, "Of course, there is no question about that." "If you look at the ranking list, we have multiple people at world number one or in the top two (ranks), so that says something." The 37-year-old Bindra remains India's only individual gold medallist at the Olympics, having bagged the yellow metal at the Beijing Games in 2008. Indian shooters' fine run in recent years was not lost on him. "A lot of events we start as favourites. Last season, we won the maximum amount of World Cup medals, so what does that say, we are favourites and we can't shy away from that. We have to acknowledge that and appreciate that, appreciate all the good work they have done."



Chawrasia in joint 9th-place at Qatar

SSP Chawrasia, who finished the Oman Open with a fine final round, carried on the good work with a four-under 68 on the first day of Qatar Masters here on Thursday. The card may well have been a shot better but for a bogey on the last hole. Chawrasia, lying tied ninth along with six others, was three shots behind rookie Nicolai Hojgaard, who produced a remarkable run of scoring on the back nine to take the first round lead at seven-under as he looks to follow brother Rasmus into the winner's circle. Joost Luiten (65) is lying second at six-under, while six players including Andy Sullivan are at five-under. 66. Chawrasia and six are four-under. India's other star in the fray, Shubhankar Sharma had an eventful card with seven birdies, five bogeys and a double in an even par 71.

India decides to rest the best

Country's best ranked singles player Nagal not picked for Croatia tie

SHAHID JUDGE
MUMBAI, MARCH 5

A FEW surprises were in store, from the Indians as well as the Croatians, when the teams announced their final nominations for the Davis Cup World Group qualifier, which begins on Friday.

Ahead of the draw ceremony on Thursday, the Croatian team's top doubles player, world no 10 Ivan Dodig was forced to withdraw due to a hand injury. But the hosts had an able replacement, in world no 32 Franko Skugor, who will team up with world no 10 Mate Pavic in the doubles rubber.

The duo will take on India's doubles specialists Rohan Bopanna and Leander Paes, who was picked over India's no 2 Divij Sharan. Still, that was expected.

What was curious however, was the team's decision to overlook India's highest ranked singles player Sumit Nagal (127). Instead, on the opening day on Friday, India no 2 Prajesh Gunneswaran (132) will start the tie with his singles match against Borna Gojo (277), while former world no 3 Marin Cilic will take on Ramkumar Ramanathan (182) in the second rubber. On Saturday, the doubles tie will be played before the reverse singles matches.

"Over the last week, both the coach Zeeshan Ali and I saw the players and also what was happening with the new court," says Davis Cup non-playing captain Rohit Rajpal. "We felt that as a strategy this would work out better for us because the court seems to have low bounce and the ball keeps moving. With the strength of our team, we felt this was the best combination to go with."

The tactic, for the time being, did catch the Croatians off guard.

"It may be a little unexpected that they (didn't pick) Nagal, who is their top player," said 2014 US Open champion Cilic, the biggest singles player competing in the tie.

"But all three of their singles players are solid, they are very similar in game. I have to make sure I (win) my two matches, and in other single matches we are (underdogs). But Borna will not be (under much pressure), he can play relaxed."

Without the services of Croatia's highest ranked singles player, world no 33 Borna Coric, Gojo was selected for his second Davis Cup tie. The 22-year-old made his debut at the Davis Cup Finals last year, losing both his



Ramkumar (182) got the nod ahead of Sumit Nagal (127) who is India's no.1. Express

DAVIS CUP WRAP

INJURY-HIT JAPAN number one Kei Nishikori said Thursday he had failed to recover from an elbow injury and will sit out the behind-closed-doors Davis Cup qualifier against Ecuador at the weekend. A depleted Japan will also be without world number 48 Yoshihito Nishioka when they bid to reach the finals in Spain later this year.

WITH AUSTRALIA'S top-ranked male players injured, the country's Davis Cup final qualifying hopes will rest with Jordan Thompson and John Millman. Thompson will be the first Australian on court in singles against Brazil starting Friday. The 63rd-ranked Thompson will play Thiago Monteiro followed by Millman's match against Thiago Seyboth Wild. AP/AFP

matches – albeit against then world no 23 Andrey Rublev and former world no 1 Rafael Nadal. Against the Indians, Gojo is expecting to pick up his first win in the competition.

"It will be easier for me now than the first time, when I had a

baptism of fire in Madrid," Gojo says. "I opened the Davis Cup, and then immediately played with Nadal in the second match. But there is no pressure here."

With Cilic expected to win both his singles matches, and the Indians favourites to win against

Gojo, the tie will potentially be decided by the lone doubles rubber. The six-man team that travelled to Croatia did consist of three doubles specialists, world no 37 and the country's highest ranked player Bopanna, India no 2 Divij Sharan (56) and no 5 Paes (115), who is currently on his farewell season. The 46-year-old Paes, though unsurprisingly, got the nod ahead of Sharan, who has played just two Davis Cup ties so far.

"We're going with more experience this time. We always have a chance to change, but I'd prefer to go with experience at this point," Rajpal adds.

This is the seventh time in as many years that India will aim at making it to the World Group of the competition. And with the way the two teams have lined up, there is a decent chance for an upset win over the two-time champions.

TV: Live on D Sport, 7:30pm.

Ronaldinho in trouble over 'adulterated' passport

Former Barcelona and Brazil striker Ronaldinho Gaucho was being questioned by Paraguayan authorities on Thursday after arriving in the country with what police said was an adulterated Paraguayan passport. Ronaldinho

and his brother and business manager Roberto de Assis were both questioned by law enforcement officials in their hotel room on the outskirts of Asuncion shortly after arriving in the country on Wednesday, police said

Paraguayan prosecutor Federico Delfino told a news conference on Thursday that the pair left Guarulhos airport in Sao Paulo with Brazilian passports and were given Paraguayan ones "as soon as they got off the plane". REUTERS



MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

“ India is moving from women development to women-led development. ”

Golden Opportunity for Women Entrepreneurs to Join the Mentoring Network

Annual Conference on Empowering Women Entrepreneurs

To Participate, Register at:

www.indiasmeforum.org/shakti



KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONFERENCE

- “Breaking the Glass Ceiling” - talks by successful women entrepreneurs
- Panel discussion on creating a conducive business ecosystem for empowering women entrepreneurs
- Felicitation of women entrepreneurs and enablers of women entrepreneurship



EMPOWERING Women entrepreneurs

6TH MARCH, 2020

-2 PM ONWARDS-

**SUSHMA SWARAJ BHAWAN,
CHANAKYAPURI,
NEW DELHI**

Knowledge partner



Follow us @minmsme



HARYANA GOVERNMENT TENDER NOTICE						
Sr. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER	OPENING DATE / CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER
1.	PWD B&R GURUGRAM	DEVELOPMENT OF LANDSCAPING WORK OF GOVT. COLLEGE MANDKOT PALWAL (RECALL TENDER ID 118029)	04.03.2020 16.03.2020	16.72 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER NO 2020_HRY_121735	012429775100 zilesinghhort@gmail.com
2.	PWD B&R NARAINGARH	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD FROM NAVAGAON BASS TO SANGHOLI IN YAMUNA NAGAR DISTT. + 10 OTHER WORKS	09.03.2020 23.03.2020	440.55 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
3.	PWD B&R GURUGRAM	CONSTRUCTION OF PROPOSED NIRMAN SADAN BUILDING AT GURUGRAM (PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL AUDIO VIDEO AND VIDEO CONFERENCING SYSTEM) + 1 OTHER WORK	04.03.2020 09.03.2020	62.73 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER ID 2020_HRY_121594_1	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
4.	PWD B&R, PANIPAT	UP- GRADATION OF PRIMARY HEALTH CENTER, RAIR KALAN IN DISTT. PANIPAT (RE-INVITED) + 3 OTHER WORKS	02.03.2020 16.03.2020	23.59 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0180-2638652
5.	PWD B&R, NUH	A/R FOR ADMN. BLOCK IN MINI SECTT. AT NUH IN NUH DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR 2020-21 IN NUH DISTT. + 4 OTHER WORKS	05.03.2020 19.03.2020	15.36 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01267-271237
6.	DIRECTORATE OF STATE TRANSPORT, HARYANA, CHANDIGARH	SELECTION OF SYSTEM INTEGRATOR / BIDDER FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF E-TICKETING, RFID BASED BUS PASS SYSTEM AND GPS SYSTEM ON BOAT MODEL	05.03.2020 08.04.2020	48 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01722710371/ dtcpndhr@gmail.com
7.	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG., SIRS	PROCUREMENT OF SEWERAGE MANHOLE CLEANING ROBOT FOR SIRS CIRCLE SUPPLY OF MANHOLE CLEANING ROBOT AND OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR 1 YEAR FOR SIRS CIRCLE TOWN	04.06.2020 16.03.2020	53.01 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER NO 2020_HRY_121246_1	9991195788 ee3sirs@phedharyana.gov.in
8.	IRRIGATION AND WATER RESOURCES DEPTT., JIND	DEWATERING, DIGGING/DILUITING OF PUNNAWALA POND, VILLAGE BHURAIN, DISTRICT JIND + 9 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 18.03.2020	73.88 LACS	hid.gov.in	xenwsjd@gmail.com
9.	IRRIGATION AND WATER RESOURCES DEPTT., FARIDABAD.	SUPPLY, INSTALLING AND PAINTING OF 01 NO. NEW GATE WITH REPAIRING OF WINCH MACHINE AT PONDARI DISTRIBUTORY AT RD 110 ON GURGAON CANAL. + 4 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 09.03.2020	8.70 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	xen-wsmfbdr.irr@gov.in
10.	IRRIGATION & W.R. DEPARTMENT HARYANA PANCHKULA	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF SCADA SYSTEM FOR JLN CANAL PUMPING AUTOMATION, FOR IWRD, HARYANA UNDER NATIONAL HYDROLOGY PROJECT (NHP)	06.03.2020 07.04.2020	EMD Rs. 26,00,000	https://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER NO HRY/NHP/SCADA/02	xen.nhp@gmail.com 0172-2560080
11.	WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT YAMUNA NAGAR	TRANSPORTATION TENDER	04.03.2020 19.03.2020	60 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in Tender NO TPT-2020-HRY_121560_1	9466436638
12.	WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT YAMUNA NAGAR	SNP TENDER	04.03.2020 19.03.2020	60 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in Tender NOSNP-2020-HRY_121553_1	9466436638
13.	GOVT. ITI BUTANA	INTENDS FOR PETTY TOOLS & EQUIPMENTS	CLOSING DATE 10.03.2020	8.28 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9812168742 butana.giti@gmail.com
14.	SKILL DEVELOPMENT & INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT,	SUPPLY OF PETTY/TOOLS & EQUIPMENTS	04.03.2020 12.03.2020	5 LACS	http://gitibarwala.org.in	barwala.giti@gmail.com 098966-48866
15.	PANCHAYAT RAJ, AMBALA	PDG. E.I. WORK IN COMMUNITY CENTER AT VILLAGE SULTANPUR DISTT. KARNAL	04.03.2020 12.03.2020	4.53 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	94678-07024 / 0171-2550510 prexeengelec.amb@hry.nic.in
16.	DIRECTOR GENERAL, SUPPLIES & DISPOSALS, HARYANA	ISI MARKED CENTRIFUGALLY CAST SPUN DUCTILE IRON PRESSURE PIPE OF 100 TO 1200MM DIA SIZES CLASSES K-7 & K-9 SPECIFICATION NO. 9329/2000 (AS AMENDED UP-TO-DATE).	05.03.2020 08.04.2020	600 CRORES (MAXIMUM EXCLUSIVE OF TAXES)	https://etenders.hry.nic.in , dsndharyana.gov.in	0172-2570121-124, 2584125, 2585125 supplies@hry.nic.in
17.	GOVT. ITI KHARKHODA	INTENDS FOR PETTY TOOLS & EQUIPMENTS	CLOSING DATE 10.03.2020	23.05 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9991061911 Kharkhoda.giti@gmail.com
18.	FOREST DEPARTMENT PINJORE	D-SILTNG OF PONDAGE AREA OF WHS KATRON WALA CHOE & RAISING OF INLET TANK/HODI OF WHS KATRON WALA CHOE & CONSTRUCTION OF CREAT WIRE STRUCTURE NO.1 & 2 BEARWALA BEAT RAMGARH BLOCK, PANCHKULA RANGE + 6 OTHER WORKS	03.03.2020 11.03.2020	1.01 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in Tender No. 2020_Hry_121301_1 + 7 OTHER	dfomorni@gmail.com
19.	DIRECTOR, STATE TRANSPORT, HARYANA, CHANDIGARH.	REGARDING PUTTING UP ADVERTISEMENTS ON STANDARD/ ORDINARY BUSES OF HARYANA ROADWAYS	06.03.2020 30.03.2020	EMD 5 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	Director, State Transport Haryana, Chandigarh.

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

80233/HRY.

Vol LXXXVIII No. 101 Regd.No. DL-21046/03-05