

'IN VIEW OF CONTINUED TENSIONS'

India tells diplomats' kin, other nationals to leave Ukraine

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

STRIKING A note of urgency, India Sunday asked the family members of Embassy officials in Ukraine — as well as students and citizens whose stay is not vital — to leave the eastern European nation amid its rising tensions with Russia.

The directions to students and other nationals came from the Indian Embassy in Kyiv on Sunday. This is its second advisory in a week and has a stronger tone than the previous one — citing "high levels" of tensions and uncertainties.

"In view of the continued high levels of tensions and uncertainties with respect to the situation in Ukraine, all Indian nationals whose stay is not deemed essential and all Indian students, are advised to leave Ukraine temporarily," the Embassy said.

It said available commercial flights and charter flights may be availed of for travel for an "or-



A Ukrainian soldier in Krymske, which was shelled by separatists. NYT

derly and timely departure" from Ukraine.

"Indian students are advised to also get in touch with respective student contractors for updates on charter flights, and also continue to follow E embassy Facebook, website and Twitter for any update," the Embassy said.

Hours after this, sources said the kin of Embassy officials were asked to return to India.

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BIDEN STILL WILLING TO TALK
PAGE 9

50-YEAR LOANS

Centre's loans for capex push ties our hands, say Opp states

AANCHAL MAGAZINE & SUNNY VERMA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

THE CAPITAL expenditure push directed at states in Budget 2022-23 is being viewed with apprehension by some Opposition-ruled states that they might end up mortgaging their fiscal independence and sovereignty to the Centre for an extended period.

States are flagging specific concerns about how the 50-year loans, specifically earmarked for capex in the budget for next fiscal, will "tie them up" as per the Constitutional obligation under Article 293 (3), under which they need to seek the Centre's permission for any borrowing in future. "... They have taken two accounting tricks, what I called as exquisitely creative accounting. Because of Article 293 (3), the previous AIADMK government, which was a coalition partner of the BJP, never felt like taking it

EXPLAINED
E Lock-in terms

Under Article 293(3), states need to seek Centre's consent for additional loans. A 50-year term without a facility to pre-pay, states like TN and Chhattisgarh argue, robs them of fiscal independence. Especially when the amounts are relatively low.

(the Centre's loan), because at that time it was very clear that it was just bait, because the amounts were trivial, around Rs 500 crore for Tamil Nadu... even the previous regime saw the concern that they would use this to trigger Article 293(3), because it is not repayable in advance. It locks you for 50 years," said

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WORLD



NEPAL TABLES \$500MN US DEAL IN PARLIAMENT AMID PROTESTS

QUEEN ELIZABETH TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19
PAGE 9

Singed last yr, Simlipal reserve villagers vigilant as fire season approaches again

PAGE 1
ANCHORAISHWARYA MOHANTY
MAYURBHANJ, FEBRUARY 20

TWICE A week since the beginning of this month, 40-year-old Sushila Devi and 12 others in her self help group (SHG) have been going from door to door in Barehipani village, forming community groups and holding awareness meetings on ways to prevent forest fires.



A forest official conducts an awareness programme in Barehipani village. Aishwarya Mohanty

POLL SPEECH IN U.P.

'Cycle & bombs': PM targets SP on terror, says it withdrew cases against accused



PM Modi at the rally in UP's Hardoi, Sunday. @narendramodi

LALMANI VERMA & MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 20

DAYS AFTER 38 convicts were sentenced to death in the Ahmedabad blasts of 2008, and with just a fortnight left in the UP elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday accused the Opposition of being soft on terror and singled out the Samajwadi Party (SP) for attack,

linking its election symbol, the bicycle, to those used to plant some of the bombs then.

Addressing a public meeting in Hardoi, where polling is scheduled on February 23 in the fourth phase, Modi also targeted the previous SP government for deciding to withdraw cases against some of those accused of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



At Prayagraj coaching hub, years spent in wait for job, in hope of god or govt

SHYAMLAL YADAV
PRAYAGRAJ, FEBRUARY 20

"I HAVE a question for Modiji and Yogiji who claim to have given jobs to crores. Just give us the break-up of those jobs. They will stand exposed," says Mayank Rai, a native of Ghazipur, a B.Tech from Kanpur, who gave up a private job after three years to try to crack the Uttar Pradesh PCS (Provincial Civil Services) exams and join the Provincial Police Service.

Rai has been here, in Prayagraj's coaching hub, now for five years, and made it to the PCS Mains thrice, without get-



At University road, home to many coaching centres. Express

ting through. "I only applied for the police service," says Rai, 29,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNNY



DECISION 2022

TURNOUT

UTTAR PRADESH PHASE 3

60.31%
(2017: 62.2%)PUNJAB
64.88%
(2017: 77.63%)

Voters at Balongi village in Punjab's Mohali constituency on Sunday. Jasbir Malhi

Punjab voter turnout may not touch 2017 mark, AAP bastions among lowest

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA
CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 20

EVEN AS talk of a "wave" had gathered ground ahead of Punjab voting, the state's polling numbers hovered around the 64% mark at 5 pm. While voters were still trickling in and a final figure will be released only Monday, the numbers were expected to be short of the 77.63% recorded last time.

Among the lowest turnouts

was in Amritsar, including Amritsar East which had the most high-profile faceoff, between the Congress's Navjot Singh Sidhu and the Akali Dal's Bikram Singh Majithia. It saw a 53% turnout. Amritsar's overall polling of 57.74% was just behind Mohali's, which at 53.10% ranked the lowest.

While Punjab recorded 65.14% polling in 2002, the numbers had been high since — 75.42% in 2007, 78.3% in 2012 and 77.36% in 2017.

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INSIDE



KCR MEETS UDDHAV, PAWAR; SAYS NEED TO PRESERVE DEMOCRACY PAGE 4

Family of Nagaur rape victim says police forcibly moved body

DEEPA MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, FEBRUARY 20

THE BODY of a 35-year-old Dalit woman, who was raped, abandoned and found in a critical state six days later, was shifted in the early hours of Sunday from Jaipur to her native village in Nagaur district amid heavy police presence.

Her family members, who have been refusing to cremate her body for the past three days demanding Rs 50 lakh and government jobs for her children, said the body was moved forcibly from the mortuary in Jaipur.

Geegraj Jodli, a Dalit activist who was with the family at the time, said: "Around 3 am, 200-300 jawans held us forcibly and moved the body. Police were barbaric."

Late on Sunday night, the Nagaur district administration said an agreement had been reached with the family and the protest called off. "It has been agreed that the investigation will be done under the monitoring of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

LIC IPO

Reservation for Policyholders

To participate, policyholders must meet the following criteria:

- Resident Individual Policyholders of the Corporation having one or more policies of the Corporation as on February 13, 2022 and Bid/Offer opening date are eligible. *
- Policyholder's PAN details should be updated with the Corporation on or before February 28, 2022.

* Please also refer draft red herring prospectus dated February 13, 2022

DEMAT Account Opening

- Go to the nearest Common Service Centre (CSC) to open a DEMAT account.
- OR
- Visit either of these websites for registered Depository Participants (DP) to open a DEMAT account:
NSDL: https://nsdl.co.in/Open_NSDL_Demat_Account.php
CDSL: <https://www.cdslindia.com/DP/dplist.aspx>

LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA is proposing, subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to undertake an initial public offer of its Equity Shares and has filed the draft red herring prospectus dated February 13, 2022 ("DRHP") read with the corrigendum dated February 15, 2022. The DRHP is available on the websites of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e., BSE at www.bseindia.com and NSE at www.nseindia.com, respectively and is also available on the websites of the BRLMs, i.e., Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited at <https://investmentbank.kotak.com>, Axis Capital Limited at www.axiscapital.co.in, BofA Securities India Limited at www.mfi-india.com, CitiGroup Global Markets India Private Limited at www.online.citibank.co.in/nfm/citigroupglobalscreen1.htm, Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited at www.goldmansachs.com, ICICI Securities Limited at www.icicisecurities.com, JM Financial Limited at www.jmfml.com, J.P. Morgan India Private Limited at www.jpmlpl.com, Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Private Limited at www.nomuraholdings.com/company/asia/india/index.html and SBI Capital Markets Limited at www.sbicaps.com. Potential investors should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risk, please see the section titled "Risk Factors" of the RHP when filed. Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP filed with SEBI for making any investment decision. Specific attention of the investors is invited to "Risk Factors" beginning on page 23 of the DRHP.

This announcement does not constitute an offer of securities for sale in any jurisdiction, including the United States, and any securities described in this announcement may not be offered or sold in the United States absent registration under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or an exemption from such registration. No public offering or sale of securities in the United States is contemplated.

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Har Pal Aapke Saath

3 RAJASTHAN



At the site of the accident in Kota. *ANI*

Groom among 9 killed in accident on day of wedding

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, FEBRUARY 20

NINE PEOPLE, including a 23-year-old groom, died after their car fell into a river in Rajasthan's Kota district while they were on their way to the wedding venue in Madhya Pradesh on Sunday.

According to the police, the incident took place early on Sunday morning as the group was heading towards Ujjain, where the wedding ceremony was to be held in the evening.

"The wedding party was coming from Chauth ka Barwara in Sawai Madhopur and it was heading towards Ujjain. Nine people were in the car. There is an old bridge over the Chambal river in Nayapura area of Kota. It appears that the driver lost control of the car and it fell into the river while crossing the bridge," Kota City SP Keshar Singh Shekhawat said.

The groom was identified as Avinash Maliya from Sawai Madhopur district. His younger brother Sachin said Avinash got engaged late last year and the family was excited about the wedding. "Today, after the accident, the bride broke down when I told her that my brother has passed away," he said.

"All nine people in the car died as a result of the accident. Seven bodies were found inside the car. Two other bodies were found in the water," said SP Shekhawat. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot condoled the accident.

TRIGGERS POLITICAL ROW

Governor halts university meetings

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, FEBRUARY 20

THE RAJASTHAN Governor's order to halt two management meetings of a journalism institute has set off a political controversy, with university officials alleging interference by the Raj Bhavan and the Opposition BJP warning against the institute becoming the "JNU of Jaipur".

Vice-Chancellor of the Haridev Joshi University of Journalism and Mass Communication, Om Thanvi, said Governor Kalraj Mishra's move to halt scheduled meetings of the institute's Board of Management (BoM) and the advisory committee was "arbitrary". Others aligned to the Ashok Gehlot-led government in Congress echoed his views. BJP leaders, however, opposed the meetings saying, that the procedure was not being followed and the institute risked turning into Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) with the presence of "tukde tukde gang".

Over the last few years, JNU has been at the centre of protests against the central government

over several issues.

On February 18, Raj Bhavan cited a circular by the state's Higher Education Department, saying that meetings in universities should not be held during the ongoing Assembly Session as some MLAs were members of the BoM. The order, signed by principal secretary to governor Subir Kumar, also cited a letter of opposition by BJP MLA Dhammarayan Joshi, who has demanded that no policy decisions should be taken in the meetings as only a few weeks were left in the V-C's tenure. Thanvi's tenure as V-C ends on March 8.

"Many violations of procedure and rules are being committed at the Haridev Joshi University of Journalism and Mass Communication. If this goes on, then the university will become Jaipur's JNU with the presence of the tukde tukde gang. That is why I had written a letter to the Governor so that the VC doesn't take any such policy decisions towards the end of his tenure. He only has two weeks of tenure left," Joshi, the Mavli legislator, told The Indian Express on Sunday.

V-C Thanvi dismissed the BJP

leader's accusations and said it will be "our good fortune" if HJU can match up to the "reputation of the JNU in academics".

"(The term) Tukde-tukde gang is just used to defame JNU," he said. The Vice-Chancellor added that the cancellation of the meetings by the Governor — who is the Chancellor of the state-run university — was "arbitrary".

Independent MLA Sirohi Sanyam Lodha — who backs the Congress government and is a member of the university's BoM — said in a series of tweets on Saturday that the Board of Management has nothing to do with the tenure of the V-C.

When asked about the criticism, the

Governor's office on Sunday reiterated its stand.

"It came to our notice that in the BoM meeting, certain policy decisions were about to be taken," said Subir Kumar.



PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Loss of Share Certificate

NOTICE is hereby given that the following share certificates of Asia Pack Ltd. having corporate office at 3rd floor, miraj campus, upper ki oden, nathdwara, ajsamand, Udaipur, Rajasthan, 313301. India are stated to have been lost or misplaced or stolen and we the registered holder thereof have applied the company for the issue of Duplicate Share Certificates.

Folio No	Share certificate No. From - To	Distinctive No From - To	Total Certificates	No. of Shares
1515	23646 - 23654	2332821 - 2333720	9	900

The public is hereby warned against purchasing or in any way, with the above share certificates, any persons who has/have any claims in respect of the said share certificates should lodge the claims with the company at its registered office at the address 3rd floor, miraj campus, upper ki oden, nathdwara, ajsamand, udaipur, rajasthan, 313301. or its registrar and transfer agents Bigshare Services Pvt. Ltd., 302, kushal bazar, 32-33, nehru place, new Delhi-110019, within 21 days from this date else the company will proceed to issue duplicate certificates to the aforesaid applicants without any further intimation.

Place: Mumbai
Dated: 21/02/2022

Shareholder Name: Usha Gupta
Joint Shareholder Name: Adesh Kumar Gupta

आम सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरे अभिभावक को ग्राम जयमलसर तहसील गजनेर जिला-बीकानेर के खसरा नम्बर 21/1, 21/2, 21/4/1, 21/4/2, 21/5, 21/5/6, 21/6/7, 21/7/8, 21/8/9, 21/9/10, 21/10/11/1, 21/10/11/2, 21/11/12, 21/13, 22/13/ MEN, 22/1, 22/3/1, 22/3/2, 22/4, 23/2/1 MEN, 23/2/2, 24/1, 24/3/1, 24/4/1, 25/1/1, 25/1/2, 25/1/3, 25/2/1, 25/2/2, 25/4/1, 25/4, 25/5, 25/6, 25/7, 25/8/1, 26/1, 26/10, 26/4, 26/5, 26/6, 26/7, 26/8, 26/9, 27/1, 27/2/1, 27/2/2, 27/2/3, 27/3, 27/4, 27/5, 27/6/1, 27/6/2, 27/7, 27/8, 27/9, 27/10/1, 29/1, 29/2, 29/3, 29/4, 29/5, 29/6, 29/7/1, 29/7/2, 29/8, 29/9, 29/10/1, 29/10/2, 29/11 कृषि भूमि खतेदारान द्वारा खेत ऊनी संवेदन स्थिति करने हेतु /स्वीन को ईकार किया जाता है तथा उक्त /स्वीन ईकारनामे को समस्त खतेदारों द्वारा स्वीकृत किया जाना है। परन्तु यदि कोई व्यक्ति या वित्तीय संस्था/कंपनी उक्त कृषि भूमि में अपना हक वा हिस्सा अथवा पैतृक वा खतेदारी अधिकार रखता है तो इस आम सूचना के प्रकाशन के 07 दिवस के अन्दर अपने हक वा हिस्सा वा अधिकार को सक्षम दस्तावेज के साथ अपोहस्ताक्षरकों के समक्ष साबित करे, अन्यथा उक्त अवधि गुजरने के पश्चात् कोई दावा वा आपत्ति स्वीकार्य नहीं होगी एवं उक्त अवधि के पश्चात् को गई कार्यवाही मेरे अभिभावक के हितों के विरुद्ध रद्द व बेअसर समझी जायेगी तथा उक्त कृषि भूमि को ईकारनामा/लीज को पंजीयन को कार्यवाही अमल में लायी जायेगी।

(दस्तावेज जोड़ी, एडवोकेट)
23, चन्द्रवीरसिंह कॉलोनी,
जैसमेर राजस्थान

दिनांक: 19/02/2022
स्थान: जैसमेर

FULLERTON INDIA HOME FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate Off.: Flr. 5 & 6, B-Wing, Supreme IT Park, Supreme City, Powai, Mumbai - 400 076
Regd. Off.: Megh Towers, Flr. 3, Old No. 307, New No. 165, Poonamallee High Road, Maduravoyal, Chennai - 600 095

POSSESSION NOTICE FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY [(Appendix IV) Rule 8(1)]

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Fullerton India Home Finance Company Limited a Housing Finance Company (duly registered with National Housing Bank (Fully Owned by RBI)) (hereinafter referred to as "FIHFL") having its registered office at **Megh Towers, Floor 3, Old No. 307, New No. 165, Poonamallee High Road, Maduravoyal, Chennai, Tamilnadu - 600095** under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002), and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated mentioned below under Section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon you being the borrowers (names mentioned below) to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice and interest thereon **within 60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers mentioned herein below having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers mentioned herein below and to the public in general that the undersigned has **taken possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The borrowers mentioned herein in above in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with said property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Fullerton India Home Finance Company Limited** for an amount as mentioned herein under and interest thereon.

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s) with Loan Account No.	Description of Secured Assets (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date of Possession
01	LAN : 602607510532419 MANISHA LONGWANI, W/o ASAN DAS LONGWANI, ASAN DAS LONGWAN, S/o THAVAR- DAS AND ANAMIKA FASHION THORUGH PROPRIETOR MANISHA LONGWANI	PLOT MUNICIPAL NO 4339, KAGDIYO KI GALLI, SETH NATHMAL KA GHAIKARI GHAT DARWAJA JAIPUR RAJASTHAN ADMEASURING 88.83 SQ. YARDS. BOUNDARIES : NORTH : HOUSE OF SANTOSH CHAND DAGA, EAST : GALLI, SOUTH : GALLI, WEST : GALLI	Date : 03.04.2021 & Rs. 74,98,815.61 (Rupees Seventy Four Lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Fifteen and Sixty One Paise only)	17.02.2022 (Physical Possession)

Place : Jaipur
Date : 21.02.2022

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
FULLERTON INDIA HOME FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED

shubham
Corporate Office : 425, Udyog Vihar Phase IV, Gurgaon-122015 (Haryana)
Ph.: 0124-4212530/31/32, E-Mail : customercare@shubham.co Website : www.shubham.co

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of the Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited (hereinafter called Shubham) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice calling upon borrowers to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited for an amount detailed below and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. Details are as below:

S. No.	Loan No., Borrower, Co-Borrower Name	Demand Notice Amount	Date of Demand Notice	Secured Asset	Affixation date
1	Loan No. 0AJM1709000005007974, Hanuman, Shri Mali Kammo, Jagadish	₹ 5,92,548/-	24-11-2021	Patta No.467, Luhariya Bas, Purana Sehar, Kishangarh Distt. Ajmer Rajasthan -305801	18-02-2022
2	Loan No. 0AJM1805000005013036, Sarajuddin	₹ 6,89,288/-	24-11-2021	Patta No.71, Gram Panchayat Pinglod, Panchayat Samiti Kishangarh, Tehsil Roopangarh Dist. Ajmer Raj. -305815	18-02-2022
3	Loan No. 0AJ1805000005012834, Manohar Kanwar	₹ 9,68,677/-	24-11-2021	Flat No.T1 on Third Floor At Plot No. 68, Ganesh Vihar At Sirsi, Jaipur Rajasthan - 302027	18-02-2022
4	Loan No. 0JAI1807000005013747, Jitendra, Jagdish Soni	₹ 4,54,847/-	24-11-2021	Plot No.12, Triveni Nagar, Chapar Road, Jaisinghpura Khore, Jaipur Rajasthan -302027	18-02-2022
5	Loan No. 0JAI2002000005026889, Suresnder, Manoj Kumar	₹ 8,50,258/-	24-11-2021	Plot No.19, Scheme Mount View Extension Khora Bisal, Jaipur, Rajasthan -302012	18-02-2022
6	Loan No. 0JAI1606000005000317, Vikki Sahu, Kapil, Chanda Devi, Bhagwan Sahay Sahu	₹ 5,63,517/-	24-11-2021	71 B Rohit Nagar III Keshav Vidhyapeeth Road Jaisinghpura Khore Jaipur Rajasthan - 302023	18-02-2022
7	Loan No. JDH_1603_053323, Ishu Singh, Suman Kanwar	₹ 7,60,153/-	24-11-2021	Patta No -11 Gram Panchayat -Shikarpur A Panchayat Samiti & Tehsil -Luni Jodhpur Rajasthan -342001	18-02-2022
8	Loan No. 0KTA1903000005018699, Vikki Sahu, Kapil, Chanda Devi, Manoj Kumar, Rachna Samriya	₹10,32,147/- & ₹2,22,278/-	24-11-2021	Plot No.71 Shree Radhey Viharillage Kansua Dist. Kota Rajasthan -324007	18-02-2022
9	Loan No. KTA_1510_046378, Rajendra Kumar Chandel, Shanti Bai	₹ 7,34,992/-	24-11-2021	Kansuwa Indra Gandhi Nagar Tehsil Ladpura Dist. Kota Rajasthan -324003	18-02-2022
10	Loan No. 0UDP1707000005006672, Poonam Chand Nayak, Kamla Devi	₹ 5,62,788/-	24-11-2021	House No.-A-306 South Extension Scheme Balicha Tehsil Girva District Udaipur Rajasthan -313001	18-02-2022
11	Loan No. 0UDP1809000005014693, Shanti Lal, Surekha	₹ 2,34,929/-	24-11-2021	Araji No. 562, Village Mahuda Patwar Mahuda Tehsil Mavli District Udaipur Rajasthan -313001	18-02-2022

Place : RAJASTHAN
Date : 19.02.2022

Authorised Officer
Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited

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Jaipur

New system for stray cattle after poll results: PM Over 60% vote in UP third phase

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 20

WITH STRAY cattle emerging as a major poll issue in Uttar Pradesh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday said a new policy will be introduced to tackle it after March 10, when election results will be announced, adding that income can be made from the dung of

animals. Speaking in Unnao Sunday, Modi said: "Entire UP is praising the efforts of Yogji's government to control floods. *Aap logon ko chutta jaanvaron se jo pareshani hoti hai, ussey dur karne ke liye, 10 March ke baad nayi vyavasthayen banayi jayengi. Aur Unnao ke mere bhai-beheno, mere ye shabd likh kar rakhiye, ye Modi bol raha hai, aur aapke aashirwad ke sath bol raha hai...* *Jo pashu dhoodh*

nahin deta hai, uske gobar se bhi aay ho, isisi vyavastha main aapke saamne khadi kar doonga. Aur ek din aisa aaeysa ki chutta jo pashu hai na, logon ko lagega, yaar, ghar mein isko baandh lo, isse bhi kama hone wali hai (The problem you face due to stray animals, to get rid of that, new arrangements will be made after March 10. And brothers and sisters of Unnao, please write my words, Modi is saying this, with your

blessings. I will set up a new system so that there is income from the dung of animals which have stopped giving milk. The day will come when people will even tie stray animals at their homes because there will be income from that.") The problem of stray cattle has been increasing in the state since the Yogi Adityanath government cracked down on cattle slaughter.

ENS & PTI
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 20

OVER 60 per cent voting was recorded till 5 pm on Sunday in the 59 Assembly constituencies that voted in the third phase of the elections in Uttar Pradesh. According to the Election Commission's Turnout App, the turnout till 5 pm was 60.63 per cent with highest polling recorded in Lalitpur district in Bundelkhand

at 69.05 and the lowest in Kanpur Nagar at 56.14 per cent. Five years ago, in the 2017 state elections, the polling in these 16 districts that voted on Sunday was 62.21 per cent, with Lalitpur turnout at 72.01 per cent and Kanpur Nagar at 57.26 per cent. In the third phase, Hathras recorded 63.14 per cent turnout, Firozabad 61.89 per cent, Kasganj 63.04 per cent, Etah 65.7 per cent, Mainpuri 61.51 per cent, Farrukhabad 59.13 per cent, Kannauj 61.93 per cent. Though the election office here did not share the final voting data till 6 pm, the turnout app trend at 10 pm showed turnout for 5 pm.

KCR meets Maharashtra CM Thackeray, NCP chief Pawar

VISHWAS WAGHMODE
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 20

AS PART of his outreach to regional parties to form an anti-BJP alliance in the country, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao met Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar in Mumbai on Sunday and said that there was a need to preserve democracy and also provide an alterna-

tive to the way the country was being run. "A change in the way the country is being run today is required. We have agreed that a "parivartan" (change) is required. We want all people to co-exist in harmony. We will also hold talks with regional and national parties. I believe that the morchha that starts from Maharashtra leads to success... We want to fight against injustice, immorality and also preserve democracy," Rao told mediapersons after a meeting with CM Thackeray at the latter's official residence, Varsha. The meeting was a result of the Maharashtra CM's invite to his Telangana counterpart. Thackeray said the existing political and social environment in the country was worrisome. "The atmosphere in the country is getting turbulent day by day. Vendetta politics is not the tradition of our country and this is not our Hindutva at all," Thackeray said. After his meeting with Thackeray, Rao held a meeting with the NCP chief.

छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य सहकारी दुग्ध महासंघ मर्यादित
ग्राम- उरला, पो- बी.एम.वाय. चरोदा, जिला-दुर्ग (छ.प्र.)
क्रमांक/3770/छादुमस/क्रय/2022 दिनांक: 18.02.2022
॥ लैब केमिकल्स / ग्लासवेयर प्रदाय हेतु निविदा सूचना ॥
दुग्ध महासंघ द्वारा एन.पी.डी.डी.-II, योजनान्तर्गत प्रस्तावित विभिन्न प्रकार के लैब केमिकल्स/ग्लासवेयर प्रदाय हेतु निविदा सूचना 09.03.2022 की जाती है, जिसकी निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि-**आम्रित.2022** निर्धारित है, जिसका विस्तृत विवरण दुग्ध महासंघ की वेबसाइट- **www.cgcoopdairyfed.in** पर उपलब्ध है।
प्रबंध संचालक

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA
Premises & Estate Dept., Local Head Office,
2nd Floor, III/1, Pt. J.N. Marg, Bhubaneswar-751001,
Ph. No.: 0674-2394637, Email: agmpre.lhobhu@sbi.co.in
TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF ON-GRID ROOFTOP SOLAR POWER SYSTEM WITH NET METERING UNDER BHUBANESWAR CIRCLE.
SBI Bhubaneswar Circle invites tenders from interested/eligible solar vendors for the above work. The eligible/interested vendors may visit Bank's website **https://bank.sbi/web/sbi-in-the-news** under "procurement news" for further details to download the tender documents from **21.02.2022** to **14.03.2022**. The last date of submission of tender is **14.03.2022 up to 4:00 PM**. Further notice/clarifications in this regard will be posted only on the Bank's above mentioned website. Bank reserves its rights to accept and reject any/all tender without assigning any reasons thereof.
Date: 21.02.2022 Sd/-
Place: Bhubaneswar Asst. General Manager (P&E)

KMF Karnataka Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex: Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 fax: 080-25536105.
IFTNo.KMF/ENGG/CFP-Dharwad/01403/2021-22 Date: 18.02.2022
TENDER NOTIFICATION
[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY]
Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tender from the eligible suppliers / manufacturers / reputed eligible firms through E-procurement for the work mentioned in the table below. The interested and reputed suppliers / manufacturers / firms who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/25501216.

Sl No.	Name of the work	Qty	EMD (Rs)	Period of completion
1	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 35-40 TPH Capacity raw material Chain Conveyor (03 Nos) & 35-40 TPH Capacity Elevators (02 Nos) with accessories for Cattle Feed Plant at Dharwad.	1 JOB	1,66,560/-	06 months

- Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated: 21.02.2022 to 11.03.2022 up to 4.00 PM.
- Last date for Tender submission date 11.03.2022 up to 4.00 PM.
- Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 14.03.2022 at 11.30 AM.

Hence forth changes / modification in the tender, it will be uploaded on e-procurement portal only.
For Karnataka Co-Opp. Milk Federation Ltd.,
Sd/-
Director [Engineering]

FACT THE FERTILISERS AND CHEMICALS TRAVANCORE LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise) Regd. Office: Floor Corporate Materials, FACT-PD Administrative Building, Udyogamandal Kochi, Kerala - 683 501, India. Tel: 0484-2568674 / 2568123
E-mail: anand.s@facttd.com / jayakumar@facttd.com, website: http://www.fact.co.in
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
Online competitive two bid tender is invited for the following works through www.e-procure.gov.in
Construction of 2 nos. Caustic Effluent storage tanks (2x1000 m3) and associated facilities at Petrochemical Plants - FACT Udyogamandal Complex.
Tender No:03102/2021-2022/E24935, e-tender ID:2022 FACT E74828_1
Last date & time for submission of bids: 22.03.2022 at 11.00 hrs.
The complete bidding process will be online (e-tendering) only. All the notifications, Time extension, Corrigendum, Addendum etc. if any, regarding this tenders hereafter will be hosted in the CPP and FACT website only and will not be published in newspapers.
Sd/-
Udyogamandal 19-02-2022 SM (Materials)T&S-C

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
Trichy (H) NABARD and Rural Road, Circle
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No.20/2021-22/SDO/Dated: 17.02.2022
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Percentage tender (Two Cover System) will be received by the Superintending Engineer (H) NABARD & Rural Roads Circle Trichy for Upgradation of Panchayat / Panchayat Union Roads (Seven Road Works) in respect of Trichy, Thanjavur and Pudukkottai (H) NABARD & Rural Roads Divisions upto 14.00 hours on 28.03.2022 through online only.
Details of works, approximate value of work, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 04.03.2022 onwards in the Government website **https://tenders.gov.in**. If any Changes/Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above website only.
Superintending Engineer (H),
NABARD and Rural Roads Circle, Trichy.

Fullerton India Home Finance Company Limited			
Corporate Office : Floor 5 & 6, B-Wing, Supreme IT Park, Supreme City, Powai, Mumbai-400 076. Registered Office : Megh Towers, Floor 3, Old No. 307, New No. 165, Poonamallee High Road, Madhavrayal, Chennai-600095.			
DEMAND NOTICE			
UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 ("the Act") AND THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 ("the Rules") The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Fullerton India Home Finance Company Limited (FIHFC) under the Act and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the Act read with Rule 3 issued Demand Notice(s) under Section 13(2) of the Act, calling upon the following borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notice(s) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The undersigned reasonably believes that borrower(s) is/are avoiding the service of the Demand Notice(s), therefore the service of notice is being effected by affixation and publication as per Rules. The contents of Demand Notice(s) are extracted herein below :-			
Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower / Co-Borrowers Property Holders as the case may be	Date of Demand Notice U/s. 13(2) & Total Outstanding	
1	Loan Account No. : 602607510665706 1. Arjun Singh Hada S/o. Jaswant Singh (Borrower) 2. Sadhana Singh (Co-Borrower) Add.1 : R/o. 191 Kalyanpuri, Scheme Kalyanpuri, Sanganer Railway Crossing, Jaipur, Rajasthan-302 020.	Date : 03.02.2022 & ₹ 22,69,057.09 (Rs. Twenty Two Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Fifty Seven Paise Nine Only) NPA Date : 30.11.2021	DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSETS / MORTGAGE PROPERTY :- Plot No. 191, Scheme Kalyanpuri, Kalyanpura, Sanganer, Jaipur, Raj. Admn. 100.00 Sq. Yd. * Four Corners :- * East :- Other Land; * West :- Road; * North :- Plot No. 190; * South :- Plot No. 190.
	Loan Account No. : 602607210492112 1. Banti Chandoliya S/o. Jagdish Chandoliya (Borrower) 2. Renu Chandoliya W/o. Banti Chandoliya (Co-Borrower) Add.1 : R/o. Plot No. 15, Gokul Vihar, Charan Nadi, Jhotwara, Benad Rd., Jaipur-302 012, Raj.	Date : 03.02.2022 & ₹ 25,75,040.31 (Rs. Twenty Five Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Fourty Paise Three Only) NPA Date : 30.11.2021	DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSETS / MORTGAGE PROPERTY :- Plot No. 16, Scheme Gokul Vihar at Benar Road, Jaipur, Raj. Admn. 138.00 Sq. Yd. * Four Corners :- * East :- Plot No. 13; * West :- Road; * North :- Plot No. 14; * South :- Boundary of Plot No. 15
2	Loan Account No. : 602607210678211 1. Lal Babu Singh, S/o. Shiv Balli (Borrower) 2. Mala Devi, W/o. Lal Babu Singh (Co-Borrower) Add.1 : R/o. Plot No. 99, Kalyan Kunj Colony, Kanta Choraha, Jhotwara Jaipur-302 012, Raj.	Date : 03.02.2022 & ₹ 14,00,778.91 (Rs. Fourteen Lakh Ten Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Eight Paise Ninety One Only) NPA Date : 30.11.2021	DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSETS / MORTGAGE PROPERTY :- Plot No. 93 Shivalki Nagar Scheme - Hatoj Kalwar Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan. Admeasuring 85.00 Sq. Yds * Four Corners :- * East :- Plot No. 94; * West:- Road 30 Ft.; * North :- Plot No. 92A, * South :- Road 30 Ft.
	Loan Account No. : 602607210453518 1. Ramkumar Jangir, S/o. Jaynal Ram Jangir (Borrower) 2. Rukamani Devi, W/o. Ramkumar Jangir (Co-Borrower) 3. Angad Engineering Works Through Prop. Ramkumar Jangir (Co-Borrower) Add.1 : R/o. Plot No. 188, Bhagwan Nagar 2, Plot B Hamra, Sikar Road, Mangal Bela Marriage Hall, Jaipur, Rajasthan-302 013; Add. 2 : R/o. B. 6 Karni Niwas Colony, Road No.14, V K I Area, Behind Rochis Watch, Jaipur-Rajasthan-302 013.	Date : 03.02.2022 & ₹ 34,99,573.56 (Rs. Thirty Four Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Three Paise Fifty Six Only) NPA Date : 30.11.2021	DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSETS / MORTGAGE PROPERTY :- Plot No. 21, Scheme Shyam Vihar, Sikar Road, Harmada Jaipur, Raj. Admn. 180.05 Sq. Yds., * Four Corners :- * East :- Other Land; * West :- Road; * North :- Plot No. 21-A * South :- Plot No. 21-A
3	Loan Account No. : 602607510247283 1. Vijay Kumar Gupta, S/o. Manohari Lal Gupta (Borrower) 2. Uma Devi, W/o. Vijay Kumar (Co-Borrower) 3. Yogesh Kumar, S/o. Vijay Kumar (Co-Borrower) Add.1 : R/o. 99-A, Shree Ram Nagar B, Nadi Ka Phatak, Jhotwada, Jaipur-302 012, Raj.; Add. 2 : R/o. 99-A, Shri Ram Nagar B, Benad Road, Nadi Ka Phatak, Jhotwada, Jaipur-302 012, Raj.	Date : 03.02.2022 & ₹ 7,53,173.17 (Rs. Seven Lakh Fifty Three Thousand One Hundred Seventy Three Paise Seventeen Only) NPA Date : 30.11.2021	DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSETS / MORTGAGE PROPERTY :- Plot No. 99-A, Scheme Shri Ram Nagar "B", Nadi Ka Fatak, Benar Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan. Admeasuring 56.82 Sq. Mt.
	Loan Account No. : 602607210491958 1. Vikram Singh, S/o. Bajrang Singh (Borrower) 2. Praveen Kanwar S/W/o. (Co-Borrower) Add.1 : R/o. Unit No. 3 TRG BN Shokhvi, Dimpang, Nangaland-797 115; Add. 2 : R/o. 128 A, Shree Govind Nagar, First Ext. Niwaru Road, Jhotwara, Jaipur, Niwaru Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan-302 012.	Date : 03.02.2022 & ₹ 9,25,721.79 (Rs. Nine Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty One Paise Seventy Nine Only) NPA Date : 30.11.2021	DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSETS / MORTGAGE PROPERTY :- Plot No. A-128, Scheme Shri Govind Ngr, 1 st Ext-A, Niwaroo Rd., Jaipur, Raj. Admn. 80.00 Sq. Yds * Four Corners :- * East :- Plot No. A-127 * West :- Plot No. A-129 * North :- Rd., * South :- Not Available.
4	Loan Account No. : 602607210223634 1. Dinesh Singh, S/o. Pawan Singh (Borrower) 2. Vijay Laxmi Kanwar, W/o. Dinesh Singh Panwar (Co-Borrower) Add.1 : R/o. Plot No. 27, Diwan Nagar 8, Khorabeesal, Jaipur, Rajasthan-302 012; Add. 2 : R/o. 27, Deewan Nagar 8, Khorabeesal, Jaipur, Rajasthan-302 012.	Date : 31.01.2022 & ₹ 16,23,135.48 (Rs. Sixteen Lakh Twentythree Thousand One Hundred Thirty Five Paise Forty Eight Only) NPA Date : 30.11.2021	DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSETS / MORTGAGE PROPERTY :- Plot No. 99-A, Scheme Shri Ram Nagar "B", Nadi Ka Fatak, Benar Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan. Admeasuring 56.82 Sq. Mt.
	Loan Account No. : 602607510164922 1. Bhagwan Sahai Prajapat, S/o. Hanuman Sahai Prajapat (Borrower) 2. Kamla Devi, W/o. Bhagwan Sahai Prajapat (Co-Borrower) Add.1 : R/o. 33, Tirupati Vihar Extn., Govindpura Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan-302 012.	Date : 15.02.2022 & ₹ 10,75,395.48 (Rs. Ten Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Five Paise Forty Eight Only) NPA Date : 05.01.2022	DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSETS / MORTGAGE PROPERTY :- Plot No. 33, Scheme Tirupati Vihar Extension, Kalwar Road, Jaipur Rajasthan. Admeasuring 194.44 Sq. Yd.
5	Loan Account No. : 602607210418604 & 602607510449011 1. Pavan Kumar Patidar, S/o. Nandkishor Patidar (Borrower) 2. Jhumna Patidar W/o. Pawan Kumar Patidar (Co-Borrower) 3. Humsafar Online Services Through Prop. Pavan Kumar Patidar (Co-Borrower) Add.1 : R/o. S-1, 2 nd Flr., Plot No. 51, Ganesh Vihar, Sirsi Road, Jhotwara, Jaipur, Rajasthan-302 012; Add. 2 : 210-211, Venkateshwar Tower, Central SPI, Vidhyadhar Nagar Jaipur, Rajasthan.	Date : 31.01.2022 & ₹ 30,06,493.48/- (Rs. Thirty Lakh Six Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Three Rupees & Forty Eight Paise Only) NPA Date : 30.11.2021	DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSETS / MORTGAGE PROPERTY :- Plot No. 51, Ganesh Vihar, Sirsi Road, Sirsi, Jaipur, Raj. Admeasuring 198.75 Sq. Yd. * Four Corners of the said property :- * North :- Road 40'; * South :- Other Land; * East :- Plot No. 50; * West :- Plot No. 52 * Unit / Flat No. S-1, 2 nd Floor, Built on Plot No. 51, Ganesh Vihar, Sirsi Road, Sirsi, Jaipur, Raj. Admeasuring 1150.00 Sq. Ft.
	Loan Account No. : 602607210512798 1. Rakesh Kumar Sharma, S/o. Ramsahay Sharma (Borrower) 2. Rinku Devi, W/o. Rakesh Kumar Sharma (Co-Borrower) 3. Pink City Fabric Through Prop. Rakesh Kumar Sharma (Co-Borrower) Add.1 : R/o. 23, Brahman Mohalla, Tekchand pura, Tehsil Bassi, Nr. Bansaro, Jaipur-303 305, Rajasthan; Add. 2 : R/o. 1 st Flr., 2529, Malpura House, 3 rd Crossing MSB Ka Rasta, Johari Bazar, Jaipur, Rajasthan-302 001.	Date : 31.01.2022 & ₹ 1702,268.11 (Rs. Seventeen Lakh Two Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Eight Paise Eleven Only) NPA Date : 30.11.2021	DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSETS / MORTGAGE PROPERTY :- Plot No. 10, Scheme : Hanuman Nagar, Lunivagans, Kalwar Road, Jaipur, Raj. Admn. 182.00 Sq. Yd. * Four Corners :- * East :- Road; * West :- Not Available; * North :- Plot No. 11; * South :- Plot No. 9.
6	Loan Account No. : 602607210449931 1. Vijay Mishra, S/o. Shyam Sunder (Borrower) 2. Santosh Mishra, W/o. Vijay Mishra (Co-Borrower) Add.1 : R/o. 31 49 10, Varun Path, Mansarovar, Nr. Veer Hanuman Mandir, Jaipur, Rajasthan-302 020.	Date : 31.01.2022 & ₹ 14,23,627.99 (Rs. Fourteen Lakh Twenty Three Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Seven Paise Ninety Nine Only) NPA Date : 30.11.2021	DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSETS / MORTGAGE PROPERTY :- House No. 31/46/02, Mansarovar, Jaipur, Raj. Admn. 41.06 Sq. Mt. * Four Corners :- * North :- House No. 81/738; * South :- Road 30 Ft. * East :- House No. 81/26; * West :- House No. 81/24.
	Loan Account No. : 602607210512798 1. Rakesh Kumar Sharma, S/o. Ramsahay Sharma (Borrower) 2. Rinku Devi, W/o. Rakesh Kumar Sharma (Co-Borrower) 3. Pink City Fabric Through Prop. Rakesh Kumar Sharma (Co-Borrower) Add.1 : R/o. 23, Brahman Mohalla, Tekchand pura, Tehsil Bassi, Nr. Bansaro, Jaipur-303 305, Rajasthan; Add. 2 : R/o. 1 st Flr., 2529, Malpura House, 3 rd Crossing MSB Ka Rasta, Johari Bazar, Jaipur, Rajasthan-302 001.	Date : 31.01.2022 & ₹ 1702,268.11 (Rs. Seventeen Lakh Two Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Eight Paise Eleven Only) NPA Date : 30.11.2021	DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSETS / MORTGAGE PROPERTY :- Plot No. 10, Scheme : Hanuman Nagar, Lunivagans, Kalwar Road, Jaipur, Raj. Admn. 182.00 Sq. Yd. * Four Corners :- * East :- Road; * West :- Not Available; * North :- Plot No. 11; * South :- Plot No. 9.
7	Loan Account No. : 602607210418604 & 602607510449011 1. Pavan Kumar Patidar, S/o. Nandkishor Patidar (Borrower) 2. Jhumna Patidar W/o. Pawan Kumar Patidar (Co-Borrower) 3. Humsafar Online Services Through Prop. Pavan Kumar Patidar (Co-Borrower) Add.1 : R/o. S-1, 2 nd Flr., Plot No. 51, Ganesh Vihar, Sirsi Road, Jhotwara, Jaipur, Rajasthan-302 012; Add. 2 : 210-211, Venkateshwar Tower, Central SPI, Vidhyadhar Nagar Jaipur, Rajasthan.	Date : 31.01.2022 & ₹ 30,06,493.48/- (Rs. Thirty Lakh Six Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Three Rupees & Forty Eight Paise Only) NPA Date : 30.11.2021	DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSETS / MORTGAGE PROPERTY :- Plot No. 51, Ganesh Vihar, Sirsi Road, Sirsi, Jaipur, Raj. Admeasuring 198.75 Sq. Yd. * Four Corners of the said property :- * North :- Road 40'; * South :- Other Land; * East :- Plot No. 50; * West :- Plot No. 52 * Unit / Flat No. S-1, 2 nd Floor, Built on Plot No. 51, Ganesh Vihar, Sirsi Road, Sirsi, Jaipur, Raj. Admeasuring 1150.00 Sq. Ft.
	Loan Account No. : 602607210512798 1. Rakesh Kumar Sharma, S/o. Ramsahay Sharma (Borrower) 2. Rinku Devi, W/o. Rakesh Kumar Sharma (Co-Borrower) 3. Pink City Fabric Through Prop. Rakesh Kumar Sharma (Co-Borrower) Add.1 : R/o. 23, Brahman Mohalla, Tekchand pura, Tehsil Bassi, Nr. Bansaro, Jaipur-303 305, Rajasthan; Add. 2 : R/o. 1 st Flr., 2529, Malpura House, 3 rd Crossing MSB Ka Rasta, Johari Bazar, Jaipur, Rajasthan-302 001.	Date : 31.01.2022 & ₹ 1702,268.11 (Rs. Seventeen Lakh Two Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Eight Paise Eleven Only) NPA Date : 30.11.2021	DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSETS / MORTGAGE PROPERTY :- Plot No. 10, Scheme : Hanuman Nagar, Lunivagans, Kalwar Road, Jaipur, Raj. Admn. 182.00 Sq. Yd. * Four Corners :- * East :- Road; * West :- Not Available; * North :- Plot No. 11; * South :- Plot No. 9.
8	Loan Account No. : 602607210418604 & 602607510449011 1. Pavan Kumar Patidar, S/o. Nandkishor Patidar (Borrower) 2. Jhumna Patidar W/o. Pawan Kumar Patidar (Co-Borrower) 3. Humsafar Online Services Through Prop. Pavan Kumar Patidar (Co-Borrower) Add.1 : R/o. S-1, 2 nd Flr., Plot No. 51, Ganesh Vihar, Sirsi Road, Jhotwara, Jaipur, Rajasthan-302 012; Add. 2 : 210-211, Venkateshwar Tower, Central SPI, Vidhyadhar Nagar Jaipur, Rajasthan.	Date : 31.01.2022 & ₹ 30,06,493.48/- (Rs. Thirty Lakh Six Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Three Rupees & Forty Eight Paise Only) NPA Date : 30.11.2021	DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSETS / MORTGAGE PROPERTY :- Plot No. 51, Ganesh Vihar, Sirsi Road, Sirsi, Jaipur, Raj. Admeasuring 198.75 Sq. Yd. * Four Corners of the said property :- * North :- Road 40'; * South :- Other Land; * East :- Plot No. 50; * West :- Plot No. 52 * Unit / Flat No. S-1, 2 nd Floor, Built on Plot No. 51, Ganesh Vihar, Sirsi Road, Sirsi, Jaipur, Raj. Admeasuring 1150.00 Sq. Ft.
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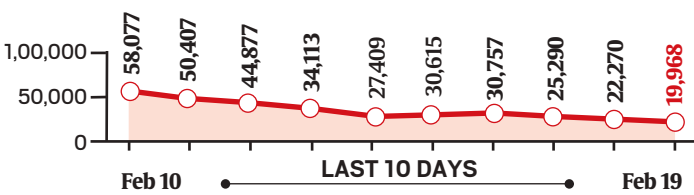
If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

DASHBOARD, AS ON FEB 19

719 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN	New cases	Active cases	Deaths
	19,968	2,24,187	673
	Weekly CFR: 0.30% Overall CFR: 1.21% Total deaths: 5,11,903		

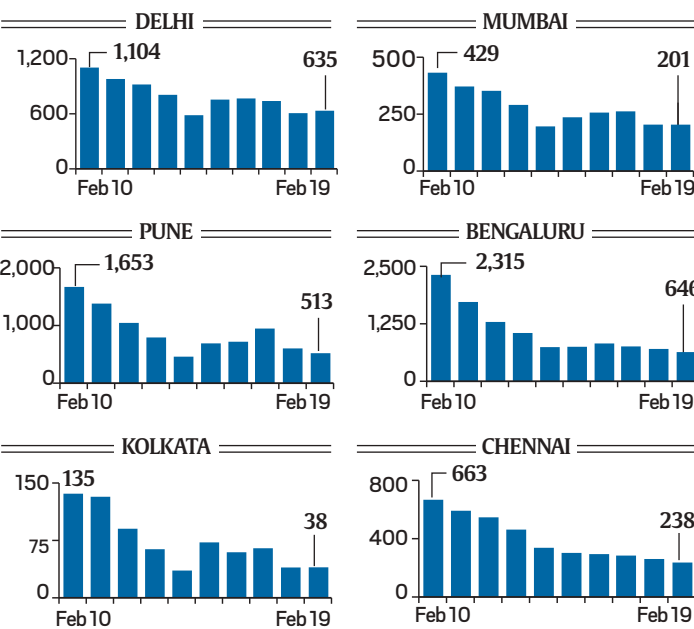
NEW CASES, DAILY



SURGE IN THE STATES

State	ON FEBRUARY 16			Weekly positivity
	New cases	Active cases	Deaths	
Kerala	6,757	75,813	524	14.71%
Maharashtra	1,635	18,368	32	2.12%
Mizoram	1,326	10,071	1	28.50%
Karnataka	1,137	13,468	20	1.89%
Rajasthan	1,075	10,967	9	4.21%

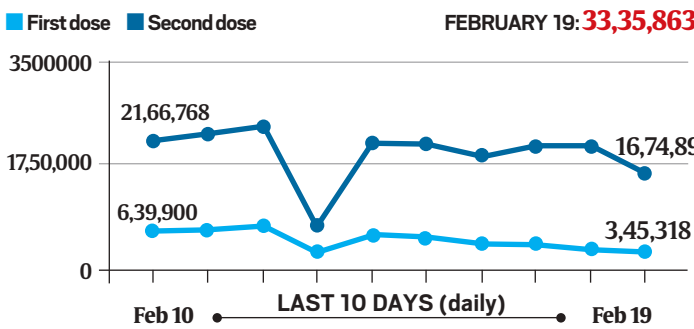
CASES IN THE CITIES, LAST 10 DAYS



TOTAL TESTS	75,93,15,246
TESTS ON FEB 19	11,87,766
WEEKLY POSITIVITY	2.23%
OVERALL POSITIVITY	5.64%

INDIA TOTAL DOSES

(Adults 1st dose: 90,73,33,421; 2nd: 75,22,60,637; 15-18 age group 1st dose: 5,36,25,069; 2nd: 2,15,57,154; precautionary: 1,89,46,416)



China's revisionism on 1962

Amid the Galwan standoff, the Chinese have claimed their 1962 aggression was a 'counter attack'. This is not borne out by facts or logic — but the opportunities India lost to settle the border issue are well documented.

EXPERT EXPLAINS

A S BHASIN

From The Indian Express panel of specialists, exclusive insight

THE CHINESE website Guancha has published an 8,000-word revised history of the 1962 War after six decades to justify the propaganda line of "Never Attack; Never Invade Another Country", and to present China as a peace-loving nation. The story, written by Zhang Xiaokang, daughter of the former military commander in Tibet General Zhang Guohua, comes in the wake of the conflict in the western sector in the Galwan valley.

In recent years, China has evoked strong reactions from major countries for its claims on superpower status through the aggressive use of economic and military sinews — with the UK on Hong Kong, with Australia on trade, with Japan over the ownership of the Senkaku Islands in the East China sea, with the US on its projection of military power, and with Southeast Asian countries over control of the South China Sea despite the verdict of the world court under the UNCLOS agreement. The recent attempts by China to stir up trouble on the India-China border in the Galwan river valley has added to the worries of not only India but the international community generally.

History on its head

One can understand Madam Zhang's desire to glorify her father, but to portray the 1962 War as a "self-defence counter attack" is a poor attempt to make history stand on its head.

There is a contradiction in her story. A "counter attack" does not allow the attacked country the luxury of elaborate planning over a long period, as she herself points out quoting Mao:

"Over the years we have taken many measures to seek a peaceful solution to the Sino-Indian border problem, but India has refused to do so and deliberately provoked an armed conflict which has become more and more intense. Since Nehru must fight, we have no choice but to go along with it."

She recalls that Mao had called a meeting of his political and military brass and asked them, "perhaps if we counterattack, the border can be settled and a peaceful resolution of the border issue can be achieved?", and Gen



Indian troops near Pangong lake in Ladakh during the 1962 war with China. Express Archive

Zhang Guohua had assured him, "yes we can, please rest assured, Chairman, we can definitely win".

Facing an attack, the attacked party counterattacks with whatever force is available, win or lose. It cannot wait for a leisurely meeting to be called by the head of the government and plan for a counterattack after getting an assurance of victory.

In this context, a 2019 article by Chaowu Dai, distinguished professor at Yunnan University and director of the YNU Institute for Indian Studies in Kunming, China, is more honest. He has little hesitation in admitting that from 1960 to October 1962, judging that India was unwilling to negotiate a solution, China "made preparations for deployment of its military", creating interlocking positions "for long-term armed coexistence on the border issue ultimately proceeding to the border conflict". ('China's Strategy for Sino-Indian Boundary Disputes, 1950-1962', Asian Perspective, Johns Hopkins University Press) This statement is accurate to the truth.

Analysing the circumstances, one has to see if India was actually prepared for an attack.

On September 8, 1962, Nehru left for London to attend the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference. He returned on October 2, after visiting Paris, Lagos and Accra, and then left for Colombo on October 12, returning to New Delhi on October 16. Defence Minister V K Krishna Menon was in New York from September 17-30 for the UNGA session. On October 2, the Chief of General Staff, Lt Gen B M Kaul, was holidaying in Kashmir.

No country that is preparing for an attack

would allow its Prime Minister or senior generals responsible for war planning to be away from its capital.

Nehru's mistakes

The culprit was an avoidable statement of the Prime Minister to journalists on October 12 while leaving for Colombo that "he had instructed the Army to clear the Indian territory of Chinese intrusions and the date had been left to the army to decide".

He was perhaps referring to a decision

taken in the Defence Ministry to clear the recent intrusion in the Kemong Division of NEFA, a limited action. People's Daily, the Chinese communist party mouthpiece, taking advantage of Nehru's remarks, said on October 14, "so it seems Nehru had made up his mind to attack China on an even bigger scale".

The above unfortunate statement of Nehru has been used by Madam Zhang to fabricate the theory of "self-defence counter attack". While we can fault the Chinese for this fabrication, India cannot escape blame for not being serious in settling the border question, despite repeated Chinese pleas. Whatever the Indian stand, it had certain fissures that do not stand scrutiny.

Prime Minister Nehru, in explaining his reluctance to discuss the border question, had said in Rajya Sabha on December 8, 1959, that since we're "sure of our borders the question was why invite discussions about a thing on which we had no doubt".

Even this statement had problems. The western border, which created the major dispute, was "undefined" in the Survey of India maps that India inherited in 1947, and which

were later reprinted. Similarly, Nehru was not unaware that China in the past had never accepted the McMahon Line in the eastern sector, the outcome of the Simla Convention of 1914, and it was unlikely to accept it — and yet insisted this was non-negotiable.

Opportunities lost

In 1954, at the time of talks on Tibet, India had taken the stand that the border question would not be discussed. An opportunity to settle the border was allowed to slip. After the Tibet Agreement was signed on April 29, 1954, Nehru ordered in July that a line should be drawn to demarcate the Ladakh-Aksai Chin border, which would not be open for discussion — ignoring that this was an international border, and required consultations and agreement of the other stakeholder.

Having changed the status of the border unilaterally, he created a vacuum by not establishing a check post, or even unfurling a flag.

The area was neglected to the extent that India was unaware that China had constructed a 120-km highway through it. In his letter of January 23, 1959, the Chinese Premier had suggested talks since, as he said, historically no agreement on the boundary had ever been concluded, and the absence of formal delimitation created discrepancies which often led to "minor border incidents which are probably difficult to avoid".

On March 22, Nehru noted that the sector from the trijunction of the Nepal, India, and Tibet boundary up to Ladakh (Ladakh-Aksai Chin sector) was traditional and known by custom, usage, by the application of the principle of watershed and old revenue records and maps, etc. These facts are important inputs when negotiating an agreement, but by themselves could not constitute an agreement.

Despite suffering from doubts, Nehru insisted in Rajya Sabha on December 9, 1959 that India should hold its position, hoping that "lapse of time and events would confirm it, and by the time challenge came, we would be in a much stronger position to face it". There was an opportunity to clear the doubts at the summit talks in April 1960, but that too was allowed to slip because India insisted on China accepting its maximalist position — not realising that in a dispute, both sides have to make compromises to come to a settlement.

Even after the 1960 talks, China tried to bring India to the negotiable table many times, but Nehru's rigidity did not help. Yet he did accept in Parliament the undemarcated status of the border.

China continued to insist on the need for a well-defined demarcation of borders on scientific lines. Unfortunately, India remained in denial. The result was 1962.

Bicycles in bombings: A short history

DEEPTIMANTIWARY

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

DURING AN election speech in UP on Sunday, PM Narendra Modi appeared to suggest a connection between the 2008 Ahmedabad blasts and the Samajwadi Party (SP), wondering why the terrorists had chosen to plant bombs on bicycles, which is the SP's election symbol.

The Election Commission allotted the bicycle symbol to the SP after Mulayam Singh Yadav split from the Janata Dal to form his own party in October 1992. Under the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, the EC is empowered to recognise political parties and to allot them symbols.

From 2006 to 2013

Bicycles were first used as carriers of

bombs in the 2006 Malegaon blasts, in which a Hindutva group led by former RSS pracharak Sunil Joshi was accused of targeting the Muslim-dominated town in Maharashtra. According to the National Investigation Agency's (NIA) chargesheet, the perpetrators strapped two bombs on bicycles and placed them in the town on September 8, 2006.

On November 23, 2007, a series of blasts occurred between 1 pm and 1.30 pm near courts in Varanasi, Lucknow, and Faizabad. The five bombs in these blasts that killed 15 people, were strapped to bicycles. Investigators later claimed the Indian Mujahideen (IM) was behind the attacks.

Earlier that year, on May 22, 2007, three bombs kept on bicycles had gone off in Gorakhpur, injuring three persons. In December 2020, a local court convicted alleged

HuJI operative Mohammad Tariq Qasmi and sentenced him to life in prison for the attacks.

On May 13, 2008, nine bombs strapped to bicycles went off at eight locations in Jaipur, killing 71 people. This was the first blast where the IM took responsibility by sending emails to various media houses.

On July 26, 2008, 22 bombs killed 56 people in Ahmedabad. Several of these bombs were found to have been fitted on bicycles. The IM claimed responsibility, and its alleged members were sentenced to death by a trial court on Friday.

On August 1, 2012, bicycles were used as bomb carriers in Pune. One person was injured in the four low-intensity blasts, and suspected IM operatives were arrested.

Less than a year later, the IM used two cycles to plant bombs at Hyderabad's Dilsukhnagar market on February 21, 2013.

Eighteen people were killed.

Around the world

Terrorist groups have long used bicycles to plant bombs. They are easy and cheap to procure anywhere in the world, and increase the impact of the blast by adding jagged metal splinters to the shrapnel from the explosion.

The first recorded case of a bicycle bomb goes back to 1939, when the Irish Republican Army left a bomb in the basket of a bicycle that exploded, killing five people in Coventry in the United Kingdom.

Thereafter, bicycle bombs were used in the 1970s, 1980s and the 1990s in the UK, and Germany, and throughout the 21st century in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Iraq, Russia and Spain, among other countries.

(WITH MANISH SAHU & ANISHA DUTTA)

Presidential Fleet Review: what Navy displays, and why it is significant

KRISHN KAUSHIK

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

ON MONDAY, President Ram Nath Kovind will take part in the Indian Navy's 12th Presidential Fleet Review.

What is the President's Fleet Review?

In simplest terms, it is the country's President taking stock of the Navy's capability. It showcases all types of ships and capabilities the Navy has. It takes place once under every President, who is the supreme commander of the armed forces.

The President is taken on one of the Naval ships, which is called the President's Yacht, to look at all the ships docked at one of the Naval ports. According to a statement by the Navy, the President's Yacht this year "is an indigenously built Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel, INS Sumitra, which will lead the Presidential Column. The yacht will be distinguished by the Ashoka Emblem on her side and will fly the President's Standard

on the Mast".

The President will be given a 21-gun salute before embarking on the yacht.

Do all naval ships participate?

No. The idea is to showcase not all the Navy's ships, but every type of ship — and the kind of capabilities it has at that time. In Monday's fleet review, which will take place in Vishakhapatnam, Kovind will review over 60 ships and submarines, and 55 aircraft, from the Navy and the Coast Guard.

His yacht will sail past 44 ships lined up at anchorage off Vishakhapatnam, and there will be a combination of ships from the Indian Navy as well as the Coast Guard, along with some vessels from the Shipping Corporation of India and the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

The President's Fleet Review also includes merchant ships.

What else happens in the fleet review?

"In this most formal of naval ceremonies, each ship dressed in full regalia will



Vessels at sea during the President's Fleet Review of 2016. Indian Navy

salute the President as he passes. The President will also be reviewing the Indian Naval Air Arm in a display of spectacular fly-past by several helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft. In the final stage of the review, a mobile column of warships and submarines will steam past the Presidential Yacht. "The Navy said.

The vessels will include the Navy's latest acquisitions, and the events will include waterfront activities such as Parade of Sails, Search and Rescue Demonstration at Sea,

Aerobatics by Hawk aircraft, and Water Para Jumps by the elite Marine Commandos.

All ships at anchorage will be dressed ceremoniously with various naval flags in full regalia. The ships have been illuminated from sunset to midnight on February 19 and 20.

As part of the Sail Parade activities, six ocean-going Indian Naval Sailing Vessels arrived at Vishakhapatnam from Goa. These are part of Ocean Sailing Node at INS Mandovi at Goa.

How many of these reviews have been held so far?

There have been 11 President's Fleet Reviews since Independence. The first was conducted in 1953, under Dr Rajendra Prasad. The next one was done not by the President but by the then Defence Minister, Y B Chavan, in 1964. Since then, it has been the President reviewing the fleet.

The longest gap between reviews was of 12 years — between 1989 (President R Venkatraman) and 2001 (President K R Narayanan). The last one was done in 2016, under President Pranab Mukherjee.

The reviews in 2001 and 2016 were International Fleet Reviews, in which some vessels from other countries also participated. The Indian Navy too has participated in international fleet reviews in other countries, including Australia, America, Malaysia, Indonesia, South Korea, and the UK.

In 1953, 25 warships, seven yard craft and one merchant ship had participated. In 1964, the number rose to 31 warships, nine merchant ships and 12 yard craft. Two years

later, under President S Radhakrishnan, India's first aircraft carrier *INS Vikrant* was part of the review.

What is its significance?

It is one of the most important events for the Navy, which is essentially showing its allegiance and commitment to defending the country. It is a long-standing tradition followed by navies across the world, and according to Navy officials it is a strong bond that links seafarers of the world.

"Historically, a Fleet Review is an assembly of ships at a pre-designated place for the purpose of displaying loyalty and allegiance to the Sovereign and the state. In turn, the Sovereign, by reviewing the ships, reaffirms his faith in the fleet and its ability to defend the nation's maritime interest," a senior Navy official said.

The official said the review "was perhaps conceived as a show of naval might. Though it still has the same connotation, assembling of warships without any belligerent intentions is now the norm in modern times".



WORDLY WISE
SPEAK SOFTLY AND CARRY A BIG STICK;
YOU WILL GO FAR.
— THEODORE ROOSEVELT

The IndianEXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

RIDING TRADE WINDS

UAE treaty could give a fillip to Indian exports to the Gulf and Africa, benefit pharma and MSME sector

WITH THE SWIFT conclusion of an early harvest Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and the United Arab Emirates, Delhi appears to be signalling to the world that while it walked out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), one of the world's biggest Free Trade Area agreements, that does not make it protectionist, or averse to free trade agreements. Worried about market exposure to China, the government had then defended its exit from RCEP by dubbing it an "FTA by stealth" and pointed to underperforming FTAs with most individual countries in the regional trade group. But now the focus seems to have shifted back to signing bilateral FTAs, where Delhi is apparently more confident of controlling its market exposure. Last year, India and Mauritius signed a Comprehensive Economic Co-operation and Partnership Agreement. Interim trade agreements with the UK, Canada and Australia are in the pipeline. The negotiations for the CEPA with the UAE were concluded in three to four months. It aims to take bilateral trade to over \$1 billion within five years, including in services. The FTA covers 80 per cent of Indian exports to the UAE and is expected to stimulate export-oriented industries in India, especially in the MSME sector, because of a zero-tariff welcome by the UAE. Officials are also hoping that Indian investments in the UAE, spurred by the FTA, will see more remittances flowing into the country. The jewellery sector is also expected to receive a fillip with a concessional import duty. The agreement also speaks about expediting work on a special investment zone for UAE companies and joint ventures, and a dedicated India Mart in the Jebel Ali free zone. Relations between India and the UAE have improved significantly over the last few years. The UAE is India's third-largest trading partner and second-largest export destination, oil being the main import from the Gulf country. The two countries signed a strategic partnership agreement in 2017. The CEPA may serve to deepen the partnership. India and UAE are also now part of an economic relations focussed, informally named "Middle East Quad", in which the United States and Israel area also members.

The government hopes that the pact with the UAE will revive a long-shelved FTA with the Gulf Co-operation Council, a six-nation grouping of the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman, and pave the way to markets in Africa, especially for India's pharmaceuticals sector. With the UAE an important transit point for goods and people, this is not an unreasonable expectation, provided Indian industry, especially the ailing MSME sector, can live up to the potential offered by the FTA, and exports match imports.

AFTER THE HARVEST

India's foodgrains production has been rising consistently since 2017. The challenge now is to transfer benefits to farmers

INDIA'S AGRICULTURE SECTOR is all set to create an all-time high production record this year. According to the Second Advance Estimates of Production of Foodgrains for 2021-22, released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare last week, India's total foodgrains production will cross 316 million tonnes. This is 1.7 per cent higher than the total production the year before. But what truly captures the remarkable growth in India's farm production is the stark trend in the past six years: Foodgrains production has gone up from 252 million tonnes in 2015-16 to 316 million tonnes now; rising every single year. Contrast this with the performance in the six years preceding 2016-17 — production fluctuated between 244 and 265 million tonnes.

While overall farm production has increased there are diverging trends. Among cereals, coarse grains such as jowar, bajra and ragi are expected to see a decline in output while maize is expected to buck the trend. Thanks to good monsoons, rice production, both in kharif and rabi seasons, is expected to increase by almost 3 per cent. Wheat production, too, is expected to go up by 2 per cent. Pulses are expected to see their output grow by almost 6 per cent with the exception of tur, which is likely to dip by 7 per cent. Oilseeds are expected to see a production growth of 3.3 per cent, thanks to significant increases in mustard and soybean, making up for the fall in groundnut production. Among the key cash crops, sugarcane is expected to see a jump of over 4 per cent while cotton production may decline by over 3 per cent.

There are two policy concerns emerging from this data. One, what happens to food inflation. For instance, wholesale inflation has been 10.5 per cent in wheat, 14.5 per cent in maize, over 23 per cent in oilseeds and 45 per cent in cotton. While domestic production is one big factor in influencing prices, the minimum support prices announced by the government (pulses) as well as the international prices (oilseeds) of these commodities also impact them. The combination of these factors will play out in the year ahead. For example, lower production in cotton when prices are already high will raise the raw material costs of the domestic textile industry, weakening its competitiveness. The other concern would be to ensure improved remuneration for farmers. The ironic — and troublesome — aspect of India's sustained increase in farm production in the past 5-6 years has been the concurrent rise in farmers' distress as the terms of trade have worsened.

FREEZE FRAME



E P UNNY



SUHAS PALSHIKAR

SOME TIME BACK, when pictures of a burqa-clad woman taking her child attired as Lord Krishna to school on the occasion of Janmashtami were circulated approvingly, a vocal section of Hindutva made an interesting argument. It was said this was reducing Hindu tradition to a fancy dress event and that such (mis)appropriation of Hindu tradition should be called out. Clearly, it is not enough that non-Hindus should behave like Hindus or participate in Hindu cultural-religious festivities.

Now, in the case of Karnataka, the argument is that non-Hindus cannot have their own practices (whether these are good or bad practices is beside the point). In the case of beef eating, the argument rests on the point that since the cow is sacred for Hindus, non-Hindus should ensure that Hindu sentiment is not hurt by killing the cow and consuming its meat. In the present case, there is no such "hurt" caused to Hindus and yet, non-Hindus are not left alone to follow their (supposedly) religious practice.

Three dimensions of Hindutva emerge through the Karnataka complication. The first is a political dimension, not just in the limited sense of consolidating the Hindu vote, which surely is happening. But the more critical political dimension is about issues such as what constitutes the nation and who are entitled to be India's citizens. At a fundamental level, the citizenship of those who do not follow authorised Hindu practices is being denied. Increasingly, governments are ensuring that deviations from such practices as approved by Hindutva are formally discouraged and disallowed. So, the concept of an Indian citizen is being equated with adopting the Hindutva way of life and thinking. The rest will be marginalised and criminalised.

Another dimension is cultural. It speaks to the ideologically fed century-old anxieties of some Hindus. These anxieties have produced a hankering for uniformity. The Karnataka developments give a wrong impression that it is only about Muslims. At a more immediate level, these are indeed aimed at Muslims: Muslims cannot have the freedom of being slow in modernisation because in this particular instance, a certain meaning of moderni-

Criminalisation of hijab has to be seen as part of a larger narrative, a restructuring India's culture and society

sation suits the Hindutva agenda. But let us not make a mistake of summarising this only as between Hindus and Muslims. More than that, this issue is literally and metaphorically, about the idea of "uniform".

A cursory glance at the history of Hindutva shows its understanding of an ideal society is premised on everyone being similar, differences being only nominal, bringing about homogeneity in every respect. While in politics, this is reflected in the emphasis on "common" or national language, in the religious sphere it is reflected in searching for a foundational scripture either in the Gita or in the Vedas. In the sphere of popularly practiced religion, this obsession has found two expressions. On the one hand, one deity is raised at the all-India level both as a symbol of religious pride and also as a basis of national identity; on the other hand, regionally celebrated deities are promoted elsewhere to ensure that they do not remain identities of regions but assume pan-Hindu status.

In every sphere, this homogenisation of the idea of being Hindu is at the core of Hindutva. That is why diversity of practices about food consumption is discouraged and delegitimised as being against the Hindu religion. Besides beef, debates around inclusion/exclusion of eggs from school mid-day meals is being characterised by this search for true and pure Hindu.

The drivers of Hindutva are beyond the pale of many ideas of the Hindu religion. They are also quite far from popular cultural practices and that is why it has taken so long and so much violence for Hindutva to gain traction. The drivers of Hindutva — the othering of Muslims, influence of Christianity and an elite idea of purity — are also away from the moral or spiritual ideas of religion. These factors constitute the ideological base and work as the political weapons of Hindutva.

rhetorical level, hate and suspicion of Muslims (both from India and elsewhere generally) constitute the immediate driver of Hindutva. But Hindutva cannot be explained only in terms of Islamophobia. In many instances, Islamophobia is a convenient tool given the widespread misunderstanding about Muslims and the intransigence of Muslim clergy and elite to steer internal reform. Beyond that, in matters of religious books, the emphasis on celibacy and simplicity, institutionalisation of seva as a "missionary" activity demanding long years of sacrifice and a search for unified religious order, the Hindutva project resembles traits of Christianity.

Finally, caste-based ideas of purity combined with the European obsession with pure blood as represented in the Nazi idea of Aryan race has informed the Hindutva project. Critics of Hindutva often draw attention to its "Brahmanical" character in this regard. While that has a certain validity, it must be squarely accepted that most castes (and the idea of caste itself) draw sustenance from the idea of barricading one community from others by restricting marriage practices. The violent opposition to inter-caste marriages, particularly when the male partner is from a "lower" caste, is testimony to this caste-based search for purity.

In this sense, the drivers of Hindutva are beyond the pale of many ideas of the Hindu religion. They are also quite far from popular cultural practices and that is why it has taken so long and so much violence for Hindutva to gain traction. The drivers of Hindutva — the othering of Muslims, influence of Christianity and an elite idea of purity — are also away from the moral or spiritual ideas of religion. These factors constitute the ideological base and work as the political weapons of Hindutva. If this broader context of what is happening in Karnataka is missed, we are likely to be waylaid by the "secular" argument that the hijab controversy is more a matter of reform than being a part of a larger narrative or restructuring of India's culture and society.

The writer, based at Pune, taught political science and is chief editor of Studies in Indian Politics



LIZ MATHEW

RAVISH TIWARI ENTERED journalism almost a decade after I became a reporter but, for us, that gap never mattered. He was a political animal, I see myself as one too. Even though we were good friends since 2006, he was also a reporter with whom I competed and when he came as chief of bureau in *The Indian Express*, I was apprehensive. But Ravish proved me wrong, taught me lessons that no one else did, and made me realise that two political reporters could learn from each other.

Nothing, neither the ordeal of cancer, the tubes and needles piercing his body nor the strong drugs pumped into him, doused his passion for reporting, or blunted the sharpness of his political instinct. Here is an example. On February 12, the BJP released a list of nine candidates for the election in Uttar Pradesh. I shared it on a Whatsapp group and within minutes came Ravish's message from the hospital bed: "Zaheerabad becomes an interesting constituency to profile. Om Prakash Rajbhar contesting from SP-SBSP alliance, old SP hand Shadab Fatima (from Rahi Masoom Raza family) rebels and contests from BSP, and BJP fields a Rajbhar. The area is in Ansari influence zone too." When it came to understanding the nuances of politics and making a report interesting for readers, Ravish was unique.

Ravish was never satisfied with the logic given by netas for their acts and decisions. He always looked for the why, and at how ordinary folk looked at it. In Parliament corri-

MY GOOD FRIEND AND GUIDE

Ravish could challenge and provoke, with respect, and a smile

dors, one could see Ravish engrossed in intense conversation with the most unfamiliar faces and back benchers. He would argue with the most articulate leader, too. I never heard him talk ill of anyone, he had friends from across parties, but he was no one's friend when it came to news.

These are times when criticism against the political establishment can get you stamped as "anti-national" or "radical", and embedded reporting can be the easy way out. But Ravish continued to ask leaders the most difficult questions with a smile. No one could get away without responding to him.

Ravish could challenge and provoke, with respect, without being rude. I used to envy his fearlessness and the felicity with which he carried out a conversation with leaders who might snub me for my faltering Hindi. The questions I would be hesitant to ask, or fail in putting across, Ravish would shoot effortlessly.

Ravish was an avid reader, he would read at least one or two books before writing about anything other than politics. In the newsroom, we were all entertained by Ravish the storyteller: When narrating an incident, he peppered it with mimicry of the main characters.

He was unenthused by money, he didn't accumulate things. He did not bother to buy a new car saying the old one he had was running but finally gave in to his family's persuasion to purchase a home. Long hair and the muffler casually hanging from his neck

during winters marked his don't-care attitude. About his disease, he would say: "It's all about science. One has to rely on science to come out of this."

I have lost a good friend, and a guide who helped me hone my understanding of the layers and nuances of north Indian politics. The mentor in him awakened whenever I mentioned my twin daughters to him. He got excited about their small achievements, chided me for putting the pressure of my own expectations on them — a baseless allegation, I would retort. When I was down with mild Covid, he, who was going through multiple sessions of chemotherapy and radiation, would call me three times a day to check on my temperature and oxygen levels. He was lucky to have a partner like Poojya, who stood by him through the tumult and pain of the last two years.

As I write this, it's been more than 24 hours since he left us. Whose appraisal I seek when I write next, who will I call now for help in framing the intro for stories? Who will I call for confirming a tip I got from the beat? Ravish the journalist, earned the respect of many. As a colleague, he earned a cherished place in the hearts of all who worked with him. I can find solace in that old adage: "Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal". But he has left all of us who loved and admired him with a sorrow that can't be healed.

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FEBRUARY 21, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

ANDHRA CM IMPASSE

IN AN UNPRECEDENTED move, the AP Congress-I Legislature Party turned down the parliamentary board's directive to elect its leader by a secret ballot and instead asked Indira Gandhi to name the new leader. The person so named will be deemed to have been elected by the CLP-I said a resolution adopted at the end of a four-hour meeting, which was deadlocked over the modalities of election. The authorisation was unconditional negating any consensus that might have been reached on the candidate during the two-day exercise of "opinion gathering" conducted by party observers.

SOUTH-SOUTH MEET

THE THREE-DAY CONSULTATIONS beginning in New Delhi on February 22 to consider informal steps to break the deadlock in the North-South global negotiations and to regenerate South-South cooperation is unlikely to yield any breakthrough, despite host India's "gratification" at 43 of the 44 proposals received.

MAHARASHTRA CURFEW

THE QUIET PILGRIM city of Pandharpur became the third city in Maharashtra to come under curfew in less than a week. Meanwhile

the situation in Pune and Sholapur, under curfew since February 15, was reported to be under control by official sources in the wake of Vishwa Hindu Parishad's Janagan Abhiyan processions.

CLASH IN UN

INDIA AND PAKISTAN clashed at a meeting in Geneva of the United Nations Human Rights Commission. The dispute between the two countries was reportedly over the Kashmir issue. Agha Hilaly, brother of the outgoing Pakistan foreign minister Agha Shahi, raked up the issue while discussing colonial domination.

NAUSHAD FORBES, CO-CHAIRMAN, FORBES MARSHALL

The first step for recovery is to create more jobs and put enough money into people’s hands

Industry leader and author Naushad Forbes analyses the Budget, argues for more Government spending in the social sector, zero-tariff trade and explains why corporates don’t speak up as much as they should. The session was moderated by National Business Editor ANIL SASI

Shyamal Majumdar: Just before the Budget, you had said that it must deliver on economic inclusion, incentivise job creation and increase investment in education and skilling. Has it lived up to your expectations?

It has done a reasonable job of ensuring job creation by increasing spends on public infrastructure by over 30 per cent. It also incentivises States to spend on infrastructure by providing loan guarantees on borrowings from the Centre. My expectation on investment in health and education was low and predictably nothing much happened there. The education budget did go up by around 12 per cent but I’m yet to figure out exactly where the increases are reflected. In fact, the percentage of the GDP that is being spent for health and education is lesser if you factor in the cess that has been introduced in recent years. So, when it comes to education and health, the cess has replaced spending in the regular Budget. This has happened in the previous as well as the present government. That’s unfortunate because we need to incrementally grow our spending on these two vital ways of including people in our growth story.

I agree there are limits to what the Union Budget can do because health and education are State subjects. But several Central schemes can always incentivise States to do the right thing. I hope that next month we will see something systematically coming through to incentivise States to take the right steps for education in particular. The New Education Policy (NEP) is a sensible document, it has many of the right ‘whats’. I’m more concerned about the ‘how’; how will we actually implement the new education policy when it comes to schooling and higher education? I think it needs a lot more attention from both the Union and State Governments.

Shyamal Majumdar: The recent SEBI decision, making the separation of roles between chairman and MD at listed companies voluntary instead of mandatory, came almost two years after the Uday Kotak Committee’s recommendation for a strict split in roles. Do you think corporate India’s decision to lobby against it was correct?

First, do we need such guidelines in terms of governance, separation of powers, oversight and so on? Second, the regulator should have decided earlier on the guidelines. Otherwise, you have the classic moral hazard where the regulator has no choice but to relent simply because nobody follows the recommendations in the first place. There is a weakening of both regulatory standards and power. But the bigger point that I’d like to make is on these guidelines themselves. To give you an example, the commitment of two per cent of company revenue for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) began as a voluntary guideline. If a company did not spend that amount, it needed to explain why in its annual report. There was moral pressure on companies and you could see them falling in line. Two years ago, we made non-compliance a criminal offence and it had to be withdrawn too. To me, guidelines are a way of ensuring good behaviour. Otherwise, we try to be very prescriptive. I’m much more in favour of actually saying what’s the spirit behind the regulation and hold companies accountable for not adhering to it rather than checking a box.

Anil Sasi: The Budget seems to be making this almost impassioned plea to the industry to invest in the capex programme. The Centre has done the heavy lifting in terms of spending for the last four years. Industry is yet to come on board. Do you see something changing this year?

At the end of the day, new capital stock will get created when the capacity is close to being exhausted. At what level does exhaustion kick in? My sense is that it kicks in somewhere between 70 and 80 per cent capacity utilisation. If animal spirits are high, then it’s closer to 70 per cent. If animal spirits are low, then closer to 80 per cent. But if you look at total capacity utilisation, you know that consumption will be back to 97 per cent of what it was two years ago. So, if it’s still only at 97 per cent, you don’t need more capacity. That’s the fundamental problem. That’s why the first step is to create more jobs and put enough money into people’s hands so that they can spend. I hope the service sector bounces back, urban trades power the en-



WHY
NAUSHAD
FORBES

Industry leader Naushad Forbes has laid a practical roadmap for India to crest its economic potential in his new book, *The Struggle And The Promise: Restoring India’s Potential*. He argues for striking the right balance between industry, institutions and policy

gine of informal employment and the travel and tourism sectors pick up because they are employment-intensive.

When that starts to happen, it will create that much more consuming power. When you get well above 100 per cent, then you need to invest in more capacity. I read about how public investment in infrastructure creation would spur private investment and so on. I don’t understand how. Yes, in certain sectors, it might, but how does one actually lead to the other? It seems to me that the most fundamental requirement is that consumption needs to grow, and consumption will grow if more people have more money to spend.

Anil Sasi: The post-pandemic recovery seems to have this very deep cleavage in terms of the bigger companies growing and the smaller players being left out of the recovery process. Does this delay demand recovery?

It does. I imagine it’s economically sustainable but I don’t think it’s socially sustainable in the long term. How do you address this? After the first lockdowns and the reverse migration of labour, the industry is getting companies to voluntarily adopt a set of standards for all their contractors to ensure minimal protection like health insurance for labourers, a short-term unemployment insurance and a basic support network. This will give them confidence, security and keep consumption going. The fact that agricultural employment has gone up in these last two years is a dampening development story.

Sunny Verma: In September 2019, the Finance Minister announced a sharp reduction in corporate tax rate, hoping it would kickstart investments. Then the pandemic hit. Do you think that was an error?

I don’t think so. It’s good to remember what the actual logic was, lower tax rates

combined with fewer exemptions. That’s the right direction to go in, including for personal taxes. Three years ago, corporate taxes were around 18 per cent of profits. In other words, the actual collection was 18 per cent of profits. And what we advocated at the time was to reduce the corporate tax rate to 18 per cent and remove all exemptions gradually with no grandfathering. And if you did that, you would, on a like-to-like basis, end up taxing everyone equally. What actually happens is that smaller companies end up paying the full marginal rate of tax while larger companies find ways of taking advantage of exemptions. Then you have a kind of convoluted, reverse progressive, regressive tax system. There’s scope to do something similar in the personal income tax slab; reduce tax rates, exemptions and widen the net so that you can bring more and more people into the actual income tax-paying category. We have a very limited coverage of people in terms of the spread of the income tax collection.

Sunny Verma: We lost Rahul Bajaj, who spoke his mind and truth to power across governments. Can any other industry voice fill that void?

First, the place of Rahul Bajaj will remain vacant forever because it’s very difficult for any one individual to fill his shoes. He was one of a kind. Our best way of paying tribute to him is by behaving and thinking like him and following his ethos. That most certainly includes being more independent, articulate, clearer, franker and forthright.

Harish Damodaran: You are one of the few industrialists who says that Indian industry doesn’t need any protection. You have also made a very strong case for India joining the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and signing up for Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). How are you basing your argument?

I really believe that the best way for Indian industry to thrive in the long run is in an open economy. You end up disincentivising exports when you tax imports. Let me give you an example from our own sector. We’re in the engineering sector and export a reasonable amount of what we make each year, at least 20-25 per cent.

We have struggled this year with steep prices of our principal raw material or steel. The spiral is not only because of an increase in worldwide demand but also because steel carries a tariff in India, between 7.5 and 10 per cent. This ends up spreading inefficiency and costs throughout the economy.

Now let’s take the labour-intensive garment sector. If you have a tariff on fabric, you end up not just affecting garment companies but other things than fabric. You might get advanced licences, duty and drawback. But what about thread, buttons and so on? You’re not going to keep track of what thread you used for export and what thread you used for local sales. The only way we can be a really effective long-term international player is if we keep our tariffs down, and they have to come down over time to zero. I think 10 years are a long enough period for us. Surely, we should be able to compete with the best in the world. And if we can’t, we don’t deserve to exist.

Harish Damodaran: With regard to capital goods, companies like BHEL are really struggling because of a lack of orders. Same is the case with equipment-manufacturing companies. How do you see the next two years?

This year we’ve been very pleasantly surprised with a pick-up in demand. Our boiler business is doing well. For the foreseeable future, it seems pretty solid and we hope that stays for another year or so. Then you’ll see an uptick in broader project activity happening and that will in itself stimulate consumption. For the power sector, the bulk of business comes from setting up coal-fired power plants. Here we need to come back to our sustainability goals. May be we have another couple of years of coal-fired power plants. In Glasgow, there was a lot of pressure on not just India, but other nations as well to actually commit to a zero coal scenario. We finally agreed to phase down instead of phasing out. But if we want to actually deliver on our commitments, I’ve not seen a single credible study that says we can achieve those targets without phasing out, forget phasing down. We will have to phase out coal. The sooner we start, the lower the level where it will peak. I hope

we move in that direction soon.

That means BHEL and companies that are heavily reliant on coal-fired utility power plants, need to rethink their business, move to solar and renewables. BHEL is already doing so. It’s not going to be easy because the way in which the company operates is oriented around utility power plants. I think that’s what power companies should be worrying about, much more than competition or anything else. They should just worry about the whole industry going away over time.

P Vaidyanathan Iyer: You talked about an independent voice in the private sector. Yet when a young climate activist like Disha Ravi gets arrested in Bengaluru or when

ing given to bureaucrats, greater discretion was being provided to their ability to implement the tax code and so on. Against that, there has been a systematic decriminalisation of civil offences. There’s much

When it comes to education and health, the cess has replaced spending in the regular Budget. That’s unfortunate because we need to incrementally grow our spending on these two vital ways of including people in our growth story

more to be done. A report came out earlier this month listing 16,000 individual criminal offences in commercial law. That’s a crazy number. I think the authors of the report have done us a huge service by documenting the numbers. I hope that that the report will receive the kind of attention in Government that it deserves.

Sandeep Singh: The RBI recently

decided to hold rates. How much role can interest rates play in pushing growth when the overall economy is inflationary?

What the RBI did was to keep rates unchanged. It’s not like it lowered or raised them. I think it is betting on inflation being temporary and hoping supply chain disruptions will sort themselves out. The RBI is one part of the story. What the Finance Ministry does, by investing in infrastructure to kickstart economic activity, is the other part. It is the right combination but my big concern is investment in social sectors.

Anil Sasi: How complicit is the industry in the Government changing tack and pulling out of the RCEP last minute?

The industry argued in favour of protection as it did in 1991, 2000 and 2010. The Government’s job is to hear the industry out but do what is in national interest. In the last few years, from 2017 to early 2021, there was a trend of increasing tariffs. I think in the last year, there has been some rethinking in the Government on trade. There’s now a much more positive attitude to trade, international engagement and even to FTAs. At present, India is negotiating FTAs with the UK, UAE, Australia and the EU. India is now keener than the US on FTAs. Let’s see what happens. Unfortunately, there’s no movement on RCEP given our current environment with China. Meanwhile, let’s work on the others.

Anil Sasi: Do you see the industry taking advantage of corporate tax rates?

I hope so. There was a cut in the overall rate to 25 per cent for existing companies. And then there was the even deeper cut for new manufacturing companies. The last Budget extended the date for these new companies by another year. That’s a good move. However, to expect widespread capacity creation in the absence of consumption growth is just not realistic.

Pranav Mukul: Apart from the Licence Raj mindset, do you think corporates keep silent for fear of being targeted? In the Supreme Court, some petitioners said that the Prevention of Money Laundering Act was being used arbitrarily to suppress dissent.

Maybe it does in individual cases. I think you can be independent without being aggressive or attacking. Expressing an independent and alternative viewpoint reasonably won’t get companies or individuals into trouble. I think the Government is open to that. And second, the Government is not a monolith. There are different voices in the Government, be it the bureaucracy or Ministers. I give an example in the book of how, after I wrote a couple of editorials criticising India dropping out of RCEP, I went to meet a particular Minister on a completely different matter. And he said to me, “I read your article on RCEP, I agree with you fully and was going to call you but didn’t because I’m a member of the Government.” You have different views in the Government. When we speak about what needs to be done, we strengthen the hands of reformers who want to move in that direction. It’s not an issue of getting into trouble and fear and so on. We can speak in a manner that’s independent, forthright and polite at the same time.

Illustration: Suvajit Dey

historian Ramachandra Guha speaks out, the entire IT industry in Karnataka remains silent. Nobody speaks out against dog whistles by political leaders against a certain community. In the US, many corporate leaders speak up but will Indian corporates do so?

Some industrialists do speak up. But industry as a broad category and social activism don’t go hand in hand. I’m not trying to make an excuse but social activism is not what we are about. I think for too many years, the Licence Raj bred a culture where we had to go to the Government for incentives or ask for protection and favours. Many of those regulations have gone since 1991. But that deferential mindset still continues, unfortunately. Be it a monsoon failure or airlines going out of business, we look to the Government for answers.

We cannot expect the Government to be all-powerful, the source of business, wealth and everything else. It’s there for governance. It’s not there to run the economy, make it work and make orders and sales happen for companies; that’s for companies to do. We can’t be dependent on the Government for our success, we have to be dependent on doing a good job, such that our customers want to buy our products and pay us a decent price for them. Only that shift will make us much more independent, even in the way in which we speak to the Government.

P Vaidyanathan Iyer: In the book, you also mention how a good government is one which does not lead itself but creates a space for the private sector. How do you see the seven years of the NDA Government in this context?

The first few years of the NDA Government were part of that broader trend. Somewhere in 2017-18, the direction changed and greater power was be-

TOPOF THE WORLD



Ethiopia's Grand Renaissance Dam. Reuters

ETHIOPIA
Partial power generation from Nile dam begins

Addis Ababa: Ethiopia began producing electricity on Sunday from its Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), a multi-billion-dollar hydropower plant on the River Nile that neighbours Sudan and Egypt have worried will cause water shortages downstream. After flicking a digital switch to turn on the turbines in the first phase of the project, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed sought to assure those nations that his country did not wish to harm their interests. "Ethiopia's main interest is to bring light to 60% of the population who is suffering in darkness, to save the labour of our mothers who are carrying wood on their backs in order to get energy," Abiy said. **REUTERS**

PORTUGAL
Fire rages on ship full of luxury cars

Lisbon: Firefighters are struggling to put out a fire that broke out on Wednesday on a vessel carrying thousands of luxury cars, which is adrift off the coast of Portugal's Azores islands, a port official said, adding it was unclear when they would succeed. The Felicity Ace ship, carrying around 4,000 vehicles including Porsches, Audis and Bentleys, some electric with lithium-ion batteries, caught fire in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean on Wednesday. The 22 crew members on board were evacuated on the same day. **REUTERS**

PAKISTAN
31 Indian fishermen held

Islamabad: Pakistan's maritime authorities have arrested 31 Indian fishermen and seized five of their vessels for allegedly fishing in the country's territorial waters, officials said on Sunday. The Pakistan Maritime Security Agency said it apprehended the intruding vessels on Friday during patrolling in the Pakistan Exclusive Economic Zone. The PMSA said one of its "ship apprehended five Indian fishing boats along with 31 crew." The boats were towed to Karachi for further proceedings. **PTI**



Troops take part in the joint military drills of the armed forces of Russia and Belarus at a firing range in the Brest Region, Belarus on Saturday. Reuters

Russia and Belarus extend military drills near Ukraine

Putin and Macron discuss need to step up diplomacy

NYT & REUTERS
FEBRUARY 20

RUSSIA'S LARGE-SCALE military deployment in Belarus, which the US has long warned could be used as a pretext to build an invasion force aimed at Ukraine, will be extended beyond Sunday when joint exercises had been scheduled to conclude, Belarus's defence minister announced.

After repeated assurances from Russia and Belarus that the drills would end this weekend as planned, the Belarusian defence ministers said on Sunday that the two countries' militaries would continue to "test" their capabilities because of what they claimed were heightened tensions in eastern Ukraine.

The apparent extension of the exercises — which NATO has said involve 30,000 Russian troops, Moscow's largest deployment on

Belarus territory since the end of the Cold War — put further pressure on Ukraine, which shares a roughly 665-mile border with Belarus that is largely unguarded.

Belarus's defence minister, Lt. Gen. Viktor Khrenin, cited an escalation of violence in eastern Ukraine as the reason for continuing the exercises, although Ukrainian officials say Russia-backed separatists are responsible for the increase in tensions.

On Sunday, separatist leaders suspended a wide range of public activities in the eastern region, known as the Donbas, including "leisure, entertainment, entertainment, cultural, exhibition, educational, public and other similar events," according to a statement posted on their Telegram channel.

The statement released by the self-proclaimed government in the region offered no evidence that there was a danger to the public.

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin and French President Emmanuel Macron discussed the need to step up the search for diplomatic solutions to the escalating crisis in eastern Ukraine in a phone call on Sunday, the Kremlin said.

"In view of the urgency of the situation, the Presidents acknowledged the need to intensify the search for solutions through diplomatic means via the foreign ministries and political advisers to the leaders of the Normandy format," it added.

"These contacts should facilitate the restoration of the ceasefire regime and ensure progress in the settlement of the conflict in Donbass," the Kremlin added.

In a separate call earlier on Sunday, Macron and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy discussed possible ways to secure immediate de-escalation.

Biden still willing to talk to Putin: Blinken

THE NEW YORK TIMES
WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 20

SECRETARY OF State Antony J. Blinken said on Sunday that President Biden was still willing to talk to President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia despite the United States government's assessment that Putin has already decided to invade Ukraine.

"We believe President Putin has made the decision, but until the tanks are actually rolling, and the planes are flying, we will use every opportunity and every minute we have to see if diplomacy can still dissuade President Putin from carrying this forward," Blinken said on CNN's "State of the Union."

Biden and Putin last spoke for one hour by telephone on Feb. 12. Biden said on Friday that he believed Russia would invade Ukraine within days. In recent weeks, the Russian military deployed more than 150,000 troops around Ukraine, positioning them along the country's western border with Ukraine, on the Crimean Peninsula that Russia seized from Ukraine in



US Secretary of State Antony J Blinken

2014, and in Belarus, which has a pro-Moscow government.

Blinken said on Sunday that Russia was still taking all the steps expected by the United States for what could be a violent and large-scale incursion into Ukraine.

"As we've described it, everything leading up to the actual invasion appears to be taking place," he said, hours after returning from the Munich Security Conference, where he and Vice-President Kamala Harris tried to rally nations to put pressure on Russia to defuse the crisis.

He also criticised Russia's decision to keep troops in Belarus beyond this weekend, when joint military exercises between the allies had been scheduled to end. "Now they're justifying the continuation of exercises — exercises, in quotation marks — that they said would end now," Blinken said.



Demonstrators sing the national anthem during a protest in Odessa, Ukraine, on Sunday. AP

People with Covid in UK won't need to self-isolate

JILL LAWLESS
LONDON, FEBRUARY 20

PEOPLE WITH Covid-19 won't be legally required to self-isolate in England starting next week, the UK government has announced, as part of a plan for "living with Covid" that is also likely to see testing for the coronavirus scaled back.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said ending all of the legal restrictions brought in to curb the spread of the virus will let people in the UK "protect ourselves without restricting our freedoms." He is expected to lay out details of the plan in Parliament on Monday.

"I'm not saying that we should throw caution to the winds, but now is the moment for everybody to get their confidence back," Johnson told the BBC in an

QUEEN, 95, TESTS POSITIVE



Queen Elizabeth II

London: Queen Elizabeth II tested positive for Covid-19 on Sunday and is experiencing mild, cold-like symptoms, Buckingham Palace said, adding the 95-year-old monarch plans to carry on working. The palace said the queen would continue with "light" duties at Windsor Castle over the coming week. "She will continue to receive medical attention and will follow all the appropriate guidelines," the palace said. The queen has received three doses of Covid vaccine. **AP**

interview broadcast Sunday.

"We've reached a stage where we think you can shift the balance away from state mandation, away from banning certain courses of action, compelling certain courses of action, in favor of encouraging personal responsibility."

But some of the government's

scientific advisers said it was a risky move that could bring a surge in infections and weaken the country's defenses against more virulent future strains. Wes Streeting, health spokesman for the main opposition Labour Party, accused Johnson of "declaring victory before the war is over." **AP**

\$500 MN GRANT: POLICE USE FORCE TO QUELL STIR



Protesters opposing US grant clash with police in Kathmandu on Sunday. AP

Nepal tables US deal in Parliament amid protests

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE
KATHMANDU, FEBRUARY 20

FACED WITH two difficult choices — either leave the government or support the resolution to have the \$500 million Millennium Challenge Corporation Nepal compact approved, Maoist Centre and Unified socialists parties chose to support the deal, which was tabled in Parliament on Sunday.

The two parties had opposed the grant saying "it undermines Nepal's sovereignty and its non-aligned foreign policy." Even Speaker Agni Prasad Sapkota, who had firmly stood against it so far, relented. The House of Representatives will meet on February 24 to further discuss on the resolution and its ratification that has been pending for the past four years.

Three members of the Maoist Centre, including its chief whip Deb Gurung, raised their objections in writing after the resolution was tabled, but the Speaker chose not to take any cognisance.

The compact continued to face massive protests outside the Parliament with many parties and

EXPLAINED
What is the MCC deal?

THE MILLENNIUM Challenge Corporation (MCC), a US government aid agency, agreed in 2017 to provide \$500 million in grants to fund a 300-kilometre electricity transmission line and a road improvement project in Nepal.

groups asking government not to accept it as its provisions "undermine national sovereignty." Security forces used rubber bullets and tear gas to quell the mob opposing the tabling of the resolution in the capital.

The government's decision comes at a time when US and China are clashing on US's warning to Nepal that its failure to ratify the compact would be seen as influenced by China, which would lead to "review" of the bilateral relations. While China has accused the US of exercising "coercive" diplomacy in Nepal.

AUSTRALIA TO WELCOME TOURISTS FOR FIRST TIME UNDER COVID

Melbourne: Australia will welcome international tourists on Monday after nearly two years of sealing its borders, relying on high Covid-19 vaccination rates to live with the pandemic as infections decline. "The wait is over," Prime Minister Scott Morrison told a Sunday briefing at the Melbourne International Airport. Australia's opening to tourists is the clearest example yet of the government's shift from a strict zero-Covid approach to living with the virus and vaccinating the public to minimise deaths and severe illness. **REUTERS**

'Pakistan eyes people's gold to raise forex reserves'

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, FEBRUARY 20

PRIME MINISTER Imran Khan-led government is considering a proposal to borrow gold biscuits and bars from the people to increase Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves that remain on a sliding path despite taking over \$5 billion loans in the past three months from bilateral and multilateral creditors, according to a media report on Sunday.

The proposal has been discussed in the Economic Executive Council (EEC) — the body comprising all economic ministers and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) governor. *The Express Tribune* reported.

According to the proposal, the commercial banks will issue a negotiable discounted instrument to the gold owner and pay an interest rate on the precious metal. The commercial bank will deposit the gold with the SBP that can monetise it to increase the foreign exchange reserves "already largely built by taking expensive foreign loans."

The central bank already has 2.01 million fine troy ounces of gold reserves valued at \$3.8 billion, according to the SBP's reserves position statement of December 31, 2021. **PTI**

SCHEME HONOURS HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE OF BUILDINGS IN LONDON
Raj era home for Indian Ayahs to get Blue Plaque

ADITIKHANNA
LONDON, FEBRUARY 20

A HOME in London for Ayahs or nursemaids brought back by British families from India during the Raj is to be honoured with a Blue Plaque as part of a series to highlight the working-class experiences of the UK capital.

The Blue Plaque scheme, run by the English Heritage charity, honours the historic significance of particular buildings across London. The Ayahs' Home in the Hackney area of east London, which dates back to 1900-1921, housed many maids from India and other colonies in South and South-East Asia. "The Ayahs' Home in



The Ayahs' Home in Hackney in 1900. File

Hackney provided safety and shelter to the many women who arrived in London with British families only to find that their employers did not honour the

promise of a return journey, or offer the means to survive in the interim," English Heritage notes.

"The Ayahs, thus abandoned, were often forced into common lodging houses or the workhouse," it said. The term "Ayah" was applied to all those women who served the British as nannies and nursemaids in India and other colonies.

The home's Blue Plaque, part of the charity's 2022 cohort, forms part of an effort to celebrate women's experiences in London by English Heritage, with the London home of British Indian spy Noor Inayat Khan among another recent one to be honoured.

"Many of the stories we are telling this year are those of

London's working class," said Anna Eavis, Curatorial Director and Secretary of the English Heritage Blue Plaques Panel.

"I am particularly excited by the Match Girls' plaque. This strike, organised by a group of impoverished young women, mostly between 15 and 20 years old, holds such an important place in the history of unionised labour and the women's movement as a whole," she said.

The famous Match Girls' Strike of 1888 is said to have changed the course of modern British labour history. It involved around 1,400 of the predominantly female workforce walking out of the match factory in the Bow area of east London. **PTI**

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Rohingya genocide case hearings to resume

MIKE CORDER
THE HAGUE, FEBRUARY 20

AN INTERNATIONAL case accusing Myanmar of genocide against the Rohingya ethnic minority returns to the United Nations' highest court on Monday amid questions over whether the country's military rulers should even be allowed to represent the Southeast

Asian nation.

Four days of public hearings at the International Court of Justice start Monday into Myanmar's preliminary objections to the case that was brought by Gambia, an African nation acting on behalf of an organisation of Muslim nations that accuses Myanmar of genocide in its crackdown on the Rohingya. In August 2017, Myanmar's

military launched what it called a clearance campaign in Rakhine state in the country's west in response to an attack by a Rohingya insurgent group. The campaign forced more than 700,000 Rohingya to flee to neighboring Bangladesh and led to accusations that security forces committed mass rapes and killings and burned thousands of homes. Gambia argues that the cam-

paign amounted to a breach of the genocide convention and wants the court to hold the country responsible.

The figurehead who led Myanmar's legal team in court last time there were public hearings in the case — the nation's ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi — is in prison after being convicted on what supporters call trumped up charges. **AP**

GLOBALLY, 70 MILLION PEOPLE STUTTER, INCLUDING PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

Unravelling biology of stuttering

LAURA UNGAR
FEBRUARY 20

HOLLY NOVER grew up trying to hide her stutter. "I was very self-conscious," said the 40-year-old St. Johns, Florida mom, whose 10-year-old son Colton also has a speech impediment. "So I developed habits to switch my words so it wouldn't be noticed."

For centuries, people have feared being judged for stuttering, a condition often misunderstood as a psychological problem caused by things like bad parenting or emotional trauma. But research presented at a science conference on Saturday explores its biological underpinnings: genetics and brain differences. "By understanding the biology,



Colton Nover works on a report for school with his mother, Holly Nover in St. Johns, Fla. AP

we're going to decrease the stigma. We're going to increase the acceptance," one of the speakers, Gerald Maguire, said in a recent interview with *The AP*. He's a California psy-

chiatrist who is involved in testing potential medications for stuttering based on the science.

Globally, 70 million people stutter, including President Joe Biden, who has spoken publicly about being mocked by classmates and a nun in Catholic school for his speech impediment. He said overcoming it was one of the hardest things he's ever done.

Stuttering has been documented as far back as ancient China, Greece and Rome. But no one really had any idea what caused it until modern genetic science and brain imaging began providing clues.

Researchers identified the first genes strongly linked to stuttering more than a decade ago. Imaging studies peered into the brains of adults and older children. University of Delaware speech

disorder researcher Ho Ming Chow said the imaging shows slight brain differences in young children who keep stuttering, compared with those who recover and those who never stuttered. Past research has also linked stuttering to the basal ganglia, brain structures involved in the coordination of movement.

"We know stuttering has a really strong genetic component," Chow said. Though several genes may be involved and the exact genetic causes may vary by child, "they probably affect the brain in a similar way." Speech therapy is the mainstay of stuttering treatment. But the medicines currently being tested could be approved for stuttering in the next few years, first for adults and later for kids, said Maguire, who has stuttered since childhood. **AP**

10 ECONOMY

SECTOR WATCH RETIREMENT FUND

In 16% jump, EPFO adds 14.6 lakh subscribers in Dec

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

THE EMPLOYEES' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) added 14.6 lakh subscribers on a net basis in December 2021, an increase of 16.4 per cent compared to the year-ago period, according to the latest payroll data.

The provisional payroll data of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) released on Sunday showed that the EPFO had added 12.54 lakh net subscribers during December 2020. The net subscriber addition in December has increased by 19.98 per cent as compared to November 2021, a Labour Ministry statement said. The net subscriber addition in November 2021 was revised downwards to 12.17 lakh from 13.95 lakh provisional estimates released in January 2022. Of the total 14.60 lakh net subscribers added in December, 2021, 9.11 lakh new members have been enrolled under EPF & MP Act, 1952 for the first time.

Approximately 5.49 lakh net subscribers exited but rejoined EPFO by opting to continue their membership with EPFO by transferring their PF accumulations from previous to present PF account instead of opting for final withdrawal. Further, it stated that the num-

EXPLAINED
E. Highest enrolment

THE AGE-GROUP of 22-25 years registered the highest number of net enrolments with 3.87 lakh additions during December 2021. The age-group of 18-21 also registered a healthy addition of around 2.97 lakh net enrolments

ber of members exiting EPFO has been on a declining trend since July, 2021.

According to the data, the age-group of 22-25 years registered the highest number of net enrolments with 3.87 lakh additions during December 2021. The age-group of 18-21 also registered a healthy addition of around 2.97 lakh net enrolments. The age-groups of 18-25 years have contributed around 46.89 per cent of total net subscriber additions in December, 2021. This indicates that many first-time job seekers are joining the organised sector workforce in large numbers. A state-wise comparison of payroll figures highlighted that the establishments in Maharashtra, Haryana, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are in lead by adding approximately 8.97 lakh subscribers during the month. **WITH PTI**

INTERVIEW WITH FINANCE MINISTER, TAMIL NADU

'Power being taken from states to the Union, creating complexity'

TAMIL NADU Finance Minister PALANIVEL THIAGA RAJAN said in an interview to SUNNY VERMA that the Centre has, over the past seven years, steadily increased its control over state governments' spending power, which is leading to a lot of inefficiencies. Edited excerpts:

On Centre-state fiscal relations

I'll give you some history... The problem begins with a fundamental, anti-federal, anti-state, authoritarian approach of Delhi. It's an old saying in politics that where you stand depends on where you sit, implying that where you stand on the issues based on whether you sit in Opposition, in the House or out on the street, etc. That saying cannot be more apt, there's a classic example for that saying being true, which is our current Prime Minister (Narendra Modi). As a Chief Minister, he was the greatest champion of states' rights, most vocal, even may be overshadowing Jayalalithaa (former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister) herself. Since he has become Prime Minister, it has gone 180 degrees. It is not possible to change any more dramatically than that. Complete, complete opposite, completely decimating states' rights in every way: in money, management, micro-management, Centrally-sponsored schemes, in every way. This is, by far, the most authoritarian power grab in the history of India.

Directly, directly, directly — it couldn't be more directly — in contrast to every word he spoke for states' rights when he was



Palanivel Thiaga Rajan

PTI file

Chief Minister of Gujarat for 13 years. This is the underlying context. See, they do it bit by bit, bit by bit, insidious creeping. So, they started by ramping up the Centrally-sponsored schemes like crazy, up to Rs 4-6 lakh crore of direct benefits and Centrally-sponsored scheme transfers. They have this tendency to do publicity value, they are geniuses at marketing and very, very low moral character. That is, to say, they will start one scheme, they will say subsidy for X. At first, they will give 70 per cent, the state will give 30 per cent, and they will put the Prime Minister's picture and everything. Second year, they will give 50 per cent and say state puts 50 per cent. Third year, they will give 20 per cent, states give 80

per cent. Fourth year, they say state has to continue but we will give zero, right. It will still be called 'PM xyz scheme'. So, this is a kind of my name but your money kind of game.

State subjects

The next point is in the actual administration of things like dams, ports, roads, state boundaries, education, health, exams, cooperatives — all of these are states' subjects, 100 per cent state subjects, some of them concurrent list (of the Constitution) subjects. (They) bring an overarching legislation, ram it through Parliament with no debate, no committee, basically, take control of things that they have no business taking control of, which are completely antithetical to states'

rights. Now comes the really sad part. It is an undeniable tenet of democracy that the closer you are to the people, the more accountability is built into the system.

...So this is a fundamental tenet that if you have power and decision making allocated to the near-point to the people, then you can get accountability and increase the likelihood of delivery of results. If you take it far away from the people, you inherently have a problem because then be very difficult to have any connectivity between the decision maker and the beneficiaries of the decision. So this is the sad part as they keep taking the power more and more away from states and local bodies to the Union; they are inherently creating problems of complexity in two or three ways. One, they are reducing accountability of government to the people. Without involving the states and local bodies, they simply cannot effectuate policy. They don't have enough employees, they don't have data, and they don't have enough reach. If you empower yourself you can use it vindictively, you can use it negatively, you can cut off something — it's like a rope, you can use it to choke, strangle or hold somebody, but you cannot push on a rope. You

cannot create something by having a rope... Look at all the audit reports on Swachh Bharat, on *krishi kalyan*, they say the money goes, some toilets are built but there is no water supply. The water supply cannot be continuously monitored from Delhi, right, water supply is a municipal subject. It's not even a state subject.

So you build all this, but if there is no water supply, what happens is you've just wasted the money.

Centre's creative accounting

In the context of all this I say that, therefore, they have taken two accounting tricks, what I called as exquisitely creative accounting. Because of Article 293 (3), the previous AIADMK government,

which was a coalition partner of the BJP, never felt like taking it (the Centre's loan) because, at that time, it was very clear that it was just bait, because the amounts were trivial, around Rs 300 crore or 500

crore for Tamil Nadu... in that immediately even the previous regime saw the concern that they would use this to trigger Article 293 (3), because it is not repayable in advance. It locks you for 50 years.

You know, and I know, how to do time value of money. So, if I give you Rs 100 today and, I say, pay it

back to me as two rupees a year for the next 50 years. Effectively, in today's money, you are only paying back about Rs 15 or 20, because 50 years from now two rupees is worth nothing, because of inflation. So at some level, the difference between a 50-year, not interest payable, equal instalment repayment loan and a grant is not that big... But the difference being why should they say not pre-payable, then we start questioning the intent.

Why should it be in the Union's interest that you cannot prepay? On what logic does it make sense? What purpose is served by not allowing prepayment? If I'm the lender, I should be the happiest if it's prepaid because I'm getting it in advance where it actually means something. Prepayment should have been in the interest of the borrower by a lot, by a margin of thousand, but when it's not allowed the question arises if there is an ulterior motive here.

(When our government came into office) and we had this discussion, it was very clear that the AIADMK had taken that stand, and I thought if even the AIADMK have figured that out, we should follow too. And there is a different issue, a Rs 300 crore loan doesn't do anything much for a state like Tamil Nadu, where annual budget that time was probably Rs 3 lakh crore and capital expenditure well north of Rs 30,000 crore. So, an additional Rs 300 crore is less than 1 per cent of capex.

FULL INTERVIEW ON
www.indianexpress.com

Promoting trade strategy: Commerce dept revamp on the cards

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

THE GOVERNMENT is planning to revamp the commerce department which will have a more coherent trade promotion strategy with clear targets and execution accountabilities, an official statement said on Sunday.

Under the plan, there is a proposal to set up a dedicated trade promotion body and a trade remedies review committee. The Commerce Ministry added there will be a strengthened negotiation ecosystem with right expertise and robust end-to-end processes with clearly defined focus areas and institutions in the revamped department. "It aspires to achieve an optimal mix of talent with specialists and generalists sourced from across private and government sectors. The department will have an agile setup responsive to market opportunities and exporter needs via interlinkages across bodies. There will also be synergized branding for India across all domains highlighting clear priority areas," it said.

It added that the revamping is aimed at further building on its strategic direction and aspirations for the next decade. **WITH PTI**

'Biz mix tweak will see LIC becoming more competitive'

Amendments to the surplus/profit distribution rules for IPO-bound LIC will pose strong competition to private players, according to a Credit Suisse report



Reuters

SBI LIFE, ICICI Prudential, HDFC Life and Max Life will face the maximum impact of the LIC move

LIC'S MARGIN has gone by up 700 bps to 9.9 per cent after government amended LIC's surplus/profit distribution rules which allows it to make a 10 per cent shift in the business mix from participating policies to non-participating policies, which is only 4 per cent now, which can take its margins to 20 per cent

BASED ON the assumption a full transition to new surplus distribution from 100 per cent for non-participating policies now and 10 per cent for participating policies

A PARTICIPATING (par) insurance policy provides both guaranteed and non-guaranteed benefits to policyholders in the form of bonus or dividend payouts, while a non-participating (non-par) policy typically provides guaranteed benefits to policyholders, but they do not receive profit or dividend payments

CURRENTLY, LIC just has 4 per cent of its new business premium coming in from non-participating policies, while the same is for its top five private sector peers range from 20 to 45 per cent

Source: Credit Suisse/PTI

'Ashok Leyland looking at separate EV plant'

New Delhi: Ashok Leyland plans to set up a new manufacturing facility in the country to roll out electric vehicles, according to a top company official.

The Chennai-based firm has also lined up a Rs 500 crore investment to develop powertrains based on alternative fuels like CNG, hydrogen and electric for its commercial vehicles range.

The company has already announced a USD 200 million (nearly Rs 1,500 crore) investment through its UK-based arm Switch Mobility for electric mobility.

The commercial vehicle company aims to expand its electric vehicle portfolio as well as develop new engines keeping in mind the

"We feel quite comfortable that for the immediate, let's say, 24 months or so. Ashok Leyland would be able to provide electric products that are needed for Switch"

DHEERAJ HINDUJA
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, ASHOK LEYLAND

changing market requirements in the domestic as well as international markets.

"In Spain, we are coming up with a manufacturing facility and R&D centre and there are plans to grow this over the next few years. In India, we will be optimising the

facilities that are available with Ashok Leyland.

"But I'm sure very soon we will require an independent facility as well. And that is something that is being looked at by the management team," Ashok Leyland Executive Chairman Dheeraj Hinduja told PTI in an interaction.

Asked if the company has set some timeframe for the new plant, he noted that a lot will depend on the volume growth of electric vehicles.

"We are looking at all the opportunities and options available, so that capacity never becomes an issue if the market requires more products. So, I wouldn't put a date to it right now. But we are keeping

all our alternatives and options open," Hinduja stated.

He noted that at the moment, the company feels quite comfortable regarding the production capacity for the next two years.

"We feel quite comfortable that for the immediate, let's say, 24 months or so. Ashok Leyland would be able to provide the electric products that are needed for Switch," Hinduja noted.

On the company's EV product plans, he said Dost and Bada Dost models would be utilised to cater to the domestic and the SAARC markets. "We are looking at Q4 of 2022 to be able to start production of our electric LCV from Switch's perspective," Hinduja stated. **PTI**

INTERVIEW WITH INDIA MANAGING DIRECTOR AND VICE-PRESIDENT, NXP SEMICONDUCTORS

'Chip manufacturing: India needs high capex, political will'

STANDING ON the cusp of foraying into manufacturing and fabrication of semiconductor chips, the country — apart from the sustained high capital expenditure investment — will also need a strong political will and the right partners globally to ensure that the plan is successful, SANJAY GUPTA, India managing director and a vice-president at NXP Semiconductors, said in an interview with AASHISH ARYAN. Edited excerpts:

There have been plans in the past as well for semiconductor manufacturing. They have not worked. As an industry leader, what do you think is different this time?

One big difference is that the industry this time is kept in loop

on major decisions. On every critical juncture, they are keeping us involved, be it on decisions, suggestions. The setting up of India Semiconductor Mission was one of the suggestions from an industry body and that has been done. The government has been receptive of new ideas this time.

What are the three major challenges that lie ahead for India's semiconductor mission?

Semiconductor manufacturing is a near-impossible goal. I say it is near-impossible because, of the 200-odd countries, only a handful have the semiconductor manufacturing capabilities at high level. So, it must be something ex-



Sanjay Gupta

tremely difficult, or everyone would have easily done it. The entry barrier to the indus-

try is one of the biggest challenges. No industry matches the kind of investment that is required for semiconductor manufacturing. It is a capital intensive investment and, that too, for a long run. It has to be patiently run for multiple years before any result starts coming in. We are talking a multi-billion dollar investment into the fabrication units. So, you need the right partners who have patience and the right vision for the long term mission.

The second is that being a very niche technology company, there is very limited talent base across the world. If we talk about how many semiconductor experts are there in the country, it will be a handful of people of India who have deep knowledge

of the industry, accumulated over decades.

The story is the same when it comes to finding talent in semiconductor design. Although India is the largest nation for providing semiconductor talent to all the big companies globally, the reality is that the global talent base for this industry is very small. The availability of talent is the second challenge.

Third challenge is scaling up of the plan and putting in the right foundation in place. Skill India and Startup India will be very crucial for India to gain the theoretical and practical knowledge. India has no dearth of talent when it comes to semiconductor design. I cannot think of a country which does not have a design

space in India.

Another challenge, apart from these, is the political will. Such a massive effort requires that involvement of masses and the government has to take that initiative.

Does the government's assurance of providing support for semiconductor talent help when it comes to talent?

If you need to build a toy from 10 Lego blocks and only two are in the right place and nobody is working on the rest of the eight blocks, you work in isolation. Some of the activities in silos would be successful but, by and large, as a project it will fail. That was the case in India in the past. Today, all the stakeholders have a

common goal.

This will result in a big success in time to come.

Would NXP be open to investing in India?

Multi-billion dollar investments are very crucial to any company. The government of India has reached out to us and we are discussing it at various levels. India is one of the largest design centres for NXP globally. We have roughly 3,000 engineers working at our four locations: Noida, Pune, Bangalore and Hyderabad. All the people are working on cutting-edge technologies.

As long as we continue to innovate and deliver, we will continue to grow, both as a design centre and as a country.

Shahbaz, Abhishek script Bengal triumph

PRATYUSH RAJ
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

AFTER BEING rolled over for 88 in the first innings, Bengal pulled off a come-from-behind win against Baroda in Cuttack. Chasing 349 on the fourth day, Bengal rode on the duo of Shahbaz Ahmed (71 not out) and debutant wicketkeeper Abhishek Porel (53 not out), who stitched an unbroken 108-run partnership for the seventh wicket to steer their team home.

Bengal's deputy sports minister and former skipper Manoj Tiwary showed his experience with a fighting 37 from 61 balls. Reeling at 242 for 6, Bengal unearthed a future star in the 19-year-old Abhishek, who showed utmost maturity and matched his senior partner, Shahbaz.

The duo sealed the victory in 91.3 overs. Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Bengal head coach Arun Lal said: "Terrific performance, the wicket was extremely difficult to bat on as it was overcast and the wicket stayed moist till lunch."

Lal heaped praise on Shahbaz and Porel. He said, "Shahbaz has an unbelievable cricket brain and remained calm under pressure. Abhishek Porel is a special talent, an out and out match-winner. Now the momentum is with us, and we hope to play good cricket in the tournament."

Bengal skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran praised both the batters and bowlers for the remarkable comeback.

"Every player has contributed to the cause, as the batters have shown character the bowlers have done commendable jobs too," Easwaran said.

"It's about believing in the hard work that we have put in. The best part is even when we had 349 runs to chase, every single member of the team believed that we can do the job.

"Shahbaz has batted with a lot of responsibility, special mention to Abhishek Porel- the character he showed, the attitude he was batting with was great to watch," the skipper added.

BRIEF SCORES: Baroda: 181 and 255 lost to Bengal 88 and 350/6 in 91.3 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 79, Shahbaz Ahmed 71 not out, Abhishek Porel 53 not out; Abhimanyusingh Rajput 3/73) by 4 wickets

"Every single member of the team believed we can do the job. Shahbaz has batted with a lot of responsibility, special mention to Abhishek Porel- the character he showed, the attitude he was batting with was great to watch,"
ABHIMANYU EASWARAN,
CAPTAIN, BENGAL

My job is to bail my team out of trouble: Shahrukh

TN & Punjab Kings batsman reflects on maiden first-class ton vs Delhi and call-up to India squad for ODI series against West Indies

PRATYUSH RAJ
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

THREE YEARS ago, batting at the nets in Mohali, Shahrukh Khan was hit on the wrist by a rising delivery from T Natarajan. Then Tamil Nadu coach Hrishikesh Kanitkar, assistant coach Lakshminipathy Balaji and senior player Dinesh Karthik, watching from the sidelines, rushed towards the youngster, who seemed in sheer pain.

Later in the evening, Kanitkar told this reporter, "I've never seen anyone hit the cricket ball cleaner than this kid. You will hear a lot about him in the coming years."

Karthik, too, chipped in, "Coach is absolutely right, what a fearless stroke-player, and you should take his interview instead of mine. He is a future star."

Shubman Gill stole the limelight in that match with a sublime 268, while Shahrukh only scored 19 in the first innings and remained unbeaten on 11 in the second.

Both Kanitkar and Karthik were right about Shahrukh's talent. In 33 List A games, his strike rate is 128.62, while in T20s, he scores at 136.40. In the 2021 Indian Premier League auction, Punjab Kings bought him for Rs 5.25 crore, and the franchise bought him back a year later for Rs 9 crore, up from a base price of Rs 40 lakh.

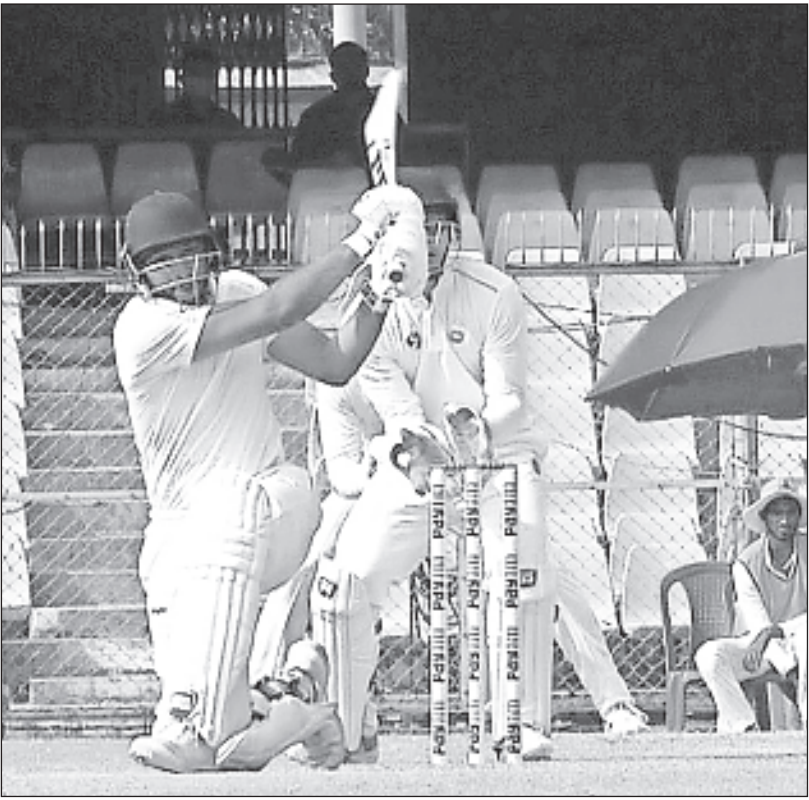
On Saturday, the 26-year-old middle-order batsman showed his prowess in the red-ball format with a magnificent 148-ball 194 that ensured the first innings lead for Tamil Nadu against Delhi in their Ranji Trophy encounter.

It was Shahrukh's maiden first-class century, and the 10 sixes he hit was just a gentle reminder of why so many franchises were bidding fiercely for him during the recent IPL mega auction.

For Shahrukh, personal milestones don't matter as long as he bails his team out of a crisis, regardless of the format of the game. "In limited-overs cricket, my job is to finish the game for the team, and it is same with the red ball too. We were under pressure, and my job was to bail the team out of the situation," Shahrukh tells *The Indian Express*.

Tamil Nadu was tottering at 162 for 5, when Shahrukh came to bat at No 7. He soaked up the pressure and put on 134 runs for the sixth wicket with Baba Indrajith (117). Then he added 178 runs with wicket-keeper Narayanswami Jagadeesan, who chipped in with a 50 off 71 balls while enjoying his partner's belligerence from the non-striker's end.

"Personal milestones don't matter to me a lot. My job was to get the team to pass the score of 452. That was the target. I am happy that I could take the team to a first innings



Shahrukh Khan struck some lusty blows but fell six runs short of a double ton. *BCCI*

lead. The more I try and contribute to the team's success, my personal goals will also be achieved in that process," says Shahrukh.

He fell six short of converting his maiden first-class century into a double but put Tamil in front with his imperious knock. Shahrukh controlled his natural instinct initially, taking only calculated risks.

"I don't generally curb my natural instincts. If the ball is there to hit, I will hit it. But when six fielders are on the rope, there is no point in taking on the bowler. I was playing my natural game, hitting the bad balls, but I was calculating at the same time," says Shahrukh.

"Vikas Mishra (6/108) was bowling really well; he had a mid-on and long-off, half-way outside the 30 yards. They were not exactly on the boundary line. I respected the way he bowled, and credit goes to him. But if the field is up, I will go over the top; that's the only way I've played my cricket since my Under-13 days," he adds.

India call-up in good month

It is turning out to be an excellent month for the Tamil Nadu batsman. He was added to the Indian squad for the first ODI against West Indies after a few players were found

Covid-19 positive. It was followed by a million-dollar-plus IPL contract, and now a maiden first-class century.

"All the hard work is slowly paying off," he says. Shahrukh looks back fondly at his time in the India dressing room. "It was special. When the team was announced, and I saw my name was not there, I said, 'it is okay, let's prepare for the Ranji Trophy.' But when the call came up, I was stunned and happy at the same time."

Sharing the dressing room with Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma has changed his approach to the game.

"The energy and vibe in that dressing room is so refreshing. To be among the few selected bunch of players from across the country is pretty special. For a new kid like me, it was refreshing to see the way they go through their processes.

"Virat (Kohli) and Rohit (Sharma) have scored so many runs for India, but they will never skip a net session. The passion remains the same in each session. Their professionalism is a reminder for me that there is no substitute for hard work. It was surreal to see them putting inn those hard yards day in and day out. This stint gave me so much confidence," Shahrukh adds.

After two tons on debut, Dhull sets goal: *Play for India in two years*

PRATYUSH RAJ
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

AFTER LEADING India to their fifth Under-19 World Cup earlier this month, **Yash Dhull (r)** began his senior career with a century in each innings of his Ranji Trophy debut. The 19-year-old followed his 113 against Tamil Nadu with an unbeaten 113 on Sunday. He is only the third Indian — after Nari Contractor for Gujarat in 1952/53 and Virag Awate for Maharashtra in 2012/13 — to score a hundred in each innings on his Ranji Trophy debut.

Delhi were reeling at 7 for 2 on day one when Dhull, opening for the first time in his career, showed remarkable maturity to bail the team out of trouble and help them to 452. However, his thunder was stolen by Shahrukh Khan, who got Tamil Nadu the first innings lead with a sensational 194 off 148 balls.

Dhull on the final day with Dhruv Shorey (107 off 165) batted for 60.5 overs to take Delhi to 228 for no loss in the second innings. Dhull completed his century with a classical cover drive off Shahrukh Khan and followed it with a four and six before the players shook hands for a draw.

Delhi coach Raj Kumar Sharma feels that the youngster should be fast-tracked into the Indian team. "He is ready to take the next step. He has got the temperament to excel at the senior level," he said.

Assistant coach Gursharan Singh, a former India batter, said: "Both the innings were top notch. On the first day, he showed exceptional maturity and batted according to the team's requirements, but today he displayed the other side of his game. It was a flawless inning."

Unfazed by the adulation, Dhull is already focussing on the next match against Jharkhand, starting from February 24.

"India khelna hai magar filhaal baaki ke dono matches pe focus hai (I want to play for India, but right now, the focus is on the remaining matches)," Dhull told this paper.

"I have set myself a goal that I will play senior India in the next 18 to 24 months. Till now, it has been a dream ride, but hard work will begin now. I will have to score bucket-loads of runs to get there. From tomorrow, I will start training for the match against Jharkhand. The thumb rule of cricket is to take one game at a time," added Dhull, who had scored 229 runs in four innings at an av-



erage of 76.33 and strike rate of 85.44 in the U-19 World Cup.

BRIEF SCORES: Delhi 1st innings: 452 all out and 228 for no loss in 60.5 overs (Yash Dhull 113 not out; Dhruv Shorey 107 not out) vs Tamil Nadu 1st innings 494 all out in 107.5 overs. *Match drawn*

Pujara hits 83 ball-91

Less than 24 hours after being dropped from the India Test squad, Cheteshwar Pujara struck an uncharacteristic 83-ball 91 for Saurashtra in their Ranji Trophy match against Mumbai here on Sunday.

Thematch ended in a draw with Saurashtra making 372 for nine in their second innings on the fourth and final day. Saurashtra were only 48 runs ahead when the stumps were drawn but the lack of time meant Mumbai could not go for an outright victory. So the record 41-time winners settled for three points from the game for taking the first-innings lead while defending champions Saurashtra bagged one.

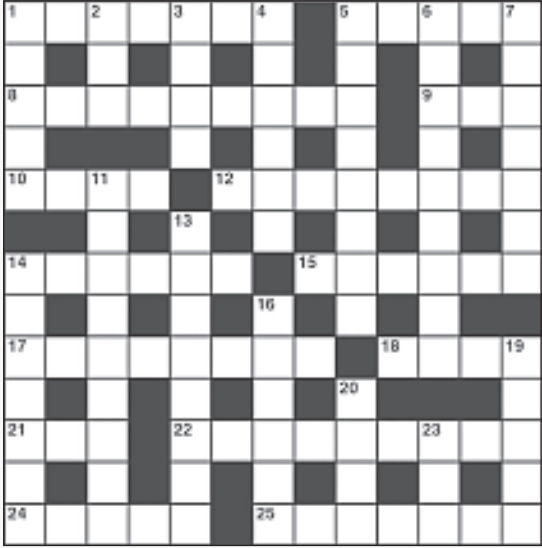
Bowling his slow left-arm spin to good effect, Shams Mulani returned career-best figures of 7/114, adding to his four wickets in the Saurashtra first innings.

On Saturday, senior batters Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane were dropped from the two-match Test series against Sri Lanka, starting from March 4 in Mohali after an inconsistent run.

The seasoned Pujara has managed just 602 runs at 24.08 in 14 Tests over the last one year. Pujara, who last scored a Test century on the 2018-19 tour of Australia, got out for a duck in the first innings of this match.

PTI

CROSSWORD 4669



ACROSS

- Sharing out a bit of parsley perhaps (7)
- Cook beats a mixture (5)
- A wildcat rising? (9)
- A record height to climb (3)
- But they could be even for the better (4)
- It's held back in the race to beat one (8)
- A way to achieve new spirit (6)
- Neglectful about a single one (6)
- Mother is composing a line to the weatherman (8)
- Raw recruit found in ruins of Troy (4)
- First person Gregory takes to heart (3)
- Unwilling cattle run amok (9)
- It may be drawn or sucked up (5)
- In France medic is ordered to treat such disease (7)

DOWN

- Actress's dress ring (5)
- Cage component (3)
- Lied in order to be lazy (4)
- The full extent of the rise (6)
- Members of a musical group (8)
- The property of the firm (9)
- Quick to speak (7)
- Not to pay a cheque results in disgrace (9)
- Recall having a tie (8)
- Motoring clubs? (7)
- Metal grating to cook eggs initially (6)
- Softly in the ear or in the eye (5)
- Sharp appearance of a police force (4)
- I am out to gain an objective (3)

Solutions Crossword 4668: Across: 1 Singular, 5 Jack, 9 Error, 10 Oration, 11 Single person, 13 Lights, 14 Jousts, 17 Reading glass, 20 Chianti, 21 Goals, 22 Long, 23 Cretonne. Down: 1 Step, 2 Nursing, 3 Upright piano, 4 Atoned, 6 Amiss, 7 Kindness, 8 Take to flight, 12 Clerical, 15 Sustain, 16 Uglier, 18 Alien, 19 Isle.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

— at — first, before anyone else can — **Elsa Maxwell (5, 8)**

PAEOR



DLNUUY



SLILY



OTUFGH



SUDOKU 4752

Difficulty Level 4s

Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4751



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Venus has been conferring on you all the strength you need to determine the pace of events and deal with complex issues. If it suits your plans, you may now coast along and wait for those who are less sure of themselves to recover from whatever troubles them.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

A number of planetary changes are on the way, and you can be confident that whatever has been bothering you is soon to be resolved. Determined action may be necessary to shift a log-jam, though. I am sure you have it in you to give whatever it takes.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You are probably beginning to feel as if you are driven along by forces beyond your control. Today is likely to bring an emotional phase and there is nothing to be gained from concealing your true feelings. But, then, you've probably learnt that by now.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

There is no point in pretending that professional success does not matter to you. You must still be prepared to face certain harsh situations head-on, confident in the understanding that whatever the outcome, your long-term interests are being protected.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Stay one step ahead of the planets and turn your attention to your professional hopes and ambitions. Whether you are directly involved in impending changes or not, this may come to be one of the most rewarding and exciting periods you have ever experienced.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Now that Mercury, a planet with a special meaning in your life, is about to adjust its position, you should attempt to stand well back and see the overall direction of your life rather than the personal conflicts or upsets which have so often preoccupied you.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

A number of important planets are beginning to relax their grip on your sign, and what once seemed like a nightmare or the end of the world, will now begin to look more like a blessing in disguise. This week's lunar alignments, though, will push you back on to the right course.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

It often happens that several planets shift their positions at the same time, and this is when your mood is likely to swing from one extreme to another. The trick is to remain alert to the ebb and flow of fortune, and stay in tune intuitively with the developing planetary harmonies.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

The current period, in which partners seem to be taking the lead with more confidence, is now destined to intensify. This is why co-operation must be your priority if you are not prepared to risk a split. And, if you are, then you must be aware of what you're letting yourself in for.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

You know well enough that you have a wonderfully practical side to your character, and deep down this is why you realise that certain involvements have had their day. It may be time to make a break, perhaps a psychological one, with past personal associations.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

It seems very much as if you will only have yourself to blame if a professional relationship turns sour. Perhaps the message is that you should concentrate on home and family duties more than in the past, and not let worldly pressures intervene so much.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You are approaching a phase in which discussions and negotiations will be crucial to the success or failure of your plans. It will not be enough merely to follow your intuition or do something 'because it feels right'. You need to have some backing from the facts as well.

12 SPORT

TOWNS LOOMS LARGE IN 3-POINT CONTEST

Karl-Anthony Towns made big men proud when he was the winner of the NBA All-Star Weekend's 3-Point Contest on Saturday night at Cleveland. It was a record point total for a final round when Towns, who plays for the Minnesota Timberwolves, posted 29 points. The 7-footer became the first center ever to win the contest.

REUTERS

BRIEFLY

EPL title race back on as Kane sinks City

Manchester: Harry Kane, the striker Manchester City wanted to sign in the offseason last year consigned the leaders to their first league loss in nearly four months by scoring twice for Tottenham in a dramatic 3-2 win on Saturday. His second — the winning goal — came in the fifth minute of stoppage time. Kane celebrating scoring goals at Etihad Stadium was something City fans thought they'd enjoy seeing this season. By Wednesday, City could find its lead over Liverpool down to just three points. Liverpool trimmed the gap to six on Saturday courtesy of a come-from-behind 3-1 victory over Norwich and is also at home to Leeds in four days' time. And Liverpool still has to go to City, in April.

AP

Indian boxers handed tricky draws

Sofia: Indian boxers were handed tricky draws at the Strandja Memorial even as Nikhat Zareen will begin her campaign in the quarterfinals. Sumit and Anjali Tushir are set to face tough opponents in their opening-round bouts. Zareen has received a bye in the 52kg opening round. Apart from Zareen, Nandini (+81kg) is another Indian boxer to feature directly in the last-8 stage. In the 66kg category, Tushir will face a stiff challenge from two-time World Championships medallist Russia's Saadat Dalgatova in the opening round. Among men, the 2021 World Championships bronze medallist Akash Kumar has been given a bye in the 67kg opening round.

PTI

BFC, Odisha face off in must-win game

Bambolim: Bengaluru FC and Odisha FC will lock horns in a must-win game for both the teams in the ISL, here on Monday. Bengaluru are sixth in the points table with 23 points from 17 games, four adrift of fourth-placed Kerala Blasters. Odisha are a spot below them at seventh position having 22 points from 17 encounters. The Blues saw their nine-game unbeaten streak coming to a halt against leaders Hyderabad and then suffered another defeat to lowly NorthEast United FC, derailing their fresh hopes of a semifinal berth to a certain extent. When it comes to open play, Odisha have scored 21 goals from open play, more than half of the goals.

PTI

Paltan to lock horns vs Yoddha in Eliminator

Bengaluru: Puneri Paltan will lock horns with UP Yoddha in the first Eliminator match of Pro Kabaddi League on Monday. Pune clinched the sixth position on the table with a last-day victory against Jaipur Pink Panthers and will be looking to carry that momentum into the Eliminator phase. UP Yoddha won't be pushovers having registered third-place with a flawless end to the league stages. Pardeep Narwal and Surrender Gill have led the Yoddha attack and they will be keen on clinching a win that will set up a semi-final date with league-toppers Patna Pirates.

PTI

WI flattened by bench press

India showcase strength in depth to register another 3-0 sweep against hapless tourists



For Rohit Sharma, this was his third successive clean-sweeps of opponents as captain, post taking over the job from Virat Kohli.

PTI

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 20

Yet again, the penultimate over of the game proved to be the clincher for India, like the second T20I. The West Indies kept losing wickets right from the start but didn't ditch their merry hitting. After 18 overs, they were 154/7, chasing 185 for victory.

Romario Shepherd was keeping the tourists in the game, even after Nicholas Pooran got out for a 47-ball 61. Bhuvneshwar Kumar was sitting out this game as India rotated their pacers and Harshal Patel bowled the 19th over. The first four balls accounted for four runs, including a couple of leg-byes. Then, the medium pacer dismissed Shepherd, deceiving the batsman with change of pace and Rohit Sharma taking a superb diving catch at extra cover. India's catching in the third T20I was brilliant, two dropped chances notwithstanding. Patel's bowling effort was excellent. Just eight runs in his final over saw him return with figures of 3/22 from four overs.

A requirement of 23 in the final over of the game, with two wickets in hand, was beyond the tourists' reach. They finished at 167/9, losing the game by 17 runs and the series by a 0-3 margin. The Caribbeans would take home the disappointment of back-to-back clean sweeps, in the ODIs and T20Is. As for Sharma, after taking over the reins from Virat Kohli post the T20 World Cup, this was his third successive clean-sweeps as captain.

The hosts deserve even more credit for the fact that they became a bowler short in this game very early. Deepak Chahar started off by removing Kyle Mayers and Shai Hope, but while bowling the fifth ball of his second over, the seamer pulled up and hobbled off the field, holding his hip.

"The biggest take away in the ODIs was the middle order making it count. I was impressed with our seam bowling in ODIs. And even here. Harshal is new. Avesh is on debut. Shardul is in and out. So we wanted to see how the guys react and it was a good challenge to defend in both games against a quality West Indies team."

-ROHIT SHARMA
INDIAN TEAM CAPTAIN

Venkatash Iyer replaced him and stood up to be counted as a bowler, getting rid of Kieron Pollard and Jason Holder. India revelled in a perfect team performance. Everyone stepped up and raised his game. Shardul Thakur's catch to dismiss Rovman Powell brought the loudest cheer from a 20,000-odd turnout.

SKY's the limit

A club cricket old hand fell for Suryakumar Yadav's lap-swept six off Dominic Drakes, recalling Desmond Haynes during the conversation. Thirty-three years ago, at Eden Gardens, he had seen the former West Indies opener going down on one knee and sweeping Wasim Akram for a six over the fine leg boundary in the Nehru Cup final. To him, Yadav's shot against the West Indies fast bowler on Sunday offered a throwback.

For someone who is not a T20 nerd, not being aware of one of Yadav's signature shots in this format was understandable. Modern-day fans are used to the batsman's 360-degree cricket. In fact, Yadav's first six in T20Is came from a lap-sweep, against England's Jofra Archer.

On a used pitch where a new-look

Indian top order struggled for timing and even Sharma didn't get going. Yadav brought out all his innovations, in company of Venkatash, to take the game away from the West Indies. From 93/4 after 14 overs, India went on a rampage at the back-end of their innings, posting 184/5.

The real transition, and challenge, for the Indian team would come in a few years from now, when their batting royalty, Sharma and Virat Kohli, walk into a golden sunset.

By then, though, Yadav should be at the forefront to take over the mantle. His 31-ball 65, including seven sixes, was resplendent in his audacity. Even more eye-catching was his leadership qualities in the middle, the way he guided Venkatash during an unbroken 91-run fifth wicket partnership off 37 balls. Yadav's command unnerved the West Indies bowlers, as they lost the plot and played into the batsmen's hands.

Talking about Yadav's innovations, the lap-sweep was a starter. He took a six off Drakes over third man despite losing the bottom hand, opening the bat-face very late and timing the ball sweetly.

Mumbai Indians retained the 31-year-old for Rs 6 crore. They bought Ishan Kishan for Rs 15.25 crore at the auction. No disrespect to the latter, but IPL auctions sometimes can make a mockery of cricketing logic.

Yadav was adjudged the Man-of-the-Match and Man-of-the-Series. He can build the innings and at the same time, go ballistic.

"It was important to stay till the end when Rohit got out. We had a chat in our team meetings as well as to how we are going to react in such situations. I try to stay there till the end. Be a little harsh on yourself in the nets, that's it," he said at the post-match presentation.

Impressive Iyer

Spare a thought for Venkatash whose performance has been steady and effective in this series.

An upright stance and a clean swing of the bat serve well for the youngster in the shortest format, especially on pitches that have a bit of bounce. He scored 35 not out off 19 balls, hitting four fours and two sixes. The West Indies bowlers offered him several hit-me deliveries but those still had to be put away. The way he picked up a slower delivery from Shepherd, sat deep in the crease and walloped it over the deep square leg fence attested intelligence.

Venkatash embellished his batting performance with 2/23 from 2.1 overs, the type of all-round show his team has been searching for.

With the series already in the bag, the hosts made four changes to their playing eleven. Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shreyas Iyer and Thakur came in, while Avesh Khan made his debut. The decision to open with Gaikwad and Kishan followed by Iyer at No. 3 was top-class leadership from Sharma. The skipper gave the youngsters the best positions to prosper, dropping himself down the order.

Gaikwad's four off Holder showcased his talent, but he perished soon after, closing the bat-face a little early. Kishan and Iyer got out after getting in. India's bench strength has been well documented. But the team management would take heart from the fact that India successfully defended totals in consecutive matches. A relatively inexperienced batting line-up responding positively to pressure situations was a big takeaway.

BRIEF SCORES: India 184 for 5 in 20 overs (Suryakumar Yadav 65, Venkatash Iyer 35 not out; Roston Chase 1/23) defeated West Indies 167 for 9 in 20 overs (Nicholas Pooran 61; Harshal Patel 3/22) by 17 runs.

CLOSING CEREMONY

Beijing pulls off a safe Winter Olympics in the midst of global pandemic

TED ANTHONY

BEIJING, FEBRUARY 20

A PILE of figure-skating rubble created by Russian misbehavior. A new Chinese champion — from California. An ace American skier who faltered and went home empty-handed. The end of the Olympic line for the world's most renowned snowboarder. All inside an anti-COVID "closed loop" enforced by China's authoritarian government.

The terrarium of a Winter Games that has been Beijing 2022 came to its end Sunday, capping an unprecedented Asian Olympic trifecta and sending the planet's most global sporting event off to the West for the foreseeable future, with no chance of returning to this corner of the world until at least 2030.

It was weird. It was messy and, at the same time, somehow sterile. It was controlled and calibrated in ways only Xi Jinping's China could pull off. And it was sequestered in a "bubble" that kept participants and the city around them — and, by extension, the sporadically watching world — at arm's length.

On Sunday night, Xi and International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach stood together as Beijing handed off to Milan-Cortina, site of the 2026 Winter Games. "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" kicked off a no-

tably Western-flavored show with Chinese characteristics as dancers with tiny, fiery snowflakes glided across the stadium in a ceremony that, like the opening, was headed by Chinese director Zhang Yimou.

Unlike the first pandemic Olympics in Tokyo last summer, which featured all but empty seats at the opening and closing, a modest but energetic crowd populated the seats of Beijing's "Bird's Nest" stadium. It felt somewhat incongruous — a show bursting with color and energy and enthusiasm and even joy, the very things that couldn't assert themselves inside authorities' COVID bubble.

By many mechanical measures, these Games were a success. They were, in fact, quite safe — albeit in the carefully modulated, dress-up-for-company way that authoritarian governments always do best. The local volunteers, as is usually the case, were delightful, helpful and engaging, and they received high-profile accolades at the closing.

"The Chinese people embraced these Games. Even in the closed loop, we could make this experience of excitement, of warmth, of hospitality and of friendliness," Bach said Friday. There was snow — most of it fake, some of it real. The venues — many of them, like the Bird's Nest and the Aquatic Center, harvested from the 2008 edition of the Beijing Olympics — performed to expectations. One new locale,



The Olympic Rings are illuminated at the closing ceremony.

AP

Big Air Shougang, carved from a repurposed steel mill, was an appealingly edgy mashup of winter wonderland and rust-belt industrial landscape. TV ratings were down, but streaming viewership was up: By Saturday, NBC had streamed 3.5 billion minutes from Beijing,

compared to 2.2 billion in South Korea in 2018.

There were no major unexpected logistical problems, only the ones created deliberately to stem the spread of COVID in the country where the coronavirus first emerged more than two years ago.

And stemmed it seemed to be. As of Saturday, the segregated system that effectively turned Beijing into two cities — one sequestered, one proceeding very much as normal — had produced only 463 positive tests among thousands of visitors entering the bubble since Jan. 23. Not surprisingly, the state-controlled media loved this.

"The success in insulating the event from the virus and keeping disruption to sports events to a minimum also reflected the effectiveness and flexibility of China's overall zero-COVID policies," the pro-government Global Times newspaper said, citing epidemiologists who say "the COVID-19 prevention experience accumulated from this Olympics can also inspire Chinese cities to adjust their policies."

Look deeper, though, and a different story emerges about these Games.

Internationally, many critiqued them as the "authoritarian Olympics" and denounced the IOC for holding them in concert with a government accused of gross human rights violations against ethnic Uyghurs and Tibetans in its far west and harsh policies against Hong Kong democracy activists off its southeastern coast. Several Western governments boycotted by not sending any official delegations, though they sent athletes. For its part, China denied such allegations, as it typically does, and featured a Uyghur as part of its slate of Olympic

Rustam Akramov, coach who gave int'l debut to Bhaichung, passes away

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

FORMER INDIAN football team coach Rustam Akramov, who introduced the legendary Bhaichung Bhutia to the international game in 1995 and took the Blue Tigers to their highest-ever FIFA ranking, has died at his native place in Uzbekistan.

He was 73.

The legendary Uzbek coach died on February 15, according to the official website of the National Olympic Committee of Uzbekistan.

"The National Olympic Committee of Uzbekistan, the Council of Sports Veterans of Uzbekistan express their condolences to the family and friends of Rustam Akramov in connection with his death," the Uzbekistan Olympic body said.

During his career, he made a huge contribution to the development of Uzbek and former Soviet football.

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) condoled the death of Akramov who was in charge of the national team from 1995 to 1997.

"We mourn the passing away of former India National Team head coach Rustam Akramov. May his soul rest in peace," the AIFF's official Twitter handle said.

Akramov did not have any major trophy to show for during his short tenure with the Indian team but it was he who gave then Sikkimese teenager — Bhaichung Bhutia — his debut in a Nehru Cup match against Thailand in March 1995.

Akramov helped Bhutia to shape up as a striker instead of playing as an attacking midfielder at club level. The Indian team under Akramov was full of great players like IM Vijayan, Carlton Chapman and Bruno Coutinho, besides a young Bhutia.

No wonder the Akramov-coached Indian team rose to 94th in the February 1996 FIFA rankings — its highest ever. The team came close to this achievement in 2017 and 2018 when it rose to 96th.

Born in 1948 at a place near Tashkent, Akramov was a legend in his country as he was the first coach of the Uzbek national team after independence. During his two-year tenure from 1992-1994, the Uzbek national team won the Hiroshima Asian Games (1994) and the Central Asian Championship.

For his great contribution to the development of Uzbek football, he was awarded the Shukhrat medal and the title of Honoured Coach of the Republic of Uzbekistan by the government. In 1970, he graduated from the football department of the Uzbek State Institute of Physical Culture as a coach. He also completed postgraduate studies at the Moscow Institute of Physical Culture.

He had coached clubs in Algeria and was on the coaching staff of the national team of that country. He was also the coach of the Tashkent Pakhtakor and youth team of Moscow CSKA. He later worked as AFC technical director and FIFA instructor.

Akramov helped Bhutia to shape up as a striker instead of playing as an attacking midfielder at club level. The Akramov-coached Indian team rose to 94th in the February 1996 FIFA rankings, its highest ever.

torch-carriers for the opening ceremony Feb. 4.

And then, of course, there were the Russians. And doping. Again. The 15-year-old Russian figure skater Kamila Valieva tested positive for using a banned heart medication. The result wasn't announced by anti-doping officials until after she'd won gold as part of the team competition, even though the sample was taken weeks earlier.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport cleared her to compete in the individual discipline, ruling that as a minor she had protected status. But Valieva, although heavily favored to win, fell several times during her free skate routine, landing her fourth place and prompting a cold reception from her embattled coach, Eteri Tutberidze. Valieva's Russian teammates took gold and silver, but on a night of drama, even the winners were in tears. The affair produced one possible legacy for Beijing: Valieva's ordeal has inspired talk of raising the minimum age for Olympic skaters from 15 to 17 or 18.

American skier Mikaela Shiffrin also came to Beijing with high expectations, only to see them dashed when she failed to finish three races. She left without any medal at all. In an image to remember, the TV cameras captured Shiffrin sitting dejectedly on the snow, head in hands, for several minutes.

AP