

## INTERVIEW

**Focus on growth intact, will not let NBFCs collapse: RBI Governor**ANIL SASI  
& P VAIDYANATHAN IYER  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 18

DESPITE THE recent spike in inflation, the Reserve Bank of India continues to be focussed on growth, said RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.

Retail inflation jumped to 7.59 per cent in January, the highest print in 68 months, largely due to rising vegetable prices. "With this temporary spike in inflation, we have not shifted our attention from growth. We are still focussed on growth. Because of the spike in inflation, we have decided to take a pause," Das said in an inter-

view Monday (text, Page 17) with *The Indian Express*.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**Foodgrains at all-time high, pressure on procurement**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 18

WITH A bumper wheat output expected, the total foodgrains production in the country is estimated to reach an all-time high of 291.95 million tonnes during 2019-20, said the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoAFW) on Tuesday.

The estimated foodgrains production during 2019-20 will

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**E. Fiscal challenge**

ALREADY SADDLED with high stocks of foodgrains, the bumper harvest is a fiscal and political challenge for the Centre. More grains to procure means higher food subsidy and any reluctance on this front will invite farmer ire.

**JULKA NAMED CIC**

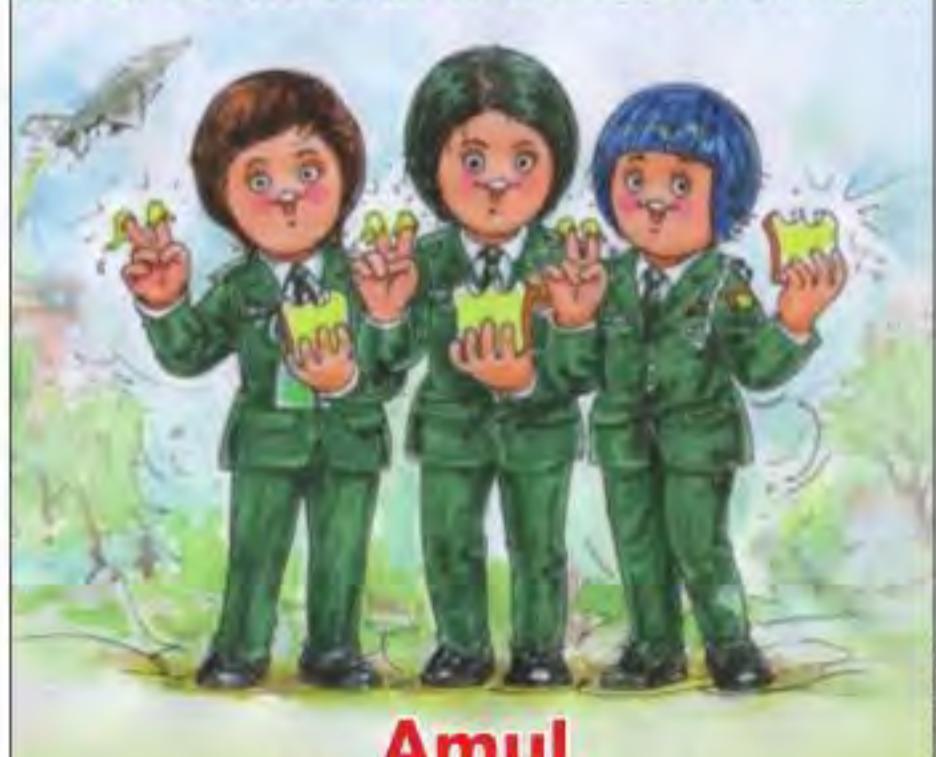
Secretary to President is new CVC; Cong dissents on process

MANOJ CG  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 18

THE SELECTION of the new Central Vigilance Commissioner and the Central Information Commissioner Tuesday ran into controversy after the government decided on Sanjay Kothari as the new CVC and Bimal Julka as the next CIC despite objections from Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, the Opposition member in the high-powered selection committees headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The panel, by a majority decision, also appointed Suresh Patel as Vigilance Commissioner and Anita Pandove as Information Commissioner. While Kothari, a former Secretary to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), is now Secretary to the President of India, Julka is a former Information and Broadcasting Secretary. He is currently an information Commissioner.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**AN OFFICER AND a Gentlewoman!****Amul MARCHING AHEAD!**

dabur/AB/684

**Voter list of 4 yrs, land records... 15 documents can't prove citizenship**TORA AGARWALA  
GUWAHATI, FEBRUARY 18

AS MANY as 15 documents which included voter lists of four years, a parent's NRC clearance, land revenue payment receipts, certificates from the village headman attesting to permanent residency and marriage, ration card, PAN card and bank passbook have been rejected by the Gauhati High Court as proof of Indian citizenship.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

the High Court ruling that she "failed to prove her linkage with her projected parents and her projected brother".

To be considered an Indian citizen in Assam, one has to prove either she or her ancestors have been living in Assam before 1971, the Assam Accord cut-off date.

To make it to the NRC (the final list has since been rejected by the Assam government), one had to submit documents that established pre-1971 ancestry. Two sets of documents (List A and List B) were admissible. List A had documents establishing that the person or their ancestors lived in Assam prior to 1971 (NRC of 1951, pre-1971 voter lists etc.).

In an indication of the challenges that lie ahead in an NRC exercise, Jabeeda Begum alias Jabeeda Khatun, of Guwahati village in Tamulpur of Baksa district, submitted these documents to back her claim of citizenship after being declared "a foreigner of post-1971 stream" by a Foreigners Tribunal in May 2019.

She lost the challenge with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**25 broken CCTVs in Jamia's Rs 2.66-crore damage bill to HRD**ARANYA SHANKAR  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 18

CCTV grab of security personnel smashing a camera

JAMIA MILLIA Islamia suffered damage to property worth Rs 2.66 crore during police action inside its premises on December 15 last year, according to an estimate submitted by the university to the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD).

This included damage to 25 CCTV cameras worth Rs 4.75 lakh.

Over the last few days, several video clips from Jamia's CCTV footage have been released, which show uniformed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**Don't move Pak out of terror fund grey list, key group tells FATF**SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 18

AHEAD OF the Financial Action Task Force's plenary session which is going to take a final decision Friday, a sub-group tasked to review Pakistan's case has recommended that Islamabad should continue to be in the "grey list" for its failure to check terror funding. It has stopped short of recommending the country for the black list.

Despite efforts by Pakistan to get out of the grey list and India's efforts to push it to the black list, the global terror financing watchdog's International Co-operation

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**Rs 2,000 cr for airport in Jewar, Rs 500 cr for one in Ayodhya: UP**MAULSHREE SETH  
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 18

THE UTTAR Pradesh government set aside Rs 2,000 crore for development of the Noida International Greenfield Airport in Jewar area of Gautam Buddha Nagar and Rs 500 crore for an airport in Ayodhya in its annual Budget on Tuesday.

Tabling the Rs 5.12 lakh crore Budget for 2020-21 in the Assembly, State Finance Minister Suresh Khanna said, "The operation of the (Jewar) airport is expected to begin in 2023". He said "provision of Rs 500 crore has been made for Ayodhya airport,



Yogi Adityanath with Suresh Khanna. Vishal Srivastav

while Rs 92.50 crore provision has been made for airports under the regional connectivity scheme."

Addressing a press conference later, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said, "Ayodhya mein

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**BUSINESS AS USUAL**

BY UNNY

**don't bother for scars any more.**

To get blemish free skin use **NO SCARS**. It helps to reduce and remove, scars and marks.

**Also Available****100% Pure Vegetarian Soap****Get dazzling Glamour with...****Long Lasting Premium Quality Soap**

Nothing makes a woman more beautiful than the belief that she is beautiful. This belief paves the way to real beauty inside which reflects outside. **No Scars beauty soap** helps making your skin look soft and radiant. The components of **No Scars** make it a wonderful moisturizer & provides nourishment to all the skin types.

**NO SCARS®**

PREMIUM QUALITY SOAP

For more information,  
please contact:  
+91 97792 14455  
care@torquepharma.com

**DOWNLOAD APP**

- VISUAL STORIES
- DAILY BRIEFING
- PODCASTS
- CUSTOMIZABLE NEWS EXPERIENCE

Indian Express 4.6

Today's top news

Virat Kohli reclaims top position in ICC Test Batting Rankings

Scan this QR code to download the app

**WEB EXCLUSIVE**

**VIDEO OF THE DAY****THE SAMSUNG BLOG: GALAXY S20 SERIES WON'T HAVE 5G IN INDIA, BUT DON'T FRET**

The one feature conspicuously missing from Samsung's shiny new smartphones in India is 5G. But that is not surprising at all. Here's why

**STUDENT WHO REVIEWS TOILETS**

Bengaluru student Russell Yusuf reviews public toilets in country

**EXPRESS EXPLAINED****WHO IS SHAHID AZIZ: PAK ARMY'S INSIDER**

Part of Musharraf's close circle and chief of the ISI's Analysis Wing

**EXPRESS AUDIO****What the SC order means for the future of women in the Army**

**NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY**

Detailed the long drawn legal struggle, why women in the Army were seeking permanent commission and whether the SC order is a big win for gender equality

**Chinese merchant vessel being probed for carrying 'suspicious' equipment**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

AHMEDABAD, FEBRUARY 18

INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES along with teams of Customs and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) at Kandla port in Kutch Gandhidham are inspecting a Chinese merchant vessel which was bound for Karachi in Pakistan, suspecting it to be carrying an "autoclave" equipment, which can be used for both industrial and military purposes.

Investigative officials suspect that the equipment found on the vessel might be designed to be used in the aerospace industry to manufacture ballistic missiles.

Officials from the Deendayal Port Trust (DPT) on Tuesday said that the cargo vessel that reached Kandla on February 3 has been shifted from the cargo berth to an anchorage point within the port. The vessel had sailed from port of Jiaoyin, People's Republic of China on January 17, 2020, and was detained by the customs department due to "suspected cargo" on February 3.

DPT issued a no objection certificate to the vessel on February 7, which officials said was headed for Karachi in Pakistan. Notably, the shipping agent DBC and Sons had cancelled the NoC provided to the vessel instead of presenting it to the customs for port clearances earlier. Officials said the lack of clearance from the customs department forced the agents to cancel their NoC and return to the port.

According to officials of the customs department, the cargo vessel 'Da Cui Yin' has been stationed at Deendayal Port also known as Kandla Port since February 3 this year, after customs flagged it for suspected cargo and the vessel's no objection certificate to travel via Indian waters to Karachi port was cancelled.

"Our teams are conducting inspection of the vessel and till now nothing conclusive have been found," said an official statement.

**Woman 'raped' near toll plaza in Karnal, two held**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 18

A 19-YEAR-OLD woman was allegedly raped near a toll plaza in Haryana's Karnal district Sunday night when she went to use the restroom while her husband waited nearby. Investigating Officer Praveen Kumar said two people – the one who allegedly raped her, and his accomplice who threatened her at knife-point – have been arrested in the last two days.

The accused even gave their telephone number to the victim before fleeing from the spot, and the number helped police track them down, sources said.

According to the FIR, the victim, who is from Punjab, had gone to Panipat to meet their relatives. Accompanied by her hus-

band, she was returning home by bus. The couple disembarked at a toll after receiving a phone call from their relative, who had to hand over some money to them.

"The couple then went to use the toilet. When the woman came out, she saw two youths standing outside. One of them threatened her with a knife and the two forcibly took her to a nearby spot where the other person raped her," said police.

The spot where the alleged rape took place is an underpass that is currently not operational. The incident took place at around 11 pm.

Meghraj, a resident of Stomdi village of Karnal district who sold snacks near the toll plaza, was arrested on Monday while Sonu, 35, a security guard at the plaza, was arrested Tuesday.

**FROM PAGE ONE****Citizenship**

50, illiterate and quite poor."

"We gave a number of documents but the court was not satisfied since it felt that the documents were not enough to prove linkage to her parents," Ali said.

Syed Burhanur Rahman, also an advocate in the High Court, said: "What worked against Begum is that she was not able to link her relationship with her parents. The 1997 voter list she submitted had her husband's name and not her parents' names. Moreover, it had marked her 'D' or a doubtful voter. Technically, the court order has no fault. While the Gaon Panchayat document is a valid certificate and can be used for linkage for a married woman, it is subject to further scrutiny."

Rahman said Jabeeda Begum could file a review petition in the High Court or approach the Supreme Court. "She can question why her Gaon Bura (village headman) certificate was rejected as a linkage document despite the Gaon Bura personally attesting the same in the FT. Also, under Section 50 of Evidence Act, her brother's testimony is enough to prove that she is his sister," he said.

The judges, in their order, said: "In the instant case, the petitioner claimed that she is the daughter of Lt. Jabeed Ali and Jahura Khatoon @Jahera Kharan. She could not file any documents to link herself with her projected parents. Certificates issued by a Village Gaon Bura can never be the proof of citizenship of a person. Such certificate can only be used by a married woman to prove that after her marriage, she had shifted to her matrimonial village (Rupian Begum Vs. Union of India, reported in (2018) 1 SCC 579.)"

"This Court in Md. Babul Islam Vs. Union of India [WP(C)/3547/2016], has already held that PAN card and bank documents are not proof of citizenship. Md. Samsul Ali, the projected brother of the petitioner, adduced evidence before the Tribunal. He claimed to be 33 years old and his name appeared in the Voter List of 2015. The petitioner could not file any documents to link herself with her projected brother, Md. Samsul Ali."

"Land Revenue Paying Receipts do not prove a citizenship of a person. Therefore, we find that the Tribunal has correctly appreciated the evidences placed before it and we could not find any perversity in the decision of the Tribunal. That being the position, we would reiterate that the petitioner failed to prove her linkage with her projected parents and her projected brother. Therefore, we find that this writ petition is devoid of merit and accordingly, we dismiss the same," the order stated.

**New CVC**

Besides Chowdhury, today's meeting was attended by the PM, Home Minister Amit Shah; MoS, PMO and DoPT, Jitendra Singh, Cabinet Secretary Rajeev Gauba and DoPT Secretary C Chandramouli.

At the meeting, Chowdhury, the leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha, is learnt to have argued that the "papers provided by the PMO (for appointment of the CVC) disclose glaring and fatal infirmities with the (search) committee itself". His objection was that Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar, a member of the search committee, has "also turned out to be an applicant for the CVC and was finally shortlisted for the post of CVC by the search committee."

"The entire purpose of constituting the search committee is violated considering that one of the members is himself an applicant and has been shortlisted and recommended for the post of CVC," Chowdhury said in a note and demanded that a new search committee has to be constituted and the process has to be initiated afresh by inviting fresh applica-

**Focus on growth intact: RBI Governor**

Asserting that the central bank has the space for independence and autonomy, Das said all decisions taken in the last year "are our own objective, independent decisions".

He said the government's concern on any issue that impacts the economy has to be considered by the central bank but also pointed to several legislative and non-legislative proposals in the July 2019 and February 2020 budgets where issues concerning the RBI have been addressed by the govern-

ment.

"These include the amendment of the RBI Act to give additional powers to RBI with regard to regulation of NBFCs and housing finance companies (HFCs) being brought under the purview of RBI, and the amendment to the Banking Regulation Act to accord more powers to the RBI on regulation of the urban cooperative banks (UCBs)," he said.

Das said RBI was "closely and intensively" monitoring the top 50 NBFCs, which account

for roughly 75 per cent of the total portfolio, and that the central bank will endeavour "to ensure that no large systemically important NBFC collapses".

"We are very mindful of the aspect of financial stability in the case of banks too. RBI will always ensure that stability of the banking sector is maintained," he said.

On criticism pertaining to the regulatory easing in specific sectors like SMEs and real estate – recognition of bad loans – which some observers de-

scribed as RBI turning the clock back on cleaning up the financial sector mess, Das said these did not qualify as an "across the board forbearance". And that interventions were "specific and targeted" and "subject to certain guidelines and parameters".

On the RBI's new measures to ease credit flow like Long Term Repo Operations and the CRR waiver for loans for auto and real estate, Das said these "innovations" were in response to "the evolving dynamic situation."

The damaged property has been left as it is, to aid investigation, officials said, adding that no compensation had been received from any quarter till date.

**FATF**

Review Group (ICRG) has taken a decision to keep Pakistan on the grey list. A recommendation by ICRG is a precursor to the final decision at the plenary session, and is usually not overtured.

"The ICRG meeting, sub group of the FATF, has recommended to retain Pakistan in the 'Grey List'. A final decision will be taken on Friday when the FATF takes up issues concerning Pakistan," a source said.

The sense in New Delhi is that the sub-group has "taken note" of steps taken by Islamabad against terror outfits, but has not fulfilled its commitments. Last October, Pakistan got a breather from FATF when it was kept on the grey list. India had mounted a diplomatic offensive for blacklisting of Pakistan as it had not met its commitments to check terror financing and money laundering.

At the last plenary session, Pakistan had addressed only five of the 27 tasks given to it to control funding to terror groups like the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad, responsible for a series of attacks in India.

Pakistan was given time till February 2020 to fulfil its commitments. An objective assessment of Pakistan's progress in implementing its action plan was made, while the FATF had noted the insufficiency of Islamabad's implementation as "serious concerns".

If Pakistan continues on the grey list, it would be very difficult for the country to get financial aid from the IMF, the World Bank and the European Union, making its financial condition even more precarious.

Pakistan was placed on the grey list by the FATF in June 2018 and was given a plan of action to complete it by October 2019.

The cumulative rainfall in the country during the monsoon season (June to September, 2019) has been 10% higher than Long Period Average (LPA). Accordingly, the production of most of the crops for the agricultural year 2019-20 has been estimated higher than their normal production", said the statement.

"The cumulative rainfall in the country during the monsoon season (June to September, 2019) has been 10% higher than Long Period Average (LPA). Accordingly, the production of most of the crops for the agricultural year 2019-20 has been estimated higher than their normal production", said the statement.

**UP Budget**

ek international airport ka niranam ho sake iske liye bhi is Budget mein praveshi kiyा hai (Provision has been made in the Budget for an international airport in Ayodhya.)

Adityanath said the state government would construct Asia's biggest airport at Jewar, as part of its plan to improve air connectivity in the region. For this, an additional budgetary allocation, has been made as required, he said.

Last year, the state government had set aside Rs 800 crore for the Jewar airport project, largely for acquisition of land.

The proposed airport at Jewar will be spread across 5,000 hectares and is estimated to cost Rs 29,560 crore. It will be developed in four phases – work on the first phase, spread across 1,334 hectares and estimated to cost Rs 4,080 crore, is expected to begin this year. Sources said a large part of land for the first phase, including about 1,239 hectares of private land, has already been acquired.

Meanwhile, the government plans to expand and develop the existing airstrip in Ayodhya into an international airport. Last year, the government had allocated Rs 200 crore for acquisition of additional land for the project. Sources said the process of land acquisition has already begun.

In its latest Budget, the state government also set aside Rs 85 crore for providing basic facilities to tourists in Ayodhya and Rs 10 crore for upgrading the Tulsi Memorial in Ayodhya.

**FULL REPORTS ON**

[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

**Classifieds****EXPRESS EDUCATION****McGraw-Hill writer RAMESH SINGH'S GS ECONOMY Basics+Current**

updated with the latest Survey 2019-20 and Budget 2020-21

New batch: Mar. 02-Apr. 20 (2.30-4.45pm)

46/41, Old Rajinder Nagar, Bada Bazaar Road, Near Shankar Road, N. Delhi-60

[www.rameshsingh.org](http://www.rameshsingh.org) | ph. 98182-44224; 80767-48812

**M. PURI ONLINE GS PAPER 2**

ADMISSIONS OPEN in the latest batch

100+ LECTURES UPDATED WITH LATEST CURRENT AFFAIRS

A course without which your GS Paper 2 preparation is incomplete

Stellar INS ACADEMY Your Ambition Our Guidance

CALL: 99152-14599

[www.stellarinsacademy.online](http://www.stellarinsacademy.online)

Contact for Advt. Booking: M/s Friends Publicity Service

23276901, 23282028 (M): 921008155, 9212665841.

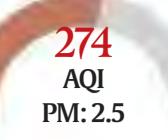
epaper.indianexpress.com



0-50 Good

ANAND VIHAR

Poor

274 AQI  
PM: 2.5

0 500

51-100 Satisfactory

SIRIFORT

Poor

259 AQI  
PM: 2.5

0 500

101-200 Moderate

SHADIPUR

Poor

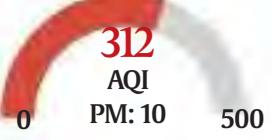
266 AQI  
PM: 2.5

0 500

201-300 Poor

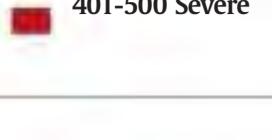
DWARKA-SECTOR 8

Very Poor

312 AQI  
PM: 10

0 500

301-400 Very poor



401-500 Severe

SPECIAL INVESTIGATION TEAM VISITS CAMPUS FOR 3 HOURS

# Entered Jamia after stone pelting from inside: Police in chargesheet

PRITAM PAL SINGH  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 18

NO STUDENT of Jamia Millia Islamia is among the 17 people charged in connection with the violence that took place in and around the university on December 15 during the anti-CAA protests last year. However, the chargesheet states that one of the arrested accused has named JNU student Sharjeel Imam as an "investigator", who gave "provocative speeches" before the violence.

"In view of his above disclosure, the role of Sharjeel Imam will be further probed during supplementary chargesheet. After obtaining sufficient evidence against the accused, he was arrested in the present case (on Monday)," the chargesheet says.

Meanwhile on Tuesday, the SIT constituted under DCP(Crime Branch) Rajesh Deo visited Jamia and spent three hours inspecting various locations—including the library. "The SIT interacted with the faculty and examined a few students. The Chief Proctor's help



In the chargesheet, police stated that on December 15, protesters returning from Mathura Road had burnt 12 vehicles; (right) DCP (Crime Branch) Rajesh Deo visits Jamia, Tuesday

was also requested," said police.

The Delhi Police Crime Branch, in two chargesheets filed before Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Gurumohina Kaur, booked 17 persons under various IPC sections, including rioting, unlawful assembly, voluntarily causing hurt to public servant and criminal conspiracy.

Imam was remanded in judicial custody until March 3, after investigators told the court that he, along with other accused persons, was present at New Friends Colony and Jamia Nagar and had

pelted stones at police and damaged public property.

The chargesheet states that as protesters were returning from Mathura Road towards the university on December 15, they burnt 12 vehicles, including six buses, and damaged 29 others.

The protesters also set three police booths on fire, it states.

The chargesheet also alleges the involvement of local leaders Ashu Khan and Mustafa Haider, ex-MLA Mohd Asif Khan, AISA's Chandan Kumar, JMI's Asif Tanah and Kasim Usmani of the CYSS.

Police said their alleged role is being ascertained and further action will be taken, if necessary. A supplementary chargesheet will be filed in that case, police said.

On the alleged bullet injuries suffered by Jamia students Ajaz Ahmad and Mohammed Shoaib, the chargesheet, referring to the CFSL report, claims that "these holes could not have been caused due to the passage of any bullet projectile".

As per the chargesheet, in the incidents dated December 13 and 15, 189 MLCS were prepared —

127 of public persons and 62 of police personnel.

On the events of December 15, it states: "Violent protesters, including students, entered the iron gates of the university... as visible in CCTV footage... This unlawful assembly in different groups entered the campus and started pelting stones on the police force from three sides."

"Police kept warning protesters to disperse peacefully but they were adamant and kept on pelting stones at police from inside the campus — the same is visible in CCTV plus media photos. In order to safeguard students and identify violent protesters and take them out of the university campus, teargas shells and moderate force was used to disperse and push back this unlawful assembly by various teams headed by different SHOs," it stated.

It also stated that a "small component of police force also entered inside university campus pursuing the rioters... and managed to vacate the university campus off the unruly mob".

Jamia student who lost sight in 1 eye wins award

New Delhi: Jawaharlal Nehru University Tuesday decided in its Executive Council meeting to set up a JNU Alumni Endowment fund to achieve "financial self-sufficiency". V-C M Jagadesh Kumar made a pitch to alumni to

The issue dates back to 2012-13, but serious efforts to procure these desks and benches began only in 2017. A senior official of the North Corporation had said, "However, it did not materialise because, as per MCD rules, we can buy desks and benches only from the Government e-Marketplace web portal."

"Earlier, the portal had an option to place the demand as per one's requirement, but for around a year, it has not had this option. We needed furniture that is double-sheet, made of hard board," he added.

The North body has 765 schools under its jurisdiction, where more than 2 lakh students are enrolled.

Goel said, "We have installed 24 taps and hand-wash stations in all our schools to motivate children to maintain cleanliness. Besides this, 550 CCTV cameras have been installed in 130 schools and the work of installing them in other schools is in progress."

In November 2018, The Indian Express reported that more than 38,000 students in over 100 schools under the North civic body were being forced to sit on the floor or on mats, as there were no desks and benches in classrooms.

make donations. "On behalf of JNU, I passionately appeal to the JNU alumni to come forward and generously make your contributions. Let us keep a target of raising Rs 100 crore by the end of this year..." he said. ENS

7 people get second life at AIIMS after organ donation

New Delhi: In a span of 48 hours, two brain-dead patients at AIIMS breathed life into seven people as their families agreed to donate the organs. Two hearts, four kidneys, two livers, four corneas and bones were transplanted by teams of doctors at the country's top medical institute.

Sachin (26), a native of UP's Kasganj who worked as a daily wager in Delhi, fell from the second floor of a building and was brought to AIIMS on February 13. On February 15, he was declared brain-dead. Members of Organ Retrieval Banking Organisation at AIIMS counselled the grieving family, who decided to donate his heart, liver, kidneys and corneas. Anil Mittal (61), a resident of Delhi, was a pledged donor with the Dhadchhi Deh Dan Samiti. He was declared

brain dead at AIIMS.

As per data provided by the institute, 2 lakh patients are in need of corneal transplantation but only 50,000 undergo the treatment. Over 10,000 people require heart transplants whereas only 150-200 transplants are performed annually. "There is a huge gap between demand and supply of human organs and tissues. In India, around 1.5-2 lakh patients require kidney transplantation but only 7,500-8,000 patients receive it. Around 75,000-80,000 patients require liver transplants annually but only around 1,800 are performed," said AIIMS director Dr Randeep Guleria. ENS

## Two Kenyan nationals found dead in Gurgaon

Gurgaon: Two Kenyan nationals were found dead at a paying guest accommodation in Gurgaon's Sushant Lok area Tuesday morning, police said.

The dead have been identified as Ruth (27) and David (33). Ruth, who lived at the accommodation where her body was found, worked at a private school in Gurgaon. Police said David's employment status is yet to be ascertained.

Ruth's family was trying to contact her for the last few days. When she did not return their calls, they asked an acquaintance

## IIMC students begin hunger strike over fee

New Delhi: Some students of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) Tuesday began a hunger strike to demand an affordable fee structure, said the students in a statement.

The IIMC appealed to students to call off the hunger strike, and said the decision was taken in an EC meeting, saying, "The course fee charged is as per the information given in the prospectus." IIMC said that a "committee to look into the entire issue of fee structure has been constituted and a final view would be taken once its report is finalised/examined". ENS

to check on her," said Gurgaon Police PRO Subhash Boken. On reaching the PG, Ruth's acquaintance found the door locked from inside. Police were alerted when there was no response to repeated knocks on the door.

"When the door was broken down, police found the room was empty but the bathroom was locked from inside. On breaking down the bathroom door, Ruth's body was found on the floor, while David was hanging from one of the pipes of the geyser," said Boken. No FIR has been registered yet, he added. ENS

## KIDWAI MEMORIAL INSTITUTE OF ONCOLOGY

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION

Dr. M.H. Marigowda Road, Bengaluru - 560 029.

Phone: 91-80-26560722(Dir), 26094000 Fax: 080-26560723

No.KMIO/EST-1/44/2019-20

Date: 18.02.2020

### NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the following Group-A Posts (Teaching), in the prescribed format, in Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore and Peripheral Cancer Centre, Kalburgi.

**Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology , Bangalore.**

**I. Associate Professor:**

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Pay Scale (AICTE Pay Scale)	No.of Post	Classification
01.	Associate Professor of Surgical Oncology	37,400-67,000+AGP 9,000/-	01	GM-01

**II. Assistant Professor:**

Sl. No.	Name of the Posts	Pay Scale (AICTE Pay Scale)	No.of Posts	Classification
01.	Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology	15600-39100+AGP 8,000/-	06	Residuary Cadre:
				Category No. of Posts
				GM 05
				SC 02
				Category - II(a) 01
				Category - III(a) 01
				Category - III(b) 01
				Total Posts 10
				Residuary Cadre: Backlog Posts:
				Category No. of Posts
				GM 01 (1-PH)
				ST 02 (1-PH, 1-Rural)
				Category - II(a) 04 (2-Rural, 01-others 01 Ex-Serviceman)
				Category - II(b) 02 (1-Woman, 1-PH)
				Category - III(a) 01 (1-PH)
				Category - III(b) 02 (1-Rural, 1-PH)
				Total Posts 12
				Local Cadre (371-J): Backlog Posts:
				Category No. of Posts
				SC 01
				ST 01
				Category - II(a) 01
				Total Posts 03
				For more details please visit the Website of the Institute: <a href="http://www.kmio.org">www.kmio.org</a>

**Peripheral Cancer Centre, Kalburgi:**

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Pay Scale (AICTE Pay Scale)	No.of Posts	Classification
01.	Assistant Professor of Radiodiagnosis	15600-39100+AGP 8,000/-	01	Backlog Posts: Residuary Cadre: ST: 01 Post
02.	Assistant Professor of Radiation Physics	15600-39100+AGP 8,000/-	01	Local Cadre (371-J) GM(PH):01 Post
				Total No. of Posts 02

Note: For eligibility criteria and other details please visit the website of the Institute: [www.kmio.org](http://www.kmio.org). Age limit: For SC/ST, Category-I-40 years, for IIA, IIB, IIIA & IIIB-38 years and for GM-35 years on the last date prescribed for receipt of applications. Relaxation in upper age limit to the candidates will be considered by the Selection Committee. Last date for receipt of Application is on 19.03.2020 at 4.00 PM. Applications received after the due date will not be entertained. Guidelines for submitting the applications can be downloaded from the Institute website: [www.kmio.org](http://www.kmio.org).

DIPR/DDU/2533/2019-20



0-50 Good

51-100 Satisfactory

101-200 Moderate

201-300 Poor

301-400 Very poor

401-500 Severe

0 500

0 500

0 500

0 500

0 500

0 500

0 500

## SALUTE THE SOLDIER



On 18/19.02.2006, Head Constable Swaran Singh was deputed for train escorting duty in Samjhauta Express, during which in the dark hours of night when train was running near Panipat, a Bomb Explosion took place in that train. Head Constable Swaran Singh sustained serious injuries but ignoring his fatal wound, till his last breath, he carried out extensive efforts and with the help of other duty staff, extended all needed help to injured passengers. Head Constable Swaran Singh attained Martyrdom on duty, set an example of extraordinary courage and putting safety and security of passengers before self.

"Remembered with pride"

DG and All Ranks of Railway Protection Force personnel"



On 18/19.2.2007, Constable Rajinder Pal Singh was deputed for train escorting duty in Samjhauta Express, during which in the dark hours of night when train was running near Panipat, a Bomb Explosion took place in that train. Constable Rajinder Pal Singh sustained serious injuries but ignoring his fatal wound, till his last breath, he carried out extensive efforts and with the help of other duty staff, extended all needed help to injured passengers. Constable Rajinder Pal Singh attained Martyrdom on duty, set an example of extraordinary courage and putting safety and security of passengers before self.

"Remembered with pride"

DG and All Ranks of Railway Protection Force personnel"



Martyr of CISF on 19th February  
CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of this brave-heart. On this day, he laid down his life at the altar of duty while fighting with terrorist. His courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to him for this noblest deed.

**Delhi Tourism & Transportation Development Corporation**  
**Dilli Haat, Pitam Pura**  
Road No. 41, Near TV Tower, Pitam Pura, Delhi  
Phone No. 27137663, E-mail: dillihaat\_ppttdc@yahoo.in

## Tender Notice

Offers are invited through E-Procurement System of Delhi Government and e-Auction website for the following:

1. Two Halls on License Fee basis for Banqueting, Social Gathering, Restaurant, Parties etc. at Dilli Haat Pitam Pura vide Tender ID: DHPP/e-Auction/Halls/02/2020-21/3 years

2. Running of Three Shops as Food Kiosk/ Book Shop/ Flower Shop/ Souvenir Shop in Non-ticketed area at Dilli Haat Pitam Pura vide Tender ID: 2020\_DTTDC\_188139\_1

3. Conference Hall 2 & 3 on License Fee basis for running of Gym, Yoga Centre, Hobby courses, Music School, Skill Development/ Conference Room/ Co-working space/ Emporium, Showroom, Boutiques, Gift Shops, Jewellery Showroom etc. at Dilli Haat Pitam Pura vide Tender ID: 2020\_DTTDC\_188150\_1

The tender document containing detailed terms and conditions for the contract can be downloaded from Delhi Government's website ie <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in> & [www.tenderwizard.com/DTTDC](http://www.tenderwizard.com/DTTDC)

The last date of submission of e-Tender/ e-Auction is 13.03.2020 by 3.00 PM and shall be opened on 13.03.2020 at 3.30 pm at 18-A DDA Shopping cum office Complex, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024

Corrigendum if any, will appear only at Delhi Government / Tender wizards website.

Manager (DHPP)

**SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

OFFICE OF THE EX. ENGINEER (M)-III/NGZ, OPPOSITE KARGIL APARTMENT, SECTOR-12, DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110078  
PRESS NOTICE FOR TENDER

NIT No. EE M-III/NGZ/TC/19-20/23 Dated:- 17.02.2020

Online percentage rate tenders are invited by EE (M)-III/NGZ on behalf of Commissioner/SDMC from the registered contractors of MCD of appropriate class. Tenders will be received as per time table and will be opened at 10:30 HRS on 09.03.2020 in the office of Division EE (M)-III/NGZ. Validity of rates will be 05 Months from the date of opening of NIT and in case of negotiation from the date of negotiation. All details of Revision, Clarification, Corrigendum, Addendum, Time Extension etc. If any in respect of these tenders will be uploaded on SDMC website only & will not be published in newspapers. It is responsibility of the firms/bidders to update themselves about the tender through the website. SDMC is not responsible for any information is not available on website.

Last Date of Download of Tender Document i.e. 09.03.2020 10.00 HRS, Last Date of Bid Submission i.e. 09.03.2020 10.01 HRS and Opening of Financial Bid i.e. 09.03.2020 10.30 HRS.

The detail of tender Line No. 1 can be seen from website of SDMC <https://www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER>.

RO No. 160/DPI/S/2019-20 Executive Engineer Division (M)-III/NGZ

**NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

Office of The Executive Engineer (PROJECT) Karol Bagh Zone, Under Zakhira Flyover, New Delhi-35

NIT No. 10/EE(Pr)/TC/KBZ/19-20 Dated: 14.02.2020

For one tendering time table please refer to [www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMCETENDER](http://www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMCETENDER), sealed percentage/ item Rates tenders are invited for the execution of the following works by the North DMC from approved and eligible contractors registered with the MCD (General Wing) as per following schedule and will be received as per time table and will be opened at 3.15 PM on 28.02.2020 on website <http://mcdtenders.com> by undersigned.

Starting date of Purchase of tender documents : 15.02.2020 3.00 PM

Last date of bid submission : 28.02.2020 3.00 PM

Opening of financial bid : 28.02.2020 3.15 PM

S. No. 1. Name of work : Construction of 10 Nos. Class Rooms and one hall in M.C.P. Pry. School (Girls) at Ram Jai Lane Ward No. 92-N, Karol Bagh Zone. Part 'A' (Civil work), Part 'B' Item Rate (Reserve Price), Part 'C' Item Rate (Electrical Work) Est. Amt. Rs. : 2632007/-, Tender Amount : 20931679/- Part-A percentage Rate (Civil work) Part 'B' Item Rate (Reserve Price) Rs 2,40,00/-, Part 'C' Item Rate (Electrical work) EMD (Rs.) : 526600/- Head or A/c : XL-VII-Edu., Tender Cost : 1500/-, Time of comp. : 15 Months, Rate Hold good : 5 Months.

All the circulars issued from time to time by MCD/North DMC up to the date of issue of this NIT shall be applicable. The detail of the tender can be seen at [www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMCETENDER](http://www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMCETENDER).

Note : The contractor will provide 01 one new inspection vehicle (latest model) of make Maruti Suzuki Ciaz Automatic (Petrol) for North DMC sites in the name of North Delhi Municipal Corporation.

RO No. 225/DPI/North/2019-20 EE (Pr)/KBZ

**खान एवं भू-विज्ञान विभाग, हरियाणा चंडीगढ़।**

**निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना**

जन साधारण को सुचित किया जाता है कि खान एवं भू-विज्ञान विभाग, हरियाणा, चंडीगढ़ में आकृत सेविंग पार्ट-1 के तहत हरियाणा सरकार द्वारा जारी नियम व शर्तों के आधार पर विभाग के क्षेत्रीय कार्यालयों में खनन सुखा हेतु 100 स्वयंसेवक पूर्व सैनिक (खनन सुखा रक्षक, लाइसेंस हितयार सहित) लगाने हेतु एजेंसी/फर्म (वैध पंजीकरण) निविदा आमंत्रण हेतु विज्ञापन दिया जा रहा है जो स्वयंसेवक पूर्व सैनिकों को हरियाणा सरकार द्वारा नियम आकृत सेविंग पार्ट-1 के तहत दिए मानदेन दिया जाना आवश्यक होगा। जो इच्छुक एजेंसी/ फर्म (वैध पंजीकरण) उपरोक्त टैंडर हेतु अपने-अपने आवेदन प्रक्रियात विज्ञापन की तिथि से 10 दिन के अंदर-अंदर बंद लिपाना में अपनी एजेंसी/ फर्म की प्रक्रियात दर सूची (Quotation) नीचे दिए गए पते पर रजिस्टर्ड डाक के माध्यम से पुछाए। अंतिम तिथि उपरान्त प्राप्त आवेदन मान्य नहीं होगे और इन्हें रद्द सद्व्याकाश जाएगा। टैंडर फीस 1,000/- रुपए निर्धारित की गई है, जो खान एवं भू-विज्ञान विभाग के हैंड में जमा की जाएगी और वापिस नहीं होगी। निविदा के नियम और शर्तें विभाग की वेबसाइट [minesharyana.gov.in](http://minesharyana.gov.in) पर देख एवं प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।

टैंडर भेजने का पता:

महानिदेशक खान एवं भू-विज्ञान विभाग, हरियाणा (मुख्यालय) चंडीगढ़।

कम्ब. नं. 79, 30 बैंज भवन, प्रथम मंजिल,

सेक्टर 17-बी, चंडीगढ़-160017

हरसा./- महानिदेशक खान एवं भू-विज्ञान विभाग,

हरियाणा, चंडीगढ़।

कम्ब. नं. 79, 30 बैंज भवन, प्रथम मंजिल,

सेक्टर 17-बी, चंडीगढ़-160017

हरसा./- महानिदेशक खान एवं भू-विज्ञान विभाग,

हरियाणा, चंडीगढ़।

79925/HYR

हरसा./- महानिदेशक खान एवं भू-विज्ञान विभाग,

हरियाणा, चंडीगढ़।

हरसा./

**BRIEFLY**

**The Park hotel loses health, trade licences**

**New Delhi:** Following the suspension of its fire safety licence, The Park Hotel has now lost its health and trade licences as well. A spokesperson from the New Delhi Municipal Council said: "Due to non-compliance of the hotel over fire-safety norms, the NDMC has suspended their licence." This comes after fire broke out in the basement of the hotel. Nine Norwegian nationals were injured due to smoke inhalation. **ENS**

**Road closed for airport expansion**

**New Delhi:** The Delhi airport Tuesday advised passengers to leave 10-15 minutes early as a road connecting it with Rangpur on NH-8 will be closed for over a year to carry out airport expansion work. Traffic coming from Rangpur roundabout will be diverted to central spine road, connecting terminals 2 and 3 from Mahipalpur, the Delhi International Airport Limited said in a statement. **PTI**

**25 students join DUSU foreign cell**

**New Delhi:** From Nepal to Africa, 25 international students Tuesday joined the Delhi University Students' Union's 'foreign cell' led by the National Students' Union of India. NSUI national secretary and Delhi in-charge Nikhil Kamble said the union would also help address problems faced by students from abroad at the university, such as lack of seats in international hostel. **ENS**

**OSD gets bail**

**New Delhi:** A special court granted bail to Gopal Krishna Madhav, a Delhi government officer and officer on special duty (OSD) to Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who was arrested in a bribery case. **ENS**

**Former BSP leader among 6 dead in highway wreck**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 18



Ex-BSP leader Surjeet Singh

SIX PERSONS, including former BSP leader Surjeet Singh and a Lok Janshakti Party candidate in the Delhi polls, Vikram (40), died after a speeding Volvo bus crashed into a divider and hit Singh's SUV on the other side of the road. The incident, which took place on the Agra-Lucknow expressway in Kanpur early Tuesday, also left several injured.

Singh (45), who contested against AAP's Manish Sisodia as an independent, was on his way to Delhi with four friends after attending a wedding. The other victims have been identified as Sunny (30), Mukesh (35), Ramashankar (48) and bus driver Jitendra (38).

Prima facie, the driver of the bus, attached to the Bihar Transport Corporation, fell asleep and lost control of the vehicle, police said.

"Around 1 am, as the bus was going towards Bihar's Muzaffarpur from Agra, the driver fell asleep at the wheel and turned right towards the 215-km milestone on the expressway. The bus broke the divider, came on the other side of the road and collided with the Fortuner car at a high speed. All five persons in the SUV and the bus driver died on the spot," said Janardan Pratap Singh, SHO of Bilhaur police station.

"Passersby informed police and around 10-12 persons in the bus who suffered minor injuries were rushed to a nearby hospital. They are all out of danger. The impact was such that the SUV was crushed to half its size. As per passengers, while the bus was moving at around 100 kmph, the SUV was moving just as fast," Singh added.

The SHO said an FIR in the case is under process. Police said Singh was a BSP leader and a corporator from East Delhi's Mayur Vihar Phase 1. He is survived by his wife and their four children.

"We were excited, as my younger son was getting married on February 25. Surjeet had planned the whole wedding. I was sleeping when I got a call from police saying he had met with an accident. Later, we saw the news that he was dead. I was shocked, I wish he didn't go for his friend's wedding," said Dhanpal, Surjeet's father.

Vikram had contested the polls from Trilokpuri on an LJP ticket. His sister Geeta said,

"Vikram had shifted to Delhi with his wife, Pooja, 10 years ago. I was informed about the accident at 2 am. Pooja left with her children for Kanpur. The children still don't know about their father's death. He was a financier, but also wanted to win the election and help people. I spoke to him on Sunday... he told me to come to Delhi to meet him."

Singh's friends, Mukesh and Ramashankar, also lived in Mayur Vihar Phase 1. Mukesh lived with his wife, parents and three elder brothers, and worked at the Karkardooma court. Ramashankar worked with Singh during the polls and owned a department store in Vasundhara Enclave, Mayur Vihar.



MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj at the Sundar Kand paath. A narrow lane just outside a Shiv temple in Chirag Dilli was the venue for the paath on Tuesday. **Gajendra Yadav**

**In Bharadwaj constituency, monthly Sundar Kand paath**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 18

A 'Sundar Kand' paath held in Chirag Delhi Tuesday by Aam Aadmi Party spokesperson and Greater Kailash MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj was the first of many such paaths that will be held every first Tuesday of the month in his constituency.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Bharadwaj said he was hopeful that "almost 20 other MLAs" who have shown an interest in the event would also hold it in their constituencies soon.

Explaining the idea behind the paath, Bharadwaj said, "This started a month ago when (Delhi CM) Arvind Kejriwal visited a Hanuman temple and the BJP made fun of him. He then recited the *Hanuman Chalisa* and the BJP made fun of him... The election

results were declared on a Tuesday, on the day of Hanuman, and we decided that we will not let the BJP forget this Tuesday and Hanuman. So that's why we are doing it."

Later in the day, he tweeted, "BJP/Congress leaders may be fuming but people, irrespective of their political views, are happy to be part of *Sundar Kand paath*. It's so positive."

Speaking to *ANI*, Bharadwaj also said that he had "received advanced bookings as well as sponsors for the programmes".

At Chirag Delhi, a narrow lane just outside a Shiv temple was the venue for the paath Tuesday, where idols of Lord Ram, Hanuman and other deities were kept. Residents, along with Bharadwaj, offered prayers and recited bhajans.

The crowd of largely middle-aged or elderly residents who gathered for the paath praised

the initiative.

Chirag Delhi resident Suman Dagar (55) said, "The election results had come on a Tuesday, which is the day of Lord Hanuman, and it was a great result. So it's important to thank him for it, right? We like Saurabh ji very much, so we came here, and also to seek blessings of god."

Savitri (62), a resident of Sheikh Sarai, said the event was a good way to create a community space. "Saurabh doesn't have any ego and always greets us whenever he gets the chance. Functions like these are good for him and the party," she said.

Mamta Verma, an AAP volunteer, said, "This is a purification of sort, which everyone needs, and it is important for the party too. The BJP thinks only they are Hindus; this is not the case."

**AS PART OF CURRICULUM****Delhi govt to enrol 17,000 entrepreneurs for its schools**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 18

TO PROMOTE the Entrepreneurship Mindset Curriculum (EMC) in its schools, the Delhi government is set to enrol 17,000 entrepreneurs and volunteers to engage with students. The decision was taken at a review meeting held Tuesday, a day after the newly sworn-in ministers took over their respective departments.

EMC was started in 2019-20 to instill an entrepreneurial mindset in students. It has been developed by SCERT Delhi, with help from teachers and NGOs, and focuses on providing real-life experiences to students that can help them become responsible professionals.

"We need to create a pool of 17,000 entrepreneurs... There is a need to inculcate an entrepreneurial mindset amongst our students, for which live interactions with entrepreneurs will play a very important part. Our entrepreneurs' recollection of their journey will help students learn from real-life experiences. During the sessions, we should have a two-way interaction between students and entrepreneurs in a small setting of 30-40 for better communication and understanding," said Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

Last year, 4,000 entrepreneurs had interacted with 3 lakh students. Senior officials said another component of the EMC is a micro-research project. This aims to involve 7 lakh students in interviewing their neighbours and relatives who are into various professions. Through structured interviews, students will learn about different career choices available to them.



Education Minister Manish Sisodia

Senior officials said the government is also planning to give seed money to students of classes XI and XII for field projects, which will roll out in April and July for both classes.

"We will give out seed money of Rs 1,000 to each student for their field project. They will be involved in entrepreneurial activities, which will enable them to 'think-out-of-the-box' and take on a solution-centric approach. We are also aiming to kick-start our training sessions for officers, mentor teachers and EMC coordinators by April. This will facilitate smooth implementation and execution of the EMC programme," said Sisodia.

Senior officials said another component of the EMC is a micro-research project. This aims to involve 7 lakh students in interviewing their neighbours and relatives who are into various professions. Through structured interviews, students will learn about different career choices available to them.

**At meet, Gambhir raises slow pace of work at Ghazipur landfill**

**ABHINAV RAJPUT**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 18

EAST DELHI MP Gautam Gambhir expressed displeasure at the Parliamentary Standing Committee meeting held on Monday over the slow pace of work in decreasing the height of the Ghazipur landfill, it is learnt.

Sources said Gambhir highlighted that government agencies and MCDs were not taking substantial steps to remove the

residue left after the tromelling process. He is also learnt to have expressed disappointment over the quality of water being supplied in areas around the site.

In September 2017, two people had died after a part of the landfill, which should have been closed 17 years ago as it had exceeded its capacity, collapsed. It is among four dump sites in the capital, spread over 70 acres and taller than a 15-storey building.

The mountain of trash is a stark reminder of administrative apathy

and the capital's struggle with waste management.

The East MCD has started segregating and processing 640 metric tonnes of waste dumped daily at the landfill through a trommel-cum-ballistic machine.

The machine, divided in four parts, will help segregate construction and demolition waste, plastic, inert soil and inert waste.

Sources said while construction and demolition waste is taken to waste-to-energy plants, it is inert soil and waste that is not

being carried away from the site.

Besides Gambhir, East MCD municipal commissioner Dilraj Kaur, senior Delhi Jal Board officials and some politicians were present at Monday's meeting.

Gambhir said water in the area had deteriorated to such an extent that it is visibly yellow in most households near the site.

Now that polls are over, he said there should be a joint effort to solve the problem. Kaur said, "We are in talks with NHAI for using the inert waste in making roads."

Gambhir told *The Indian Express*,

"This is the Asia's biggest landfill; the problem can't be solved just by civic agencies which do not even have enough money to pay staff. The Centre, Delhi government and MCDs will have to join hands to solve this."

"Everyone's garbage is thrown here and responsibility to clean it should also be taken by everyone... I have written to CM Arvind Kejriwal asking him to set aside a date and time to visit the area," he said.

Gambhir visited the landfill, Tuesday. **Abhinav Saha**

**Quarantined but not isolated, say those leaving ITBP facility**

**ASTHA SAXENA**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 18

FROM A 72-year-old man to a pregnant woman and an infant, 406 people who were evacuated from China shared a common roof for two weeks at the Indo Tibetan Border Police facility in Outer Delhi's Chhawla. Hailing from different parts of the country, and placed under quarantine away from their families, they became each other's support system.

"Toilets here were not functional when we were allotted this task, so while we were fixing them, we got portable toilets for students. The ones available to us were those used for the Republic Day function, so we mobilised those and also asked for more... hot water was also available for more time within three-four days... some students got a little worried but we told them their complaints were being resolved," said Major General Dutta.

In the two weeks the evacuees spent at the facility, regular conversations with their families and the food provided to them kept their spirits up.

Both of these, officials said, were intentionally given specific focus.

"We wanted to give them

good food so they felt happy.

Lots of variety was also given,

because evacuees were from across

the country.

The aim was to ensure

they were not stressed,

which is why we allowed them

to keep their phones," said the Major General.

Although the evacuees were

released on Tuesday, with buses

being arranged to transport

them to the railway station,

airport or bus stop, officials said

they have issued an advisory

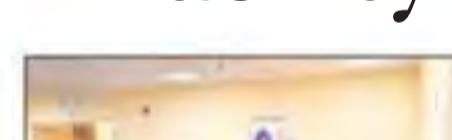
on follow-up and care

needed, and have been directed

to alert officials if they experience

any cough or cold in the

next 14 days.



While most have left the facility, 48 more people are set to leave Wednesday

even from Maldives. We made sure all of them get their choice of food. The woman who was pregnant was given an ample diet and doctors regularly checked up on her. The infant was provided a diet full of milk and the oldest member of the family was provided food as per his need. We all lived like a family," said Dr Harvinder Singh, who was posted at the facility.

Dr Singh said he has been receiving messages from those who have left. "Everyone is healthy, this is what we were hoping for. It's the biggest reward for us," he said, while checking the final list of people who are set to leave.

A group of students from Kerala, who left Monday night, said the facility turned out to be a common meeting place for Indian students who never met in China despite living there for years.

"We were worried about how we will be airlifted to India. We sent an email to the Indian Embassy and authorities were quick to arrange facilities. In this facility, we have met so many people who have been living in China for so long.. We have exchanged numbers and will stay in touch now," said Rubik Roy, a student.



we left, we saw many locals roaming around in parks without masks; it was as if they had surrendered to fate," said a student. "We managed to escape, but there are still students of other nationalities who are stuck there."

Even as students completed the formalities to return to India, Indian Army personnel were working towards setting up a facility for them in Manesar, chosen due to its distance from the main city, with fencing on the perimeter, allowing a "clear cut divide".

"The wiring also needed to be taken care of, and our Army personnel who were trained in this had to be deployed here because civilians had backed out."

Setting up the facility, divided into 14 barracks – 10 capable of

keeping their doors and windows closed, since "they used to do some kind of chemical fumigation". Food shortage, they said, was a constant concern.

Another student said, "There was no entertainment, nothing to keep people motivated, so the

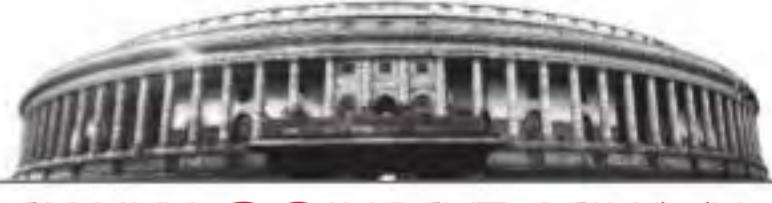
government would do things like telling people to sing the national anthem together. They would tell people that at 8 pm, you all have to sing the national anthem from your balconies."

"Before us, the French and the Americans had left. The day

we left, we saw many locals roaming around in parks without masks; it was as if they had surrendered to fate," said a student. "We managed to escape, but there are still students of other nationalities who are stuck there."

Even as students completed the formalities to return to India, Indian Army personnel were working towards setting up a facility for them in Manesar, chosen due to its distance from the main city, with fencing on the perimeter, allowing a "clear cut divide".

"The wiring also needed to be taken care of, and our Army personnel who



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



## WORK CUT OUT

BJP PRESIDENT J P Nadda on Tuesday appointed party general secretary P Muralidhar Rao as the Centre's observer to elect a Leader of Opposition in Jharkhand Assembly. While the party won 25 seats in the 81-member House, Rao's job will be to make all of them agree to former Jharkhand CM Babul Marandi taking the post. Marandi's JMM(P), which had split from the BJP, has just merged back with the saffron party. Although Marandi could not bring two fellow MLAs along with him to the BJP, it seems the party leadership is determined to assign him the job of Leader of Opposition. On Tuesday, Nadda also appointed another BJP general secretary, Saroj Pande, to oversee the election of a legislature party leader for BJP in Delhi Assembly, where the party's tally has gone up from three to eight. Both Rao and Pande have tough jobs ahead.

## IN MEMORY

LESS THAN a week after the government named two prominent institutes under the External Affairs Ministry after former minister Sushma Swaraj, the government has decided to honour, in a similar manner, another late leader who held an important portfolio in the previous term of the Narendra Modi government. The Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, a premier defence think tank, has been rechristened Manohar Parrikar Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses. The government said in a statement it has been done to "honour the commitment and legacy" of the former Defence minister". The IDSA is headed by the Defence Minister.

## RECRUITMENT ON TRACK

THE RAILWAYS had written to UPSC and asked it to withdraw the indent it had placed to recruit officers from Civil Services Examination and the Engineering Services Examination for this year since all eight Group-A services are slated to be merged into a single Indian Railway Management Service. The UPSC, however, brought out examination notification recently which indicated that recruitment to the Railway services are also on the cards through UPSC exams this year. It turns out that irrespective of the notification, the vacancy against each Railway service would be nil, as the Railways would indicate that it does not intend to recruit anyone from these exams for its eight organised services.

## MP: Proposal to send Priyanka to RS puts Digvijaya, Scindia's claims in a spot

MILIND GHATWAI

Bhopal, February 18

WITH THE tenure of three Rajya Sabha members from Madhya Pradesh ending on April 9, a campaign on behalf of, and against, the hopefuls in ruling Congress and opposition BJP has begun.

Speculation and whisper campaign about who will succeed former chief minister and senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh, and BJP leaders Prabhat Jha and Satyanarayan Jatia, are doing the rounds of both party headquarters.

For the first time in 16 years, Rajya Sabha polls will be held in the state with BJP in Opposition. Given the current arithmetic, the Congress is set to win two of three seats, with one likely for BJP.

It will take 58 first-preference votes to win. In the 230-member Assembly, there are two vacancies caused by death of two MLAs. The Congress's current strength is 114 and BJP has 107 MLAs. The Kamal Nath government enjoys support of four Independents, one Samajwadi Party MLA and two BSP members.

In the backdrop of the sabre-rattling between Chief Minister Nath and former Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, PWD Minister Sajjan Singh Varma, seen as close to Nath, set the cat among the pigeons by suddenly making a pitch for Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to be sent to the Upper House from MP.

A vocal opponent of Digvijaya Singh, Varma had opened a front against the senior leader when he had filed his Rajya Sabha nomination in 2014. His latest move puts both Scindia, who is hoping for a Rajya Sabha berth, and Singh, who hopes to continue, in awkward position. Immediately after he



Digvijaya, Scindia

suggested Priyanka's name, many other party leaders, including former state Congress chief Arun Yadav, backed the proposal.

Should the party heed to the clamour for Priyanka, the others will have to fight for the sole seat.

Scindia has not only found it difficult to reconcile to his loss from Guna-Shivpuri in last summer's Lok Sabha elections but is also getting increasingly cagey because the party so far has not considered his claim as state unit chief, a post currently held by Nath himself.

Amid constant speculation over Scindia turning a rebel and switching loyalty, a BJP insider said the saffron party could even try to entice the former Union minister with a Rajya Sabha ticket.

Even BJP is saddled with a dilemma about the solitary berth it is assured of. Although Prabhat Jha has been nominated to the Upper House twice, he has again thrown his hat in the ring.

Speculation is rife over nomination of former CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan in the event he is included in the Union ministry. Chouhan has on multiple occasions in the past expressed unwillingness about a role in Centre and asserted that he is more comfortable in state politics.

Senior BJP leader Kailash Vijayvargiya's is another name doing the rounds in BJP circles.

**EC holds meet with Law Ministry, talks electoral reforms**

New Delhi: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday held detailed discussions with the Legislative Department of the Ministry of Law and Justice on various issues related to pending electoral reforms, including Aadhaar linking with electoral rolls.

According to the ECI, several important matters were taken up during the meeting such as more than one qualification date in a year for becoming an elector; Aadhaar linking with electoral rolls; paid news and false affidavits as electoral offence/corrupt practice; covering print media and social media intermediaries under Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951; substituting the term 'wife' by 'spouse' in the Representation of the People Act, 1951, to facilitate electoral registration to spouses of women of officials in the category of service voters; and an amendment in the Contribution Form.

Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora said there are more than 40 different proposals on electoral reforms. "The commission would like to have such meetings with the Legislative Department at regular intervals..." he said.

Meanwhile, an anonymous four-page letter is being circulated on social media, and in BJP circles, suggesting that Yediyurappa should step down as CM and play the role of an advisor or "margdarshak" after he turns 77 on February 27 this year. The letter claims that Yediyurappa's family has begun to play active roles in the administration, which goes against the BJP's principles.

The letter says the BJP's central leadership was not in favour of the veteran leader assuming the position of CM.

BJP leaders and Yediyurappa's associates refused to comment on the letter. "We don't know the thinking of the high command. Let us see what they decide," said a state party leader.

ENS

# BJP MLAs meet Shettar, trigger talk of dissidence in Karnataka unit

JOHNSON T A &  
LIZ MATHEW  
BENGALURU, NEW DELHI,  
FEBRUARY 18

A MEETING held by senior BJP leaders who have been denied Cabinet posts in the B S Yediyurappa government in Karnataka and an unsigned letter being circulated on social media seeking replacement of Yediyurappa, who turns 77 this month, has triggered speculation of dissidence brewing in the BJP.

On Monday evening, a group of senior BJP MLAs — Umesh Katti, Murugesh Nirani, Arvind Bellad and Shankar Patil Munenkoppa — met former chief minister Jagadish Shettar, who now holds the Industries portfolio, at his residence. All these MLAs were aspirants for ministerial posts but were not inducted into the Yediyurappa Cabinet in the recent expansion, when only 10 rebels from the Congress and JD(S) — who helped the BJP establish a clear majority in the Assembly — were inducted as ministers.

A day later, the party — both at the state and central level — played down the meeting.

Shettar himself denied organising a meeting of dissidents. He rushed to Yediyurappa's home for a breakfast meeting in the morning to clarify that some senior party MLAs had met him regarding issues pertaining to the industries ministry in their constituencies, and no dissident activities had taken place.

"I did not hold any meeting of the MLAs. A few MLAs came to my residence to discuss issues in their constituencies. People keep coming to meet me and I cannot stop them," Shettar said.

"It was not a meeting of dissidents. I have explained to the chief minister," he said.

The Yediyurappa camp also rejected speculation of dissidence in the party. "Some rumours were spread by a disgruntled former assistant of the CM of a meeting of dissidents. There is no such activity or concern in the government," said an associate of the Chief Minister.

In Delhi, the party's central leadership firmly backed



Yediyurappa, Shettar

petent leaders," the leader said.

According to sources, some senior party leaders have communicated their differences and disillusionment with Yediyurappa's style of functioning. A BJP leader admitted that some of them had expressed displeasure over "interference" by Yediyurappa's son, B Y Vijayendra, in the functioning of the government. "There are complaints that he acts like a super CM in the state," said the leader.

However, sources said, the national leadership is "strongly backing" Yediyurappa. "He is the most popular leader and the party has experienced huge losses by antagonising him," said a BJP leader.

Among the MLAs who met at Shettar's residence on Monday, Umesh Katti has been aggrieved over losing out on a Cabinet position despite winning eight elections. He recently met BJP central leaders in Delhi, in what is believed to be an attempt to muster support for his candidature. Murugesh Nirani, a former industries minister, has also been canvassing for a post.

BJP sources said Yediyurappa may induce Katti and another senior BJP leader, Arvind Limbavalli, into the Cabinet by April, but would not carry out any other major changes till June, when there may be a big reshuffle after polls to the Legislative Council, where several members are scheduled to retire.

Meanwhile, an anonymous four-page letter is being circulated on social media, and in BJP circles, suggesting that Yediyurappa should step down as CM and play the role of an advisor or "margdarshak" after he turns 77 on February 27 this year.

Party sources termed the developments as "pressure tactics" by state leaders. "Those who could not be accommodated (in the Cabinet)... are miffed with the state leadership. There are many senior party leaders who are waiting in the wings to succeed Yediyurappa. They just want to keep the political scene active there," said a senior party leader.

"There is pressure from both the groups. In fact, the state unit is facing an issue of plenty of com-

'NITISH CAN'T CHOOSE BETWEEN GANDHI AND GODSE'

## Prashant Kishor floats initiative for 'alternative' politics in Bihar

SANTOSH SINGH  
PATNA, FEBRUARY 18

POLL STRATEGIST Prashant Kishor on Tuesday announced a new political initiative — 'Baat Bihar Ki' — that aims to bring together nearly 10 lakh people on issues related to the youth and development at the panchayat level within 100 days.

Announcing the initiative, Kishor said, "Let me settle all speculation. I am not here to help any party or alliance win or lose, but to offer a mid-term or long-term idea of a new Bihar in the coming 10 years. My 100-day plan involves hitting the base in all Bihar panchayats and to create a platform from the aspiration of youths."

He said about three lakh people from all sections of society at the panchayat level had already registered with his initiative and another seven lakh members would be added over the next 100 days. Asked if he would still work for the RJD or Congress, he said, "I have made it clear that I am not going to be associated with any party in any manner."

Kishor, who was expelled from the JD(U) last month, also hit out at Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, saying he was caught between "Gandhi and Godse". He



Prashant Kishor at a press conference in Patna. Ashok Sinha

said that his ouster from the JD(U) was because of "conflicting ideological positions", especially due to Kumar's stand on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and ambivalence on National Population Register.

Kishor said the CM may have brought development to Bihar "in comparison to what Lalu Prasad did" but the development indices remain dismal when compared to other states. "In 2005, we were in 22th position in per capita income, we stood there in 2015. Still, Nitish Kumar thinks that he is the sole-bearer of growth and development. It is only because no one is trying to show him the correct picture," said Kishor.

Saying he treated Nitish as "a father figure", Kishor added, "But

we differed because of two reasons — his ideological position under the given politics of hyper-nationalism and bipolar polity of the BJP under garb of CAA-NPR-NRC, and his failure to effect development after his return to NDA. Did he get special category status for Bihar? He had requested Central university status for Patna University from the Prime Minister with hands folded. But is there even a single correspondence on this?"

Taking a dig at Union Home Minister Amit Shah, he said that it was "preposterous that a man from Gujarat is coming here and saying that Nitish will be the leader in the next poll".

"Hasn't Nitish Kumar been a

leader for 13 years? Does he

need anyone to say this?" asked Kishor adding that it would not matter if he remained the Chief Minister for two more years.

**EXPLAINED**  
Focus on grassroots

PRASHANT KISHOR'S idea is offering "alternative politics" at the panchayat and village levels with his new initiative. He says if there is a force of 1,000 youth in each panchayat, they would be change agents of alternative politics in his long-term plan. However, the initiative is also being seen as a bid to cut into Nitish Kumar's political support base and create a new one. The only question is how soon and what manner of alternative politics Kishor offers — especially when caste plays a significant role in the state's politics.

The Congress indicated that the leadership issue is still open. Sharad Yadav, 72, has been in national politics for decades. Elected to Lok Sabha seven times and Rajya Sabha thrice, he is unlikely to be in the running for the CM's position. His name is seen as having been set afloat to set the stage for a change, and take the leadership mantle from the hands of Tejashwi, or any other member of Lalu Prasad's family so long as the former Bihar CM remains in jail.

The expression of a lack of confidence in Tejashwi's leadership by RLSP chief Upendra Kushwaha and VIP president Mukesh Sahni on February 13 stems from their conviction that Tejashwi would not be able to pose a serious challenge to the BJP-JD(U)-LJP combine under Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Fadnavis had moved the Supreme Court last month against its judgment on his previous plea that had quashed an order of the Bombay High Court's Nagpur bench exonerating Fadnavis for not mentioning two criminal cases in his affidavit. The High Court had given him relief by quashing a sessions court order finding merit in petitioner Satish Uke's claim that Fadnavis ought to have mentioned the two cases dating back to 1996 and 1998.

On October 1, 2019, a bench led by then Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi had upheld the plea by Uke against Fadnavis's exoneration by the High Court and ordered retrial in its judgment.

Fadnavis had moved the Supreme Court last month against its judgment on his previous plea that had quashed an order of the Bombay High Court's Nagpur bench exonerating Fadnavis for not mentioning two criminal cases in his affidavit. The High Court had given him relief by quashing a sessions court order finding merit in petitioner Satish Uke's claim that Fadnavis ought to have mentioned the two cases dating back to 1996 and 1998.

Meanwhile, the retrial is on in a Nagpur court, which had directed Fadnavis to be present. The latter, however, skipped appearance on four occasions citing different reasons. The next hearing is on February 20.

The court also directed the CBI to hand over copies of certain deficient documents to all the

## Bihar: Oppn props up Sharad in bid to take down Tejashwi; RJD says no way

PRADEEP KAUSHAL  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 18

THE OPPOSITION in Bihar, led by Lalu Prasad's RJD, may be looking at a leadership tussle as the stage is laid for the Assembly elections, due in October-November this year.

While non-Congress alliance partners such as Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP), Vikasheel Insaan Party (VIP) and Hindustani Awam Morcha-Secular (HAM-S) are trying to project multiple-time Parliamentarian Sharad Yadav as the Opposition's chief ministerial face, seen more as a ploy to remove Lalu's son and Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav from the leadership role, the RJD seems to be in no mood to oblige.

Lalu, who is in jail in Ranchi in a fodder scam case, is learnt to have been informed of reservations of some of the allies on Tejashwi's leadership but was not receptive to any suggestion for change. In what is being seen as a firm rejection of that proposal, Tejashwi is poised to undertake a state-wide "Berozgar hatao (remove unemployment) yatra" from February 23.

The Congress indicated that the leadership issue is still open.

Sharad Yadav, 72, has been in national politics for decades. Elected to Lok Sabha seven times and Rajya Sabha thrice, he is unlikely to be in the running for the CM's position. His name is seen as having been set afloat to set the stage for a change, and take the leadership mantle from the hands of Tejashwi, or any other member of Lalu Prasad's family so long as the former Bihar CM remains in jail.

The expression of a lack of confidence in Tejashwi's leadership by RLSP chief Upendra Kushwaha and VIP president Mukesh Sahni on February 13 stems from their conviction that Tejashwi would not be able to pose a serious challenge to the BJP-JD(U)-LJP combine under Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Congress spokesperson Rajesh Rathore said: "The question of leadership will be decided jointly by all constituents at an appropriate time. Until then, people are free to express their opinion."

Tejashwi had made his debut in electoral politics in 2015 on a promising note, first as deputy CM to Nitish in the Grand Alliance government, and later as the Leader of Opposition after Nitish's return to NDA. But he gradually lost traction for a variety of reasons. The result was the RJD drew a blank in 2019 Lok Sabha polls, a first since Lalu founded the party in 1997.

The expression of a lack of confidence in Tejashwi's leadership by RLSP chief Upendra Kushwaha and VIP president Mukesh Sahni on February 13 stems from their conviction that Tejashwi would not be able to pose a serious challenge to the BJP-JD(U)-LJP combine under Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Meanwhile, the retrial is on in a Nagpur court, which had directed Fadnavis to be present. The latter, however, skipped appearance on four occasions citing different reasons. The next hearing is on February 20.

The court also directed the CBI to hand over copies of certain deficient documents to all the

bureaucrats include Ajit Kumar Dungdung, then Section Officer; Rabindra Prasad, then Under



## NORTH

### Buddhist monks on peace mission stopped at Pak border

**Barmer:** Thirteen Buddhist monks on a global peace mission from Thailand to France had to return from Barmer after they were not allowed to undertake further journey to neighbouring Pakistan through Rajasthan's Munabao border. According to a police official, they were

stopped from entering the area restricted for foreigners in Barmer, over 100 kilometres away from the Indo-Pakistan border. Now, they will go to the Attari-Wagah border crossing, a police official said. The monks have a valid visa for India and Pakistan.

PTI



Congress workers protest against the hike in the prices of LPG cylinders in Coimbatore on Tuesday. PTI

## EAST

### Police officer, three others arrested for snatching gold

**Malda (WB):** Four persons, including a junior police officer and a civic volunteer were arrested in connection with the snatching of one-and-a-half-kg gold valued at Rs 50 lakh, the police said on Tuesday. All the four were produced before a local court on Tuesday and remanded to police custody for six days. The snatching had reportedly

taken place here in May, 2019 when the gold was allegedly being taken to Kolkata from Malda, the police said. A verbal complaint was lodged with the Malda police after the incident but the written one was submitted six months later in November that year. The police investigation was launched after it, the police said.

PTI

## WEST

### Goa govt bans drinking during carnival float parades

**Panaji:** Consumption of liquor in public will not be allowed during the famous Goa Carnival float parades from this year, the state government said on Tuesday. Unveiling the programme for the Carnival 2020 celebrations, which will be held between February 22 and February 25, Tourism Minister Manohar Ajaonkar said, "People

won't be allowed to drink on streets while they watch the float parades". The move is part of the ban on drinking in public places which is already in force in Goa, he said. Shalom Sardinha, a lawyer, has been selected as King Momo — a mythological figure which heads float parades organised by the state tourism department — this year.

PTI

## SOUTH

### 'Cyanide' Mohan gets life term in 19th murder case

**Mangaluru:** Notorious serial killer 'Cyanide' Mohan has been sentenced to life imprisonment by a court here for the murder of a 23-year-old woman from Kasaragod district of Kerala in 2006, the 19th of the 20 murder cases slapped against him. Sixth additional district and sessions court judge Sayeedunnisa on Monday

sentenced Mohan to life and imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 on him. The sentence shall commence after he serves the sentences in the other cases, the judge said. Earlier, he had been awarded the death sentence in five cases and life imprisonment in three cases. Two of the death penalties were later commuted to life in jail.

PTI

sanctioned strength of 94 judges — 71 permanent judges and 23 additional judges — and at present has 72 judges. This number will be down to 68 by April-end.

Justice Satyaranjan C Dharmadhikari, who resigned last week, was the second most senior judge of Bombay HC. Although he maintained that he resigned for "personal reasons", he clarified that it was due to his reluctance to move out of Mumbai — he was being considered for transfer to Orissa High Court as the Chief Justice.

Sources told *The Indian Express* that the SC Collegium had discussed the move with Justice

The timing of Justice Dharmadhikari's transfer to Orissa HC, close on the heels of Chief Justice Nandrajog's retirement is crucial. While this was a promotion for Justice

Bombay High Court has a

# EXPRESS NETWORK

## J&K: Panchayat by-elections deferred after parties meet CEO

Poll official cites no reason; inputs from Home regarding security issues

**ARUN SHARMA**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 18

BARELY FIVE days after announcing by-elections to over 12,000 vacant seats in village panchayats across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) on Tuesday evening deferred the poll process. Sources cited "security reasons" for the move.

CEO Shailendra Kumar told *The Indian Express* that by-elections have been deferred for 2-3 weeks, but he did not cite any reasons.

However, sources said the decision came after inputs from the Home Department regarding security issues over the next three to four weeks.

Earlier in the day, leaders of major mainstream political parties, aside from those from the BJP, had asked the election authority to defer the bypolls in view of the continued restrictions in place in the region and the detention of senior leaders.

Those attending the meeting included leaders of the BJP, the National Conference, the Congress, the PDP and the Panthers Party.

PDP general secretary Surinder Chowdhary staged a walkout from the meeting saying, "we cannot participate as all our senior leaders are under de-



(From left) National Conference leader Rattan Lal Gupta, Congress's G N Monga, Panthers Party's Harshdev Singh and Monga's party colleague Ravinder Sharma after meeting the Chief Electoral Officer in Jammu on Tuesday. Express

tention."

Elections for 35,029 panches and 4,483 sarpanches were held on a non-party basis in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir (which included Ladakh) in November-December 2018.

However, most of the Panchayat seats in Kashmir Valley could not be filled due to a poll boycott, while several other seats fell vacant when the candidate got elected to the block development council.

Now, the election authority is holding by-elections on a party basis in eight phases to fill up these 12,650 vacant seats. Of these, Kashmir has 12,344 va-

cancies. Poll notifications had already been issued for the first and second phase of elections — scheduled for March 5 and 7 respectively.

"The general consensus among all non-BJP parties was that these by-elections shall be deferred as the situation is not conducive in view of the detention of most of their political leaders in Valley," said National Conference vice president Rattan Lal Gupta.

"You (election authorities) claimed the 2018 panchayat elections were a major success. Then from where have these vacancies come?" he asked, adding that it was because "peo-

ple did not participate". Pointing out that there were instances of a person getting elected only on a single vote during the 2018 elections, he said "we told the election authority that the by-elections will make you a laughing stock."

Asking how by-elections on a party basis were possible when senior leaders of most political parties were detained or barred from meeting people, Panther Party chairman and former minister Harshdev Singh asked the election authorities to first get all the detained leaders released, restore security cover to Opposition leaders and to ensure a level playing field.

Congress spokesperson Ravinder Sharma questioned the motive behind the by-elections being held on a party basis while the general elections were held differently. "We suggested to the election authority to either defer these elections for some time, or get Opposition politicians released from detention and allow them to go to the people and give them time so that situation becomes congenial for participation," he added.

On Monday, the UT administration had denied permission to Congress state chief G A Mir from travelling to Kashmir to hold discussions with party leaders and workers regarding the by-elections.

He said the CAA and the NRC were two different issues and his government will not allow the NRC to be implemented in the state. The Congress and the NCP have expressed reservations on



Uddhav Thackeray

Uddhav backs NPR, says will personally check questionnaire

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 18

**CHIEF MINISTER** Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday came out in support of the National Population Register (NPR), suggesting that he had no problems in rolling out the exercise in Maharashtra. Thackeray claimed he would personally check the columns in the NPR questionnaire and said there shouldn't be any problem with the exercise.

Thackeray's stand is in variance with that of his allies, the Congress and the NCP, which have been vehement in their opposition to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) as well as the NPR.

"Nobody should fear about the CAA. The NRC hasn't come and will not come. If the NRC is implemented, it will create problems not only for Muslims but for Hindus, Dalits, tribals and others. The Centre has not made any statement on the NRC. The NPR is a census and I will personally go through the columns in the form. I don't think there will be any problem in it. The census is carried out every ten years," Thackeray told mediapersons in Sindhudurg.

He said the CAA and the NRC were two different issues and his government will not allow the NRC to be implemented in the state. The Congress and the NCP have expressed reservations on

the implementation of the NPR. Both parties said the three allies — the Sena, NCP and Congress — will sit together to decide on the question.

Sources in the government said the first phase of the census will be carried out in the state between May 1 and June 15 this year. The government issued a notification in this regard last week.

The first phase includes "house listing operations" that requires such data as information on the building, head of the household, its ownership with others and assets.

But NCP chief Sharad Pawar, who had a crucial role in bringing together the ideologically disparate Sena and Congress, played it down. "As a party our stand against it is clear because we have voted against it in Parliament. However, as a part of the government we have not decided on it yet. As an alliance, we share common grounds on certain issues while on certain subjects there is variance," Pawar said.

## Mufti daughter hits out at govt attitude

**ABANTIKA GHOSH**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 18

IF KASHMIRIS gravitate towards Pakistan it is not their fault but the government's attitude which is forcing them, Ittija Mufti, daughter of jailed former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and People's Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti, said on Tuesday.

She also said if Home Minister Amit Shah can "tour the state openly, I will salute him".

Ittija, 31, who was in Delhi, professed respect for Prime Minister Narendra Modi but said it seems he is "either being misled or is wilfully misleading the country".

"I will not lie," she said while interacting with journalists at the Indian Women's Press Corps, "politicians are indeed discredited (in J&K). There is a lot of anger among Kashmiris, and this alienation has increased after abrogation of Article 370. They are upset that the rest of India has not spoken up. Politicians such as Mehbooba Mufti and Omar Abdullah were buffers, (but) now you have removed them... There is a lot of anger against dubious means adopted by the government."

After the accident, a heated argument took place between Sachin and Amit, police said. Amit allegedly slapped Puranmal. The situation took an ugly turn when Sachin and Amit called their aides, who indulged in pelting bricks and also opened fire. A bullet hit Sachin on the neck and he died on the spot. The assailants then fled, police said. Local residents set ablaze a motorcycle belonging to one of the accused.

A police team reached the spot and the injured were taken to the district hospital. Doctors declared Sachin dead on arrival. Those injured are undergoing treatment and their condition was stable, hospital sources said.

Aligarh SSP Akash Kulhary said, three persons were arrested and a search was on for the other accused.

Puranmal Prajapati is a former state secretary of Samajwadi Party.

Kerala couple lose 6 kids in 9 yrs, cops file FIR, exhume infant's body



Ittija Mufti in Delhi on Tuesday. Tashi Tobgyal

370, parts of which dealing with special status accorded to the erstwhile state was revoked. But there has not been any outreach since, she added.

Ittija said: "When history is written I don't want to be on the wrong side. It is true that Pakistan has fished in troubled waters, but look at what you have done to Kashmir. If Kashmiris now gravitate towards Pakistan, it will not be their fault. It is the attitude of this government... Armymen are checking phones of children to check whether they are using VPN (virtual private network) and slapping UAPA on them — a law that was used for terrorists. Successive governments have tried to rule Kashmir with an iron fist, but it does not work. (Atal Bihari) Vajpayee ji understood this — you cannot bulldoze emotions and aspirations."

India, she said, is no longer the place she grew up in. "I grew up a proud Indian. My grandfather was an Indian by conviction. But now we have become a Hindu (version of) Pakistan; intolerance has affected people like a virus," she said.

She claimed that in October last year, just before the UN General Assembly session, the Union government had approached her mother to make her sign an "illegal undertaking" to forbid her to speak about Article

370, parts of which dealing with special status accorded to the erstwhile state was revoked. But there has not been any outreach since, she added.

Ittija said: "When history is written I don't want to be on the wrong side. It is true that Pakistan has fished in troubled waters, but look at what you have done to Kashmir. If Kashmiris now gravitate towards Pakistan, it will not be their fault. It is the attitude of this government... Armymen are checking phones of children to check whether they are using VPN (virtual private network) and slapping UAPA on them — a law that was used for terrorists. Successive governments have tried to rule Kashmir with an iron fist, but it does not work. (Atal Bihari) Vajpayee ji understood this — you cannot bulldoze emotions and aspirations."

India, she said, is no longer the place she grew up in. "I grew up a proud Indian. My grandfather was an Indian by conviction. But now we have become a Hindu (version of) Pakistan; intolerance has affected people like a virus," she said.

She claimed that in October last year, just before the UN General Assembly session, the Union government had approached her mother to make her sign an "illegal undertaking" to forbid her to speak about Article

370, parts of which dealing with special status accorded to the erstwhile state was revoked. But there has not been any outreach since, she added.

Ittija said: "When history is written I don't want to be on the wrong side. It is true that Pakistan has fished in troubled waters, but look at what you have done to Kashmir. If Kashmiris now gravitate towards Pakistan, it will not be their fault. It is the attitude of this government... Armymen are checking phones of children to check whether they are using VPN (virtual private network) and slapping UAPA on them — a law that was used for terrorists. Successive governments have tried to rule Kashmir with an iron fist, but it does not work. (Atal Bihari) Vajpayee ji understood this — you cannot bulldoze emotions and aspirations."

India, she said, is no longer the place she grew up in. "I grew up a proud Indian. My grandfather was an Indian by conviction. But now we have become a Hindu (version of) Pakistan; intolerance has affected people like a virus," she said.

She claimed that in October last year, just before the UN General Assembly session, the Union government had approached her mother to make her sign an "illegal undertaking" to forbid her to speak about Article

370, parts of which dealing with special status accorded to the erstwhile state was revoked. But there has not been any outreach since, she added.

Ittija said: "When history is written I don't want to be on the wrong side. It is true that Pakistan has fished in troubled waters, but look at what you have done to Kashmir. If Kashmiris now gravitate towards Pakistan, it will not be their fault. It is the attitude of this government... Armymen are checking phones of children to check whether they are using VPN (virtual private network) and slapping UAPA on them — a law that was used for terrorists. Successive governments have tried to rule Kashmir with an iron fist, but it does not work. (Atal Bihari) Vajpayee ji understood this — you cannot bulldoze emotions and aspirations."

India, she said, is no longer the place she grew up in. "I grew up a proud Indian. My grandfather was an Indian by conviction. But now we have become a Hindu (version of) Pakistan; intolerance has affected people like a virus," she said.

She claimed that in October last year, just before the UN General Assembly session, the Union government had approached her mother to make her sign an "illegal undertaking" to forbid her to speak about Article

370, parts of which dealing with special status accorded to the erstwhile state was revoked. But there has not been any outreach since, she added.

Ittija said: "When history is written I don't want to be on the wrong side. It is true that Pakistan has fished in troubled waters, but look at what you have done to Kashmir. If Kashmiris now gravitate towards Pakistan, it will not be their fault. It is the attitude of this government... Armymen are checking phones of children to check whether they are using VPN (virtual private network) and slapping UAPA on them — a law that was used for terrorists. Successive governments have tried to rule Kashmir with an iron fist, but it does not work. (Atal Bihari) Vajpayee ji understood this — you cannot bulldoze emotions and aspirations."

India, she said, is no longer the place she grew up in. "I grew up a proud Indian. My grandfather was an Indian by conviction. But now we have become a Hindu (version of) Pakistan; intolerance has affected people like a virus," she said.

She claimed that in October last year, just before the UN General Assembly session, the Union government had approached her mother to make her sign an "illegal undertaking" to forbid her to speak about Article

370, parts of which dealing with special status accorded to the erstwhile state was revoked. But there has not been any outreach since, she added.

Ittija said: "When history is written I don't want to be on the wrong side. It is true that Pakistan has fished in troubled waters, but look at what you have done to Kashmir. If Kashmiris now gravitate towards Pakistan, it will not be their fault. It is the attitude of this government... Armymen are checking phones of children to check whether they are using VPN (virtual private network) and slapping UAPA on them — a law that was used for terrorists. Successive governments have tried to rule Kashmir with an iron fist, but it does not work. (Atal Bihari) Vajpayee ji understood this — you cannot bulldoze emotions and aspirations."

India, she said, is no longer the place she grew up in. "I grew up a proud Indian. My grandfather was an Indian by conviction. But now we have become a Hindu (version of) Pakistan; intolerance has affected people like a virus," she said.

She claimed that in October last year, just before the UN General Assembly session, the Union government had approached her mother to make her sign an "illegal undertaking" to

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION  
Bus Route Roads Department

BRR.C.No.B3/0640/2020

## e-TENDER NOTICE

e-tenders are invited for the following works in Two Cover System as per details furnished below.

Name of the work	No.of Package	Approx. value of work Rs.	E.M.D. Rs.	Eligible Class
Improvements to the Interior BT roads in various Zones	1 to 40	Lowest work value Rs.231.00 Lakhs Highest work value Rs.652.00 Lakhs	1 % of the work value	Class-1

1) Tender last date and time of submission: 23.03.2020 upto 3.00 pm

2) Bid document will be available in website <https://tntenders.gov.in>

3) Tender open date and time: 24.03.2020 at 3.30 pm.

DIPR/967/Tender/2020 Superintending Engineer (BRR)

## INVITATION OF e-QUOTATION

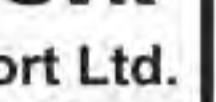
Sealed e-Quotations are invited for Contract Rate of Rewinding of Auto Transformer Starter at Pump House MC-4 of Rampuri & Kheri Disty. The Quotations will be received upto 03.00 P.M. on 24.02.2020 and the same shall be Opened in the Office of undersigned on 25.02.2020 at 03.00 P.M. in presence of Bidders who desire to be present. The Sealed Quotations for Repair must be submitted along with Earnest money in the form of DD/DAC in favour of Executive Engineer, M/Garh Water Services Mechanical Division, Narnaul. The Earnest Money required @ 2% of the Quotation amount or quoted Price by the Bidder whichever is higher.

## Sr. No. Description of Items

1.	Rewinding of 5 No. ATS (60 HP) & 3 No. ATS (25 HP) at Pump House MC-4 of Rampuri Disty & Kheri Disty.
----	---

For further details visit website: <https://etenders.hry.nic.in>.Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
M/Garh W/S Mech. Division,  
Narnaul.

7992/HRY.



## Mumbai International Airport Ltd.

## INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN BIDDING PROCESS FOR VARIOUS RETAIL CONCESSIONS AT CSMIA AIRPORT

Mumbai International Airport Limited ("MIAL") is inviting parties to participate in the competitive bidding process for various Retail concessions at CSMIA.

Parties are requested to visit the website: <https://csia.in> → Businesses → Business Opportunities → Commercial Opportunities for downloading form of Application for purchase of Request for Proposal document(s).

Please check the website for Last date and time for submission of Application.

## THE H.P. STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' FEDERATION LIMITED Totu, Shimla-171011

No: 422/P&amp;I-8/15-XIII Dated: 19.02.2020

## Short Term Tender Notice

E-tender is hereby invited for the purchase of Raw material of Bakery Biscuits in Vanilla Powder- 6qt., Baking Powder-15 qt., Salt-25 qt., Oats-34 qt., Custard Powder 8 qt. and Ajwain-12 qt. for the 3<sup>rd</sup> qtr of 2019-20 on FOR Basis at Milk Plant Totu, Shimla.

The Bid document is available online on 20.2.2020 upto 12:00 PM and bid should be submitted in online mode on website [htenders.gov.in](https://htenders.gov.in). Bidder would be required to register in the above web-site [htenders.gov.in](https://htenders.gov.in) which is free of cost. For submission on bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring Bidders should visit in <https://htenders.gov.in> & <https://hpmilkfed.org> for complete details. Bidders should also check the website from time to time to note the Corrigendum, if any.

Sd/- Managing Director

## ODISHA SKILL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

## Request for Proposal (RFP) for

## Selection of a Creative Agency for Branding and Communication Activities of Odisha Skill Development Authority

No. OSDA/17/20 Date: 18.02.20

Odisha Skill Development Authority Bhubaneswar, Odisha, invites proposals from reputed agencies for selection as Creative Agency for undertaking Branding and Communication activities of Odisha Skill Development Authority. The details regarding eligibility criteria, scope of work to be taken up, EOI schedule, terms and conditions and the prescribed application formats are available on the website [www.odisha.gov.in](http://www.odisha.gov.in), and [www.skillodisha.gov.in](http://www.skillodisha.gov.in) which may be downloaded for use or the intending applicants can collect hard copy of the RfP from the office of OSDA, Bhubaneswar. Interested applicants may send their offers containing all the requisite details in sealed covers to the undersigned by 3 P.M. of 11.03.2020 through Registered Post-Speed Post/ Courier or in the drop box (placed at addressed mentioned below) only and the same will be opened at 3.30 P.M. on the same day. The Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the offers without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-  
Chief Executive Officer  
14027/11/0019/1920 Odisha Skill Development Authority

## INVITATION OF e-QUOTATION

Sealed e-Quotations are invited for Contract Rate of Requirement of Material in W.S. Mech. Sub Division No. II, Narnaul. The Quotations will be received upto 03.00 P.M. on 24.02.2020 and the same shall be Opened in the Office of undersigned on 25.02.2020 at 03.00 P.M. in presence of Bidders who desire to be present. The Sealed Quotations for Repair must be submitted along with Earnest money in the form of DD/DAC in favour of Executive Engineer, M/Garh Water Services Mechanical Division, Narnaul. The Earnest Money required @ 2% of the Quotation amount or quoted Price by the Bidder whichever is higher.

Sr. No. Description of Items Unit Qty.

1.	Pneumatic Timer, Type-KRTPN, Coil Voltage 380-415V, Time Range- 0.05-60 Sec. (Make:- BCH)	Nos.	01
2.	Pneumatic Timer, Type- KRTPN, Coil Voltage 230V. (Make: BCH)	Nos.	01
3.	PCB for Contactor, BCH 54 380-415V 50/60Hz, 345-380V DC Ith = 600A, Ui = 1000V	Nos.	01
4.	PCB for Contactor, BCH 57 380-415V 50/60Hz, 345-380V DC Ith = 760A, Ui = 1000V	Nos.	01
5.	MCCB 630 Amp.	Nos.	02
6.	AI. Thimble 630 mm <sup>2</sup>	Nos.	15
7.	AI. Thimble 300 mm <sup>2</sup>	Nos.	36
8.	AI. Thimble 240 mm <sup>2</sup>	Nos.	36
9.	AI. Thimble 95 mm <sup>2</sup>	Nos.	60
10.	AI. Thimble 70 mm <sup>2</sup>	Nos.	60
11.	AI. Thimble 50 mm <sup>2</sup>	Nos.	60
12.	AI. Thimble 25 mm <sup>2</sup>	Nos.	60
13.	Copper Thimble 95 mm <sup>2</sup>	Nos.	60
14.	Copper Thimble 70 mm <sup>2</sup>	Nos.	60
15.	Copper Thimble 50 mm <sup>2</sup>	Nos.	60
16.	Copper Thimble 35 mm <sup>2</sup>	Nos.	60
17.	Hexa Blade	Nos.	14
18.	Emery Paper Sheet	Nos.	30
19.	Tape	Nos. (R.Y.B.)	60
20.	10mm Graphite Packing. (White)	KG.	10
21.	Copper Bus Bar Strip 152x43x6mm	Nos.	05

For further details visit website: <https://etenders.hry.nic.in>.Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
M/Garh W/S Mech. Division,  
Narnaul.

79918/HRY.

**CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION**  
(A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)  
Regional Office: Vibhuti Khand, Gorakhpur, Lucknow- 226010  
NO: CWC/RO-LKO/ARC-Tech Malathion/2019-20/ Dated: 19.02.2020

**E-TENDER**  
e-Tender are invited from the reputed manufacturers/suppliers for ARC of 3500 Litres of Malathion 50% EC for the warehouses of Lucknow Region of Central Warehousing Corporation located in the state of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The details of terms and condition notice inviting tender may be seen and downloaded from the website [www.cewacor.nic.in](http://www.cewacor.nic.in) and [www.cwcprocure.com](http://www.cwcprocure.com). Last date for submission of tender is 19.02.2020 upto 1130 HRS.

**REGIONAL MANAGER**

**NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED**  
(A Govt. Of India Undertaking)  
SIBARI ROAD, BATHINDA - 151 003 (Pb)  
Ph. 0164-227261, 276026, FAX: 0164-2270463

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
SealedTenders/E-Tenders are invited from experienced and financially sound contractors in "Two part Bid System" for the following:

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Work Description	Estimated Cost of Works (Rs.)	Period of contract	EMD	Tender Fee	Last Date of Submission/ Authority
1.	NFB/PLU/ SB/180145	Primary Reformer (H-201) Catalyst (Qty. 22.2M <sup>3</sup> )	—	—	1.00 Lakh	—	19.03.2020 at 15:00hrs Chief Mgr. (Materials)
2.	NFB/Prod /SG & PP/ 2017-B/ 2020-21	Upkeep of Steam Generation & Material Handling Plants (2017-21)	Rs. 144.69 Lakh + GST (as applicable)	One Year	1.00/- Lakh	1000/- DGM (Production)	02.03.2020 at 10:00hrs

For further details and compilation, if any visit our website [www.nationalfertilizers.com](http://www.nationalfertilizers.com) or CPP Portal [www.eprocurement.gov.in](http://www.eprocurement.gov.in) and [www.tenderwizard.com/NFL](http://www.tenderwizard.com/NFL)

Follow us: [nfl\\_kisan@nationalfertilizers.com](mailto:nationalfertilizers@nfl_kisan@nationalfertilizers.com)

**STATE INDUSTRIES PROMOTION CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LIMITED**  
19-A, RUKMANI LAKSHMIKRISHNA ROAD, EGMORE, CHENNAI - 600 008.  
CIN U74999TN1971SC005967

**TENDER NOTICE** NO. 43/CW/DO/1/No. 61/2019-20 DT:18.02.2020

For and on behalf of State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited, sealed tenders are invited from eligible bidders with similar work experience for the below mentioned work. Last date for receipt of tenders upto 3.00 P.M. on 06.03.2020 and the same will be opened on the same day at 3.30 PM.

Name of Work	EMD	Cost of Tender Schedule and GST
Upkeeping and Maintenance of 19 SIPCOT Industrial Complexes/Parks/ Growth Centres for a period of 3 years for SIPCOT Ltd., payable at Chennai	Rs.4,05,000/- in the form of Demand Draft drawn in favour of SIPCOT Ltd., payable at Chennai	Rs.15,000/- + GST Rs.1,800/- Total of Rs.16,800/- in the form of DD in favour of SIPCOT Ltd., Payable at Chennai.

The tender Schedule can be Downloaded at free of cost from the website [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in) and [www.sipcot.com](http://www.sipcot.com) upto 5.00 PM on 05.03.2020.

MANAGING DIRECTOR, SIPCOT, CHENNAI-8

DIPR/969/TENDER/2020

**HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED**  
1st & Ground Floor, I.T. Bhawan, Mehli, Shimla-171013  
Tel. No. 0177-2623259, 2623513, 2626320, 2623513  
2623043, FAX: 0177-2626320  
Website: [www.hpsedc.in](http://www.hpsedc.in)

**No.: SEDC/SW/AMC/2020** Date:15-02-2020

**e-TENDER NOTICE**

e-Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for Selection of Agency for AMC of existing software & customization for fresh recruitment of H.P. Police recruitment for two years 2020-2022. Pre Bid Meeting will be held on 24/02/2020 at 3.00 PM, in HPSEDC, 1st Floor, I.T. Bhawan, Shimla-13

Last date for online e-bid submission is 05/03/2020 (upto 02:30 PM) and shall be opened on 06/03/2020 at 11:00 AM. Detailed Tender Document containing Technical Specifications and Terms & Conditions are available on HPSEDC website [www.hpsedc.in](http://www.hpsedc.in) and [htenders.gov.in](http://htenders.gov.in).

0773/HP General Manager (Technical)

**कर्न विभाग हरियाणा**  
कार्यालय: कर्न मंडल अधिकारी, चरखी दादरी  
वन संविदाकारों के पंजीकरण हेतु विभाग

वन विभाग, हरियाणा के बरखी दादरी वन मंडल में वर्ष 2020-21 में विभिन्न वानिकों कार्य कराने हेतु पंजीकरण प्राप्त अमंत्रित किए जाते हैं। आवेदन पत्र वन मंडल अधिकारी, च.दादरी के कार्यालय से संबंधित अथवा वन विभाग की वेबसाइट [www.haryanaforest.gov.in](http://www.haryanaforest.gov.in) से डाउनलोड किए जा सकते हैं। यह पंजीकरण 31.03.2021 तक मान्य होगा। पंजीकरण वन मंडल अधिकारी, च.दादरी के कार्यालय में नियंत्रित शुल्क देकर करवाया जा सकता है।

पंजीकरण वन मंडल अधिकारी, रोहतक रोड, नजदीकी पी. डब्ल्यू.डी. रेस्ट हाउस, च.दादरी के कार्यालय में दिनांक 26.02.2020 को साथ 3.00 बजे तक प्राप्त हो जाने चाहिए।

हस्ता./- वन मंडल अधिकारी, चरखी दादरी। (दूरभाष 012

# Fingers crossed on Trump visit: Public diplomacy vs trade deal

SUSHANT SINGH  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 18

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump's scheduled visit to India on February 24-25 is expected to be a public diplomacy success and underline New Delhi's efforts to keep him "invested" in India but could fall short on any substantive breakthroughs, say experts who follow the bilateral relationship closely and have handled these issues between the two countries in recent US administrations.

Said Ashley Tellis, who served as senior adviser to the Undersecretary of State for political affairs where he was deeply involved in negotiating the civil nuclear agreement with India: "Trump's trip will be a huge success in public diplomacy but it risks masking many deepening disagreements between the US and India on issues other than the strategic. If these are not satisfactorily resolved, the bilateral strategic convergence could be threatened because domestic politics in both countries have reached the point where the strategic partnership cannot be easily sustained on the necessity of balancing China alone."

"The visit may well generate adulterated headlines for both Modi and Trump. But at a time when there are many outstanding challenges in the relationship, the real test is whether it can be used to motivate both bureaucracies to get anything substantive done," said Joshua White, who served at the Obama White House as senior advisor and director for South Asian affairs at the National Security Council.

Paul Staniland, Associate Professor of Political Science at University of Chicago, said that the Trump visit is likely to be overshadowed by US domestic politics "including the Democratic primary, the economy, and Trump's ongoing clashes with the Democratic House".

Tellis said that he didn't expect "startling" breakthroughs but more a continuation – even if more dramatically this time – of PM Modi's long-standing efforts to keep President Trump invested in India. I think the PM's calculation is that the more Trump sees India as a friend the less likely he is to target India, especially on trade issues where Indian policy is quite problematic."

"We know Trump likes to present himself as a dealmaker so can assume some kind of deal is important to him personally. But the US and India are quite some distance apart on many of the



Ahead of US President Donald Trump's visit, artists at work in Ahmedabad on Tuesday. Javed Raja

into thinking this is something bigger than it really is."

"Current negotiations are focused on rolling back some of the bad steps on both sides that have exacerbated already-existing and frankly quite longstanding tensions: scaling back the Trump tariffs on steel and aluminum, over which India retaliated with a raft of tariffs on important US exports in particular; lifting or modifying the price caps India put in place on advanced medical devices like heart stents; and it seems the perennial Trump fixation on Harley-Davidson is driving a possible tariff reduction on >800cc motorcycles," she said.

"It remains unclear to me whether market access for US dairy products will result, as this issue involves a certification process that is really complicated. We haven't heard anything at all about investment issues or digital economy for that matter. We'll have to see how it all shakes out, but yes, a trade deal is viable. It just will likely comprise fixing some irritants, rather than creating a broad opening," she said.

Trump is not visiting Pakistan in this trip. White said that the US-Taliban deal is still fragile and whether President Trump is invested in making it succeed is anyone's guess. "Recognising New Delhi's deep and longstanding concerns about granting any concessions to the Taliban, I suspect that the President won't try to 'sell' the deal to Modi so much as inform him about it, and move on to other topics of mutual interest," he said.

The Trump administration has been needlessly combative with India on trade and investment issues, complicating an already difficult dimension of the bilateral relationship. Even a so-called 'mini deal' on trade is likely to be embarrassingly modest," said White. With Robert Lighthizer, the top US trade administrator and negotiator not visiting India along with President Trump, Ayres said she expected "to see something extremely modest on the trade front result from the trip. All progress is good progress and should be encouraged but we can't fool ourselves

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

thorns currently stuck in the sides of a larger trade relationship so the deal from this visit should be considered a helpful step – but negotiators will still need to keep focused on resolving the extensive and complicated tensions," said Alyssa Ayres, who served as US deputy assistant secretary of state for South Asia from 2010 to 2013.

"The Trump administration has been needlessly combative with India on trade and investment issues, complicating an already difficult dimension of the bilateral relationship. Even a so-called 'mini deal' on trade is likely to be embarrassingly modest," said White. With Robert Lighthizer, the top US trade administrator and negotiator not visiting India along with President Trump, Ayres said she expected "to see something extremely modest on the trade front result from the trip. All progress is good progress and should be encouraged but we can't fool ourselves

from the trip. White said that the US-Taliban deal is still fragile and whether President Trump is invested in making it succeed is anyone's guess. "Recognising New Delhi's deep and longstanding concerns about granting any concessions to the Taliban, I suspect that the President won't try to 'sell' the deal to Modi so much as inform him about it, and move on to other topics of mutual interest," he said.

The final decision rests with the administration as to what the eventual route will be taken. We have written to the Superintendent of Police (Traffic) that heavy vehicles must not be allowed. The bridge is functional, and as per limit vehicular movement takes place," a Northern Railways official said.

But, other officials said, the bridge has withstood weight of heavy vehicles in the past.

In Agra's Ajit Nagar, a large gate separates the market and Agra Air Force Station premises,

from where Trump's security cordon is to travel towards the Taj Mahal. The shopkeepers in Khushwah Market in the Kheria area have been asked by the administration to remove individual hoardings at the shops and replace them with a reddish painted board bearing the establishment's name in Hindi. While more than 50 such shops have already put the boards up, the others have been asked to do so over the next two or three days.

According to an official, the uniform hoardings will make the route look more aesthetic.

"We are not paying and are quite happy that a fresh coat of paint is coming on. We hope this is maintained," Rajesh, a shopkeeper, said.

But another resident said that the administration does not look into the civic issues ahead of VIP visits. "This entire VIP



Fountains being cleaned at Taj Mahal ahead of US President Donald Trump's visit. Anil Sharma

route has a massive flooding problem. In fact, many VIPs have been taken on a different route to avoid revealing the sewage problems. They can colour and paint and make it look pretty for others (visiting guests), but at the end of the day the locals have to bear it all," the resident said.

Officials at the Taj Mahal, meanwhile, said monkey menace has come down in an around the heritage site. Basant Swarnkar, senior ASI official at the Taj, said: "There is not a lot of problem with monkeys now. There has not been an incident (monkey attack) in the last few months...there is nothing to fear."

There is no provision of visa for arrival for UK nationals at the airport, sources said, dismissing Abrahams' contention she should have been granted a visa on arrival. Sources said that as per rules, e-business visa meant for business meetings cannot be used for visiting "family and friends", as stated by the British MP.

The Labour Party MP had said that despite having a valid visa, she was denied entry.

'Visa of British MP revoked as she was involved in anti-India activities'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 18

BRITISH LAWMAKER Debbie Abrahams' e-business visa was revoked as she was involved in anti-India activities, and the cancellation was conveyed to her on February 14, government sources said on Tuesday.

Asserting that the grant, rejection or revocation of a visa or electronic travel authorisation is the sovereign right of a country, the sources said that Abrahams was issued an e-business visa on October 7 last year and it was valid till October 5, 2020, for attending business meetings.

"Her e-business visa was revoked on February 14, 2020, on account of her indulging in activities which went against India's national interest. The rejection of the e-business visa was intimated to her on February 14," a source said.

Abrahams was not in the possession of a valid visa at the time of her arrival at the Indira Gandhi International airport here on Monday and she was asked to return, the sources said.

There is no provision of visa for arrival for UK nationals at the airport, sources said, dismissing Abrahams' contention she should have been granted a visa on arrival. Sources said that as per rules, e-business visa meant for business meetings cannot be used for visiting "family and friends", as stated by the British MP.

The Labour Party MP had said that despite having a valid visa, she was denied entry.

## Custody battle: Supreme Court says child is always the loser

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 18

THE SUPREME Court on Tuesday sought to remind that irrespective of which party wins in a custody battle, "the child is always the loser".

Hearing one such matter where the parents had been unable to come to terms over the custody of their two children, a bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar and Ajay Rastogi said in such cases, "it is the children who pay the heaviest price as they are shattered when the court by its judicial process tells them to go with the parent whom he or she deems fit".

The court said that "the rights of the child need to be respected as he/she is entitled to the love of both the parents" and underlined that a breakdown of marriage "does not signify the end of parental responsibility".

The bench said it is well established in law that while deciding a custody dispute, "primary and paramount consideration is always the welfare of the child".

"If the welfare of the child so demands, then technical objections cannot come in the way. However, while deciding the welfare of the child, it is not the view of one spouse alone which has to be taken into consideration. The courts should decide the issue of custody on a paramount consideration which is in the best interest of the child who is the victim in the custody battle," the bench ruled.

In the case, the apex court noted that the Delhi High Court made an attempt to effect a settlement.

The judgment also noted that the Supreme Court too had time and again made efforts "to resolve these disputes amicably sitting across the table but unfortunately the ego of the warring parents come forward and the sufferings of the children are shadowed".

The judgment referred to the report of a psychotherapist, tasked by the High Court "to ascertain the background facts regarding the relationship of the children with their father...and paternal grandparents before they joined the sole custody of their mother", which had attributed the death of the grandparents to the fight between the couple. "It is unfortunate to notice that because of a warpath of the couple, both the paternal grandparents died during pendency of the proceedings," the judgment said.

## Bombay HC judge's order forged to grab bank deposits, case filed

OMKAR GOKHALE  
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 18

A CASE of forgery and cheating was filed at Azad Maidan police station on the basis of a complaint by the Bombay High Court Registry against unidentified persons after the forgery of an order written by Justice Gautam S Patel. The order was forged to create rights over term deposits amounting to Rs 51 lakh in favour of a person who had died 15 days ago.

Hearing one such matter where the parents had been unable to come to terms over the custody of their two children, a bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar and Ajay Rastogi said in such cases, "it is the children who pay the heaviest price as they are shattered when the court by its judicial process tells them to go with the parent whom he or she deems fit".

The court said that "the rights of the child need to be respected as he/she is entitled to the love of both the parents" and underlined that a breakdown of marriage "does not signify the end of parental responsibility".

The bench said it is well established in law that while deciding a custody dispute, "primary and paramount consideration is always the welfare of the child".

"If the welfare of the child so demands, then technical objections cannot come in the way. However, while deciding the welfare of the child, it is not the view of one spouse alone which has to be taken into consideration. The courts should decide the issue of custody on a paramount consideration which is in the best interest of the child who is the victim in the custody battle," the bench ruled.

In the case, the apex court noted that the Delhi High Court made an attempt to effect a settlement.

The judgment also noted that the Supreme Court too had time and again made efforts "to resolve these disputes amicably sitting across the table but unfortunately the ego of the warring parents come forward and the sufferings of the children are shadowed".

The judgment referred to the report of a psychotherapist, tasked by the High Court "to ascertain the background facts regarding the relationship of the children with their father...and paternal grandparents before they joined the sole custody of their mother", which had attributed the death of the grandparents to the fight between the couple. "It is unfortunate to notice that because of a warpath of the couple, both the paternal grandparents died during pendency of the proceedings," the judgment said.

The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library cordially invites you to a Public Lecture

on  
"The Social Reforms of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar in Ratnagiri: 1924-1937"

by  
Dr. Vikram Sampath  
Senior Fellow, NMML

Thursday, 20 February 2020 at 3.00 pm  
Venue: Seminar Room, Library Building  
Nehru Memorial Museum and Library  
Teen Murti House, New Delhi-110011

For More info, please visit: Website: <http://nehru memorial.nic.in>  
Contact us on: [ccs2nmml@gmail.com](mailto:ccs2nmml@gmail.com)

For live webcast, please visit: [www.facebook.com/Nehru Memorial Library/](http://www.facebook.com/Nehru Memorial Library/); [www.youtube.com/user/nehru memorial library](http://www.youtube.com/user/nehru memorial library)

All are Welcome

asked Parth to give details of the term deposits.

One Parth Goradia had earlier approached Umesh Mohite and Hetal Pandya, seeking help in filing a testamentary petition regarding his father's uncle, Satishchandra Goradia, who had died recently. The petition was to be filed for distribution of properties of the deceased. Parth claimed that Satishchandra was involved in a suit seeking succession to bank deposits in the name of his deceased son Mitesh.

When Mohite and Pandya

asked Parth to give details of the case, he said that he did not have much information and handed them an order "passed by Justice Patel on December 1, 2019," allowing the release of funds from Mitesh's bank accounts in favour of Satishchandra Goradia. Parth said the order was given to his father by Satishchandra's lawyer Ashok Vageria.

The lawyers approached Justice Patel after they failed to find the case details on the HC website or in the Judge's chamber.

asked Parth to give details of the term deposits.

One Parth Goradia had earlier approached Umesh Mohite and Hetal Pandya, seeking help in filing a testamentary petition regarding his father's uncle, Satishchandra Goradia, who had died recently. The petition was to be filed for distribution of properties of the deceased. Parth claimed that Satishchandra was involved in a suit seeking succession to bank deposits in the name of his deceased son Mitesh.

When Mohite and Pandya

asked Parth to give details of the case, he said that he did not have much information and handed them an order "passed by Justice Patel on December 1, 2019," allowing the release of funds from Mitesh's bank accounts in favour of Satishchandra Goradia. Parth said the order was given to his father by Satishchandra's lawyer Ashok Vageria.

The lawyers approached Justice Patel after they failed to find the case details on the HC website or in the Judge's chamber.

asked Parth to give details of the term deposits.

One Parth Goradia had earlier approached Umesh Mohite and Hetal Pandya, seeking help in filing a testamentary petition regarding his father's uncle, Satishchandra Goradia, who had died recently. The petition was to be filed for distribution of properties of the deceased. Parth claimed that Satishchandra was involved in a suit seeking succession to bank deposits in the name of his deceased son Mitesh.

When Mohite and Pandya

asked Parth to give details of the case, he said that he did not have much information and handed them an order "passed by Justice Patel on December 1, 2019," allowing the release of funds from Mitesh's bank accounts in favour of Satishchandra Goradia. Parth said the order was given to his father by Satishchandra's lawyer Ashok Vageria.

The lawyers approached Justice Patel after they failed to find the case details on the HC website or in the Judge's chamber.

asked Parth to give details of the term deposits.

One Parth Goradia had earlier approached Umesh Mohite and Hetal Pandya, seeking help in filing a testamentary petition regarding his father's uncle, Satishchandra Goradia, who had died recently. The petition was to be filed for distribution of properties of the deceased. Parth claimed that Satishchandra was involved in a suit seeking succession to bank deposits in the name of his deceased son Mitesh.

When Mohite and Pandya

asked Parth to give details of the case, he said that he did not have much information and handed them an order "passed by Justice Patel on December 1, 2019," allowing the release of funds from Mitesh's bank accounts in favour of Satishchandra Goradia. Parth said the order was given to his father by Satishchandra's lawyer Ashok Vageria.

The lawyers approached Justice Patel after they failed to find the case details on the HC website or in the Judge's chamber.

asked Parth to give details of the term deposits.

One Parth Goradia had earlier approached Umesh Mohite and Hetal Pandya, seeking help in filing a testamentary petition regarding his father's uncle, Satishchandra Goradia, who had died recently. The petition was to be filed for distribution of properties of the deceased. Parth claimed that Satishchandra was involved in a suit seeking succession to bank deposits in the name of his deceased son Mitesh.

When Mohite and Pandya

asked Parth to give details of the case, he said that he did not have much information and handed them an order "passed by Justice Patel on December 1, 2019," allowing the release of funds from Mitesh's bank accounts in favour of Satishchandra Goradia. Parth said the order was given to his father by Satishchandra's lawyer Ashok Vageria.

The lawyers approached Justice Patel after they failed to find the case details on the HC website or in the Judge's chamber.

asked Parth to give details of the term deposits.

One Parth Goradia had earlier approached Umesh Mohite and Hetal Pandya, seeking help in filing a testamentary petition regarding his father's uncle, Satishchandra Goradia, who had died recently. The petition was to be filed for distribution of properties of the deceased. Parth claimed that Satishchandra was involved in a suit seeking succession to bank deposits in the name of his deceased son Mitesh.

When Mohite and Pandya

asked Parth to give details of the case, he said that he did not have much information and handed them an order "passed by Justice Patel

## Classifieds

## PERSONAL

It is for general information that I, Ishrat Begum W/o Hanif Khan R/o S-2A/12, Joga Bai Extr, Batla House, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, Delhi-110025, inform that name of my father has been wrongly written as Shabbir Ahmad in my educational documents. The actual name of my father is Shabbir Ahmad respectively. Which may be amended accordingly. 0040532541-1

It is for general information that I, Adeel Ahmad S/o Hanif Khan R/o S-2A/12, Joga Bai Extr, Batla House, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, Delhi-110025, inform that name of my father has been wrongly written as Hanif Ahmad in my educational documents. The actual name of my father is Hanif Khan respectively. Which may be amended accordingly. 0040532541-2

I, SHWETA JHA, daughter of SHRI ASHOK MISHRA and wife of KISHORE KUNAL, aged 32 years, R/o/OLIVE COUNTY, TOWER B-3, FLAT NO.1003, SECTOR-5, VASUNDHARA, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201012, INDIA, have changed my name after marriage from SHWETA SHIVAM to SHWETA JHA, for all purposes vide affidavit dated 17.02.2020. I further state that SHWETA SHIVAM(name before marriage) and the present name SHWETA JHA is the name of one and the same person and that is myself. 0040532626-1

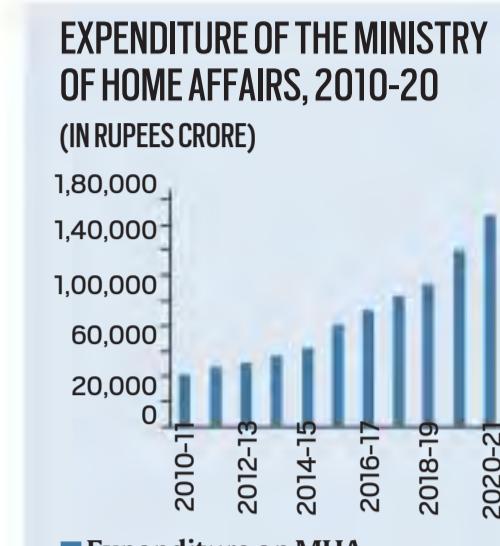
## TELLING NUMBERS

## Overview of finances: trends in expenditure of Home Ministry

BETWEEN 2010 to 2020, the expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs has expanded four times, shows an analysis of numbers published by PRS Legislative Research. The average annual growth rate in the Home Ministry's expenditure over the last 10 years has been 15%, shows the analysis. Since 2015-16, the expenditure of the Ministry has been higher than the budgeted expenditure every year.

The Home Ministry is responsible for matters concerning internal security, Centre-state relations, central armed police forces, border management, and disaster management. It also makes grants to the Union Territories.

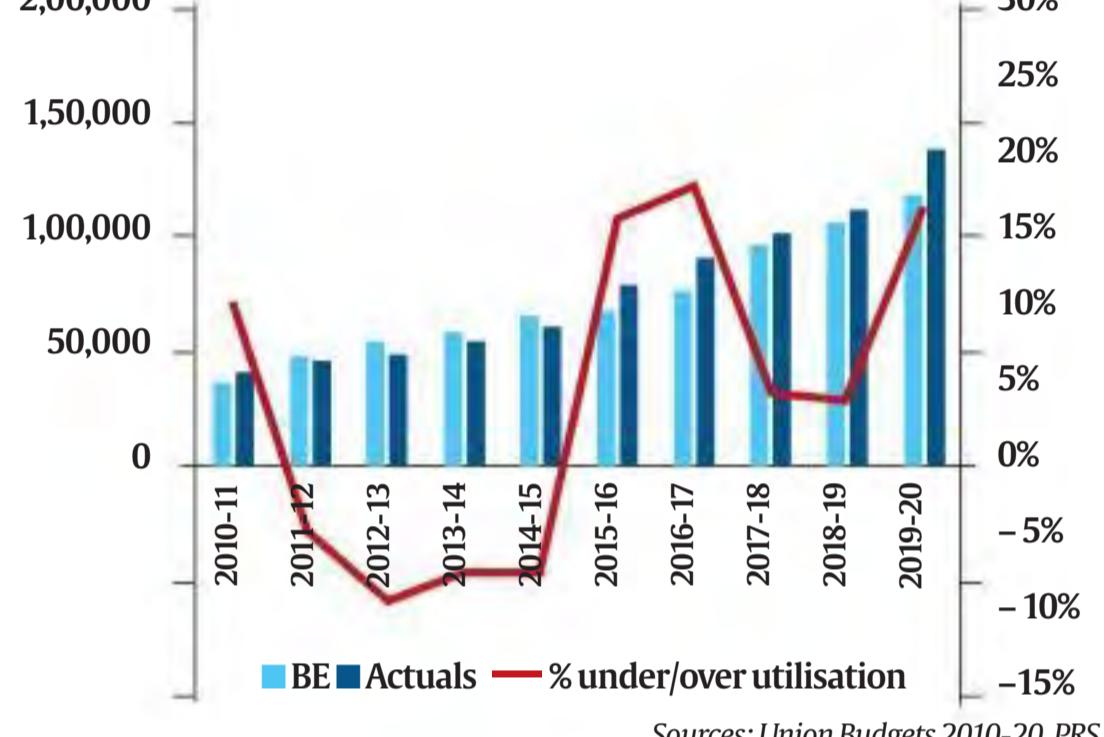
The Ministry has been allocated Rs 1,67,250 crore in Union Budget 2020-21. This is an increase of 20% over the revised estimates in 2019-20, which was Rs 1,39,108 crore. This year's allocation is 41% higher than the Budget allocation of last year, which was Rs 1,19,025 crore. A significant part of the increase is on account of funds to Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh being allocated through the Ministry of Home Affairs in 2020-21, following the reorganisation of Jammu and



Sources: Union Budgets 2010-20, PRS  
Figures for 2019-20 are Revised Estimates; for 2020-21 are Budget Estimates. Figures for all other years are actuals.

Kashmir into two Union Territories. The Ministry's budget constitutes 5% of the total expenditure budget of the union government in 2020-21. PRS Legislative Research has also published similar analyses for 12 other ministries which, along with Home, comprise 53% of govt expenditure.

## ACTUAL VS BUDGETED EXPENDITURE, 2010-20 (IN Rs CRORE)



Sources: Union Budgets 2010-20, PRS  
Figures for 2019-20 are Revised Estimates. BE: Budget Estimates

## TIP FOR READING LIST

## PIONEER OF US FORENSIC CRIMINOLOGY

KATE WINKLER Dawson's *American Sherlock: Murder, Forensics, And The Birth of American CSI* tells the story of the birth of criminal investigation in the United States in the 20th century through the life of Edward Oscar Heinrich, the so-called "American Sherlock Holmes", the first and arguably greatest of that country's forensic scientists. Dawson's work draws on never-before-published primary material on Heinrich's 40-year career, in the course of which he cracked at least 2,000 cases — among them the famously botched Siskiyou train robbery of 1923.

Heinrich pioneered the use of forensic tools such as blood spatter analysis, lie-detector tests, ballistics, and fingerprints in the detection of crime in the decade of the 1920s when, as Dawson says, the FBI mostly comprised "insufficiently trained officers who mostly investigated bank fraud".

**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
INSTITUTE FOR IAS PREPARATION  
**INTERVIEW MODULE 2020**  
Batch commences from 23rd January 2020 onwards

- 2 MOCK INTERVIEWS & 1 PERSONAL SITTING
- DAF ANALYSIS CLASS
- VIDEO RECORDING OF MOCK INTERVIEW
- CLASSES ON CURRENT ISSUES
- INTERVIEW BY EXPERIENCED CIVIL SERVANTS
- EXCLUSIVE MOCK INTERVIEW SESSION FOR INDIAN FOREST SERVICE

9-B, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi - 110060, Ph: 011-41007500;  
www.vajiramandravi.com | Email: vajiram.office@gmail.com

## Eyes on the Sun, how ISRO is preparing for its next giant leap in space

ANJALI MARAR  
PUNE, FEBRUARY 18

EARLIER THIS month, 47 new papers were published in a special supplement of *The Astrophysical Journal*, analysing data from the first three flybys of the Parker Solar Probe, NASA's historic mission to the Sun. The probe, launched on August 12, 2018, completed its fourth close approach — called perihelion — on January 29, whizzing past at about 3.93 lakh km/h, at a distance of only 18.6 million km from the Sun's surface.

## So why is all of this exciting for India?

Alongside another mission to the Moon, being planned for next year, and the first human space flight scheduled for 2022, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is also preparing to send its first scientific expedition to study the Sun. Named Aditya-L1, the mission, expected to be launched early next year, will observe the Sun from a close distance, and try to obtain information about its atmospheric and magnetic field.

ISRO categorises Aditya L1 as a 400 kg-class satellite, that will be launched using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) in XL

configuration. The space-based observatory will have seven payloads (instruments) on board to study the Sun's corona, solar emissions, solar winds and flares, and Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs), and will carry out round-the-clock imaging of the Sun.

The mission will be undertaken in collaboration between various labs of ISRO, along with institutions like the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru, Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune, and Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research (IISER), Kolkata. Aditya L1 will be ISRO's second space-based astronomy mission after AstroSat, which was launched in September 2015.

What makes a solar mission challenging is the distance of the Sun from Earth (about 149 million km on average, compared to the 3.84 lakh km to the Moon) and, more importantly, the super hot temperatures and radiations in the solar atmosphere.

All participating institutions are currently in the final stages of developing their respective payloads. Some payloads have been built, and are in the testing phase with each component being checked and calibrated. Some payloads are at the stage of integration of individual components.



An illustration of the Parker Solar Probe approaching the Sun. NASA/Johns Hopkins APL

## But why is studying the Sun important?

Every planet, including Earth and the exoplanets beyond the Solar System, evolves — and this evolution is governed by its parent star. The solar weather and environment, which is determined by the processes taking place inside and around the sun, affects the weather of the entire system. Variations in this weather can change the orbits of satellites or shorten their lives, interfere with or damage onboard electronics, and cause power blackouts and other disturbances on

Earth. Knowledge of solar events is key to understanding space weather.

To learn about and track Earth-directed storms, and to predict their impact, continuous solar observations are needed. Every storm that emerges from the Sun and heads towards Earth passes through L1, and a satellite placed in the halo orbit around L1 of the Sun-Earth system has the major advantage of continuously viewing the Sun without any occultation/eclipses, ISRO says on its website.

L1 refers to Lagrangian/Lagrange Point 1, one of five points in the orbital plane of the Earth-Sun system. Lagrange Points, named after Italian-French mathematician Joseph-Louis Lagrange, are positions in space where the gravitational forces of a two-body system (like the Sun and the Earth) produce enhanced regions of attraction and repulsion. These can be used by spacecraft to reduce fuel consumption needed to remain in position. The L1 point is home to the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory Satellite (SOHO), an international collaboration project of NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA).

The L1 point is about 1.5 million km from Earth, or about one-hundredth of the way to the Sun. Aditya L1 will perform continuous observations looking directly at the Sun. NASA's Parker Solar Probe has already gone far closer — but it will be looking away from the Sun. The earlier Helios 2 solar probe, a joint venture between NASA and space agency erstwhile West Germany, went with 43 million km of the Sun's surface in 1976.

## What kind of heat will Aditya L1 face?

The Parker Solar Probe's January 29 flyby was the closest the spacecraft has gone to the Sun in its planned seven-year journey

so far. Computer modelling estimates show that the temperature on the Sun-facing side of the probe's heat shield, the Thermal Protection System, reached 612 degrees Celsius, even as the spacecraft and instruments behind the shield remained at about 30°C, NASA said. During the spacecraft's three closest perihelia in 2024-25, the TPS will see temperatures around 1370°C.

Aditya L1 will stay much farther away, and the heat is not expected to be a major concern for the instruments on board. But there are other challenges.

Many of the instruments and their components for this mission are being manufactured for the first time in the country, presenting as much of a challenge as an opportunity for India's scientific, engineering, and space communities. One such component is the highly polished mirrors which would be mounted on the space-based telescope.

Due to the risks involved, payloads in earlier ISRO missions have largely remained stationary in space; however, Aditya L1 will have some moving components, scientists said. For example, the spacecraft's design allows for multiple operations of the front window of the telescope — which means the window can be opened or shut as required.

@ieExplained  
#ExpressExplained

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

## SIMPLY PUT

## India's 'imported' food inflation

After a period of divergence, domestic and global food prices are rising in tandem. Coronavirus, global crude prices, and an expected bumper rabi harvest could determine the scenario in the coming months

## What can happen now?

Now, when both international and domestic food prices are showing signs of renewed hardening, the question is: How sustainable is this trend? There are at least three bearish factors currently at play.

The first is, of course, the novel coronavirus epidemic that has reduced Chinese buying of everything from palm oil and soyabeans to milk powder and meat. Palm oil prices in Malaysia have plunged from 2,922 ringgit (\$719) to 2,725 ringgit (\$658) over the last one month.

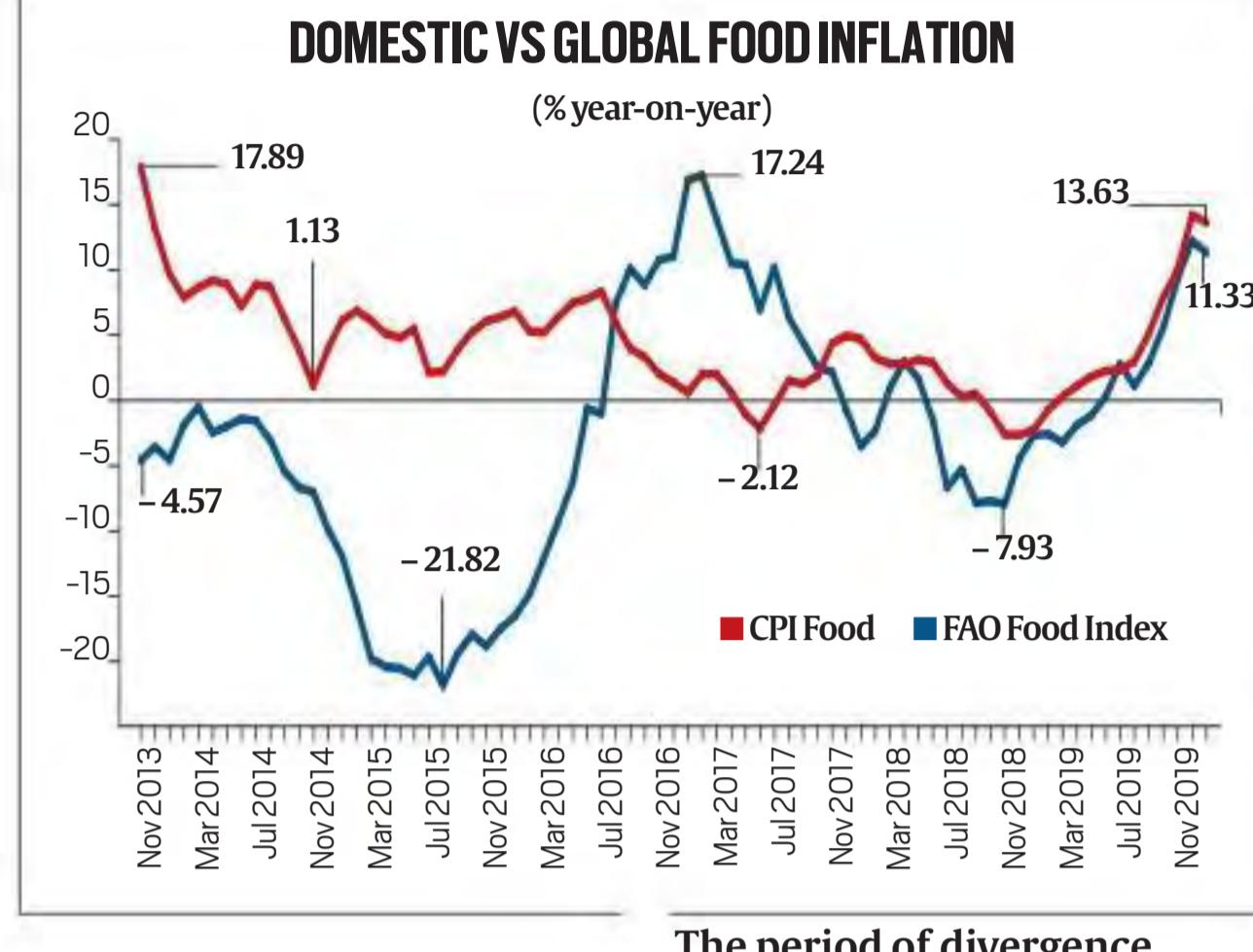
The second is crude oil. Brent crude prices had touched \$70 per barrel after the January 3 United States airstrike that killed Iran's top military commander, but have dropped since, closing at \$57.67/barrel on Tuesday.

The third is the prospect of a bumper rabi (winter-spring) crop in India. The kharif harvest turned out to be not so good because of excess and unseasonal rain. That same rain, though, has helped boost rabi acreage by 9.5% compared to last year. The arrival of this crop in the mandis from March should cool down prices, especially of vegetables and pulses, which showed the highest year-on-year retail inflation of 50.19% and 16.71% in January.

Against these bearish factors are the relatively "bullish" factors.

Global palm oil ending stocks this year are projected to be the lowest since 2009-10, while sugar is also expected to move significantly into deficit. Supply tightness is being seen both globally and in India, even in milk. Like Malaysian palm oil prices, which rose from an average of 2,037 ringgit to 3,014 ringgit between January 2019 and January 2020, skimmed milk powder rates at New Zealand's global dairy trade auctions had also moved up from \$2,201 to \$3,036 per tonne during this period — before the novel coronavirus struck.

It would be interesting to see what happens once the virus has run its course. If Brent crude too, were to rally again — making it attractive for sugarcane and corn to be diverted for ethanol production and also palm oil towards bio-diesel — there could be uncertainty ahead.



## The period of divergence

The chart above shows that the domestic CPI food and FAO food price index inflation rates started moving in tandem only from around March 2018, while exhibiting significant divergence in the period prior to that.

The FAO index peaked at 240.1 in February 2011, but remained at 200-plus levels until July 2014. Global prices crashed after that, and stayed low up to early 2016, with the FAO index dipping to 149.3 in February 2016. Domestic food inflation, too, eased from 17.89% in November 2013 to fall below 7% by early 2016, as lower global commodity prices reduced the demand for Indian farm exports, even as they made imports cheaper.

However, the actual fall in domestic inflation — to the sub-5% range — took place after September 2016. And that, in turn, had more to do with domestic factors, especially demonetisation, than global prices — between August 2016 and October 2017, the FAO index inflation, in fact, exceeded the corresponding CPI rate.

## FACT CHECK, GROUND REALITY

## Can dams to control rising sea levels work?

MEHR GILL  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 18

A PAPER that has been accepted for publication in the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society* has proposed an extraordinary measure to protect 25 million people and important economic regions of 15 Northern European countries from rising seas as a result of climate change: a mammoth Northern European Enclosure Dam (NEED) enclosing all of the North Sea.

"The concept of constructing NEED showcases the extent of protection efforts that are required if mitigation efforts fail to limit sea level rise," the authors of the paper, Sjoerd Goeskamp of the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research, and Joakim Kjellsson of the Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research in Kiel, Germany, have written.

**THE PROPOSAL:** The scientists have proposed the construction of two dams of a combined length of 637 km — the first between northern Scotland and western Norway, measuring 476 km and with an average depth of 121 m and maximum depth of 321 m; the

second between France and southwestern England, of length 161 km, and average depth of 85 m and maximum depth of 102 m.

According to Goeskamp and Kjellsson, separating the North and Baltic Seas from the Atlantic Ocean may be the "most viable option" to protect Northern Europe against unstoppable sea level rise (SLR).

They have also identified other regions in the world where such mega-enclosures could potentially be considered, including the Persian Gulf, the Mediterranean Sea, the Baltic Sea, the Irish Sea, and the Red Sea.

**THE RATIONALE:** While NEED may appear to be "overwhelming" and "unrealistic", it could be "potentially favourable" financially and in scale when compared with alternative solutions to fight SLR, the paper argues. The researchers classify the solutions to SLR into three categories of taking no action, protection, and managed retreat — and submit that NEED is in the second category.

While managed retreat, which includes options such as managed migrations, may be less expensive than protection (NEED), it involves intangible costs such as national and international political instability, psychological





## The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## IN HER OWN RIGHT

Supreme Court ruling on equality of women army officers is enormously welcome and long overdue

**M**ONDAY'S DECISION BY the apex court to bring women army officers at par with their male counterparts comes like a whiff of fresh air. After comments by Justice DY Chandrachud in the open court last week against government counsel opposing the move, the judgement was expected. Even so, it exhilaratingly went the whole hog in an unequivocal endorsement of the equality of women. The judgement was long awaited, as the first PIL was filed in 2003, followed by other suits in 2006 and 2008, and the Delhi High Court gave a judgement in favour of women officers in 2010. The government went to the Supreme Court and made all attempts to delay the judgement. So much so that even though no stay had been granted by the Supreme Court, the government did not implement the High Court order. The Supreme Court noted this fact in its ruling.

The significance of the SC judgement is two-fold. One, it is a complete endorsement of the equality of women in 21st century India, and against deeply embedded patriarchal mindsets and strong institutional biases. Two, even though the issue was not being directly considered by the bench, it chose to open command appointments to women officers in 10 streams where the Army has agreed they can serve as permanently commissioned officers. While the first will have a larger social impact as conservative mores and anti-women norms are being pushed across the country by forces of religious majoritarianism and in the name of "Indian" culture, the second will force real and substantive change in the Army. The Army will be compelled to change its rules not only for promotion to command appointments, it will also have to instill widespread changes in the pathways for the women officers to do training courses and hold appointments which have so far been the sole preserves of men.

The government had proposed a compromise which would have given limited benefits like pension to serving women officers with 14 years of service or more, and full parity from prospective effect for the younger officers. But the bench has brought in full parity for women. The Army has not yet responded to the judgement. But with the defence minister publicly welcoming the order, there is hope that even though his ministry opposed the case in the Supreme Court, there will be no further challenges to this progressive and far-reaching judgement. Since 1992, when women officers first entered the Army, they have played a significant role which has brought laurels for the organisation. As the court observed, "The time has come for a realisation that women officers in the Army are not adjuncts to a male dominated establishment whose presence must be 'tolerated' within narrow confines". Circa 2020, that time has truly come.

## HIGH INSECURITY

Moves like deportation of Debbie Abrahams will erode perceptions of India as a surefooted player in diplomatic arena

**U**K LABOUR MP Debbie Abrahams has been deported from Delhi airport, where she had arrived to visit family and friends. She chairs the All Party Parliamentary Group for Kashmir, and had criticised the revocation of Article 370 last year. While Abrahams claims to hold a valid visa, and the government claims it had been cancelled, what is certain is that this is a public relations gaffe in the international domain. Which party is right or wrong is no longer important. This is just one more of a series of official responses from India which offer no diplomatic or political advantage, and only suggest to the external observer that this government is happy to swat away minor irritants with the ponderous might of the state. And that, in turn, suggests that in terms of political psychology, this country is deeply insecure. This is an extremely weak position to bargain from, and could lead to Delhi losing the argument with key sections of political opinion across the world.

In December, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had raised eyebrows in Washington when he cancelled a meeting with Democrat Eliot Engel, chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the top Republican in the body and their colleagues, because they refused to exclude Pramila Jayapal, the Democrat representative for Washington, who had criticised the abrogation of Article 370, as well as the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. Both Abrahams and Jayapal have clarified that they oppose curbs on human rights everywhere, even in their countries of residence, making the Indian response look ham-fisted and small-minded.

But for sheer pettiness, the response to the writer Aatish Taseer must score very high. Taseer had written a cover story for Time which was not wholly complimentary to the prime minister, and was stripped of citizenship status. The reaction smacked of intolerance and was read, rightly, as the vindictive use of state authority. Over time, and with sufficient effort, such knee-jerk reactions would project, in the eyes of the world, a nation that is so thin-skinned that it must be quite vulnerable. Successful diplomacy is based on dealing, with inexhaustible patience, from a position of apparent strength. It is not a game for high-strung or over-sensitive players. Appearing to be one may cost India many of the advantages it has earned in recent years.

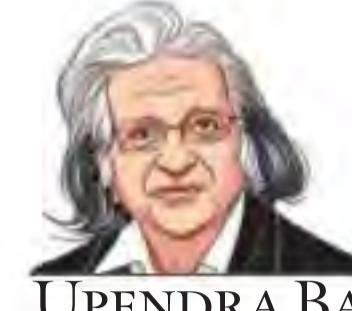
## HANDPUMP HERO

Gurdaspur MP Sunny Deol has alluded to his on-screen powers to make a political point. This should not be surprising

**F**OR THOSE WHO voted for the MP from Gurdaspur based on his showreel, this week has not been a disappointment. At a series of public meetings across Punjab, meant to address the problems facing people in the state, Sunny Deol delivered some of his greatest hits. He can be seen in videos screaming into a microphone, without context, "Tareekh pe tareekh! Tareekh pe tareekh!" from *Damini*, in which the BJP MP played a lawyer who fights in court with his words and on the streets with his muscles. He even danced to a hit song from *Gadar*, displaying conclusively that confidence will outmatch ability every time. But it is when Deol seemed to suggest that his on-screen persona had a bearing on political reality that he caused controversy.

Apart from saying "jab ye dhai kilo ka haath kisi pe padta hai, woh uthta nahi... uth jata nahi" (when this 2.5 kg-hand hits you, you don't just rise up, you rise to the heavens), MP Sunny said that "there is no one better than me in beating people up". The provocation for this statement, according to Deol, was the fact that state government employees (the Congress is in government in the state) have been telling people that "they voted for the wrong person". This comes on the heels of "missing" posters featuring Deol cropping up in Gurdaspur, alluding to his spending a bulk of his time away from the constituency.

While many, including local Congress leaders, have taken exception to Deol's barely veiled allusion to violence, they seem to have missed the point. Like many actors from the 1980s and 1990s, Deol played himself, or a version of himself, on screen, rather than morphing into a character. During the 2019 campaign he took this a step further, even producing a hand-pump, a reference to the quasi-comical weapon from *Gadar* used to defeat practically the whole Pakistan army. And he won. Can anyone blame him for thinking that the famed "dhai kilo ka haath" is enough to silence the political opposition as well?



UPENDRA BAXI

THE SUPREME COURT of India has again shown what a constitutional culture of non-discrimination can achieve in demolishing obstinate structures of gender-based discrimination in state and civil society. The march of gender justice which began with the Mathura open letter in the late Seventies, and bemoaned patriarchal culture even in the apex court, has in recent years extended the arc of the right to equality by normative war against all forms of gender-based discrimination, including that against LGBTQI communities and trans-peoples. Now, Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud and Justice Ajay Rastogi have ruled against the army and even gone so far as to characterise as "absurd" all justifications for inequality on the grounds of security, discipline and morale of the forces.

This was not always so. I still recall the early days when the Supreme Court in the early '70s threw out a petition for gender equality in the Judge Advocate General Office. And even though women's rights to equality were recognised by the Delhi High Court decision in March 2010, and reaffirmed in September, 2015, so entrenched is gender inequality that the Supreme Court routinely took a decade to decide the matter in appeal. The appeal from the 2015 decision, which primarily pertained to discrimination in the Navy, still has to be heard.

But the obituary of discrimination was penned vividly in 2010. In 2015, Justices Kailash Gambhir and Najmi Wazirzai wrote that "sexism" has no place in law and society and quoted UN Secretary General Kofi Annan: "There is no tool more effective than the empowerment of women for development of a country." In a moving gesture they quoted progressive Urdu poet Asrarul Haq 'Majaz' (1911-1955) who exhorted women to fight for their equitable space in the world in the following words: "Fere mathe pe ye anchal toh bahut hi khub hali lekin tu is anchal se ik parcham bana leti toh achchha tha (While the raiment covering your head is good, it would be better if you made a banner of it.)"

Justice Chandrachud (and Justice Rastogi) take many crucial constitutional steps further. First, and this plays a decisive role, the

## A just verdict

Supreme Court ruling in favour of women officers in Army is pathbreaking, extends arc of equality

fact that the "engagement of women officers in the Army" has been an "evolutionary process" is little understood by state lawyers who "betray a lack of understanding of the plain consequences" of the Union decisions. These, over time, acknowledge that the "physiological features of a woman have no significance to her equal entitlements under the Constitution".

Second, in the absence of this recognition, "stereotypes about women in the Armed Forces" take over, and 70 years "after the birth of a post-colonial independent state", they indicate "a need for change in attitudes and mindsets to recognise the commitment to the values of the Constitution". Reliance on the "inherent physiological differences between men and women" rests on a deeply entrenched stereotypical and constitutionally flawed notion that women are the "weaker" sex and may not undertake tasks that are "too arduous" for them. Submissions so premised are held as deeply "disturbing" as these continue to ignore "the solemn constitutional values which every institution in the nation is bound to uphold and facilitate".

Third, this change has to be based on "the right of women officers to equality of opportunity", which has two "facets": Non-discrimination on the grounds of sex and equality of opportunity for all citizens in employment. State and civil society have to firmly internalise these rights to achieve even the minima of gender justice. Removal of the "fundamental fallacy" demands non-discrimination and affirmation of equality of opportunity in public employment. To rule otherwise will constitute "a travesty of justice".

This means women now have the same terms of employment as men. No longer will women be forced to retire after 14 years in service, irrespective of their record. They will also have full pension and other financial benefits. The court clarifies that the policy decision will apply to all women SSC officers "who are currently in service irrespective of the length of service which has been rendered by them".

Fourth, Article 14 of the Constitution has been pressed into service as prescribing "a right to rationality" that forbids any "blanket"

and "absolute" prohibition. The burden to justify the differentiation between women and men falls "squarely on the Army", which has to "justify such differentiation with reason".

Fifth, Article 14 also stands transgressed when such blanket prohibition extends to command posts. However, an "individuated justification" may be offered to "future courts". This means that non-posting to a command post may also be questioned in courts by affected individuals.

Some may say, without resorting to sexual stereotypes, that this particular observation flies in the face of judicial enunciation about "the limitations which questions of policy impose on judicial intervention in matters relating to the Armed Forces". In fact, the brief remark outlining the judicial consciousness of policy limitations may well prove to be the proverbial Achilles' heel in future courts. Although the situations may be distinguished, the same Bench referred recently many a well-reasoned two-judge Bench decision to a larger Bench involving shifting lines of precedents concerning regularisation, with back wages, of long-serving contract labour workers. And a larger Bench is now re-adjudicating the validity of a slew of cases decided by earlier Benches (including the Sabarmati case, despite a strong dissent on the review by Justices Rohinton Nariman and Dhananjaya Chandrachud).

One hopes that the stoic and heroic endeavours of the petitioner army officers and their counsel, Meenakshi Lekhi and Aishwarya Bhati, will not be visited with the same constitutional fates, and this path-breaking judgment will forever vindicate gender equality and justice.

Making gender justice less contingent on the executive's mood swings is the primary task of the judiciary. Making it immune from judicial re-visitations remains the paramount constitutional duty of all citizens, but more particularly of feminist citizens' crusade for judicial consistency as a badge for constitutional rights and justice.

The writer is professor of law, University of Warwick, and former vice chancellor of Universities of South Gujarat and Delhi



NARAYANI GUPTA

TAIMUR (1398) and Nadir Shah (1739) carried away camel-loads of treasures from the courts of Delhi to Samarkand and Isfahan. We will be reliving a modern version of those journeys quite soon. Nine miles of shelves of priceless documents, roomfuls of art treasures, and more miles of books, all now housed in the National Archives, and the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts will be waiting for the camels or trucks to transport them. But to where?

The plan for the proposed new-look Central Vista is like a kaleidoscope. Every other day there is some modification. The proposed building-blocks numbered 10, then nine. That happened when it was pointed out that the main building of the archives was built in the 1920s and hence had the immunity of a "heritage" building. Like a lego piece, it was put back in, no matter that it will be enclaved by seven-storey buildings with three basements.

What seems undisputed is that the market for Vitamin D will shoot up. People working in the offices will travel from one block to another through tunnels. This, we are told, will reduce the traffic. Equally, no more will tired officers sing "Under the jamun tree/Who will play cards with me?" We are not even sure what the fate of the jamun trees will be.

Coming back to my question. Where will our grandchildren go to see the National Museum, or what is left of it? There is a rumour that the IGNCA holdings are going to be shifted to Janpath Hotel. With the memory of the Akbar Hotel's reincarnation, first

## DISASTER FORETOLD

The proposed Central Vista will destroy Delhi's cultural landscape

Some five decades ago, Delhi used to be dismissed as a city of bureaucrats and shopkeepers, with no culture. Over time, this void has been filled. The National Archives, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library and IGNCA (together with the excellent Central Secretariat library) have become part of its intellectual and cultural face

as a ministry of the Central government, and then as a university, such suggestions do not surprise. But, anybody in the business will tell you that libraries and museum holdings do not take kindly to relocation. Two journeys — that of the archives library from Kolkata to Delhi in 1937, and of the Archaeological Survey's library to the second floor of the Archives in the 1980s — are sad reminders. Many books and prints mysteriously disappeared in transit. And it does not help any that the National Museum has for years firmly resisted any attempt to have an inventory prepared.

In this digital age, do we need to build for humongous ministries? When post-offices and banks are down-sizing, why not ministries? Is it at all possible to make our civil servants virtual? Plans for 10 seven-storey buildings to house all the staff of the government suggest a monotonous landscape.

In assessing an architect's work, some details are often glossed over. There was a major set of buildings planned by Lutyens which did not get executed. His plan of 1913 included a cultural ensemble at the Queensway/Janpath crossing. Four complexes were to be built — the Imperial Record Office, the Antiquities Museum, an Ethnological Museum and the Imperial Library. The first was built in the 1920s; the Museum had to wait till 1960, the third was not assembled, and Curzon's Imperial Library has remained in Kolkata as the National Library.

Some five decades ago, Delhi used to be dismissed as a city of bureaucrats and shop-

keepers, with no culture. Over time, this void has been filled. The National Archives, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library and IGNCA (together with the excellent Central Secretariat library) have become part of its intellectual and cultural face — exuding the sense of scholars working in the cool tranquility of the Archives, of schoolchildren in animated chatter wandering through museum galleries, and of citizens relating to a welcoming public space in IGNCA. The Janpath crossing has a comfortable relationship with the city, celebrated through their outreach activities like the Raksha Festival or visiting exhibitions. These have softened the landscape which otherwise would have been redolent of the musty smell of files and as full of endless corridors as "Last Year at Marienbad". The Mandi House Culture Circle, the Lodi Road intersection, and the Humayun's Tomb-Sundar Nursery complex, are three other major culture-nodes. These are achievements of the first half-century of Delhi as independent India's capital. Destroy one, and the rest will feel a sense of insecurity. And what are they to be replaced by? A wasteland of blocks of ministries at Rajpath, a convention centre at what was Pragati Maidan.

Redesigning a building in order to add or modify its contents is one thing. To demolish institutions and substitute offices which have no outreach function is another. A lack of respect for our past will create a cultural crater as deep as the new buildings are high.

The writer is a historian of Delhi



## FEBRUARY 19, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

## STATES' CRISIS

WHILE NO DATES have yet been announced for holding elections to the nine state assemblies that have been dissolved, official sources said the Centre is keen that popularly elected governments are put back in the saddle as early as possible. The assemblies were dissolved by a presidential proclamation and the states — Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Orissa, Rajasthan and Punjab — brought under central rule. How soon the process of restoring elected governments in these states will be completed depends on the Election Commission, according to official sources.

## AFGHAN SOLUTION

A CONSENSUS REGARDING Afghanistan and the restoration of stability and cooperation in the region is emerging following a series of high-level consultations India has had with its neighbours during the last few days.

Stating this in Delhi, the foreign secretary, R D Sathe said the special envoys of the Indian government, who toured various capitals in the region, explained India's position on developments in this area, including implications of the proposed supply of American arms to Pakistan.

## DELAYING CAB

NON-COOPERATION ON THE part of

Opposition-run states, by delaying ratification of the Constitution Amendment Bill providing reservation of seats to Scheduled Castes and Tribes, is one of the three specific reasons the government has cited justifying dissolution of nine non-Congress (I) state assemblies. In a four-page statement defending the dissolutions, Law Minister P Shriv Shankar said the opposition parties which were in power in various states continued in office, despite loss of confidence of the electorate, by deliberately delaying ratification of the CAB. Their "deliberate inaction", he said, "highlights their lack of concern for the advancement of the interest of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes."

# Neighbours' mind games

Given Pakistan's paranoia about an 'existential threat' from India, New Delhi and Islamabad must initiate a confidence-building dialogue between nuclear experts



ARUN PRAKASH

EVEN AS THORNY issues of force-modernisation, budget-prioritisation and joint command structures engage the attention of our newly anointed Chief of Defence Staff, he will, sooner than later, in his capacity as the first-ever Military Adviser to the National Command Authority (NCA), have to address India's nuclear deterrent. When he does so, he might ponder over US strategist Bernard Brodie's prescription for preventing a nuclear conflict: "Thus far, the chief purpose of our military establishment has been to win wars. From now on its chief purpose must be to avert them."

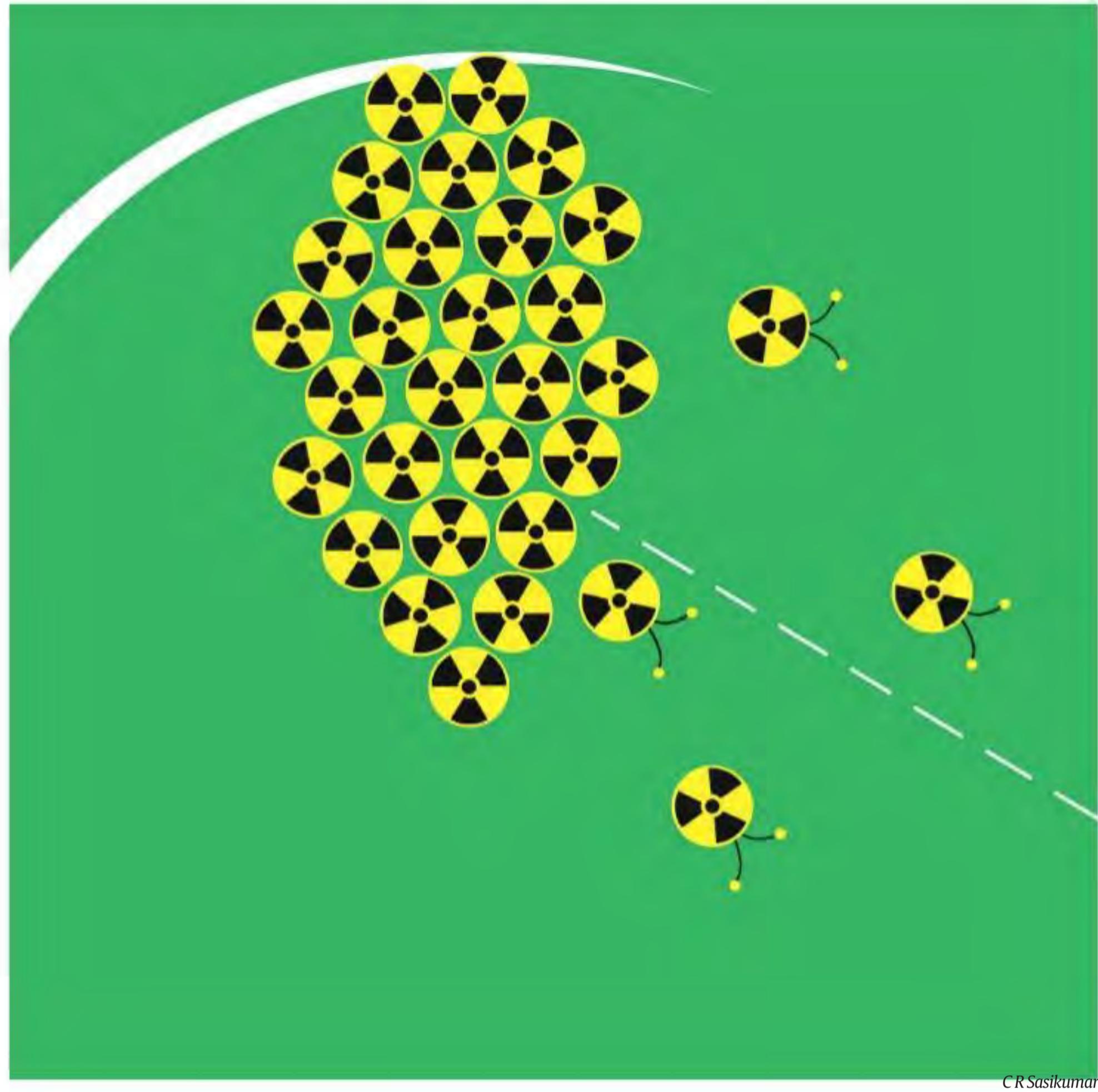
Just as "beauty" is said to lie in the "eye of the beholder", the credibility of nuclear deterrence lies in the "adversary's mind". He must never be permitted to entertain an iota of doubt that a nuclear first strike will invite a devastating nuclear response. The establishment of credible mutual deterrence between two nuclear rivals, by diminishing the possibility of a surprise nuclear attack, forms the basis of what is termed "strategic stability". So, when retired Pakistani Lt General Khalid Kidwai blames India for South Asia's endemic strategic instability, we must take note.

Speaking at a recent workshop organised by the International Institute for Strategic Studies, Kidwai claimed that the onus of maintaining strategic stability in South Asia fell on Pakistan's shoulders since "India's insatiable drive for regional domination, especially given its current irrational, unstable and belligerent internal and external policies" could lead to catastrophic consequences. Kidwai, as the Director-General of the Strategic Plans Division (SPD) for 14 years, was at the heart of Pakistan's National Command Authority (NCA), overseeing the operationalisation of its nuclear deterrent and evolution of its doctrines and strategies. Although his pronouncements are for public consumption, given the historic absence of a formal Indo-Pak nuclear dialogue, they should provide some food for thought.

Kidwai's discourse attempts to upend conventional wisdom in an effort to show that it is India, not Pakistan, which is a revisionist power bent on destabilising the Subcontinent. His description of "major destabilising strategic steps" initiated by India provides an interesting glimpse of the Pakistani capacity for self-delusion and the visceral hostility underpinning its paranoia about an "existential threat" from India.

The starting point of Kidwai's arguments is India's 1974 peaceful nuclear explosion (PNE), which, according to him, was the trigger for Pakistan's nuclear-weapon programme as the only way of redressing the "India-induced strategic instability". However, Pakistani nuclear expert Feroze Hassan Khan writes that Pakistan's "bomb decision" had come much earlier in January 1972, when then Prime Minister Z A Bhutto spoke to a gathering of scientists in Multan about waging a "thousand-year war" against India and boasted that "...we will make an atomic bomb even if we have to eat grass". US analyst George Perkovich, writing about India's post-PNE posture, mentions that "moral doubts, domestic priorities and international considerations" that prevented Indira Gandhi and successor PMs from authorising weaponisation till Pakistan's stealthy pursuit of an "Islamic bomb" forced India's hand.

Kidwai then refers to the massing of Indian forces for the military exercise



CR Sasikumar

"Brasstacks" in end-1986, which caused serious alarm in Pakistan. According to him, Pakistan not only counter-mobilised its forces, but also dropped hints of a nuclear capability due to which "India blinked and strategic stability was restored". In actual fact, the military crisis had wound down on its own by February 1987, and it was only in March that journalist Kuldeep Nayar "broke" rogue nuclear scientist A Q Khan's boast about using the bomb if Pakistan's existence was threatened.

During the 1990s, alleges Kidwai, "India upped the ante" through the introduction of longer range ballistic missiles and eventually, by conducting nuclear tests in 1998. The resultant instability, according to him, compelled Pakistan to induct a new family of ballistic missiles and respond by conducting its own nuclear tests, thus restoring strategic balance. He fails to mention that with the clandestine transfer of missile technology from North Korea and receipt of nuclear-weapon designs and material from China, Pakistan, throughout the 1980s and 90s, had remained ahead of India, as the latter persevered with indigenous technology.

Pakistan, apart from reserving the right to the first-use of nuclear weapons, has refrained from declaring an official nuclear doctrine since 1998. The timeline of Pakistan's transition from "minimum credible deterrence" to "full spectrum deterrence" (FSD) is, therefore, not clear. Kidwai presents the FSD regime as a counter to the Indian army's Cold Start doctrine, meant to be a remedial for India's lethargic general mobilisation of 2001-02.

Kidwai claims that FSD focuses on a capability to bring "every Indian target into Pakistan's striking range" and provides options to select amongst counter-value, battlefield and counter-force targets. Consequently, he believes that the "Cold Start

Coming to India's February 2019 air-strike on Balakot, Kidwai vehemently denies that Pakistan's "nuclear bluff" was called, notwithstanding the IAF having crossed the international border to launch kinetic attacks. It was the presence of Pakistan's nuclear weapons, he says, that "detected India from expanding operations beyond a single unsuccessful air strike". The robust PAF response, according to him, restored strategic stability and "no new normal" was established.

Finally, Kidwai is not above muddying the waters through disinformation and questions India's nuclear command and control system.

Referring to the deployment of India's nuclear submarine, *Arihant*, during the Balakot crisis, he poses an obscure question that would interest our strategists: "One wonders whether India contemplated the use of nuclear weapons from a second strike platform even before its first strike options?"

Pakistan's nuclear posture involving warhead accretion, battlefield nuclear weapons and a sea-based second-strike capability is divergent from India's. Arrival of ballistic-missile defence and multiple re-entry warheads on the scene will render the Indo-Pak equation far more complex and instability-prone. Since there is no common understanding of issues like nuclear thresholds, deterrence-breakdown and escalation-control, it is in the mutual interest of New Delhi and Islamabad to initiate a sustained confidence-building dialogue – isolated from all other issues – between nuclear experts.

*The writer is a retired chief of naval staff*

ment during the Gujarat elections. And they probably cost the BJP quite a few votes from the educated middle class," the article says.

According to the article, while AAP showcased its schools and mohalla clinics, the BJP had to carry the burden of inept municipal councillors. The article criticises the BJP for its inability to conceive a local campaign: "Election after election, the BJP has managed to confuse national issues with state elections. The CAA is done and dusted... don't even talk about it. The plank should have been – how Delhi would develop seamlessly if BJP came to power."

An article titled, "No Lessons Learnt" by Suchitra Kulkarni, says: "The BJP did not have a credible face to project as the chief minister. The suave, smooth-talking Kejriwal has a way with words and manages to connect with the electorate through his advertisement chats." Commenting on the BJP's vitriolic campaign, the article compared it to Sonia Gandhi's "Maut ka Saudagar" comment. "The BJP's impetuous verbal diarrhoea was horrific to say the least – 'Desh ke gadron ko, goli maaro saalo ko' had no place in a state election. Another Union minister called Kejriwal a terrorist. Both dialogues were right up there with Sonia Gandhi's 'maut ka saudagar' com-

ment during the Gujarat elections. And they probably cost the BJP quite a few votes from the educated middle class," the article says.

According to the article, while AAP showcased its schools and mohalla clinics, the BJP had to carry the burden of inept municipal councillors. The article criticises the BJP for its inability to conceive a local campaign: "Election after election, the BJP has managed to confuse national issues with state elections. The CAA is done and dusted... don't even talk about it. The plank should have been – how Delhi would develop seamlessly if BJP came to power."

## SHAHEEN BAGH

THE CAA PROTESTS have continued to figure in *Organiser*. In the latest issue, it has tried to analyse their impact on the Delhi elections and what it means for the future. An article blamed the "majority" for falling for freebies rather than being worried about the dangers Shaheen Bagh poses.

"Shaheen Bagh was milked to the hilt for elections by Left-secular communal forces. It was nurtured by AAP's minister Amanullah Khan... Yes, it didn't matter for the 'majority' community as its voting percentage and results show. They preferred the comfort of free facilities over the frightening scenario they witnessed in the name

that will further marginalise the Congress in Assam, the article has expressed hope that the BJP could win 12 seats in the Bodo region.

"From the perspective of general popularity and electoral politics... the BJP is set for rich dividends. The BJP is eyeing 12 seats in the Bodo region for itself and possibly for its regional alliance partners. In Bengal-dominated Cachar valley, where the CAA has overwhelming acceptance, there would be 15 seats. Here too, the Lotus party feels it can gain from the Hindu votes even as Bengali Muslims grudge it with more intensity. The Muslim votes in Cachar Valley and parts of Dhubri district could now actually go to the AIUDF of Badruddin Ajmal," the article claims.

It added that the accord sets a template for resolving regional disputes: "There are demands for such separate homelands in other parts of Assam and in other states as well. Following the Accord, it is presumed that it will be useful for the Centre to reach out to other tribal groups in states like Manipur, and, to an extent in Nagaland – in the Mon-Tuensang region there is already a clamour for a separate Union Territory status – and also to other ethnic and tribal groups in Assam such as those in Karbi Anglong."

## BODO ACCORD

ORGANISER HAS HAILED the Bodo Accord as an electoral bulwark against the setbacks the BJP may face due to anti-CAA protests in Assam. Calling the accord a masterstroke

*Curated by Deepiman Tiwary*

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"There is little doubt now that Pakistan is displaying utmost seriousness in cleaning its stables and laying a financial, legal and administrative infrastructure that would comply with FATF standards for squeezing terror funding."

—DAWN

# Content of speech, or name of speaker?

Even if we disagree with Sharjeel Imam's statements, it is important to stand up for his right to speak



APOORVANAND

Kanhaya Kumar's yatra and it took an intervention by the chief minister for it to relent. The seeming willingness, at times, of the judiciary to look away from the police's biased approach is only emboldening the latter.

Urvashi, a trans person herself raised the slogan supporting Sharjeel at a pride parade. The organisers immediately distanced themselves from those, including Urvashi, who allegedly raised the slogans. They are right when they say that the purpose of the parade was different. But a queer parade is also about questioning the notion of normality. All sexual orientations are normal. They have a right to be expressed. Similarly, the normal Indian is disturbed by the likes of Sharjeel and his friends. They are faced with a nationalist bias and their right to expression needs to be defended against this oppressive idea of Indianess. Freedom, like justice, is indivisible. If you deny it to one kind of people, you should also not expect it for yourself. While disassociating with the slogans, the least the organisers could have done was to say that they stand for the right of free expression of Urvashi and her friends.

We may agree or disagree with Sharjeel's statements but so long as he does not call for violence, he remains a free person. Sharjeel has not called for the dismemberment of India. He was talking about a long road blockade. Since when have road blockades become seditious in India? Would Sharjeel be wrong if he concludes that it is not the content of his speech, but his name, which goes against him? Also, one should not need to repeat that mere speech, however disagreeable to the state, must not be the basis for sedition charges.

In an India where open calls to violence against Muslims — that too by ministers and political leaders — and open propaganda against them are seen as a natural expression of sentiments, it is not surprising that people like Sharjeel are suppressed. To criminalise protests by Muslims and disallow them to even speak is to tell them that they are not part of the democratic universe of India. For what is democracy if not the freedom to have a view which could be contrary to the mainstream? Again, to exercise your democratic rights you need not always present nationalist credentials first. Muslims cannot be asked to talk about their rights only after pledging their commitment to the country. No other section of people in India is burdened with this expectation. Sharjeel is only one of the diverse voices within the Muslim community. He, as an individual and as one who identifies himself as a Muslim, has as much a right to have his views as other, so-called nationalist, Muslims.

What the police is doing to the Muslim protesters and persons like Sharjeel effectively tells them that they are already second-class citizens of India. Sharjeel should not be left alone to fight this battle. To secure his liberty, to ensure equality for him, to guarantee justice to him — ideas of fraternity and solidarity need to assert themselves.

*The writer teaches Hindi at Delhi University*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### BRUTAL POLICE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Caught on camera' (IE, February 18). Notwithstanding, the high court and Supreme Court observations about citizens' fundamental right to peaceful protest, the concept seems alien to the lower judiciary and Delhi Police. It is wrong to assume that the excessive police action was autonomous. The police are being guided by the political executive, which harbours a very different view about the ongoing protests against CAA-NRC-NPR than the apex court. The rule of law is imperative for democracy to survive. Those policemen responsible for brutality against innocent students must face the law.

**LR Murmu, 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](mailto:editpage@expressindia.com) or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301.

playing within the rules, why paint it with an anti-people brush? We need to remember that the alternative form of human organisation under Stalin and Mao was a nightmare.

**H N Bhagwat, Chiplun**

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'When Yankee goes home' (IE, February 18). The Trump administration's attempt to revisit all its engagements in the global arena and the fall out of its hasty actions point to the fact that the contemporary international order is primarily an American project, and its survival depends on the whims of the ruling elites in the US. The centrality of the US cannot be wished away but international institutions can provide stability by making readjustments.

**Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata**



## VIEW FROM THE RIGHT

### POLL LESSONS

NOT HAVING A CM face and focusing on "horrific" polarising jingoism cost the BJP the elections in Delhi, the English mouthpiece of the RSS, *Organiser*, has said in its latest issue.

An article titled, "No Lessons Learnt" by Suchitra Kulkarni, says: "The BJP did not have a credible face to project as the chief minister. The suave, smooth-talking Kejriwal has a way with words and manages to connect with the electorate through his advertisement chats." Commenting on the BJP's vitriolic campaign, the article compared it to Sonia Gandhi's "Maut ka Saudagar" comment. "The BJP's impetuous verbal diarrhoea was horrific to say the least – 'Desh ke gadron ko, goli maaro saalo ko' had no place in a state election. Another Union minister called Kejriwal a terrorist. Both dialogues were right up there with Sonia Gandhi's 'maut ka saudagar' com-



## IRAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

## KHAMENEI: VOTING A RELIGIOUS DUTY

Voting in a parliamentary election this week is "a religious duty" for Iranians, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Tuesday, days before the vote seen as a referendum on the clerical establishment's popularity. Due to a large number of disqualified candidates, hardliners loyal to Khamenei are likely to dominate the 290-seat Parliament after the Feb 21 vote.

## TOP OF THE WORLD

USA  
Bloomberg makes debate stage, facing rivals for 1st time

BILLIONAIRE MIKE Bloomberg has qualified for the upcoming Democratic presidential debate, marking the first time he'll stand alongside the rivals he has so far avoided by bypassing the early voting states and using his personal fortune to define himself through television ads. A new poll published Tuesday shows Bloomberg with 19% support nationally in the Democratic nominating contest. The former New York City mayor, who launched his campaign in Nov., will appear in Wednesday's debate in Las Vegas alongside former Vice President Joe Biden, Sens. Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Amy Klobuchar and former mayor Pete Buttigieg.

PAKISTAN  
14 die in Karachi after mysterious toxic gas leak

Karachi: A mysterious toxic gas has killed at least 14 people and sickened several others in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi, police said on Tuesday. Authorities were alerted to the incident when the residents of Karachi's Keamari area began rushing to nearby hospitals with severe breathing problems on Sunday night. The source of a toxic gas leak remained unclear on Tuesday. Officials said 14 people have been killed so far, Dawn reported. The Ziauddin Hospital said nine deaths took place at the hospital's Keamari Campus over the course of the past two days.

IRAN  
'US spies' given up to 10-year prison terms

Tehran: Iran sentenced eight environmental activists, including an Iranian who reportedly also has British and American citizenship, to prison sentences ranging from four to 10 years on charges of spying for the United States and acting against Iran's national security, the judiciary said Tuesday. According to a judiciary spokesperson, an appeals court issued the final verdicts. Two of the activists got 10 years each and were ordered to return the money they allegedly received from the US government for their services.

## 98 MORE DIE IN CHINA, TAKING OVERALL TOLL TO 1,868

## Coronavirus claims life of hospital director in outbreak's epicentre

Liu Zhiming becomes 7th health worker known to have died of the virus; 1,700 doctors, nurses infected

YANAN WANG  
BEIJING, FEBRUARY 18

AS A mysterious new virus enveloped central China's Wuhan early this year, Liu Zhiming mobilised all the resources of his hospital in the city's Wuchang district to deal with the thousands of sick people arriving daily, threatening to overwhelm the local health care system.

That dedication appears to have cost him his life, with Wuhan's health bureau announcing Tuesday that he became infected and died despite "all-out" attempts to save him.

Liu is at least the seventh health worker to die of the COVID-19 disease among the more than 1,700 doctors and nurses who have become sick. His death comes as authorities are cautiously cheering a reduction in the number of new daily cases and deaths, along with the results of a study showing most people who contracted the virus experienced only mild symptoms.

China on Tuesday reported 1,886 new cases and 98 more deaths. That raised the number of deaths in mainland China to 1,868 and the total number of



Patients infected with the coronavirus take rest at a temporary hospital converted from Wuhan Sports Center in central China's Hubei Province, Monday. AP

confirmed cases to 72,436.

"Now the prevention and control work is at a critical time," President Xi Jinping told British Prime Minister Boris Johnson in a phone call Tuesday, according to Chinese

state broadcaster CCTV.

The UN secretary general said the virus outbreak "is not out of control but it is a very dangerous situation." Antonio Guterres said in an interview in Lahore, Pakistan, that "the risks

are enormous and we need to be prepared worldwide for that."

The outbreak has caused massive disruptions and China may postpone its biggest political meeting of the year to avoid having people travel to Beijing

## WHO: 92 cases of human-to-human transmission outside China

Geneva: There have been 92 cases of human-to-human spread of the coronavirus in 12 countries outside China but the World Health Organisation does not have the data to make comparisons with China, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Tuesday. He said the WHO had not seen sustained local transmission except in specific cases, such as on the Diamond Princess cruise ship quarantined in Japan. China has reported 72,528 cases to WHO including 1,868 deaths as of Tuesday, Tedros said.

while the virus is still spreading.

One of the automotive industry's biggest events, China's biannual auto show, also is being postponed, and many sports and entertainment events have been delayed or canceled. AP

## 37 YRS IN PAK ARMY

■ Gen Shahid Aziz served the Pakistan Army for 37 years and held a number of key posts, including Director General Military Operations, Chief of General Staff, and Commander of the IV Corps in Lahore.

■ Aziz was part of Musharraf's close circle, and also served as director of the ISI's Analysis Wing.

■ In 2016, he disappeared and was rumoured to have fled to Afghanistan's Kunar province where he was said to have fought alongside the Islamic State.

subcontinent are merely an extension of the Pakistani establishment. Aziz was a key player in the Kargil war. Later, he went on to attack Musharraf in public for the botched operation. In fact, there are recordings where he is telling Musharraf that all preparations are done," former Research and Analysis Wing chief Alok Joshi said.

Aziz served the Pakistan Army for 37 years and held a number of key posts. These included Director General Military Operations (DGMO), Chief of General Staff, and Commander of the IV Corps in Lahore. Aziz was part of Musharraf's close circle, and as Director of the ISI's Analysis Wing, one of the architects of Kargil.

Post retirement, however, Aziz was reported to have been attracted to jihadis groups and was said to have harboured such ideology for long. In an interview later, Musharraf spoke of Aziz "having grown a beard" and leaving for Afghanistan.

Husain Haqqani, a journalist who served as Pakistan's ambassador to the US from 2008 to 2011, and was an aide to both Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto, said a book written by Aziz in 2013 revealed his "preference for an Islamist Pakistan". According to Haqqani, for Aziz "only the Quran stands in the way" of the modern world's "Satanic way of life".

This is not the first case of a Pakistan Army officer joining militant ranks after retirement. Lt Gen Hamid Gul was reported to have joined the Haqqani network.

## Quarantine on cruise ship in Japan comes under question

Those who have tested negative for the virus on the *Diamond Princess* set to go home starting today

MARIA CHENG &  
MARI YAMAGUCHI  
TOKYO, FEBRUARY 18

AN EXTRAORDINARY two-week quarantine of the *Diamond Princess* cruise ship ends Wednesday, with thousands of passengers and crew set to disem-

bark over the next several days in the port of Yokohama, near Tokyo. A growing number of scientists, however, say the ship served as an incubator for a worrisome new virus from China instead of a quarantine facility meant to prevent the worsening of an outbreak that has sickened tens of thousands.

As of Tuesday, 542 cases of the virus have been identified among the 3,711 quarantined passengers and crew, making the ship the site of the most infections outside of China.

The question now is: Why?

The Japanese government has repeatedly defended the effectiveness of the quarantine. But some

scientists suggest that it may have been less than rigorous.

In a possible sign of lax quarantine protocols, three Japanese health officials who helped in the quarantining checks on the ship were also infected.

Japan's health minister, Katsunobu Kato, told reporters Tuesday that all passengers who

remained on the cruise ship have had their samples taken and that those who tested negative would start getting off the vessel beginning Wednesday, when their required 14-day quarantine is scheduled to end. The process is expected to take until Friday because of the large number of people involved. AP

## UN CHIEF IN PAKISTAN

## 'Kartarpur corridor opening is proof of Pak's desire for peace'

ZULQERNAIN  
LAHORE, FEBRUARY 18

UN CHIEF Antonio Guterres on Tuesday said the opening of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor is a practical example of Pakistan's desire for peace and inter-faith harmony, as he visited the revered Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, the final resting place of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev.

The Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhik Committee and Evacuee Trust Property Board officials received the UN Secretary General at Kartarpur Sahib, some 125kms from Lahore. A Sikh boy presented him a bouquet.

Guterres was also briefed about the Kartarpur Corridor pact between Pakistan and India. He was told that Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan took this initiative to facilitate the Sikh community of India and elsewhere to visit the shrine.

Later talking to media persons, the UN Secretary General said the Kartarpur Corridor is a practical example of Pakistan's desire for peace and inter-faith harmony, Radio Pakistan reported. PTI

Darbar Sahib in Pakistan's Kartarpur—the final resting place of Sikh faith's founder Guru Nanak Dev — to Dera Baba Nanak shrine in India's Gurdaspur district.

Wearing an orange scarf, Guterres visited different parts of the Gurdwara. He was served with traditional food in lunch along with Sikhs and Pakistani officials.

Strict security measures were taken during the visit.

Indian Sikhs in good number were also present at Kartarpur Sahib.

Later talking to media persons, the UN Secretary General said the Kartarpur Corridor is a practical example of Pakistan's desire for peace and inter-faith harmony, Radio Pakistan reported. PTI

The bickering in Kabul and Ghan's surprise suggestion that the Taliban participate in elections would seem to throw a wrench into peace plans announced last weekend at the Munich Security Summit.

The election commission said Ghani garnered 923,592 votes, or 50.64%, in the troubled election that took place last Sept 28. The country's chief executive, Abdullah Abdullah received 720,841 votes, or 39.52%.

Ghani and Abdullah head a fragile national unity government that was put together under US pressure after both leaders claimed victory in Afghanistan's 2014 elections.

Abdullah, in comments broadcast by media outlets, said he considered the election results illegal. "We are going to establish an inclusive government," he said. AP

**TAMEEM AKHGAN & RAHIM FAIEZ**  
KABUL, FEBRUARY 18

ASHRAF GHANI won a second term as President of Afghanistan, the country's independent election commission announced Tuesday, but his closest opponent refused to recognise the results, declaring himself winner and potentially endangering peace negotiations with the Taliban.

The Taliban also rejected Ghani's win, further putting into question a US peace plan that calls for a reduction in violence followed by a more permanent agreement expected to be signed Feb 29 between Washington and the Taliban. That agreement would pave the way for US troops to return home, ending America's longest war, and trigger negotiations between Afghans on both sides of the conflict.

The bickering in Kabul and Ghan's surprise suggestion that the Taliban participate in elections would seem to throw a wrench into peace plans announced last weekend at the Munich Security Summit.

Abdullah, in comments broadcast by media outlets, said he considered the election results illegal. "We are going to establish an inclusive government," he said. AP

**E. Delayed election, disputed votes**

THE ELECTION that took place last Sept was delayed multiple times due to various considerations, including security concerns. It was also marred by uncertainty over the future of the country as the US and the Taliban negotiated a peace deal.

When the election did take place, it saw a relatively low turnout of around 1.8 million. Ghani's main opponent, Abdullah Abdullah, as well as other candidates, dispute around 300,000 of those votes. Many of these votes have been registered in the system either before or after voting hours — by months in some cases. This leaves the conflict-torn country prone to yet another political crisis.

The organisation has been accused of covering up generations of abuse inflicted on thousands of its young members and failing to do enough to root out pedophiles using the youth movement to prey

## Qaeda confirms: Pak Lt General joined us after service, has died

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 18

THE AL QAEDA in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) has claimed that a former top military officer of Pakistan, Lt Gen Shahid Aziz, had joined them after his retirement and died a few years ago.

Aziz, who retired from the Pakistan Army in 2005, was once considered very close to General Pervez Musharraf and played a key role in the 1999 Kargil war.

Saudi Arabia-based Arab News said the announcement on Aziz was made by AQIS in the February edition of its Urdu language magazine 'Nawa-e-Afghan Jihad' (Voice of Afghan Jihad).

The Arab News said while rumours of Shahid Aziz's death had been circulating since 2018, this was the first confirmation from al-Qaeda. Notably, after retiring from the Army in 2005, Aziz headed the anti-corruption watchdog of Pakistan for two years under Musharraf's presidency. In 2013, he slammed Musharraf for the Kargil "misadventure" which, he said, was done in secrecy and was bound to fail because of poor planning.

In 2016, he disappeared and was rumoured to have fled to Afghanistan's Kunar province where he was said to have fought alongside the Islamic State (IS).

The report quoted Saleem Mehsud, a senior journalist, saying: "For the first time, an organisation has stated that Aziz had any sort of contacts with any entity, and now the magazine will publish his alleged articles from his book, which is expected to make startling revelations."

In the past, Aziz was reported to have been attracted to jihadis groups and was said to have harboured such ideology for long. In an interview later, Musharraf spoke of Aziz "having grown a beard" and leaving for Afghanistan.

While the Indian establishment has not reacted to the revelation officially, intelligence officers say this comes as no surprise.

"I am not surprised at all by this revelation. Pakistan has a long tradition of its military officers joining ranks with terror groups. It only validates my consistent assertion that ISIS and AQIS in the Indian

The Boy Scouts of America headquarters in Irving, Texas. It has 2.2 million members between the ages of five and 21. Reuters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 18

THE BOY Scouts of America filed for bankruptcy Tuesday in what it said was an effort to safeguard compensation payouts for sexual abuse victims.

More than 12,000 members of the Boy Scouts had been sexually abused since 1944, the victims' lawyer said. The Boy Scouts of America has around 2.2 million members between the ages of five and 21, the organisation said.

on minors over its 110-year history.

Bankruptcy proceedings will help the Boy Scouts to "equitably compensate" victims through the establishment of a victims' compensation trust and allow the organisation to continue at a local level, the group said.

The organisation has been accused of covering up generations of abuse inflicted on thousands of its young members and failing to do enough to root out pedophiles using the youth movement to prey

ularly and participating in routine religious ceremonies.

The data in it shows how China has tried to establish dominance over Uighurs and other minority groups in the name of increasing security, said Adrian Zenz, a researcher who has analyzed the spreadsheet.

"This document is by far the most detailed that we have," said Zenz, a senior fellow at the Victims' Memorial Foundation in Washington. "It allows us to dissect the anatomy of both the internment drive and what the government" is now doing with these people. NYT

## LEAKED DOCUMENT OUTLINES INFORMATION THAT AUTHORITIES GATHERED ON RESIDENTS OF XINJIANG'S KARAKAX COUNTY

## How China monitored, selected people for internment camps in Xinjiang

AUSTIN RAMZY  
FEBRUARY 18

THE LAST time she heard from her family was over three years ago, before China began rounding up Muslims in the country's far west. She lived abroad and knew nothing of her family's fate — until the contents of a leaked government document surfaced, describing their lives in chilling detail.

Rozinisa Memettohti, an ethnic Uighur who has lived in Turkey since 2003, learned in the document that two of her sisters

had been sent to indoctrination camps for having more children than the region allowed. One of the sisters was also targeted for obtaining a passport. "The reality is already far worse than any of my fears," Memettohti said in a telephone interview this month. "My father, my brothers and my sisters are in danger."

For the past few years, authorities in the Xinjiang region have placed hundreds of thousands of Uighurs, Kazakhs and other predominantly Muslim minority groups into indoctrination camps in the most sweep-



A call to prayer in the old city of Kashgar in Xinjiang. NYT

dreds of their relatives and neighbors. Even children as young as 16 were closely monitored for signs of what Beijing considered to be wayward thinking.

The document, one of numerous files kept on the more than one million

SENSEX: 40,894.38 ▼ 161.31 NIFTY: 11,992.50 ▼ 53.30 NIKKEI: 23,193.80 ▼ 329.44 HANG SENG: 27,530.20 ▼ 429.40 FTSE: 7,364.67 ▼ 68.58 DAX: 13,685.12 ▼ 98.77



GOLD

₹41,865



RUPEE

₹71.54



OIL

\$56.58



SILVER

₹47,584

\*Indian basket as on February 17, 2020

International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH  
AVIATION

Ahmedabad leads among major airports in wildlife strikes; 11 cases for every 10,000 flights

PRANAV MUKUL

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 18

TUESDAY'S BIRD-HIT incident at Ahmedabad airport involving a GoAir aircraft will add to its already abysmal statistics on wildlife-related incidents, according to which there were nearly 11 such events every 10,000 flights in 2019 — making it the worst among major aerodromes. This is almost twice as much as Delhi airport — the country's biggest one — which had over five wildlife strike incidents last year.

The GoAir aircraft bound for Bengaluru on Tuesday was hurtling on Ahmedabad's runway to take-off when one of its engines ingested a vulture, resulting in the powerplant catching fire, after which the take-off was rejected. Even as the incident may have caused disruption for passengers, pilots and aviation professionals have developed their means to deal with wildlife-related disruptions that have plagued the Ahmedabad airport, which saw one incident every four days last year.

On the one hand, pilots who regularly fly into or out of Ahmedabad make special efforts to prevent bird strikes and air traffic personnel have started informing the crew about bird movements in their flight path. At every airport where scheduled flights operate, an individual Airfield Environment Management Committee has been constituted to identify sources of stray animals or bird attractions at the airport and take necessary steps for bird-strike prevention.

According to government officials, the AEMCs are mandated to take "proactive measures on time-bound basis" to ensure that no illegal slaughter houses, garbage dumps etc exist in the vicinity of airports, which is a source of increased bird activity and may lead to wildlife strikes to aircraft during approach or take-off.

According to sources, the two primary contributors to the wildlife nuisance at Ahmedabad airport and the

In 2019, 1,280 wildlife strikes occurred at all airports, lower than 1,320 in 2018

surrounding airspace are the presence of bird sanctuaries in the vicinity of the airport — the Thol Bird Sanctuary about 30 km away from the airport — and the larger Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary, which is 70-75 km away. Both these spots attract migratory birds from the north in heavy numbers.

The second, more recent phenomenon, is dismantling of a large garbage dump in Ahmedabad, a move that has caused the birds circling the landfill to disperse. The dump is located almost directly in the trajectory of flights taking off from and landing into the airport. While in terms of frequency, the Ahmedabad airport, where US President Donald Trump is expected to arrive later this month, tops the list of wildlife-related incidents, Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport saw the highest number of absolute incidents in 2019 at 242. Ahmedabad was second at 93, while Mumbai was third at 73, and Chennai at fourth with 54 incidents last year. Goa's Dabolim airport saw 41 such cases being reported in 2019.

In 2019, 1,280 wildlife strikes occurred at all airports, slightly lower than 1,320 in 2018. In 2017, the number of incidents stood at 1,125, while in 2016 it was 839.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation have recognised wildlife strikes, including bird and animal hits, to aircraft as one of the "State Safety Priority", and the aviation regulator regularly carries out aerodrome inspection that considered critical in regard to wildlife strikes. These inspections are carried out jointly with representatives of various airlines and other stakeholders. The DGCA, then, shares the findings of these inspections with the airport operators.

## WILDLIFE-STRIKE INCIDENTS

AIRPORT	2019	2018	2017	2016
Ahmedabad	10.96	14.89	11.61	13.26
Goa	7.36	7.44	5.94	3.29
Delhi	5.36	4.75	5.17	3.54
Mumbai	2.38	3.16	2.45	2.44
Bangalore	1.58	3.05	1.80	2.67
Hyderabad	2.21	4.21	4.26	3.38
Chennai	3.16	4.48	3.06	2.92
Kolkata	2.88	5.23	3.80	3.47

Source: DGCA/AAI

Note: Data is as per 10,000 flights



A security personnel at a closed Apple store in Sanlitun, China. Reuters file photo

## VODAFONE IDEA FACING DUES OF OVER ₹53,000 CRORE

## Mar 17 deadline: Under pressure to pay AGR dues, Birla meets DoT Secy

AASHISH ARYAN  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 18

VODAFONE IDEA Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla and managing director and chief executive officer Ravinder Takkar met Department of Telecommunications (DoT) Secretary Anshu Prakash for over an hour on Tuesday. Both Prakash and Birla, however, refused to comment on what was discussed, with the latter saying he "cannot say anything at the moment".

Birla's meeting with Prakash comes after his meeting with Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad Friday, according to sources. Takkar, meanwhile, is learnt to have paid a second visit to Prakash later during the day.

Vodafone Idea, which faces an adjusted gross revenue (AGR) payout of at least Rs 53,000 crore, is under the lens of rating agencies that believe it does not have the ability to pay the required AGR dues by March 17, 2020. Talks of the company's bank guarantees being encashed by the DoT, in case it fails to make the payments, have also been doing the rounds.

On Tuesday, the telco's long-term rating was downgraded by India Ratings, which said it believes Vodafone Idea "does not have the

## 'CANNOT SAY ANYTHING AT THE MOMENT'

Vodafone Idea chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla and managing director and chief executive officer Ravinder Takkar met Telecom Secretary Anshu Prakash on Tuesday

ability to pay dues by 17 March 2020, given lack of clarity on promoter equity infusion, severe erosion in refinancing flexibility and insufficient cash balance".

"Ind-Ra believes VIL (Vodafone Idea) does not have the ability to pay the dues by 17 March 2020, given the lack of clarity on promoter equity infusion, severe erosion in refinancing flexibility and insufficient cash balance (Rs 12,500 crore as of December 2019). The ruling has elevated the risk of acceleration in the payment of financial liabilities," Care Ratings said in a press release.

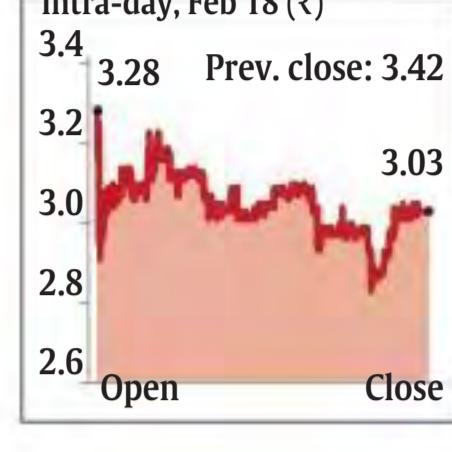
The downgrade by India Ratings was preceded by another rating downgrade by Care Ratings, which had on Monday downgraded the long-term rating of Vodafone Idea, "taking into cognizance of the financial impact of no relief being granted" by the Supreme Court on February 14.

At the end of the meeting, which lasted for over an hour, Prakash and Birla refused to comment on what was discussed, with the latter saying he "cannot say anything at the moment"

"Along with these, any further delay in the monetisation of its tower business housed in Indus Towers Ltd and fibre assets, are likely to put further strain on the liquidity profile of the company. The ability of VIL (Vodafone Idea) to raise funds and manage the financial liability arising out of the AGR dues remains a key monitorable," Care Ratings had said.

On February 14, the Supreme Court, during the hearing of a modification plea moved by telecom and non-telemarketing companies, said if the firms did not make payments of the pending AGR dues before March 17, the managing directors and other directors of the firms would have to make personal appearance before the court.

The apex court then issued show-cause notice to the companies as to why contempt of court should not be initiated against them for failing to comply with orders.



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

That three-month deadline ended on January 23, before which the telcos had unsuccessfully tried to persuade the DoT to give them more time to pay the dues. Having failed there, the telcos again approached the apex court seeking a review of the October 24 judgment, which was turned down.

Two days before the stipulated deadline was to end, the telcos moved the top court again, seeking to "work out feasible terms mutually with DoT" to ensure that they remained a "going concern".

Under the old norms to check spam short messaging service (SMS) by telemarketers had failed, and, thus, was being replaced by a new framework.

In a release announcing the consultation for the new framework has started, Trai has said that "despite various measures taken to curb, complaints were on a rise and the problem was not fully under control".

To solve the problem, the Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations (TCC-CPR), 2018 had been introduced, the consultation for which has started on Tuesday. Stakeholders will have till March 3 to submit their comments, Trai said.

Under the old framework, initially only 100 SMS per SIM per day was allowed to be sent.

The regulations were subsequently revised to allow 100 free SMS per SIM per day, after which it would be charged at 50 paise per SMS per SIM per day. The notification was issued on November 5, 2012.

Trai had then hoped that "notifying a tariff of minimum of fifty paise per SMS for SMS exceeding 100 SMS per SIM per day" would save telecom subscribers "from the menace of unsolicited commercial communications".

The new TCC-CPR, 2018, mentions several steps, including a central registry wherein any telecom service provider could update the number of a suspected spammer or telemarketer.

The central registry, which the Trai then said could be derived from the Distributed Ledger Technology, was the need of the hour.

"Trai has determined, after careful analysis and witnessing proof of concept solutions, that this technology is indeed the appropriate "RegTech" for governing commercial communications."

The new framework for curbing unsolicited commercial communications (UCC) also proposes that each service provider shall maintain records of complaints from its customers and submit performance monitoring report to Trai as and when required in a format as prescribed.

It had also said that the maximum penalty per service provider would not exceed under Rs 50 lakh per calendar month.

cation," the telecom regulator had said.

The telecom regulator had also envisaged a co-regulation framework under the Distributed Ledger Technology so that the needs of the subscribers were kept on priority.

UCC, which has been a major point of concern for the Trai, has seen rise over the years. In a Right To Information reply obtained by The Indian Express, the Trai had said that as of 2017, there had been 277 complaints over UCC, which had been forwarded to the respective telecom service providers.

This number was 161 in 2016, and 166 in 2015. In 2014, Trai data showed that there had been no complaints over UCC between January and July, whereas between August and December, there were 140 complaints which were forwarded to the telecom services providers.

Trai had started maintaining this data starting August 2012. Between August and December 2012, as many as 596 complaints regarding UCC were forwarded to the respective telcos, while this number stood at 471 in 2013.

## 'India Inc's average salary hike to be 9.1% in 2020'

Companies in India are projected to dole out an average salary hike of 9.1 per cent this year, as they look for key talent and niche skills, as per a report by HR consultancy Aon



Lowest in a decade  
The quantum is lower than 9.3 per cent increase seen in 2019 and also the lowest in a decade

39%  
COMPANIES OF THE ONES SURVEYED ARE EXPECTED TO GIVE AS MUCH AS 10 PER CENT INCREASE IN PAY

## OUTLOOK

Despite economic challenges in 2019, organisations in India are taking a positive view. Pay increases in India continue to be the highest in the region

TOP PAYING SECTORS  
In the manufacturing segment, pharmaceuticals is expected to give the highest salary hike followed by FMCG and chemicals

E-commerce and professional services businesses are expected to give double-digit salary increase this year in the services sector

REASON  
High inflation rate  
War for key talent and niche skills

6.6%  
FOR INDIA, THE PREVIOUS LOWEST QUANTUM OF HIKE WAS 6.6 PER CENT IN 2009

## SURVEY BACKGROUND

The results are based on responses from over 1,000 organisations spread across more than 20 industries

## BUSINESS OUTLOOK

92 per cent of the firms surveyed expect their business improving or stabilising in 2020 while the 8 per cent felt there would be a decline in business

## REASON

High inflation rate  
War for key talent and niche skills

announced at the earliest," she said. Sectors like pharmaceutical, chemicals (like those for paints and tyre manufacturing) and solar equipment were "very vocal" about disruptions in their supply chain, according to Sitharaman.

"Today, when their raw materials have to come, there is a delay, or the products come, but the papers don't come. So the disruption is felt increasingly by these three," she said. The minister had added that there were some essential raw materials for medicines for which the government would "have to act speedily". The minister dismissed claims that prices of raw materials had been rising as a result of the outbreak. "There wasn't a worry about price rise from

anybody as yet," said Sitharaman. The discussions on Tuesday centered around issues like requests for a "self declaration" system at Customs for various manufacturers to be able to receive the stocks of raw material that have arrived at the ports, but were stuck due to lack of the necessary paperwork from China.

Another issue raised was whether other countries can be explored as alternatives for sourcing raw materials, she said.

Some micro, small and medium enterprises had sought flexibility from banks, citing delayed and staggered raw material supply that had been impacting their ability to manufacture and send out their products, she said.



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, with Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar (left) and Revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey in New Delhi on Tuesday. Prem Nath Pandey

meeting between the FM and secretaries of the Finance Ministry on Wednesday afternoon, so that "possible solutions" can be zeroed

in on. Post this, the minister hopes to have a discussion with the Prime Minister's Office, so that "speedily some response will be

vide a profit forecast on Monday.

"The magnitude of this impact to miss its revenue guidance midway through February is clearly worse than feared," Wedbush analyst Daniel Ives wrote in a note.

Apple, worth \$1.4 trillion by market capitalisation, could face a torrid market reaction on Tuesday, when Wall Street re-opens after the Presidents Day holiday, analysts said.

If Apple shares were traded cheaply, that might not matter much. But when they are trading at a record high, investors will be surely tempted to sell," said Norihiro Fujito, chief investment strategist at Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley Securities.

Shares of its Asian suppliers



# 'If opinions differ... better I address Govt directly, internally... focus only on outcome'

Shaktikanta Das took over the reins at Reserve Bank of India as its 25th Governor on December 12, 2018. It came at a critical time when relations between the government and RBI had hit a rough patch. In an interview February 17 with ANIL SASI and P VAIDYANATHAN IYER, Das underlined the central bank's focus on growth and financial stability, its relationship with the government and the challenge in sustaining the first trickle of positive numbers

**It's been more than a year now for you as RBI Governor, coming after exits of two governors and one deputy governor. How has the year been in terms of RBI-government relationship?**

For the central bank, it's never a dull moment, especially in today's world, and I'm saying so not just in the context of RBI, but for all central banks. Economies across the world are changing so fast, with new technologies, new business models, new challenges. So, the central bank will always have to be in sync with the changing situations. With regard to the other part of your question, the RBI is a very strong organisation; it has people who are very well experienced and thorough. There is lot of domain knowledge available within the RBI. So, regardless of the leadership, the institutional stability is always maintained. Therefore, it has been a smooth transition. Perhaps I had the advantage of having interacted with many senior officials of RBI because of my long stint in the Finance Ministry.

**How aware have you been in the last one year about RBI's autonomy? Is that something on your mind, given the history of the last two governors leaving amid a discourse that they did not see eye to eye with the government of the day. Does that weigh on your mind?**

It's stating the obvious that the government represents the sovereign and the Reserve Bank is the central bank. Both have important roles to play in the economy and as long as decision-making is independent and autonomous, the rest of the debate is not relevant. But it is necessary that there is constant dialogue, there is constant interaction and engagement between the government and the RBI because both are dealing with important aspects of the economy. There may be some difference of views because of the nature of role played by the fiscal authority, the government, and monetary authority, the Reserve Bank. What is important is that those differences in views are discussed internally. I would like to stress the word 'internally'. There is also a need for both the government and the RBI to appreciate the concerns on either side.

**RBI has an empowered board today. How do you see the board contributing to RBI decision-making?**

All the board members are fully in sync with the RBI's institutional view. We have had very productive and very healthy discussions in the RBI Central Board and the Board members have been very appreciative of the RBI's viewpoint on many issues. Of course, they give very important and very useful suggestions and at the RBI, we are always open to suggestions. I mean, I have been interacting with stakeholders. I regularly meet the public sector and private sector bank MDs and CEOs. I meet the rating agencies. I have met the various industry and trade associations, agriculturists, independent experts, economists, journalists, etc. Any suggestion is always welcome. Consultative approach always helps in understanding of issues and improving the quality of decision-making.

**Some see RBI as having been more accommodative of the government's concerns on a number of issues such as dividend transfer, regulatory forbearance, the one-day default rule... a number of issues where earlier governors had put their foot down. Is there a change in outlook?**

When the government has any concern on any issue which impacts the economy, as the central bank, we have to consider those issues. Similarly, there are issues which, from time to time, are raised by the RBI with the government for its consideration. In the last one year, at least, there are several legislative and non-legislative proposals in the July 2019 and February 2020 budgets where issues concerning the RBI have been addressed; for example, the RBI Act was amended to give additional powers to RBI with regard to regulation of NBFCs and housing finance companies (HFCs) were brought under the purview of RBI. In the February 2020 Budget, the government has announced the amendment to the Banking Regulation Act, to give more powers to RBI with regard to regulation of the urban cooperative banks (UCBs). So, when both the government and RBI are trying to deal with issues related to the economy, there is need for exchange of views and ideas.

What is critical in this process is that we have to listen to each other, we have to appreciate each other's views but eventually the decision is made independently. So, as long as decision is taken after engaging with the government, I think beyond that there is no need for any discussion on autonomy.

**So you have that space for independence and autonomy?**

Yes, absolutely. All decisions, which we have taken in the last year are our own objective, independent decisions.

**On regulatory forbearance in specific sectors like SMEs and real estate, some observers point out that the RBI is only kicking the can down the road. Recognising bad quality assets is critical. You started the Asset Quality Review mechanism in 2016, and now you're going back on that... giving sectors more and more time.**

The first thing I would like to say is that it is not an across the board forbearance which has been given, rather it is specific and targeted, and subject to certain guidelines and parameters. Now, with regard to the real estate sector, you just mentioned about the relaxation granted in terms of permitting extension of DCCO (the date of commencement of commercial operations). In non-infrastructure projects, it is two years, whereas in infrastructure projects, it is three years. For various reasons, it was kept as one year for the real estate sector. So, when we made it two years, we aligned it with what is

**I think monetary policy framework has worked well. But we are reviewing it. If there is a requirement, we will also take it up with the government**

there for non-infrastructure sector. We have not really gone out of the way. And today, if you see the overall deceleration in growth, one of the main sectors impacted is real estate. There are various reasons for that. All that we have said is where there are reasons beyond the promoter's control, we have considered that factor, and it's not as if we have gone beyond a certain framework.

We have taken a very carefully designed calibrated call to deal with MSMEs – the largest employment provider and a critical part of our economy. When there is a slowdown, the impact is felt more by MSMEs. Large corporates, because of their financial muscle and the nature of their business, are probably able to deal with the situation in a better way. But then, it is difficult for MSMEs to come out of stress in a short period. We have tried to give them a calibrated restructuring option. It is not mandatory for banks to restructure all MSME loans. The banks have to assess the viability of units at the time of restructuring. Let me also say with emphasis that while deciding on all these measures, the aspect of financial stability and the stability of the banking sector is always uppermost in our mind.

**What is the quantum of loans being addressed in real estate and MSMEs?**

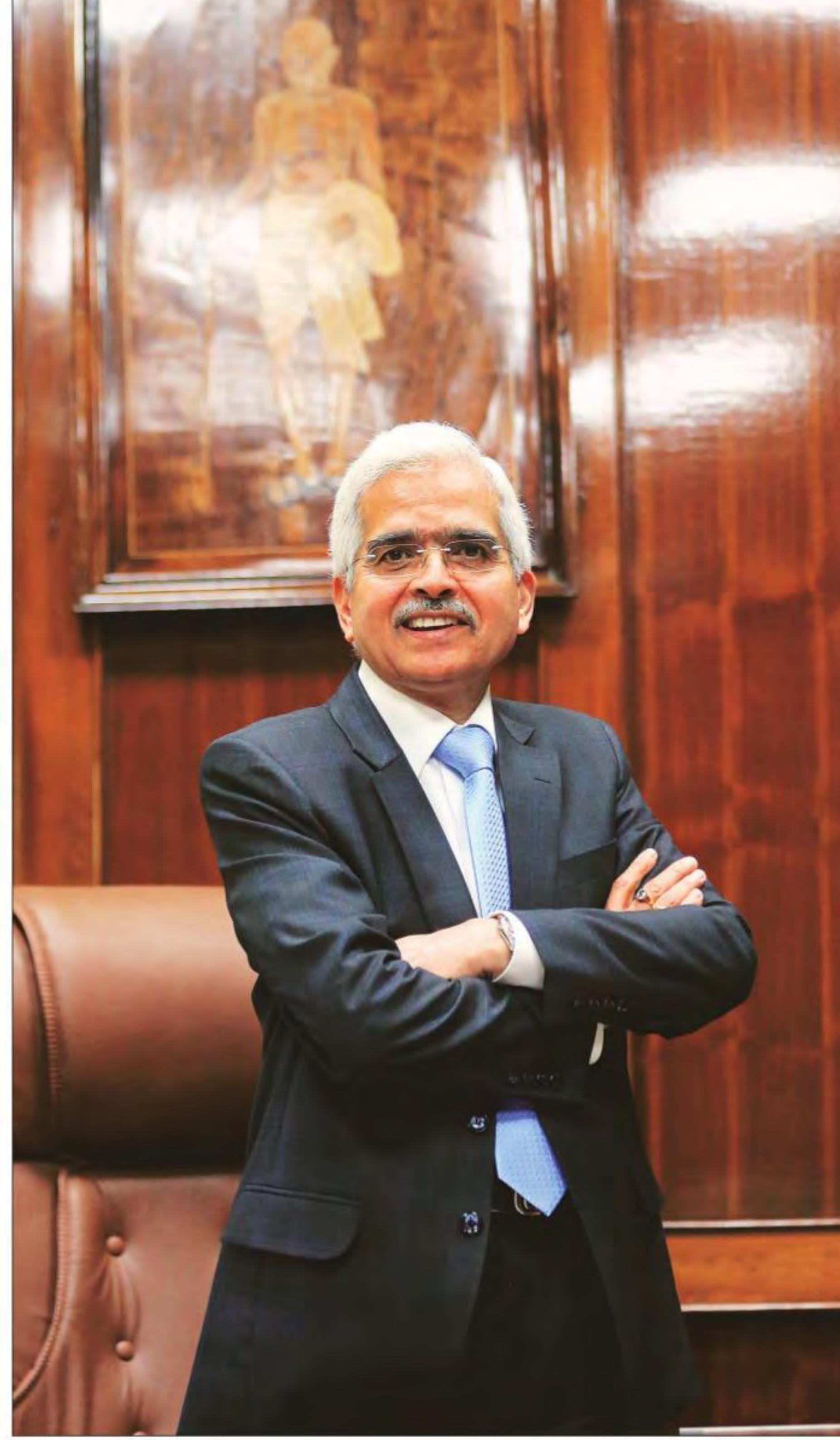
In the MSME loan restructuring scheme announced last January, out of about 15 lakh eligible units, around 5 lakh accounts were restructured. The condition was that the loan should be standard as on January 1, 2019. We have widened the ambit but said, the loan to be eligible for restructuring has to be a standard asset as on January 1, 2020. Many more units may avail of the scheme.

In real estate, a large number of units will benefit from the permission to extend DCCO arising out of situations beyond the control of promoters. Such decisions are always preceded by a lot of internal consulting as well as consultation with financial institutions.

**You mentioned the deceleration, but has the pace of the slowdown caught the RBI by surprise? There's been a sharp revision by 2.4 percentage points over a span of 10 months or five policies. That seems unprecedented.**

During the current financial year, deceleration came as a surprise to almost everybody. Definitely, there has been a steep decline. Having said that, we are not so surprised as most others. Right from the February 2019 monetary policy, when we started cutting rates, the market was surprised. We started cutting rates from February 2019 because the slowdown in the growth momentum was very clearly visible from the incoming data. And we do nowcasting internally. So RBI decided to act proactively and cut rates five times after February. By the third cut, all analysts agreed that RBI had acted proactively. Many central banks also initially expressed surprise at our decision to cut rates as early as February 2019.

An issue that has bothered many over the last 2-3 years is that of economic data release and on credibility of data. How do you view this?



RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das at his office in New Delhi on Monday. Tashi Tobgyal

**We are not so surprised as most others by the deceleration in growth this year. Right from February 2019 policy, when we started cutting rates, the market was surprised**

We always go by CSO data and there is no reason to doubt their credibility.

**More than three years have passed since the MPC framework has been in place. Has inflation as the sole benchmark really worked?**

I think MPC framework has worked well. But, we are reviewing it. The legal provision in the RBI Act says that price stability should be the prime objective keeping in mind the objective of growth. So, the prime target is price stability 4% +/- 2%. But keeping that as the prime target, the aspect of growth has to be taken into consideration. Internally, we have already started a review of the working of the monetary policy framework in the last three-and-a-half years. And going forward sometime in June 2020, we propose to hold a roundtable with various experts, economists, analysts and other thinkers. Once our review is over, then we will place the outcome of our review before stakeholders. Based on that, we will take it forward. If there is a requirement, we will also take it up with the government. On the whole, inflation has remained under control during the last three-and-a-half years but for

the recent spike on account of spike in vegetable prices, of which onion was the major factor. Other vegetables too contributed to the higher inflation, and in the last print, prices of milk, fish and egg too were higher. Going forward, we do expect it to moderate. With this temporary spike in inflation, we have not shifted our attention from growth. We are still focussed on growth. Because of the spike in inflation, we have decided to take a pause.

**You became the national face to explain demonetisation almost on a daily basis when in government. With the benefit of hindsight and the benefit of where you are right now, how has demonetisation played out?**

I think demonetisation has had positive impact on the economy in terms of formalising the economy, checking the so-called parallel economy/unaccounted money. It is still playing out, I will just say that.

**Has the RBI undertaken any study on the impact of demonetisation, what it did to sectors like MSME?**

No.

**Measures such as LITRO (long-term repo operation) and CRR (cash reserve ratio) exemption had the effect of reducing the policy rate indirectly. There are some who question doing so outside the MPC framework.**

It is actually not in the domain of the MPC because the MPC is focussed on maintaining price stability, and price stability is by way of control of inflation and the key component of monetary policy is the repo rate. Other than that, there are several other instruments, monetary and regulatory which are available to RBI. CRR is a monetary instrument, our decision on real estate is regulatory. We are not ignoring the MPC. It plays its role.

**Kotak Mahindra Bank took the RBI to court, and yet you agreed to its offer to settle it out of court.**

I don't want to discuss individual cases. In this case, Kotak Mahindra Bank came to us with a certain proposal which we found broadly acceptable. And the matter now stands resolved.

**There is still considerable concern in the**

**market about some banks and NBFCs. Are you looking to resolve these?**

So far as the NBFCs are concerned, the RBI closely and intensively monitors the top 50, which account for roughly 75% of the total portfolio. We have a clear understanding of what is happening. We are engaged with their management and promoters, trying to find market-based solutions. The sense we have is that there is a steady improvement in the NBFC sector over the last seven-eight months. Confidence levels have also improved. Even today as we discuss, there are a good number of NBFCs which are able to access funds from the market at competitive rates. With regard to banks, we monitor all the banks, both public and private sector, very closely. Our endeavour will be to ensure that no large systematically important NBFC collapses. We are very mindful of the aspect of financial stability in the case of banks too. RBI will always ensure that stability of the banking sector is maintained.

**RBI is required to respond proactively because the situation is very dynamic. LTRO, rupee-dollar swap and CRR measures are in response to evolving situation**

**We had the Government listing green shoots... what would your definition of green shoots be?**

There are many positive trends visible; PMI numbers, for example, in services and manufacturing but we have to see whether they are sustained. FDI numbers are better, lending to the commercial sector has also improved. In the last six months, the overall fund flow has improved. Of course, I have to qualify by saying that compared to last year's corresponding period, it is lower, but still it is picking up, but we have to see whether it is sustained.

**What is the status on two issues on which the RBI had concerns: sovereign bonds and RBI executives on boards of public sector banks?**

RBI view has been that RBI nominee should not be there. There is a kind of a conflict of interest. On sovereign bond, as a debt manager of the government, we have conveyed our issues internally to the government.

**You use the word, "internally," quite a few times. There's a debate about how institutions should tackle issues with a government which is as strong as the government of the day. It is important to settle these internally?**

Direct communication is always better. If I have a difference of opinion with the government, it's better that I address the government directly and internally rather than voicing it through a third source, because then the confidence levels go down, either way. The real focus should be on the outcome, not anything else.

**In the last year or so, India has added almost \$65-70 billion to its forex reserves. Certainly, there is a cost to it?**

The underlying theme of our forex management is to see that there is no undue volatility in the value of the rupee. Because an undue volatility would affect exports, imports and make life difficult even for manufacturers. So as long as currency is stable, then people can assess and estimate the value, and can take better quality decisions. Our effort is always to prevent any undue volatility and that stance has remained.

**After you announced the LTRO, many asked why did the RBI not do it before for better rate transmission?**

RBI is required to respond proactively because the situation is very dynamic today. We need to be proactively responding to the evolving challenges and issues. So, therefore, to infuse liquidity, we started a very innovative method for the first time, the rupee-dollar swap. Because, OMO had already been done to a large extent. Now, we did what everyone outside calls Operation Twist. We undertook simultaneous buying/selling of securities – we were buying securities at the long end, but selling at the short end. Also, we undertook CRR-related measures and the LTRO. All the decisions we took are in response to the evolving dynamic situation.

## GERMANY'S GOVERNMENT

## Trouble at the top

Angela Merkel's presumed successor quits as party boss

FOREIGN NEWSREADERS might have celebrated. But otherwise there was little to cheer when Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, universally known as AKK thanks to her tongue-twisting name, announced on February 10th that she would resign as leader of Germany's ruling Christian Democrats (CDU) and not stand as its candidate for chancellor at the next election. By forcing her party to confront its deep divisions, Ms Kramp-Karrenbauer has thrown German politics into a new era of uncertainty.

Ms Kramp-Karrenbauer was tripped up by a debacle in the east German state of Thuringia, where the CDU had voted with the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) to install a member of a third party as state premier. This "dam break", the first time AfD votes had secured such an office, so horrified Germany that Ms Kramp-Karrenbauer had to try to repair the damage. But her efforts floundered, the party split and she was undermined when Angela Merkel, the chancellor, chimed in to condemn the result from a state visit in Pretoria, over 5,000 miles (8,000km) away. Ms Kramp-Karrenbauer's unsteady leadership had already left her future in doubt. A recent appointment as defence minister, a job she will retain, did little to help. But Thuringia tipped the balance. The decision, she said, had "matured in her for some time".

In 2018 Mrs Merkel quit the CDU leadership after 18 years. When the party elected Ms Kramp-Karrenbauer to succeed her, the road to the chancellery looked clear. Her decision to bow out thus blows German politics wide open. What happens next is unclear. Ms Kramp-Karrenbauer wants to remain in charge while the party follows an old timetable to choose its candidate for chancellor at the next election, due in autumn 2021. But that could mean she hangs around until a CDU congress in December, and few MPs believe their party can dither that long. Markus Söder, leader of the Christian Social Union (CSU), the CDU's Bavarian partner, urges a faster pace, fearing an extended airing of the CDU's agonies would affect his own party's fortunes.

Mrs Merkel's decision in 2018 to split the job of chancellor and party leader is starting to look like a grave misjudgement. In a rare, if camouflaged, flash of disloyalty towards her mentor, Ms Kramp-Karrenbauer said as much in her resignation speech. The positions of leader and chancellor-candidate should now be fused, she said.

Yet aside from the procedural complexities (the CSU must back a joint chancellor-candidate but has no role in the CDU's leadership race), whoever takes up the job will face the same problem that bedevilled Ms Kramp-Karrenbauer: how to retain authority when real power resides with a chancellor who may be in office until the end of next year. With her succession plans in ruins, some say the best way for Mrs Merkel to clean up the mess she caused would be to resign, probably triggering an election.

But this is unlikely in stability-obsessed Germany. And so the contenders to lead the

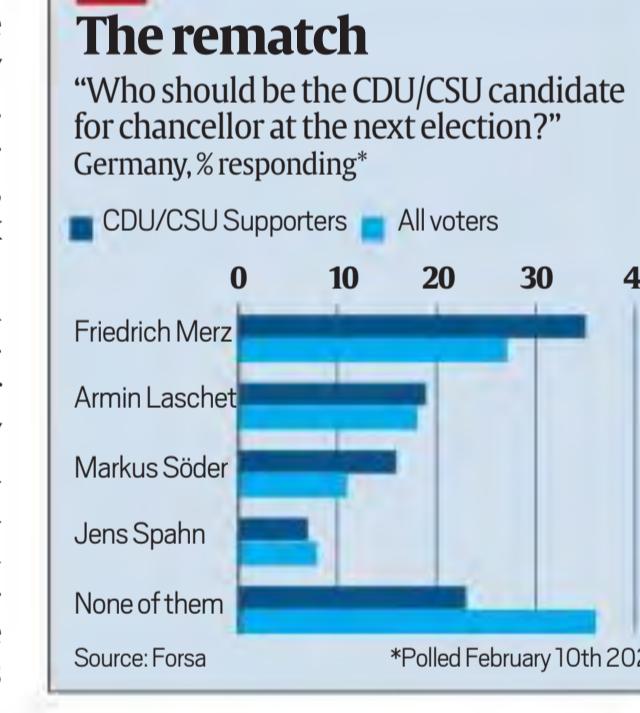


Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer with German Chancellor Angela Merkel after being elected as the party leader during the Christian Democratic Union party congress in Hamburg, on December 7, 2018. Reuters

CDU/CSU into the next election will have to tread carefully. Besides Mr Söder, who is probably happy with his perch in Munich, three names stand out. Start with Armin Laschet, the premier of North Rhine-Westphalia. Affable, moderate and subtly subversive, Mr Laschet's biggest asset is his control of Germany's most populous state (and the CDU's largest branch); as a country it would be the EU's sixth-biggest economy. In style and substance Mr Laschet would represent the closest thing to continuity Merkel, which is precisely what puts off a large chunk of the CDU membership.

A flintier proposition would be Friedrich Merz, a former leader of the CDU's parliamentary group. The plain-speaking Mr Merz quit politics for business in 2009 only to make a spectacular return in 2018, when he gave Ms Kramp-Karrenbauer a close run for the party leadership. He has maintained a steady profile since, flying to party meetings around Germany (often personally; he has a pilot's licence), where adoring crowds

lap up his pro-business, socially conservative line. Mr Merz reckons that fishing in the pool of AfD support can restore the CDU to over 35% of the vote. Early polls give him a head-start.



The final contender is Jens Spahn, the 39-year-old health minister, who also stood in 2018. Mr Spahn made his name as an abrasive right-winger on economics and migration, but has mellowed into a hard-working official with a loyal following. Unlike Mr Merz, who carries an unmistakable whiff of the 1990s, Mr Spahn can credibly claim to stand for a new start.

The air in Berlin is thick with scheming and the CDU is quivering with anxiety. Germany's original *Volkspartei* (people's party), capacious enough for everyone, now risks splintering across its many faultlines: centrist v conservative; for and against

Merkelism; how to handle the AfD in the east—Thuringia remains unsolved, and may not be a one-off. Some in the party fear further infighting might cause the CDU to fall behind the surging Greens.

That seems unlikely; for all its problems the CDU is still likely to provide Germany's next chancellor. That will give the succession race the fevered air of a party primary in a safe seat. Yet there is a palpable contrast with 2018, when Messrs Merz and Spahn immediately declared their interest and the prospect of internal competition electrified the CDU. So far, the same pair have merely hinted at possible candidacies,

while Mr Laschet has kept his counsel. As all three hail from North Rhine-Westphalia, CDU peacemakers hope they might broker a deal among themselves rather than air the party's cleavages in a public contest.

"There is zero appetite among my colleagues to go into a divisive leadership election, because it risks tearing us apart," says Andreas Nick, a CDU MP.

During Mrs Merkel's long reign the CDU's repeated election wins trumped concerns over her mushy centrism and lethargic leadership. Now the CDU must ask itself what sort of party it wants to be in a far more complex political scene. "The disruptive potential is much bigger than most realise," says Andreas Rödder, a historian at the University of Mainz and CDU member. For many months the tensions inside the CDU have been bubbling away like subterranean magma. After Ms Kramp-Karrenbauer's decision, they threaten to erupt.

©The Economist Newspaper Limited 2020

## SOCIAL CONSERVATISM IN THE PHILIPPINES

## Papal power

Why the Philippines is the only country where divorce is illegal

**Even by the standards of former Spanish colonies, the Philippines has extremely socially conservative laws. It is the only country in world, bar the Vatican City, to outlaw divorce (except for Muslims). The only way of ending a marriage, short of dying, is to have it annulled, but that can be done only on narrow grounds and at great expense**

Seven in ten support a law allowing the government to distribute contraceptives to the poor, which was enacted in 2015 but has yet to be implemented fully. Lots of Filipinos are openly gay. Manila's annual gay pride parade attracted 70,000 participants last year, despite rain. Gay Filipinos enjoy success in all manner of careers, from music to sports. In 2016 a transgender woman won election to Congress. Last year she was re-elected with 91% of the vote.

So why are Filipinos' views so poorly represented in national legislation? The explanation lies in an unfortunate mix of politics and faith. About three-quarters of Filipinos consider religion "very important", SWS found in 2018. A study the same year suggests that almost four in ten voters are likely to cast their ballots for a candidate endorsed by their church or religious movement.

In recent years the clout of the Catholic church has diminished somewhat. The share

of Catholics attending church weekly has dropped from 66% in 1991 to 46% in 2017. Father Jerome Sicilano of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines worries that an erosion of traditional values is underway. The church has struggled to respond to the wild popularity of President Rodrigo Duterte, who has called God "stupid", the Pope "a son of a whore" and says that a priest molested him as a boy. The Catholic hierarchy has opposed Mr Duterte's signature policy, a war on drugs that involves cops shooting thousands of suspected dealers, to little avail.

But Catholics' declining influence over politics has been offset by the growing importance of various Protestant sects. Although only about 10% of Filipinos, or roughly 10m people, describe themselves as Protestants or evangelicals, their relative fervour makes them a political lobby to be reckoned with. They tend to espouse a literal interpretation of the Bible and so are fiercely opposed to divorce, same-sex marriage and abortion, says Jayee Serrano Cornelio of Ateneo de Manila University.

The most influential movements, which took hold in the late 1970s and 1980s, include Jesus Is Lord, perhaps the country's largest evangelical movement, as well as the megachurches Victory Christian Fellowship and Christ's Commission Fellowship. Iglesia Ni Cristo, an indigenous Christian movement founded more than a century ago, also has around 2m adherents in the Philippines. It owns the biggest indoor arena in the world, located near Manila, where 55,000 people can worship at the same time.

Whereas Catholic prelates have become more reluctant to hector politicians, evangelicals often mix religion and politics without compunction. Eddie Villanueva, for example,



A Filipino bride before her wedding at a Catholic church in Manila. AP

a deputy speaker of the House of Representatives, is also a prominent televangelist and the founder of Jesus Is Lord. Manny Pacquiao, who parlayed a career as a boxer into a seat in the Senate, is famous for his zealotry. He has called people in same-sex relationships "worse than animals".

The nature of the Philippine political system allows such conservatives to thwart liberal reforms fairly easily. Parties are weak, which makes it difficult to build momentum for controversial causes. And the Senate, which must approve all bills before they become law, presents an especially daunting obstacle. Its 24 members are elected in brutally competitive elections from a single, nationwide constituency. Mobilising votes

across a country of 106m people is a huge undertaking, making it unwise for candidates to alienate any big, influential group. Small wonder that the opening of a museum dedicated to Iglesia Ni Cristo in September drew no fewer than half the country's senators. Even the body's wealthiest member, Cynthia Villar, decided she could not miss it.

Fierce religious opposition helped to delay 13 years the passage of the law allowing the government to distribute contraceptives. Even after it passed, Congress refused to fund it adequately, leaving many poor Filipinos without access to modern birth control. The Catholic church, meanwhile, persuaded the courts to issue an order to restrict the sorts of contraception that could be

provided under the law, on the grounds that some methods were tantamount to abortion.

The ongoing battle bodes ill for the bill to legalise divorce that is currently under consideration in Congress. Mr Duterte's own marriage was annulled, after a court found he was so prone to affairs that his wife of 27 years had only been a nominal one. Yet so strong is the religious opposition to the bill that not even Mr Duterte supports it. Nonetheless, argues Carlos Conde of Human Rights Watch, a pressure group, the continuing attempts to introduce liberal bills despite their small chances of success are an encouraging sign in themselves.

©The Economist Newspaper Limited 2020

## FROM MY PANTRY



Chef  
**NITIN BHARADWAJ**  
on his favourite technique

## MAKING SUSHI



back – you are using.

The best sushi I've ever had was at a century-old Tokyo restaurant called Kyubey. I grew up in a vegetarian home, and even though I do taste everything I make at my restaurant, I prefer to eat *ghar ka khaana*. But when the chef at Kyubey put 50 pieces of sushi before me, I ate them all. It was that good.

AS TOLD TO POOJA PILLAI

TAPAS PAUL 1935-2020

## 'He was the guy next door'

Tapas Paul was Bengali cinema's good boy who went on to have a controversial political career

## PREMANKUR BISWAS

FORTY YEARS ago, Tapas Paul gave Bengali cinema a prototype – the bumbling, good-natured *bhalo chele* (good boy). It was his breakthrough role in Tarun Majumdar's *Dadar Kirti* (1980), where he played the perpetual *bechara* with a blend of integrity and naivety. It was an image that endeared him to the audience, and stuck because of his subsequent films. In *Tobu Mone Rekho* (1994), for instance, he played a meek young man who is exploited by his stepmother. In *Kori Diye Kinlam* (1989), he played the good-natured loser. For a generation of Bengalis, Paul, who passed away late Monday night of cardiac arrest, was almost always the wronged man. He was 61.

Paul with Shatabdi Roy in a still from the film *Abishkar*

But this benign image was to shatter in 2014. A controversial video, where he threatens murder and rape of people who mess with Trinamool workers, emerged. It made him fall into the mould of the stock-in-trade corrupt politician of Bengali potboilers. By then, he was a seasoned leader of Trinamool, having joined the party in 2001. His political persona, Bengal was to realise, would end up being the exact opposite of his onscreen one.

Paul often drew flak for his aggressive rhetoric. In December 2016, he was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation in connection with the multi-crore Rose Valley chit fund scam and got bail only after being incarcerated for 13 months. For the Bengali

young brother. In these films, Paul, more often than not, fell prey to scheming politicians and duplicitous scammers. It was not until arthouse filmmaker, Buddhadeb Dasgupta cast him in his homoerotic film, *Uttara* (2001), that Bengali film audience realised that there is still a sensitive actor residing in him. Dasgupta cast him again in *Mondo Meyer Upakhyan* (2002). Aparna Sen, who worked with him in *Kori Diye Kinlam* (1989), remembers him as the *bhalo chele* who endeared himself to a generation of Bengalis. "It's sad how he changed after joining politics. He was such a sweet boy," says Sen.

A still from *Kastoori* (above); Vinod Kamble

## ALAKA SAHANI

THREE YEARS ago, writer-director Vinod Kamble came across a news report about Sunny Chavan, a boy who started assisting his father in conducting autopsies at Barshi Civil Hospital in Maharashtra's Solapur district when he was a class VIII student. Kamble, a fellow resident of Barshi, sought out the then 22-year-old Chavan soon after. Once he overcame his initial disbelief about someone engaged in such a grim task from a young age, Kamble realised how similar their life stories were. This spurred him to write and direct *Post Mortem*, a 25-minute short film that was screened at the Cannes Film Festival in 2017.

Two years later, he expanded the canvas and added layers to this story for his debut feature, *Kastoori* (*The Musk*). In both the films, the young protagonist Gopi is the common factor. He is engaged in manual scavenging, cleaning toilets and assists his father in performing autopsies to contribute to his family's income even as he is forced to choose between education and work. "My father, uncle and grandmother worked as sweepers under Barshi municipal council. While studying at school, I used to help my grandmother with her work. As she was growing old, I used to help in clearing garbage," says Kamble.

With some of Kamble's own experiences woven into the script of *Kastoori*, the movie is an unflinching and nuanced look at protagonist Gopi's struggle to find musk to get rid of the odour that he believes he carries after burying unclaimed bodies or declogging toilets. Since Kamble does not shy away from showing burnt parts of a dead body or dirty toilets, the film for most of its viewers becomes an incisive yet difficult look at the "others". Yet, one has to agree with him when the 31-year-old filmmaker says, "I have tried not to make the obvious mention of casteism and class discrimination in *Kastoori*. Instead, I've



## CHANGE IS THE ONLY CONSTANT

The V&A's Museum of Childhood in London will get a revamp to create spaces that are less about nostalgia and more about encouraging young people to change the world. To be closed for two years, when it reopens in 2022, it will display more objects, including a Superman costume worn by Christopher Reeve.



## Unsettling Realities

Marathi movie *Kastoori* is the discomforting story of a childhood spent in manual scavenging and carrying out autopsies



I've tried not to make the obvious mention of casteism and class discrimination. Instead, I've tried to show economic barriers and what stops the poorer section of the society from leading a life with dignity

VINOD KAMBLE

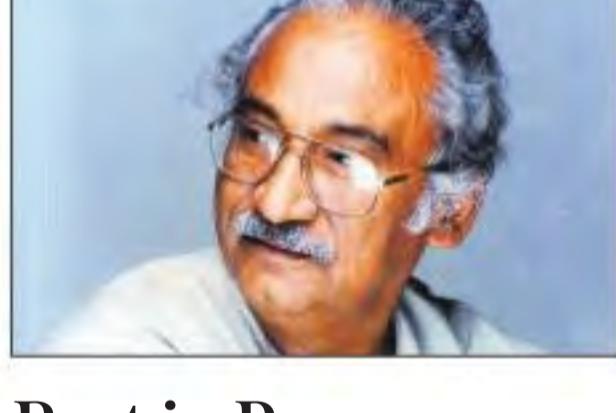
tried to show economic barriers and what stops the poorer section of the society from leading a life with dignity."

The filmmaker believes that Gopi, the character, ably essayed by Samarth Sonawane in *Kastoori*, represents those kids who work at brick kilns or tea stalls. "*Kastoori* is the story of every child who can't access education," Kamble had said during the last edition of Dharamshala International Film Festival (DIFF). After its premiere at the Mumbai Film Festival, *Kastoori* was screened in Dharamshala for a young audience. There was an uneasy silence after its DIFF screening.

However, during the post-screening interaction, they did open up and spoke about the discrimination against the less privileged ones that they themselves had noticed. "Pointing out such social inequalities," says Kamble, "was the aim for telling such a story". *Kastoori* is the first production of Insight Films, which is jointly set up by eight women. The team is in talks with some studios to release the film later this year.

Kamble's decision to become a filmmaker was followed by a moment of epiphany in an examination hall in 2014. "Since childhood, I was interested in watching movies and

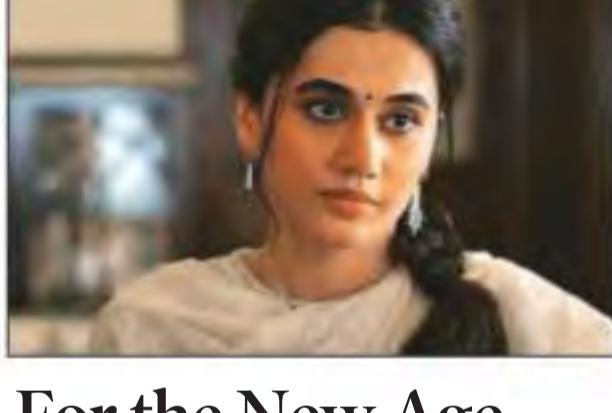
## SNAP SHOTS



## Rest in Peace

CELEBRATED MAKE-UP artist Pandhari Juker, who devised the looks of many Bollywood actors including Dilip Kumar, Nargis, Madhubala, Madhuri Dixit, Sunil Dutt and Amitabh Bachchan, passed away on Monday. Bachchan paid a tribute on Twitter while remembering that his first make-up was done by Juker, so did Manisha Koirala. Dixit also tweeted: "Saddened to hear of the passing of Pandhari dada, who has worked with everyone from Meena

Kumari to Madhubala to today. I have very fond memories of him working together in *Tezaab*, *Ram Lakhan* and many more." Juhi Chawla took to Instagram to share her memories of the late artiste. They had worked together in *Chandni*, *Darr*, *Saat Rang Ke Sapne*, among many other films and songs. "He would use his thumb and fingers, rarely used a brush to apply our make-up. He would be done in 15 minutes," she wrote. Juker, who has worked in films like *Silsila*, *Dastaan*, *Chitrakatha*, has worked on sets of filmmakers like BR Chopra, Kamal Amrohi, Tarun Majumdar, Raj Kapoor, Yash Chopra and Subhash Ghai, among others. In an earlier interview, Juker shared how he was an accidental make-up artist. "It was my father's illness that pushed me to take up work as a make-up assistant at Rajkamal Studios. I had no idea what I was getting into, but I was a commercial artist, so I knew how to use colours. I learned under the guidance of make-up gurus like Baba Vardhan and Dada Paranjpe," he said.



## For the New Age

ACTOR STAAPSEE PANNU and Tahir Raj Bhasin will play the lead in the Hindi adaptation of acclaimed German thriller *Run Lola Run* (1998). Titled *Loop Lapeta*, the film is billed as new age thriller comedy and will be directed by Aakash Bhatia. The original, starring Franka Potente and Moritz Bleibtreu, follows a woman who needs to arrange a big chunk of money in 20 minutes to save her boyfriend. While Pannu will next be seen in *Thappad*, Bhasin's upcoming release is 83.



## Binding Factor

A recent concert titled 'Confluence', organised by HCL Technologies, saw a performance by a group of 11 musicians from across the globe, who performed 16 pieces of symphonies. Through 'Confluence', HCL, with support from the attendees and their foundation, will donate musical instruments to children "who come from vulnerable backgrounds and have been deprived of developmental opportunities due to their socioeconomic and cultural conditions."

## ACT TWO

## THE BOY &amp; THE RAVEN

(FINLAND), 19 FEBRUARY  
Using Hannu Raissä puppets, the non-verbal musical, performed by Royal Puppet Theatre, is about a small boy separated from his parents in a world at war; 30 minutes, for all ages

SMASHING BENEDITO  
(BRAZIL), 20 FEBRUARY  
Performed by Grupo Sobrevento, the verbal musical is about a mischievous boy always getting into trouble; 45 minutes; for all ages

THE UGLY DUCKLING  
(TURKEY), 21 FEBRUARY  
Performed by Flying Hands Puppet Theatre, it is a rendition of Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale; 40 minutes, for all ages

WHEN LAND BECOMES  
WATER (INDIA), 22 FEBRUARY  
Directed by Dadi Podumjee, it has been adapted from Neeta Premchand's *The Storyteller and His Bag of Myths* around the great flood in Indian, Biblical and Mesopotamian mythology. By Ishara Puppet Theatre Group; 60 minutes, ages 7+ and families

All shows are at 7.30 pm, at IHC, Delhi.

## 'Capitalistic governments don't invest in art for children'

Belgian puppeteer Ronny Aelbrecht, who performed at the 18th Ishara International Puppet Theatre Festival, on the craft's relevance

## TANUSHREE GHOSH

ONE DAY, an old fisherman pulls out a golden fish, which pleads for its life, promising any wish in return. Scared to see a speaking fish, he lets it go. His angry wife instructs him to ask the fish for varied things – one thing after another – until she demands to be made the 'ruler of the sea' and to subjugate the golden fish, which cures her greed by putting everything back to its older state.

Belgian puppet theatre group Figurentheater Vlinders & Co adapted this 1833 Alexander Pushkin's classic tale into *The Fisherman and the Golden Fish* and brought it to the 18th edition of the Ishara International Puppet Theatre Festival (February 14-22) last weekend at Delhi's India Habitat Centre. The set and design, like a pop-up fairy-tale book, has been actor Ronny Aelbrecht's forte, says Dadi Podumjee, founder of the Ishara Puppet Theatre Trust.

One day, a professional saw "real talent" in the "low level" performance of Aelbrecht and his friend, who used to play with puppets for "fun", and suggested they join the Puppet Academy acting school. Aelbrecht started studying there in 1983, became a puppeteer



(From left) Ronny Aelbrecht; during his performance



actor in 1990 did "part-time" theatre jobs, and started independent theatre in two years. The award-winning actor – the only non-Russian bit in the play – was part of the first (and the only) foreign group to come to Ishara festival

world heritage. This is a fantastic story, and for years, I wanted to work with the director (Evgeny Ibragimov) whom I met at global festivals. Since he's Russian, the choice was easy.

## How do you fuse table-top puppetry with stop-motion puppets?

It's a challenge. The control and manipulation look easier than they are. You have to carefully watch your subtle motor-skill movements, which, since I'm solo, is often with two puppets, or three heads at once, therefore, it is even more difficult. It gives the performance a slow, gentle atmosphere, which I love in today's fast-moving society.

## Tell us about Belgian puppet theatre.

Since we have no real country – we're a cocktail formed from parts of other countries, constructed by other countries in 1830 – and no historical cultural background, there is no real 'Belgian' puppetry. Of course, we have taken over some heritage, for example Jan Klaassen (Dutch version of Punch and Judy), Tchantch (Walloon version of Guignol), iron-stick puppets (from the Sicilians who came to work in Belgium in the 1800s). There are many puppet theatres, amateurs and professionals, a lot of them with their own style – like ours

(puppet and figures theatre).

## Does art bridge gaps between nations?

I'm an artiste with friends all over. I'm not interested in colour, race, religion. The only border I know is language. But children around the world are the same. Put Chinese, Indian and African children together. In 10 minutes, they will start playing, even without any language communication. It is the environment, the education by the adults which create gaps/hostility between them; sharing art around the world can connect it better and help people grow closer.

## With greater TV/internet access, are children less drawn to live art?

It is harder but 'live' performances will survive. They have an irreplaceable 'magical element'. Since movies started, there has always been a concurrence. Now there is even more, but still live art will stand. The economic crises is another problem; Western (read capitalist) governments aren't willing to invest in culture or art, especially if it's for children, since it yields no 'financial' benefits. Egocentric systems hardly understand or care that children are our planet's only future. We can only work hard and hope the tide will turn one day.







"Whether there is still a drive, whether I'm good enough, whether I'm fit, and whether I deserve my spot in the side. If I can tick all those, then definitely 2023 is an option."

**ROSS TAYLOR,**  
ON CHANCES OF PLAYING THE WORLD CUP

## BRIEFLY

## Fit-again Boult ready to take on Kohli

Wellington: There are no half measures for fit-again New Zealand pace spearhead Trent Boult who is ready to challenge India captain Virat Kohli on his return to international cricket during the two-Test series starting here on Friday. Boult was out of action for the past six weeks due to a fracture on his right hand sustained during the Boxing Day Test against Australia and missed out on the limited-overs leg of the India series. "That's personally why I play the game, to get guys like that (Kohli) out and test myself against them, so I can't wait to get stuck in. But he's an exceptional player. Everyone knows how great he is," Boult said, sending out a warning after landing in the capital city for the opening Test. New Zealand's last Test series in Australia was a nightmare as they lost 0-3 and India will be a tough test for the Black Caps. "They are a great side and they are leading the ICC Test Championship. They are very clear on how they wanted to play the game. It was a tough learning curve in Australia. It's good to see where we are in terms of bouncing back," said Boult. "I'm preparing for a solid wicket. It generally is very good here and goes the full distance (five days). I do enjoy playing here, the history that's involved, and it's going to be an exciting week building up. I can't wait to get out there," said the 30-year-old who has taken 256 wickets from 65 Tests. PTI

## Spinner Poonam stars in warm-up win

Brisbane: Spinner Poonam Yadav claimed three wickets as India geared up for the ICC women's T20 World Cup with a thrilling two-run win over the West Indies. Electing to bat, India posted a lowly 107 for eight in their stipulated 20 overs before returning to restrict West Indies to 105 for seven. Chasing 108 to win, West Indies were comfortably placed at 57 for one in 13 overs when Deepti Sharma struck, cleaning up opener Lee-Ann Kirby (42) to trigger a collapse. Soon skipper Stafanie Taylor (16), Cheadeen Nation (0) and Deandra Dottin (1) were back in the hut as West Indies slipped to 67 for five in the 17th over. Hayley Matthews (25) and Chinelle Henry (17) blasted three fours and a six in the 19th over to leave them with 11 to get off the last six balls. Henry blasted Poonam for a four but the Indian dismissed Matthews in the fourth ball. West Indies needed three runs off the last ball but Henry was caught by Veda Krishnamurthy. Earlier, India's top-three failed to fire as they were reduced to 17 for three in 3.1 overs. Opener Smriti Mandhana (4) lasted just six balls, while Jemimah Rodrigues (0) failed to open her account. Shafali Verma blasted a couple of fours before being caught by Britney Cooper off Shamilia Connell (2/20).

**BRIEF SCORES:** India women: 107 for 8 in 20 ovs (Shikha Pandey 24; A Mohammed 2/16) bt West Indies women: 105 for 7 in 20 ovs (Lee-Ann Kirby 42; Poonam Yadav 3/20). PTI

## It won't be a breeze at Wellington

Basin Reserve's gusty reputation is well earned, and how India deal with this unique variable will determine their fortunes



## EXPRESS IN NEW ZEALAND

**SANDIP G**  
WELLINGTON, FEBRUARY 18

FROM MOUNT Victoria, a steep 200-odd metres uphill from the bustling city centre, one marvels at the distinct geography of sprawling Wellington. The serene Tasman Sea, trails of thin clouds that cling to the trees, aircraft shrieking on the runway, the chuffing trains, the cargo ships in the harbour, and the multitude of grey-brick-roofed single-storey houses. At the foot of the Mount is a round green spot, the Basin Reserve, where India embark on their biggest examination of the World Test Championship yet on Friday.

On a sunny day, the locals claim one could catch a fleeting glimpse of the cloud-scaping Kaikoura Ranges. It was gloomy on Tuesday, with sustained bursts of drizzle throughout the day drenching India's optional training session, and the wind howling like it always does in Wellington, the second windiest city in the world after Chicago.

"Windy Welly" has always been known for the powerful gusts that rifle through the Cook Strait, the body of water that divides New Zealand's North Island from its South. It's the city's identity.

At the mount, there's a pictographic signage that describes the average force of the wind—beginning with a minimum of 7.5-11 kmph, it can rev up to 62-64 kmph. For as many as 173 days, that's almost half the year, they get a wind speed of 60kmph. The highest ever recorded speed in 248 kmph, measured in 2011.

The city has a wicked sense of self-deprecating humour too, celebrating its gusty reputation. In the Hollywood on Beverly Hills font, they have erected a "Wellington Blown Away" sign on a hill in the Miramar suburb. From daily life — there's an umbrella shop or repair shop in every street — to cricket games, it's a throbbing presence in the city, where phrases like at the rate of knots and blown over are not just idioms, but an everyday reality. It has an upside too — sailors, windsurfers and kite-surfers come from afar to ride the vortex. Air pollution is non-existent as any fumes are whipped away and wind power is harnessed for electricity (Wellington has 62 turbines set on the hills around the city).

The Welly Wind is not perhaps as romanticised as the Fremantle Doctor at the WACA in Perth, but is certainly more feared and influential during a game. Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

It's where umpires constantly keep raising their arms, not to give men out but to hold their hats firmly on their heads, while the heavy bails are never heavy enough, coming off during almost every over.

On a few instances, the winds have been so violent that camera operators have had to flee their tower of scaffolding. A groundsman was injured during a New Zealand-Australia Test match in 2010 after the covers were blown like a sail, sending him flying.

The Decision Review System also proved unreliable because of the wind during that match, with the cameras shaking so much that an accurate predicted path couldn't be computed. The biggest traffic jams in the New Zealand capital are caused by toppled billboards.

However, it's the wind that makes the venue unique and equally dreaded — any Test played here would not be worth its salt without wind coming into the equation, for it creates its humour and demands heroics. It's daunting if one is playing without acclimation. It might be that India have been in the country for a month, and have played a T20I in the city — at the Westpac Stadium — but Basin Reserve is a beast that can't be easily tamed.

The New Zealand capital are caused by toppled billboards.

The Welly Wind is not perhaps as romanticised as the Fremantle Doctor at the WACA in Perth, but is certainly more feared and influential during a game. Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

Not merely for hapless bowlers, especially those who have to bowl against the wind, but batsmen and catchers too.

## Virus threat: Phogat bout in Singapore behind closed doors

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 18

WRESTLER-TURNED-fighter Ritu Phogat's will compete in her second Mixed Martial Arts bout in front of an empty arena due to concerns about coronavirus outbreak. Phogat (1-0), is set to take on Chin'a Wu Chiao Chen (2-1) at One Championship's 'King of the Jungle' event on February 28 in the promotion's home base of Singapore.

Chatri Sityodtong, founder and CEO of the Asian MMA promotion, said that he decided against cancelling the event in favour of a behind-closed-doors bout, and all tickets bought for the 12,000-capacity Singapore Indoor Stadium will be refunded. The event will be available globally on broadcast and streaming.

"I light of the coronavirus situation in Singapore, I have made the decision to convert ONE: King of the Jungle on February 28 into a closed event for broadcast only. The Singapore Indoor Stadium will not be open to the general public, but the event will proceed behind closed doors as scheduled live on all TV and digital platforms across 150 plus countries around the world," Sityodtong said in a statement. "If you purchased tickets to attend the event at the Singapore Indoor Stadium, you will receive a full refund... My team and I had the option to cancel the event altogether, but we chose not to cancel it. More than ever, the world needs hope and strength right now."

As of Monday midnight, China's health authorities have reported a total of 72,436 coronavirus cases and 1,868 deaths on the mainland. Singapore's tally of 77 cases is only behind China and Japan (619 cases and 1 death). The outbreak forced the Singapore government to raise the alert level to orange last week, and the Ministry of Health urged organisers to defer non-essential events.

### Masks and home-cooked meals

Since signing with One Championship last February, Asian and Under-23 Worlds medallist Phogat has been living and training in Singapore. Speaking with *The Indian Express* on the sidelines of an open workout last Wednesday, the 25-year-old who made her MMA debut last November, said she "hadn't been thinking about the virus outbreak" and added that she relies on masks and home-cooked food as precautions.

A fighter training at the Evolve MMA gym in Singapore told this paper that fellow One Championship athletes have also been barred from attending the fights next Friday.

"The conditions aren't that bad in Singapore, and we've only been wearing masks for two days," said the martial artist on condition of anonymity. "However the precautionary measures have been raised at our gym too, including daily check-ups."

One Championship has already had to relocate an event from Chongqing, China on April 11 to Jakarta.

"Safety is our number one priority... We will take all the necessary precautions for the athletes, fans, employees feel safe, distribute masks," chief commercial officer Hari Vijayarajan had said when asked about the disruptions due to the outbreak. "We choose to take this as an opportunity... Because others have cancelled, the viewer numbers have doubled as people want to be entertained."

"This is an opportunity to go big in China, even though we may not physically organise matches there. The benefit of having a big audience in the same time zone is that apart from the 10,000 people in the stadium, nobody needs to know where you are."

Rival promotion UFC has also been affected by coronavirus. Ahead of her title defence on March 7 at UFC 248, women's strawweight champion Weili Zhang of China first moved her training camp from Beijing to Thailand, and later to Abu Dhabi.



## CRASH ON THE LINE

Ryan Newman was involved in a ghastly crash on the final lap of the Daytona 500 that hospitalised him with non-life-threatening injuries. *USA Today*

■ Ryan Newman has rolled his way through many crashes over a 20-year NASCAR career. This one, though, caused the sport to pause. Newman slid across the finish line in a crumpled heap of metal, sparks flying as his car skidded to a halt with fuel pouring onto the track, close to open flames.

■ The 42-year-old, nicknamed 'Rocketman' was involved in a crash on the final lap of the Daytona 500 on Monday night and everyone feared the worst. NASCAR has not had a fatality in its elite Cup Series since 2001, but this wreck just looked different.

■ Everyone gasped as track workers placed large black screens around his car and worked to get him out. They had to wait two excruciating hours to exhale, after NASCAR announced Newman had non-life-threatening injuries and was in serious condition at Halifax Medical Center.

■ Breathtaking crashes are common at Daytona International Speedway, where drivers racing for position at 320kph often make contact. There have been no fatalities since Dale Earnhardt's death following a crash on the final lap of the 2001 Daytona 500. *Text: AP*

## T20 league owners threaten boycott, want MCA's partner out

DEVENDRA PANDEY  
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 18

THE MUMBAI Cricket Association will decide whether it should snap ties with its partner Probability Sports which had marketed and run the franchise-based T20 Mumbai League.

All the eight franchises had officially complained to MCA about their displeasure with functioning of Probability Sports and have threatened to boycott the tournament if MCA doesn't shed its partner and takes full charge of the league. The MCA, which had discussed the issue on February 18, will let its Apex Council take the final call on February 24. Probability Sports is a consortium led by IFL Investment Managers and Wizcraft Groups that was formed in 2018 to partner MCA to launch and run the T20 league.

In a letter signed by all team owners, and representatives and submitted to MCA president Vijay Patil, the franchises stated their decision.

"We all team owners of the T20 Mumbai League have decided that unless MCA is not taking charge of the league, we owners will not be participating in the league henceforth under probability sports. We hope you will appreciate of harsh decision on behalf of us and the positive decision for the interest of Mumbai cricket." The most recent cause for turmoil was the termination of two teams by Probability Sport for allegedly failing to clear outstanding dues.

"Recently two teams' contract were terminated and MCA didn't know about this. How can they take such decision? We all bought a team looking at MCA and probability sports. We now feel that its high time MCA takes full charge of the tournament. Let them deal with us and not some other company," Mallik said. The Apex Council of MCA will decide on the issue on February 24.

## Family selection race ends with Asian gold

Wrestlers' aura prompted Sunil's father to put his son into the sport, a decision vindicated more than a decade later

MIHIR VASAVDA  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 18

THE STORY begins at a wedding reception, sometime in the late noughties.

Ashwini Kumar, a small-time farmer from Haryana's Dabarpur village, was at a relative's reception when he first came across wrestlers. Dabarpur, they say, had no wrestlers or even culture for the sport in a radius of 30-40km. It was at the function that Ashwini witnessed first-hand the aura wrestlers have and the respect they command, especially in Haryana.

At that moment, he decided to make one of his two sons a wrestler. "It was impossible that both of us would get into the sport. It's expensive enough to take care of the dietary requirements of just one wrestler. For us, it was unaffordable to have two wrestlers in the family," says Sumit Kumar, Ashwini's elder son.

So, Ashwini came up with an idea. "He held a 5km race and laid down a condition: the one who would finish first would get wrestling training and the other will have to tend to the family's farms," Sumit says.

The elder brother lost the race to his muscular, quicker and eight-year-younger sibling. A little more than a decade later, after the most unusual initiation to the sport but following years of toil and training, Sunil – the younger brother – ended India's 27-year wait for an Asian Championship gold medal in Greco-Roman, a wrestling style that's ignored and an afterthought in the country.

Sunil, 20, wasn't even born when India last won an Asian gold medal in Greco-Roman – in 1993, when Pappu Yadav won the 48kg



Sunil Kumar beat Azat Salidinov of Kyrgyzstan 5-0 in the 87kg Greco-Roman final to clinch gold at the Asian Wrestling Championships. *Abhinav Saha*

**After the most unusual initiation to the sport but following years of toil and training, Sunil ended India's 27-year wait for an Asian Championship gold medal in Greco-Roman, a wrestling style that's ignored and an afterthought in the country.**

record. And since dangals, a major source of income for wrestlers, have just freestyle wrestling. Greco-Roman never became popular.

Almost every Indian wrestler begins with freestyle as the first choice, and Sunil was no exception. After winning the 'selection trial' his father held, he began freestyle training at a sports school in Haryana's Jind. But soon, the coaches realised his lower body did not have the strength to withstand the strong demands of freestyle wrestling, in which nearly every move begins with a leg hold.

Considered not strong enough for freestyle, Sunil was sent to Greco-Roman. "And it came naturally to him. What he lacked in legs, he made up with shoulders," Sumit says, referring to his brother's physical strength.

While Sunil's move was out of compulsion, in the case of Arjun Halakurki – who won a bronze medal on Tuesday – the shift from freestyle to Greco-Roman was due to desperation. Like Sunil, Halakurki, too, came from a village with very little wrestling pedigree. The Bagalkot native took up the sport after being

inspired by his father, a dandal wrestler. But it was freestyle that attracted Halakurki.

For a decade, he competed in freestyle events across India. But he wasn't good enough to get into Karnataka's state team. "It was very frustrating. My career was heading nowhere despite working so hard," Halakurki says.

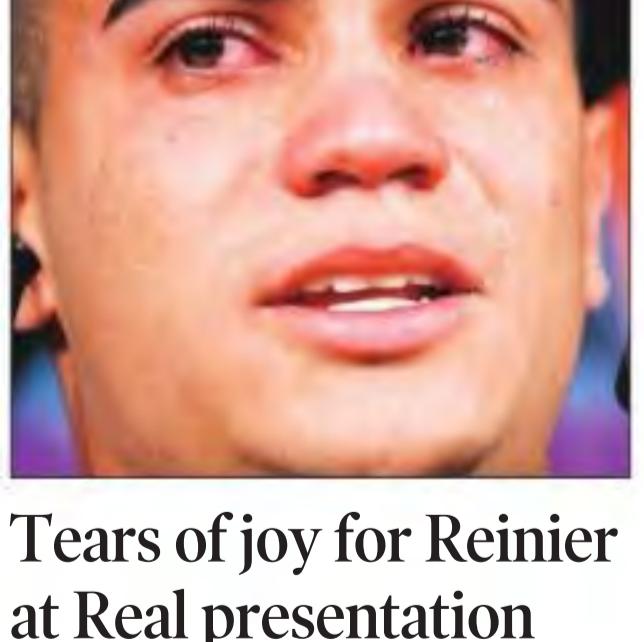
Hargobind Singh, India's Greco-Roman coach, says Halakurki was not strong in leg attacks but instead, used his upper body to initiate moves. "It's a style that would have suited him in Greco-Roman, so it was suggested that he shifts categories," Hargobind says.

The Asian Championship was Halakurki's senior international debut. The inexperience cost him as he conceded a six-point advantage to lose to Iran's Pouya Naserpour 8-7 in the semifinals of the 55kg category.

Sunil did the opposite. He gave ample evidence of his prowess during his 5-0 rout of Kyrgyzstan's Azat Salidinov in a one-sided final in the 87kg class. But before that, he staged an improbable comeback in the semifinal, rallying from a six-point deficit to beat Kazakhstan's Azamat Kustubayev 12-8.

The gold also means Sunil would be among the favourites for an Olympic berth in the continental qualifiers next month. "Our father wished for something bigger, we even dreamt of a medal at the Olympics," Sumit says.

Sunil's father passed away in a car accident when he was 10. But Sumit says it took years for Sunil to move on. On Tuesday, Sunil did not dwell on it much. He was surrounded by teammates, coaches and federation officials, everyone trying to be in his vicinity. "This aura and respect is what attracted our father to wrestling," Sumit says. "This is just the beginning."



## Tears of joy for Reinier at Real presentation

Brazilian teenager Reinier couldn't hold back the tears when he was officially introduced by Real Madrid on Tuesday. The 18-year-old Reinier had to compose himself a few times while speaking about his family's sacrifice to help him make it to the Spanish club. He also cried when the club showed a video of his highlights with Brazil's youth squads and former club Flamengo. "It's thanks to my family that I'm here," Reinier said, wiping away tears. "It was hard to leave everything behind when I was young just so I could play." The sacrifice has been justified, for now. For a reported fee of more than \$32.5 million, Reinier has signed with Madrid until 2026. He is expected to initially play for the B team. "I'm available to do whatever the club wants me to do," he said. "I'll always be giving my best."

## Roland Garros Jr wild card Series from Feb 24

The sixth edition of the Roland-Garros Junior Wild Card Series will be held at the clay courts of the Delhi Lawn Tennis Association (DLTA) from February 24-26 with four-time Grand Slam winner Mary Pierce as event ambassador. The announcement was made by the French Tennis Federation, organiser of French Open, and All India Tennis Association. Pierce will be present in Delhi to motivate the players during the event. The tournament provides young Indian players with a unique opportunity to qualify for the Roland Garros Junior Main draw to be held in May 2020.

## Sania sails into doubles pre-quarterfinals

Sania Mirza and her partner Caroline Garcia registered a hard-fought win over Russia's Alla Kudryavtseva and Slovenia's Katarina Srebotnik to advance to the women's doubles pre-quarterfinals at the Dubai Open here on Tuesday. The Indo-French pair beat their Russian opponents 6-4, 4-6, 10-8 in the first round match. The Sania-Garcia combine will now meet the fifth seeded duo of Saisai Zheng of China and Barbora Krejčíková of Czech Republic in the round of 16. The 33-year-old Sania was returning to action at the Dubai Open after recovering from a calf injury which had cut short her campaign at the Australian Open in January.



Manpreet Singh and Co play Australia on February 21 and 22 in Bhubaneswar.

## Manpreet to lead India vs Australia in Pro League

Manpreet Singh will lead India in the upcoming FIH Pro League matches against world no.2 Australia, a 24-member team for which was announced by Hockey India on Tuesday. Harmanpreet Singh will shoulder the duties of the vice captain in the matches, scheduled to take place on February 21 and 22 at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. The Indian team, which recently climbed to no.4 in the FIH World Rankings, had posted a 2-1 win over World champions Belgium in the first Pro League match, while losing 2-3 in the second game. The 24-member squad will comprise goalkeepers PR Sreejesh and Krishan Pathak, besides outfielders Amit Rohidas, Surender Kumar, Birendra Lakra, Harmanpreet Singh, Varun Kumar, Gurinder Singh and Rupinder Pal Singh. Vivek Sagar Prasad, Hardik Singh, Chinglensana Singh, Raj Kumar Pal, Akashdeep Singh, Sumit, Lalit Upadhyay, Gursahib Singh, Dilpreet Singh, SV Sunil, Jarmanpreet Singh, Simranjeet Singh, Nilakanta Singh, and Ramandeep Singh, are also part of the squad. "After having two high intensity matches against the World Champions, we will be facing another strong team in Australia," Chief coach Graham Reid said.

## Vietnam GP on track despite virus fears

Vietnam's inaugural Formula One Grand Prix will take place in Hanoi in April as planned, organisers told AFP Tuesday, avoiding the fate of the Chinese Grand Prix which was postponed over the deadly coronavirus. The race will be held as "scheduled" on April 5, Le Ngoc Chi, CEO of Vietnam Grand Prix told AFP. The virus, which has killed more than 1,800 people in China, has trashed Asia's sporting calendar, forcing the postponement of top events including the Shanghai grand prix and the Hong Kong Sevens rugby. But Vietnamese authorities said the country's inaugural Formula One race would go ahead on schedule.

## Bengaluru FC face Maldivian Side Maziya

Their hopes of Indian Super League top spot dashed, a "tired" Bengaluru FC will take on Maziya FC of Maldives in the AFC Cup play-offs first leg match here on Wednesday. Defending champions Bengaluru FC are out of contention for the league phase top spot of ISL, which guarantees a spot in the AFC Champions League next season, after suffering a shock 1-2 defeat to Kerala Blasters on Saturday. Despite having qualified for the AFC Cup play-offs stage with a massive 10-1 aggregate win over Bhutan's Paro FC last week, Bengaluru FC boss Carles Cuadrat said his side will have to work hard to claim a result in humid conditions.



## Women's golf great Wright dies at 85

Thirteen-time major winner Mickey Wright, often described as the greatest woman golfer of all time, died aged 85. Wright, who accumulated 82 LPGA Tour titles during a professional career which stretched from 1954 to 1969, died in Florida after a heart attack, reports said on Monday. "We're saddened to learn today of the passing of Mickey Wright, a 13-time Major Champion and 82-time winner on the @LPGA, just three days after celebrating her birthday," the World Golf Hall of Fame announced on Twitter. Born Mary Kathryn Wright in San Diego, California in 1935, Wright won the 1954 World Amateur Championship before turning professional the following season. Her retirement in 1969 shocked golf, coming at the early age of 34. Wright would later cite the pressure of the spotlight as influencing her decision.

# Blues lose rhythm at the Bridge

In a VAR-affected match, United stun Chelsea 2-0 to reignite the race for Champions League spots

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LONDON, FEBRUARY 18

MANCHESTER UNITED threw open the race for the final Champions League qualification spots in the Premier League by beating fourth-place Chelsea 2-0 thanks to headers by Anthony Martial and Harry Maguire on Monday.

With 12 games remaining, seven points separate Chelsea and 11th-place Burnley, with the team finishing fifth also set to earn a place in next season's Champions League following UEFA's decision to punish Man City for serious breaches of financial regulations by handing the English champions a two-year European ban.

Martial glanced in a header off a right-wing cross by Aaron Wan-Bissaka to give United the lead in the 45th minute at Stamford Bridge, before Maguire planted home a corner from January signing Bruno Fernandes in the 66th.

Maguire, United's captain, was perhaps fortunate to still be on the field, with the match officials opting not to punish the England defender for appearing to kick out at Michy Batshuayi after tumbling off the playing surface in front of the dugouts.

"I know I caught him but I felt like he was going to fall on me and the natural reaction was to straighten my leg so that if he was to fall on me, to hold him up," Maguire said.

"It probably looks worse than it was. "I did catch him... but I knew at the time I had no intent to hurt him or kick him." Chelsea was on the wrong end of two other decisions by VAR, firstly disallowing a volleyed goal by Kurt Zouma in the 56th because of a push by Cesar Azpilicueta on United left back Brandon Williams. Azpilicueta seemed to have been pushed a split-second earlier by Fred.

Then, with 13 minutes to go, substitute Olivier Giroud had a goal ruled out by VAR for a tight offside, leaving Chelsea manager Frank Lampard looking thoroughly glum as he sat in his technical area.

Chelsea has long been in fourth place, but has only won three of its last 11 games in the league to give a slew of rivals clubs hope of catching up. One of them is United, which climbed to seventh place with this win - three points behind Chelsea and two adrift of fifth-place Tottenham.

"This season, we have been far too inconsistent," Maguire said. "We have won at Manchester City, beat Chelsea at home, got a point against Liverpool, but we have let ourselves down against the teams where the pressure is on to break them down."

Injury problems are starting to bite at Chelsea, too. Top scorer Tammy Abraham and winger Callum Hudson-Odoi missed the game because of injury, while central midfielder N'Golo Kante lasted 11 minutes before hobbling off.



Anthony Martial (right) gave United the lead in the 45th minute, before Harry Maguire planted home a corner in the 66th. Reuters

## Premier League Standings

P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Liverpool	26	25	1	0	46
Man City	25	16	3	6	51
Leicester	26	15	5	6	50
Chelsea	26	12	5	9	41
Spurs	26	11	7	8	40
Sheffield	26	10	9	7	39

We are fourth because of some of the good stuff we've done and because of the nature of the league, everyone taking points off each other. But there's a lot of work to do because you can see the problem - that's putting the ball in the back of the net.

FRANK LAMPARD  
CHELSEA MANAGER

Center back Andreas Christensen didn't come out for the second half after sustaining a knock to the head late in the first period, just before Martial beat the Denmark defender to a header for the first goal.

Lampard's main gripe, though, was his team's failure to finish off chances once again. Batshuayi was the biggest culprit, spurning two great chances in the first half in his first start in the league this season.

"We are fourth because of some of the good stuff we've done and because of the nature of the league, everyone taking points off each other," Lampard said. "But

there's a lot of work to do because you can see the problem - that's putting the ball in the back of the net. "I feel like a broken record. We have to put things to bed by scoring goals." Chelsea hosts Tottenham on Saturday and would finally get overtaken with another loss. "The season starts here," Lampard said.

Nigeria striker Odion Ighalo, who signed for United on deadline day in the January transfer window, came on in second-half stoppage time for his debut and had a late chance saved by Willy Caballero, who again started in goal ahead of Kepa Arrizabalaga. Two players struck the post from free kicks

"I think City will beat UEFA. UEFA, we have no faith in them whatsoever," Sky Sports pundit Neville said. "I think essentially they are a hopeless organisation who will just apply what would be erratic disciplinary sanctions for different things and I think City will beat them in the courts."

However Muguruza took the set to a tie-break and emerged victorious with a service winner on her second match point after nearly an hour and three-quarters on court.

Earlier, Ons Jabeur beat Alison Riske 7-6 (7/3), 1-6, 6-3 to earn a second-round date with top seed Simona Halep.

Tunisian Jabeur, ranked 45 in the world, saw off American Riske amid passionate home support for a player who trains in Dubai. "I'm so grateful for the crowd, they really gave me energy. It feels like home here," said Jabeur. "Alison is tough, she made me run everywhere, I was down in the second set but got it back in the third," added the first Arab woman to reach a Grand Slam quarter-final last month at the Australian Open.

after being swept aside in the first but fought back gamely to lead 5-4 after nine games.

However Muguruza took the set to a tie-break and emerged victorious with a service winner on her second match point after nearly an hour and three-quarters on court.

Earlier, Ons Jabeur beat Alison Riske 7-6 (7/3), 1-6, 6-3 to earn a second-round date with top seed Simona Halep.

Tunisian Jabeur, ranked 45 in the world, saw off American Riske amid passionate home support for a player who trains in Dubai. "I'm so grateful for the crowd, they really gave me energy. It feels like home here," said Jabeur. "Alison is tough, she made me run everywhere, I was down in the second set but got it back in the third," added the first Arab woman to reach a Grand Slam quarter-final last month at the Australian Open.

"I think City will beat UEFA. UEFA, we have no faith in them whatsoever," Sky Sports pundit Neville said. "I think essentially they are a hopeless organisation who will just apply what would be erratic disciplinary sanctions for different things and I think City will beat them in the courts."

However Muguruza took the set to a tie-break and emerged victorious with a service winner on her second match point after nearly an hour and three-quarters on court.

Earlier, Ons Jabeur beat Alison Riske 7-6 (7/3), 1-6, 6-3 to earn a second-round date with top seed Simona Halep.

Tunisian Jabeur, ranked 45 in the world, saw off American Riske amid passionate home support for a player who trains in Dubai. "I'm so grateful for the crowd, they really gave me energy. It feels like home here," said Jabeur. "Alison is tough, she made me run everywhere, I was down in the second set but got it back in the third," added the first Arab woman to reach a Grand Slam quarter-final last month at the Australian Open.

"I think City will beat UEFA. UEFA, we have no faith in them whatsoever," Sky Sports pundit Neville said. "I think essentially they are a hopeless organisation who will just apply what would be erratic disciplinary sanctions for different things and I think City will beat them in the courts."

However Muguruza took the set to a tie-break and emerged victorious with a service winner on her second match point after nearly an hour and three-quarters on court.

Earlier, Ons Jabeur beat Alison Riske 7-6 (7/3), 1-6, 6-3 to earn a second-round date with top seed Simona Halep.

Tunisian Jabeur, ranked 45 in the world, saw off American Riske amid passionate home support for a player who trains in Dubai. "I'm so grateful for the crowd, they really gave me energy. It feels like home here," said Jabeur. "Alison is tough, she made me run everywhere, I was down in the second set but got it back in the third," added the first Arab woman to reach a Grand Slam quarter-final last month at the Australian Open.

"I think City will beat UEFA. UEFA, we have no faith in them whatsoever," Sky Sports pundit Neville said. "I think essentially they are a hopeless organisation who will just apply what would be erratic disciplinary sanctions for different things and I think City will beat them in the courts."

However Muguruza took the set to a tie-break and emerged victorious with a service winner on her second match point after nearly an hour and three-quarters on court.

Earlier, Ons Jabeur beat Alison Riske 7-6 (7/3), 1-6, 6-3 to earn a second-round date with top seed Simona Halep.

Tunisian Jabeur, ranked 45 in the world, saw off American Riske amid passionate home support for a player who trains in Dubai. "I'm so grateful for the crowd, they really gave me energy. It feels like home here," said Jabeur. "Alison is tough, she made me run everywhere, I was down in the second set but got it back in the third," added the first Arab woman to reach a Grand Slam quarter-final last month at the Australian Open.

"I think City will beat UEFA. UEFA, we have no faith in them whatsoever," Sky Sports pundit Neville said. "I think essentially they are a hopeless organisation who will just apply what would be erratic disciplinary sanctions for different things and I think City will beat them in the courts."

However Muguruza took the set to a tie-break and emerged victorious with a service winner on her second match point after nearly an hour and three-quarters on court.

Earlier, Ons Jabeur beat Alison Riske 7-6 (7/3), 1-6, 6-3 to earn a second-round date with top seed Simona Halep.

Tunisian Jabeur, ranked 45 in the world, saw off American Riske amid passionate home support for a player who trains in Dubai. "I'm so grateful for the crowd, they really gave me energy. It feels like home here," said Jabeur. "Alison is tough, she made me run everywhere, I was down in the second set but got it back in the third," added the first Arab woman to reach a Grand Slam quarter-final last month at the Australian Open.

"I think City will beat UEFA. UEFA, we have no faith in them whatsoever," Sky Sports pundit Neville said. "I think essentially they are a hopeless organisation who will just apply what would be erratic disciplinary sanctions for different things and I think City will beat them in the courts."

However Muguruza took the set to a tie-break and emerged victorious with a service winner on her second match point after nearly an hour and three-quarters on court.

Earlier, Ons Jabeur beat Alison Riske 7-6 (7/3), 1-6, 6-3 to earn a second-round date with top seed Simona Halep.

Tunisian Jabeur, ranked 45 in the world, saw off American Riske amid passionate home support for a player who trains in Dubai. "I'm so grateful for the crowd, they really gave me energy. It feels like home here," said Jabeur. "Alison is tough, she made me run everywhere, I was down in the second set but got it back in the third," added the first Arab woman to reach a Grand Slam quarter-final last month at the Australian Open.

"I think City will beat UEFA. UEFA, we have no faith in them whatsoever," Sky Sports pundit Neville said. "I think essentially they are a hopeless organisation who will just apply what would be erratic disciplinary sanctions for different things and I think City will beat them in the courts."

However Muguruza took the set to a tie-break and emerged victorious with a service winner on her second match point after nearly an hour and three-quarters on court.

Earlier, Ons Jabeur beat Alison Riske 7-6 (7/3), 1-6, 6-3 to earn a second-round date with top seed Simona Halep.

Tunisian Jabeur, ranked 45 in the world, saw off American Riske amid passionate home support for a player who trains in Dubai. "I'm so grateful for the crowd, they really gave me energy. It feels like home here," said Jabeur. "Alison is tough, she made me run everywhere, I was down in the second set but got it back in the third," added the first Arab woman to reach a Grand Slam quarter-final last month at the Australian Open.

"I think City will beat UEFA. UEFA, we have no faith in them whatsoever," Sky Sports pundit Neville said. "I think essentially they are a hopeless organisation who will just apply what would be erratic disciplinary sanctions for different things and I think City will beat them in the courts."

However Muguruza took the set to a tie-break and emerged victorious with a service winner on her second match point after nearly an hour and three-quarters on court.

Earlier, Ons Jabeur beat Alison Riske 7-6 (7/3), 1-6, 6-3 to earn a second-round date with top seed Simona Halep.

Tunisian Jabeur, ranked 45 in the world, saw off American Riske amid passionate home support for a player who trains in Dubai. "I'm so grateful for the crowd, they really gave me energy. It feels like home here," said Jabeur. "Alison is tough, she made me run everywhere, I was down in the second set but got it back in the third," added the first Arab woman to reach a Grand Slam quarter-final last month at the Australian Open.

"I think City will beat UEFA. UEFA, we have no faith in them whatsoever," Sky Sports pundit Neville said. "I think essentially they are a hopeless organisation who will just apply what would be erratic disciplinary sanctions for different things and I think City will beat them in the courts."

However Muguruza took the set to a tie-break and emerged victorious with a service winner on her second match point after nearly an hour and three-quarters on court.

Earlier, Ons Jabeur beat Alison Riske 7-6 (7/3), 1-6, 6-3 to earn a second-round date with top seed Simona Halep.

Tunisian Jabeur, ranked 45 in the world, saw off American Riske amid passionate home support for a player who trains in Dubai. "I'm so grateful for the crowd, they really gave me energy. It feels like home here," said Jabeur. "Alison is tough, she made me run everywhere, I was down in the second set but got it back in the third," added the first Arab woman to reach a Grand Slam quarter-final last month at the Australian Open.

"I think City will beat UEFA. UEFA, we have no faith in them whatsoever," Sky Sports pundit Neville said. "I think essentially they are a hopeless organisation who will just apply what would be erratic disciplinary sanctions for different things and I think City will beat them in the courts."

However Muguruza took the set to a tie-break and emerged victorious with a service winner on her second match point after nearly an hour and three-quarters on court.

Earlier, Ons Jabeur beat Alison Riske 7-6 (7/3), 1-6, 6-3 to earn a second-round date with top seed Simona Halep.

Tunisian Jabeur, ranked 45 in the world, saw off American Riske amid passionate home support for a player who trains in Dubai. "I'm so grateful for the crowd, they really gave me energy. It feels like home here," said Jabeur. "Alison is tough, she made me run everywhere, I was down in the second set but got it back in the third," added the first Arab woman to reach a Grand Slam quarter-final last month at the Australian Open.

"I think City will beat UEFA. UEFA, we have no faith in them whatsoever," Sky Sports pundit Neville said. "I think essentially they are a hopeless organisation who will just apply what would be erratic disciplinary sanctions for different things and I think City will beat them in the courts."

However Muguruza took the set to a tie-break and emerged victorious with a service winner on her second match point after nearly an hour and three-quarters on court.

Earlier, Ons Jabeur beat Alison Riske 7-6 (7/3), 1-6, 6-3 to earn a second-round date with top seed Simona Halep.

Tunisian Jabeur, ranked 45 in the world, saw off American Riske amid passionate home support for a player who trains in Dubai. "I'm so grateful for the crowd, they really gave me energy. It feels like home here," said Jabeur. "Alison is tough, she made me run everywhere, I was down in the second set but got it back in the third," added the first Arab woman to reach a Grand Slam quarter-final last month at the Australian Open.

"I think City will beat UEFA. UEFA, we have no faith in them whatsoever," Sky Sports pundit Neville said. "I think essentially they are a hopeless organisation who will just apply what would be erratic disciplinary sanctions for different things and I think City will beat them in the courts."

However Muguruza took the set to a tie-break and emerged victorious with a service winner on her second match point after nearly an hour and three-quarters on court.

Earlier, Ons Jabeur beat Alison Riske 7-6 (7/3), 1-6, 6-3 to earn a second-round date with top seed Simona Halep.

Tunisian Jabeur, ranked 45 in the world, saw off American Riske amid passionate home support for a player who trains in Dubai. "I'm so grateful for the crowd, they really gave me energy. It feels like home here," said Jabeur. "Alison is tough, she made me run everywhere, I was down in the second set but got it back in the third," added the first Arab woman to reach a Grand Slam quarter-final last month at the Australian Open.

"I think City will beat UEFA. UEFA, we have no faith in them whatsoever," Sky Sports pundit Neville said. "I think essentially they are a hopeless organisation who will just apply what would be erratic disciplinary sanctions for different things and I think City will beat them in the courts."

However Muguruza took the set to a tie-break and emerged victorious with a service winner on her second match point after nearly an hour and three-quarters on court.

Earlier, Ons Jabeur beat Alison Riske 7-6 (7/3), 1-6, 6-3 to earn a second-round date with top seed Simona Halep.

Tunisian Jabeur, ranked 45 in the world, saw off American Riske amid passionate home support for a player who trains in Dubai. "I'm so grateful for the crowd, they really gave me energy. It feels like home here," said Jabeur. "Alison is tough, she made me run everywhere, I was down in the second set but got it back in the third," added the first Arab woman to reach a Grand Slam quarter-final last month at the Australian Open.

"I think City will beat UEFA. UEFA, we have no faith in them whatsoever," Sky Sports pundit Neville said. "I think essentially they are a hopeless organisation who will just apply what would be erratic disciplinary sanctions for different things and I think City will beat them in the courts."

**MARUTI SUZUKI**

**NEXA**

# BORN TO MAKE BOLD STATEMENTS.

Baleno drives into this year with more than **7 lakh** proud owners. A feat achieved in record time.

CREATE. INSPIRE.



**NEXA**  
INSPIRING  
ONE  
**MILLION**  
customers

BSVI compliant, only in petrol variants.

**THE NEW**  
**BALENO**



- DUAL FRONT AIRBAGS
- ABS WITH EBD
- PEDESTRIAN PROTECTION COMPLIANCE
- FULL FRONTAL IMPACT COMPLIANCE, FRONTAL OFFSET IMPACT COMPLIANCE, SIDE IMPACT COMPLIANCE

New Smart Hybrid Technology

New Dual Jet, Dual VVT Engine

New Dual Tone Interiors

New Smartplay Studio

**SAVE UP TO ₹ 35 000\*.**

Contact us at  
**1800-200-[6392]**  
**1800-102-[NEXA]**

[www.nexaexperience.com](http://www.nexaexperience.com)

NOW YOU CAN ALSO BOOK ONLINE

**NEXA WAJIRPUR**  
COMPETENT AUTOMOBILES  
PH: 95826568646

**NEXA ROHINI SECTOR 10**  
SAYA AUTOMOBILES LTD.  
PH: 9582277477

**NEXA NARELA**  
DD MOTORS  
PH: 9081900808

**NEXA PITAMPURA**  
KRISH MOTORS  
PH: 7838555047

**NEXA GT KARNAL ROAD**  
RANA MOTORS  
PH: 7289999111

**NEXA MOHAN CO-OPERATIVE**  
PLATINUM MOTO CORP  
PH: 011-42347777, 9899118890

**NEXA KALASH COLONY**  
RANA MOTORS  
PH: 999978886

**NEXA LAJPAT NAGAR**  
BAGGA LINK MOTORS  
PH: 9818199367

**NEXA OKHLA PHASE 1**  
PREM MOTORS  
PH: 011-42900000, 7065074531

**NEXA GREEN PARK**  
TR SAWHNEY AUTOMOBILES  
PH: 7290099520

**NEXA KAROL BAGH**  
DD MOTORS  
PH: 9081900800

**NEXA MAYAPURI**  
KRISH AUTOMOTORS  
PH: 7838550576

**NEXA DWARKA SECTOR 16**  
COMPETENT AUTOMOBILES COMPANY  
PH: 8860017600

**NEXA MOTI NAGAR**  
AAA VEHICLEADES PVT. LTD.  
PH: 8448993400

**NEXA MEERUT ROAD**  
JAGMOHAN AUTOMOTIVES PVT. LTD.  
PH: 7290549393

**NEXA SAHIBabad**  
MOTORCRAFT SALES  
PH: 8130582222

**NEXA FARIDABAD CENTRAL**  
VIPUL MOTORS  
PH: 9599814771

**NEXA MATHURA ROAD**  
PASCO AUTOMOBILES  
PH: 1294121212

**NEXA NIT**  
BYA AUTO  
PH: 8376008000

**NEXA SOHNA**  
COMPETENT AUTOMOBILES  
PH: 0124-2877000, 7290025353

**NEXA GOKULPURI**  
VIPUL MOTORS PVT. LTD.  
PH: 7290091122

**NEXA PREET VIHAR**  
TR SAWHNEY AUTOMOBILES  
PH: 9870194313

**NEXA AISHKARDHAN**  
FAIRDEAL CARS  
PH: 9999525161

**NEXA GHAZIPUR**  
PLATINUM MOTO CORP  
PH: 9871755000

**NEXA IMT MANESAR**  
ROHAN MOTORS LTD.  
PH: 9599040601

**NEXA DELHI ROAD**  
DINCO 4 WHEELS LLP  
PH: 7082100301

**NEXA SECTOR 10**  
FAIR DEAL CARS  
PH: 9953993450

**NEXA SECTOR 1**  
ROHAN MOTORS  
PH: 8376800026

**NEXA SECTOR 63**  
VIPUL MOTORS  
PH: 9599814775

**NEXA IND AREA GREATER NOIDA**  
ROHAN MOTORS  
PH: 8744000600

**NEXA SECTOR 62**  
VIPUL MOTORS  
PH: 9205899710

**NEXA IDC SEC 14**  
PREM MOTORS  
PH: 124-44400000, 7065074501

**NEXA RAJIV CHOWK GURGAON**  
RANA MOTORS  
PH: 8585991111

**NEXA MG ROAD**  
PASCO AUTOMOBILES  
PH: 9711290001

**NEXA GOLF COURSE ROAD**  
TR SAWHNEY AUTOMOBILES  
PH: 9999525740

**NEXA SOHNA**  
PASCO AUTOMOBILES  
PH: 9899961000

**NEXA DELHI ROAD**  
DINCO 4 WHEELS LLP  
PH: 7082100301

**NEXA SECTOR 10**  
FAIR DEAL CARS  
PH: 9953993450

**NEXA SECTOR 1**  
VIPUL MOTORS  
PH: 9599814775

**NEXA IND AREA GREATER NOIDA**  
ROHAN MOTORS  
PH: 8744000600

**A REVOLUTIONARY WAY TO CONNECT TO YOUR CAR**

- Vehicle Tracking
- Emergency Alert
- Driving Behaviour Analysis
- Live Vehicle Status
- Vehicle Alerts

Offered separately as Genuine NEXA Accessory

\*T&C Apply. Features and accessories shown may not be part of standard fitment. Black glass shade on the vehicle is due to lighting effect. Images used are for illustration purposes only. Offers may vary across variants. Maruti Suzuki reserves the right to withdraw offers at any point in time. Total saving includes Consumer Offer + Exchange Offer + Highest Corporate Offer.