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BANGLADESH BEAT INDIA, WIN MAIDEN U-19 WORLD CUP
PAGE 16

Keep campus under watch, monitor WhatsApp: Note after DGP meet

SRINATH RAO
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 9

FROM KEEPING A watch on universities where people may indulge in "activities threatening the country's integrity" to infiltrating their WhatsApp groups — these are among the many initiatives listed in a note circulated to top police officers in states after the annual conference of Directors General of Police (DGPs) and Inspectors General of Police (IGPs) held in December in Pune and addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Police officers who attended the conference and who later reviewed the set of directives told *The Indian Express* that the objective is to be aware of activities taking place on university campuses. "Emphasis has been laid at the conference on being in touch with the student community, to have prior knowledge of any potentially sensitive situation and prepare for it. We should not be caught in a situation where someone springs a surprise on us," said a DGP who attended the conference, but did not want to be named.

These instructions are part of a lengthy list of the 'action points' which were recently circulated to police forces across the country after the three-day-long conference at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research in Pune between December 6 and 8, 2019. Each police station

PSA file indicts Omar for getting people to vote

Says Mehbooba known as 'Daddy's girl' for 'dangerous machinations'

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 9

OMAR ABDULLAH'S ability to "convince his electorate to vote in huge numbers" and Mehbooba Mufti being "referred (to) as 'Daddy's girl' and 'Kota Rani'" for "her dangerous and insidious machinations and usurping profile and nature" are among the reasons cited by the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) administration for invoking the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) against the two former chief ministers.

The PSA dossier prepared by the police on National Conference leader Omar Abdullah says that "the capacity of the subject to influence people for any cause can be gauged from the fact that he was able to convince his electorate to come out and vote in huge numbers even during the peak of militancy and poll boycotts".

While hailing the Centre's decision to revoke J&K's special status under Article 370 as a "historic decision", the dossier has accused Abdullah of trying to stoke public anger to trigger violent protests.

"Despite the fact that the



Under detention since August last year

subject has been a mainstream politician, he has been planning his activities against the Union of India under the guise of politics. And while enjoying the support of gullible masses, he has been successful in execution of such activities," it says. "After revocation of Article 370 and Article 35A, in order to secure support of common people, the subject removed all covers/curtains and while resorting to his dirty politics has adopted a radical methodology by way of instigating general masses against the policies of central government".

The PSA dossier on PDP leader Mehbooba Mufti, who headed the PDP-BJP coalition

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RELATED REPORT
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Security outside a counting centre in Delhi on Sunday, two days ahead of results. *Gajendra Yadav*

EC says Delhi final turnout 62.59%, AAP questions 'delay'



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

THE ELECTION Commission announced on Sunday evening that the final voter turnout in the Delhi Assembly elections was 62.59%. With the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) questioning the "delay" in announcing the final turnout earlier in the day, the poll panel said it had followed the "laid down process" to compile data.

While the turnout in Delhi in

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the 2015 Assembly elections was 67.12%, it fell to 60.5% in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

CHINA TOLL 811

Coronavirus: Modi writes to Xi, offers help



Coronavirus patients at a hospital in Wuhan, China. *Reuters*

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

AS THE coronavirus death toll in China climbed to 811 on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered "assistance" to Chinese President Xi Jinping "to face the challenge".

This is their first communication on the issue since the outbreak last month. Expressing solidarity with the "Chinese President and the people of China", Modi, in a letter to Xi, offered his condolence at the loss of lives due to the outbreak.

Sources said Modi offered India's assistance to face the challenge, and also conveyed appreciation to the Chinese government for facilitating the evacuation of Indian citizens from Hubei province.

In April 2018, the two leaders had met in Wuhan for the first informal summit.

According to the latest data released by the Chinese authorities, 89 deaths were reported on Saturday — the highest single-day death toll — taking the total toll to 811, and there were 2,656 new confirmed cases. The number of confirmed infections has now touched 37,198.

China's National Health Commission said in its daily report that the coronavirus toll has

EXPLAINED

Reaching out

ALMOST FOUR months after Modi and Xi, at their meeting in Mahabalipuram, agreed to enhance strategic communication on all matters of mutual interest, India is invoking the "Chennai connect" as it reaches out to Beijing. The offer of help is part of India's diplomatic toolkit since it has robust experience in the medical and pharmaceutical sectors.

RELATED REPORTS
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surpassed the number of fatalities in the 2002-03 SARS epidemic, that started in southern China and killed over 700 people in the mainland, Hong Kong and elsewhere.

Modi's offer of assistance came three days after the Ministry of External Affairs

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As Shaheen Bagh took centre stage in the high-octane campaign in the Capital, *The Indian Express* travelled from West Bengal, Ground Zero of the NRC debate, to UP, which saw the most deaths in the crackdown. To find out how Shaheen Bagh plays out, how the protests unite — and divide

FROM THE PICKET LINES

AN EXPRESS SERIES-PART I



At a protest in Sherghati Hamzapur, Bihar

Bangla border to Lucknow via Gaya: CAA protests aren't just about CAA

VANDITA MISHRA
KOLKATA, GIRIDIH, SASARAM, LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 9

AT PRECISELY 5.17 pm on January 30, at a days-old dharna that calls itself "anishchitkaleen (indefinite)" even as it hugs, precariously, the edge of the Gaya-

Sasaram highway in Bihar, participants from village Sherghati Hamzapur lit candles and observed a two-minute silence.

The flickering lights and the sudden hush in the winter dusk were a mark of respect for the Father of the Nation, assassinated by Nathuram Godse 72 years ago.

The banner behind a small table that doubled as a stage bore portraits of Gandhi, Ambedkar and Maulana Azad. Miniature Tricolour flags fluttered overhead, and posters said No CAA, No NRC, No NPR. Another poster bore a more fundamental assertion: "Jahan paida hue wahan dafan bhi honge (we will be

buried in the land we were born in)." And a touch of the apocalyptic: "Jeet gaye to watan mubarak, haar gaye to kafan mubarak (if we win we win our homeland, if we lose we lose everything)."

Yet, more insistently than apocalypse or Shaheen Bagh, the protesters of Sherghati

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THE GOVERNANCE PAGE



A SAFE DIGITAL VAULT FOR DOCUMENTS
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At Mumbai station, a room to help drivers get back on track



Soothing lights, candles, paintings in the tranquility room

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

IRAM SIDDIQUE
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 9

JUST ABOVE the bustling Churchgate station, where a thousand local trains pull in and out, ferrying over a million people all day, a sound-proof area has been carved out of the motorman's lobby.

With soothing lights, candles and paintings, this is the new

'tranquility room', where every motorman is expected to meditate for a few minutes before piloting local trains through the heavily congested 120-km-long suburban network that extends from Churchgate to Dahanu.

The tranquility room is one of the many measures initiated by the Western Railway's Mumbai division to reduce stress among motormen after the division reported a spike in instances of local trains overshooting signals.

Every instance of a motorman losing focus and bringing

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Images are from Award Launch Ceremony, ITC, New Delhi

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