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By UNNY

There is only pre-power amble and post-power amble. No Preamble.

No let-up, Shah again: ‘With nation, or with Shaheen Bagh?’

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

HAVING GONE on the offensive in its Delhi poll campaign against those protesting over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, the BJP on Thursday tried to modulate its stand in the wake of the firing at Jamia Millia Islamia University. However, while Union Home Minister Amit Shah assured that “the culprit will not be spared”, at his election rally hours later, he reiterated that the February 8 elections were a battle between those who had conducted “surgical strikes” and “the supporters of Shaheen Bagh”.

The incident occurred two days after BJP MP and Minister of State, Finance, Anurag Thakur, exhorted the audience at his rally to target “traitors”. He repeated the slogan “*Desh ke gadaron ko*” several times, as the crowd responded with “*goli maaro saalon ko*”. On Thursday, Thakur, banned by the Election Commission from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

KASHMIRI PANDITS IN KASHMIR

Pandit colonies in Valley safe, fenced and gated: ‘It’s like dividing us again’



The transit accommodation at Sheikhpora in Budgam. Over 500 families live in this gated colony. Shuaib Masoodi

BASHAARAT MASOOD & NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
HAAL (PULWAMA), JAN 30

A HIGH concrete wall, topped by a metal sheet running over its entire length. Concertina wire provides the finishing touch. The gates are shut and bolted from inside. J&K police and Special Operations Group personnel guard the premises. Inside are rows of small identical single-storey homes with red sloping roofs and painted yellow windows, all pre-fab structures made of asbestos sheets.

It is a gated community even realtors would hesitate to promote, but this, and five others across Kashmir Valley — three of them concrete three-storeyed structures — are the most visible experiments of “re-

17-YR-OLD FIRES AT JAMIA ANTI-CAA PROTESTERS, SAYS ‘YEH LO AZADI’

2 days after goli maaro...



The gunman targets protesters near the Jamia Millia campus in Delhi, Thursday. His face is pixelated because he is under 18, as per records. Danish Siddiqui/Reuters

Jamia student shot at as 20 cops watch, Proctor says MoS Thakur is to blame

ARANYA SHANKAR, JIGNASA SINHA & SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

AS OVER 20 police personnel, including an SHO, watched, a youth fired at a protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act near Jamia Millia Islamia in Delhi on Thursday, leaving one student injured.

Later said to be 17 and a juvenile, the teenager brandished a gun at the protest site around 1.45 pm, and shouted slogans of “*Yeh lo azadi* (Here, take azadi)”, “*Desh mein jo rehna hoga, Vande Mataram kehna hoga* (If you want to stay in the country, you have to say Vande Mataram)”

and “Dilli Police zindabad”, before he fired. As he was being taken away by police, he identified himself as “Ram bhakt”.

The injured student, Shadab Farooq, belongs to Jammu & Kashmir and is a first-year student of mass communication at Jamia. He was part of the ‘Long March’ against the CAA planned by Jamia students from the university to Rajghat on Thursday, to mark Mahatma Gandhi’s assassination. Farooq sustained a bullet wound in his left forearm, and was taken to AIIMS for surgery.

The gunman, who was eventually overpowered by a single policeman, had posted about his intentions on Facebook, and kept putting up videos till the end.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Shadab Farooq was injured in the firing. Gajendra Yadav

INSIDE



THAKUR BANNED FROM CAMPAIGNING FOR 72 HOURS
FULL COVERAGE, [PAGES 4,5](#)

From his Facebook page: ‘Shaheen Bagh... khatam, Deepika will be beaten’

AMITAVACHAKRABORTY & SOURAV ROY BURMAN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

AROUND TWO hours before images of him brandishing a pistol at protesters outside Jamia Millia Islamia in Delhi flashed across television screens, the 17-year-old from Jewar in Uttar Pradesh’s Gautam Buddha Nagar district posted on Facebook, “Shaheen Bagh... *khel khatam* (the game’s over)”. This was among at least nine posts and seven Facebook Live videos he shared on the social networking site in the hours leading up to the incident.

The Facebook account, created in July 2018, was deactivated following the incident.

Another, older account of his, with a last post in May 2018, too was later deactivated. He has 3,626 ‘Friends’ in the new account and 504 in the older one.

It was the first known instance of Facebook Live being used by a gunman in India while carrying out an attack, and the company said it took down his accounts before any official police request.

The 17-year-old’s Facebook accounts offer a few clues about the man, including his claimed association with the Bajrang Dal and his fascination for guns. His profile picture has him with Deepak Sharma, against whom the Uttar Pradesh government invoked the National Security Act

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

IndiGo pilot who flew Kamra objects to ban, asks airline to clarify

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

PUTTING A question mark on the process by which IndiGo banned Kunal Kamra for six months, after the comedian confronted journalist Arnab Goswami on its Mumbai-Lucknow flight Tuesday, the pilot in charge has conveyed to the airline that he was “disheartened to learn that my airline has taken action in this case solely on the basis of social media posts, with no consultation whatsoever with the Pilot-in-Command”.

In his e-mail, Rohit Mateti, the pilot-in-command, describes the incident in detail and points out that while Kamra’s behaviour was “unacceptable and verbally abusive”, he complied with the crew’s instructions — and the offence “cannot be classified” even in the Level 1 category.

“While he did briefly display Level 1 traits for disruptive behaviour... he was also immediately compliant of crew instruction, was never issued a red warning card and hence cannot be classified as

ECONOMY



IN US, PASSENGER WOULD HAVE BEEN LOCKED UP: PURI
[PAGE 15](#)

such. Furthermore, in-line with the IndiGo SEP (security & emergency procedures) Manual guidelines for Disruptive Behaviour, the situation was defused, the passenger in question kept under observation and the cabin kept in lockdown for the duration of the flight. Hence, no further action on the part of the Cockpit Crew was required,” the pilot wrote.

The rules define three categories of unruly behaviour: Level 1 refers to behaviour that is verbally unruly, and calls for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

First positive corona case is Wuhan medical student from Kerala

SHAJU PHILIP & ABANTIKA GHOSH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE FIRST positive case of Novel Coronavirus in India has been detected, in Thrissur, Kerala. The patient, a 20-year-old medical student who just came back from Wuhan in China, has been kept in isolation and is stable.

Kerala Health Minister K K Shylaja said they were awaiting the result of one more test, gene sequencing, only after which it could be conclusively stated that she was affected with the virus.

Three others who had returned from China are also in isolation wards in Thrissur, the minister said. “A total of 20 samples were sent for testing to the



At the govt hospital, Thrissur, where patient is admitted. AP

National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune, of which 10 were found negative. But one has been found positive,” Shylaja told reporters, adding that the 20-year-old had reported to the hospital

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EVACUATION MAY START TODAY [PAGE 9](#)

NOTICE

STRIKE BY BANK STAFF ON 31ST JAN. & 1ST FEB. 2020

Multiple rounds of discussions have been held between the IBA Negotiating Committee and the United Forum of Bank Unions for the Wage Revision of Bank employees. In the meeting held on 30th January 2020, despite the revised offer of upto 19% hike including performance linked incentive made from IBA side, the Unions have unfortunately decided to go ahead with an all-India Bank strike on 31st January & 1st February 2020, to be followed by other agitational programmes.

During discussions, the conditions of business, paying capacity of Banks and consistent efforts by Banks at providing various types of benefits to the employees from time to time were explained but Unions are pressing for such demands which are not possible to be accepted. One such demand is for 5-day banking. It is known to all that the economy of the country is going through testing times. Banks being the principal players in economic development, cannot afford to provide lesser number of working days for banking activities. Our country already has one of the highest number of public holidays than any other country and adding 26 more holidays would create more problems for the public.

For the convenience of the customers, Banks will keep alternative channels available and customers can utilise these alternate/digital channels of banking 24x7 for day to day banking.

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Indian Banks' Association
Website: www.iba.org.in

Date: 31.01.2020

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WHO IS THE GUNMAN BEHIND JAMIA SHOOTING?

Hours before the incident the assailant shared multiple posts on the platform in which he boasted he was the 'only true Hindu' at the protest site

EXPLAINED



JOBS CRISIS IN THE COUNTRY

Is push to organised manufacturing the answer to the crisis?

TECH REVIEW



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EXPRESS AUDIO

Understanding the Bodo Accord

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FROM PAGE ONE

Facebook page

in 2018 for allegedly instigating Sharda University students against Afghan collegemates.

Among the several Facebook pages the 17-year-old has 'liked' are of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and 'Manoj Tiwari for Delhi CM'.

Recently, he had been posting extensively on events surrounding the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. The Facebook Live videos, shot minutes before the incident, show him walking past protesters, occasionally looking down into his phone camera. The posts, in Hindi, talk of revenge and "turning Shaheen Bagh into Jallianwala Bagh".

Minutes before he pulled out his pistol, he wrote, "Koi Hindu media nahi hain yaha (There is no Hindu media here)" and "Myha akela hindu hu (I am the only Hindu here)", followed by muscle-flexing emojis.

Some of his other posts said, "Azadi de rha hu (I am giving you freedom)", "mere antim yatra par... mujhe bhagwa mein le jaye... aur jai Shri Ram kenare ho (In my final journey... take me in saffron... and let there be chants of Jai Shri Ram)", and "mere ghar ka dhyani rakhma (Take care of my family)".

On January 28, he posted, "Attention, kindly do not gloss over my posts till January 31" with folded hands emojis. On January 11, he wrote in a post, "I am also a BJP supporter but for me country comes first, party and its leaders are secondary".

In a post uploaded on January 7, the day actor Deepika Padukone visited JNU in solidarity with the protesting students, he threatens her and warns that her film, *Chhapaak*, will flop. "Deepika Padukone pel diye jaoge, bhakto ko jante nahi ho, Salman Khan se pucch lo Dabaang-3 ki lagat bhi wasool nahi hui (You will be beaten up, you don't know the bhakts. Ask Salman Khan, Dabaang-3 didn't even recover its costs)". In another post that day, with a photo of Padukone with JNU Students' Union president Aishe Ghosh, he asks if she visited the homes of soldiers killed in the Pulwama attack of 2019.

There are pictures and videos

of him on his Facebook accounts holding guns and swords, including one shot in slow-motion in which he marches with a gun while a friend walks with a cartridge belt, a song on Maharana Pratap playing. The older Facebook account has pictures of him when much younger, many of these with guns.

While the 'About Me' section in the new account is sparse, reading 'Bajrang Dal, Jewar Jai Shri Ram', the old account says, "I am the member of (b.j.p, bajrang dal, or rss.)..." and adds that he is from Mathura, lives in Noida and studied in J.S.P.M. Pune.

In one of the posts, addressing Updesh Rana, who was arrested in Jaipur in 2017 over a proposed rally in support of Shambulal Regar, accused of killing a Muslim labourer in Rajasthan and circulating the videos, Gopal writes, "#Updesh Rana agar tujhse adhe bhi followers mere hote toh Shaheen Bagh ka Jallianwala Bagh bana deta ab tak (If I had half the followers you have, I would have turned Shaheen Bagh into Jallianwala Bagh)".

In another, he says he is "doing this" for Chandan Gupta, who was shot during communal violence in UP's Kasganj district on Republic Day in 2018. "Chandan bhai yeh badla aap ke liye (this revenge is for you)", he writes.

Facebook India said the posts, which were in clear violation of its standards of hate speech, had come to its notice between 4 pm and 6 pm. By then, these had amassed a flurry of responses, including congratulatory messages.

"There is no place on Facebook for this kind of violence. We have removed the gunman's Facebook account and are removing any content that praises, supports or represents the gunman or the shooting," said a Facebook spokesperson.

Facebook has been struggling against gunmen using social media to promote their attacks, especially Facebook Live. Regulations in India give technology companies "safe harbour" protections, meaning the platforms are not liable for illegal content until they are notified about it.

—WITH INPUTS FROM KARISHMA MEHROTRA

Jamia student shot at as 20 cops watch

Police said while the youth had fired once, there was another round left in the gun. They said he had told them during interrogation that he "had taken the weapon from someone a few days ago", and taken the bus to reach Jamia. He has been held under IPC Section 307 (attempt to murder) and the Arms Act.

Jamia Chief Proctor Waseem Ahmad Khan blamed the provocative poll speeches by BJP leaders Anurag Thakur and Kapil Mishra for the incident. "The students were trying to march to Rajghat, we were trying to stop them... It was a peaceful protest, why did the man fire? This incident took place because of the inflammatory speeches by Anurag Thakur and Kapil Mishra. They instigated people. We are suffering. Police and the government should act against them," Khan said.

In a video message, Jamia Vice-Chancellor Najma Akhtar asked why police did not catch the gunman in time. While around two dozen personnel were standing around 30 metres from the gunman, more than 300 policemen and five companies of the CRPF had been stationed in the area in preparation for the march.

Praising the students for showing restraint and pointing out that things could have got out of hand, Akhtar said. "We are shaken by this incident. It cannot ever happen that a man brandishes a pistol in front of

police and nobody is able to stop him. Then he shoots someone and is caught very coolly. This incident is shaking our trust. I hope that such an incident will not occur again. We need an assurance that it will not happen again."

With its role under a cloud for the third time in two months over handling of situations around university campuses, Delhi Police claimed that things had happened too fast for it to act.

Said Special CP Crime Praveer Ranjan, "By the time police could react, the person had already fired. Everything happened in a split second. Investigation is on." ACP-rank, SHO-rank and additional SHO-rank officers as well as a constable present at the spot reiterated the same.

Additional SHO (Jamia Nagar) Khalid Hussain said he was walking near the students when the gunman fired. "The man appeared suddenly and shot... I was the first person to hold Shadab." SHO Jamia Nagar Upender Singh said, "The accused had his back towards us and we couldn't see the gun. As soon as he fired the gun, we acted swiftly and caught him."

An ACP-rank officer said, "We couldn't see anything as the accused's back was towards us and there was a lot of distance between where police were and where he was. We acted as fast as we could."

Additional DCP (Southeast) Kumar Gyanesh said police personnel were stationed at various points near Jamia and the accused emerged from the crowd. "It all happened so quickly and we acted swiftly."

A senior police personnel said "it was a reporter's scream for help followed by the sound of the gunshot that made clear what had happened".

On Monday, Anurag Thakur, the Minister of State, Finance, addressing a rally for the February 8 Delhi Assembly elections, had repeatedly raised the slogan of "Desh ke gaddaron ko" as the crowd responded with "goli maaro saalon ko". The next day, BJP MP Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma said protesters at Shaheen Bagh could "enter homes and rape our sisters and daughters". Thakur has been banned from campaigning for 72 hours, and Verma for 96 hours.

Last month, the slogan to target "traitors" had been raised by Mishra, a BJP candidate, at a pro-CAA march in Connaught Place.

During his poll speeches, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has also continuously attacked Shaheen Bagh protesters and on Thursday, called the election as between "those who stand with the nation" and "those with Shaheen Bagh". He also tweeted about the Jamia firing incident, saying, "I have spoken to the Delhi Police commis-

sioner about the shooting incident and told him to take strictest action."

Both the Aam Aadmi Party and Congress linked the gunman's actions to the rallies and press conferences by BJP leaders.

The incident happened as a march of about 300 students was heading towards Rajghat. As police had put up barricades, a few of them went ahead to talk to the officers, with Farooq among them.

"Suddenly, out of nowhere, this guy came waving his country-made pistol and started shouting slogans such as 'Delhi Police zindabad' and 'Hindustan zindabad'. He said 'Aao main tumhe azadi dilaun (Come, I will give you azadi)'. He then fired at Shadab," said Aamir Jahid, a Jamia alumnus who was present.

Midhat Samra, an economics student, who is seen in videos holding an injured Farooq, said, "Nobody knows where he came from. While he was shouting with his pistol pointed towards the sky, Shadab tried to calm him. He said 'Bhai ruk jao, aaram se. Bندوق neeche kar lo (Wait, take it easy, keep the gun down)'. We asked police for help, but they didn't stop him. Then he fired. Even after that, when we were going to Holy Family Hospital, police didn't move the barricades for Shadab. He had to climb on top of them."

Coronavirus

with sore throat and fever and was not showing any severe symptoms. All her family members are under observation.

As on Thursday evening, 1,053 people who returned from coronavirus-affected regions in China are under observation in Kerala. Of them, 1,038 are under home quarantine and 15 with suspected exposure are isolated in hospitals.

Sources said the woman who had tested positive had flown

down from Beijing to Kolkata on January 22, arriving on 23rd night. Next day, she boarded a Kochi-bound IndiGo flight. "She directly went home without reporting at a hospital. There was no suspected symptom on January 25 and 26. Then, seeing news about coronavirus and reports that all those who returned from China, particularly from Wuhan region, should report at nearby government hospitals, the woman went to a primary health centre at her

native place in Thrissur district," sources said.

It was on January 27 that she developed minor symptoms. "She telephoned the PHC, and that evening, an ambulance took her to the district general hospital in Thrissur, where an isolation ward was already ready. On January 27 night itself, her samples were collected," sources said.

"We are going to track down all her contacts, which would include the passengers who landed

with her in Kolkata and those who travelled in the Kolkata-Kochi flight. All would be put under observation, even if they don't have symptoms. Those with symptoms would have to be hospitalised," an official said.

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued a statement acknowledging the positive case. "A decision has been taken to test all those who have come in from China after January 15, keeping in mind the 14-day incubation

period of the virus." A total of 43,346 passengers, from 234 flights, have already been screened.

Dr Priya Abraham, Director, ICMR-NIV Pune, said that 49 samples of those returning from China had been tested and the Wuhan University student's sample was the only one that tested positive. "Now a next gen sequencing test will be done and the final result declared tomorrow evening. Per day a total of 9-10 samples are received at the NIV. It takes a day to test a sample," Dr Abraham said.

In a fresh advisory, the Ministry of Health asked people who have just returned from China to "Sleep in a separate room, avoid contact with family members."

Asserting that the state health network was capable of handling any emergency, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan tweeted, "We have initiated a series of measures... contact tracing, case isolation, quality care and community engagement are being done diligently." He told reporters, "The state has earlier faced similar situations."

The Centre has asked Indians to refrain from travelling to China even as efforts are underway to evacuate Indian nationals from the nCoV-hit Wuhan province starting tentatively Friday evening. Officials have said only asymptomatic people will be moved out, provided they agree to tests.

Officials said gram panchayats would be organised to make people aware of the symptoms, precautions and measures taken by the state governments regarding prevention and management of the coronavirus in villages bordering Nepal.

As on January 30, 7,711 confirmed cases have been reported by 31 Chinese provinces, including 1,370 serious cases, 170 deaths, 124 discharged and cured cases and 12,167 suspected cases.

—WITH INPUTS FROM PUNE

Shah again

campaigning for 72 hours, did not respond to calls.

Shah said he had directed the Delhi Police Commissioner to investigate the incident in its "entirety" and take "strictest action" against the 17-year-old who had fired at protesters near Jamia. "The Central government will not tolerate any such incidents and the guilty will not be spared," he tweeted.

At a rally in Chhattarpur later, Shah, who has been leading the BJP campaign in Delhi, said, "On February 8, you will be deciding who should form the government in Delhi... On one side it's Narendra Modi, who conducted astrikes and surgical strikes on Pakistan's soil to kill terrorists, and on the other, there are these people who back Shaheen Bagh. You have to decide."

With Kejriwal and the Congress avoiding being drawn into a CAA debate, BJP leaders will continue to make statements hoping to provoke a reaction. "Unless the BJP convincingly projects Kejriwal and the AAP as the forces behind Shaheen Bagh, the strategy will not work," a leader said.

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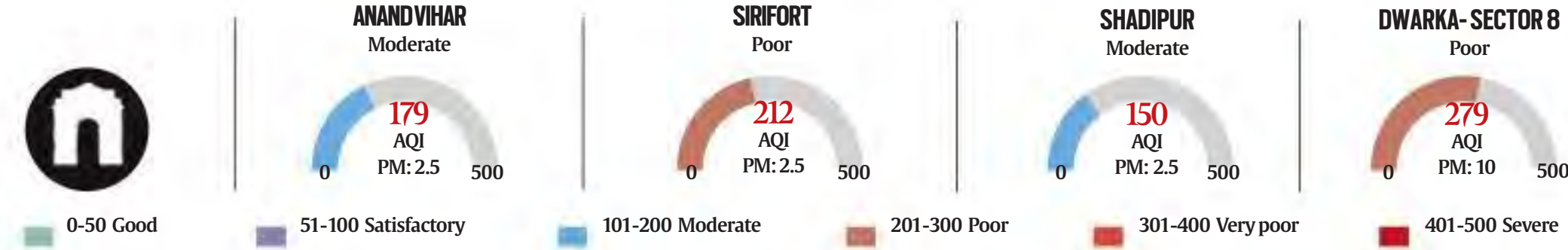
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2 men get 20 yrs for raping minor

Committed offence in demonic, barbaric manner, says court on 2013 rape of minor girl

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

OBSERVING THAT they committed the offence in “an extremely demonic and barbaric manner so as to arouse intense and extreme indignation of society”, a Delhi court sentenced two men convicted of raping a minor girl in East Delhi to 20 years in prison.

As per court records, in 2013, the two men—Manoj Shah and Pradeep Kumar—lured the girl while she was playing outside her house and raped her. They then strangled the girl and fled thinking she had died. The girl was, however, rescued from Manoj’s home after a neighbour heard her crying, over 40 hours after she went missing. According to police, the convicts had inserted foreign objects into her private parts.

Additional Sessions Judge Naresh Kumar Malhotra observed, “Offence in the present case has been committed in a extremely demonic and barbaric manner so as to arouse intense and extreme indignation of society” and that there was “demonstration of exceptional depravity and extreme brutality, extreme misery inflicted upon the prosecutrix. The pain which the victim had undergone is beyond imagination”.

He also awarded Rs 11 lakh in compen-

sation to the victim saying “injuries suffered by the victim cannot be quantified in monetary terms”. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 31,500 each on both the convicts.

Manoj and Pradeep were convicted under Sections 376 (D), 376 (2) (i), 363, 342, 201, 307 and 34 of the IPC and Section 6 of the POCSO Act.

Senior Advocate H S Phoolka, appearing for the survivor, said he will appeal against the order in the High Court and seek life imprisonment for the two convicts. CS Tyagi, counsel for Pradeep, said that he will challenge the judgment.

On the last date of hearing, Manoj had assaulted journalists and slapped a female journalist when he was taken out of the courtroom. On Thursday, he was produced before the ASJ, with his hands and legs bound with chains.

The ASJ also asked Manoj if he wanted to make a statement, to which the convict said: “I don’t want to say anything.” Pradeep, too, did not make any statement.

Additional Public Prosecutor S K Raghuvanshi asked the court for life sentence. Phoolka told the court, “The incident has happened in the most brutal manner. There is no remorse. Pradeep delayed the trial by giving a false certificate.” The amicus curiae in the case, RS Juneja, who appeared for Manoj, said, “Reformatory theory is very popular. The man is to be given a chance to reform himself...”

Dec 16 gangrape convict moves court for stay on execution

PRITAMPALSINGH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

A DELHI court Thursday issued notice to the Tihar Jail authorities and has sought its report by Friday morning on an application filed by a December 16, 2012, gangrape-murder case convict seeking a stay on his execution scheduled for 6 am on February 1.

The application, seeking a fresh date for the execution, was moved before Special Judge Ajay Kumar Jain on the ground that convict Vinay Sharma has filed mercy petition before the President of India on January 29.

Tihar Director General Sandeep Goel, meanwhile, informed the court that the hangman, Pawan Jallad, reported to the Tihar Jail administration Thursday, ahead of the death-row convicts scheduled execution.



The convicts are scheduled to be hanged on February 1

In a related case, the Supreme Court Thursday dismissed convict Akshay Kumar Singh’s curative petition against his death sentence and also junked his plea to stay the execution of the death.

A five-judge bench said: “We have

gone through the curative petition, and the relevant documents” and that “in our opinion, no case is made out...”

At the Delhi court hearing, the convicts’ counsel A P Singh urged it to adjourn the executions sine die as there are more legal remedies available for some of the convicts, and pointed out that the two other convicts — Pawan Gupta and Akshay — are yet to file mercy pleas before the President.

Taking note of which, the judge directed the Tihar Jail Superintendent to file a reply on Vinay’s plea by 10 am on Friday. Special Public Prosecutor Rajiv Mohan opposed the stay demand, which was backed by the other prosecutor, who contended that in December last year, a seven-day notice was given to convicts for availing their legal remedies. “Filing a mercy petition after 40-42 days is a mockery of justice and is only a delaying tactic,” the prosecutor argued.

5 admitted to RML with suspected coronavirus

ASTHASAXENA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

FIVE PEOPLE, including a woman, who recently returned from China and are suspected to have coronavirus were admitted to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital Thursday. All of them have been kept in the isolation ward of the hospital.

Meanwhile, three patients who were admitted to RML Hospital with suspected coronavirus have been discharged after

their test reports came negative for the virus. The patients, aged 24, 34 and 48, were admitted to the hospital weeks after they had returned from China.

Confirming the reports, Smriti Tiwari, spokesperson of RML Hospital, told *The Indian Express*: “The reports came out Thursday morning and all three of them have tested negative for the virus.” Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV).

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CORRIGENDUM
Walk-in Interview

An advertisement appeared on 28.1.2020 wherein Consortium for Education Communication (CEC) invited eligible candidates for walk-in-interview for engagement as Consultant (ICT) on contractual basis. The walk-in-interview was scheduled for 07.02.2020 at 11 AM. The candidates were advised to visit CEC Website for Bio-data Form and detailed information.

As the website of CEC is not accessible due to server failure and will take 10 days to be functional, **the Walk-in-Interview for engagement of Consultant (ICT) has been postponed and will now be conducted on 20.02.2020 at 11 AM.** Other instructions remain unchanged.

Inconvenience caused is regretted. **(Chief Administrative Officer)**

INDIAN RAILWAY CATERING AND TOURISM CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of India Enterprise - Mini Ratna)
CIN: L74899DL1999GO101707

Regd. Office: 11th Floor, B-148, Statesman House, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001, India
Tel: 011-23311263-64; Email id: investors@irctc.com; Website: www.irctc.com

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to regulation 29 read with Regulation 42 and 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, (“Listing Regulations”) that a meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on **Wednesday, 12th day of February, 2020**, inter alia, to consider, approve and take on record the un-audited financial results of the Company for the quarter and nine months ended on December 31, 2019 and to declare interim dividend, if any and to fix the record date for the purpose of payment of dividend, if declared.

Pursuant to the “IRCTC’s code of conduct for regulating and reporting trading by Designated Persons and their immediate relatives” the Trading Window Closure Period has commenced from 1st January, 2020 upto 48 hours from the date the said financial results are made public.

This information is also available on website of the Company at www.irctc.com and also on the website of Stock Exchanges where the shares of the Company are listed at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com.

For INDIAN RAILWAY CATERING AND TOURISM CORPORATION LIMITED
Sd/-
Place: New Delhi Suman Kalra
Date: 31st January, 2020 Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

MAHANAGAR TELEPHONE NIGAM LIMITED
Corp. & Regd. Off.: Mahanagar Doorsanchar Sadan,
5th Floor, 9, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
CIN : L32101DL1986GOI023501

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Experience of handling independent charge as Chief Operating Officer will be preferred. For details including Eligibility criteria, Terms of Engagement log on the company’s website: www.mtnl.net.in.

Last date for submission of applications is 15/02/2020.
Applications received after due date and time will not be considered.

DGM (Pers) CO

General Insurance Corporation of India
CIN: L67200MH1972GOI016133, IRDAI REGN. NO. 112
(A Government of India Company)

Registered Office: Suraksha, 170, J. Tata Road, Churchgate, Mumbai - 400 020
Phone: +91 22 22867000 **Fax:** +91 22 22884010
Email: investors.gic@gicofindia.com **Website:** www.gicofindia.com

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 47 read with Regulation 29 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Corporation is scheduled to be held on Monday, 10th February, 2020 inter alia, to consider, approve and take on record the Unaudited Financial Results of the Corporation for the quarter/period ended December 31, 2019.

The financial results will be available on the website of the Corporation viz. www.gicofindia.com and the website of the BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com) and National Stock Exchange of India Limited (www.nseindia.com), after the approval of the Board.

Pursuant to SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015 & amendments thereto, in terms of the Policy on Code of Conduct for Insider Trading 2019 and with respect to intimation for closure of trading window submitted to BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited vide letter ref. no. **GIC Re/SE/2019-20/CTW-I** dated 18th April, 2019, the trading window is under closure from 1st January, 2020 and shall remain closed till 48 hours after the publication of financial results for the quarter/period ended December 31, 2019.

For General Insurance Corporation of India
Sd/-
Suchita Gupta
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Place : Mumbai
Date : 30.01.2020

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ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA
<https://eci.gov.in/>

GENERAL ADVISORY TO ALL POLITICAL PARTIES

During the on-going General Election to the Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi, several instances of undesirable public utterances have come to the Commission’s notice, which are in violation of the conditions of Model Code of Conduct. The Commission has issued various instructions on observance of Model Code of Conduct from time to time. **Certain instructions in this regard are reiterated below-**

- ✓ No appeal shall be made on basis of caste/communal feelings of the electors. (MCC guidelines Part-I(1), General Conduct).
- ✓ No activity, which may aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes/communities/ religious/linguistic groups, shall be attempted. (MCC guidelines Part-I(1), General Conduct).
- ✓ No aspect of the private life, not connected with the public activities, of the leaders or workers of other parties is to be criticized. (MCC guidelines Part-I(2), General Conduct).
- ✓ Criticism of other parties or their workers on the basis of unverified allegations or on distortions shall be avoided. (MCC guidelines Part-I(2), General Conduct).
- ✓ No temples/mosques/churches/gurdwaras or any places of worship are to be used for election propaganda, including speeches, posters, music etc., or electioneering. (MCC guidelines Part-I(3), General Conduct).
- ✓ The political parties and candidates to refrain from any deeds/action/utterances that may be construed as being repugnant to the honour and dignity of women (Commission’s instruction No.437/6/INST/ECI/FUNCT/MCC/2019, dated 29.04.2019)

It is once again requested that the above instructions should be brought to the notice of candidates and all political functionaries of your political party for strict compliance during the elections.

davp 52101/13/0068/1920

BRIEFLY

Sunanda death: Court dismisses Tharoor plea

New Delhi: A Delhi court has dismissed Congress MP Shashi Tharoor’s application seeking to bring on record his late wife Sunanda Pushkar’s tweets. Special Judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar in his order wrote, “The applicant/accused cannot insist on a direction to the Prosecution to first obtain the document and then supply it to him. When the documents are in the public domain as per the submission of the learned Senior Counsel for the applicant/accused, the accused will have the liberty to produce them at an appropriate stage.”

Soon in Gurgaon, a Science City

Gurgaon: Gurgaon will soon have a ‘Science City’, where children will have the opportunity to learn scientific principles through sports and games. Amit Jha, Haryana’s Additional Chief Secretary, Science and Technology Department, held a meeting Thursday on the subject. “The objective of this initiative is to promote scientific education. Thematic galleries on different scientific themes, such as physics, chemistry, and other concepts will be made, which will benefit schools and other educational institutions,” said Jha. According to officials, it will be developed in collaboration with the Centre on a “25 to 30 acre” piece of land.

‘Faridabad teen raped by neighbours’

Gurgaon: A teenage girl was allegedly gangraped by two men from her neighbourhood in Faridabad, when she had gone out of her house to relieve herself late on Wednesday night. Police have registered an FIR and picked up the two men for questioning. The minor is receiving treatment at a hospital. “The accused have been taken into custody,” said police. **ENS**

4 DECISION 2020 DELHI

I HEREBY DECLARE



RAMSINGH NETAJI (59)
Congress, Badarpur

TOTAL ASSETS (2020)	
₹37.02 CRORE	
MOVEABLE ASSETS	
₹11.67 CRORE	
CASH: ₹4.10 L	
JEWELLERY: ₹3.45 L	
IMMOVABLE ASSETS	
₹25.35 CRORE	
Assets	
Agricultural land	₹6 cr
Non-agri land	₹1.10 cr
Houses	₹4.10 cr
Commercial buildings	₹4.15 cr
TOTAL ASSETS (2015)	
₹29.63 CRORE	
MOVEABLE ASSETS	
₹12.66 CRORE	
IMMOVABLE ASSETS	
₹16.97 CRORE	
EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION	
Class 7	



KULDEEP KUMAR (30)
AAP, Kondli

TOTAL ASSETS (2020)*	
₹26.75 LAKH	
MOVEABLE ASSETS	
₹7.75 LAKH	
CASH: ₹84,000	
JEWELLERY: ₹6.32 L	
IMMOVABLE ASSETS	
₹19 LAKH	
Assets	
Agricultural land	Nil
Commercial buildings	₹19 L
TOTAL ASSETS (2015)*	
₹29.95 LAKH	
MOVEABLE ASSETS	
₹6.70 LAKH	
IMMOVABLE ASSETS	
₹23.25 LAKH	
EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION:	
BA (Honours) IIInd year passed in 2013, Shyam Lal College, DU	
<i>*including assets of spouse, dependents</i>	

BALLOTIN

EC notice to CM for ‘poll code violation’

New Delhi: The Election Commission Thursday issued a showcause notice to Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal for allegedly violating the poll code by making an election promise. The notice came after a BJP leader alleged that on January 13, the CM had said the government was ready to open mohalla clinics in court premises if space is provided. **ENS**

‘IF YOU CONSIDER ME YOUR SON, PRESS THE BROOM’

Vote BJP if you consider me a terrorist: CM

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

“WHEN YOU go to vote on February 8, if you consider me your son, press the broom (AAP’s poll symbol), and if you consider me a terrorist, press the lotus (BJP’s poll symbol).” The strong emotional pitch made by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Thursday will be the defining feature of the AAP’s election campaign in the last phase, with the party accepting I-PAC’s suggestion to take a leaf out of Nitish Kumar’s strategy ahead of the 2015 Bihar polls.

AAP and I-PAC sensed an opportunity to turn the tables on the BJP after a video clip emerged showing West Delhi MP Parvesh Sahib Singh saying: “There are many cheats like Kejriwal and *aatankwadis* (terrorists) like Kejriwal hiding in Delhi. I fail to understand if we should fight against terrorists in Kashmir or terrorists like Kejriwal in Delhi.”

The fresh strategy, which started off in the form of hashtags like #DevelopmentsIsNotTerrorism and #DelhiKaBetaKejriwal on social media, had taken a definite shape by the end of the day, with Kejriwal making this the high-light of his speeches in rally after rally.

“I felt very hurt yesterday. I wanted to share my pain with you... BJP leaders called me a terrorist. In the last five years, I treated every child of Delhi as my own and arranged good education for them and BJP calls me a terrorist. Whenever someone fell ill, I made all arrangements for their treatment. I sent the elderly on pilgrimages. Is that a crime? Does that make me a terrorist? Whenever personnel of security forces laid down lives, I declared compensations of Rs 1 crore. And they call me a terrorist,” said Kejriwal.

The AAP chief’s speech also had elements of his personal life and the “sacrifices” he made to “serve the country”, ranging from



Kejriwal at a roadshow in Timarpur, Thursday. Amit Mehra

choosing India over foreign shores after graduating from IIT-Kharagpur to quitting his job as an IRS officer to fight corruption with Anna Hazare. He also referred to his parents, saying how the “terrorist” slur on their son had left them dejected.

“IIT-Kharagpur is one of the most reputed institutions in the nation. I was a bright stu-

dent who attained good marks. I could have gone to a foreign nation like my peers. But I chose to stay because I thought that it is only us who can work for and improve the nation. I left my job as an income tax commissioner to take part in the nation’s biggest movement against corruption. Are these the steps that a terrorist would take?” he asked.

The fact that he is a diabetic also featured in Kejriwal’s appeal: “I take insulin four times a day. If a patient of diabetes does not consume something every three-four hours, he might collapse due to low blood sugar levels. Despite this high risk to life, I led two 15-day-long fasts. I risked my life for the nation,” said Kejriwal.

BJP shifts aim to mohalla clinics but doctors and AAP have defence ready

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

DAYS AFTER the BJP hit out at the state of Delhi government schools, party leaders visited AAP’s mohalla clinics Thursday and criticised the flagship healthcare system, claiming it was not being properly maintained. The AAP as well as clinic staff, however, against sought to deflate the BJP’s claims, labelling them false and motivated.

In a tweet, BJP president J P Nadda shared a video of several people complaining about the lack of facilities, infrastructure and medicines at a clinic. Towards the end, the video alleged that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has deprived the people of Delhi from availing benefits of the Centre’s Ayushman Bharat scheme, which provides free healthcare services up to Rs 5 lakh.

Nadda also took a dig at the AAP government for not being able to fulfill its promise of setting up 1,000 clinics in the city: “Kejriwal ji, you promised to open 1,000 mohalla clinics every year. Even the small number of clinics you opened lack basic facilities.”

The video was also shared by Home Minister Amit Shah, who tweeted: “For the sake of your selfish politics, you kept Delhi’s poor away from Modi ji’s Ayushman Yojana. You have to give answers for the sin that you have committed.”

BJP MP Gautam Gambhir, who had gone to a clinic in East Delhi, tweeted that “the marvel of AAP’s healthcare revolution has ACs, water tanks, empty cabinets intact. Maybe the medicines have been shifted somewhere.”

However, as per health officials, this set up was started as a pharmacy on the request of a private hospital. “We started it as a pharmacy in partnership with Apollo Hospital, but the model did not work successfully. Orders have been given to dismantle the building. This is not a mohalla clinic at all,” said a sen-



One of the clinics visited by South Delhi MP Ramesh Bidhuri Thursday

ior official from the health department. South Delhi MP Ramesh Bidhuri said he had gone to three mohalla clinics in Dakshinpuri, Prahladpur in Tughlakabad and one in Sangam Vihar near Batra Cinema. He said the clinics were in poor shape, with a lot of filth outside. “The bathroom too was in a shabby condition,” he said.

Dr Suhasini Gera of the Azadpur clinic, which featured in Nadda’s video, said, “My clinic is always clean. I have no control over garbage issues outside my clinic; that’s outside my jurisdiction. In terms of medicines and facilities, we are well equipped. The clinic remains open between 7.45 am and 2 pm. I have been posted here for around a year.”

Reacting to the video, AAP said the clip of the Azadpur clinic is old and the open defecation issue was resolved a long time ago.

Another clinic that featured in the video is the Peeragarhi mohalla clinic. Dr Abha Sethi, chief medical officer of the clinic, said: “Our clinic is in the PWD office of Peeragarhi and is well-maintained. No one visited our office during working hours.”

There are 450 clinics in the city. Started in 2015, mohalla clinics have served two crore OPD patients and conducted 18 lakh tests until November 2019 as per government data.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE ELECTION Commission has barred BJP leader and Minister of State, Finance, Anurag Thakur and Delhi MP Parvesh Sahib Singh from campaigning for 72 and 96 hours respectively, starting Thursday evening, for the remarks they have made over the past four days.

Thakur had, at a rally in Rithala on Monday, raised the first half of a slogan, ‘*Desh ke gaddaron ko*’, egging the audience to complete it by shouting ‘*Goli maaro saalon ko*’.

Singh, meanwhile, had told ANI that protesters at Shaheen Bagh will “enter your

homes and rape your sisters and daughters”.

The Congress had complained to the Election Commission, demanding action against both. The office of Delhi Chief Election Officer had also sent a report to the EC regarding the comments. EC officials said the ban was imposed as the commission was not satisfied by the response of the two BJP leaders to the notices they had been served.

Thakur and Singh have already been removed from BJP’s star campaigners’ list on orders of the EC. According to the EC, Thakur had responded to the commission’s show-cause notice on Thursday, where he said that he had only said ‘*desh ke gaddaron ko*’ and it was the crowd that responded in a way they

Shah spells it out, again: Elections a contest between Modi & Shaheen Bagh supporters

ABHINAV RAJPUT & SHIVAM PATEL
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

HOME MINISTER Amit Shah Thursday said the Delhi election is a contest between PM Narendra Modi who eliminated terrorists through surgical strikes inside Pakistan, and those supporting the Shaheen Bagh protest.

Speaking at a rally in Sanjay Colony, which falls under the Chhatarpur constituency, Shah said, “8 tarik ko aapko tae karna hai ki wo jo takkatein aamne samne khadi hai, ek aur Narendra Modi ji hai jo surgical strike aur air strike kar ke Pakistan ke ghar me ghus kar aatankwadiyon ka safaya kar rahe hain, aur dusri aur wo log jo Shaheen Bagh ka samarthan kar rahe hain (Two forces are face to face in the assembly elections in Delhi. On one side is Prime Minister Narendra Modi who eliminated terrorists through air and surgical strikes inside Pakistan, and on the other side are those supporting Shaheen Bagh).”

Shah also credited the PM with finding



Shah at a rally in Chhatarpur. ANI

solutions to issues like the Ram temple and Article 370, and accused the Opposition of opposing the BJP as they feared a backlash from their vote bank.

“Sanjay Colony, are you their vote bank?” he asked the crowd, which responded “no”. He then asked who their vote bank is, to which the crowd replied, “Shaheen Bagh”.

He also attacked Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and the Congress for oppos-

With the BJP hoping to gain from the consolidation of Hindu votes, the AAP had already reworked its campaign strategy, putting more emphasis on the party’s local root and Kejriwal as the city’s “son”.

AAP sources said the party and I-PAC will launch a series of campaigns around the same theme over the next few days to counter the BJP onslaught. The campaigns will also focus on politics of civility despite ideological differences, which figured in Kejriwal’s speeches as well. “*Rajneeti ke andar bhi maryada hoti hai*. The opposition parties have some ideology, we have a different ideology. But that does not mean we will abuse each other in this manner,” he said.

Ahead of the 2015 assembly polls in Bihar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had questioned Kumar’s “political DNA”. The JD(U), which fought the polls in a coalition with the RJD, had then latched on to the phrase and had even launched a “*Shabd Wapsi*” (take back your words) campaign against the BJP.

Political observers say that Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi’s use of “*maut ka saudagar*” (merchant of death) to describe Modi during the 2007 Gujarat state polls had also backfired, with the BJP leader describing it as an attack on Gujarat *asmita* (pride).

Meanwhile, the Election Commission Thursday issued a showcause notice to BJP MP Parvesh Singh for calling Kejriwal a “terrorist”. Singh, however, said, “People who are teaching us lessons on language have used extremely bad language against PM Narendra Modi in the past, like he has done setting with Pakistan and terrorists.”

“If slogans like *Jinnah wali Azadi* are raised in Shaheen Bagh, if slogans like *Pakistan zindabad* are raised... if slogans are raised there to shoot down PM and Amit Shah ji, and Kejriwal and Sisodia say they are standing with people of Shaheen Bagh... then what should I call them?” he added.

saw fit. Thakur had also made a request for a personal hearing, which was declined.

“The Commission has carefully considered the matter and is of the considered view that Anurag Thakur has made undesirable and objectionable statements which have the tone and tenor to aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred between different religious communities...” the notice said.

Meanwhile, AAP also approached the EC with a complaint against Singh and Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari. In a letter to Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora, AAP national secretary Pankaj Gupta said the statements made by the leaders violate clause (2) Part-I of the Model Code of Conduct .

ing CAA. “Manish Sisodia says ‘we are with Shaheen Bagh’, I want to say ‘you are with Shaheen Bagh and we are with Sanjay Colony’.”

At another campaign for Malviya Nagar BJP candidate later in the day, Shah asked the crowd “how those who caused riots in Delhi can keep (the city) secure”. “*Modi ji CAA lekar aaye, unhone* (others) *kranti failana shuru kar di, Delhi me dange lagaye aur dange karaye — dekhe the ya nahi dekhe the Malviya Nagar walo? Malum hai na kaun karta tha? Mitro ye danga karane wale, Delhi ko surakshit rakh sakte hai kya?*” Shah asked.

He also attacked “vote bank politics”. He said, “Within these four months, we are going to start construction of a *bhavvy Ram Mandir* on the same place where Ram Lalla was born. *Ye Congress wale... Kejriwal kyu rokte the isko?* Because they were scared of their vote bank. Are your their vote bank, Malviya Nagar?” The crowd replied: “*Nahi*”.

Shah then asked thrice, “Then who is?” The answer came, “Shaheen Bagh”.

WEEK BEFORE POLLS

Internal feud, indifferent leadership: Why Cong campaign yet to take off

MANOJ CGG

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

A FEUD raging between the state Congress president and the campaign committee head, unhappy senior leaders approaching the high command with a plea to breathe life into the campaign, and an indifferent central leadership — this is the state of play in the Congress, which ruled the national capital for 15 years, with barely a week to go for campaigning to end. Delhi votes on February 8.

The Congress’s insipid campaign in Delhi has already spawned speculation that the party is deliberately going slow, knowing well that the Aam Aadmi Party is better placed to defeat the BJP, its main opponent at the national level. The party has vehemently rejected the charge, but a section of the party feels the central leadership is per-

haps keeping away as it does not want to take ownership for a possible repeat of 2015, when the party got zero seats.

Meanwhile, a feud is raging between DPCC president Subhash Chopra and campaign committee head Kirti Azad. Party insiders said the latter and several senior Delhi Congress leaders have approached party president Sonia Gandhi and the central leadership complaining against Chopra, apprising her of the situation and drawing her attention to the fact that the campaign is listless.

“In 2015, polling for Assembly elections in Delhi was held on February 7. This time, it is on February 8. In 2015, by this time Rahul Gandhi had done a road show and a rally. Sonia Gandhi had addressed a rally on February 2. This time, we don’t know whether they will campaign at all,” a senior leader told *The Indian Express*.

Sources said Azad is upset as he believes he has been completely sidelined by Chopra.

Sources said Azad gave a “piece of his mind” to Chopra in the presence of senior AICC leaders, including party’s Delhi in-charge P C Chacko and AICC general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal, some time ago.

Party insiders said Chopra and Chacko too had a heated exchange at one of the meetings of the central election committee to pick candidates. One leader said the two are no more on talking terms: “He (Chopra) fought with him (Chacko); he talked to him so indecently. He also was shouting when the CEC was sitting for (selecting) candidates. He was shouting in front of Sonia ji. She told him he was acting like a child.”

Sources in Delhi Congress said many senior leaders are campaigning at the request of



A feud is raging between campaign committee head Kirti Azad and DPCC president Subhash Chopra. Archive

individual candidates. “There is no word from the PCC. But individual candidates are calling many of us and we are going,” said a senior leader.

And unlike in other states which went to polls in the recent past, the AICC has not appointed coordinators to micromanage the campaign. Rahul, incidentally, chose to address rallies in Rajasthan and Kerala while the BJP has practically deputised its entire leadership for campaigning in Delhi.

One leader said the party’s last minute appeal to senior leaders to contest has also sent a wrong message.

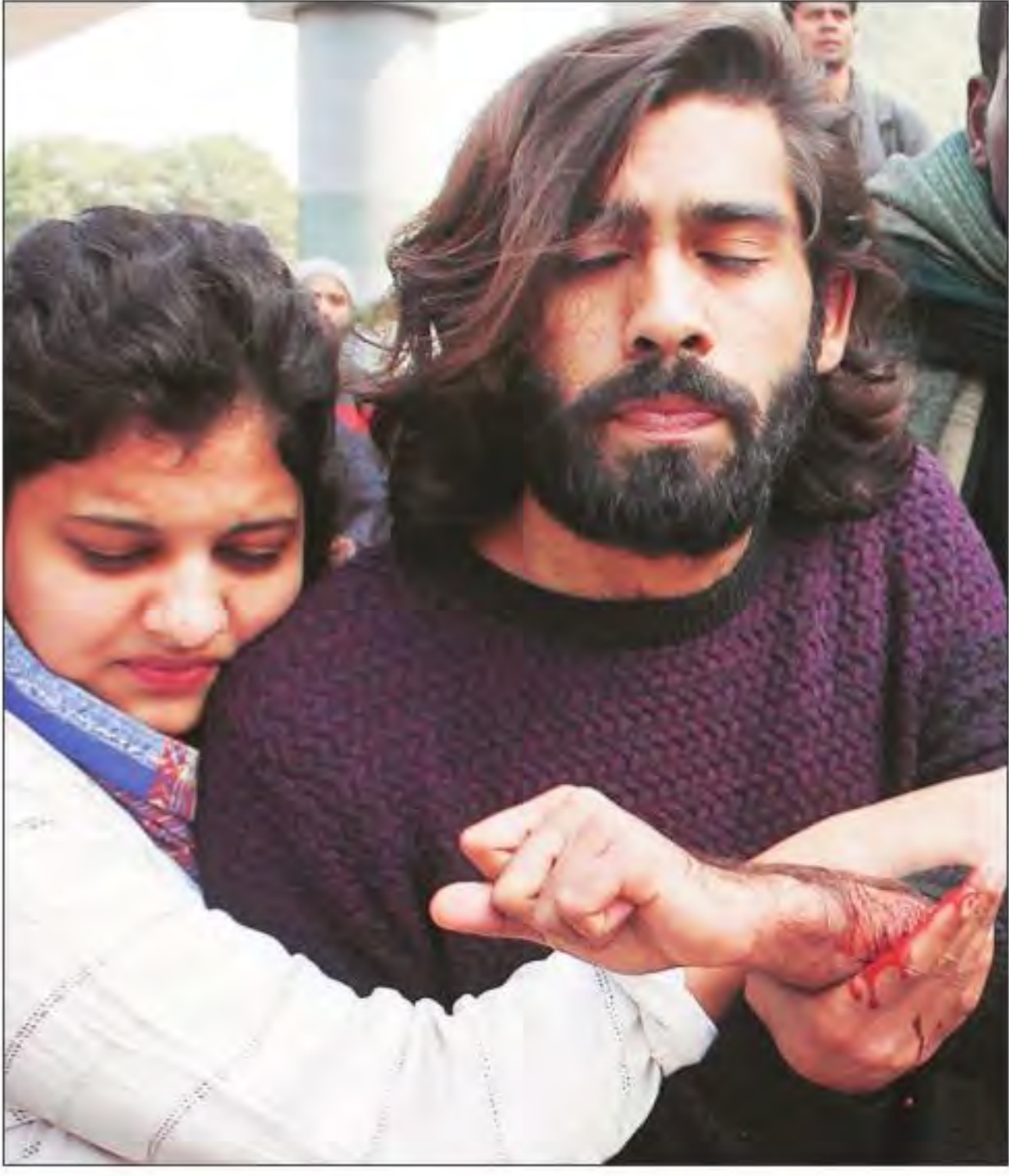
“It sends a message we are desperate. It may be a fact but shouldn’t be conveyed on the eve of elections... Moreover, how can you ask senior leaders to contest at the last minute. They were asked to contest on January 13, a day before the nomination process began. You have to sound them out

at least two-three months earlier so they can begin the ground work... so three of them — Ajay Maken, J P Aggarwal, Naseeb Singh — refused. Mahabal Mishra did not even turn up for the meeting called by Sonia. Only Arvinder Singh Lovely and Rajesh Lilothia complied as they were keen to contest and had been nurturing their constituencies,” said a senior leader.

Asked whether the Congress was giving a walkover to the AAP, Congress spokesperson Manish Tewari said “that is an erroneous assessment of the situation”. He said Chacko, the in-charge, has already said that top leaders will join the campaign trail in February.

“From February 1 to February 6, the Congress party, from its highest echelons to its last worker in the last mohalla, will be all out in the streets promising the people of Delhi better governance, a better life if given a chance to serve again,” he said.

PTI



The injured student, Shadab Farooq, is from Jammu, and a first-year student of mass communication at Jamia. Protests swelled at Jamia following the shooting. *Gajendra Yadav*



SHOOTING AT JAMIA PROTEST

In area: 12 SHOs, over 300 cops as shot fired

Cops defend: Happened in split second, he had his back to us, thought gun was a phone

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL & SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

MORE THAN 300 police personnel from the Southeast district and five companies of CRPF were stationed at three points — Sarai Jullena, Holy Family Hospital and Sukhdev Vihar — Thursday morning when an armed assailant shot at a Jamia student during a march.

Eyewitness accounts and videos shot by students and locals all point fingers at a row of policemen standing metres away from the accused as he brandishes a country-made weapon, with none of them showing urgency to bring him under control. It's only when he has fired a shot that a lone police officer controls him.

This is the third time since December that Delhi Police has come under criticism for lackadaisical handling of law and order situations in or around campuses — after barging into the Jamia Millia Islamia on December 15, and shoddy handling of the violence at Jawaharlal Nehru University on January 5.

Around 10.15 pm on Wednesday, a message was flashed from the police control room in Southeast district to all stations, asking personnel to be present for security deployment outside Jamia and Holy Family Hospital the next morning, to stop protesters from marching from Jamia to Rajghat. "SHOs from 12 police stations were asked to report along with 20 personnel each, in anti-riot gear, at 9.30 am. They were accompanied by two companies of CRPF, and were asked to make proper arrangements," a senior officer said.

Learning from past rallies by students, the Southeast district police strategically made three points to stop protesters. Seniors officers, including JCP (Southern range) Devesh Srivastava, DCP (Southeast) Chinmoy Biswal and Additional DCP Kumar Gyanesh were present along with their staff.

Asked why, despite such intense police presence which included senior officers, did the accused manage to shoot at a protester, Special CP (crime branch) Praveer Ranjan said "things happened in a split second" — a claim contradicted by eyewitnesses who said police had time to swoop in and control him.

"Officers couldn't see what he was holding or doing as the man was not facing them. His back was towards personnel, and he emerged from the crowd of students who were marching. Personnel thought he was waving a phone in the air; they too were taken aback by the firing," a senior officer said.

A protester, however, said: "As soon as he took out his weapon, everyone shouted for help — students, media. How did police not hear us or figure out what was happening?"

Hours after the juvenile was apprehended, he was first taken to New Friends Colony police station, and then to Greater Kailash police station. He is learnt to have told police that he came to Delhi after boarding a roadways bus, which dropped him at Kalindi Kunj. "He told police he then took an e-rickshaw to reach Jamia from where he first went to Shaheen Bagh after walking and later came to the protest site near Holy Family Hospital," a senior officer said.

He was "reluctant" during questioning and claimed he had "done his job" and "they deserved it". "He told police he met some people on social media a few months ago and they became friends. He claimed he was not happy with the anti-CAA protests and had discussed this issue with them," an officer said.

ARANYA SHANKAR, SOMYA LAKHANI & JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

A LINE of barricades, police personnel in riot gear, a Delhi Police water cannon truck on standby, and a sea of national flags held high by students — till Thursday night, Jamia remained on edge. Students made it clear that they will not be scared into stopping protests against CAA, and also demanded action against BJP leaders Kapil Mishra and Anurag Thakur for their recent chants of "goli maaro".

In the afternoon, a Jamia student was shot at by an armed assailant while he was marching with a group of students heading to Rajghat, as it was Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary. The accused allegedly shouted "yeh lo Azadi". In the evening, a protester held a poster that read "Anurag Thakur badhai ho, tumhaare gunde goli chala rahe hai".

A management student Nayla Khan said, "When you go on a mic and say 'desh ke gadaron ko, goli maaro saalon ko', people who are supporting you will be provoked."

Farhat Zahra, a school student, said the shooting was done specifically to scare students. "They think if they shoot, we will get scared and run away. They think we will stop protesting, but that is not going to happen. We are not scared," she said.

A class XII student, Hussain, said, "They've repeated history. On this day, Nathuram Godse killed Gandhi, and now his followers have attacked students who believe in Gandhi's ideology."

The students' resolve was unbreakable and repeated pleas to retreat by the university's chief proctor and the Imam of Jamia Masjid were not heeded. As the Imam of



Outside Jamia following the shooting. A protest was also held at ITO. *Abhinav Saha*

Jamia Masjid, Qari Mohammad Suleman Qasmi, said, "The atmosphere is not good. Looking at the condition, we should retreat," students replied with a resounding "no".

The number of protesters swelled, posters calling out the state and police were brought out, slogans chanted, and speeches were made. The number of police personnel too increased. Some protesters climbed on top of barricades with the national flag and demanded accountability from the police.

The *Indian Express* witnessed some protesters being lathi-charged by police personnel late evening. The pushing and shoving continued as protesters demanded they be given permission to march till Rajghat. At least eight protesters, including three women, were detained by police personnel from Jamia.

Late evening, Joint CP (Southern range) Devesh Srivastava took a loudspeaker and made an announcement about filing an FIR

under the Arms Act and for attempt to murder.

An hour later, a group of students asked him for permission to march till the Parliament on February 9. "Every time we ask for permission, but we never get it... on three occasions you beat up students, now we are asking for permission for a peaceful march. We will form a human chain and ensure no violence happens. Why would you let someone like Kapil Mishra do his rally while we can't? Why can't you be cooperative like Mumbai Police?" the students asked him. The officer, meanwhile, reiterated that the protesters will have to apply for permission.

At the protest, students from other universities also showed up. Asif Ali, a law student from Delhi University, said, "Anurag Thakur is a minister, not a small leader. If he says 'goli maaro', people listen to him all over the country. Today when a student is shot, it is his doing. It's a direct result of his speech."

Insidious conspiracy by BJP to stall polls because of fear of defeat: AAP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE AAM Aadmi Party and the Congress launched a scathing attack on the BJP and the Centre, linking the actions of the assailant who shot at a Jamia student to provocative speeches by its leaders. The Congress alleged the BJP was taking India back to the hate-filled years after the Partition, which culminated in the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi.

"What happened in Jamia is a reflection of the atmosphere of hate and vitriol that the BJP-led Centre has created in the national capital over the past one month ever since the Winter session of Parliament ended. Now, is this a calibrated plan to polarise the entire country because the economy is in deep trouble... or is it only specifically aimed at the Delhi assembly polls, I think the jury will remain out on that for a couple of days," Congress spokesperson Manish Tewari told reporters.

AAP's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said BJP was hatching an "insidious conspiracy and trying to stall the upcoming polls because of the fear of defeat, which is staring them in the face".

Tewari said that "if somebody can actually pull out a gun in broad light with hun-

‘He followed protests, said need to fight for Hindu community’

AMIL BHATNAGAR
JEWAR, JANUARY 30

SEVENTY-FOUR KILOMETRES away from New Delhi's Jamia, a locked house in Jewar had a huge crowd outside on Thursday. It was the home of the Class XI student, who shot at a Jamia student earlier in the day. His father, who runs a pan shop, and his mother, a primary school teacher, were both not home on Thursday. Relatives said they were away for a wedding, and the boy had told them he would join them there on Thursday morning. Instead, he headed to Jamia.

"He has nothing to do with anyone and minds his own business. He told us in the morning that he has to go to school, after which he would join the family for the wedding. We had no knowledge of his actions," said his grandfather. Neighbours said he would often be seen hanging around the local bazaar. A friend who accompanied him on the kanwar yatra last year said he would often talk about a "threat" to the Hindu community, and how one must stand up to it.

"He never came across as violent, but yes, he would often say we must stand up and fight for the Hindu community. We have a WhatsApp group of about 100 people where we would discuss protests and rallies in support of CAA and other issues. He was very active and vocal," said his friend.

Those who knew him said that over the past month, he had been discussing the CAA protests, Shaheen Bagh as well as protests in JNU and Jamia. "He was very active on Facebook and would consume a lot of information on the protests," said an acquaintance.



The accused was apprehended by police and questioned. *Gajendra Yadav*

In one of the boy's pictures on Facebook, he can be seen with Deepak Sharma, a right-wing activist against whom the National Security Act was slapped by the Gautam Budh Nagar administration following an attack on Afghan students from Sharda University in 2018.

"I have uploaded a lot of videos on Facebook talking about Hinduism and he was one of my many supporters. I got in touch with him during protests in Aligarh following the murder of a minor in June last year. While I never interacted a lot with him personally, he would send WhatsApp messages to many of my friends saying that 'something big' needs to happen. We never interacted after that," said Sharma.

While locals in the village said he was associated with the Bajrang Dal, and his own Facebook page claimed this too, the outfit distanced itself from the minor. In the evening, some villagers shouted the slogan, 'Tum sang-harsh karo, hum tumhare saath hain'.

tive statements made by a minister and BJP leaders. They are instigating violence. Delhi Police will have to act against Union Minister Anurag Thakur and BJP Lok Sabha MP Parvesh Sahib Singh for their provocative statements." AAP's Singh also said the "BJP is trying to create a riot-like situation in Delhi and they are hatching the most diabolical conspiracy by which they can destroy peace of Delhi".

"AAP believes that the BJP fears its upcoming defeat in this election. Mr Amit Shah and senior Delhi BJP leaders started with inflammatory speeches at various rallies in Delhi. Then, senior leaders of BJP labelled the Delhi Chief Minister a terrorist and, lastly, when they realised that none of these dirty tricks are bringing them any political gains, they conspired to create a riot-like situation in Delhi by unleashing violence," Singh said.

AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra tweeted: "When ministers in the BJP government and leaders instigate people to shoot and give incendiary speeches, then such incidents are possible. The Prime Minister should answer what kind of Delhi he wants to build? And whether he stands with violence or non-violence. Is he standing with development or anarchy." Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan also urged the Home Minister to take action against the guilty person.

6 Govt & Politics



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



BIGGER ROLE

A PROMINENT face and voice of the BJP on visual media for a long time, Shaina N C's name is now doing the rounds as a possible Rajya Sabha candidate as parties begin discussions on elections for the Upper House — of 73 seats going vacant in 2020, seven are in Maharashtra. But before that, the party seems to have rewarded her with a Prasara Bharati Board membership. Shaina's appointment is learnt to have been cleared by the party's top leadership. Actor Kajol is a part-time member of the Board.

FIELDING FOR ALLY

HAVING COME a long way from 2014, when it had fielded candidates in Delhi for the Lok Sabha elections — with disastrous consequences — the Trinamool Congress has put its considerable weight in Delhi behind the Aam Aadmi Party. Trinamool's Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien tweeted, "Vote for @AamAadmiParty Vote for the candidate from Rajendra Nagar constituency @raghav_chadha Vote for @ArvindKejriwal and all AAP candidates in Delhi."

DEDICATION FOR NATION

WITH THE General Budget to be presented on Saturday, officials involved with the Budget exercise, 'locked' inside the Budget press, are working with utmost dedication. One member of the team, deputy manager (press) Kuldeep Kumar Sharma, lost his father on January 26, but given that he was on duty in the lock-in period, he decided not to leave the press area even for a minute.

HIMALAYAS CALLING

DIPLOMAT VINAY Mohan Kwatra, who had served as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindi interpreter in the initial days and served as Joint Secretary in the PMO, has been appointed India's next envoy to Nepal. Kwatra, a 1988-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is currently India's ambassador to France.



PAYING TRIBUTE TO MAHATMA GANDHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Minister of State Shripad Yesso Naik and Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat at a function to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his 72nd death anniversary at Rajghat. Prem Nath Pandey

ALL-PARTY MEET AHEAD OF BUDGET SESSION

Oppn says address anti-CAA stir, PM calls for talks on economy

Other issues should also be discussed, Modi says; Joshi says govt not arrogant

PRADEEP KAUSHAL & ABANTIKA GHOSH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

CHARGING THE government with arrogance, Opposition leaders on Wednesday flagged the issue of anti-CAA protests during an all-party meeting ahead of the Budget Session of Parliament and called upon the government to reach out to the people holding agitations in many parts of the country.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, according to sources, told the leaders: "Most of the members have asked for discussion on the economic situation concerning the country. I welcome this and we need to discuss the economic issues as suggested by you all. We should focus on how we can turn the global scenario in favour of India."

He is also learnt to have said, "In this session, and in the beginning of the new year, if we can give a proper direction to the country's economy, it would be in the best interest of the country." Regarding other issues raised by opposition parties, Modi is learnt to have said that all of them should be discussed.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Budget on Saturday, and the ses-

EXPLAINED

Many Bills pending before Parliament

THE BUDGET Session of Parliament is focussed mainly on financial business and the passage of Motion of Thanks for the President's Address. But with more than 40 Bills pending before Parliament, some of them may be passed in the coming session. These include Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019; Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019; Central Sanskrit Universities Bill, 2019; Industrial Relations Code, 2019; and Anti-Maritime Piracy Bill, 2019.

sion concludes on April 3 with a recess in between — from February 12 to March 1.

The pre-Budget meeting was attended by leaders of 26 parties. The Prime Minister was assisted by his ministerial colleagues Rajnath Singh, Thaawarchand Gehlot, Ram Vilas Paswan, Pralhad Joshi, Arjun Ram Meghwal and Ramdas Athawale.

Among others in the meeting were Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury (all Congress), T R Baalu (DMK), Sudip Bandyopadhyay and Derek O'Brien (TMC) Nama Nageswara Rao (TRS), Ram Gopal Yadav (SP), Pinaki Misra (BJD), Ritesh Pandey (BSP), Supriya Sule (NCP), Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa (SAD), and Manoj Jha (RJD).

Azad told the media after the meeting that leaders of the other parties ought immediate release of former J&K CM and Lok Sabha MP Farooq Abdullah so that he could attend the session. Azad said the government was keen on just the passage of its Bills.

"We brought the government's attention to these (anti-CAA) protests. The government has displayed arrogance by not reaching out to the protestors to hear their concerns," he said.

Dhindsa, who is at loggerheads with SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal, was among those who raised the issue of CAA protests. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, he said, was based on religious discrimination and is unacceptable. Modi happened to have just walked in

when Dhindsa made his point.

The CAA issue was raised also by TMC and SP. TMC's Bandyopadhyay said Congress's numbers in Lok Sabha has come down from 414 at one time to 44 now, with the "1 dropping off (the figure)". Similarly, he said, the "zero would drop off BJP's 303" and the party would be reduced to 33 if it continues with its present policy of "dividing people". SP's Ram Gopal accused the government of "squandering the mandate" of 33 per cent voters of the country.

Parties from the Northeast, many of them NDA allies, demanded that their region be kept out of the NRC's ambit.

Rejecting the allegation that the government is acting arrogant, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi told the media that the CAA was passed by Parliament after a long discussion. Instead, he asked Opposition parties to introspect their own role in these protests.

RJD leader Manoj Jha accused the "new BJP" of not understanding the difference between a majority and majoritarianism. The BJD stated that federalism is non-negotiable and asked the government to clear Odisha's proposal for the revival of Vidhan Parishad at the earliest.

Chhattisgarh to move resolution against CAA

GARGI VERMA
RAIPUR, JANUARY 30

THE CHHATTISGARH Cabinet has decided to move a resolution against the new citizenship law in the upcoming budget session of the Assembly. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has, meanwhile, urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to withdraw the Act.

If the resolution is passed, Chhattisgarh will be the fifth state to pass a resolution in Assembly against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.



CM Bhupesh Baghel has written to the PM asking him to withdraw CAA

Senior minister Ravindra Choubey said, "The state cabinet has passed the resolution against

CAA and we are going to do it in the Assembly too. This Act is against the sentiments of the people of Chhattisgarh and the CM, on their behalf, has urged the PM to take it back."

In his letter, Baghel has written, "No provision has been made in this Act in relation with migrants coming from India's neighbouring countries, such as Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan etc." Citing Article 14 of the Constitution, he said CAA "seems to break the basic sentiments behind the secular Constitution".

"Originally, Chhattisgarh has a major predominant population of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes. Among the residents, there are a large number of poor; uneducated and resource-less people who may definitely face difficulties ..." Baghel has written.

BJP accused the state government of destroying the Constitution. "The Congress government has been distorting facts. This is a step to create differences between the state and Central government." BJP national general Secretary Saroj Pandey said.

Refrain within BJP: Economy big worry, may spill onto streets

RAVISH TIWARI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

WHILE THE BJP has publicly ratcheted up heat against CAA-NPR-NRC protests with an eye on Delhi elections, several responsible functionaries within the party and the government privately acknowledge that economic slowdown as the real concern.

"The biggest fear is if growth doesn't pick up, it will spill onto the streets. What currently looks as disaffection in some campuses may spread further," said a senior government functionary suggesting that it has been flagged with the Budget-making team.

Sources said a Cabinet minister had flagged the risks of campus protests and drawn the attention of the government during one of the Cabinet meetings few weeks ago.

"The CAA-NPR-NRC protests have not eroded a single vote from our support base. Neither do these protests add an extra vote to opposition ranks. So we are not politically hassled by these protests. The real issue of concern is that of the economy," said a senior BJP leader. The saving grace, he said, was the opposition's lack of organisation to mobilise popular opinion on this issue.

This BJP leader's assessment is endorsed by another senior BJP leader. "Bhaisaheb, chinta ki baat sirf arthvyaavastha hai. Baki sab manageable hai," he said, reminding that it was the economy that called for urgent attention.

The BJP leaders, however, said they hope the Budget may be able to instill some confidence and arrest the current downward slide.

"I think the economy has bottomed out. Some of the new sector-wise figures suggest that we on a recovery path," claimed a

Godse and Modi believe in same ideology: Rahul

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JANUARY 30

CONGRESS MP Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said Nathuram Godse and Prime Minister Narendra Modi believe in the same ideology.

Addressing a party-sponsored 'constitution protection rally' in Kalpetta in his constituency Wayanad, Gandhi said "they believed in the same ideology. There is no difference, except Modi has no guts to say that he believes in Godse." On the occasion of the 72nd death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Congress leader said an uninformed man is trying to challenge Gandhi's ideology. "He is filling hatred and anger. He cannot understand what India's strength is," he added.

Referring to the amended citizenship act, Gandhi said Indians are being made to prove their credentials. "Who is Modi to decide if I am an Indian or not? Who has given him the license to decide whether I am an Indian or not? I



Rahul Gandhi

know I am an Indian and don't want to prove it to anybody. There are 1.3 billion Indians who don't have to prove that they are Indians," he said.

While Gandhi led the rally, elsewhere in Kerala, Congress-led UDF workers formed a human map of India as a protest against the citizenship amendment act.

Reacting to Rahul's comments, Senior BJP leader Kailash Vijayvargiya said in Kolkata, "Nobody takes Rahul Gandhi seriously. He should first say what is his ideology and in which ideology he believes in. He should stop lecturing others."

-WITH PTI, KOLKATA

45TH MAHATMA GANDHI MEMORIAL LECTURE

‘We revere Gandhi but didn’t know what to do with him till 1930s’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

STATING THAT "in a way" Mahatma Gandhi's assassination saved India, academic and writer Pratap Bhanu Mehta said it helped prevent "a possible split in the Congress and delegitimised Hindu nationalism".

"We revere Gandhi," he said, delivering the 45th Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture at Gandhi Peace Foundation on Thursday, "but even as early as the late-1930s (we) did not quite know what to do with him. In a way, his assassination at the hands of (Nathuram) Godse saved India. It led to preventing a possible split in the Congress party, and it delegitimised Hindu national-

ism. Would a Nehruvian India have been easy to construct without Gandhi's assassination? Would he not have faced an emboldened Hindu Right even in the '50s? So Gandhi's death served a purpose."

Speaking on the topic 'Overcoming Gandhi: Gandhi and Contemporary Politics', Mehta asked, "Which Gandhi do we remember on this occasion? The Gandhi who inspires us, who gives us much of our lexicon of protest? Or the Gandhi whose response to India's independence was 'silence' — an admission of defeat, a profound sense of inner loneliness, as if his moral relation with the nation had been severed?" Mehta called BJP the "single-most radical challenge to Hinduism" today. "These are



Academic Pratap Bhanu Mehta at the 45th Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture on Thursday. Anil Sharma

times characterised by symptoms of fascism: targeting of minorities because of who they are, (a) growing authoritarianism, and allegiance to a leadership principle —

(believing) whatever the leader does is right," he said.

On the current political environment, Mehta said people compare it to the situation in Europe

in the 1930s, but there is also another comparison. "The 1920s and '30s saw growing communalisation. Gandhi's response was to find a cultural idiom of communal harmony. His claim was that for Hindu-Muslim friendship to endure, it must be 'unconditional', not subject to the calculus of bargain and interest. But while that idiom was very powerful, it sidestepped a problem representative democracy threw up: how is power going to be shared between groups?"

"The cultural idiom of a syncretic India, or a plural India, did not quite answer this specific question. In a way, we continue to sidestep this question. The BJP has declared, more or less, that power need not be shared with minorities - they can be made irrelevant.

The cultural idiom of communal harmony again seems powerless to address this specific conundrum."

In the age of social media, Mehta said, there is an asymmetry between truth and false, and "it is easier to sow suspicion rather than establishing the truth. No greatness can survive that doubt."

He said: "It is an interesting question whether an age of social media can have a place for genuine greatness. First, Modi's great success has been to produce greatness fatigue — getting people into a mindset where the very greatness of Nehru and Gandhi is held against them. If they were so great, should they not be blamed for India's condition?... Second, in a social media age, doubt triumphs over truth."

PROTEST WATCH

TAMIL NADU



A human chain which organisers claimed covered a distance of 40 km, in Chennai on Thursday. PTI

GOA

Church-backed NGO booked for ‘misusing kids’

Panaji: The office-bearers of a Goa church-backed NGO and a second human rights’ organisation have been booked for allegedly “exposing children to political ideology and aggressive language” in an anti-CAA rally in Goa on January 24. The rally called by priests was attended by many Goans and had rationalists like Damodar Mauzo and former election commissioner Prabhakar Timble giving speeches. A case has been filed under sections of the Goa Children’s Act and the Juvenile Justice Act for “misusing children”. According to the FIR, officials

of Council for Social Justice and Peace and the Goa chapter of the National Human Rights Organisation had “exposed children to political ideology and aggressive language thereby subjecting the children to psychological abuse and not providing a safe environment”. The FIR follows a complaint by another NGO, Goa-based Stop Child Abuse Now. “Having impressionable children at such gatherings places them in a vulnerable situation. Children are exposed to political ideology, aggressive and often derogatory language...” it states. **ENS**

MADHYA PRADESH



A demonstration against CAA, NRC and NPR in Bhopal on Thursday. PTI

UTTAR PRADESH

250 booked as women begin indefinite sit-in

Aligarh (UP): Women protesting against the new citizenship law have sat on an indefinite dharna at Eidgah in Aligarh with the police booking 250 of them for unlawful assembly on Thursday. The police have named nine women in the FIR, leaving others unidentified. The women have been charged under IPC sections 145, 147 and 188, SP City Abhishek Kumar said. Section 145 relates to unlawful assembly,

147 to rioting and 188 to disobedience to order issued by a public servant. The protest began late Wednesday afternoon and by evening a large number of people joined it, despite the police administration trying to deter them from violating Section 144 of the CrPC that prohibits public gatherings. The protesters spent the night at Eidgah and Thursday morning they were joined by other women from neighbouring localities. **PTI**

ODISHA



A protest in Bhubaneswar on Thursday. PTI

BIHAR

Kanhaiya to address over 50 meetings in a month

Patna: CPI leader and former JNU Students’ Union president Kanhaiya Kumar Thursday launched his ‘Jan, Gan, Man Yatra’ against CAA-NRC-NPR from Bithiharwa Ashram in West Champaran. He was not allowed to address the public in Betiah town but the district administration allowed him to speak outside the ashram. Kanhaiya later moved towards East Champaran. He is

likely to address nearly 50 meetings across the state and will conclude his tour at Gandhi Maidan in Patna on February 29. His meetings are being organised by Joint Forum Against NPR-NRC-CAA. Speaking at Motihari, Kanhaiya said, “CAA is a black law and against the poor. I have embarked on my yatra on the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.” **ENS**

NRC-NPR panic: Google halts Net education outreach in Bengal

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA & ATRI MITRA
BIRBHUM, JANUARY 30

THE NPR-NRC panic had its first casualty on the ground in West Bengal with Google stopping its Internet Saathi programme in the state. This followed a series of incidents since January 10 with villagers ransacking and even burning houses of families of young women, believing rumours that they were collecting information for the National Register of Citizens.

These young women were Internet Saathis, drawing a monthly income of about Rs 1,200, and part of a nationwide initiative launched in June 2015 by Google in partnership with Tata Trusts. The programme aims to empower women in rural India by teaching them how to use Internet in daily lives, and has so far benefited 30 million women across 20 states.

In Kanachi village in Birbhum district, about 230 km from Kolkata, a mob of over 600 raided the house of Saini Sultana, 26, an Internet Saathi who works for the Foundation for Rural Entrepreneurship Development, an NGO which is implementing the programme. Fear writ over her face, Sultana told *The Indian Express*, “Last Wednesday, some villagers confronted my father

and asked him why I sought names of women in the village and took their photographs. My father explained to them what I do and they relented. Later in the evening, hundreds of people attacked our house. We kept our main door locked. The mob pelted stones and bricks inside. We were all terrified.”

About 10 kms away, at Amba village under Margram police station, Rimpa Khatun, 18, also an Internet Saathi, is scared to talk with media persons. Roushanara Begum, her mother, would not allow anyone inside the house. “She is scared and in no condition to speak with you. After what happened, we are not allowing anyone inside. The police and local administration came after the incident and somehow managed to talk and drive people away those who attacked our house,” she said.

When contacted, a Google spokesperson told *The Indian Express*, “We along with Tata Trusts are in constant touch with our on-ground partners to provide any support needed to ensure the safety of Internet Saathis. As an immediate step, we have stopped the programme (in West Bengal) and will continue to co-ordinate with local administration to dispel the rumours.”

Rimpa’s grandfather Sahidul Alam said a house was set afire in the intervening night of



Internet Sathi worker Saini Sultana at her house in Kanachi, Birbhum. Partha Paul

January 21-22 in Gourbazar village, about 16 km from Amba, following similar rumours.

“The next day, January 22, a mob came and gheraoed our home. They pelted stones and said my grand-daughter is surveilling for NRC. Rimpa just taught other women how to use internet. But we had to call the police. Had the police arrived a bit late, it would have been disastrous,” Sahidul Alam said.

“There is so much panic and fear here about everything,” he said. Rimpa’s family farms on four bighas and deals in cattle business.

More than half-a-dozen incidents have been reported since January 10, but the police has

EXPLAINED Rumours fuelling attacks

AFTER THE Assam NRC last April, fear and panic have spread in interior parts of West Bengal, where a number of instances have been reported of villagers targeting homes and families of young women, who have been spreading Internet awareness among rural women. More so, because the workers have been collecting names and photographs of beneficiaries.

registered a First Information Report only in the Gourbazar village case when a mob ransacked the house of Chumki Khatun, 20, another Internet Saathi, on January 21, and later in the night, set it ablaze.

The village comes under the Mollarpur police station area.

According to neighbours, a mob gheraoed the house alleging that she was working for NRC.

Later, when police personnel from Mollarpur reached the spot, the mob detained them

Kafeel held in Mumbai for AMU speech, handed over to UP cops

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, LUCKNOW, JANUARY 30

CHILD SPECIALIST Dr Kafeel Khan, who was suspended following child deaths in Gorakhpur’s BRD Medical College in 2017, was arrested by Special Task Force (STF) of the UP Police late Wednesday night from Mumbai airport for allegedly making “inflammatory remarks” during an anti-CAA protest at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) a month ago.

Khan, who had flown to the city from Bihar where he had addressed a protest against the CAA, was scheduled to attend a women’s sit-in at Mumbai Central on Thursday before he was taken into custody by the UP Police in a joint operation.

He was produced in court, which sent him in three-day transit remand, his lawyers said.

According to the FIR regis-



Dr Kafeel Khan in Mumbai, Thursday. PTI

tered at Civil Lines police station in Aligarh on December 13 last year, Khan had addressed a gathering of around 600 students of AMU on the campus where he made “disparaging remarks” against RSS and Home Minister Amit Shah, besides exhorting students to fight against the CAA. “On December 12, around 6.30 pm, close to 600 students of

the AMU were addressed by Dr Kafeel Khan and Swaraj India president Yogendra Yadav... Khan tried to incite the religious feelings of Muslims students of AMU and increase hate and enmity for other community... Kafeel Khan had also said that with CAA, ‘you (Muslims) are being made a second class citizen and thus we have to fight’,” the FIR said.

Outgoing UK envoy hopes Centre will address concerns over citizenship law

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

AMID PROTESTS against the new citizenship law, outgoing British High Commissioner to India Dominic Asquith said it hopes that the Indian government will address concerns of the people over the Act as its manifesto commitment is “with all, development for all and trust of all”.

He also said the British side is “very interested” in a visit to Kashmir and has a standing request for it and said they have



Dominic Asquith

not received any request from the Indian side to visit the Valley following the abrogation of Article 370 provisions. At an interaction with journalists here, the British envoy expressed “regret” over violent protests on the premises of the Indian mission

in London last year.

Asked about the protests against CAA, Asquith said, “We have noted what the government and Mr. Modi say about ‘with all, development for all, and trust of all’ (a reference to *sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishvas*) and I believe that is the manifesto commitment of this government.”

“There is protest in every single democracy... I refer back to the ‘with all, development for all, and trust of all’ as the objective set by this government and I am sure that in that ‘trust of all’ (is) the trust that it will be address-

Bulandshahr: Bail to 13, court says cops unable to prove role in protest

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NOIDA, JANUARY 30

WHILE GRANTING bail to 13 people arrested and booked for a murder attempt during last month’s violent protest against the new citizenship law (CAA) and proposed NRC in Bulandshahr, the district court judge, in his order, observed that police were unable to provide CCTV footage to support their claims.

The court had granted bail to the 13 accused on January 17. In the bail order of one of the accused, identified as 55-year-old Yusuf, the judge observed: “The accused is not named in the FIR. The FIR was filed 15 hours later and he has been falsely implicated. The house of the accused is 8 km away from the spot (where the violence took place). No rioting, loot or attempt to

Clashes between police and protesters broke out in Bulandshahr on December 20

murder was carried out by him. It is observed that he was not present at the spot and that police has no CCTV footage of the same.”

Yusuf was released from jail on Wednesday. According to jail officials, the remaining 12 who have been granted bail will be released once the paperwork is completed.

After his release, Yusuf said the police had picked him up from his house on the night of December 20 and assaulted him. “Police entered my house in the night (December 20) from the roof. My son-in-law was also at home. They told us that my son-in-law would be spared if I go to the police station. My son-in-law was beaten up. Police then asked us if we were present at the protest spot. I told them I had nothing to do with the protest. I am old and not even capable of going out. They did not listen to me and put me in jail,” he said.

Clashes between police and protesters broke out in Bulandshahr on December 20 during a protest against CAA. In an FIR filed at Kotwali City Police Station, police had named 27 people and 700-800 unnamed others for rioting, damage to public property among others.

T M Krishna book event denied venue: ‘May instigate disharmony’

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, JANUARY 30

KALAKSHETRA FOUNDATION in Chennai on Thursday cancelled the permission for the use of their auditorium for the release of Carnatic singer T M Krishna’s latest book, *Sebastian & Sons*. The letter from the foundation to the publisher, Westland, a firm owned by Amazon India, said that since it is an autonomous body under the Union Ministry of Culture, it “cannot allow any programme that may instigate political, cultural and social disharmony”.

The letter sent by Revathi Ramachandran, director of the foundation, said excerpts of the book published by Westland Publications contain “certain

statements relating to the book which touch controversial issues and certainly have a lot of political overtones”.

“We were unaware of the controversies surrounding the subject matter of the book at the time of renting our auditorium for the book release. We, therefore, regret to inform you that we hereby withdraw our permission given for the book release function,” the letter added.

Karthika V K, publisher of Westland, retweeted posts about the Kalakshetra decision. Shortly after one such retweet, she tweeted, “Delhi, Chennai, the saffron is blinding.”

The book chronicles the century-old history of mridangam, the primary percussion instrument in Carnatic music, through



T M Krishna’s latest book *Sebastian & Sons* was scheduled to be released at the event

the stories of legendary mridangam players and makers, who were mainly from Dalit Christian communities.

Refusing to comment on

whether there was political pressure on the foundation, a top office bearer alleged, “Excerpts they published were problematic and highly judgemental with lazy political opinions against a community. People who had gone through the entire book confirm that it was not an original book on artists but one to invite unnecessary controversy through Brahmin-bashing with graphical details of cow slaughter. There may be a market for such books but definitely not in Kalakshetra.”

Krishna, who was in Jaipur on Thursday, told *The Indian Express* that he was “astounded” at the decision of Kalakshetra Foundation. “In the morning, I had a request to speak to the Kalakshetra director. But my calls went unan-

swered. When I landed in Jaipur later, I received a mail about cancellation of the permission to use the auditorium. I presume the excerpts of the book published in a newspaper today must have led to this decision,” Krishna said.

Asked about his book, Krishna said it celebrates works of important people. “They have been making it (mridangam) for generations by walking through blood and dirt and everything to make sure that a good cow skin, good goat skin makes a good mridangam. With this decision, do they (Kalakshetra) mean to say, ‘Please, don’t discuss all that?’” he asked.

“What about respect to these people, understanding their lives, about what all they have done for over 100 years?

Will all these make Kalakshetra uncomfortable? Making someone uncomfortable is not a wrong thing. That is what art and writing should do,” Krishna said.

Responding to Kalakshetra foundation’s claim that the book was controversial, Krishna said he has no clue about what is controversial in it. “Yes, the cow is worshipped by certain section of the society. But the same section also listens to sound coming from cow skin. How can we deny that? My book is about these wonderful makers (of mridangam) who were marginalised. It is about the reality of mridangam makers and mridangam. Nobody has read the entire book. They have seen only excerpts and couple of interviews.” he added.

Chhattisgarh HC asks CBI to probe 15 officers for embezzlement

FROM PAGE ONE

Pandit colonies in Valley safe, fenced, gated: ‘It’s like dividing us again’

GARGI VERMA
RAIPUR, JANUARY 30

THE CHHATTISGARH High Court on Thursday asked the CBI to lodge an FIR and investigate allegations of corruption against 15 senior government officers. The officers, including two former chief secretaries, have been accused of forming fake government departments and withdrawing salaries of non-existing employees.

The order by Justices Parth Prateem Sahu and Prashant Kumar Mishra, which came on a petition by Raipur resident Kundan Singh Thakur that was converted into a PIL by the High Court in 2018, observed that “startling and disturbing facts” regarding alleged corruption and embezzlement of funds to the tune of Rs 1,000 crore during 2004-2018 were brought forth by the petitioner.

The 15 officers include former Chief Secretaries Vivek Dhand and Sunil Kujur, Principal Secretary and Chairman of Chhattisgarh Professional Examination Board Alok Shukla, Chief Information Commissioner M K Raut, and senior officers Satish Pandey and P P Soti. Principal Secretary B L Agarwal, who was arrested in 2017 over corruption charges, is also named. Five employees of the Social Welfare Department, including Additional Director M L Pandey and Deputy Director Pankaj Verma, are among the 15. Rajesh Tiwari, who is now Director, Finance, and Ashok Tiwari were named as directors of the society through which the funds were embezzled, the petition said.

The petitioner was employed at a government self-help centre on contract basis when he found out that he was also shown to be

employed at the Physical Rehabilitation Reference Centre (PRRC) under the Social Welfare Department. PRRC, which claims to have been involved in the construction of artificial limbs for persons with disabilities, does not exist, according to the petition. The petition attached several documents to show budgetary provision and release of amount for establishment of PRRC in Raipur district.

The society, named Rajya Shrot Nishakt Jan Samman, was operating the bank accounts for PRRC through the State Resource Centre (SRC) under the Social Welfare Department. “SRC established in 2004 is a society under the provisions of the Chhattisgarh Society Registrarikar Adhiniyam, 1973 but has never been audited since,” the petition said.

“People hired on contract basis for other departments like education, GATLAB, etc were shown to be employees at the PRRC.

They were not given any e-codes, and the salary was given in cash from the accounts of a society chaired by the 15 senior government officers,” the petitioner’s counsel Devarshi Thakur said.

The CBI has been asked to seize all relevant documents from the social welfare department within 15 days, the court order said.

Advocate General Satish Verma, who represented the state government, said, “This is the previous government’s corrupt practices. We have put forth our points. We are cooperating. It is sad that the High Court, instead of giving us a chance to investigate, handed over the case to CBI.”

The court noted that “the report along with submission memo of the respondent/State partially admits to certain financial irregularities” but “no serious attempt has been made to unearth and find out as to who has siphoned the amount.”

model that the government may find easy to replicate.

This “Pandit colony”, which has 60 portacabins, is home to about 70 migrant Pandits - some are shared — who were employed by the government in Kashmir back in 2010 under the Prime Minister’s Return & Rehabilitation Scheme. It was meant to be transit accommodation until “returnees” reintegrated with the local community. At least in this respect, time has stood still these last 10 years.

On this Wednesday morning, the premises are deserted. Most returnees, who are employed as teachers, have returned to Jammu for the annual school vacation. The police guards say only a handful of others employed in other government departments in junior posts remain, but they are away at work. Only a few are originally from Haal. None of their families have shifted here. They come for a couple of months in the summer, say the guards. Then they go right back to Jammu, which has been their home for the last 30 years.

“Everything is normal. Those who live here go out to work everyday. They face no problems at all from the local residents,” a police guard said. In all, seven policemen and 10 SOG personnel guard the premises.

But local residents do not see the Pandit colony as a solution, and believe it could become part of the problem.

Sajjad Hussain Dar, a resident of Haal, says Pandits are welcome to return. “They should come back and stay in their homes. That is what we all want. But if they want to stay in colonies like this one, that is a different thing. Then they become separate. We are not like having neighbours. We are not able to meet and greet them as we would in the normal

way. When people come and live in their own homes, we know who they are. Our parents and grandparents knew their’s. When they live in colonies, we don’t know who they are, where they are from,” Dar said.

For the Kashmiri Muslims of Haal, the ideal is Omkarnath Bhat, who is in his late 80s, and was the only one who did not leave with the other Pandits in 1990. He lives in his crumbling house with his son, daughter-in-law and their three sons, a few hundred metres away from the “Pandit colony”, in Haal’s original Pandit locality, once home to the most prosperous and well to do Kashmiri Pandit families until they all left.

Now, some two dozen houses rise silently from the snow, testimony to a past grandeur even in their dilapidated and crumbling condition. One belongs to a former judge of the Supreme Court, another to a well known Delhi doctor. Bhat’s eldest grandson Abhilash, 26, managed just last year to get a job in the PWD department in Pulwama, a rare third-generation non-migrant Pandit to have found government employment.

Abhilash, who has a B.Tech degree from a college in Ambala, Haryana, too sounds a cautious note on colonies. “From the migrants’ point of view, colonies are okay, but not from the point of view of locals. By living in colonies, they become separate. Outsiders are not allowed in. It becomes a barrier between people,” he said.

His grandfather said the family had lived here all these years “only with the support of our neighbours”. The only thing he complained about was the lack of water in his house, and loneliness, “because there are some matter, like religion, that you can discuss only with your own people”.

Showkat Ahmad, a neigh-

bour, speaks with affection about the Bhat family. “We have lived as brothers and we will continue to do so. All the other Pandits are welcome to return. It would be good if they settle back with us in our village. Settling them in separate colonies is not a good idea. It would be like dividing us again and that would not be good - not for them (Pandits) and not for us (Muslims). We want harmony, and separation would only create animosity,” Ahmad said.

Far from Pulwama, in Budgam district’s Sheikhpora is another Pandit colony, with multi-storied housing. Five hundred migrants, all employed in various government departments in Kashmir, live in this colony, with their families. Abhay Kaul, a 23-year-old, who was born and grew up in Jammu, studied there, and is now employed Village Level Worker in the Rural Development department, lives here with his mother who works in the Urban Development department. His father has a business in Jammu, and lives there. Kaul says the accommodation in Sheikhpora is better than what is available for migrants in Jammu. But it is clear that for him, home is Jammu, where his family has built their own house, even though he says, “Jammu people don’t like Kashmiri Pandits”.

Though the security situation is more relaxed here than in Pulwama, the CRPF guards this colony, and lets people in only after a scrutiny of their IDs.

There are also 31 non-migrant families living in Sheikhpora. “The police told us they cannot provide security to isolated families, and forcibly brought us here. The conditions here are awful, and because we are non-migrant, we get second class treatment even inside this colony,” said Deepak

Bhat, who works as a technician with an electrical appliances company. He, his wife and daughter, his parents and his sister share a three-roomed apartment. “Even the attic at our home in Lalgar was better than this living room. Is this even a life? What’s the point of living like a refugee all your life,” he said, adding “When I say these things, people say I’ve become anti-India”.

Sanjay Tickoo, who heads Kashmiri Pandit Sangharsh Samiti, an association of non-migrants, called the colonies “an experiment that failed”. Tickoo lives in the Bar Bar Shah neighbourhood, a maze of lanes and houses in Habbakadal, once a hub of Kashmiri Pandits. Now there are only two or three Pandit families left here.

“My life here is 24x7. When I go out, people know me, I know them. I can call on my neighbours for help, I can visit them in good times and bad. But for those in the colonies, life is 9 to 5 only. They go out of the colony to work, and shut themselves up in their colony when they return,” he said. The issue of return, Tickoo said, is complex. Most of the Pandit families belonging to Srinagar had sold their homes. “Who wants to return? Those who are in their 80s now? Those in their 40s? Many are settled well outside in other cities, their children grew up outside. That kind of person will not be able to resettle here. People with children would not want to come here, as the education system is quite bad and is behind that in the rest of the country,” he said. Ultimately, said Tickoo, the migrant Pandits would have to decide “whether they wanted to return to live in ghettos”.

(TOMORROW: HOW PANDITS SEE AUGUST 5 AND THEIR RETURN)

25,000 child porn cases in 5 months

MOHAMED THAYER
MUMBAI, JANUARY 30

A TOTAL of 57 FIRs have been filed in 25,000 cases of suspected child pornography that was uploaded on social media platforms from the country, and 15 of these are “high priority cases”, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) on Friday.

The 15 cases, reported mainly from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi, include instances where the child faces either a risk to his life or further exploitation.

The Indian Express on Tuesday reported that US-based non-profit organisation NCMEC had been sharing instances where visuals of children being sexually exploited ostensibly were shared on social media platforms from India over the past five months. NCRB had signed an agreement with NCMEC last year following which data was shared with India and 25,000 cases were reported.

An official said, “The cases that are sent are categorised too. Of the 25,000 cases sent, 15 fall in ‘high priority’ that have to be acted upon immediately. In these cases, there are chances that the life of the child could be at risk or he could be further exploited.”

“So far, we have received data from smaller states about action they took based on details provided to them. Once we start getting feedback from larger states, the number of FIRs will go up,” an official said.

The IB Director Wednesday inaugurated the cyber tipline facility of NCRB, where inputs sent by NCMEC on such offences will be screened and sent to state police.



NDFB (R) chief Ranjan Daimary surrenders weapons to Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal in Guwahati on Thursday. State Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is also present. Dasarath Deka

Bodo peace accord signed, 1,600 NDFB cadres surrender

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, JANUARY 30

OVER 1,600 cadres of Bodo militant outfit NDFB on Thursday laid down their weapons at an event in Guwahati, days after all factions of the group signed a peace accord with the Centre and the state government. A total of 1,615 cadres, comprising 836 members of NDFB (P), 579 of NDFB (RD) and 200 of NDFB (S) laid down their arms. A total of 178 arms, 4,803 pieces of ammunition, 14 grenades and one two-inch mortar were laid down.

Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said, “A comprehensive rehabilitation policy would be formulated for providing employment opportunities to the surrendered militants so that they could make meaningful contribution to

the nation building process.”

Gobinda Basumatary, chief of one faction of the NDFB and a signatory of the latest agreement, told *The Indian Express* on the sidelines of the ceremony, “With this accord, the armed militancy in Bodoland will end. I don’t think there will be any more armed groups in Bodo community.”

Asked about the BJP, he said the agreement will give the party a way to extend its support base in the community. “There are already so many BJP supporters among Bodo people. This agreement will give them a further upper hand,” he added.

Speaking to reporters, Assam cabinet minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said, “We are going to develop a new model of rehabilitation. We are going to engage with NDFB cadres. Our primary concern will be that these cadres, who

have now surrendered, should not go back to any anti-social activity because of lack of opportunity. We have to include them into the mainstream and give them opportunities for livelihood.”

Sarma said the model of rehabilitation that will be prepared by the state government will include aspects of psychological treatment, industrial training and may include provisions of getting them jobs in security forces and the scope for productive employment opportunities in agriculture, fishery and horticulture. He added that a certain sum of money — sufficient to guarantee the cadres’ subsistence for the next three years — would also be allotted.

He also indicated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi may address a rally in Kokrajhar, which falls in the Bodoland Territorial Region, on February 7.

IndiGo pilot who flew Kamra objects to ban

debarment up to three months; Level 2 indicates physical unfitness and can lead to the passenger being debarred from flying for upto six months; Level 3 indicates life-threatening behaviour where the debarment would be for a minimum of two years.

In the e-mail, Mateti noted that after the aircraft’s pushback, he was informed by the lead cabin attendant (LCA) that Kamra and Goswami were involved in a verbal altercation and that it had been noticed prior to the commencement of the flight.

Kamra tried to engage with Goswami, who did not respond, and the former was then asked by the LCA to return to his seat. “Upon receiving this instruction, Mr Kamra apologised to the LCA and returned to his seat,” Mateti wrote.

The pilot wrote that while the altercation continued and Kamra

was observed using abusive language, he did not observe any physical contact between Kamra and Goswami. At this point, the pilot addressed the passengers asking Kamra to return to his seat, after which the comedian apologised to the crew and returned to his seat.

“Then asked the LCA to speak with Mr. Goswami and inform him that the Flight Deck send their regards, and that if he wished to lodge a complaint, we would be happy to assist him after landing in Lucknow. He was also offered extra F&B (food & beverages). He thanked the LCA and acknowledged the offer,” the pilot wrote.

Mateti ended his e-mail by seeking a clarification from the airline: “Moving forward, am I to understand that the bar for interpretation of a Disruptive passenger is lower/different when it

comes to high profile cases? Perhaps the SEP Manual is to be amended to reflect this? I would like a clarification from the airline as this leaves a lot of room for ambiguity”.

Mateti did not respond to a message from The Indian Express seeking comment. Responding to a query on whether IndiGo had received a complaint from the pilot before banning Kamra, the airline said: “We have received the relevant statements and the internal committee has initiated the investigation regarding this incident.”

Government sources said IndiGo’s decision was in contravention of laid-down norms, which state that an airline can refer an incident of on-board unruliness to its internal committee only after receiving a complaint from the pilot-in-command.

IndiGo’s ban is also not in line

with regulations, which stipulate that pending a decision by an internal committee of the airline, it “may ban such unruly passenger from flying, but such period may not exceed a period of 30 days”. The onus of deciding the duration for which the passenger will be banned lies with the committee.

Following the IndiGo ban, three other airlines — Air India, SpiceJet and GoAir — followed suit by suspending Kamra’s flying rights indefinitely.

Sanjiv Kapoor, who was Vistara’s former Chief Commercial Officer until recently, said airlines can refuse carriage for a particular flight to a passenger who is inebriated, late, or abusive. “But to ban for a period is very different. That decision is not up to the airline alone — the DGCA has a clearly defined process for how such bans need to be put in place,” Kapoor said.

Elgar Parishad: NIA moves court for transfer of documents, material

SUSHANT KULKARNI
PUNE, JANUARY 30

THE NATIONAL Investigation Agency (NIA), which has taken over the Elgar Parishad case from Pune City Police, has approached the special court hearing the case, asking for transfer of all the court documents and seized objects to a special NIA court in Mumbai.

The NIA moved its petition before the court on Wednesday. It also told the court that it had filed a fresh FIR in the case, as part of the procedure, and submitted it on January 27 to the special NIA court in Mumbai.

Defence lawyers said it was not clear whether NIA’s petition was a result of a delay in formally getting charge of the case from Pune police, or part of routine procedure. They said it was possibly the first time that NIA was taking over a case at a stage when even a chargesheet had been filed. Usually, cases are handed over to the NIA at a much earlier stage.

It has been three days

since an NIA team came to Pune asking for a handover of the case. Pune Police have told them that they were still to get orders from the office of Director General of Police in Mumbai to hand over the case papers to NIA. While the NIA is empowered by law to take over any case in which the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) is invoked, the Maharashtra government has expressed its displeasure over the decision of the Centre to hand over the Elgar Parishad case to NIA.

Even on Thursday, state Home Minister Anil Deshmukh alleged that the BJP government at the Centre had transferred the case to NIA because it wanted to “protect” people close to the party.

“There are people close to the BJP involved in inciting violence at Koregaon Bhima, whom they want to protect. Soon after NCP chief Sharad Pawar sent a letter to the government demanding a Special Investigating Team probe into the case, and after we held a review meeting, they (the Centre) immediately took over the case. Obviously, they did not want the truth to emerge,” Deshmukh said, told *The Indian Express*.

The NIA moved the application on a day when the Pune court was not scheduled to hear the case. Neither the prosecution lawyers nor the defence was present in court when the application was moved by NIA officials.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Paharis to get 4% quota in jobs, admission in professional institutions

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JANUARY 30

THE JAMMU and Kashmir Administration on Thursday approved amendments to Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Rules, 2005, in a decision aimed at rationalising the policy and giving representation to 9.6 lakh Pahari-speaking people in the Union Territory.

An official statement said the decision was taken at a meeting of the Administrative Council chaired by Lieutenant Governor G C Murmu. After reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories and the enactment of Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Act, it had become imperative to rationalise the existing reservation percentage available to different categories so as to include Pahari-speaking people into the category of socially and educationally backward classes.

As per the existing rules, there is 8 per cent reservation in direct recruitment for Scheduled Castes, 10 per cent for Scheduled Tribes, two per cent for weaker and underprivileged classes, three per cent for residents of areas adjoining Line of Actual Control/International Border, 20 per cent for residents of backward areas, besides horizontal reservation of 6 per cent

for ex-servicemen and 3 per cent for persons with disabilities.

The residents of backward areas will now have 10 per cent reservation, Pahari-speaking people 4 per cent and 10 per cent quota for EWS. The SCs will continue to have 8 per cent reservation, STs 10 per cent, weaker and underprivileged classes 4 per cent, residents of areas adjoining the Line of Actual Control and the border 4 per cent, besides 6 per cent horizontal reservation for ex-servicemen and 4 per cent for persons with disabilities. The Administrative Council has directed the Social Welfare Department to redraw the reservation roster.

For claiming the benefit, a person must be a member of Pahari clan, community or tribe having distinct cultural, ethnic and linguistic identity; must be speaking Pahari language and Pahari must be his mother tongue. An Aadhaar Card or Domicile Certificate is required to avail the benefit.

For admission in professional institutions, there will be 8 per cent reservation for SCs, 10 per cent for STs, 4 per cent for residents of areas along the Line of Actual Control, 10 per cent for residents of backward areas, 4 per cent of Pahari-speaking people, 4 per cent for persons with disabilities, 10 per cent for EWS, among others.

Sabarimala: 9-judge SC bench to decide relevant questions

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE SUPREME Court on Thursday expressed disappointment that lawyers for the various sides in the matter relating to discrimination against women in various religions and at religious places, including Sabarimala Temple, had not been able to arrive at a consensus on the questions to be decided by its nine-judge bench.

Chief Justice of India S A Bobde said that on February 3, the nine judges would look into the questions suggested by the various sides, take a final call on which are the relevant ones to be answered, and fix modalities for the hearing.

The CJ conveyed this to a group of lawyers appearing in the matter when they mentioned the matter before a three-judge bench headed by him on Thursday.

Senior Advocate Indira Jaising said the petitions challenging the amendments to Article 370 were also pending before the court and said it should decide which to hear first.

To this, the CJ said, "that was given priority, but...I think we will have to start with this (Sabarimala)".

"We will decide what is the best course of action," he said, adding that the final decision was not likely to make everyone happy.

On January 13, the court had asked the lawyers to sit together and draw up the questions to be decided. Subsequently, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had informed the bench that a consensus could not be arrived at and urged the bench to frame the issues to be decided.

Goans banned from gambling in casinos from February 1

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PANAJI, JANUARY 30

TWO decades after the first casino opened its doors in Goa, the state government Thursday announced that Goans will be banned from gambling in casinos from February 1.

The move — first promised by late chief minister Manohar Parrikar in the Assembly in 2012 — was announced along with a decision to put in place a Gaming Commission to formulate rules and regulate the casino industry.

"The Sales Tax Commission will be appointed as the Gaming Commission on February 1. Goans will be banned from entering casinos on the same day," CM Pramod Sawant told reporters.

Officials in the secretariat further clarified that residents can continue to work in these casinos.

The state has six off-shore casinos anchored in Mandovi river and nine on-shore casinos which operate from resorts.

The announcement follows Sawant's assurance in the Assembly during the monsoon session in August. Sawant had responded to demands of the ruling and opposition legislators, who pointed to huge debt among unemployed residents who saw gambling as a way to earn some extra money.

The first casino in Goa became operational in 1999.

Invited for b'day, 20 children held hostage in UP village, ATS at spot

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 30

A POLICE operation was on till late Thursday night to rescue 20 children held hostage at a house at Karthiya village near Farrukhabad in Fatehgarh district of Uttar Pradesh allegedly by a murder convict who is out on bail. Police said Subhash Batham, 38, had invited the children, between the ages of three and 10, home for his daughter's birthday and then held them at gunpoint.

Batham's wife Ruby and his daughter are also in the house. He has not made any demands so far to release the children, said police.

Batham allegedly fired from inside to thwart attempts by both the parents of the children and police to approach the



Police operation was on till late Thursday night. ANI

house, leaving one person injured. Two police personnel were hurt when stones were pelted at them. Police said Batham also threw a crude bomb at people gathered outside.

"We are making all efforts to ensure the children are rescued safely," said Additional Director

General, Law and Order, P V Ramasastry. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is monitoring the situation, and a team of the state Anti-Terrorism Squad has been dispatched to Fatehgarh. Senior police officers, including Inspector General, Kanpur Range, Mohit Agarwal, are at the spot.

Batham has four cases against him, including murder. All four FIRs were filed at the Mohammadabad Police Station in 2001.

Additional Superintendent of Police, Fatehgarh, Tribhuwan Singh said, he had been convicted for murder but had got bail from the high court. He said they would have to check records to determine since when Batham had been on bail.

Karthiya village pradhan Shashi's husband Harbeer Singh said, "Around two months back,

Subhash was arrested in a robbery case. He came out of jail a month ago."

Singh said that on Thursday Batham invited the children home, saying he was celebrating his daughter's birthday. When the children didn't return, the parents came to get them back, but he didn't open the door. "When parents banged on the door, Subhash started abusing them and opened fire."

One of the residents informed the police control room. Singh said, "Subhash fired at Anupam, a local, and he suffered a injury in his right leg. He also threw a crude bomb from inside."

He added that Subhash demanded to talk to local BJP MLA Nagendra Singh Rathore. But when the MLA came, "he fired from inside". The MLA escaped unhurt.



People wearing masks are seen at Chennai International Airport on Thursday. Reuters

Embassy alerts Indians about tentative evacuation plan today

SOWMIYA ASHOK & SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE INDIAN embassy in Beijing on Thursday alerted Indian nationals in Wuhan that it was tentatively preparing for evacuation on Friday evening. "This flight will carry those Indian nationals who are in and around Wuhan and have conveyed consent for their evacuation. There will be another flight subsequently which will carry those who are from other parts of Hubei Province," the Indian embassy said in a message to the Indian community.

However, the Indian embassy said that the details "are tentative and are being shared with you so that you are adequately prepared". The embassy officials said in the message that it was their intention to ensure that all those who had expressed consent to avail of this facility are safely returned to India.

The embassy has drawn up a list of 374 students — till 11pm on Thursday — who will board flight no.1 and will be tentatively

evacuated on Friday. However, official communication to students indicated that this will be subject to clearing the medical check-up conducted by Chinese officials. The students have been told to pack no more than one carry-on bag (7 kg) and one check-in luggage (15 kg) for their journey. They have also been asked to make sufficient arrangements for masks, gloves, tissues, hand sanitizers, adequate food and drinking water and essential medicines. Students have been told to prepare for departure at "very short notice" on Friday afternoon.

In New Delhi, the government said that it was waiting for the necessary approval from the Chinese side for the two Air India flights to bring back about 600 Indians, who have been contacted by the Indian embassy.

Ministry of External Affairs official spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said, "We have made a formal request to the government of China for bringing back Indian nationals from the Hubei province in two flights. We are awaiting the necessary approval

from the Chinese side. We hope this will be granted soon."

The government has reached out to over 600 Indians living in China's Hubei province, the epicentre of the coronavirus outbreak, to ascertain their willingness to be brought back to India.

"We have established contact with over 600 Indians across the province and are individually ascertaining their willingness to be repatriated. Our Mission in Beijing is working round-the-clock on the ground to work out the necessary logistics," the MEA spokesperson said.

According to Chinese authorities, the nationwide death toll from novel coronavirus has jumped to 170. Kumar said arrangements are being put in place for people to travel to the airport in Wuhan.

"We remain committed to the safety and well-being of our nationals abroad. We appreciate the support extended by the government of China and other ministries in government of India in putting this process together," Kumar said.

In New Delhi, the Chinese

embassy's spokesperson Ji Rong said that the Chinese Embassy in India has maintained close communication with the Indian government, and timely briefed on the development of the epidemic and China's efforts in epidemic prevention and control. "The Chinese side pays close attention to the report of the emergence of one confirmed case of pneumonia caused by the novel coronavirus in India and will co-operate with the Indian side to jointly strengthen the epidemic prevention and control."

Ji said, "The Chinese government attaches great importance to safeguarding the safety and health of every foreign national in China, including the Indian people. We are willing to continue to maintain close communication with the Indian side, provide necessary assistance and convenience to ensure the health and safety of Indian citizens in China, and address their legitimate concerns timely. We also hope Indian side could continue to render understanding and support to China's efforts in epidemic prevention and control."

LIVESTOCK CENSUS

No. of stray cattle down in country, up in UP

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE NUMBER of stray cattle in the country has marginally come down to 50.22 lakh in 2019 from 51.88 lakh in 2012 — a decline of 3.2 per cent — according to the latest data of the 20th Livestock Census released by the Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries on Thursday.

While the data shows a decline at the national level, there is substantial increase in stray cattle population in states such as Uttar Pradesh (17.34 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (95 per cent), Rajasthan (34.48 per cent), Gujarat (17.59 per cent), Chhattisgarh (33.93 per cent) and Punjab (38.69 per cent) in 2019 in comparison to 2012. However, in some states, a sharp

decline has been registered in the stray cattle population. These include Odisha (86.68 per cent decline), West Bengal (73.59 per cent), Bihar (66.54 per cent) and Tamil Nadu (23.95 per cent).

The sharp increase in the number of stray cattle in Uttar Pradesh shows that efforts to control the problem have not yielded desired results. The Yogi Adityanath government had imposed special duty on liquor in its last budget to raise Rs 165 crore for maintenance of stray cattle. It also allocated Rs 247.60 crore for construction of gaushalas (cow shelters) in rural areas and Rs 200 crore for Kanha Gaushalas to house the stray animals in urban areas. But the increase in the stray cattle population shows no relief on ground.

The number of stray cattle is additional to the total cattle pop-

‘Suspended J&K cop was on Hizb payroll’

Was negotiating over Rs 20 lakh for job that led to arrest: probe

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

SUSPENDED J&K Police officer Davinder Singh, who was arrested along with Hizb-ul-Mujahideen militant Naveed Mushtaq on January 11, was on the terror outfit's payroll, according to investigators.

He had not only taken money for transporting and sheltering Naveed but had been regularly receiving money from the militant for extending assistance throughout the year, sources said.

"When he was caught, he was transporting Naveed to Jammu, where he (Naveed) was to stay for the winter. After that, they (Naveed and arrested accomplice Asif) were supposed to leave for Pakistan. We are probing the route they were to take to reach Pakistan. Davinder was negotiating between Rs 20 lakh and Rs 30 lakh for the job — he had not been paid the full amount," a security establishment officer told *The Indian Express*.

The suspended Deputy SP, a source said, had similarly transported Naveed to Jammu last year and provided him shelter during the winter. "He was in touch with Naveed for years and was on his payroll. He has been regularly receiving money from Hizb-ul-Mujahideen," an officer said.

Singh was arrested on



Davinder Singh

January 11 in Kulgam while ferrying Naveed, Asif and lawyer Irfan Mir to Jammu in his car. A team led by DIG Atul Goel flagged the car (Hyundai i10) based on intelligence inputs. Sources said agencies learnt about Naveed's movement through Irfan's phone, which had been put on surveillance. "Conversations revealed Naveed's plan to leave for Jammu in an i10 car on January 11. Davinder was a chance arrest, albeit not shocking," the officer said.

According to a source, Singh is not cooperating with NIA in his interrogation. "He is refusing to even recognise numbers stored in his phone. He says he was posted at (Srinagar) airport and would save numbers of anyone who met him. He is also maintaining his innocence. Technical investigation will throw more leads on his contacts and finances," the officer

MINING IN GOA

SC allows transport of iron ore mined before deadline

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE SUPREME Court on Thursday allowed mining companies to transport iron ore mined in Goa before March 15, 2018, which may be lying at jetties, stockyards or pitheads, provided royalty is paid to the state.

Deciding appeals challenging an order of Bombay High Court, a bench of Chief Justice of India S A Bobde and Justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant said that on two earlier occasions, another bench had allowed transport of the mineral already lying at the jetties.

"We do not find that there is any rationale in differentiating between the iron ore which is either at the jetties or at the stockyards or pitheads, if the same is mined prior to the date of the prohibition i.e. 15.3.2018. There is no doubt that the ownership of the ore is that of the party that has raised the ore. The ore which has been permitted to be transported is on condition of payment of royalty. We see no reason why the owners should not be allowed to transport their own ore," the court ruled and gave the companies six months to move their stock.

The Supreme Court set aside the High Court judgment quashing the Goa government's 2018 decision permitting transportation of mineral/iron ore mined prior to March 15, 2018.

The High Court order came on a plea by NGO Goa

Foundation which challenged the permission granted by the state to transport minerals mined before March 15, 2018.

Acting on a plea by the Foundation, the Supreme Court in 2014 held that all iron and manganese ore leases had expired on November 22, 2007 and any mining operation carried out after that was illegal. It also held that mining leaseholders had enjoyed a first deemed renewal and for a second renewal, an express order was required to be passed.

Subsequently, many mining leaseholders filed writ petitions in the High Court praying for consideration of their applications for a second renewal of lease or for grant of a lease on second renewal.

In 2014, the High Court asked Goa to execute lease deeds in favour of the leaseholders who had paid stamp duty and to consider applications of other leaseholders.

This order was challenged in Supreme Court which set it aside in 2018 and gave mining leaseholders, who had been granted the second renewal, "time to manage their affairs" and added that they "may continue their mining operations till 15/3/2018".

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant welcomed the Supreme Court's decision. "There was a plea for allowing transportation of extracted ore. They (SC) have permitted us today. It will benefit the economy," he said.

-WITHENS PANAJI

said. A resident of Tral, in south Kashmir's Shopian, a militancy hotbed, Singh joined J&K Police as sub-inspector in 1990. A brave and wily policeman, Singh's colleagues said he soon joined the Special Operations Group, which was at the time the crack anti-militancy unit.

He was involved in multiple operations of trapping and killing militants, or forcing their arrest or surrender. "He was very well-connected in Shopian. Tral has a sizable population of Sikhs and he had a good network among them, apart from other locals. He could not only generate information but also lure militants and execute operations," a J&K Police officer said.

Not surprisingly, Singh got out-of-turn promotion, and even a gallantry medal from the state in 2018 for a 2017 operation in Pulwama.

However, another officer said, Singh's ways were not always clean.

A former top cop of J&K said: "I did think he was useful initially, but soon realised that he was probably playing a double game and could rather damage the police force. By then, he had attained such notoriety that I used his name to get work done by my SPs. If ever I found an SP not delivering the goods despite repeated reminders, I would threaten posting Davinder under him. The work would get done within a fortnight."

3 get death penalty for rape, murder of Dalit woman in Telangana

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, JANUARY 30

A FAST-TRACK court in Adilabad district Thursday handed death sentences to three convicted for the gang rape and murder of a Dalit woman in Komaram Bheem village of Asifabad district.

The incident took place on November 24 last year when the victim was waylaid by the three accused while she was walking on a lonely stretch between Yellapatur and Ramayana Thanda villages.

The accused, Sheikh Babu, Sheikh Maqdoom and Sheikh Shabuddin, took her to a nearby forest area and raped her. When she resisted their attempts to strangle her, they allegedly stabbed her several times and slit her throat, police said.

Her body was found by the police the next day after her husband lodged a missing persons complaint. While the police did not initially find any clues, they pieced together technical evidence and based on eye-witness statements, zeroed in on the three offenders on November 27. The victim's mobile phone was seized from one of the offenders.

The district police filed a chargesheet within 20 days of the incident. During Thursday's hearing, the court noted the gruesome nature of the crime and said the convicts deserve no mercy.

Police allegedly took the case seriously only after several Dalit and women's organisations held protests. Several local residents of Yellapatur said the police did not take action against the three accused and that the three were habitual offenders.

"The three accused belong to Yellapatur and are addicted to drugs and alcohol. They are teak wood smugglers. They are notorious for misbehaving with women and have made several attempts to kidnap tribal women working alone in the forests. They were fined several times by the village panchayat, and in spite of police complaints, they (police) did nothing," said Teku Navin, a member of Jainoor Adivasi Sangh.

Komaram Bheem Asifabad SPP Malla Reddy said that there was no actionable complaint against the accused earlier. "Their village sarpanch had fined them a couple of times for misbehaving and creating nuisance but there was no police complaint," he said.

"They are known as criminal elements in the village and villagers said that they misbehave with women but there was no complaint to take any kind of action against them," Lingapur sub-inspector N Venkatesh said.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, K Sweta W/o Kethireddy Sredhar Reddy R/o 224 Sakriya Officers Enclave Sector-21 Dwarka New Delhi-110077 have changed my nameK Sweta to Chittyla Sweetha. vide- Affidavit dated-28/01/2020. 0040527893-2

In my service records names of my wards have been wrongly mentioned as Khusboo Manzoor and Umar Manzoor instead of Uzma Jan and Wajid Ahmad Baghat respectively. It needs correction. Objections be filed to defense Civ - old Airfield within seven days.Manzoor Ahmad Baghat, (9563022) S/O- Mohammad Sultan Baghat, R/O- Ichigam, Budgam. 0020401527-1

I,Sunder Devi Agarwal W/o. Rajindra Prakash Agarwal R/o.KC 62,Kavi Nagar, Ghaziabad- 201002 have changed my name from Sunderi Devi to Sunder Devi Agarwal for all future purposes. 0040529552-1

I,Subhash Chandra S/o-Late, Har Prasad Varshney R/o-H-139, Gamma-2,Greater Noida,U.P. have changed my name to Subhash Chandra Varshney for all,future purposes. 0040529559-4

I,PATEL VINAYKUMAR PRAVINCHANDRA,S/o- Pravinchandra Bhagwanbhai Patel,R/o-T-3,1804,Aranya Apartment,Parthia Market,Sector-119, Noida,G.B. Nagar UP-201301, have changed my name to VINAYKUMAR PRAVINCHANDRA PATEL. 0040529623-1

I,Nupur Singh W/o-Neeraj Kumar Rai R/o-H.No.18037, E-Block,16th Avenue,Gaur City-2,Greater Noida-West, Shah Beri,Chhipyana, G.B.Nagar,U.P.-201009 have changed my name to Nupur Rai. 0040529559-1

I,Mohd Khubaib S/o Mohammad Yameen Qasmi,R/o-435,Sontad Rasoolpur-2,Thna,Bhavan, Sonta Rasoolpur, Shamli,U.P.-247777,inform that in my,passport my father name Mohd Yameen and mother name Halima wrongly, mentioned. Correct name of my,father Mohammad Yameen Qasmi and mother name Halima Begum. My correct Date-of-birth is 30.03.1989 instead of 01.01.1991. 0040529456-2

I,Deepak Bhalla S/o Jaswant Rai Bhalla R/o-Flat-No-104, Tower-No-3, Orange County,GH-4,Ahinsa Khand-I, Indirapuram Ghaziabad(U.P.)-201014,have changed my name to Deepak Kumar Bhalla for all purpose. 0040529632-1

I,Zafer Imam S/O Mohd.Yahiya R/O-313/65-A, Plot-Old No.90, II-Floor, Anand Nagar, Indelok, Delhi-110035. Changed my Name To Zafar Imam. 0040529599-7

I,Ashok Kumar S/o-Late. Jyoti Ram R/O-C-50 Gali.No.19 Hindan Vihar Sector-49,Noida(U.P.),I have changed my name Ashok Kumar Mandhala for all purpose. 0040529559-2

I,Anshu Bhatia W/O MD,Muzaffar Alam R/O-Sec-22, Village-Chaura,GautamBudh Nagar(UP),have changed my name to Anshu. In Future,I will be known as Anshu, for all purposes. 0040529559-3

I,hitherto Known as Khimil Devi W/O Shri.Maya Ram R/O-C-7/145, Sector-5 Rohini Delhi-110085,have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Kamla Devi W/O Shri.Maya Ram R/O-C-7/145, Sector-5, Rohini Delhi-110085. 0040529649-2

I,Tej Kumar Jain S/O Sh. Babu Lal Jain, R/o/21, Amar Singh Marg, Freeganj, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh-456010, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rakesh Bafna 0070695494-1

I, Suraj Parkash S/O Honda Ram Khatter, D-26, Lord Krishna-Road Adarsh-Nagar Delhi-33 Have Changed My Name To Suraj Khatter Permanently. 0040529599-6

I,Shalni W/O Ujjwal Srivastav R/O Hno.1,Galino-1, Chandan Vihar, West Sant Nagar, Burari, Delhi-110084. Changed My Nameeto Preeti Srivastav. 0040529609-2

I,Rimpy W/O Kanwarjeet Singh R/O 3048A, Sant Nagar, RaniBagh, Delhi-110034. Have Changed My Name To Simran Kaur. 0040529609-3

I,Sandeep S/O Kamal Kishor R/O-T-216, Baljeet Nagar, Near-West Patel Nagar, Delhi-110008 have changed my name to Sandeep Vohra. 0040529599-5

I,Rimpal Singh R/O A-29/19, Phase-1, DLF City,Gurgaon, Pin-122001 and Rajni Singh (as perdocuments) are same person. 0070695489-1

I,Rijul Bir Singh Arora S/o Tarlochan Singh R/o C-18, Old Gobind Pura, Main Parwana Road, Delhi-110051 have changed my name to Rijul Bir Singh 0040529541-1

I,Ravi Kumar Sharma S/O Amarnath R/O-13/276, Block No-13, Geeta-Colony, Delhi-110031, Have Changed My Name To Ravinder Kumar Sharma Permanently. 0040529628-8

I, Rashmi D/o Rajendra Dubey R/o 91C, AB Block, New Gopal Nagar, Najafgarh, Delhi-110043, have changed my name to Rashmi Dubey for all purposes. 0040529573-1

I,Pushpender S/o Lakhna T-475 F/F, BaljeetNagar, Patel Nager, central delhi- 110008, declare that name of father has been wrongly written as Lakhna in my 10th class certificate. The actual name of Father is Latkan Ahirwar, which may be amended accordingly. 0070695500-1

I,Pooja D/o Sukhdev Raj Dewan R/o C-490, SFS Flats, Sheikh Sarai, Phase I, New Delhi 110017, have changed my name to Puja Dewan for all future purposes. 0040529586-1

I,No- 15569986N, EX-SPR(ACP HAV) Shahnazwaz Ahmad Wani,R/O-Hayan, Tehsil -Trehgam, District-Kupwara. In my service records name of my son has been wrongly mentioned as Shadil Shanhnanawaz Wani instead of Shadil Shahnazwaz Wani as in education records. It needs correction. Objections be filed 270 Eng. REGT within seven days. 0020401528-1

I,Naveen Kumar Yadav S/o Jai Bhagwan Yadav R/o WZ-492, Madipur Village, Delhi-110063, have changed my name to Naveen Yadav. 0040529589-3

I,Narinder Kumar Bhatia, S/o Shri.inder Pal Bhatia R/O-97 Dhudial Apartments, Pitampura Delhi-110034,have changed my name to Narendar Bhatia, for future purposes. 0040529609-5

I, Tanu Bala W/O Kuldeep Rajpal R/O-19/4, Ground Floor, Indra-Vikas Colony, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009. Changed My Name to Tanu Rajpal. 0040529628-10

I,Manoj Kumar S/O Gopi Chand R/O-Block No-5, Street No-5, H.No-2, Geeta Colony Delhi-110031. Changed My Name To Manoj Batra. 0040529628-3

I, Mandeeep S/O Khyali Singh H.No-276, Village Near Bus Stand Pal-Panihara Mahendragarh Pin-123029. Changed My Name To Mandeeep Singh. 0040529628-6

I, Lalit Sharma S/O Late M.C.Sharma R/O-4/249 Street No-4, Bholanath-Nagar, Shahdara Delhi-110032,have changed the name of my minor son Master Aarav Sharma Age-6 Years and he shall hereafter be known as Jayas Sharma. 0040529599-9

I, Lalit Kumar Garg S/o Virendra Kumar Garg R/O J-65, Gautam Nagar Delhi-110049 have changed my name to Lalit Garg for all future purposes. 0040529646-1

I,Kuldeep Kumar Rajpal S/O Prabhu Dayal Rajpal R/O-19/4, Ground-Floor, Indra-Vikas-Colony, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009. Changed my Name to Kuldeep Rajpal. 0040529628-9

I,Keshav Raj Khanna S/O Shri. Ashok Kumar previously called Keshav Khanna resident of C-301,Sahani Tower,Sector-5, Rajender Nagar,Sahibabad, Ghaziabad,UP,solemnly inform that I reliquish the use of my former name of Keshav Khanna. I do hereby assume from 24/01/2020 the name Keshav Raj Khanna. 0040529602-1

I,Harshit Sharawat S/o Rajesh Sharawat R/O Choupal Wal Gali Singhu Delhi-110040, declare that my father Rajesh Sharawat & Rajesh Kumar are same person. 0040529649-1

I, Hari Ram Gautam S/O Sh. Fattu Singh H.No.12, Mansarovar Colony, Asoda, Hapur, inform Hari Ram and Hari Ram Gautam both names are same one identical person. 0040529550-1

I,Hareesh M P S/O M Theyyuni Nair R/O-622 Group-3 Janta-Flat Hastsal Uttam-Nagar New Delhi-110059 changed my name to M P Hareesh Nair. 0040529649-5

I,Gaurav Kumar Rehan S/O Ram Tirath Rehan R/O-Building A-33 Flat D-6 Opp.HDFC-Bank Ignrow Road New Sarai N.Delhi-110068 changed my name to Gaurav Rehan. 0040529649-6

I,Faisal Meer S/O Syed Abrar Meer H.No-3831/1, Third-Floor, David Street-Pataudi House-Daryaganj Delhi-110002. Changed My Name To Syed Faisal Mir. 0040529628-4

I,Bindesh S/O Bali Karan R/O 46, village Badanpur, Kalapur, Uttar pradesh-222139, have changed my name to Bindesh Kumar for all purposes. 0040529590-1

I,Bathena Susheel Kumar Rao S/O Bathena Rajnikant Rao R/O-BF-69, S/F,Janakpuri,ND-58, inform that in my bank record is written Susheel Kumar,that Susheel Kumar and Bathena Susheel Kumar Rao are the same name of one person. 0040529546-1

I,Balraj S/o Gokal Chand Singhal R/o-WZ-41, Chhanna Mal-Park, East-PunjabBagh, New-Delhi-110026, have changed my name to Balraj Singhal. 0040529609-4

CLASSIFIEDS & TENDERS

LOST & FOUND

I,Atul S/o Yogendra Singh R/o-110, Sewa Nagar Part-4, Sihani Gate, Ghaziabad, U.P. have changed my name to Atul Raghav. 0040529599-4

I,Anil D/o Om Parkash W/o Arvind Kumar R/o.H.No.820, VPO-Gandhra Tehsil-Sampla Distt.-Rohtak Haryana-124501. changed my name to Anil kumari. 0040529599-10

I,Monish Agarwal S/o Satya Prakash Agarwal resident AE-8 Tagore Garden Delhi 110027 have changed my name to Moonish Agarwal 0040529593-1

I,Ajay S/o Gogan Singh Prajapati R/o H.No.334, Kumar Mohalla, Devil Gaon, Delhi-110062, have changed my name to Ajay Kumar. 0040529599-2

I,Yogesh Kumari w/o Pankaj Kumar Gupta R/o-601 C16th-flr S.R.S Residency Sec-88, Kheri-Kalan Faridabad, Haryana-121002. have to change my name Sonali Gupta, for all future purposes. 0040529609-1

I,Vishal Pathak S/O, Ram Sarup Pathak R/O 2nd Floor, C59, Near Dav School Ramprastha Ghaziabad UP-201011 have changed my name to Vishal Sarup Pathak 0040529547-1

I,Uma Rani W/o Ramesh Kumar R/O 594, BLK-B, Sec-7 Faridabad HR have changed my name to Uma Lanzara. 0040529599-1

I,Tarun Chauhan S/O Late Vinod Chauhan R/o Flat No.G1/16, Sewak Park, Dwarka Mor, Behind Puran Store, New Delhi have changed my name to Tarun Chauhaan for all purposes. 0040529542-1

I,Susheel Swroop Mehta alias S.S.Mehta alias Susheel S.Mehta alias Susheel Mehta S/O Late Bishambar Nath Mehta R/O Flat No.989, GH-13, Paschim Vihar, West Delhi, Delhi-110087 have changed my name to Susheel Swroop Mehta for all purposes. 0040529542-2

I,Sophia Malhotra D/O, Rajesh Kumar Malhotra R/O C-303 Dabua Colony Nit Faridabad have changed my name to Sophia for all purposes. 0040529548-1

I,Shadab W/O Abubakar Ansari Flat No.303, Supertech-Estate Imperial-Block, Sec-9, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, UP-201010. Changed My Name To Shadab Hayat. 0040529628-7

I,Seema Rani Singhal W/O, Manoj Singhal R/O 2-a, 191 B, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad, UP have changed my name to Seema Singhal for all purposes. 0040529596-1

I,Saurav Garg S/O Sh.Sanjeev Garg R/O 26, Ground Floor, Park Area, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005 have changed the name of my minor son from Gauransh Aggarwal to Aadiv Kumar Garg for all purposes. 0040529542-4

I,Ravinder Kaur W/O-Hardeep Singh Sandhu R/O-4/A-308 2nd-Floor Samall Street-Nirankari-Colony Mukherjee Nagar Delhi-110009. Changed My Name To Rekha Sandhu 0040529649-3

I,Ravi Solanki S/O, Basant Lal R/O H.No.11, Hauz Rani, Malviya Nagar, ND-10017 have changed my name to Ravie Solanky for all purposes. 0040529549-1

I,Raman Deep W/O Mandeeep Singh, R/O D-307 Ramprastha Colony, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, 201011 have changed my name to Ramandeep Kaur Sikka 0070695492-1

I,Rajender Garg S/O Tulsai Ram Gupta R/O-D-1, D-Block, Pushpanjali Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Rajinder Prasad Gupta for all purposes. 0040529554-1

I,Pooja Munjal D/o Sh.Kul Bhushan Munjal W/o Sh.Hemant R/o House No.424, Housing Board Colony,Sector-22, Faridabad, Haryana-121005 have changed my name to Pooja Mehndiratta for all purposes. 0040529542-3

I,Nishith Alias Nishith Barodia S/O Ramkishan R/O A-50A, Ganesh Nagar, Pandav Nagar Complex, Pandav Nagar, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Nishith Barodia 0070695491-1

I,Nikhil Gupta S/O Sunil Kumar Gupta H.No-1118/11, Street No-11, Near-Vilmi-Ki-Mandir, Govindpuri-Kalkaji Delhi-110019. Changed My Name To Nikhil Kumar Gupta. 0040529628-5

I,Ricky Singh Marjara R/O 178-C Old Gupta Colony Vijay Nagar Delhi-9 changed my Minor Child name Rasneet Marjara to Rasneet Kaur Marjara. 0040529649-7

I,Mukta Goel Navdeep Dahiya, R/O.Tower H -602 Sixth Floor Godrej Frontier Sec 80 Gurgaon Have Changed My Name To Mukta Goyal As Per Document 0070695487-1

I,Hardeep Singh S/O Gurpal Singh R/O-4A-308 2nd-Floor Samall-Street Nirankari-Colony Mukherjee-Nagar Delhi-110009. Changed my Name To Hardeep Singh Sandhu. 0040529649-4

I,Gulshan Mata S/O Jetha Nand R/O-414, 2nd Floor, Indira Vihar Delhi-110009 Have Changed My Name To Gulshan Matta. 0040529599-8

I,Devaashish S/O Anil Bajaj R/O A-2/326 Sec-8 Rohini Delhi-110085, changed my name to Devaashish Bajaj 0040529628-1

I>Anil Kumar S/O-Darshan Lal Bajaj R/O A-2/326 Sec-8 Rohini Delhi-110085, Changed My Name To Anil Bajaj. 0040529628-2

LOST & FOUND

LOST & FOUND

I, Satnam Kaur W/o Sh.Balbir Singh R/o NP-83, Ground Floor, Pitampura, Delhi-110034, have lost original Demand Letter, DDA Possession Letter and Site Possession Slip of above FLAT No.NP-83, Pitampura, Delhi, having file No.F-5(535)83/HB/NP/LIG, alongwith Electricity & Water Connection File. Finders may contact at above address. 0040529211-6

It is notified for the information that my original-qualifying Examination Certificate of Secondary Examination of year 2016-17 and Roll no.8173519 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Add Dinesh Tiwari H.No.10/3 MCD Flats, Model Town-3, Delhi-110009. 0040529649-8

It is notified for the information that my Original-Qualifying Examination-Certificate and Marksheet of Main and Compartment-Secondary Examination of year-2001 and Roll No.6143226, issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Amandeep Chanian, Address-E-70, Vishnu-Garden, New Delhi-110018, Mobile-9899294627. 0040529609-10

TMr.Iqbal Ahmed S/O.Late Mohd Hanif R/O-8844, Gali-Nal Wali Naya Mohalla,Pul Bungues Azad-Market Delhi-110061,I am the Owner of DDA Shop No-S-1/39, Block-E, Situated at Prashant-Vihar Delhi, that my Original allotment-cum-demand letter, possession letter Site possession Slip NOC-Water and Electricity of the above Shop issued by DDA have been Lost(Mo-No.8375855740) 0040529538-1

To be known to all that my clients Ms. Rashmi Malhotra W/o. Sh. Rajnish Malhotra R/o Flat No.59, Ground Floor, Block-J3, Kalkaji, New Delhi, Middle of Flat No. 59, Ground Floor Category Janta, Block-J3, in the area of Kalkaji, New Delhi, which applied for conversion of the aforesaid flat from lease hold to free hold on dated 18.10.2011 in DDA The Original Documents i.e. DDA Demand Letter, Possession Letter Bank Challan, NOC and Site Possession Slip have been lost and have been found. An FIR to this effect has been lodged vide LR No. 19-77772019, dated 02.11.2019, with Crime Branch, Delhi. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of the original documents may write contact with above named person at above address Phone Number 8210041100, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (LAB) H/O Director (LAB), D-Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sदन, INA, New Delhi. D.K. SAREEN (Advocate) CH. No. C-28, 1st Floor, Joseph Block, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that my clients Sh. Sateeshwar Prasad S/o. Sh. Mangal Ram & Smt. Dharneswar Devi W/o Sh. Sateeshwar Prasad both are R/o B-459, Dakshinipuri Sector-5, New Delhi-110062, has/have severed their relations with their son namely Ramdev and his wife Monakshi & their children & obtained them from all their movable & immovable properties/assets. If anybody deals with them will do so at his/her own risk. I, as a responsible person, my clients will not be responsible for any kind of act done by them with immediate effect. Kamal Kishor (Advocate) Ch. No. 46B, Saket Courts, New Delhi-17

PUNJAB WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD
E-TENDER NOTICE No. 03/PWSSD-2/BTI DATE 28.01.2020
On the behalf of Chief Executive Officer, Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board, Chandigarh. The Executive Engineer, Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board Division-2, Bathinda re-invites online bids from eligible bidders for the Project/Work detailed in the following table. The bidder may submit bids for any or all the following Project/Works.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Document/ Tendering Processing Fee (Rs.)	Period of Completion	Approx. value of the project/ work (In Lacs)
1.	DNIT for Balance work of providing Water Supply and Sewer Lines in various areas & replacement of Pumping Machinery at Gilderbaha District Shri Muktsar Sahib under PIDB.	7.07 Lacs	1000/-+5900/-	12 Months	Rs. 707.00

IMPORTANT DATES:
1. Period of availability of tender online shall be 29.01.2020 at 03.00 P.M.
2. Last Date and Time for online submission of bid shall be 13.02.2020 at 03.00 P.M.
3. Date and time of opening of Technical Bid 14.02.2020 at 11.00 A.M.
*For terms and conditions refer to website: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
NOTE: Corrigendum if any will be issued on website only.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Pb. W/S & Sew. Division No. 2, Bathinda. D8501/Pb

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that our client intends to purchase Agricultural Land measuring 10 Kanal 17 Marie, comprised in Kharsa No. 38/3/2 (5-8), 7/1/1 (3-19), 8/1 min east (1-10) And land measuring 6 Kanal 0 Marie comprised in Kharsa No. 38/8/1 min west (6-0), total land measuring 16 Kanal 17 Marie, situated in village Ullahwas, Tehsil Wazirabad, District Gurugram. Any person having any objection, right, title, share, interest and/or any claim against and/or in respect of the Said land, or any part or portion thereof or demand of any nature whatsoever or otherwise howsoever are hereby requested to inform the same in writing along with supporting documents to the undersigned, within a period of 10 (ten) days from the date of the publication hereof, and satisfy the undersigned about their claim, failing which, the claim/s, if any, of such person/s shall be considered to have been waived, released, relinquished and/or abandoned.
Adv. Subodh Vats For Progressive Law Group 9/14, Third Floor, East Patel Nagar, Delhi 110008. Mob.: 961112828

COURT NOTICE
PROCUREMENT REGARDING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT
(Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
IN THE COURT OF SH. ARUN GOEL, ROHINI COURT, DELHI, ROOM NO. 214, 2nd Floor, Administrative Civil Judge/ Commercial Civil Judge/ Add. Rent Controller (NW), Rohini Courts, Delhi
C511428/19 VARUN SHARMA Plaintiff
of
against
M/S GRID INDIA POWER CABLES PVT. LTD.Defendant
Defendant no. 1
--- M/S Grid India Power Cables Private Ltd.
--- Plot no. 63, Sector-5, I.M.T. MANESAR-120505, Gurgaon (Haryana)
Also
--- A/O-2121, Janapuri, New Delhi-110058
Also At
Defendant no. 2
--- M/S Navdutta Wires Pvt. Ltd.
--- Plot no. 144, Sector-5, I.M.T. MANESAR-120505, Gurgaon (Haryana)
Also
--- R/O A-2121, Janapuri, New Delhi-110058
WHEREAS you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you do not defend the case on the 02 day of March, 2020, the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and decreed ex parte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the court, this ..28..day of January, 2020.
Sd/-
Administrative Civil Judge (NW), Dist. Courts Rohini, Delhi
Seal

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
प्रथम शक्ति पत्र
निविदा संख्या: 27 / 19-20. कार्य का नाम: Provision of Desert coolers at JU station, Divisional Railway Hospital, Coach care complex and other nearby service buildings on hire for four years. अनुमानित लागत रु. Rs. 8261552.00 घरोहर राशि जमा शी योज्य: Rs. 125200.00 एन.आई.टी. संख्या 27 योज्य 2019-20 को अपरिमित प्रशासनिक कार्यालय निदेश किया जाता है।
मंडल रेल प्रबंधक (निजी) उ-ए, जयपुर
Do not travel on the roof or footpath of the train

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Following E-tenders are invited by DRM (WA) NWR/Ajmer at 15.00 Hrs. on the mentioned date. 1. Tender No.: 24/2020 Name of work: Miscellaneous Works i.e. improvement to Officer's Rest House at Abu Road, Provision of Camp office at Mt. Abu and Improvement to ORH-Peaches at Mt. Abu. Approximate Cost: Rs. 91,93,302.28. Earnest Money: Rs. 1,83,900.00. Tender Closing Date: 24.02.2020. The detailed information of the above tender is available on website www.ireps.gov.in and Tender Notice Board of DRM Office, NWR/Ajmer. 136-A/20
Contact helpline no. 133 for general complaints

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WHEREAS you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you do not defend the case on the 02 day of March, 2020, the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and decreed ex parte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the court, this ..28..day of January, 2020.
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Seal

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TAMILNADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION

TAMILNADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION

General public is hereby informed that my client Sh. Rajeev Sikka S/o Late Sh. Krishan Lal Sikka R/o U-1, Second floor with terrace, Kalkaji, New Delhi is the owner of the property bearing No. D-61, Second floor with terrace (roof rights) Kalkaji, New Delhi - 110019 by virtue of registered Will dated 20.03.2008. That the Civil Suit. No. CS SCJ 2104 / 2019 is pending before the Ld. Civil Judge, Saket Court. That this has been passed order thereby by restraining creation of third party interest in the property of my client. The general public is hereby informed not to deal with the said property in any manner whatsoever. Issued By Bharat Sareen (Advocate) B-283, C.R. Park, New Delhi-19

TAMILNADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION
Head Office: 12, Thambusamy Road, Kilpauk Chennai 600 010

Tender Reference No.Com10/54126/2019
The Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation invites sealed tenders upto 1.00 pm on **04.03.2020** for the sale of Bran / Broken produced to be produced for the period from 01.01.2020 to 31.12.2020.

1. Place of Lifting	01.01.2020 to 31.12.2020 in all MRMs of TNCS	
2. EMD payable for by means of DD payable at Chennai	1. Rs.75,000/- (Rupees Seventy five thousand only) for each MRM for Bran. 2. Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty thousand only) for each MRM for Broken.	
3. Last date and time for receipt /opening of sealed tender documents	1. Receipt upto 1.00 pm on 04.03.2020 (Bran/Broken) 2. Opening 2.00 pm on 04.03.2020 (Bran/Broken).	

The tender documents can be downloaded from www.tnpsc.tn.gov.in / www.tenders.tn.gov.in at free of cost from 31.01.2020, 7:00 PM To 04.03.2020 at 12:00 P.M.

DIPR/ 639 /Tender/2020 Managing Director

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

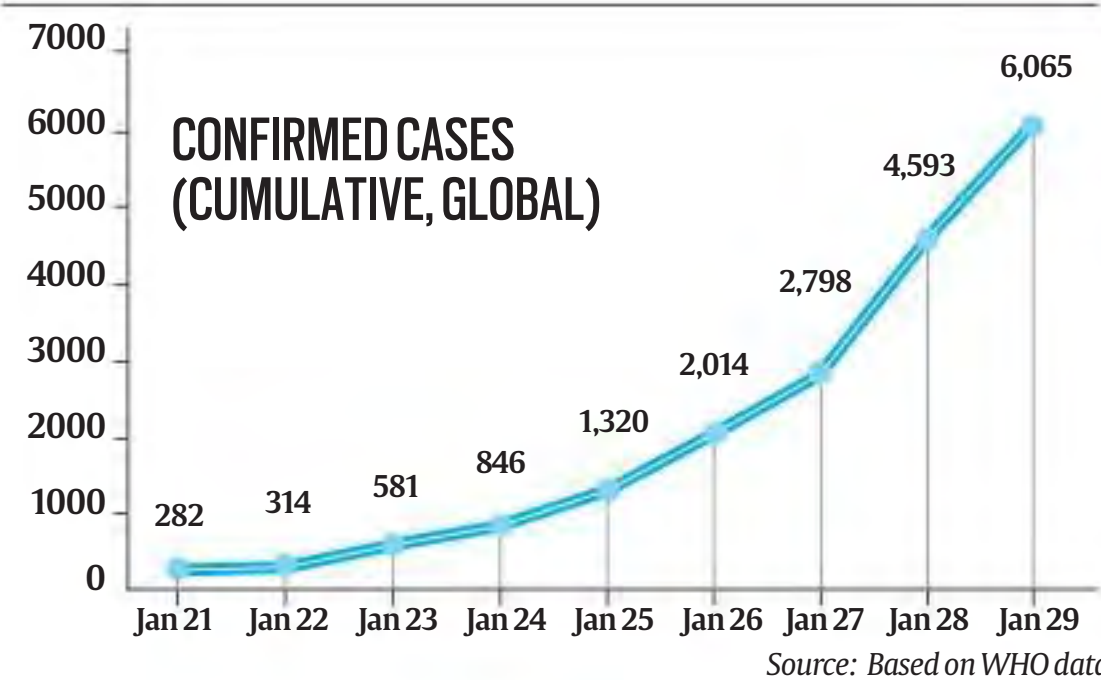
SOUTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE No

TELLING NUMBERS

Confirmed cases cross 6,000, count doubles in two days

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS UPDATE JANUARY 29



THE NUMBER of confirmed cases of novel coronavirus infection has more than doubled in two days, a comparison of the World Health Organization (WHO) daily situation reports shows. From 2,798 cases on January 27, 2,798 cases on January 27, the count rose to 6,065 on January 29, the date of the latest WHO situation report on Thursday afternoon, India time.

In China, which has suffered the bulk of the outbreak, the number of cases more than doubled from 2,741 on January 27 to 5,994 on January 29. Confirmed cases in China include cases in Hong Kong (8), Macau (7) and Taipei (8). In addition to the 5,997 confirmed cases, China had 9,239 suspected cases until January 29. There have been 32 deaths so far, all in China.

Globally, the geographical spread has grown over the last few days. On January 27, the 37 confirmed cases outside of India had been detected in 11 countries. By January 29, when the number of cases outside of China had reached 68, the outbreak had spread to 15 countries. Sri Lanka, Cambodia and Germany joined the list of countries with at least one confirmed case on January 28, followed by the United Arab Emirates on January 29. There are four confirmed cases in the UAE,

BEYOND CHINA

CONFIRMED CASES UNTIL JANUARY 29

Japan	7
South Korea	4
Viet Nam	2
Singapore	7
Australia	7
Malaysia	4
Cambodia	1
Thailand	14
Nepal	1
Sri Lanka	1
United States	5
Canada	3
France	4
Germany	4
UAE	4
TOTAL	68

Source: WHO

all in individuals travelling from Wuhan city in China.

The count of 68 cases outside China does not include the first confirmed case in India, which was announced on Thursday, January 30.

TIP FOR READING LIST

WHEN ASTROLOGY MET SCIENCE

ASTROLOGY IS today dismissed by scientists but retains its mass popularity; magazines and newspapers run horoscopes, and Internet users frequently search for online fortune-telling apps. In fact, there was a time when astrology existed alongside science, endorsed by some of the greatest minds and in turn influencing their work. This is the subject that physicist Alexander Boxer explores in *A Scheme of Heaven: Astrology and the Birth of Science*.

Boxer draws from classical sources to argue that astrology was once a data-analysis enterprise, with its followers including Ptolemy and the astronomer Johannes Kepler. It was this belief in the

idea that the stars, constellations and planets somehow influence people's lives on Earth, Boxer explains, that led the scientific greats to study of the night sky from a mathematical perspective. These detailed, accurate studies led to important advances in fields such as geometry and trigonometry.

According to Boxer, the modern versions of astrology, such as horoscope columns, are an invention of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. "Modern

astrology is a fascinating social phenomenon. It changes from being a scientific and mathematical pursuit to something more social," Boxer told *The Guardian* in an interview.

VAJIRAM & RAVI
INSTITUTE FOR IAS PREPARATION

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PRABHA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

NOW THAT a case of infection by the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) has been flagged in India, central and state governments will be expected to try to ensure that its response system is strong, quick, and proactive in order to prevent the infection from spreading any further. The density of population in India, low levels of public awareness, and vulnerabilities in the healthcare network present strong challenges to controlling outbreaks of communicable disease.

India is vulnerable also because it is heavily dependent on China for components used to make products across industries, including essential medicines. Its imports from China rose to \$76.38 billion in 2017-18 from \$60.41 billion in 2014-15 before dropping to \$70.32 billion in 2018-19, but there is still a large imbalance in trade between the two countries — India imports much more from China than it exports to it.

Several products that India imports from

BULK DRUG IMPORTS FOR MEDICINES			
Year	Total	From China	
2014-15	2.77	1.78 (64%)	
2015-16	2.97	1.94 (65%)	
2016-17	2.74	1.83 (67%)	
2017-18	2.99	2.06 (69%)	
2018-19	3.56	2.41 (68%)	
All figures in \$ billion; figures in parentheses (rounded off) are percentage of China imports in total			
Source: Lok Sabha questions			

other trading partners also have a heavy Chinese presence. For instance, a lot of the ASEAN region's value chains are dependent on China. The lockdown in China to control the outbreak has the potential to disrupt global supply chains of various essential products and consumer goods. If the situation does not improve soon, several indus-

tries in India and, ultimately, its citizens, could be impacted.

Pharma sector key

According to government data, bulk drugs used to manufacture medicines were among the top 10 imports from China between 2015 and 2019. While an impact is expected across the board if the situation does not improve, experts feel pharmaceuticals may be among the sectors to be hit the hardest.

China supplies nearly 70% of the total bulk drugs and intermediates (raw materials) imported to make medicines in India. Some 354 drugs and drug ingredients were imported from China in 2017.

Experts said that supplies of fermentation-based ingredients used to make most antibiotics and vitamins would be the most impacted in case a shutdown of operations in China continues, or if the infection spreads to major manufacturing hubs.

Major hubs for bulk drug exports are located far from Wuhan, but some industry executives said they were "closely" monitoring the situation as their imports from these

hubs too have been impacted due to the extension of the Lunar New Year holidays.

Most companies have enough stocks of these materials to last for 1-3 months, but there are "limited" alternatives in other countries for these ingredients to make antibiotics and vitamins. However, India has enough capacity to manufacture the raw materials for most other medicines.

Impact on patients

Industry executives fear that if the situation does not improve soon, the cost of materials used to make medicines in India will rise regardless of therapeutic category. In the case of products that are under price control, the prices that customers pay should not be impacted. However, in the past, increasing prices of key therapeutic ingredients used to make drugs have led to shortages of the medicines in the country.

On those earlier occasions, industry bodies had sought an increase in the maximum retail prices of these medicines, arguing that they were unable to recover the cost of manufacturing them.

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Why President Address matters

President Kovind will address Parliament today. Days ago, the Kerala Governor expressed an opinion on one paragraph of his Assembly address, prepared by the government. A look at provisions and precedents

CHAKSHU ROY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

EARLIER THIS week, Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan addressed the Legislative Assembly of the State. During his address, he stopped before reading out paragraph 18, which related to the Kerala government's opposition to the Citizenship Amendment Bill. The Governor said he was of the opinion that the paragraph did not relate to policy or programme. He went on to say that since the paragraph relates to the view of the government, to honour the wish of the Chief Minister he was going to read it despite his disagreement with the CM.

On Friday, first day of the Budget Session of Parliament, President Ram Nath Kovind will address a joint sitting of the two Houses.

Under what provisions does the President or a Governor address the legislature?

The Constitution gives the President and the Governor the power to address a sitting of the legislature. The special power is with regard to two occasions. The first is to address the opening session of a new legislature after a general election. The second is to address the first sitting of the legislature each year. Commonly referred to as the President's or Governor's Address, they are a constitutional requirement. A session of a new or a continuing legislature cannot begin without fulfilling this requirement. When the Constitution came into force, the President was required to address each session of Parliament. So during the provisional Parliament in 1950, the President gave an address for all three sessions. At the suggestion of Speaker G V Mavalankar, the first Constitutional Amendment in 1951 changed this position.

Besides being a constitutional requirement, the President's or Governor's Address is keenly watched as it outlines the government's policy agenda and stand on issues.

Are there parallels in other countries?

Similar provisions exist in other democracies. In the United States, it is referred to as the "State of the Union". The phrase comes from an article in the US Constitution which specifies that the President, "from time to time give to Congress information of the State of the Union and recommend to their Consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and



President Ram Nath Kovind in Parliament in 2019, with Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and others, ahead of his address at the start of that year's Budget Session. Anil Sharma/Express Archive

expedient." In the United Kingdom, it is referred to as the Queen's Speech and is part of the ceremony to mark the formal start of the parliamentary year. But the two systems are different. In the American system, the President has the option of simply sending his written speech to Congress instead of personally going to deliver it. He also puts forward the position of his administration. In the British system, the Queen's speech written by the government. She reads it in person from the throne in the House of Lords.

The President's Address in India is mirrored on the British system. During the framing of the Constitution, B R Ambedkar drew a similarity between the President and the monarch under the English system. He said the President "is the Head of State but not of the executive. He represents the nation but does not rule the nation. He is the symbol of the nation. His place in the administration is that of a ceremonial device of a seal by which the nation's decisions are made known". The Constitution binds the President and the Governor to act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers of the Union and state governments respectively, on a majority of issues. Therefore, the speech that the President or the Governor reads before the legislature is the viewpoint of the government and is prepared by it.

What is the content of the President's or Governor's address?

During the making of the Constitution, an unsuccessful attempt was made to bring some

specificity to the content of the President's Address. The President's speech follows the convention of the British system, where it contains legislative and policy proposals that the government intends to initiate. The speech also recaps the government's accomplishment in the previous years. The contents of the speech are put together by aggregating inputs from various ministries of the government.

If the President disagrees with the text of the speech, are they still bound to read it?

The President or a Governor cannot refuse to perform the constitutional duty of delivering an address to the legislature. But there can be situations when they deviate from the text of the speech prepared by the government. So far, there have been no instances of President doing so. But there has been an occasion when a Governor skipped a portion of the address to the Assembly. In 1969, the Governor of West Bengal, Dharma Vira, skipped two paragraphs of the address prepared by the United Front government. The government was led by Chief Minister Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee with Jyoti Basu was the Deputy CM. The skipped portion described as unconstitutional the dismissal of the first United Front government by the Congress-ruled central government. The issue was then debated in Parliament. The Opposition was critical of the Governor's conduct and moved a motion disapproving of his actions and calling them against the letter and spirit of the Constitution. MPs from the Treasury benches, including Asoke Kumar Sen,

Law Minister Govinda Menon and Home Minister Y B Chavan, came to the defence of the Governor. The Opposition's motion was ultimately defeated.

How have members responded to the addresses over the years?

The conduct of MLAs during the address has sometimes been an issue. The Governor's speech in state legislatures has routinely been interrupted. For example in 2017, during the Governor's address in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly, paper balls and planes were thrown at Governor Ram Naik. The staff of the Assembly had to surround the Speaker and swat away the paper balls using cardboard files.

In Parliament, the first instance of interruption of a President's speech happened in 1963; President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was speaking when some MPs interrupted him. The Lok Sabha took note of the incident and a reprimand was issued to the MPs. Over the years, political parties have resolved to treat the President's Address sacrosanct and agreed not to interrupt it.

What procedures follow the address?

After the President or Governor delivers the address, a debate takes place not only on the contents of the address but also the broad issues of governance in the country. This then paves the way for discussion on the Budget.

The author is Head of Outreach, PRS Legislative Research

Field Marshal Cariappa: political ambition as well as mistrust of politicians

SUSHANT SINGH

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE DISCOVERY of a clarificatory note by the late Field Marshal K M Cariappa in the state archives in Karnataka has shone new light on his views in 1971 about the state of India's democracy, political parties, and linguistic states. He wanted them abolished, and to have "President's cum Military Rule" for five years to set things right. (*The Indian Express*, January 20)

The Army's first Indian Commander-in-Chief appears to have arrived at this view fairly early in his career. The National Archives of India contain a letter by one Major A A Khan to the then Brigadier Cariappa, which refers to a meeting during which the two officers had "agreed that if our statesmen cannot agree, then they should hand over the country to the army and we will show them how to run it".

The letter is dated May 18, 1947, when Cariappa was taking a course at the Imperial

Defence College in the United Kingdom. According to the letter, the meeting in question took place earlier that same month.

At a meeting with Sir Hastings Ismay, Viceroy Lord Mountbatten's Chief of Staff, in London on May 9, 1947, Cariappa suggested a role for the military in the government of independent India. This followed Cariappa's remark at the Defence College that the British Indian Army should not be partitioned — which allowed Liaquat Ali Khan (who became the first Prime Minister of Pakistan) to argue with Mountbatten that the seniormost Indian officer wanted military rule.

"Cariappa came to see me yesterday and volunteered the amazing suggestion that Indian Army with either Nehru or Jinnah should take over power when we left in June 1948," Ismay said in his telegram to Mountbatten. "It is hard to know whether Cariappa in putting forward this idea was ingenious and ignorant or disingenuous and dangerous or both."

In *India After Gandhi: The History of the World's Largest Democracy*, Ramachandra



Field Marshal K M Cariappa (right) with then President Giani Zail Singh in April 1986. Express Archive

Guha wrote that while Cariappa restricted himself to military matters at the beginning of his tenure as C-in-C in 1949, he soon began to offer his views on such questions as India's preferred model of economic development.

On October 13, 1952, Nehru wrote to Cariappa, advising him to hold fewer press conferences and, at any rate, to stick to safe

subjects. The Prime Minister enclosed a letter from a cabinet colleague, which complained that Cariappa was "giving so many speeches and holding so many press conferences all over the country", that it appeared he was "playing the role of a political or semi-political leader".

After Nehru appointed Cariappa India's High Commissioner to Australia within three months of his retirement in 1953, which led Cariappa to tell the Prime Minister that "by going away from home to the other end of the world for whatever period you want me in Australia, I shall be depriving myself of being in continuous and constant touch with the people".

During a visit to Pakistan in 1958, Cariappa publicly praised the military coup by Ayub Khan, his former colleague in the British Indian Army, saying it was "the chaotic internal situation which forced these two patriotic Generals to plan together to impose Martial Law in the country to save their homeland from utter ruin". Cariappa went on to claim that for these

Pakistani generals, "war between India and Pakistan was simply unthinkable".

In December 1968, Cariappa offered an opinion piece to *The Indian Express*, in which he argued that the chaotic internal situation in West Bengal demanded that President's Rule be imposed for at least five years. Editor Frank Moraes returned the piece, pointing out to the retired C-in-C that "it would be embarrassing in the circumstances both to you and to us to publish this article".

Earlier, in mid-1965, Cariappa had written in this newspaper that a two-year period of President's Rule might be needed to restore order and proper standards of administration. The article provoked 13 opposition legislators to move two privilege motions in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly against Cariappa and the Editor-in-Chief, seeking to impeach them for contempt of the House. Speaker B V Subba Reddy exonerated them both in a 2,500-word ruling that agreed with Chief Minister K Bramhananda Reddy that "it would be more in keeping with the dignity and prestige of

the House to ignore the objectionable passages in the article by General Cariappa".

After the Congress government criticised his remarks to the press in 1970, Cariappa spoke of entering politics himself. He was supported by a large number of retired military officials, including Lt Gen S P P Thorat, Air Marshal Ranjan Dutt, Rear Admiral S G Karmarker, who told reporters in February 1971 that they "felt that the General's entry into politics would provide an element missing in the Indian political scene".

Cariappa contested the 1971 Lok Sabha election from Bombay North East as an Independent, and finished third (90,110 votes) behind Mukundrao Sundarrao Agaskar of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (1,08,513) and the winner, Rajaram Gopal Kulkarni of the Congress (2,83,792). In 1957, he had contested the same seat as an Independent against V K Krishna Menon and J B Kripalani, and lost.

In his farewell speech in 1953, however, Cariappa had told his soldiers that the Army's job was not "to meddle in politics but to give unstinted loyalty to the elected government".



The IndianEXPRESS

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RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

POLICE ZINDABAD

That's telling praise for the force — coming from a gun-wielding minor as he fired at Jamia students

ON THURSDAY, AS the Who's Who of New Delhi made their way to Rajghat to mark the anniversary of the Mahatma's assassination, a youth, two months short of 18, stepped on to the road outside Delhi's Jamia Millia Islamia, shouted *yeh lo azadi*, and fired at barricaded students. He then turned around and walked to Delhi Police personnel who stood watching. Because of his age his name is withheld, but as he was bundled into a police car he identified himself as "Rambhakt" and chanted "Delhi Police Zindabad". No one should be shocked or ashamed. This was coming.

A month-and-half ago, the very same area witnessed Delhi Police personnel charging at unarmed students and later, targeting them in their library and hostels. Two weeks later, a group of armed thugs rampaged through JNU, attacking students in girls' hostels and elsewhere, as Delhi Police personnel watched, almost indulgently. Many of the attackers have been identified as members of ABVP, the students' wing of the RSS, but not one person has been arrested so far. The lone FIR filed has named JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh, who suffered head injuries in the vicious assault. In marked contrast, the Delhi Police was quick off the wicket this week to track down and arrest Sharjeel Imam for his allegedly seditious speech. "Rambhakt" only echoed a perception when he shouted, Delhi Police Zindabad.

But to only blame the Delhi Police is to not look at the bigger picture. The violence in Jamia and JNU was preceded by extended vilification campaigns where Hindutva right-wing groups and senior BJP leaders, including those who hold high public office, have aggressively pitched in, effectively egging on their lumpen supporters to target students and young people. Campuses the nation should be proud of have been framed as a den for "urban Naxals" and "jihadis". The EC Thursday banned Union Minister Anurag Thakur and BJP MP Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma from campaigning in Delhi for their hate speech but, clearly, that's not much of a deterrent. Indeed, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, while promising stern action against the gunman, said at a rally barely hours later that the election is about choosing between a Prime Minister who took firm action against Pakistan and those who stand with Shaheen Bagh. Shah is a past veteran of seeing the Pakistan hand in Indian elections but today it is his Ministry that calls the shots in the Delhi Police. That's why maybe the only excuse Commissioner of Police Amulya Patnaik has — as he got an extension Thursday — for the shameful conduct of his force is: What can he or they do when their masters urge frenzied crowds to say *maaro goli saalon ko* and hope for a "current" to course through Shaheen Bagh.

MATTER OF HER RIGHT

Amendments in abortion law are welcome. Its stated aim, giving agency to women, will depend on the fine print

THE UNION CABINET has done well to approve a Bill that seeks to amend India's outmoded abortion law. On Tuesday, it gave its nod to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020. If it gets Parliament's sanction, this piece of legislation will amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971. Slated for introduction in Parliament's budget session, the Bill seeks to increase the upper gestation limit from 20 to 24 weeks for termination of pregnancy. Significantly, this provision applies to unmarried women and therefore, relaxes one of the regressive clauses of the 1971 Act — single women couldn't cite contraceptive failure as a reason for seeking abortion. It also has a provision to protect the privacy of the person seeking abortion.

The MTP Act, 1971 was replete with unclear language, which resulted in doctors refusing to perform abortions even within the stipulated 20 week gestation limit. Women had to seek the approval of the judiciary, which, by most accounts, did not always come in time. "As a result", notes a 2015 study in the *India Journal of Medical Ethics*, "10 to 13 per cent of maternal deaths in India are due to unsafe abortions". Introducing the proposed law, Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Prakash Javadekar said that the MTP Bill 2020 "will help reduce maternal mortality". Extending the gestation period to 24 weeks is a significant step in this regard. However, the government should also learn from the experiences of the 1971 Act: The new piece of legislation should be worded in a manner that obviates frequent appeals to the judiciary. Such fine print would — more significantly — be essential to accomplishing one of the Bill's main goals, as emphasised by Javadekar: "Giving reproductive rights to women".

One of the criticisms of the MTP Act, 1971 was that it failed to keep pace with advances in medical technology that allow for the removal of a foetus at a relatively advanced state of pregnancy. Moreover, a number of foetus abnormalities are detected after the 20th week, often turning a wanted pregnancy into an unwanted one. The proposed MTP law intends to address such medical complications. But matters related to women's agency over her womb get complicated by the social milieu in parts of the country: The antediluvian preference for a male child keeps sex determination centres in business in spite of their illegal status. There are concerns that a more liberal abortion law can aggravate this state-of-affairs. The litmus test of the proposed MTP law's claims to being women-centric lies in addressing all such concerns.

NOT OUR TYPE

Times New Roman, dropped long ago by its own makers, emerges as the world's favourite font

THE INDIAN EXPRESS prefers to stand apart. We do not use Times New Roman, the font which has been revealed to be the world's favourite in a Twitter conversation fire-started by @Southldntabby. It turns out that fonts do not only convey communications, but also bare the soul of the communicator. A Virginia Tech study led by political messaging expert Katherine Hänschen found this month that readers identify serif fonts like Times New Roman, Garamond and Georgia as conservative, while bare-bones sans serif fonts like Arial and Helvetica are seen as liberal.

But is font choice necessarily political? It could be induced, because Times New Roman has been the default font on Microsoft Word forever. But it's complicated, because a preference for the reliably familiar could indeed betray a conservative mindset. The clever test would be the response to fonts like the postcardware of the Danish designer Listemageren, which are fabulously ornate yet radical. Postcardware means that if you publish his fonts, you have to send a nice postcard to his daughter. It's a radical yet conservative deal, a throwback to the barter economy. Fonts also have a role in mysterious aspects of the mind — remembering and forgetting. In 2018, the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology released San Forgetica, a font full of holes and slanted to the left, which graphologists associate with bad faith. It's unnaturally difficult to read, and since the brain has to work harder to read it, its message is apparently remembered better. The learned refer to this phenomenon as "desirable difficulty".

But to return to Times New Roman, which the furore is all about, it is worth noting that the London *Times*, which commissioned it in 1931, dropped it long ago. As *The Indian Express* has, too. Because the font hasn't kept up with the times.



AMIT SEN

INDIA'S FIRST CHIEF of Defence Staff (CDS), General Bipin Rawat, said on January 16 that "girls and boys are now being radicalised" in Kashmir, and those who are "completely radicalised" need to be "taken out separately" and put in deradicalisation camps (IE, January 17).

I remembered 1983, when I was working as a young medical officer in 92 Base (Military) Hospital at Srinagar which offered sincere medical care to primarily armed forces personnel and their families, but also to the "civilians" during medical emergencies and complicated cases that they couldn't handle in the "civil hospitals". And the local people were ever so grateful for that facility.

I would often walk down the undulating roads through Badami Bagh Cantt, along the pristine hills and forests that would lead up to the Dal Lake. Walking through the narrow streets around Lal Chowk, looking for bargains at quaint leather shops or intricate Kashmiri woodwork, to paddling through the floating gardens around Dal Lake, I would meet many families and children. They were a warm, welcoming, respectful and proud people. "Yeh India nahin hai Madam, Kashmir hai (this is not India Madam, it's Kashmir)", a shopkeeper had quipped when my visiting mother had tried to bargain for leather bags. It had irked me then, but I came away with a good sense of their distinct identity. I remember buying a lot of things from that shop.

And the children were everywhere, running and prancing over the steps of Nishat Bagh, going to school in shikaras, picnicking by the rapids in Pahalgam and snowboarding — on makeshift wooden boards — down the winter slopes of Gulmarg. Spring was in the air for most of the year.

The next time I visited Kashmir was in 2003, as a child mental health professional, part of a team that was to address the needs of traumatised children and fractured families in the Valley. This time, the picture perfect landscape had been punctured by protruding nozzles of automatic guns from the security bunkers at close intervals throughout the city of Srinagar. Over the next three years, through multiple visits, we met dozens of children and adolescents, many of them orphans and others from families that were damaged and disintegrated due

Will we consider our own, the Kashmiri children traumatised by years of systemic violence?

to insurgency, terrorism and excesses from security forces. There were eight-year-olds who had lost the ability to play spontaneously, and instead, would sing songs of martyrdom where they proudly proclaimed that the only objective in life was to march to their death in the quest for freedom. There were accounts of children and families getting caught in the crossfire between terrorists and security forces, fathers and brothers being picked up by men in uniform never to return again, and young men getting ruthlessly murdered in front of their kin.

Such repetitive, violent trauma in endemic war zones can be deeply damaging for the community, especially children and adolescents, who could be scarred for life, and pass on their fear and anger to generations that follow. They don't need to be tutored or indoctrinated to form extreme attitudes and prejudices. They learn from the brutal life lessons that surround them, that repeatedly break their trust in people who they expected would care for them and protect them. And that includes our state and custodians of law.

The last time I went to Kashmir was end of September, 2019, with a fact finding team that wanted to take a close look at the ground realities after the shocking shutdown of Kashmir on August 5, 2019. As lawyers, activists and a medical doctor, we felt it was important to understand the situation first-hand. Not just in order to advance the true spirit of a democratic society, but to hold our elected government and the institutions of democracy accountable for their actions. Members of our team visited different districts in the Kashmir Valley, the high court, district courts and other quasi-judicial institutions, interacted with lawyers, health and mental health professionals, traders, and the victims of state-perpetrated violence: Findings from the exercise were published as a comprehensive report that is available in the public domain.

This time, there were no children on the streets or the gardens. In fact, they were not even in schools. The streets of Srinagar were completely deserted, and it felt like a ghost town in the centre of the city on a Sunday afternoon, when I landed there.

Besides the abject failure of the state to engage with the Kashmiri people in the decision-making about their own land and life,

what concerned me most as a mental health professional is the impact of the violence that the security forces unleashed on the young people there. Children and adolescents who could access mental health services, were reporting all kinds of abuse (physical, sexual and emotional) and nightly raids by security forces — as corroborated through reports from other members of our group who had visited villages and towns in different districts — which had created an atmosphere of terror and panic amongst young people and their families. They shared experiences of paralysing fear, acute anxiety, panic attacks, depressive-dissociative symptoms, post traumatic symptoms, suicidal tendencies and severe anger outbursts. There was a marked increase in psychological distress in 70 per cent (as estimated through a recent survey by mental health professionals in the Valley) of the population. Professionals working on the ground expressed concern about the aftermath of this imbroglio and feared that the trauma suffered by thousands of people will become evident in the months and years to come.

Experiences of such violent aggression and abuse can cause deep, destructive trauma that may take generations to heal. The damage is particularly severe if the very people who are supposed to protect you become perpetrators. The manifestations may take various forms: From complete psychological breakdown to an extreme numbing of emotions and lack of empathy. The current spate of violence by the state has not only caused extreme suffering and a plethora of mental health disorders of unprecedented proportions, it has also manifested in the seething anger, acute polarisation and paranoia, a complete lack of trust and hardening of attitude towards the Indian state.

So who is responsible for the radicalisation of Kashmiri youth, General Rawat? Who will bear this burden and help them heal? Who will pay the price for the consequences of this terrible oppression and violence on the children of Kashmir? Are we ever going to treat them as our own children?

The writer is a child and adolescent psychiatrist working in Delhi. He has served in the Army Medical Corps from December 1982 to January 1988



YOGINDER K ALAGH

WE HAVE BEEN going through a bad patch. But there was a ray of hope that the Budget would consolidate the forces of growth since the monsoon may be good and manufacturing output growth was no longer in the negative quadrant. We were not dreaming of 6 to 7 per cent plus growth: The bad news from the IMF, that we are growing between 4.5 and 5 per cent this year, was factored into our anticipations. But the consolidation of the 2.7 per cent growth in manufacturing was doable: The Budget didn't do it. Instead, it yet again spoke of a slew of "Reform Mantras".

The first thing, it said, was to increase public investment and not play statistical or token announcement games. The speech again "showed" a large increase of expenditure by comparing the budget estimates with the revised estimates of 2019/20. BEs get revised down by October and an increase is shown in the budget in percentage terms. In fact, this is not a stimulus. The upswing in manufacturing growth, from negative to slightly less than 3 per cent (not industrial growth, because that includes mining and electricity), needed consolidation. Real out-

STAY WITH STIMULUS

Government must avoid hollow reform promises to keep economy truly on upswing

If your gross savings and investment rates keep on falling, don't expect the economy to revive. If savings keep up, the government will have actual space (not an 'announcement-effect' only) to divert some real resources to infrastructure investment: And the virtuous growth cycle will begin.

lays on infrastructure needed to go up, but they did not. So the push to private demand and a virtuous cycle of growth was missed. The implicit numbers in the Budget math comprise growth of around 7 per cent, assuming a 5 per cent inflation rate.

For agriculture, in the medium-term, we are alright. Kharif grain production was 6.4 per cent higher than the previous five year average output and kharif oilseeds output around eleven lakh tonnes above the earlier year. This was, however, based on a delayed monsoon which caused problems and anxieties in the second quarter of this year. Food grains are doing well and we have huge food stocks: But, instead of a blessing, the government turned public operations in grain into a nightmare by announcing that FCI will unload grain at a reserve price less than MSP. Rabi acreage recovered and is now 8 per cent more than last year, but the policy of government operations to reduce the market price of grain by its intervention is a nightmare. This is bound to affect input growth in the expanded acreage in the winter crops.

Are there no economists in the decision-making circles of the government or are they

just ignored? The terms of trade are going against agriculture, according to CACP (Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices) estimates, and this will make it worse. While the fundamentals are alright, to wallop the farmer with a "cut in the reserve price", honestly, is a dim-witted thing to do. The rabi report of CACP will say that the terms of trade have gone down more: Nobody reads them, and if the CSO says it, that report will be suppressed, for we have learnt the art of shooting the postman.

So, some unsolicited advice for North Block: Please don't cool down the stimulus and start getting back only to "reform" to keep the economy going. If your gross savings and investment rates keep on falling, don't expect the economy to revive. If savings keep up, the government will have actual space (not an 'announcement-effect' only) to divert some real resources to infrastructure investment: And the virtuous growth cycle will begin. Into that land of truthful *Achhe Din*, my master let my country awake.

The writer, a former Union minister, is an economist.

JANUARY 31, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

CBI OFFICIALS PROTEST

A LARGE NUMBER of CBI officials including senior inspectors, lodged a strong protest with the CBI director against the arrest of N K Singh, DGI (CBI). Singh, who was the chief investigating officer in the *Kissa Kursi Ka* case, was arrested by the Haryana police on charges of wrongful confinement and abduction of Ram Chander, a former driver in Maruti Limited. A protest note to the director was signed by more than 200 officers and men of the CBI who went in groups to Sardar Patel Bhawan, headquarters of the organisation. They wanted to meet the acting director, J S Bawa, to convey their feelings. At first, Bawa was reluctant to meet the officers. But

perhaps, sensing the mood of anger and indignation of the officers, he said he would meet them at 5 pm at their RK Puram office.

PRIVILEGE MOTION

LOK SABHA SPEAKER Balam Jakhar is to decide by February 2 whether or not to admit a privilege motion against the law minister, P Shiv Shankar, for allegedly misleading the House regarding the reported arrest of DIG of the CBI, N K Singh. The privilege motion has been submitted by Janata Party MP, Madhu Dandavate.

CARTER ENVOY VISIT

PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPECIAL envoy, Clark

Clifford, is in town on a mission clearly aimed at convincing the Indian government that his country's decision to supply arms is not going to harm India. Clifford is slated to meet the prime minister and he will hold another round of talks with the foreign minister before flying back to Washington to report back to President Carter on the outcome of his talks. Clifford is also reported to have touched on the US suggestion — made by President Carter in last Thursday's State of the Union message — about a regional security arrangement for this part of the world. Apparently, President Carter's proposal is not being favourably viewed in New Delhi.



India’s civil society moment

The strength of civil society is its spontaneity, collective mobilisation. Its weapon is the Constitution; its demand is respect for constitutional morality



NEERA CHANDHOKE

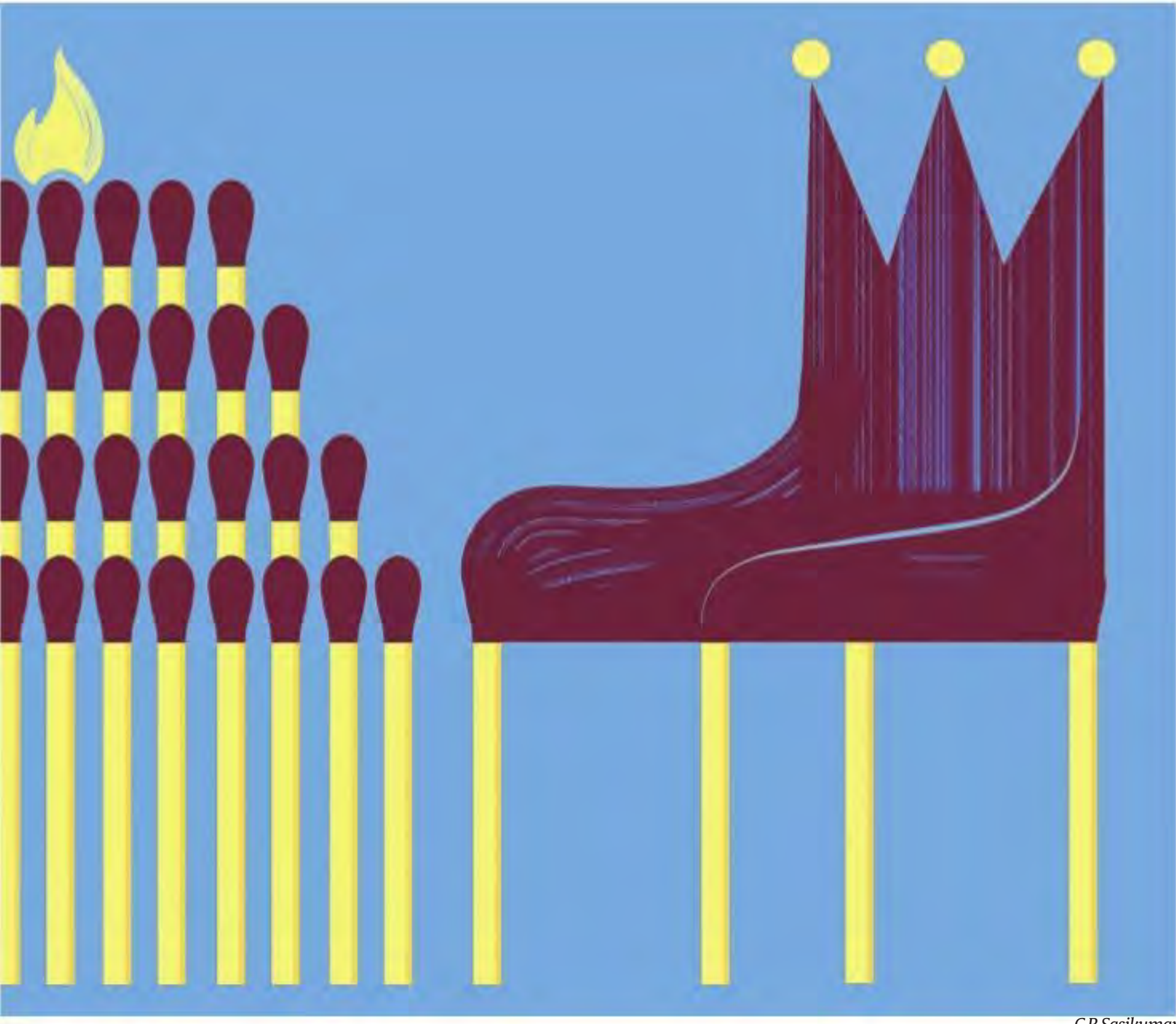
LEADERS OF THE BJP claim that the Citizenship Amendment Act does not take away citizenship from any Indian, therefore, the protests across the country are ill-informed and misplaced. We cannot believe that consummate politicians are unable to grasp the demands of thousands of students and citizens who march and demonstrate against government policies. Their message, blazoned on posters, and articulated in innovative language, creative songs, art and graffiti is unequivocal: We the people of India, will not tolerate the fusion of religious identity and citizenship, will not sanction dilution of secularism and equality, will not accept irresponsible amendments to the Constitution, and will not endure vicious attempts to divide us.

Witness the political miracle. The terms of engagement between the government and the people have been transformed. In the past five and a half years, the BJP government has refused to tolerate criticism. Today our young people hammer home the fact that they will not tolerate any policy that violates the democratic and secular ethos of the nation. Students now instruct rulers — do not tamper with constitutional principles that were forged in the heat of the freedom struggle. This is our inheritance, and this is our culture.

The substantial movement in support of constitutional supremacy and morality trumps arguments put forth by BJP spokespersons; that the CAA, the proposed National Register of Citizens, and the National Population Register are part of their manifesto. Manifestos do not override the Constitution. The message is unambiguous and clear. But, BJP leaders, intoxicated with the results of the May 2019 general election, simply do not register that a majority of the electorate did not vote for the NDA. Nor do they recognise the significance of the political moment. In mid-December, thousands of university students rose in protest. They seem to be unfamiliar with the recent history of mobilisation by civil society that has shaken power and dismantled states.

The concept of civil society is normative, insofar as it specifies that associational life in a metaphorical space between the market based on profit, and the state that embodies power, is a distinct good. Associational life neutralises the individualism, the atomism, and the anomie of modern life. Social associations enable the pursuit of multiple projects and engender solidarity. The projects can range from developing awareness about climate change, to discussing and dissecting popular culture, supporting needy children, organising neighbourhood activities, and safeguarding human rights. Above all, the concept recognises that even democratic states are imperfect. Democracy has to be realised through sustained engagement with the holders of power. Citizen activism, public vigilance, informed public opinion, a free media, and a multiplicity of social associations are indispensable for this task.

It is, however, the minimal avatar of civil society — that of mobilisation against authoritarian regimes — that has proved politically effective since the last decades of the 20th century. This concept has motivated thousands of people across the globe to stand up and speak back to a history, not of their making. In the first decade of the 21st century, from Nepal to Libya, huge crowds, driven by a distinctly anti-authoritarian mood, assembled and agitated in public spaces to demand an end to monarchies, dictatorships, and tyrannies. The mobilisation of civil societies against undemocratic gov-



CR Sasikumar

ernments again, after 1989 and the Velvet Revolutions in Eastern Europe, demonstrated the competence of the political public to command an activity called politics. Notably, the objective of civil society is not to takeover the state. That is left to political parties. Vibrant civil societies are born out of complete disenchantment with the party system. They are, and remain, the public conscience of society. Little wonder that powerful states have collapsed like the proverbial house of cards before street assemblies and demonstrations.

In 2006 in Nepal, a massive anti-monarchy movement developed into a pro-democracy movement and brought an end to rulers who had claimed the divine right to rule, motivating Maoists to lay aside their weapons and take part in elections to a constituent assembly — catapulting the transition of the Nepali people from subject to citizen. For two years, 2007 and 2008, a pro-democracy movement led by lawyers shook up Pakistan, then under military rule. The movement forced the military government under General Pervez Musharraf to its knees, and heralded, once again, the return of electoral democracy to the country.

The most spectacular assertions of civil society occurred in Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, Libya, Yemen, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Morocco, and other countries in West Asia from December 2010 onwards. Protests that coalesced into the “Arab Springs” were sparked off when on December 17, 2010, a 26-year old vegetable vendor Mohamed Bouazizi set himself on fire before a government building in the rural town of Sidi Bouzid in Tunisia. He committed self-immolation in protest against the public humiliation heaped on him by a police officer. The act sparked off major protests across the country, and resulted in demands that President Zina El Abidina resign. A month later the president fled the country.

Some countries that were rocked by protests were under military regimes, others under individual despots. The inhabitants of these societies had been denied basic civil liberties such as freedom of expression and right to association. Yet a defiant citizenry

We do not need to worry about who should lead civil society mobilisation in India. Nor should we worry about where it is heading. It is enough that citizens have gathered in public spaces to fight a government increasingly seen as authoritarian and divisive. Moreover, civil societies eschew organisation, leadership and goals. Organisation leads to bureaucratisation, leaders rapidly become tyrants, and no one agent is capable of defining what the goals of a complex society should be.

came together in public places to protest against the harm caused by the abuse of authority — from upping bus fares in Brazil, to the denial of rights in Egypt. Protesters identified perpetrators of injustice and insisted on retributive and remedial justice. What had been thought of as unthinkable and improbable had been translated into the probable and the achievable. A number of successful autocrats were forced to demit office — Ben Ali in Tunisia, Hosni Mubarak in Egypt, and Ali Abdullah Saleh in Yemen.

Since June 2019, Hong Kong has been rocked by a movement that has brought together huge numbers of people. The movement initially came together as a protest against the government proposal that suspected criminals would be extradited to mainland China. It has developed into a major pro-democracy movement inspired by deep-rooted antipathy against authoritarian rule. Protests continue to escalate in the island in the face of police brutality, repression and crackdowns.

We do not need to worry about who should lead civil society mobilisation in India. Nor should we worry about where it is heading. It is enough that citizens have gathered in public spaces to fight a government increasingly seen as authoritarian and divisive. Moreover, civil societies eschew organisation, leadership and goals. Organisation leads to bureaucratisation, leaders rapidly become tyrants, and no one agent is capable of defining what the goals of a complex society should be. The task of civil society is not to wage a revolutionary war. Its task is to awaken people to the fact that they have a right to hold governments responsible for acts of omission and commission. When it takes on authoritarian states, the strength of civil society is its spontaneity and collective mobilisation. Its weapon is the Constitution; its demand is respect for constitutional morality. Finally, civil society is not an institution; it is a space, the site for many projects that restore democracy. This is India’s civil society moment. It needs to be celebrated.

The writer is a former professor of political science, Delhi University

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“Washington needs to calm down and abandon its imposition of extreme pressure on Huawei.” — GLOBAL TIMES CHINA

Rescuing the Republic

States boycotting NPR can cause a constitutional crisis. In this may lie a chance to protect Constitution



HARSH MANDER

IF THE INDIAN Republic is to be saved from the ravaging of its soul by the dangerously divisive project of citizenship rights, graded by one’s religious identity, which the Union government has launched, then a nationwide movement of civil disobedience of the kind led by Mahatma Gandhi is imperative.

But, it will not be enough for all citizens to boycott the National Population Register and the National Register of Indian Citizens. It requires all non-BJP governments to join in by refusing to implement both the NPR and the NRIC.

Despite nationwide protests of a scale and spread unmatched since the freedom struggle, the Union government still signals its resolve to persist with its contentious agenda. The Citizenship Amendment Act has been notified for its commencement from January 10, and for the NPR, pilots have already commenced and is due to be rolled out nationwide from April.

Mahatma Gandhi had taught us that if citizens wish to oppose a law that they regard to be intolerably unjust and evil, then the peaceful and non-violent way to resist is to refuse to cooperate with this law through civil disobedience.

Citizens, particularly students around the country recognised quickly that if the Union government was allowed to proceed with the CAA-NRIC-NPR trio, it would destroy the constitutional pledges of the Indian Republic — of equal rights, non-discrimination on the basis of religion, and secularism. Spontaneous protests have spread rapidly to every corner of the country. Protesters hold in one hand the national flag, and in the other, posters rejecting the divisive agenda of the government, reading reverentially the preamble of the Constitution.

By standing together in this civil disobedience, citizens of every faith uphold the lustrious core of the Constitution, which is fraternity — the idea that we are all bound to and with each other, that injustice to any of my countrywomen or men is injustice to me, that we must all take care of each other.

History will long remember this moment for how citizens pulled India back from the edge of fascism, through both, the resolve of collective civil disobedience and the public affirmation of their solidarity. By contrast, when Nazi Germany withdrew the citizenship rights of Jews, reducing them to “state subjects”, there were hardly any protests by non-Jews, even as fascism made its advances (except when the Gestapo rounded up Jews who married non-Jews).

However, this inspiring, and indeed historic citizen movement of civil disobedience and solidarity is unlikely to dent the hubris of the ruling government, or compel it to pull back from its ruinous ideological project which they have unleashed, fraught with the memories and perils of Partition. The brute and targeted repression by the Uttar Pradesh government, and the ugly force used to crush

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TYPES OF POLITICS

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Delhi’s choice’ (IE, January 30). Identity politics is harmful as its proponents create divisions and inequalities in the society and exploit faultlines for vested interests. On the other hand, a politics anchored in governance issues is less discriminatory. It unites society and encourages people to fight a battle for common causes.

Tarsem Singh, Mahipalpur

WHAT IS A CLOSURE

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Closure, not revenge’ (IE, January 30). Capital punishment or otherwise, the society, in most cases, doesn’t get to see appropriate justice for heinous crimes. The criminal justice system doesn’t actually instil much faith in society at large. It is unfair towards people with limited means.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Closure, not revenge’ (IE, January 30). The article’s central premise that crime should be viewed as a social problem, good as it sounds, is against fundamental human emotions. Is a cry for revenge not a cry for justice as well? And if justice warrants a death penalty in the rarest of rare cases, then why not? When it comes to the gruesome experience of a victim, revenge and justice are two sides of the same coin. The code of Hammurabi has outgrown itself but people do retain the desire for revenge.

Sangeeta Kampani, Delhi

students in universities is likely to only exacerbate dangerously around the country in coming weeks.

What alone can stop the Union government in its tracks could be, in addition to the protests, a new form of civil disobedience rarely, if ever, seen anywhere in the world. This is the federal pushback from state governments. The Union government can perhaps implement the CAA directly through its own bureaucracy. But, it cannot implement either the NRIC or the NPR unless state governments make available their staff for the massive operation which involves house-to-house collection of information.

It will be remembered that political parties in India, except the Left and a few others, did not display the consistent moral and political commitment required to defend the Republic and its constitutional morality at a time when they were most gravely threatened. Instead, they hedged, compromised and voted in support of the amended law for immediate petty political bargain. It was only after the utterly unexpected national protests that one by one non-BJP state governments (even the Bihar government of which it is a part) announced that they would not implement the NRIC.

There is still a danger of states not blocking the NPR, accepting on face value the Union government’s claim that the NPR is not connected with the NRIC. This is again a brazen official falsehood. The amendment to the citizenship law under the BJP government in 2003 laid the foundations for what is unfolding today. It laid down that a person cannot become an Indian citizen, even if born in India, if one parent is declared an “illegal citizen”. Further, to identify “illegal citizens”, an NRIC would be prepared. The rules under the Act then lay down that, first, the NPR would be prepared as a comprehensive national record of residents, and from among them, the executive would identify those who are “doubtful citizens”; even other citizens could identify “doubtful citizens”. This opens the doors for a frightening kind of communal targeting by even the lower executive and communal organisations which even the Assam NRC rarely gave space for.

If state governments still permit the NPR, they will, in effect, permit a process of communal targeting that will cause catastrophic suffering, the potential disenfranchisement of millions of Indian Muslims, and a permanent dismembering of social harmony and justice. There can be no greater betrayal by them of the Constitution. Following the example of the Kerala government, they must approach the Supreme Court for repeal of not just the CCA, but also of the amendments brought in 2003 which provide for the NRIC and the NPR. If these are not struck down, the only path before them is to disobey the Union government, and invite even dismissal as the cost of not permitting the destruction of the Constitution.

This will be unprecedented, and will doubtless create a constitutional crisis. But, paradoxically, it is only by creating such a constitutional crisis that the Constitution can be rescued from what would otherwise be a fatal blow to its foundational morality.

Mander is a human rights worker and writer

LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

To encourage quality reader intervention, The Indian Express offers the Letter of the Week award. The letter adjudged the best for the week is published every Saturday. Letters may be e-mailed to editpage@expressindia.com or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301.

BETTER BANKS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Without fear’ (IE, January 30). It is anybody’s guess if the move to do away with the personal responsibility of PSU heads for loans will inspire confidence and lead to credit growth. But are there loan seekers in the market? The premise that inaction and reluctance of PSU banks to disburse loans is because they are hauled by investigative agencies rings hollow. The root cause of bank frauds is the selective approach taken by officials to disburse loans, provided, at times with break neck speed. Bankers have the acumen to verify the acumen of applicants, but that is rarely used.

Deepak Singhal, Chennai

THE Urdu PRESS

AS ECONOMY SLUMPS

IN AN EDITORIAL titled “Cost to the economy is increasing”, *Inquilab* notes that “demonetisation, and the implementation of GST in the Narendra Modi government’s first term and then rendering Article 370 ineffective in the second tenure, along with turning J&K into a Union territory made world headlines. But more hurt has been caused by the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).”

It was initially felt that this was to distract from the economic decline. But now it is clear that “BJP wants to polarise beyond the election” campaign. The paper is of the view that “economic improvement must be the topmost priority of any government” and “if it takes back CAA unconditionally, the economic hit due to this will also stop.”

Etemaad, the AIMIM daily from Hyderabad, has a hard-hitting editorial on January 22 on how finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman had to take a rap after her first budget. “The prime minister had promised to move towards a Rs five-trillion economy in five years. But the first budget faced criticism because it did not tally with

the Economic Survey presented a day earlier.” The editorial asks: “In the light of the criticism of the first budget, how will the finance minister give shape to this budget and what concrete policies and steps will the Modi government take to put the economy on the right track?”

SHAHEEN BAGH

THE URDU TIMES, on January 28, in an editorial titled, “The fear of Shaheen Bagh”, writes: “Hot winds are blowing in the country, even though in most of the region, it is winter. What is the meaning of hot winds at this time? It is the CAA, the NPR and the NRC that have heated up the atmosphere and all are debating this.” The editorial says: “This is not only about Indians. The debate has been stoked on the world stage. The European Union is preparing a resolution against this, which terms this is a way of snatching a citizens’ rights. India has said this must not be rushed and it is ready to give an explanation on this.” The editorial mentions *The Economist* and billionaire philanthropist, George Soros criticising Prime Minister Modi. The newspa-

per then goes on to assert that “it seems the government only sees Shaheen Bagh, whereas the movement is already expanding and women are joining it in a big way.” The editorial cautions that some “extremist elements” are trying to create violence to sabotage this and warns protesters to be “smart” and “not provide an opportunity for misuse and remain peaceful.”

In an editorial titled “Shaheen Bagh”, *Siasat*, on January 29 makes hard-hitting statements against what it terms “thoughts of the impure minds of some BJP leaders finding expression in the slogans and exhortations of violence and hate”.

Munsif, on January 29, writes how “in Amit Shah’s rally, minister Anurag Thakur got crowds to shout *goli maaron salon ko*. The BJP is doing its best to give communal colour to the Delhi campaign and spread hatred.” The editorial titled “BJP is adamant on playing hatred politics for Delhi polls” argues that “it should be clear that law and order is a central issue in Delhi and as Amit Shah is home minister, his job is to resolve Shaheen Bagh and he must do it by talking to people. When there is so much talk of resolving bigger issues

through talks, then why not this one? Why is he hesitating to speak to the women at Shaheen Bagh?” The newspaper concludes that “AAP is there because of its work and the people of Delhi have to decide, who is a patriot and who is a traitor.”

GANDHI’S MURDER

IN AN EDITORIAL on January 30, the day the Mahatma was assassinated, *Sahafat* writes: “While 72 years have passed since Gandhi’s murder, instead of his martyrdom day, his Jayanti is celebrated. His death was not an ordinary event, it had shaken the entire country. Despite this, an attempt has been made to cover the murderer and the reasons of the murder.” The newspaper goes on to say “the government is mulling on giving Savarkar the Bharat Ratna. But Sardar Patel had asserted that he was among the suspects in Gandhi’s assassination. The prime minister really respects Patel. He may not agree with Patel on this, but as this matter is so sensitive, he cannot even express this.”

Compiled by Seema Chishti

TOP OF THE WORLD



Mike Pompeo

UK

Communist Party central threat of our times: Pompeo

London: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Thursday called China's ruling Communist Party "the central threat of our times" that challenges Western principles. "The Chinese Communist Party presents the central threat of our times," Washington's top diplomat said at an appearance with Britain's Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab. He added Western allies must "ensure that the next century is governed by these Western democratic principles". The US-UK intelligence sharing "relationship is deep, it is strong, it will remain," he said.

SYRIA

Russian airstrike kills 10 civilians in rebel-held Idlib

Ariha: Russian air strikes near a bakery and a medical clinic in Syria's Idlib killed 10 civilians Thursday as government forces kept up a ground offensive. The government and its allies have upped their bombardment of the last major rebel bastion, slowly chipping away at it from the south. Early Thursday, Russian air strikes hit Ariha, between Maaret al-Numan and the city of Idlib to its north, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. The latest deaths bring to 21 the number of civilians killed by Russian air strikes in Idlib since Wednesday.

SRI LANKA

Court extends remand of 61 'terrorists'

Colombo: The remand of 61 Islamic extremists, arrested in connection with the Easter Sunday attack, has been extended till February 12 by a court on Thursday. Nine suicide bombers on April 21 last year carried out a series of blasts that tore through three churches and as many high-end hotels, killing 258 people, including eight Indians. The 61 suspects are members of the National Thawheed Jamaath (NTJ), police said. The Batticaloa HC extended their remand till February 12. The IS had claimed responsibility for the attacks.

MOSCOW HALTS E-VISAS FOR CHINESE NATIONALS

Coronavirus death toll hits 170, Russia to close border with China

7,736 confirmed cases; Taiwan angry over China refusal for evacuation

AGENCIES

BEIJING, JANUARY 30

THE DEADLY coronavirus has hit all provinces in China, including the remote region of Tibet, mostly due to travellers from Wuhan city, the ground zero of the epidemic, as the virus claimed 170 lives, infected 7,736 others and spread to 20 countries, including India.

Chinese health officials on Thursday announced 38 more fatalities mainly from the worst-affected central Hubei province, taking the death toll to 170. Tibet, which till now remained the only Chinese province untouched by the virus, reported its first case on Thursday.

Russia said it was closing its border with China to prevent the spread of the coronavirus and would stop issuing electronic visas to Chinese nationals. Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin told a government meeting that the order had been signed "to take measures to close the border (with China) in the Far East".

"We have to do everything to

protect our people," he said.

The foreign ministry also advised Russians to refrain from travelling to China and for those in China to get in touch with the Russian embassy.

In Taiwan, anger has been growing over China's refusal this week to let Taiwan evacuate about 300 of its people from Wuhan, even as it has given the United States, Japan and other countries permission to do so.

China's ruling Communist Party considers Taiwan, a democratically governed island, to be part of China, and the two sides have no formal ties. Referring to the rebuffed evacuation request on Tuesday, Ma Xiaoguang, a spokesman for China's Taiwan Affairs Office, said in a statement that Taiwanese people in Hubei Province, which includes Wuhan, were receiving "appropriate care."

Kolas Yotaka, a spokeswoman for Taiwan's government, said China was prioritising politics over lives. Many of the Taiwanese seeking evacuation from Wuhan were tourists or on business trips, while others were residents of the city who suffered from chronic diseases, Kolas said. "We call on



A scuffle over a decision to quarantine South Koreans returning from Wuhan. AP

the Chinese government to demonstrate basic humanity and agree to our request as soon as possible," she said.

Asian stocks and currencies fell, with fears growing that the hit to China's economy will ripple around the world. "Markets will remain highly volatile as long as they feel that they only have an incomplete picture of what is going on, and what is going to happen next," said Agathe Demarais, global forecasting director at the Economist Intelligence Unit.

AUSTRALIA DEFENDS ISLAND CAMP

AUSTRALIA DEFENDED its plan to send evacuated citizens to a remote island used to banish asylum seekers and criminals

THE AUSTRALIAN Medical Association said Australians quarantine on mainland would be better, which the minister dismissed

A MINISTER said Christmas Island struck a balance between supporting those stranded and protecting the wider population

WENBO YU, whose wife and children are in Wuhan, said of rejecting the evacuation offer, "We'd rather they stay in Wuhan..."

Wary of irking Beijing, Trump offers rosy take on virus threat

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, JANUARY 30

PRESIDENT DONALD Trump had plenty to talk about during his latest big campaign rally, regaling a friendly crowd in New Jersey with his thoughts about impeachment, the economy, the border wall, local politics and much more.

But the president was conspicuously quiet about one big issue that has much of the globe on pins and needles: the spread of a deadly new type of coronavirus. And he speaks in broad terms when he does talk about it.

"We're very much involved

"China has been working very hard to contain the coronavirus... The United States greatly appreciates their efforts and transparency. It will all work out well."

— DONALD TRUMP

with them, right now, on the virus that's going around," Trump said of China before signing a trade deal at the White House on Wednesday. He said he had discussed the situation with Chinese President Xi Jinping and

added, "We're working very closely with China."

Aides and confidants say Trump's careful approach is part of a political strategy crafted to avoid upsetting the stock market or angering China by calling too much attention to the virus or blaming Beijing for not managing the situation better, according to a White House official and a Republican close to the White House.

Trump also tweeted out photos from a briefing on the virus he attended with administration officials in the Situation Room, writing "We have the best experts anywhere in the world and they are on top of it 24/7!"

TRUMP LAWYER AT IMPEACHMENT TRIAL

'Anything a president does to get re-elected is in the public interest'

NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON, JANUARY 30

THE WHITE House and Senate Republicans worked aggressively on Wednesday to discount damaging revelations from John R. Bolton and line up the votes to block new witnesses from testifying in President Trump's impeachment trial, in a push to bring the proceeding to a swift close.

Before the trial convened, Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the majority leader, and other Republicans signaled that they were regaining confidence that they would be able to cobble together the 51 votes needed to block new witnesses



Mitch McConnell. Reuters

and documents and bring the trial to an acquittal verdict as soon as Friday.

Alan Dershowitz, one of President Trump's lawyers, appeared to make a new argument for broad presidential powers —

so broad that anything a president does to help himself get re-elected, he said, is inherently in the public's interest, including a "quid pro quo." "If the president does something that he thinks will help him get elected, in the public interest, that cannot be the kind of quid pro quo that results in impeachment," Dershowitz said.

The lead house manager, Representative Adam B Schiff, called the theory "very odd."

Later, when answering another question, Schiff pushed back against Dershowitz's view. Schiff said Trump is "a president who identifies the state as being himself." Addressing Trump directly, Schiff said, "You are not a king."

IN COLD NUMBERS

\$30 BILLION

The amount of cash funneled to fossil fuel projects each year by rich nations through government-backed financial institutions, an act which runs 'counter to the Paris Agreement', as per an analysis

Press send for Brexit: EU seals pact with email



UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson in London on Thursday. AP

MATINA STEVIS-GRIDNEFF

LONDON, JANUARY 30

THE EUROPEAN Union gave its official approval of Brexit on Thursday, taking the last step in its internal procedures before Britain leaves the bloc on Friday.

Following a sometimes emotional vote in the European Parliament on Wednesday, the countries remaining in the union gave a last seal of approval to the agreement on Britain's withdrawal. In the end, the way the decision became final was vintage Brussels: bureaucratic and undramatic.

Diplomats from the European Union's remaining 27 countries were given plain instructions over email just after 8 p.m. Wednesday, once the European Parliament had voted to enact Brexit: Answer these four questions with "yes," "no," or "abstain" and send them in an email to the European Council.

At 1 pm local time on Thursday, the answers came in, formally completing the withdrawal agreement. The process used — known in European Union parlance as "written procedure" — is reserved for technical decisions that can be handled by officials and don't require top diplomats or heads of government to meet in person.

"The council has adopted, by written procedure, the decision on the conclusion of the withdrawal agreement on behalf of the EU," the European Council, the branch of the European

EXPLAINED

Up next: Trade, unity

BREXIT leaves the UK PM with a number of issues to deal with, ranging from internal unity to forging new trade ties. Johnson had recently attempted to woo African nations at a recent investment summit, and has also referenced a deal with the US, though this has come under doubt after recent differences over Huawei, among other things. Another issue has to do with the UK's internal cohesion — while Britain voted to leave the EU, Scotland and Northern Ireland voted to stay. This has strained ties and will present a significant challenge to Johnson.

Union that brings together its member countries' governments, said in a brief statement. "The withdrawal agreement will enter into force upon the UK's exit from the EU, on 31 January 2020 at midnight CET," it added. "From that time on, the UK will no longer be an EU member state and will be considered as a third country." **NYT**

Netanyahu to Putin: Trump Mideast deal a new opportunity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MOSCOW, JANUARY 30

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday hailed US President Donald Trump's Middle East peace plan as a new opportunity after flying to Moscow to discuss it with President Vladimir Putin.

"I think there's a new and perhaps unique opportunity here," said the Israeli premier, who stood alongside Trump at the White House when the plan was announced Tuesday and called it a victory for Israel.

Trump's plan angered Palestinians by proposing Israel retain control over Jerusalem as its "undivided capital" and giving the green light to annex Jewish settlements in the West



Benjamin Netanyahu with Vladimir Putin. Reuters

Bank. "I'd like to speak to you and hear your insights and see how we can combine all our forces for security and peace," Netanyahu told Putin at the start of their Kremlin meeting.

"You're actually the first leader I'm speaking with after my visit to Washington about President Trump's Deal of the Century," he added.

NEW ZEALAND VOLCANO ERUPTION

After wife, Indian-origin man succumbs to burns; three children orphaned

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WELLINGTON, JANUARY 30

AN INDIAN-American businessman has become the latest victim of a massive volcanic eruption in New Zealand after he succumbed to his burn injuries, over a month after his wife died in the same tragedy, leaving their three children orphaned.

Pratap Singh and his wife Mayuari were visiting White Island when the volcano erupted on December 9. Mayuari died on December 22. Forty-seven people from a Royal Caribbean

cruise ship were visiting the tourist destination when the volcano erupted, killing 13 initially and leaving more than two dozen hospitalised with severe burns.

Twenty-one people have now died as a result of the eruption.

The family said in a statement, "...I disclose that my Uncle Pratap Singh (nicknamed "Paul") is the latest victim who did not survive from the Whakaari White Island incident." "Paul and Mary are survived by three children: 11-year-old son, and 6-year-old twin daughters."

TRUMP HAD DISMISSED TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES AS 'HEADACHES', LEADING TO OUTRAGE

Spotlight on invisible war wounds after Iraq brain injuries

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, JANUARY 30

THE SPOTLIGHT on brain injuries suffered by US troops in Iraq this month is an example of America's episodic attention to this invisible war wound, which has affected hundreds of thousands over the past two decades but is not yet fully understood.

Unlike physical wounds, such as burns or the loss of limbs, traumatic brain injuries aren't obvious and may take time to diagnose. The full impact may not be evident for some time, as studies have shown links be-



Iranian bombing caused a crater at Ain al-Asad airbase. AP/File

tween TBI and mental health problems. They cannot be dismissed as mere "headaches" -

the word used by President Donald Trump as he said the injuries suffered by the troops in

Iraq were not necessarily serious.

"TBI is a serious injury and one that cannot be taken lightly," said William Schmitz, national commander for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. "TBI is known to cause depression, memory loss, severe headaches, dizziness and fatigue," sometimes with long-term effects.

The VFW called on Trump to apologise for his "misguided remarks". Rep Bill Pascrell, Jr, a New Jersey Democrat and founder of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, faulted Trump for displaying "a clear lack of understanding of the devastating impacts of brain injury".

The Pentagon says 50 service members have been diagnosed with traumatic brain injury caused by the January 8 Iranian missile attack on an air base in Iraq where US and coalition troops had taken cover in advance.

Details of the injuries have not been made public, though the Pentagon said that 31 of the 50 who were diagnosed with traumatic brain injury have recovered enough to return to duty.

The arc of attention to TBI began in earnest, for the US military, in the early years after it invaded Iraq in 2003 to topple President Saddam Hussein. His demise gave rise to an insurgency that

confounded the Americans with crude but devastatingly effective roadside bombs. Survivors often suffered not just physical wounds but also concussions that, along with psychological trauma, became known as the invisible wounds of war.

Concern about TBI has recently given rise to questions about whether military members may suffer long-term health damage even from low-level blasts. "We're finding that even a mild blast can cause long-term, life-changing health issues," said Riya Shi, a professor of neuroscience and biomedical engineering at Purdue University.

APPLICABLE FROM APR 1; PROMOTERS' STAKE TO BE CUT TO 26% IN 6 MONTHS

Kotak Mahindra, RBI settle promoter stake tussle, voting rights to be capped at 15%

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 30

ENDING MONTHS of tussle over reducing the promoter stake, Kotak Mahindra Bank and the Reserve Bank of India have finally settled the issue amicably. The bank on Thursday said the promoters' voting rights in the bank will be capped at 20 per cent of paid-up voting equity share capital until March 31, 2020 and at 15 per cent of the capital from April 1, 2020 as approved by the RBI.

"Promoters' shareholding in the bank will be reduced to 26 per cent of the capital of the bank within six months from the date of final approval of the RBI," the bank said in a stock exchange filing. Thereafter, the promoters will not purchase any further paid up voting equity shares of the bank till the percentage of promoters' shareholding reaches 15 per cent of the capital of the bank or such higher percentage as may be permitted by the RBI from time to time, it said.

The bank has also decided to withdraw the writ petition

EXPLAINED

Decision in line with RBI regulations

THE RBI's bank licensing rules stipulate that a private bank's promoter will need to pare holding to 40 per cent within three years, 20 per cent within 10 years and to 15 per cent within 15 years.

The central bank has taken a tough stand on promoters bringing down their stakes and making the ownership widely held. However, banks can't be taken over by another entity without the RBI nod.

filed by it in the Bombay High Court against the RBI. The promoters — Uday Kotak — currently hold 29.96 per cent stake in the company.

The promoters will be entitled to purchase paid-up voting equity shares of the bank up to 15 per cent of the capital of the bank or such higher percentage as may be permitted in the future, and exercise voting rights on such shares. "The RBI vide its letter dated January 29, 2020 has conveyed its in-principle acceptance (of the proposal). Our board of directors has re-

solved to abide by the above," the bank said.

The RBI had asked the bank to cut promoter shareholding to 20 per cent of the capital by December 31, 2018, and 15 per cent by March 31, 2020. In August 2018, Kotak Mahindra Bank proposed to issue non-convertible perpetual non-cumulative preference shares to reduce promoter stake to 19.7 per cent, worth Rs 500 crore at Rs 5 apiece, which the RBI shot down arguing that preference shares do not comprise core equity and help promoters retain

voting rights.

As a result, the tussle went to Bombay High Court and the matter was pending with the court.

According to the RBI's bank licensing rules, a private bank's promoter will need to pare holding to 40 per cent within three years, 20 per cent within 10 years and to 15 per cent within 15 years.

In June 2019, the RBI imposed a penalty of Rs 2 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank for not complying with its directions regarding dilution of promoters' shareholding in the company. The private sector lender was then directed by the RBI to furnish information about details of the shareholding held by its promoters and to submit details of the proposed course of action for complying with the permitted timeline for dilution of promoter shareholding.

In 2013, Kotak Mahindra Bank said Anand Mahindra had ceased to be a promoter of the bank. Mahindra and his family members held 3.68 per cent stake in Kotak Mahindra Bank and the holding would now come under public sharehold-

ing disclosure, the bank had then said.

As per the RBI's latest regulations, ownership limits for all shareholders in the long run should be based on categorization of the shareholders under two broad categories — natural persons (individuals) and legal persons (entities/institutions). Further, non-financial and financial institutions, and among financial institutions, diversified and non-diversified financial institutions should have separate limits for shareholding.

In the case of individuals and non-financial entities (other than promoters and promoter group), the limit should be 10 per cent of the paid up capital. However, in case of promoters being individuals and non-financial entities in existing banks, the permitted promoter / promoter group shareholding should be in line with permitted level in the February 22, 2013 guidelines on licensing of universal banks — 15 per cent.

In the case of entities from the financial sector, other than regulated or diversified or listed, the limit should be at 15 per cent of the paid-up capital.

INTERVIEW WITH JEFFREY SACHS

‘Weak private investment ... as there is lack of clarity about long-term direction’



business sector are basically being pocketed as income that is not being spent on new investments by the business sector.

You had earlier said India needs a government that operates like a business and needs a timetable and proper agenda. Do you think that has happened in the last 5-6 years?

I think it's probably happened less now than maybe during the first term. I don't see the clear goals, timelines. The idea of the sustainable development goals is to set clear goals for 2030, clear timelines to achieve those goals, clear budgets to fund timelines, and clear metrics to assemble the evidence of being on track or off track. I don't really see that happening in a number of areas right now. I don't think it's happening on environment, energy systems, water, health, education. We are in 2020, that's a round number, start of the new decade. And I would say that the 10 years to 2030 should be viewed as a unit of time for purposes of public planning. I would urge the government set clear, monitored, quantified targets and then make clear budget plans for achieving them and use the 10-year time horizon for clarity and for getting away from the very short-term political cycle to the longer-term development cycle.

India's growth story has taken a hit. We have an upcoming budget, so should growth be the focus or sticking to budget targets?

Our economic policy should be oriented towards improving the common good. For India, that means continued improvements of basic public services, such as health and education as fundamental goals and addressing the growing environmental crisis, with massive air pollution, the water crisis and the climate change crisis.

The slow growth in many places in the world, including India, comes in part from a slow-down of private investment because there is a lack of clarity about the long-term direction. So when I emphasise the social services and the change of energy system because of the climate and the resilience of infrastructure, these would give much greater clarity to private investors as well. How to proceed, the direction of, for example, electrification, the building of the solar power in this country, the electrification of vehicles, and the development of battery supply chains, areas where the private sector should be involved. But because there isn't clarity of public policy, we neither have the public investments nor the private investments. We have the same situation in the US actually where private investment is weak because the government makes no sense in its policies, it's incoherent. Tax cuts and many benefits for the

The India picture was one of being an exciting destination for global investors because of a large middle-income base and the high growth rates. But now major foreign investors like Vodafone are taking a step back. Do you think the policy mechanism is making India

less attractive for global investors?

Right now, because of the policies of a number of governments, there is quite a significant decline in foreign investment taking place because people like Trump are trying to break globalisation. In India, some of the protectionist impulses are there. I mentioned the surprise last minute decision of India to not join RCEP. This is causing everybody to think — What should we do? The uncertainty with China is palpable, and will definitely also change the dynamics.

What's lost right now is a clear narrative where we are going, what is indeed going to look like in 10-20 years; where are the growth sectors; where is the government's priority; how is it leading the particular challenges. If those are clearly answered the outcomes will also include more investor confidence — both domestic and foreign.

Right now India is seeing continued social protests? Does that add to the uncertainty and how do global investors view it?

This is like what we're reviewing in the US. Actions being taken by government are causing deep discomfort to parts of society and creating animosity, distrust and social protest. These are detrimental to sustainable development and to the real challenges we face in the US. The Trump administration is anti-migrant and deeply racist in many ways. In India, it's this situation of an extraordinarily diverse civilization, with people of so many ethnicities, religious traditions, backgrounds, which I believe is the strength of this civilization and should be championed.

I think what the protests are about is that this is a reaction against a very different view. In general, the world truly is diverse and when we pretend that it's not diverse, we end up fighting each other and all of this particularism and ethnic politics. So it's rather upsetting to me. We are in a time right now where dominant groups feel that they can load it over minority groups and we will not make it as a humanity with that point of view.

Full interview on www.indianexpress.com

Rahul Bajaj to step down from executive role at Bajaj Auto

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
PUNE, JANUARY 30

BAJAJ AUTO chairman Rahul Bajaj will step down from executive role to become a non-executive director, while continuing to hold his current position, the company said on Thursday.

Bajaj, who has been a director of the company since April 1, 1970, was last reappointed by the board for a five-year term with effect from April 1, 2015, and his term as executive chairman is expiring on March 31, 2020, the company said in a regulatory filing.

"Due to certain commitments and other pre-occupation, Rahul Bajaj has decided not to continue as a whole-time director of the company after the expiry of his current term on March 31, 2020," it added.

Bajaj Auto said its board of directors in a meeting held on Thursday approved his appointment as non-executive director with the designation continuing as the chairman of the company with effect from April 1, 2020, subject to shareholders' approval.

Since Bajaj has already attained the age of 75, approval of shareholders will be taken by special resolution by way of postal ballot for his appointment as non-executive chairman as required under Sebi regulations, the company added. After taking charge of the Bajaj Group business in 1965, Rahul Bajaj led the company to its growth path. Under his stewardship Bajaj Auto, the group's flagship company, saw its turnover grow to Rs 12,000 crore from just Rs 72 crore with the firm's scooters becoming the mainstay.

He steered the diversified entity during the country's transition from a closed economy to a liberalised one. **FE**

‘FY21: Muted revenue growth to pressure states’ deficit, debt ratios’

With low GDP growth expected to continue and state government finances likely to see revenue pressure, India Ratings and Research said it has revised the outlook on state finances to stable-to-negative for FY21 from stable



devolution in FY21

0.4% of GDP: Expected deficit in states' revenue account on aggregate in FY21, as against surplus of 0.01 per cent in FY20

27.5% Expected rise in states' aggregate debt/GDP to rise in FY21, from the budgeted 24.7% for FY20

THE 15TH FINANCE : In its final report, it will make suggestions on revenue sharing between Centre and states for FY22-FY26

Source: India Ratings and Research/PTI

Puri defends air travel ban on Kamra: ‘In US, he would have been locked up’

RITU SARIN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

UNION CIVIL Aviation Minister Hardeep Puri Wednesday defended the six-month flight ban imposed by four airlines on stand-up comic Kunal Kamra, saying an incident similar to this in a country like the US would have resulted in the passenger being "locked up" after the flight landed.

The minister also justified his own intervention into the incident — through a late-night tweet on Tuesday, hours after Kamra heckled journalist Arnab Goswami in a flight. Puri said that once IndiGo Airlines had announced the flight ban, he had to ensure a similar incident did not occur on other airlines.

He told *The Indian Express*, "This is not an issue of liberalism versus nationalism. It is about a zero tolerance for aberrant be-

"This is not an issue of liberalism versus nationalism. It is about a zero tolerance for aberrant behaviour within the confines of an aircraft, where rights of admission are reserved. As Civil Aviation Minister, it was my duty to issue an advisory to other airlines via Twitter so that such crazy behaviour was not repeated"

HARDEEP PURI
CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

haviour within the confines of an aircraft, where rights of admission are reserved. As Civil Aviation Minister, it was my duty to issue an advisory to other airlines via Twitter so that such crazy behaviour was not repeated."

Asked why he had not waited to read IndiGo's internal crew report, or for an inquiry committee to be set up, Puri said there was no need to wait in this case as Kamra had himself put out a video and made facts clear. "Within an aircraft, rights of admission are reserved and it can-

not be a free-for-all environment. The behaviour of the passenger [Kamra] was designed to provoke; let there be no argument about it. There is, and will be, a zero-tolerance norm."

Puri also said that had a flight ban not been immediately imposed, it would have encouraged a repeat of such incidents. "Air safety is of paramount importance. It does not matter who the passenger was, or who was being heckled. If such an incident had taken place in the US, the passenger would have been locked up."

Funding for cleaning Ganga cut by almost 50% in Revised Estimate, ghat beautification gets ₹2 lakh

SHYAMLAL YADAV
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

CLEANING THE Ganga has been one of the flagship programmes of the NDA government. But due to the poor expenditure level, the government has cut the Budget allocation by almost 50 per cent in the Revised Estimate (RE) for the current financial year.

Under the Namami Gange project, Rs 700 crore was allocated to the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, and Rs 50 crore was allocated to the Ghat Beautification of Riverfronts.

Ministry sources confirmed that in the RE, the government has left Rs 353.4 crore for the Ganga plan and only Rs 2 lakh for the ghat beautification scheme.

The Ministry of Water Resources was able to spend only Rs 200 crore till December 13, as

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW AN EXPRESS RTI APPLICATION

per the information provided under the RTI Act to *The Indian Express*. Similarly, the Rs 50-crore allocation to the Ghat beautification plan was unspent till December 13. A similar trend is seen in many schemes of different ministries, which were much publicised by the government.

Other schemes that are sharing the same fate are — Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) of the Department of Land Resources; the programmes of E-Governance of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY); Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Devel-

opment Fund of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna of the Department Land Resources; and Smart Grid and Green Energy Corridor schemes of the Power Ministry.

DILRMP had been allocated Rs 150 crore, but till December 23 only Rs 2.49 crore was spent.

The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna — which was conceived for amalgamating ongoing schemes — was given Rs 2,066 crore for the current year, but only Rs 437.10 crore was spent till December 23. The Ministry of Agriculture has an Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund, for which Rs 25 crore was allocated, but till December 17, the entire amount was unspent.

Similar trends are seen in some schemes of the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), where Rs 121.69

crore was allocated for National SC/ST Hub scheme, but only Rs 35.12 crore was spent till December 23.

The Ministry has a fund called MSME Fund, for which Rs 100 crore was allocated, but it was totally unspent till December 23.

The Ministry of Food Processing launched the scheme Operation Greens in 2018-19 and Rs 200 crore was given in 2019-20. But data from the Ministry shows that only Rs 27 lakh was spent till December 17.

Similarly, for the Scheme for Mega Food Parks under the Ministry, Rs 200 crore was allocated, but only Rs 65.68 crore was spent till that date.

The Department of Personnel and Training received Rs 31.50 for the Scheme for Administrative Reforms, but only Rs 3.78 crore was spent till December end.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

MAXIMUM FALL WAS IN DECEMBER QUARTER OF 2019 WHEN DEMAND FELL 18% TO 194.3 TONNES

Gold demand in India declines 9.2% in 2019 as prices jump over 25%

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 30

HIGH PRICES kept buyers away from the yellow metal leading to a 9.2 per cent decline in demand for gold in India to 690.4 tonnes in the calendar year 2019 as compared to 760.4 tonnes in 2018. The yellow metal glittered in 2019, with prices rising nearly 25 per cent.

The maximum fall happened during the December quarter of 2019 when demand for gold fell 18 per cent to 194.3 tonnes, compared to 236.5 tonnes in the same period of 2018, according to the

YELLOW METAL DEMAND IN INDIA IN 2019				
	Volume*	Value**	Vol rise	Value rise
Jewellery	544.61	1,71,790	-9%	3%
Investment	145.8	45,980	-10%	2%
TOTAL	690.4	2,17,770	-9%	3%

*In tonnes ** In Rs crore

World Gold Council's latest Gold Demand Trends report. Standard gold rose from Rs 3,071 to Rs 3,802 per gram during the 12-month period.

However, the value of gold bought by consumers in calendar

2019 rose 3 per cent to Rs 2,17,770 crore from Rs 2,11,860 crore in 2018 as prices and volatility remained high. Total jewellery demand in India for 2019 was down by 9 per cent at 544.6 tonnes as compared to 598 tonnes in 2018. The value of

jewellery demand in 2019 was Rs 1,71,790 crore, up by 3 per cent from 2018 (Rs 166,610 crore). Total investment demand for 2019 was down by 10 per cent at 145.8 tonnes in comparison to 162.4 tonnes in 2018. In value terms, gold investment demand was Rs 45,980 crore, up by 2 per cent from 2018 (Rs 45,250 crore).

Total gold recycled in India in 2019 was 119.5 tonnes as compared to 87 tonnes in 2018.

Somasundaram PR, managing director India at World Gold Council, said: "India's gold demand was 9 per cent lower in 2019, at 690 tonnes, primarily an outcome

of a sharp surge in prices of over 20 per cent in the second half (H2). However, in value terms, this reflects a growth of 3 per cent over last year. Growth in H1 was followed by a sharp drop in Q3."

India's gold demand value in the December quarter of 2019 was Rs 65,890 crore, a decline of 2 per cent in comparison with the same period a year ago (Rs 67,340 crore). Total jewellery demand in India for the December quarter was down by 17 per cent at 149 tonnes as compared to 180.1 tonnes a year ago. The value of jewellery demand was Rs 50,530 crore, a decline of one per cent from Q4 2018

(Rs 51,270 crore).

Total investment demand for the December quarter was down 20 per cent at 45.3 tonnes in comparison with 56.4 tonnes a year ago. In value terms, gold investment demand was Rs 15,360 crore, a decline of 4 per cent from Rs 16,060 crore in the year-ago quarter. Total gold recycled in India for the quarter was 29.1 tonnes as compared to 18 tonnes.

"Diwali and Dhanteras revived hopes but the volatility coupled with a higher price bar impacted demand, in the lower and middle price bands. Investment demand received some respite during

Dhanteras and the ensuing wedding season with 45.3 tonnes — the strongest quarter in the year, as gold clearly proved to be the best performing asset class in 2019. With high prices, recycled gold increased by 37 per cent to a record 119 tonnes," he said.

The RBI buying was also a positive feature in 2019, lifting its gold reserves by 32.7 tonnes (till November) in 2019.

"Looking ahead, 2020 we expect policy-led and industry-led initiatives to bring a marked shift in making the industry more transparent and organised," Somasundaram said.

Gold prices rise ₹400 on wedding season demand

New Delhi: Gold prices on Thursday jumped Rs 400 to Rs 41,524 per 10 gram in the Capital, helped by wedding season demand and overall recovery in global prices, according to HDFC Securities. Silver prices also climbed Rs 737 to Rs 47,392 per kg from Rs 46,655 per kg on Wednesday. **PTI**

IOC Q3 net triples on inventory gain of ₹1,608 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

INDIAN OIL Corp (IOC) Thursday reported tripling of its net profit in December quarter as inventory gains offset lower refinery margins and forex losses. Standalone net profit in October-December at Rs 2,399.02 crore, or Rs 2.55 per share, was higher than Rs 716.82 crore, or Rs 0.76 per share, net profit in the same period in the previous year, IOC Chairman Sanjiv Singh said here.

"The variation is majorly on account of inventory gain during the current quarter against inventory loss during the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year, partly offset by lower refining margins and exchange losses in the current quarter," he said.

IOC had an inventory gain of Rs 1,608 crore in the three-month period as compared to an inventory loss of Rs 8,523 crore in the third quarter of FY19, Singh said.

Tata Motors back in black, posts profit of ₹1,756 cr in Dec quarter

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 30

TATAMOTORS Thursday reported a net profit of Rs 1,755 crore in Q3FY20, against a loss of Rs 26,961 crore a year ago. The profit was led by higher operating margins that rose 235 basis points (bps) year-on-year (y-o-y) to 10.31 per cent, and strong performance by Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) in China, JLR operating margins stood at 10.8 per cent in the December quarter.

However, lower sales volumes in the domestic market led to 7 per cent y-o-y drop in revenue from operations to Rs 71,676 crore in Q3FY20. The consolidated earnings include numbers from both Tata Motors domestic operations, and JLR, the global operations.

In the domestic market, Tata Motors' standalone revenue fell 33 per cent y-o-y to Rs 10,843 crore while the operating margins dropped 800 bps to 1.1 per cent on lower volumes, especially in the

JLR chief to step down in Sept

London: The chief of Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), owned by Tata Motors, will step down from his role at the end of his contract term in September as Britain's biggest carmaker shows signs of improvement after a torrid 2019 of job cuts, deep losses and falling sales.

Ralf Speth led JLR since 2010 during which it has pursued a major global expansion with new factories in China, Brazil and Slovakia putting it on course to make 1 million cars a year. REUTERS

medium and heavy commercial vehicle segment, due to lower demand and weak economic conditions. The volumes were further impacted due to BS-IV inventory clearance, which has resulted in loss of operating leverage. FE

LIKELY TO BE ANNOUNCED IN BUDGET TO REPLACE UDAY

New power scheme to aim for fewer losses, offer supply choices

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE UPCOMING Budget is likely to introduce a new scheme directed at the power sector that would replace the NDA government's earlier scheme, UDAY, which had floundered in its attempt to revive the country's power distribution companies (discoms).

Power Minister RK Singh had said earlier this week that UDAY was "not a failure", but had also suggested that the new set of reforms would be stricter in its implementation. The project would combine elements of strengthening the distribution system and the trajectory of loss reduction of UDAY, Singh had earlier told *The Indian Express*.

"Now it will be conditional — if states follow the trajectory of loss reduction, we will give them the

UDAY NOT A FAILURE: POWER MINISTER

■ Power Minister RK Singh had said earlier this week that UDAY was "not a failure", but had also suggested that the new set of reforms would be stricter

■ The primary reason for UDAY's inability to achieve its targets is the failure of distribution companies to collect the full cost they pay for power

money for strengthening the system. UDAY envisaged that the development funds will be conditional, but it was never implemented," he had said.

The new scheme is also expected to contain a plan to diversify power distribution across the country by moving from a mostly state-owned discom system to one where private firms would be allowed franchises to supply electricity to consumers.

"...I'm going to come out with a scheme whereby the consumer

is given a choice, so that they have not one, but multiple supply agencies. So, the discom continues to be the owner of the wire system. But, at the supply end, there will be multiple agencies that will compete," the minister had said.

According to him, this would ensure competition and better service and would also ensure timely collection of money for the power distributed. "It will also bring in the discipline required in the system whereby if you (the state)... want to give subsidies, you

give it. But you will have to deposit the money upfront with the discom, which has not been happening," Singh had said.

UDAY, launched in 2015, was aimed at reviving ailing state power discoms and make them operationally and financially efficient through various measures, like reducing aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses to 15 per cent by FY2019. Singh had earlier this week said that losses had come down to 18.79 per cent. The new scheme aims to achieve this 15 per cent target, he said.

The Indian Express had reported last December that the book losses of discoms, which had fallen from Rs 51,562 crore in FY16 to Rs 15,132 crore in FY18, have since nearly doubled this fiscal. The primary reason for UDAY's inability to achieve its targets is the failure of discoms to collect the full cost they pay for power.

BRIEFLY
PSU banks' staff to go on 2-day strike

New Delhi: Bank unions have decided to go on a two-day nationwide strike from Friday as talks with management of public sector banks (PSBs) on wage revision have failed to reach a consensus. Many banks have informed customers operations may be hit to some extent due to the strike.

Mobile phone exporters' incentive at 4%

New Delhi: The government has increased incentive on exports of mobile phones to 4 per cent under the duty drawback scheme to boost shipments of handsets, according to an official notification by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade issued on Thursday.

Premium plans suggested for micro-insurance

New Delhi: An Irdai panel has suggested introduction of daily premium payment policies to deepen insurance penetration in low-income groups. The panel on 'micro-insurance' said the product benefits need to be simple so that they can be easily understood by customers. PTI

Second quarterly profit in row for Tesla

Bengaluru: Tesla Inc posted its second quarterly profit in a row as vehicle deliveries hit a record and the company said it would comfortably make over half a million units this year. REUTERS

'Retail loan growth slowing down ... to continue unless economy improves'

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 30

IN A slowing growth environment, retail lending by banks could take a hit in fiscal 2020-21, analysts at India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra) said. Banks have increasingly focused on growing their retail loan books. However, with FY20 GDP growth pegged at 5 per cent, lenders could face a slowdown in retail lending. Banks may also see additional slippages in retail, agriculture and small and medium enterprises (SME) segments.

Over the past few years, while retail lending has grown around 15 per cent, the wage and employment growth has been lagging, analysts at Ind-Ra said. "Retail loan growth is slowing

GDP growth slowdown could also result in additional slippages in banks' retail, agriculture and SME segments in FY21, Ind-Ra said

down. We are at 16.4 per cent on a year-on-year basis in November 2019, and this includes pool purchases by banks. If you remove pool purchases, it would mean retail loans slowed down further, where FY19 we had closed at 16.4 per cent. Unless there is a dramatic improvement in the economy, this trend should continue," said Karan Gupta, associate director, Ind-Ra. For instance, the annual

growth in domestic retail lending of HDFC Bank, India's largest private lender, slowed sequentially by 60 basis points in the December quarter to 14.1 per cent. It also saw incremental stress build up in its retail loan book, primarily on account of commercial vehicles and some other commercial products.

The impact of GDP growth slowdown could also result in additional slippages in banks' retail, agriculture and SME segments in FY21. If growth and demand do not pick up, analysts expect further uptick in stressed assets. Retail NPAs have been rising across segments. Between FY15 and the second quarter of FY20, gross NPAs in the housing and mortgage segment have gone up from 1.1 per cent to 1.6 per cent, Ind-Ra data showed. FE

'Wind energy capacity addition to remain subdued'

Amid challenges like payment delays from discoms and a tight financing environment, wind energy capacity addition is likely to be subdued this financial year, an ICRA report said

2.5 GW Expected wind capacity addition in FY2020, rising from 1.6 giga watt (GW) in FY2019

60 GW Wind capacity target set by the government by December 2022, which remains a challenge

2.3 GW Tendering activity of wind power projects in CY2019 (calendar year), falling 67 per cent from 6.9 GW in CY2018

₹3 per unit Bid tariff discovered in recent wind power auctions, which is highly competitive against the conventional energy sources

2 GW Capacity of projects that have been commissioned as per timelines provided under bids awarded by Solar Energy Corporation of India, NTPC and state utilities, as against the 5 GW to be commissioned as of December 2019

Problems faced during actual execution on ground:
■ Delays in completion of land acquisition
■ Securing transmission

connectivity for inter-state projects
■ Financing challenges due to concerns over bid tariff viability
■ Delays in approval for tariff adoption from the regulators

Negative outlook for wind energy sector, having been revised from stable

Significant challenges for wind power sector:
■ Delays in making payments by state distribution utilities
■ Execution delays being faced by the projects

Source: ICRA/PTI

Need alternate measures, not fiscal stimulus, to boost economy: NITI VC

New Delhi: The Centre should focus on alternate measures to stimulate economy as it is not possible to give fiscal stimulus, NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar said ahead of the Budget.

Kumar also said growth-enhancing measures are the need of the hour to achieve India's potential growth rate of 7-8 per cent per annum. He attributed the current slowdown to low investment, muted consumption expenditure and lagging exports.

Experts are divided over whether the government should provide stimulus to boost slowing economy without bothering too much about fiscal deficit.

"Growth-enhancing measures are the need of the hour to achieve India's potential growth rate of 7-8 per cent per annum.

"However, the government's ability to finance a large stimulus is admittedly constrained. Therefore, attention will have to be on alternate measures to stimulate a recovery," Kumar said in a newsletter 'arhNITI'.

The NITI Aayog's vice-chairman noted that some green shoots of recovery are now visible with the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for both manufacturing and services showing a smart rise to above 52, which signifies expansion. PTI

Rupee slides 22p against dollar to three-week low

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 30

THE RUPEE lost 22 paise to close at a three-week low of 71.49 against the US dollar on Thursday tracking heavy sell-off in domestic equities amid rising concerns over the outbreak of coronavirus. Forex traders said most Asian currencies declined after the United States Federal Reserve kept its key policy rates steady.

Moreover, market participants are also assessing the economic implications of the coronavirus outbreak and awaiting cues from the Union Budget.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the domestic currency opened weak at 71.39 a dollar. It finally settled the day lower by 22 paise at 71.49, a level not seen

Meanwhile, the **Sensex fell 284.84 points to close at 40,913.82, while the broader Nifty50 fell 0.77 per cent to 12,035.80**

since January 8. On Wednesday, the local unit had closed at 71.27 against the greenback.

Meanwhile, benchmark indices resumed their downward spiral on Thursday as concerns over the coronavirus outbreak in China continued to dampen investor sentiment.

The Street witnessed sell-off as all sectoral indices ended the day in red. The Sensex tumbled 284.84 points to close at 40,913.82 points, while the broader Nifty50 declined 0.77 per cent to 12,035.80 points. FEWITHTPTI

China virus could bring jobs back to US: Ross

Washington: US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross suggested on Thursday that the viral outbreak in China might offer an unexpected benefit for the US economy: it could encourage American manufacturers in China to return to the United States.

"I think it will help to accelerate the return of jobs to North

America. Some to US, probably some to Mexico as well," Ross told *Fox Business Network*.

The new virus, from the coronavirus family, has paralyzed business in China. The industrial hub of Wuhan and other Chinese cities are on lockdown. China has reported more than 7,700 cases and 170 deaths. AP

2019: US economy misses Trump's 3% growth target

Washington: The US economy missed the Trump administration's 3 per cent growth target for a second straight year, posting its slowest annual growth in three years in 2019 as the slump in business investment deepened amid damaging trade tensions.

The 2.3 per cent expansion

last year reported by the Commerce Department on Thursday suggested the White House and Republicans' massive \$1.5 trillion tax cut package, which President Donald Trump had predicted would lift growth above 3 per cent, had provided the economy only a temporary boost. REUTERS

Patent infringement: \$1.1 bn fine on Apple, Broadcom

Los Angeles: A Los Angeles jury has ordered Apple and Broadcom to pay \$1.1 billion to a university in California for infringing on four Wi-Fi technology patents. Apple was ordered to pay \$837 million and Broadcom must pay \$270 million to the California Institute of Technology, in what is thought to be one of the largest patent verdicts ever. The court pronounced the verdict on Wednesday.

Caltech, as the university located near Los Angeles is known,

had sued both tech giants in 2016, alleging that Apple products including iPhones, iPads and Apple Watches used Broadcom components that infringed on Caltech patents related to wireless data transmissions.

Both Apple and Broadcom indicated they planned to appeal the verdict.

"Caltech appreciates the jury's thoughtful attention throughout the trial," the university said in a statement to *AFP*. AFP

BoE keeps rates steady as Guv Carney bows out

London: The Bank of England (BoE) kept interest rates steady at Governor Mark Carney's final policy meeting as it saw signs of a post-election pick-up in growth which weakened the case for immediate action to help the lacklustre economy.

Financial markets had seen a 50 per cent chance of a cut on Thursday, which would have echoed moves last year by the US Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank.

But the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) again split 7-2 in favour of keeping Bank Rate at 0.75 per cent, with external members Michael Saunders and Jonathan Haskel voting for a cut.

Sterling jumped around half a cent against the dollar though interest rate futures still pointed to a rate cut, probably in May, after Carney hands over to Andrew Bailey. Carney highlighted encouraging signs for the economy in early 2020. REUTERS

Government of Tamil Nadu
Tirumangalam Municipality
NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION
Notice inviting RFQ for Construction of a New Bus Stand Infrastructure Project for Tirumangalam Municipality, Tamil Nadu, on PPP Mode.
Inviting authority: The Commissioner, Tirumangalam Municipality, Tirumangalam - 625 706, Tamil Nadu.
Phone: 04549-180757 Email: comm@tirumangalam.tn.gov.in
1. The Government of Tamil Nadu is keen to improve the mobility and transport infrastructure in the State of Tamil Nadu. As a part of this effort, it is proposed to develop and operate bus stands in the State on public-private partnership basis. The terms and conditions would be operated and maintained at a pre-determined quality standard, rendering cost effective and efficient services to the users.
2. The Tirumangalam Municipality (the Authority) has been authorized by the Municipal Council for construction, development, and management of new Integrated Bus Stand Infrastructure Project, design, build, finance, operate and transfer ("DBFOT" mode of PPP).
3. The estimated project cost is Rs. 21.72 crores.
4. The said Project is for the Construction Period of 22 years, including the right to develop, design, finance, construct, and maintain the Construction Facility and Services, to undertake the marketing, leasing and allocation of bus stops, and to manage, operate, and maintain the said Project.
5. The Authority accordingly invites Applications from the eligible developers, to be shortlisted for the issue of Request for Proposal (RFP) Document.
6. After the receipt of the respective Bidders, who are interested in bidding for the above-specified project, will be held till 20.03.2020 at 11.00 hrs at Municipal Office, Tirumangalam.
7. The Eligibility Criteria and other terms and conditions are given in RFQ.
8. The RFQ may be obtained from the address given above during office hours, on payment of Rs. 1000/- (Rupees Ten thousand only) through Demand Draft, drawn in favour of Commissioner, Tirumangalam Municipality, Tirumangalam in processing fee.
9. The RFQ may also be downloaded from the Official Website: <http://tirumangalam.gov.in>
10. The last date for submission of RFQ is 15.06.2020 on 16.04.2020
Commissioner (IC), Tirumangalam Municipality

Govt. of India
Ministry of Home Affairs,
Sashastra Seema Bal
Office of the Dy. Inspector General,
Centralized Training Center, Srinagar (Garhwal)
Distt- Pauni Garhwal (UKD)

No. SSB-CTC-SNR/Liquor-tender/20-21/ Dated:

e-Tender Notice

On behalf of President of India, Dy. Inspector General CTC SSB Srinagar (Garhwal)- Uttarakhand PIN 246174 invites online tenders under two bid system i.e Technical bid and Financial bid from reputed distilleries manufactures (except bottling plant) for the supply of Indian made foreign Liquor (IMFL/Rum) to Dy. Inspector General CTC SSB Srinagar- Garhwal for a period of one year from April 2020 to March 2021. The details of approximate quantity of IMFL to be procured in bottles and earnest money to be enclosed with tender form are as under:

S No	Freight on Road (F. O. R)	Approx. total Quantity required per month	Earnest Money (in India Rupees)
1	CTC SSB Srinagar- Garhwal (Uttarakhand) PIN-246174	Scotch, Whisky, Brandy, Zin, Rum & Beer (19000 Bottles Approx.)	Rs.1,50,000/- (Rupees One Lakh fifty thousand) only

For more details: Please visit SSB official website <http://ssb.nic.in> under Tab "Tender Notice" and <http://www.eprocure.gov.in>

Dy. Inspector General
CTC SSB Srinagar (Garhwal)

GURU GHASIDAS VISHWAVIDYALAYA, BILASPUR
(A Central University) Koni, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh-495009
Website www.ggu.ac.in Phone 07752-260041, Fax 07752-260154

Notice Ref. No. 15/01/Lib/2020 Bilaspur Date: 23-01-2020

e-Tender Notice

Central Library, Guru Ghasidas Vishwaavidyalaya (GGV), invites EoI from reputed Publishers/Booksellers/Distributors/Vendors for empanelment of authorized Vendors for supply of Print books to Central Library for the empanelled period of two years. Details may be downloaded from the websites:- www.ggu.ac.in or www.epublish.gov.in. Last date for submission of EoI is 14th February 2020 by 4:00 PM.

Librarian.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383. Website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENG/ETND-EP-33/15182/2019-20 Date: 29.01.2020

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tender under two cover system for the work of 1) Construction of pitching / Revitment wall along the existing Nala in Kumbalaguda Industrial Area 1st Phase, Bengaluru Urban District. 2) Formation of Industrial Sub-Layout in Gowribidanur Industrial Area, 2nd Phase, Gowribidanur Taluk, Chikkaballapura District. 3) Formation of Housing Layout in Obadenahalli Industrial Area, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. 4) Providing Water Supply from Hemavathi canal to Honnenahalli Lake and lifting to Hirehalli Industrial Area, Tumakuru District, Dobaspete, Bengaluru Rural District including Cross Drainage Works, Improvements to Honnenahalli tank and Maidala Tank (Balance Work of Providing water supply scheme of 15MLD to Dobaspete Industrial Areas, Bengaluru Rural District and Hirehalli Industrial Area, Tumakuru District from Bugudanahalli Maidala Tank via Devarayapatna Tank at Tumakuru District are invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from Class-I Contractors (Civil) registered in KPWD. The last date and time of receipt of tender is: 27.02.2020 upto 04:00 pm Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the e-Procurement Portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>.
Sd/- Chief Development Officer & Chief Engineer
DIPR/DDU/2374/2019-20

AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
Airports Authority of India, Prayagraj invites e-tender for the following works:
1. Restaurant at first floor of Visitor's Concourse at New Terminal Building Prayagraj Airport, Prayagraj (Tender ID No. 2018_AAI_41641_1) with MRL of ₹3,60,000.00 for a period of 07 years with last date and time of submission is 21.02.2020 upto 1500 hours.
For detailed information please log on to CPP Portal etender.gov.in or website www.aai.aero

ANDHRA PRADESH POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED
VIDYUTH SOUDHA :: VIJAYAWADA
TENDER NOTICE
NIT.No.610000606/APGENCO/2020-21
APGENCO invites Open Tenders for "Up keeping & regular maintenance works of various divisions pertaining to Stage-I of RTPP for a period of 12 months from 01.04.2020 to 31.03.2021" through A.P. e-Procurement platform. Estimated value of work: Rs.2,69,08,354/-
Tender Schedule available Time and Date : From 13:00 Hrs on 20.01.2020 onwards. Bid Submission Closing Date & Time : From 15:00 Hrs on 19.02.2020. For further details visit website: www.apgenco.gov.in or <https://etender.apgenco.gov.in>

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India
Head Office: Information Technology Department
Star House 2, C-4, "G" Block, 8th Floor, Bandra - Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai 400 051.
E-mail: headoffice.it@bankofindia.co.in
Tender Request For Proposal (RFP) Notice
BANK OF INDIA INVITES REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR Implementation and Maintenance of Export Data Processing and Monitoring System (EDPMS) & Import Data Processing and Monitoring System (IDPMS). Solution Last date for submission of RFP 24.02.2020 by 3:00 PM. Details available on Bank's Corporate Website: www.bankofindia.co.in under "Tender" Section.

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking
(Of The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation)
TENDER NOTICE
e-tenders are invited for the supply of following items
(1) Maintenance Contract for SCADA System of South Zone for the Period of 2 Years
Re-invited e-tenders
(2) 44795, (3) 45596, (4) 45597, (5) 45991 (Corrigendum), (6) 45998, (7) 46084 (Corrigendum), (8) 44381, (9) 46085 (Corrigendum).
Note: For more details, at (Sr. Nos. 1 to 7) log on to website <https://mahatenders.gov.in> & (Sr. Nos. 8 & 9) www.besttender.com
PRO/AAM(M)/149/2020 GENERAL MANAGER

Facial recognition: FB reaches settlement

Bengaluru: Facebook Inc said on Wednesday it reached a \$550 million settlement in principle related to a lawsuit that claimed it illegally collected and stored biometric data for millions of users without their consent. The lawsuit began in 2015, when Illinois users accused Facebook of violating the state's Biometric Information Privacy Act in collecting biometric data. REUTERS

SCHUMPETER

Moutai madness

The secrets behind the world's biggest booze sensation



China's premium market is massive—at 73m-strong, bigger than the population of France; Then US president Ronald Reagan (below) drinks a Maotai toast while on a visit to Beijing in 1984, getting a grin out of then Chinese president Li Xiannian. Reuters

PICTURE A STATE-RUN distillery in the mountains of Guizhou, China's poorest province. The smell of fermented sorghum fills the air. Barefoot men shovel the grain into pits. Hundreds of women work the bottling line. Visitors are given a snifter. At first it intrigues: the dominant notes are of fermented beans and soy sauce. But then it becomes a Hobbesian battle for survival. One throat-singeing toast leads to 15. In come the "Demolition Girls", forcing guests to drink bowls of the stuff, until they collapse under the table. Hosting the proceedings is Yuan Renguo, the distiller's chairman, with "narrow eyes, a receding hairline, and the unsmiling countenance of a trained assassin".

These scenes, recounted in "Drunk in China", a new book by Derek Sandhaus, a self-confessed aficionado of Chinese liquor, take place at the headquarters of Kweichow Moutai, the most renowned producer of China's national drink, baijiu—which will be quaffed by the skinful this Chinese new year. Some might see it as an object lesson in the perils of doing business in China; foreigners are told to avoid the worst pitfalls of baijiu binges by tipping unwanted toasts discreetly into their rice bowls. Far better, though, to focus on the firm itself.

Moutai has been the global booze sensation of the decade. A bottle of its Flying Fairy which sold in the 1980s for the equivalent of a dollar now retails for \$400. Moutai's listed shares have soared by almost 600% in the past five years, outpacing the likes of Amazon. At \$200bn, its market value is only \$50bn shy of that of Coca-Cola, the world's biggest beverage company. It cranks out EBITDA margins of 68%, twice that of global rivals such as Diageo.



AP

It does this while disregarding every Western marketing mantra. It is not global, has meagre digital sales and does not appeal to millennials. Its scores pitifully on environmental, social and governance measures. In the Boy Scout world of Western business it would leave a bad taste, in more ways than one.

Moutai owes its intoxicating success to three factors—not all of them easy to emulate. First, it profits from Chinese nationalism. Moutai is known as the "national liquor". It was used to raise spirits and disinfect wounds in Mao's Long March. It was Premier Zhou Enlai's favourite tippie, shared with Richard Nixon in 1972. Its centuries-old craftsmanship—it is distilled eight times and stored for years in earthenware jars—is a source of national pride. It also claims to be hangover-proof, which would make it an invention to rival gunpowder. (Having tested the assertion with a few \$30 shots, your columnist cannot in good conscience corroborate it.)

Second, it chose to serve China's super-rich rather than its middle class. Markets are littered with the corpses of firms that could not compete in the cut-throat battle for Chinese middle-class wallets. And the country's premium market is massive—at 73m-strong, bigger than the population of France, notes Euan McLeish of Bernstein, an investment firm, and still less crowded with prestige brands than advanced economies. Moutai is to these well-heeled drinkers what vintage champagne is to the rest of the world. French cognacs, Scottish single malts and fine wines rightly smell lucre in China's high Gini coefficient. So do luxury car brands, global fashion houses and top-end hotels.

Third, Moutai looks beyond affluent millennials and digital natives. The elderly and the middle-aged, it found, can be just as lucrative. Its biggest market now is (male) drinkers in their mid-30s. Many have no siblings, thanks to four decades of China's one-

Moutai has succeeded thanks to nationalism, elitism and ageism, in other words—not in spite of this unholy trinity. But it faces risks. One is a scandalous reputation. Until President Xi Jinping cracked down on bribery, it was the Communist Party's drink—and gift—of choice. The price of a bottle of Moutai became known as China's "barometer of corruption".

child policy—which also means their elderly parents can splash out on weddings and banquets. Moutai is often a guest of honour.

Moutai has succeeded thanks to nationalism, elitism and ageism, in other words—not in spite of this unholy trinity. But it faces risks. One is a scandalous reputation. Until President Xi Jinping cracked down on bribery, it was the Communist Party's drink—and gift—of choice. About two-thirds of the precious firewater ended up lubricating the banquets of government and military officials—and their bank accounts when they sold the pricey gifts back to shops. The price of a bottle of Moutai became known as China's "barometer of corruption". When the shenanigans stopped, it temporarily hit the firm's share price.

More recently, another anti-corruption push has shaken the firm. Mr Yuan, who stopped being chairman in 2018, was arrested last year on suspicion of bribery.

According to JPMorgan Chase, a bank, six other top executives were arrested in 2019, some 400 distributors were dismissed for corruption, and Moutai's e-commerce subsidiary was closed for the same reason.

Next, the government is its largest shareholder—and a meddlesome one. It appears to want prices to remain stable. Exorbitantly priced booze is at odds with its professed socialist ideals. Yet minority investors—including many foreign funds—lament that Moutai's wholesale price is a third of what it sells for in shops. Raising it could boost the company's profits further. Many shareholders would also like Moutai to increase direct sales to capture more of the retail value. Instead, in what some see as a travesty of corporate governance, its majority owner has plans to set up its own sales channel. As Mr McLeish delicately puts it, Moutai does not behave like a "value-maximising shareholder company".

China's sin dram

In the long run, its biggest risk may be millennials. As they grow older, health concerns, work-life balance and the desire for more wholesome pursuits than binge-drinking may curb the "Ganbei!" toasting culture on which so much of the demand for Moutai rests. For the time being, though, the party goes on. As Mr Sandhaus writes, citing a saying that has gained currency on Chinese social media: in China it is still better to do one bad thing with your boss than a hundred good things for your boss. That is not a sentiment on which Western marketers would build a business. But in China it has helped create the world's biggest alcohol brand.

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DISCRIMINATION

Not black and white

Why second-generation migrants in Britain report more discrimination

FEW SUBJECTS are more chewed over in Britain than migration and race. The country will finally leave the European Union (EU) next week, a policy supported by many voters to reduce, or gain control over, immigration flows. Its former prime minister, Theresa May, will be remembered in part for her shoddy treatment of the Windrush generation of Caribbean migrants who were asked to prove their citizenship decades after making Britain their home. And Meghan Markle's decision to leave has prompted introspection in some quarters and defensiveness in others.

On January 20th Oxford University's Migration Observatory added some rare crunch to the discussion, with an analysis of data from the European Social Survey. Marina Fernandez-Reino, a researcher, found that migrants were slightly less likely to say they had been discriminated against in Britain than the average reported by their peers in 14 other European countries. But their children were much more likely to feel such discrimination: 32% of second-gener-

ation migrants encountered it, compared with 16% of their parents. The same pattern holds in other countries, but the disparity is much greater in Britain.

It is possible that ethnic minorities do indeed face higher rates of discrimination in Britain than elsewhere. An experiment by the academics Valentina Di Stasio and Anthony Heath, published last year, found that fictitious job-seekers with minority backgrounds had to apply for 60% more jobs to get the same number of interviews as Britons with names not traditionally associated with minorities. Researchers found a similar pattern in Spain, Germany, the Netherlands and Norway, too, but in each case the discrepancy between the two groups was smaller than in Britain. "Discrimination in Britain is remarkably high," says Ms Di Stasio, of Utrecht University. She says Britain ought to perform better than its neighbours since it has a long history of mass migration and a relatively flexible labour market, which might be expected to reduce the disincentive for employers to take

a perceived hiring risk. For half a century, studies have found similar prejudice against potential employees with Pakistani or Caribbean roots.

Yet other evidence suggests minorities fare better in Britain than elsewhere in Europe. For instance, about 20% of Britain's black population report racial harassment in the past five years, the second-lowest rate of 12 EU countries surveyed in 2016. That figure was 32% in France and 48% in Germany. The same report found a smaller disparity in labour-market participation rates than in most other countries.

An alternative explanation is that second-generation migrants may be more aware of their rights in Britain. Omar Khan of Runnymede Trust, a racial-equality think-tank, reckons Britain's relatively large ethnic minority population brings such issues to the forefront. "There are more people within your in-group who are willing and able to talk about it," he says.

A paper by Conrad Ziller in 2014 found an association between the strength of a coun-



Britain used to be the preferred destination in Europe for those thinking of moving country, but now it has dropped behind Germany and France. Reuters/picture for representation

try's anti-discrimination policies and its citizens' knowledge of their rights. Sweden was the only European country to rank higher than Britain on both measures. Britain has had anti-racism laws since the 1960s, which are also tougher than elsewhere. "In some countries ethnicity and race are less discussed and people are less aware of [the issues]," says Ms Fernandez-Reino. In Britain "you might be

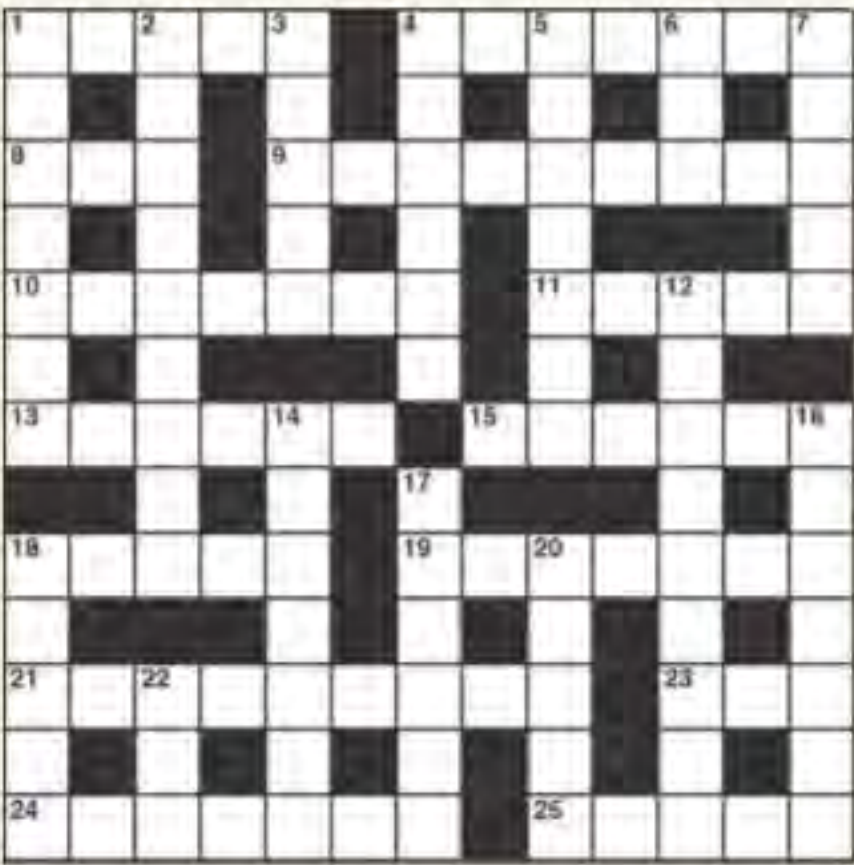
more likely to see inequalities through the lens of discrimination." Thus the debate generated by Ms Markle's exit may itself generate greater awareness of future discrimination.

It is also possible that migrants' children have higher expectations of their success in Britain than their peers elsewhere. Ninetenths of British migrants believe they can "get ahead if they work hard", which could

lead to a painful gap between expectations and reality. But even if disillusion is more the result of perception than of reality, it may be impacting migrants' choices. Britain used to be the preferred destination in Europe for those thinking of moving country, but now it has dropped behind Germany and France.

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CROSSWORD 4029



- ACROSS**
1 First-rate joke (5)
8 Go from bad to worse? (7)
9 Sphere in sight (3)
10 The initial question is put with vigour and detachment (4,5)
11 If most of it was eradicated, there would be few complaints (7)
12 Tom is upset and is neglectful (5)
13 Wandered out of danger (6)
15 Naturally they support discussion on board (6)
18 Describing some gases carried in container transport (5)
19 Necessitate having to collect? (4,3)
21 On a forest manoeuvre not much later (4,5)
23 Pile of carpets (3)
24 A plant from the list (7)
25 Fashion's designation (5)
- DOWN**
1 Crook taken in hand by the bishop (7)
2 Ill-used vehicle (9)
3 I take out a girl (5)
4 Is among those left to fight (6)
5 Omitted to describe the right-hander's boxing stance? (4,3)
6 Knock up a short paragraph (3)
7 Odds, strangely enough (5)
12 Yet it may be the product of an active imagination (4,5)
14 Exemplary piece of literary work (7)
16 Moral reservation of little weight (7)
17 She holds a cat that's hurt (6)
18 It's put in during game of tennis (5)
20 Ornithological frolics (5)
22 Charming feature of Japanese dress (3)

Solutions Crossword 4028: Across: 1 Road mender, 8 Swell, 9 Air mail, 10 Passage, 11 Ditto, 12 Reeper, 14 Adored, 17 Outdo, 19 Oarsmen, 21 Italics, 22 Manor, 23 Greengages. Down: 2 Oversee, 3 Delta, 4 Enamel, 5 Derided, 6 React, 7 Blood donor, 8 Supersonic, 13 Emotive, 15 Romance, 16 Cousin, 18 Twang, 20 Rumba.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

There are still intense feelings lurking in the emotional undergrowth, but our stars favour simple affairs like shopping and finding other ways to dispense with your hard-earned cash. You can compensate for any mistakes you made yesterday – or last week.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

You are still having to come to terms with difficulties and opposition created by people you thought were on your team. Perhaps they are still on your side after all, and maybe their criticism is a way of helping you back on to the straight and narrow.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

There are a number of mysteries around. Perhaps something valuable will be lost, or perhaps a friend will entrust you with a secret. All should be revealed before long, so spend the day searching for clues. Actually a partner might have just the answers you need.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Passive resistance will achieve more than belligerence. Probably you'll find that if you make a point of charming other people, and of showing them how much you can enjoy yourself, their opposition will melt away. You may even convince them that they were wrong about you.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Everything appeared to be going according to plan until more planets began pouring into sensitive and emotional areas of your chart. Now, all your personal and family plans will have to be revised and re-thought. Still, it's good to have a chance to tighten up your act.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Out of a total of ten planets, five are now playing on your side, so you can afford to be more than a little complacent – and confident. You may feel that it is impolite to boast, but at least you should spare yourself five minutes to rest on your laurels.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

One way or another, you should be ready to bring one economic cycle to an end, but you must also be prepared to take all the important decisions. It may be another few weeks before monetary matters are settled, so don't submit to unfair pressure.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

It may be difficult to distance yourself from individuals, places or situations which are churning up your emotions or making you feel undervalued. However, it is not impossible. All depends on a change in your attitudes to your own strengths and talents.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)

It's a day of work for all Sagittarians everywhere. Even those of you who had decided to put your feet up will have to find some way to keep active or risk the onset of boredom. Even if you're relaxing, you'll do it as well as you can. And don't worry about rumours or gossip.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

There are some disruptive aspects around at the moment, but they probably bother other people more than you. Your main fear may be of destitution or poverty, a deeply-held complex which may have a negative impact on your spending patterns. Actually it can also help you save money – by making you think twice before wasting it.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

This is likely to be a confusing moment, because while the indications in your chart are all very pronounced, they are pulling in different directions. It may be impossible to decide whether personal promises or public obligations are more important.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Far-reaching changes are about to take place in your personal life. Many Pisceans are dreaming of making a big escape, but sometimes your fantasies exist solely in your imagination. A lively Moon, later on, should bring you a brief but helpful breathing space.

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.
Say what you will, 'tis better to be _ than never to have been _ - William Congreve (4,...,5)

LPEEO

AIPLT

EMOUDL

DEIRFV

SOLUTION: ELOPE, PLAT, MODULE, FEWVID
Answer: Say what you will, 'tis better to be left than never to have been loved - William Congreve

SUDOKU 4106

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 4105



PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office.: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813; Website: www.pspcl.in
OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER/PP&R,
#D-3, SHAKTI VIHAR, PATIALA-147001
TELE FAX: 0175-2200872, email: ce-ppr@pspcpl.in
Registration Number: 33813

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR
CLIENT MEMBERSHIP OF POWER EXCHANGE
TENDER SPECIFICATION NO: PPR-03/2020**

PSPCL invites tenders for obtaining Client membership of both the Power Exchanges (i.e. 'Indian Energy Exchange' as well as 'Power Exchange of India Ltd.') from traders having valid Inter-State-Trading License issued by CERC and Membership of both the Power Exchanges to enable PSPCL for Sale/purchase of power through exchanges for the year 2020-21.

Note:-

- Tender specifications can be downloaded from PSPCL website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>. The prospective bidders are requested to get clarification from this office and/or M/s GePNIC well in time in case any difficulty regarding uploading of the tender is experienced and no last minute request for extension in the opening of tender on this account will be entertained.
- Last date & time for submission is 12.00 Hrs of 14.02.2020.
- It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspaper. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on e-tendering website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.

Sd/-
Dy CE/PR
PSPCL, Patiala

C24/2020
C-8799/Pb

राज्य न्यायालयिक विज्ञान प्रयोगशाला, रायपुर (छत्तीसगढ़)

क्रमांक/रा.न्या.वि.प्र./टेण्डर/m-577/2020 दिनांक 28.01.2020

टेण्डर

राज्य न्यायालयिक विज्ञान प्रयोगशाला, रायपुर के 06 सीन ऑफ़ क्राइम मोबाइल यूनिट के लिए निर्मांकित उपकरणों Mobile forensic investigation KIT क्रय किये जाने हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित किया जाता है:-

S.No.	Name of Instrument	Quantity
1	Blood Detection kit	06 nos
2	Gun Shot Detection kit	06 nos
3	Narcotics Detection kit	06 nos
4	Tool Marks (complete set of cri kit me Tool mark kits)	06 nos
5	Explosive Detection kit	06 nos
6	semen Detection kit	06 nos
7	Bullet Hole testing kit	06 nos
8	Foot Print kit	06 nos
9	General crime scene investigation kits	06 nos

निविदा जारी करने की तिथि : दिनांक 30.01.2020
निविदा फार्म प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि : दिनांक 12.02.2020
सायं. 05.00 बजे तक
निविदा फार्म जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि : दिनांक 13.02.2020
सायं. 03.00 बजे तक
निविदा खोलने की तिथि : दिनांक 13.02.2020
दोपहर 04.00 बजे

विस्तृत विवरण राज्य न्यायालयिक विज्ञान प्रयोगशाला, टिकरापारा, पुजारी पार्क के पास रायपुर 492001, से सम्पर्क कर जानकारी प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। कार्यालय का दूरभाष नम्बर 0771-4069791/4043342 में भी सम्पर्क कर विस्तृत जानकारी इस कार्यालय के वेबसाईड <http://www.flscg.nic.in> में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं निविदा फार्म डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। निविदा फार्म प्राप्त करने के लिए **संचालक, राज्य न्यायालयिक विज्ञान प्रयोगशाला, रायपुर** (Director State Forensic Science Laboratory Raipur) के नाम से बैंक ड्राफ्ट रु. 1000/- (एक हजार) किसी भी राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक से बैंक ड्राफ्ट बनवाकर अथवा कोषालय में रु. 1000/- का चालान जमा शीट **"40055-Police-800 Miscellaneous Police Receipt"** में जमा कर मूल चालान की प्रति कार्यालय में जमा कर प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

हस्ता/-
संचालक
राज्य न्यायालयिक विज्ञान प्रयोगशाला
रायपुर (छ.म.)

76486

**AUCTION NOTICE MILITARY FARM MEERUT:
LEASING OF LAND FOR CROPPING RIGHTS**

सैन्य फार्म मेरठ कैन्ट की भूमि फसल बोने के अधिकार हेतु नीलामी सूचना

सैन्य फार्म मेरठ कैन्ट के विभिन्न खेतों को एक वर्ष तक खेती हेतु मिल्ट्री फार्म मेरठ के प्राणिक में दिनांक 20 फरवरी 2020 को दिन के 1130 बजे सार्वजनिक रूप से नीलामी की जायेगी। यदि किसी कारणवश किसी प्लॉट की नीलामी दिनांक 20 फरवरी 2020 को सफल नहीं हो पाती है तो क्रमशः दिनांक 26 फरवरी 2020, 28 फरवरी 2020, 04 मार्च 2020 व 11 मार्च 2020 को फिर होगी। जिन लीजरो ने पहली लीज की बकाया राशि जमा नहीं की है अगर वे दिनांक 10 फरवरी 2020 तक राशि जमा नहीं करते हैं तो उनको व उनके किसी भी करीबी (रिश्तेदार) को बोली में बैठने नहीं दिया जायेगा और उनके प्लॉटों की नीलामी भी दिनांक 20 फरवरी 2020 को फिर से की जायेगी एवं तथाकथित लीजरो द्वारा जो भी सुरक्षित धनराशि व लीज की धनराशि जमा की गई होगी उसे तत्काल प्रभाव से जब्त कर लिया जायेगा। उपरोक्त से संबंधित अधिक जानकारी हेतु सैन्य फार्म के कार्यालय में सम्पर्क करें। दूरभाष-0121-2652728

प्रभारी अधिकारी

WESTERN RAILWAY- RATLAM DIVISION

TENDER NOTICE FOR VARIOUS WORKS

No. W/623/5/1/NIT, Date: 25.01.2020. The Divisional Railway Manager (WA) Ratlam invites 'Open Tender' through e-tender on Website www.irops.gov.in. The details are as under:-

E-Tender No. & Name of Work	Approx Value	Earnest Money
(1) RTM/2019-20/153	₹ 41,60,509.57/-	₹ 83,300/-
Chittaurgarh- Civil work in connection with provision of 3 nos. lifts at P. Form no. 1, 2/3 and 4/5.		
(2) RTM/2019-20/154	₹ 4,91,72,818.87/-	₹ 3,95,900/-
Chanderiya-Ratlam Section-Complete Track Renewal (P)-5.21 Km Including deep screening and recoumpment of ballast to increasing the cushion up to 35CM (With PQRS Machine) with new 60 Kg/ 52 rails, 60 Kg new PSC sleepers, Through Rail Renewal (P) with 60 Kg/52 Kg rails=34,747 Km and Through Turnout Renewal (P) 1:12=69 Nos. between Chanderiya to Nimach station.		

Approx Quantity: As per tender schedule **Cost of Tender Document:** ₹ 3,000/- for No. 1, ₹ 10,000/- for No. 2. **Completion Period:** 03 Months for No. 1, 18 Months for No. 2. **Similar type of work:** Not Applicable for No. 1, Any P.Way Work for No. 2. **Date of uploading tender on website:** No. 1, 2 on 25.01.2020. **Date of Tender Opening:** No. 1, 2 on 25.02.2020. Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria and terms and conditions are available on Website: www.irops.gov.in.

Divisional Railway Manager (W/A)
Western Railway, Ratlam

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**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
NARMADA PROJECT DIVISION NO 2 SHAHGANJ
MUNICIPAL CORPORATION BHOPAL**

N0.23T/SEE/N.P D.No.2/BMC/2019-20 Bhopal Dated 27-01-2020

Notice Inviting Tender

Online Item Rate tenders are invited on Form 'B' from the Reputed Experienced Firm for the work of Manning, Operation and Maintenance of 185 MLD Narmada Water supply project comprising Hirani pumping station, Khatpura Pumping station, Ahamdpur pumping station, 6.6Kv line from Khatpura to Hirani, 6.6 Kv line from Khatpura to BPT, 33kv Substation at Ahmaddpur, 132kv substation so as to be submitted bid online. The tender documents can be obtained online on the website <https://mptenders.gov.in> as per the Key Dates in the Notice published on the above website and detailed information can also be seen on website Corrigendum for this NIT shall not be issued separately in newspapers. Corrigendum regarding correction can be seen on the website.

Probable Amount of Contract	Rs. 1,61,82,000.00
Cost of tender form	Rs. 12,500/-
Earnest Money	Rs. 1,61,820.00
Time of completion of work	12 Months including rainy Season
Last date for purchase of bid document	18-02-2020 up to 17.30 PM
Bid submission start date and Time	03-02-2020 up to 11.00 AM
Submission of Tender online only (Date and time)	18-02-2020 up to 17.30 PM
Opening of Bid on line (Date and time)	20-02-2020 at 12.00 AM

Earnest money & Cost of Document shall be deposited online in favor of Commissioner, Bhopal Municipal Corporation, Bhopal.

For further details and clarifications please contact office of City Engineer (H), Water Works Dept., Near Hotel Lake View Ashok, Shyamli Hills, Municipal Corporation Bhopal and website- <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> (System NIT No. 2019_UAD_76781_1)

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Narmada Project (Dn No. 2) Shahganj
Municipal Corporation Bhopal

T.N. 2192/019/020

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that this boy (depicted in the photo) namely: **Shivam S/o Suresh R/o C-3/490, Nand Nagri, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped from his house since **29.09.2019**. In this regard FIR No. **736/19 U/s 365 IPC** dated **07.12.2019** as been lodged at **PS Nand Nagri, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far.

His physical description is as under:-
Sex: Male, **Age:** 19 years, **Height:** 5'6" ft., **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Red Colour Shirt, Blue Colour Jeans and Grey Colour Chappal in feet.

Any person is having information or clue about this missing/ kidnapped boy may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO
P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641
Fax No.: 011-24368639
DP/7553/NE/2020

**HIMACHAL PRADESH
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
CORRIGENDUM**

The e-procurement notice inviting for Bids (IFB) were invited vide this office letter No.PW/Manali/Tender/2019-20-10144-51 dated 16.12.2019 scheduled to be opened on 16.01.2020 at 11.30 A.M, Corrigendum letter No. PW/Manali/tender/2019-20- 10679-87 dated 31.12.2019 scheduled to be opened on 30.01.2020 and Corrigendum letter No. PW/Manali/tender/2019-20- 12035-42 dated 15.01.2020 scheduled to be opened on 17.02.2020. The work estimated cost may be read as under:-

Sr. No.	Name of work	Original E/Cost	Revised E/Cost
1	C/O Civil Hospital (Additional alteration) at Manali Distt. Kullu (HP) (SH-: C/O building portion WS and SI and rain water harvesting system).	1,53,74,948/-	1,53,74,970/-

Bidders documents can be downloaded from the website <http://hptenders.gov.in>. The documents downloaded from the site should not be tempered, and if any such tempering is detected before or after the opening of bids, the bidder shall be penalized and black listed.

Other terms and condition shall remain same as given in the bid document.

Executive Engineer,
HP PWD Division Manali, at Katrain

4393/HP

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website: www.pspcl.in
**O/O CHIEF ENGINEER/STORES & WORKSHOPS,
SARABHA NAGAR, LUDHIANA**

Ph. No. 0161-2456311, Fax No. 0161-2463359, E-MAIL ID: ce-workshops@pspcpl.in

Tender Enquiry No. QW-284/PO-W Dated 29.01.2020
Tender Notice for Manufacture and Supply of following items as per PSPCL's specification QW-284/PO-W dated 29.01.2020

- V-Shape X-arms = 70,000 Nos.

Last Date & Time for

- Downloading of Specifications : 28.02.2020 upto 12.30 Hrs.
- Receipt of Tenders (Online): 28.02.2020 upto 12.30 Hrs.
- Opening of Tenders (Online): 03.03.2020 at 12.30 Hrs.
- Cost of Specifications : Nil

Tender specification can only be downloaded from website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> Details regarding E-Tendering is available on website www.pspcl.in. All the prospective Bidders are requested to get their digital signatures, register themselves on the website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> and get conversant with the process of online submission of tenders well in time so as to submit the tender by the due dead line, no request for extension in the due date of tender opening on the above grounds shall be entertained.

NOTE: It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in News Papers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on official, PSPCL Website: www.pspcl.in.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer/S&W, PSPCL, Ludhiana.

C21/2020
C-8794/Pb

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

Martyrs of CISF on 31.01.1994

CT/Dvr RAM KISHORE HEP URI-1

CT/GD RAMSHANKAR RAI HEP URI-1

CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of these brave-hearts. On this day, they laid down their lives at the altar of duty whole fighting with militants. Their courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiring for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to them for their noble deed.

**CONSTABLE
K. SUBRAMANYAM
SCR VIJAYWADA**

07.06.1961 to 31.01.1986

"On 31.01.1986, Constable K Subramanyam was on duty at RPF Post Vijayawada, like any other day while everything was normal at Post, suddenly one under custody accused of mischievously broke up the detention and ran out of the post. Seeing the criminal being escaped, Constable K Subramanyam chased him aggressively for miles and made every effort to re-arrest him. Constable Subramanyam even jumped into a fast flowing river in pursuit of escaping criminal, unfortunately he got trapped in aquatic algae and deep water bushes. He could not emerge alive and eventually attained Martyrdom. Daring act of Constable Subramanyam set a precedence of extraordinary courage and exemplary commitment toward duty."

**"REMEMBERED WITH PRIDE
DG AND ALL RANKS OF RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE PERSONNEL"**

**भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

Notice Inviting Global Expression of Interest
(Tender ID: 2020 AAI 41418-1)

Expression of Interest (EoI) is invited by General Manager (R&D) on behalf of Chairman, Airports Authority of India from eligible bidders for the work of "Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Fast Time Simulation tool for Airports and Airspace at Research & Development (R&D) Technical Centre, Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad, India", Last date of online submission of EoI is 05.03.2020. For further details, please visit our website: www.aai.aero <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app> N-101/2019-20

NATIONAL AGRI-FOOD BIOTECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE (NABI)
Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India
Knowledge City, Sector 81, Mohali-140306, Punjab, INDIA
Website: www.nabi.res.in, Tel: 0172-5221300

e-Notice Inviting Tenders

Online e-Tenders in Two parts are invited on the behalf of Executive Director, NABI for the award of Work of (i) Operation and Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of 350 KLD STP, 20 KLD ETP of NABI, 20 KLD STP, ETP of CIAB, ii) Replacement of exhausted components, servicing and enhancement of water treatment plants etc.

The complete details of these tenders will be available on the NABI Website- www.nabi.res.in & CPPP Website- <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Any changes/amendments if made in the tender, will be available on NABI website and CPPP website. Bidders may kindly refer the above websites before submitting the bids.

Manager-Admin

19 TALK

ART, MUSIC, STYLE, FOOD

AROUND TOWN



Story of a Land

VISIT “SACRED Architecture of Kashmir – Continuity of the Spiritual Traditions of the Past”, an exhibition of photographs, by INTACH Kashmir, that presents temples, stupas, mosques and khanqahs. They reflect the continuity of an architectural tradition. Till February 4, at Art Gallery, India International Centre Annexe.



Layered Realms

BUILDING RUINS, an exhibition that brings together the Indian alumni of the Rhode Island School of Design, is being held at The Dhan Mill, Chhatrapur, till February 2. Curated by Mumbai-based architect-researcher Anuj Daga, designers and architects from nearly 10 disciplines come together to explore ideas of construction and deconstruction. “Dhan Mill, the venue itself, is an industrial ruin, and the city is between ruins, so one can see various scales of connections in the show,” says Daga. While architect Aahana Miller’s exhibit (*pictured*) looks at drawing as a medium, industrial designer Malvika Vaswani presents tableware through the memory of her time in Manhattan in the way she presents the city grid.



Hills and Beyond

THE POPULAR Surajkund International Crafts Mela in Faridabad that celebrates Indian folk traditions and cultural heritage returns on February 1 and continues for a fortnight. For this edition, the theme state is Himachal Pradesh and has over 20 countries participating in the Mela. Enjoy folk performances and regional cuisines at the fair.



PRECEDING THE CONTEMPORARIES

The masters never fail to draw an audience, and at the India Art Fair (IAF) there are several works. DAG’s ‘100 years of Indian Art’ has Raja Ravi Varma, Prabhakar Barwe, Bikash Bhattacharjee, MF Husain and SH Raza. At another booth are sculptures in bronze – from Krishen Khanna’s famous bandwallahs to Thota Vaikuntam’s Ganesha and Jogen Chowdhury’s men and women. Emami Art has brought in early works of Chowdhury and Gallery Espace has a section dedicated to pen and paper sketches by Somnath Hore. Gallery Veda too returns to the Bengal masters, with the likes of KG Subramanyan and Hore, and Aakriti Gallery’s booth has Ganesh Pyne’s pen and ink drawings. While KNMA has Mrinalini Mukherjee’s hemp and bronze works (*pictured above*), artist and former director of the NGMA Rajeev Lochan has curated the Swaraj Art Archive booth, with works from the 19th century. Stop by at the Gallery Nyva booth for KS Radhakrishnan’s solo “Mapping With Figures”, and Chawla Art Gallery to view Manjit Bawa. If price is a concern, Archer Art Gallery has serigraphs of the masters in under a lakh.



GRABBING ATTENTION

While Bharti Kher’s standing figure with an animal head on top, titled *Mother*, saw curious visitors at the Nature Morte booth, so did Shilo Shiv Suleman’s metallic wings and embroidered watercolours at Art Musings. Origami expert Ankon Mitra (*pictured above*) also appears to be a favourite of shutterbugs, as he displays a mammoth wall piece called *The Parting of Galaxies (Opus 3)* showing galaxies, stars and planets. Graffiti artist and co-founder of St+Art India Foundation, Hanif Kureshi and professor Jyotindra Jain’s travelling photo studio, at the entrance of IAF, highlights how at one point in time, photography was a ‘special activity’. The handpainted studio, with a woman standing beside a tree, also has a cycle to pose with. Visitors are also posing with American pop artist Andy Warhol’s painted car.



New York-artist Ghiora Aharoni’s *Genesis – The Hindu Series* that explores intersections between faith and science

Art Comes Calling

With over 75 exhibitors from 20 global cities, the India Art Fair in the Capital presents a buffet of material explorations, a salute to the masters, a brush with the contemporary and hidden amidst all that is also the surreal. VANDANA KALRA and PALLAVI CHATTOPADHYAY find out

MATERIAL MATTERS

Goan painter Subodh Kerkar sculpture, *The Cross*, at the Gallery Art Positive booth is a result of him submerging an iron cross at the bottom of the ocean for three and a half years, only to bring it back to the surface and see it covered by oyster shells. Galeria ISA compels viewers to look at German contemporary artist Gregor Hildebrandt’s plain black wall called *Midnight Oil* made entirely using his signature medium – cut vinyl records. 1X1 Art Gallery (Dubai, UAE) is displaying Chittrovanu Mazumdar’s untitled works that reveal how precious light is. Tiny light bulbs arranged in rows against a blood red background is a recollection of how the artist saw the importance of a single bulb in a Jharkhand village. At Apparao Galleries are Chennai-based Dhasan’s sublime paper on canvas works. New York-artist Ghiora Aharoni returns to the fair with *Genesis – The Hindu Series*. Hebrew, Hindi and Urdu texts have been written over glass beakers that rest alongside different religious motifs, including a Hindu temple flywhisk and Torah finials. These are his ways of highlighting conflict and the power of harmony.

TAKE ART HOME

At the Bookshop and Cafe this time, there’s a memory game called Photoseva made from photographer Varun Gupta’s black-and-white photographs of Indians. Then, there’s Korean artist Chan-Hyo Bae’s portraits as a jigsaw puzzle. The artist collective Bombay Underground is showcasing their zines, with carry socially relevant messages.



PROTEST AND PEACE

Not far from Shaheen Bagh – the hotbed of anti-CAA protests – as select patrons walked their way to the IAF venue, they were welcomed with disclaimers on boards that said: “(We) have a zero-tolerance policy against banners or sloganeering at the fair”. The organisers clearly stated their intent. “We are aware of events taking place across Delhi NCR and the country. We recognise and support art as a means of expression. However, our license and permissions are restricted to the exhibition of art and related activities only.”

While that reservation was discussed at the fair venue in hushed voices, director of the fair, Jagdip Jagpal, emphasised: “The art sector is one of the largest groups that is actually amplifying some of the young voices, discussing the Constitution and various other things. In India, you need permissions for a peaceful protest, which we don’t have. We only have permission for an art event. People understand the impact it would have... I would have to shut the fair down...

I would let the art speak for itself.”

And it did. Among the numerous works on display are also those that drew attention to politics and alienation, nation and ideology.

At the entrance is GallerySke, with artists referencing the much-discussed Constitution of India (*pictured above*). The project ideated by Sunitha Kumar Emmart, founder of GallerySke and curator-writer Skye Arundhati Thomas, includes, among others, a Pakhi Sen paperwork with several hands reaching out to the Constitution, and an Aradhana Seth work that has its title on a reflective surface. Maansi Jain writes the Preamble in distorted font.

While Abir Karmarkar inverts the book that governs the Republic, Avinash Veeraraghavan has painstakingly embroidered the intricate gold pattern on its cover in his wall work.



Cautious about the present times, speaking about the project, Emmart says, “We turn 70 years as a Republic and this project represents that. The Constitution is important and valid and needs to be upheld.”

Just a few steps ahead at the Anant Art booth, Kolkata-born artist Probir Gupta pays his tribute to the women in Shaheen Bagh, quoting them in the wall installation *A Poem of Instruments*, that comprises numerous elements, including an enlarged replica of a comb, microphone and typewriter (*pictured left*).

At the other end of the fair, meanwhile, is the booth of the Nepal Picture Library, with photographs of women protesting. Not in India, but Nepal. Not now, but over several decades. They, too, are expressing their political concerns.

Photos: Amit Mehra

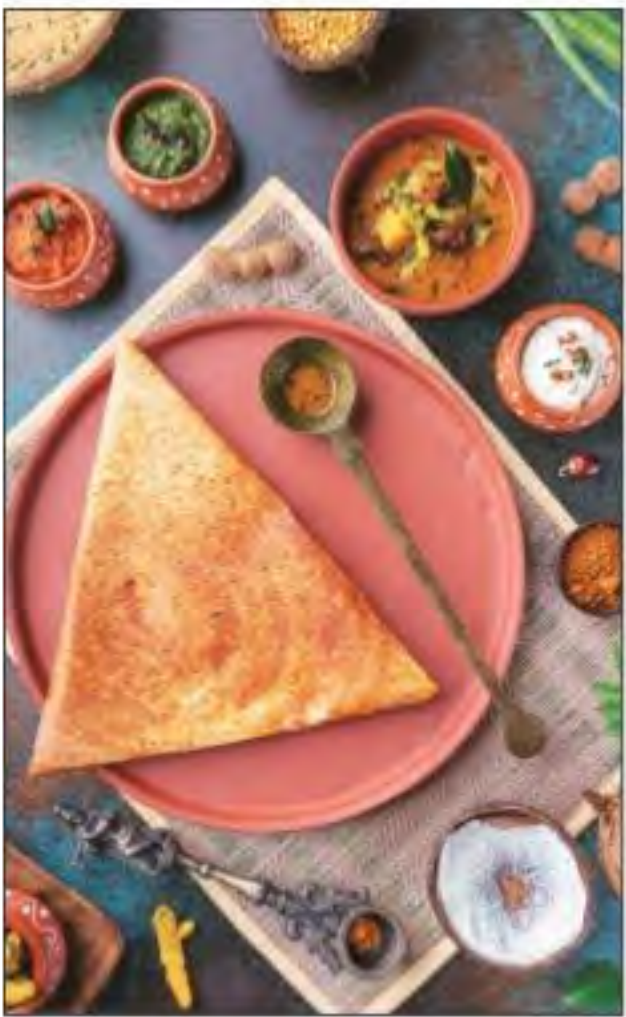
Win Some, Lose Some

Padmanabham, in New Delhi, illustrates why even a classic South Indian tiffin menu demands attention to basics

POOJA PILLAI

DELHI’S NEWEST South Indian restaurant gets a lot of things right: the rasam, for example, was the best we’ve had in a long time. The sharp, hot broth – which didn’t stint on tamarind and asafoetida, unlike so many other places – was exactly what we needed on a cold, windy winter evening when we made our way to Padmanabham in Janpath. It was served to us with hot, crisp medu vadas, and as we gobbled down the whole thing, it seemed like the meal had got off to a great start.

And then came the chinna podi idlis (mini idlis served with mola-gapodi) and we encountered what turned out to be a recurring motif: a failing of the basics. The idlis themselves were perfect; in fact, outside of a South Indian home, it’s unlikely you’ll get idlis that so exquisitely balance softness with firmness. The let down was in the podi; this may seem counter-intuitive, but the best podis always have a gravelly mouth feel, a satisfying crunch that offsets the softness of an idli or set dosa. They are not ground down to a fine powder, like what we had at Padmanabham. But even if we set aside



(Above left) Chettinad Masala Dosa; Tahir Saddam- Tempered Curd Rice



this matter of the right texture, we can’t ignore the fact that the podi coating the idlis at the restaurant was flavourless.

This should be especially troubling for Padmanabham because its neighbour is the redoubtable Saravana Bhavan, the restaurant which taught Delhi to appreciate such things as mola-gapodi. The latter has, off late, been heavily criticised – and rightly so – for a serious fall in standards of food and service, but some things it always gets right. One of these is its mola-gapodi. The other is the filter coffee, which, at Padmanabham, turned out to be the biggest disappointment. The weak, overly milky beverage we were served simply cannot compete with the cuppa that is served right next door. And we don’t even want to talk about the kesari bhat which tasted of

nothing but sugar.

But, as stated right at the start of this review, Padmanabham does get lots of other things right, such as the potato masala in the Chettinadu masala dosai which, we must say, is unmatched even by Saravana Bhavan. The sambar is excellent, and the chutneys are fresh and explosive, as chutneys should be. The tahir saddam (curd rice) was soothing, as was the ghee pongal (although we wish they had both been served with appalams). We visited in the evening, so we were unable to have the bhojanam – thali-style meal – that is served for lunch every day, and which, depending on the day of the week, could be from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh or Karnataka. If we visit Padmanabham again, it will be for this, not necessarily the tiffin items.

ADDRESS: Padmanabham, 52, Janpath Connaught Place, Delhi
PRICE FOR 2: Rs 800



FOOD
REVIEW

When Rhythm Showed the Way

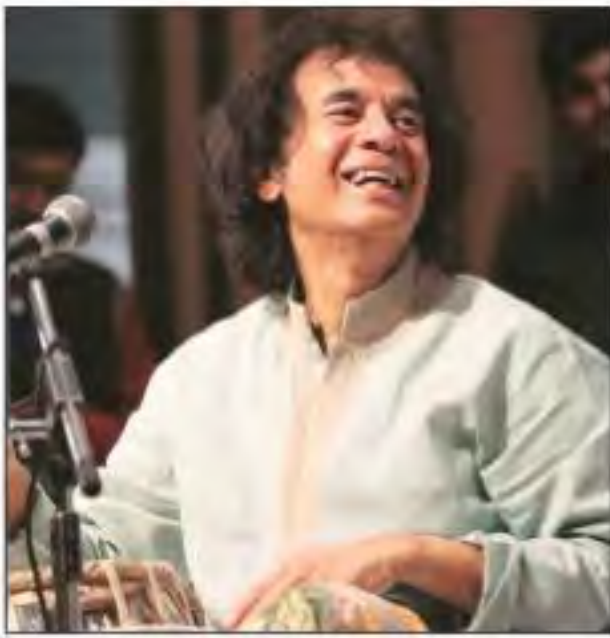
Tabla maestro Ustad Zakir Hussain’s concert in Delhi was one of a kind, where musicians and masses listened to the king of drums

SUANSHUKHURANA

THERE ARE two kinds of Ustad Zakir Hussain concerts. The first is brilliant, mostly ticketed, and comprises all the exactitude and dexterity that comes with his kind of knowledge and panache, and tends to leave you with a heightened sense of being. After all that’s the purpose of music. Then there is the other kind, where the entry is free, the aisles are brimming with *rasiks*, senior musicians from various fields find themselves on the floor of the stage and in the aisles, masses and musicians sit in close proximity and listen in, and a *wah* turns into an *aah*. The second kind extends a little more. Here, the artiste does a bit more than his usual act. It’s an ode to the gurus who have taught him, an obeisance to a higher power, a *hazri* in the court of music. And this is where hands spin to create rhythms, something so rare, that it’s remembered for times to come. That it was Saraswati puja, added to the effect.

The evening was a tribute to legendary tabla player Ahmad Jaan Thirakwa, organised by his son, tabla player Rashid Mustafa Thirakwa, at Sri Sathya Sai Auditorium, Lodhi Road, New Delhi. It opened with a performance by Ahmad Jaan’s grandson Shariq Mustafa and was followed by a performance by sarod players Amaan and Ayaan Ali Khan. While the sound played spoilsport, they tried to leave the moment behind with the pentatonic Raageshri, a late night raga. The performance was hurried and staccato, even becoming incongruous in the middle, and one wished that they had some time to delve into the raga. We’ve seen better from them.

It was Sabir Khan’s brilliant strokes on the sarangi that announced the arrival of



Ustad Zakir Hussain

Hussain. The *lehra* (rhythmic metronome or the repetitive accompanying music in which the tabla beats fit themselves) that he played for the next one and a half hour had some master moments. “These artistes don’t get the appreciation they deserve. *Lehra raasta dikhata hai*. We do all our tricks and manoeuvres only because there is a brilliant *lehra*,” he said, after Sabir had a magical stroke moment on the sarangi, a flash that so clearly reminded one of his father, sarangi maestro, Ustad Sultan Khan. While his wife Toni, Amaan and Ayaan settled in the front row, dhruwad singer Wasifuddin Dagar waded through the crowds to get to his seat, and dancer Saswati Sen sat on the stage floor.

After the opening tukra followed by a groovy theka, Hussain delved into lightning-speed taans and improvised. His fingers reached dynamic peaks and valleys, moments when the daanya (the left, smaller

drum) dominated the baanya with sounds one hasn’t heard in tabla concerts. He was soon seen head banging to teen taal, going from devotional beats to rock-style rhythms in a jiffy. Hussain then played diverse rhythm structures while reciting the tabla bols and playing them alongside. One of them was his father, Ut Allah Rakha’s composition, that rhythmically defined the solar system. “*Ye bade logo ki cheezin hain. Hum bas naqaal kar rahe hain*,” he said. He mouthed the syllables. The transitions were smooth. The auditorium roared in applause. As the performance reached a crescendo, he dazzled, and like a deft sonic architect arrived at the sam every time with a flourish.

Hussain is a child prodigy and has always been known to be a brilliant artiste. But at 68, he is moving one notch above his existing legendary status. He has begun to have crazy amounts of fun on the stage, he sips on a coloured drink in the middle of his session and tells his audience with a laugh, “It’s only water,” he bows to his fellow accompanying artiste half his age – something we don’t see in Indian classical music often, he pays obeisance to Ahmad Jaan and goddess Saraswati in the same breath, laughs with his audience and shares his internal musical monologues the way you may not know.

This is a Zakir Hussain who is a little different. His curls may not have a life of their own like they used to back in the day, but his music surely does. It’s becoming more organic. And that it’s making itself reach a concert stage is significant. He is finding a new idiom that exists in a third kind of concert – where the noble world of caution is thrown to the wind and all that remains is a haze – original, thorough and the kind that is remembered for a lifetime.

20 SPORT

‘Broken English’ posts land Aussie juniors in trouble

AGENCIES
MELBOURNE, JANUARY 29

A few members of Australia’s Under-19 World Cup squad face sanctions for comments with racial undertone on social media, reported *Australia Associated Press*. Subsequently, Cricket Australia’s head of integrity and security Sean Carroll has spoken with those players who recently posted broken-English responses to an Instagram post. “We are extremely disappointed that some of the Australian Under-19 squad members have used inappropriate language in posts on social media, which we reported to the ICC as soon as it came to our attention,” Carroll said in a statement. “Some of that language could be interpreted as ridiculing non-native English language speakers.” In response to an Instagram post by Jake Fraser-McGurk—whose tournament was ended earlier this week after being scratched on the face by a monkey at a nature reserve — which said “Quarter-finals here we come”, batsman Oliver Davies wrote: “Sir great player, big fan, and will play India one day.” Spinner Tanveer Sangha added, “You hit ball very hard sir” while all-rounder Liam Scott wrote, “Sir give me whatsapp number I want to be friend”. Middle-order batsman Lachlan Hearn then posted, “Young Steve Smith sir” and opening bat Sam Fanning: “How u bat so good young man.” The posts, now deleted, were made before the team’s defeat to India at the Under-19 World Cup which is being held in South Africa. “I have spoken to the players this morning and expressed in no uncertain terms that such language has no place in society and falls well short of the standards we expect as Australian cricketers,” Carroll said. “Cricket Australia will consider sanctions upon their return home from South Africa, which will include but not be limited to education and cultural sensitivity training. Most of the players do not have their parents present with them in South Africa and some of them are minors. Accordingly, we believe it is appropriate to consider sanctions upon their return home.

ICC penalises Australia batter for deliberate elbow contact

Australia opening batsman Sam Fanning has been penalised with two demerit points for making a deliberate elbow contact with Indian pacer Akash Singh during their quarterfinal match of the ICC U-19 World Cup in Potchefstroom.

According to a statement released by the ICC, Fanning has been been found guilty of a Level 1 breach of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel. India had won the match by 74 runs on Tuesday. “The act was deemed as inappropriate and the batsman was found to have violated Article 2.12 of the ICC Code of Conduct, which relates to ‘inappropriate physical contact with another player during an international match,’” the ICC statement read. “Level 1 breach of such an event carries a penalty of an official reprimand and a penalty of one or two demerit points.”

VISHAL MENON
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE RAILWAYS team’s batting this season hasn’t been up to the mark. Barring a few inspired knocks from wicket-keeper Dinesh Mor and opener Mrunal Devdhar, the rest haven’t been consistent. A relatively young squad, it lacks application, game awareness and the requisite temperament to survive the rigours of first-class cricket. This has resulted in a series of catastrophic implosions. The latest batting “horror show” played out on their home turf — Karnail Singh Stadium — on Thursday afternoon.

Pitted against an impressive Karnataka seam attack, comprising Ambimanyu Mithun, Ronit More, and Prateek Jain, they could play out only 30 overs, folding up for a dismal 79, to set Karnataka a target of 51 runs on the final day’s play. In reply, the visitors romped home in a canter, peeling off the target in under nine overs, to earn a convincing 10-wicket win and pocket 7 points.

Such a scenario had looked fairly improbable after the thoroughly engrossing battle took place between Kamataka’s batsmen and Railways bowlers on the previous day. Despite the see-saw battle, Karnataka nosed ahead with a crucial 29-run first-innings lead. Even then, the match looked like meandering into a tepid stalemate, as most expected Railways to last at least two full sessions on Thursday. Their second innings scorecard, however, tells a sordid tale. Barring Devdhar’s knock of 38, the rest could muster scores of 0, 0, 3, 5, 8, 6, 0, 0, 8 and 8”. It once again brought to the fore, their glaring inadequacies in technique and temperament.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2020

Edulji: Virat had okayed FTP

The former CoA functionary claims the scheduling of NZ series had the skipper’s approval

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, JANUARY 30

DIANA EDULJI, who was at the helm of India’s cricket administration until last October, has slammed skipper Virat Kohli for complaining about the scheduling of the ongoing T20 series in New Zealand — and pointed out that the captain was part of a group that approved the itinerary over two years ago.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Edulji said that the Future Tour Programme (FTP) of the team up to 2023 was approved by Kohli, former skipper MS Dhoni and head coach Ravi Shastri during a meeting with cricket officials at the Taj Mansingh Hotel in Delhi on November 30, 2017. “Virat complaining now is definitely strange, I feel that he is playing so much of cricket that he forgot that he has given OK for such a schedule. We didn’t force this on the players. They knew that they would be landing in New Zealand three days before. It’s written in the minutes. Only after they (players) gave their consent was it approved,” Edulji said.

At the time, Edulji was part of the Committee of Administrators (CoA), headed by former Comptroller and Auditor General of India Vinod Rai, which was mandated by the Supreme Court to oversee cricket affairs. Dhoni was heading the team in the shorter formats, and Kohli in Tests.

The CoA was disbanded on October 23 last year after the BCCI elections were held and new office-bearers took charge.

According to Edulji, the FTP wasn’t drafted by the CoA but by BCCI CEO Rahul Johri and cricket administration head Gaurav Saxena, who had presented it at the meeting.

She said that before the FTP was prepared, a chart of the schedule was given to the top players and the management for approval. “We had asked if the players wanted to change anything. We passed the FTP only after the players and the coach okayed it,” she said.

On January 24, on the day before the first T20 game of the three-match series against New Zealand, Kohli told reporters in response to a question on the itinerary: “It’s getting closer and closer to landing at the stadium straight (from the airport).”

The team had reached New Zealand on January 21, just two days after playing the final game of the ODI series against Australia in Bangalore. “Hopefully, this will be taken into consideration in the future,” Kohli had said.

The team’s New Zealand tour includes five T20 games in 10 days, followed by 3 ODIs in seven days. Kohli’s statement led Rajeev Shukla, former IPL chairman, to blame on the CoA. Edulji said that “before making the statement, Kohli should have thought that he was part of the discussion where this FTP was formed”.

The minutes of meeting, signed by Rai, states: “FTP (2019-2023). Mr Rahul Johri presented the proposal for International FTP. The Team Representatives [Kohli, Dhoni, and Shastri] appreciated the efforts of the BCCI team in addressing their concerns on the high number of playing days per season, long overseas tours and preparation time before a marquee series/event and gave their consent to the proposed FTP”.

Edulji said the team “appreciated” the FTP. “We discussed how many T20s they are going to play, how many ODIs, how many home matches, the gaps between tournaments... We have always made sure that players got what they wanted, their comfort was top priority,” she said.



ON A DIFFERENT PAGE

“It’s getting closer and closer to landing at the stadium straight. That’s how compressed the gap has become. This kind of travelling to a place that is seven and a half hours ahead of IST is difficult to adjust immediately. Hopefully, this will be taken into consideration in the future.”

VIRAT KOHLI
INDIAN CAPTAIN

WHAT TRANSPIRED IN THE MEETING

THE MEETING was attended by head coach Ravi Shastri, then limited-over skipper MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli, who was India’s Test skipper, alongside CoA chief Vinod Rai and Diana Edulji.

THE FTP, drafted by BCCI CEO Rahul Johri and cricket administration head Gaurav Saxena, was presented in the meeting. Before the FPT was prepared, a chart of the schedule was given to the top players and management for approval.



GAYLE’S NEXT STOP: NEPAL

Swashbuckling West Indian batsman Chris Gayle will play for Pokhahra Rhinos team in Nepal’s domestic T20 tournament, ‘Everest Premier League’.

Rain drenches Zimbabwe’s victory push in the 2nd Test vs SL

AGENCE FRANCE PRESS
HARARE, JANUARY 30

HEAVY RAIN and bad light in the afternoon frustrated Zimbabwe’s push to build a match-winning position on the fourth day of the second Test against Sri Lanka in Harare on Thursday.

A downpour mid-afternoon forced the players off the field and, although they returned briefly after tea, only 54 overs were bowled in the day, restricting Zimbabwe to 241 for seven at the close, an overall lead of 354. The Zimbabwe captain Sean Williams, who made a century in the first innings, was 47 not out when bad light forced the players off and must now decide whether to declare overnight to give his bowlers a full day to try and win the match and square the two-Test series.

Brendan Taylor set the tone for the home side during the morning session when he made his second half-century of the match. The 33-year-old struck a rapid 67 as the hosts added 117 during an extended morning session. Lasith Embuldeniya was again the pick of the Sri Lanka bowlers, striking in the third over of the day when Regis Chakabva edged to Dhananjaya de Silva at slip having added just a single to his overnight 14.

Taylor joined Prince Masvauze who was run out for 35 after a needless mix-up over a second run and in spite of a dramatic dive for safety.

Timycen Maruma, who was drafted in as a ‘concussion substitute’ for Kevin Kasuza who was stretched off on Wednesday after being hit on the head at short leg, scratched around for 14 balls before being stumped off Embuldeniya for a duck. At the other end Taylor had picked up quickly from his run-a-ball 62 in the first innings, passing 2,000 runs in Test cricket on his way to 67 from 75 balls.

His innings, which included eight fours and a six, ended when he was on the wrong end of an lbw shout from Lahiru Kumara, the ball looking certain to slide down the leg side. Sikander Raza added 70 with Williams for the sixth wicket before also departing leg before, this time to a ball from left-arm seamer Vishwa Fernando that appeared to pitch outside leg stump. In the brief 26-ball passage of play in the evening session Tinotenda Mutombodzi stepped too far away to off to give himself room and lost his leg stump to Suranga Lakmal. Williams played serenely for his 47 which came off 76 balls and included six fours.

BRIEF SCORES: Zimbabwe 406 and 241 for 7 (Taylor 67, Williams 47*, Fernando 2-43) lead Sri Lanka 293 (Mathews 64, Raza 7-113) by 354 runs

Brendan Taylor set the tone for the home side during the morning session when he made his second half-century of the match. The 33-year-old struck a rapid 67.

Series sewn, India to test bench strength in 4th T20I

Wellington: An unassailable lead has opened up the window for experimentation but there will be no letup in India’s intensity when they face a heartbroken New Zealand team in the fourth T2o International here on Friday. Mohammed Shami and Rohit Sharma combined to pull off a thrilling win via a Super Over in the third game for a 3-0 lead and a maiden T20I series win on New Zealand soil.

There is only a short turnaround time for the last two matches, back-to-back in Wellington and Mt. Maunganui on Friday and Sunday, respectively. Both teams spent Thursday travelling from Hamilton to Wellington, and with a similar tight schedule for the final game of the series as well, there seems to be little chance of nets for either match. While a five-match T20I series is a rarity, India’s early victory means both sides can contemplate various permutations in light of the T20 World Cup later in the year.

From an Indian perspective, need of the hour is to find a balance between experimentation and the winning desire. Both skipper Virat Kohli and coach Ravi Shastri pride themselves on a win-at-all-times mentality, and they have a rare chance to blank out a 5-0 sweep in this T20I series, thus etching out a slice of history.

Kohli even mentioned the same in the post-match presentation at Seddon Park on Wednesday night. India wouldn’t need to change too much to retain a near full-strength playing eleven. There are obvious contenders for certain spots in both batting and bowling department should experimentation kick in.

Sanju Samson and Rishabh Pant are waiting for opportunities, with the former expected to get a look-in. Pant’s call-up would depend on which batsman is left out, and whether KL



Washington Sundar might get a look-in in the Wellington T20I

Rahul will continue to keep wickets. While the top trio is assured of places, Shreyas Iyer has been in superb touch and can claim to pin down a spot on his own as well.

Both Manish Pandey and Shivam Dube need more game time as well. Any of the top four can be rested over the next two games. Indeed it wouldn’t be a stretch of imagination if one of Kohli and Rohit Sharma were alternately rested in Wellington and Mt. Maunganui

Such a move would allow the youngsters to keep their spots whilst maintaining the experience in the side too. More changes are to be expected in the bowling department. Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav and Navdeep Saini are waiting in the wings. All three may not get a look-in immediately.

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS FROM 12.30 PM

RANJITROPHY ROUND 7

Railways unravel, as Karnataka script dramatic win



Rohan Kadam (in pic) and Padikkal took Karnataka over the line. Amit Mehra

Had this been a one-off instance, one could still have brushed it off as a rare blip. Stringing together such dismal scores has been a recurring theme this season. From the second innings in their duel against Saurashtra, when they folded up for an abysmal 141 to hand Jaydev Unadkat’s team a comprehensive inning-and-90-run win, to getting shot out by Baroda for scores of 101 and 99. Things came to a tipping point during the subsequent home match against Madhya Pradesh when their defiant batting approach left them six runs short of the 211-run target on the final day.

In seven matches, Railways have managed

to register a solitary innings victory against Mumbai but went down to Saurashtra, Baroda, Tamil Nadu and now Karnataka by huge margins. Even the presence of experienced campaigners such as captain Arindam Ghosh, or the return of Mahesh Rawat — he managed scores of 0 and 5 — did little to restore stability in the midst. Coach Yosuf Ali Khan admitted that the batting no-show has been a cause of concern. “There’s a lack of temperament, you can excuse that saying these guys are mostly inexperienced. But there’s also an inability to bat according to the match situation. If you have the quality, you could have batted the

whole day today...it wasn’t that difficult,” Khan explained.

Such an insipid batting was fodder for the Karnataka pacers. Leading the charge was More, who graduated from the MRF Pace Academy, and is a regular on the Chennai cricketing circuit, playing for the corporate leagues in the city. The 27-year-old was on red-hot form at the Karnail Singh Stadium today, prising out 6 scalps, including three in a sensational over that snuffed out even the rarest of rare chances of a Railways rearguard. More, didn’t do anything spectacular.

He exploited the uneven bounce that was on offer and kept honing in on the precise lines and lengths, and was amply rewarded for doing so. But it’s that sensational over - one in which he dismissed Mor, Avinash Yadav and T.Pradeep - which he cherishes the most. There’s an interesting detail to it. “My captain told me that this would be my last over, and that prompted me to bowl the way I did,” More recounted.

Such a commanding win had bolstered the qualification hopes of the former champions. They have two league games coming up against Baroda and Madhya Pradesh. It’s back to the drawing board for the Railways. With 13 points and one league game against Himachal Pradesh coming up, a qualification to the knockouts are all but over. Nevertheless, they will make one last attempt to shore up their batting. “Avijit Singh has been pretty prolific at the junior level. We are planning to include him in the final match,” Khan noted. The changes notwithstanding, the Railways team would also do well to go for some soul-searching.

BRIEF SCORES: Railways 182 & 79 Ronit More 6/32) lost to Karnataka 211 and 51/0. Points: Karnataka 7; Railways 0.

Patel takes Gujarat over the line

PARTHIV PATEL celebrated his 100th Ranji Trophy match with a match-winning 41 not out against Vidarbha. Required to chase down 179, Gujarat were reeling at 110 for 5 when Patel took charge. He launched a calculated assault on Vidarbha to ensure that Gujarat crossed the line with four wickets in hand. The skipper was their first-innings hero too, top-scoring with a defiant 58. The win takes Gujarat to the second spot on the table with 26 points.

BRIEF SCORES (SURAT): Vidarbha 142 & 247 lost to Gujarat 211 & 181/6 (Parthiv Patel 41 not out, Manpreet Juneja 41; Aditya Thakare 4/44) by four wickets. Points: Gujarat 6, Vidarbha 0.

Mumbai, Himachal share points

IN AN outcome that would hamper the knockout prospects of both teams, Mumbai and Himachal Pradesh shared a point each in what was shaping up to be a thrilling match in Dharmashala. After the hosts dealt early blows to Mumbai, Sarfaraz Khan scored a superb double hundred to give the visitors ascendancy. But due to inclement weather, the match saw no further action. Mumbai are now 12th.

BRIEF SCORES (IN DHARAMSALA): Mumbai 372/5 drew Himachal Pradesh. Mumbai 1 point, HP 1 point.

RESULTS

Nirmohi grabs seven in Chandigarh’s draw

MEDIUM PACER Shresth Nirmohi picked up a career-best seven-wicket haul to help Chandigarh secure three points against Puducherry. Nirmohi returned with figures of 7/46, with wickets off successive balls twice as Puducherry were bundled out for 113 inside 30 overs to concede a first-innings lead. The hosts, who had posted 134 in their first innings replied with 102/3 in their second essay for the match to result in a draw with Chandigarh securing three points.

BRIEF SCORES: Chandigarh 134 and 102/3; 22 overs (Manan Vohra 52). Puducherry 113; 29.2 overs (Paras Dogra 49; Shresth Nirmohi 7/46). Match drawn. Points: Chandigarh 3, Puducherry 1

Odisha beat Assam in dramatic fashion

Odisha thrashed Assam by an innings and three runs on the fourth and final day of their encounter, after the visitors suffered a dramatic batting collapse. Resuming at the overnight score of 102 for no loss, Assam crumbled like a pack of cards to be bundled out for 195 in the space of 24 overs. The home team picked up seven points for the win and took its tally to 35 points.

BRIEF SCORES (CUTTACK): Odisha 436 beat Assam 238 & 19 in 65.4 overs (Subham Mandal 74, Rajesh Mohanty 4/30 by an innings and 3 runs. Odisha: 7 points, Assam: 0.

TRAMLINES

Women play through extreme heat

The temperature topped 100 degrees F (38 degrees Celsius) in the first of the Australian Open women's semifinals and got slightly warmer in the second, when Garbine Muguruza and Simona Halep were going shot-for-shot in the hot-hot sun. The sudden burst of heat got very, very close to triggering the top level of the tournament's extreme heat policy, which means suspending play and closing the retractable roofs on the show courts and, more or less, making it indoors. That would have suited two-time major champion Halep, a runner-up in Melbourne in 2018. "Yes, it was very, very hot today and I felt it," the fourth-seeded Halep said after losing 7-6 (8), 7-5, despite being a point away from winning both sets. "Killed me after the first set. The sun was wrong. I didn't like that much to play in this weather." On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 meaning it's mandatory for the roof to be closed, it reached 4.9 while Muguruza and Halep were playing on Thursday afternoon. The temperature edged up to 102 degrees F (39 degrees C). It'll be a furnace Friday, with Australia's Bureau of Meteorology forecasting temperatures in parts of Melbourne to hit 109 degrees F (43 degrees C) before a cooler change ... possibly in time for the second men's semifinal match between Dominic Thiem and Alexander Zverev. Then the slide is expected to begin, with maximum forecast temperatures of 91 degrees C (33 degrees C) on Saturday — when Kenin and Muguruza are set to meet in the women's final — 73 degrees F (23 degrees C) on Sunday for the men's final and down to 64 degrees F (18 degrees C) to start next week. **AP**

Rare chance for 'home' victory in doubles

Max Purcell and Luke Saville have reached the Australian Open doubles final, giving the host nation a chance at grabbing the title for the first time in 22 years. The Australian pair, who got a wild-card entry for the tournament, edged fourth-seeded Ivan Dodig of Croatia and Filip Polasek of Slovakia 6-7 (7), 6-3, 6-4 in their semifinal. They're vying to be the first Australians to win the Australian Open men's doubles title since Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde in 1998 when they play 11th-seeded Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury in the final. Ram of the U.S. and Salisbury of Britain advanced to the final by beating Kazakhstan duo Alexander Bublik and Mikhail Kukushkin 4-6, 6-3, 6-4. Saville is coached by Craig Tyszer, who steered Australian Ash Barty to the women's No. 1 ranking.

AP

RESULTS

Men's Singles (Semifinals): Novak Djokovic (2), Serbia, bt Roger Federer (3), Switzerland, 7-6 (1), 6-4, 6-3. **Women's Singles (Semifinals):** Sofia Kenin (14), United States, bt Ashleigh Barty (1), Australia, 7-6 (6), 7-5; Garbine Muguruza, Spain, bt Simona Halep (4), Romania, 7-6 (8), 7-5. **Men's Doubles (Semifinals):** Rajeev Ram, United States, and Joe Salisbury (11), Britain, bt Mikhail Kukushkin and Alexander Bublik, Kazakhstan, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; Luke Saville and Max Purcell, Australia bt Ivan Dodig, Croatia, and Filip Polasek (4), Slovakia, 6-7 (7), 6-3, 6-4. **Mixed Doubles (Quarterfinals):** John-Patrick Smith and Astra Sharma, Australia, bt Lukasz Kubot and Iga Swiatek, Poland, 3-6, 7-6 (4), 10-3; Nikola Mektic, Croatia, and Barbora Krejickova (5), Czech Republic, bt Rohan Bopanna, India, and Nadiia Kichenok, Ukraine, 6-0, 6-2; Henri Kontinen, Finland, and Gabriela Dabrowski (3), Canada, bt Ivan Dodig, Croatia, and Latisha Chan (6), Taiwan, 7-5, 7-6 (2).

Survival of the fittest

Injury-hampered Roger Federer falls short in 7-6 (1), 6-4, 6-3 semifinal loss to Novak Djokovic

AP/AFP

MELBOURNE, JANUARY 30

NOVAK DJOKOVIC was wondering, right along with everyone else, what sort of shape Roger Federer would be in for their Australian Open semifinal. At age 38, despite dealing with a painful groin muscle and coming off a draining five-setter, Federer came out just fine, it seemed, and soon was up 4-1 and love-40, holding a trio of break chances as Djokovic served.

Didn't last. Federer couldn't sustain that level. Neither his body nor Djokovic would let him. Casting aside a bit of a poor start during the rivals' 50th meeting, Djokovic stretched his Grand Slam winning streak against Federer to six in a row with a 7-6 (1), 6-4, 6-3 victory Thursday night that earned the defending champion a record eighth trip to the final at Melbourne Park. "Today was horrible, to go through what I did. Nice entrance. Nice sendoff. And in between, it's one to forget, because you know you have a 3% chance to win," Federer said, adding that he discussed beforehand with his team how bad things would need to get for him to stop playing. "Once you can see it coming, that it's not going to work anymore, it's tough."

Djokovic now leads their head-to-head series 27-23, including 11-6 at majors. Federer hasn't beaten him at one of the sport's four most important tournaments since 2012. "I just want to say, respect to Roger for coming out tonight. He was obviously hurt," Djokovic said. "Wasn't at his best."

The No. 2-seeded Djokovic will try to collect a record-extending eighth Australian Open title on Sunday against No. 5 Dominic Thiem or No. 7 Alexander Zverev.

Djokovic also can claim a 17th major trophy overall to move closer to Federer's record of 20. Rafael Nadal, beaten by Thiem in the quarterfinals, is at 19. In the women's final Saturday, it'll be two-time major champion Garbine Muguruza of Spain against 21-year-old Sofia Kenin of the United States. It's Kenin's debut in a Grand Slam title match.

Clearly, for Djokovic vs. Federer, everything hinged on the first hour or so.

They played on a muggy, sweltering evening, with the temperature in the high 90s (high 30s Celsius) and no breeze to offer respite. Almost from the moment his wild quarterfinal ended Tuesday after he'd saved seven match points and eked past Tennys Sandgren in five sets, speculation swirled about how well Federer would recover.

Might the muscle issue force him to pull out of the tournament? Why didn't he practice Wednesday?

As it happens, Federer showed up, of course. And gave what he could until the end. He's never handed an opponent a walkover across more than 400 Grand Slam matches, never retired from any of his more than 1,500 career tour-level matches. "I don't think I would have gone on court if I had no chance to win," Federer said. "We saw I was still able to make a match out of it."

Indeed, Federer appeared to be managing just fine at the outset. And, oh, did this match set out well, in terms of the atmosphere, in terms of the tension, in terms of the tennis. The proceedings began with a jolt of a 14-point game as a fugue of "Let's go, Roger!" and "No-le! No-le!" provided the soundtrack, prompting chair umpire Nico Helwerth to passively aggressively admonish spectators: "Please. Thank you."

There was an exchange of 17 strokes. Another of 15. There were two break points for Djokovic, nullified with the help of formidable serves. Federer took the game with three aces, three other clean winners and then broke to go up 2-0 on his way to 4-1.

Soon it was nearly 5-1 in Federer's favor. Close doesn't count, though. Djokovic put up too much resistance, much like during their epic Wimbledon final last July, when he thwarted two championship points for Federer and wound up winning in a fifth-set tiebreaker. This time, Djokovic said, "I managed to dig my way back."

After Djokovic got out of that love-40 hole

to hold, he trailed 5-2 and love-30. But Djokovic picked up 10 consecutive points to not only hold there but also break at love in the following game as Federer, one of the most effective servers ever, served for the set. At love! Imagine that.

Ruthless streak

In the eventual tiebreaker, Djokovic did what Djokovic does: No mistakes and four pure winners, including a down-the-line backhand return to end it. At the break, Federer took a medical timeout and went off court with a trainer, like he did against Sandgren. Djokovic stayed on the sideline while he, too, got checked out.

When play resumed, Federer did not look as spry or confident as in the first set. He tried shortcuts such as pushing forward on returns or less-than-ideal drop shots. He couldn't generate so much as one break chance.

Djokovic took the set with a final-game break and the last two points were spectacular. First, he followed up a stinging return by heading far to his left for a sprinting, sliding, stretching cross-court backhand passing shot; he probably shouldn't even have put his racket on the ball, let alone managed to win the point. Then he reacted to a short shot by Federer by running all-out to flip a cross-court forehand pass that made it two sets to none. Djokovic threw an uppercut and bellowed, "Come on!"

They played for another half-hour or so but all that was left to decide was the score, not who would win. "He was better on the day today," Federer said, "no question."

Battle of NextGen

Dominic Thiem says there are "no secrets" between him Alexander Zverev as they prepare for a battle of "small margins" to make an Australian Open final for the first time. The fifth seed faces his good friend on Friday after stunning world number one Rafael Nadal in the last eight, with a crack at seven-time champion Novak Djokovic in the decider at stake.

Thiem and Zverev have played each other eight times, with the Austrian holding a 6-2 advantage, including their last two encounters. They have never been forced into a five-setter. "We have no secrets from each other. I mean, we played so many times, also on very special occasions already, at the ATP Finals, semis, French Open quarters," said the 26-year-old. "It's a nice rivalry we have. It's great that we add an Australian Open semifinals to this one. Going to be a close match again. Same if two top-10 players play each other (in the) semis of a Slam. The deciding moments are very small, small margins. I'm looking forward to it," he added.

Thiem is better known as a clay-court specialist and has experience of the big time, making the French Open final over the past two years, beaten each time by Nadal.



Federer walks under a shoe dangled by an autograph hunter after his semifinal loss to Novak Djokovic. Federer's last slam win was the 2018 Aus Open. **AP**

Roger's losing battle

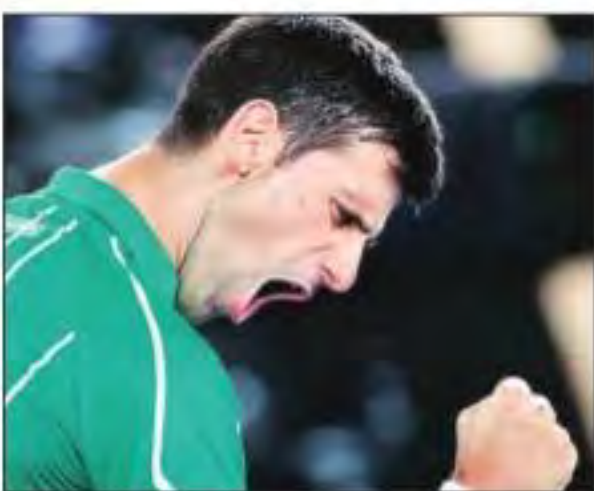
Federer, carrying a groin strain from his last match, came out swinging against Djokovic. But once the nerves settled and the batteries that fuel Djokovic's ability to run down shots kicked in, the result came in just two hours and 18 minutes.

LET DOWN BY 1ST SERVE

For Federer to have any chance against an in-form defender like Djokovic, he had to earn some free points on his first serve. Though it worked for a while as he took a 4-1 lead in the first set, it didn't completely go the way of the Swiss. The 20-time Grand Slam champion managed to put in just 65 percent first serves (68/104), leaving his second serve at the mercy of one of the game's best defensive baseliners. Furthermore, Federer's average first service speed of 182 kmph (fastest being 200 kmph) was weaker than the 193 kmph average (fastest being 206 kmph) Djokovic struck.

ERROR COUNT HIGH

Federer did manage to hit 46 sublime winners, but the 35 unforced errors hurt



him. Often the Swiss would get himself into a strong position in the point, but ended up placing his inside-out forehand, or backhand drive - all regulation by his standard - into the net. That's also how the match ended, with a straight-forward

cross-court backhand into the net. In comparison, Djokovic committed 18 unforced errors, including just three in the third set, and none at all in the first set tiebreaker.

LONG RALLIES HURT

The longer the rallies, the bigger the chances of Djokovic winning. Federer knew this, and he tried to end rallies early. He did manage to do so in the early stages of the first set, that is until Djokovic settled down. Once the shot count increased, Djokovic got into rhythm and started dictating terms. During the course of the match, for rallies that ended in less than four shots, Federer won 63 and Djokovic 61. For rallies that went for four shots or more, Djokovic led with 43 to 23, an indicator that he was ready for the long haul.

America's new star Kenin in final



SOFIA KENIN

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MELBOURNE, JANUARY 30

SOFIA KENIN never flinched. Not when she was twice a point from dropping the opening set of her first Grand Slam semifinal at the Australian Open. Not when she was twice a point from dropping the second set, either. And the American is into her first major final at age 21 — beating the woman ranked No.1, Ash Barty, to get there. Now Kenin will need to beat a former No.1, Garbine Muguruza, to grab the trophy.

Kenin saved a total of four set points to stop home hope Barty's bid to give Australia a long-awaited singles champion at Melbourne Park, pulling out a 7-6 (6), 7-5 victory on a stiflingly hot Thursday. "I was telling myself: 'I believe in myself. If I lose the set, I'm still going to come out and believe'," said the 14th-seeded Kenin, who never had been past the fourth round at a major. "Yeah, I really did a great job with it. I didn't give up."

Muguruza fended off four set points in the opener of her semifinal and wound up defeating No.4 Simona Halep 7-6 (8), 7-5 in a matchup of players who have won Wimbledon and the French Open but not the Australian Open.

It was a streaky contest: Muguruza led 5-3 in the first set before Halep took 15 of 17 points to earn a pair of set points. Muguruza then took seven consecutive points. And so on, until Halep put a shot in the net to relinquish that set, then smashed her racket and sat on the sideline, shaking her head. "I wasn't thinking I was down," Muguruza said. "You keep going."

Barty — who won the French Open last June, beating Kenin along the way — was hardly at her best Thursday, especially at the most crucial moments. Maybe she was burdened by the task of trying to become the first Australian woman since 1980 to get to the final of the country's Grand Slam.

"Unfortunately, couldn't quite scrap enough to get over the line," said Barty, who held her niece on her lap at the post-match news conference. "Just didn't play the biggest points well enough to win."

DIMINISHING RETURNS

6-0 Since beating Djokovic in the semifinal of the 2012 Wimbledon, Federer has not been able to get past the Serb in the next six meetings at Grand Slams, including Thursday's loss.

ADVANTAGE SERB

This was the 50th meeting between the pair in all competitions, with Djokovic extending his lead to 27-23. In terms of the Grand Slams though, this was the 17th meeting. Djokovic has never lost in the semi-final of the Australian Open, nor has he lost the summit clash. **ENS**

[SPORTS BAR]



Perez joins Roma from Barcelona

Barcelona forward Carles Perez has joined Roma in a deal worth 15.5 million euros, the Spanish club announced on Thursday. Roma will pay Barca 1 million euros for an initial loan until June 30. The deal includes a compulsory option to buy in the summer for 11 million euros, with a further 3.5 million euros due in additional payments. Barcelona will also retain first refusal if Roma want to sell Perez in the future. "I know that I am leaving a very important club in Barcelona but I am joining an equally important club in Roma," said Perez. The Spaniard came through Barca's youth academy and was given his La Liga debut by coach Ernesto Valverde last season.

Gurpreet stars in Bengaluru FC

Gurpreet Singh Sandhu pulled off brilliant penalty save to help Bengaluru FC secure a narrow 1-0 win over Hyderabad FC and keep pace with top spot aspirants in the Hero Indian Super League here on Thursday. Nishu Kumar's seventh minute strike turned out to be enough for the hosts to claim full points as Hyderabad failed to convert multiple chances including a penalty strike. The Blues are now second in the standings with 28 points from 15 games, while Hyderabad continued their woeful run and remained at the bottom of the table.



The number of Olympic quotas stands at a record 15 after a highly successful 2019 that saw Indian shooters top all the Rifle-Pistol World Cups. *File*

Shooters have realistic shot at Tokyo: Bindra

India's young shooters have a "realistic" chance of succeeding at the Tokyo Olympics, says Abhinav Bindra, who is "tired" of being the country's only individual gold-medallist at the Games. The number of Olympic quotas stands at a record 15 after a highly successful 2019 that saw Indian shooters top all the Rifle-Pistol World Cups and the season-ending World Cup Finals. This was after they drew a blank at the 2016 Rio Olympics. "The depth of talent in our country and the support has increased tremendously. A lot of the athletes are going to be 16, 17-year-olds when they make their Olympic debut and they have a realistic shot at winning medals at the Games, which says something," Bindra told the 'Olympic Channel'. Modou Sougou, who had a lacklustre season by his standards. At the forefront of the incredible showing was an extremely talented youth brigade, something the Olympic champion took note of.

Four Indians in 2nd spot of Gibraltar chess

Teen sensation R Praggnanandhaa drew his penultimate round game against Russian Mikhail Kobalia to hold on to the joint second spot, along with four other Indians, in the 18th Gibraltar Chess Festival here. Five players shared the lead with seven points after nine rounds in the Masters category of the event on Wednesday. Wang Hao, David Paravyan, Parham Maghsoodloo, Mustafa Yilmaz and Andrey Espenko formed the leaders' pack with seven points. A 16-player pack, including four Indians — B Adhiban, Praggnanandhaa, Karthikeyan Murali and Aryan Chopra —, is close behind on 6.5 points.

Li, Lee Cheuk Yiu help Warriors beat Rockets

Michelle Li and Lee Cheuk Yiu dazzled with their performances as North Eastern Warriors defeated Mumbai Rockets in the second tie of the Premier Badminton League double-header here on Thursday. The Warriors were in control of the tie right from the start with Li, Lee Cheuk Yiu and the mixed doubles pair of Lee Yong Dae and Kim Ha Na fetching a win each for the team. The result meant the former runners-up, Rockets are on a four-match losing streak. Li, who had stunned world champion PV Sindhu a day ago when the Warriors clashed with the Hyderabad Hunters, staved off a challenge from Shriyanshi Pardeshi.



Rojo joins Estudiantes on loan from United

Combative Argentina defender Marcos Rojo has rejoined his home town club Estudiantes on loan from Manchester United, the Superliga side said on Thursday. On its Twitter account, the four-time Copa Libertadores winners posted a picture of Rojo during his previous spell alongside the message: "At home!" Rojo was born in La Plata where Estudiantes are based and spent his first three seasons as a professional with the club before moving to Spartak Moscow in December 2010. Eighteen months later he switched to Sporting Lisbon in Portugal and two years after that he was bought by then United manager Louis van Gaal. "Another dream is realized," said Estudiantes on Twitter. "People always go back to the places where they were happy. Because the feeling of belonging is stronger."



SAI in for holistic overhaul

Plans to establish 24 Centre of Excellence, upgrade facilities, and recruit new coaches

MIHIR VASAVDA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

FOR TWO years, Sports Authority of India's (SAI) Lucknow centre had just 11 women's hockey trainees. At the state-of-the-art Imphal centre, of the total strength of 200 athletes, roughly 55 belonged just to sepak takraw, a fringe sport, while trainees in sports like hockey, football, and boxing trained at a different, 'pitiable' centre in Manipur's capital. In Kolkata, meanwhile, a sports ministry research revealed that for the last three years, performance of several athletes had stagnated.

"There was a mismatch. At centres where, for example, we had hockey trainees, we had a kabaddi coach. Where we had a kabaddi coach, we didn't have enough players. We are setting right those things," sports secretary Radhey Shyam Julaniya said.

To 'set it right', the sports ministry and SAI have begun a 'holistic' restructuring of the training institutes across the country. It includes establishing 24 National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) for almost 100 disciplines, recruiting hundreds of coaches and high-performance managers, upgrading more than decade-old equipment, a multi-crore investment in sports science facilities and prioritising meritocracy and performance for athletes as well as coaches.

The sports ministry and SAI officials say such restructuring is taking place at SAI for the first time since it was established in January 1984. "The organisation was designed in 1984. It has to meet the present need and future aspirations. The restructuring is being done keeping in view the spread of sports because of Khelo India Games and the Olympic Games in 2024 and 2028," Julaniya said.

SAI director general Sandip Pradhan added: "It will be a holistic change. The idea is to get structures in place for coaching, sports science, induction of athletes as well as infrastructure."

At present, SAI has 56 training centres across the country where roughly 15,000 athletes train (of them, 10,000 are residential). For most aspiring athletes, admission to a SAI centre is seen as the first step towards making a career in sports.

At the same time, though, there have been allegations that the institutes have not



A file picture of the boxing hall in the National Institute of Sports in Patiala which will become one of the 24 national centres of excellence.

RESTRUCTURING SAI
24 National Centre of Excellence to be created
100 disciplines
50 high performances managers to be appointed
100 chief coaches to be hired
₹75 crore worth sports science equipment sanctioned for 7 centres
8,000 combined capacity of additional hostels

evolved with time, because of its ad-hoc athlete recruitment policies and archaic coaching programmes. The latter, in fact, is believed to be SAI's biggest Achilles heel

with claims that the coaches, most who were recruited back in the 80s, did not adopt modern training methods and stuck to the programmes they learnt decades ago.

Under the restructuring process, SAI will recruit 100 chief coaches in the initial phase along with at least 150 assistant coaches. Additionally, they will hire 50 performance managers, whose duty will include assessing performances of the coaches and athletes as well as monitoring the physical attributes of the trainees according to the sport's requirements.

"A few foreign coaches will also be recruited wherever required," Pradhan said. "The facilities such as kitchen, sports complexes, and hostels are being upgraded. Additional hostels of the combined capacity of approximately 8,000 is being created across National Centre of Excellence."

The National Centre of Excellence will cater to elite athletes, he added, and state-level centres will focus on grassroots. Some

pockets have been identified for the centre of excellence: Bhopal, for instance, could be a national centre for shooting and some water sports; Bhubaneswar for hockey; Ranchi for archery and so on.

"The induction of athletes will not be restricted only to that particular region. So for example, if a wushu athlete is not able to get into a centre in Imphal because of lack of vacancy, she or he can try going to the Patiala centre. Right now, young trainees are not aware there are alternate options available," Pradhan said.

Julaniya said the 'new posts will go by merit and not purely on seniority in SAI.' "It will not adversely impact existing staff. But any benefit that comes from a new position, that will flow strictly on merit and on the basis of performance," Julaniya said, adding that sports science equipment costing Rs 75 crore has been sanctioned for seven Centre of Excellence, including National Institute of Sport in Patiala.

Liverpool earn a 19-pt cushion atop the table

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
LONDON, JANUARY 30

LIVERPOOL MOVED an incredible 19 points clear at the top of the Premier League as Mohamed Salah and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain secured a 2-0 win at West Ham.

Jürgen Klopp's side have turned the title race into a procession and the runaway leaders saw off struggling West Ham on Wednesday to make it a remarkable 23 victories from 24 league games this season.

Salah opened the scoring with a first half penalty at the London Stadium and Oxlade-Chamberlain wrapped up Liverpool's 15th successive league win after the interval.

Second placed Manchester City are now so far behind Liverpool that the question is not if but when the Reds clinch their first English league title since 1990.

The Reds have won 31 of their past 32 league fixtures, only dropping points in a 1-1 draw at Manchester United in October.

With 14 games left, Liverpool's incredible run has given historic overtones to their impending title coronation.

The European and World champions are now 41 games unbeaten in the league -- just eight away from the 49-match English top-flight record set by Arsenal's 'Invincibles' across 2003 and 2004.

Matching that Arsenal team's achievement in going an entire league season without defeat is within Liverpool's reach, as is Manchester City's Premier League record of 100 points.

Liverpool's latest success on a chilly night in east London will be just a footnote when the full story of their likely title triumph is written, but they still managed to record another small piece of history.

They have now beaten all 19 of the other teams in the league at least once this season -- the first time the club have achieved that feat in the top-flight.

Klopp attracted criticism for announcing he and his first-team players won't be present for the FA Cup fourth round replay against Shrewsbury next week as it falls within the Premier League's winter break.

Instead, Klopp will send Liverpool's youth team to the match, but at this rate they will win the title so early that his stars will have plenty of time to put their feet up



Klopp's Liverpool have won 31 of their past 32 league fixtures. Reuters

in the final weeks of the domestic season.

Swaggering Liverpool

Faced with West Ham's massed defence and lacking the pace and penetration usually provided by the injured Sadio Mane, Liverpool initially monopolised possession without a cutting edge.

Salah and Jordan Henderson finally combined to open up West Ham for the first time. Andrew Robertson was the beneficiary and the left-back's clip over Lukasz Fabianski was trickling towards the goal line when Issa Diop got back to clear.

It wasn't vintage Liverpool but their pressure eventually produced Salah's opener from their first shot on target in the 35th minute.

Roberto Firmino deftly controlled Trent Alexander-Arnold's pass and flicked the ball into the six-yard box, where Divock Origi was bundled over by Diop.

Jonathan Moss awarded the penalty and, after a lengthy VAR check for a possible handball in the build-up, Egypt forward Salah stepped up to send Fabianski the wrong way for his 16th goal of the season.

Manuel Lanzini wasted a golden opportunity to equalise early in the second half when the West Ham winger scuffed straight at Alisson Becker.

Firmino almost doubled Liverpool's lead when he swivelled onto Robertson's cross and forced Fabianski to save. Liverpool's second goal punished David Moyes' team in ruthless style as they authored a swaggering counter-attack in the 52nd minute.

185 goals & counting

Canada's Christine Sinclair has broken the record for most international goals, surpassing American forward Abby Wambach's after scoring her 185th against St. Kitts and Nevis in south Texas on Wednesday.

THE NUMBERS TALK FOR HER

4 Number of FIFA Women's World Cups she has worn | the armband for Canada in. She is the only player to have led a team in the global event as many times. She has also scored in five World Cups — a joint-record held with Brazil's legendary Marta.

39 Sinclair still holds the collegiate record in the NCAA for the most goals in a single season with 39 in 2005.



TAKING THE AMERICAN ROUTE

Born in Burnaby, British Columbia, she began her club career in 2001 for Vancouver Breakers before moving to the United States where she has been playing for the Portland Thorns. The Canadian star has won four professional championships: The WPS Championship with FC Gold Pride and Western New York Flash in 2010 and 2011 respectively along with the 2013 and 2017 NSWL Championships with Portland Thorns.

A NATIONAL HERO

She made her mark on the international stage when she led Canada to back-to-back bronze medals at the 2012 and '16 Olympics. In 2012 she ended Canada's 76-year traditional team sports Oly medal drought. She was awarded an Officer of the Order of Canada, and in 2012, she was named Canada's athlete of the year.

GLOBAL ICON

Sinclair is in elite company when it comes to accolades, being one of two people along with Marta to score in five different FIFA Women's World Cups from 2003 to 2019. She is also the only player to have captained her national team in four FIFA Women's World Cups.

BACKBONE OF THE TEAM

Sinclair made wore the national team jersey for the first time when she was just a 16-year-old at the 2000 Algarve Cup. She even scored her first international goal in the very same tournament.

She has established herself as one of the best players in the women's game and has competed at two Olympics, including in 2012 where she was the tournament's leading scorer with six of Canada's 12 goals.

Compiled by Rahul Asnani

Thank you to everyone for all the messages...I'm slightly overwhelmed. Thank you to all my teammates, coaches, staff, friends and family. 185 would not have been possible without you."

CHRISTINE SINCLAIR
ON HER RECORD

She did it! Christine Sinclair is now international soccer's all-time leading goal scorer. Congratulations, @sincy12 – you rock!."

JUSTIN TRUDEAU, CANADA PRIME MINISTER

Tonight, I am celebrating the honor of passing that record, that legacy of our beautiful game, to the great Christine Sinclair: world-record holder for most international goals – man or woman – in history."

ABBY WAMBACH
THE PREVIOUS RECORD-HOLDER

City reach League Cup final despite loss to United

REUTERS
JANUARY 30

CANADIAN FORWARD Christine Sinclair became the all-time top scorer in international soccer, breaking the mark held by American Abby Wambach when she netted her 185th goal against St. Kitts and Nevis in south Texas on Wednesday.

Sinclair, playing her 290th international, scored the milestone goal from close range in the 23rd minute of Canada's opening game at the CONCACAF Olympic qualifiers at H-E-B Park in Edinburg after tying the record with a seventh-minute penalty.

"Just unbelievable," Sinclair said on what it means to be soccer's most prolific goal scorer. "When I first started with the national team I could never have imagined standing here with the number of goals I've scored."

The 36-year-old Canadian captain opened the scoring when she scored from the spot and later tucked away an Adriana Leon cross with a right-footed shot from inside the box to make it 4-0 and take the record.

Sinclair left the game in the 47th minute and Canada ran out comfortable winners 11-0. "Christine: History is made. Your victory is our victory. We celebrate with you," Wambach, who amassed her 184 goals over 255 games, posted on her Twitter account shortly after Sinclair surpassed her total.

"And to every girl coming up in the Pack with a dream to achieve that which doesn't yet even exist: We believe in you. Your Pack is with you. And history awaits you."

Wambach, who retired in 2015 after a 15-year career, had sole possession of the goalscoring mark since 2013 when she broke fellow American Mia Hamm's record of 158.

Sinclair has been the backbone of the Canadian team since making her debut as a 16-year-old at the 2000 Algarve Cup where she scored her first international goal.

She has established herself as one of the best players in the women's game and has competed at two Olympics, including in 2012 where she was the tournament's leading scorer with six of Canada's 12 goals.

"We have watched her grow from teenage star on the local grounds to international superstar who is adored around the world," said Canada Soccer President Steven Reed.

CONCACAF President and FIFA Vice-President Victor Montagliani also offered congratulations and thanked Sinclair for her contribution to the sport.

"To have scored an all-time international record goal haul, and to still be going strong, is truly outstanding. Christine's achievements have made her an icon in Canada," said Montagliani.

WHEN EXPERTS TAKE STOCK OF THE BUDGET

Understand what Budget 2020 truly holds for you and the economy as it is analyzed by some of India's most insightful minds. Corporate heads, leading economists, sector experts together with senior FE editors de-code the Union Budget and its implications.

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