

## Terror bust: 3 militants killed, kin of Pulwama bomber held

ARUN SHARMA  
JAMMU, JANUARY 31

THREE JAISH-e-Mohammad militants were killed and a cousin of the Pulwama attack bomber was among three held by J&K Police Friday following a gunbattle near Ban toll plaza on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway.

A policeman was injured in the firefight and police said they had foiled a major terror plot. IGP (Jammu zone) Mukesh Singh said four AK rifles of the 47 and 56 series, an M4 rifle, five pistols, hand grenades, two wireless sets and a satellite phone were recovered.

He said the militants appeared to have sneaked into the Union Territory from across the international border in the Hiranagar sector of Kathua district. The militants, police said, owed allegiance to Jaish-e-Mohammad and were being transported to the Valley in a truck by driver Sameer Dar, a cousin of Jaish-e-Mohammad bomber Adil Ahmad Dar of Kakapora who had rammed his explosives-laden car into a bus, killing 40 CRPF personnel at Lethpora in Pulwama district on February 14, 2019.

Sameer Dar, truck cleaner Asif and a third person were arrested. DGP Dilbag Singh said Asif was the brother of Lashkar-e-Toiba militant Manzoor who

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Inside the special Air India flight which left Wuhan for New Delhi, Friday. Photo courtesy Air India

MORE REPORTS, PAGE 14

## Evacuated from Wuhan, 370 Indians head home, face two-week isolation

ABANTIKA GHOSH & SOWMIYA ASHOK  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

AS THE World Health Organisation declared the coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan a "public health emergency", an Air India jumbo jet with a team of doctors and crew armed with masks, eye-shields and gloves evacuated about 370 Indian nationals, mostly students, from the Chinese city.

The evacuees, who are scheduled to land in Delhi around 3 am Saturday, will be kept in isolation at facilities of the Army in Manesar and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) near Chhawa. They will be monitored daily for a minimum period of 14

CENTRE BANS EXPORT OF MASKS

The Centre has issued a notification prohibiting export of equipment, including protective clothing and masks, to protect people from air-borne particles.

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## Kerala falls back on Nipah formula: Tracing virus patient's contacts

SHAJU PHILIP  
THRISSUR, JANUARY 31

AFTER INDIA'S first confirmed case of coronavirus was detected in Kerala's Thrissur district, health officials have fallen back on an ambitious and exhaustive exercise that helped them contain the lethal Nipah virus in 2018 — trace and monitor every single person who has been exposed to the patient.

On Friday, the Health

Department identified 58 primary and 45 secondary contacts of the novel Coronavirus (nCoV 2019) patient, a 20-year-old woman medical student who returned from Wuhan last week, and whose condition has "improved".

Officials said a list has also been prepared after analysing the patient's itinerary — from the day she left Wuhan, and transited through Kunming, Kolkata and Kochi before reaching home,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

days. The flight crew will have to go through a minimum isolation period of a week at their homes.

Officials said only those who had cleared medical screening for novel Coronavirus (nCoV 2019) were evacuated. The evacuees will be screened again on

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## EXPECTS 6-6.5% GROWTH IN 2020-21

# Slowdown cyclical, key to revival of growth is higher spending: Survey

Ahead of Budget today, Subramanian recommends rationalisation of subsidies to create fiscal headroom

### SURVEY: TAKE 5

WEALTH DESTROYED BY WILFUL DEFAULTERS in ₹ thousand crores



Source: TransUnion CIBIL Suits Filed database, Union budget reports

Ease of Doing Business It takes just 19 documents to buy a gun where as starting a restaurant requires 45

Thalinomics Lower input prices have meant that price of a thali as a share of daily wage has dropped in last 12 years

Arthashastra, Thirukural Eight references to suggest India's socialist hangover is "an exception with belief in the invisible hand of markets".

Assemble in India To expand export market share to 3.5% and create 4 crore jobs by 2025, it should be integrated with Make-in-India.

AANCHAL MAGAZINE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

A DAY ahead of Budget 2020-21, the Economic Survey tabled in Parliament Friday advocated a counter-cyclical fiscal policy, which in other words, means giving spending a boost to spur demand and revive growth.

"...to boost the sluggish demand and consumer sentiments, counter cyclical fiscal policy may have to be adopted to create additional fiscal headroom," the Survey said. This, it said, can be achieved by rationalising food subsidy, estimated at Rs 1.8 lakh crore in 2019-20.

The Survey expects the economy to rebound strongly and clock a growth rate of 6-6.5 per cent in 2020-21. This, it said, would be possible because of a low statistical base of 5 per cent growth rate in 2019-20.

The economy had continuously powered down over the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

FULL COVERAGE  
PAGES 17, 18

## Why it underlines wealth creation, PSU strategic sale

SUNNY VERMA  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

A KEY THEME the Economic Survey emphasises across chapters is the importance of wealth creation which, it says, is better achieved through liberalisation of the economy and promotion of the private sector.

It highlights several areas from banking to cement and steel where opening up the sectors to private players has led to massive efficiency gains, increased profitability, improved return on assets, and better access and service to customers.

On disinvestment, an analysis carried out in the survey shows that strategic sale of majority stake to private players produced much better results, indicating its preference for privatisation of government-owned companies. It argues for the setting up of a holding com-

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



pany structure — on the lines of Singapore government-owned Temasek Holdings — to carry out stake sale in central public sector enterprises (CPSEs).

"The aim of any privatisation or disinvestment programme should, therefore, be maximisation of the government's equity

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## President hails CAA, skips NRC mention he made in House last year



President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi head towards the Central Hall of Parliament. PTI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

AS PROTESTS over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and National Register of Citizens (NRC) continue in different parts of the country, President Ram Nath Kovind, in his customary address to the joint session of the two Houses of Parliament to

start the Budget session, hailed the passage of the CAA but made no mention of the NRC, unlike his address to the joint session at the inaugural of the 17th Lok Sabha on June 20 last year.

On the CAA, President Kovind said: "India has always believed in the principle of equal respect for all faiths. However, at the time of Partition, this very belief

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## Kamra ban: AirAsia and Vistara put process above Puri's tweet

PRANAV MUKUL & ANIL SASI  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

TWO BIG airline companies, AirAsia India and Vistara, with a combined market share of 11.4 per cent, did not act upon stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra for heckling Arnab Goswami on board an IndiGo flight, because such action, even if advised by Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, would be in transgression laid down regulations, according to sources with direct knowledge of the developments.

To deviate from the civil aviation requirement as specified by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) would call for written instructions from the government, the sources said. As of now, they said, the two airlines have initiated independent

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## Man who took 23 kids hostage is killed, wife beaten to death by mob

AVANEESH MISHRA  
FATEHGARH, JANUARY 31

AN NINE-HOUR hostage crisis in a village in UP's Farrukhabad, where 23 children were held overnight by a 40-year-old man identified as a murder convict out on bail, ended with his killing by police. His wife died later in hospital early Friday after she was assaulted by a mob of local residents, police said.

None of the children held hostage suffered any physical injury, police said. But two policemen were injured as Batham detonated an explosive placed among a heap of bricks outside his house, police said. Batham also shot and injured a local resident, who tried to negotiate with him. Another policeman was injured in firing. The condition of the injured is stable, police said.

The crisis and the lynching played out in front of a large contingent of police, including IG



Batham was shot by police

(Kanpur Range) and SP Farrukhabad. The main accused, Subhash Batham, was also assaulted by the mob and later shot by police while trying to escape from the crowd around 1 am. Batham's wife Ruby succumbed to injuries while being shifted to the Saifai Medical College facility.

According to police, Anjali Kashyap, a 15-year-old who was the eldest among the hostages, played a key role in ending the crisis. She calmed the terrified

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## Jamia shooter bought gun with cash for clothes

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL & ARANYA SHANKAR  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 31

THE 17-year-old, who shot at a Jamia student during an anti-CAA protest Thursday, had been given Rs 10,000 by his parents to get clothes stitched for a relative's wedding, but he spent the

money on buying a country-made pistol from a 19-year-old who stays in his village in Gautam Buddha Nagar district. This came to light during his initial questioning by police.

On Friday, the youth was produced before a Juvenile Justice Board and sent to 14-day protective custody.

The questioning also revealed how round-the-clock

consumption of hateful content on social media and WhatsApp over the past eight months sent the 17-year-old down a path of anger, culminating in Thursday's shooting.

An officer familiar with the investigation told *The Indian Express* that around two years ago, the youth came in touch with some people online, and they would discuss how their re-

ligion was under threat. "He would closely follow their posts and stream their videos, and was active on WhatsApp groups critical of the current anti-CAA protests, especially in Shaheen Bagh and Jamia," the officer said.

Police said Thursday was only the second time the youth had visited Delhi. "He told police he came to Delhi after boarding

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## Three words that haunt Kashmiri Pandit migrants — home, livelihood and safety

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

ARUN SHARMA  
JAMMU, JANUARY 31

"ISN'T THERE any way to get back our house?" Shyama Sahib, 72, often asks her son Amarjit Sahib. It was in 1987 that her husband Chaman Lal Sahib, then a staffer at the Divisional Commissioner's office in Srinagar, constructed a single-



### HOMELESS AT HOME

AN EXPRESS SERIES

PART 3



The gated colony at Haal in south Kashmir's Shopian houses around 70 families. Shuaib Masoodi

storeyed house in an upcoming neighbourhood. But just three years later, as the militancy erupted, they sold it to a Kashmiri Muslim — and left.

Over the years, Chaman Lal constructed a single-storey house in Jammu's Durga Nagar, and Amarjit bought a flat in Delhi-NCR where the family now lives.

Last November, after the government revoked J&K's special status, Amarjit left his job with a pharma company and moved to

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