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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.

As the 70 Assembly constituencies in Delhi voted on Saturday, several polling stations saw a rush beyond 6 pm. At 6.30 pm on Saturday, the poll panel had given the estimated turnout as 61.91%.

With no final word from the EC till afternoon on Sunday, AAP chief and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted: "What is EC doing? Why are they not releasing poll turnout figures, several hours after polling?"

Addressing a press conference in the afternoon, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said the party feared a "deep conspiracy". "Till now, whenever elections have been held, the EC would declare the voting percentage. It

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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
PAGE 11

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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 wahin 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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE GOVERNANCE PAGE



A SAFE DIGITAL VAULT FOR DOCUMENTS
PAGE 10

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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KANHA SHANTIVANAM

Just outside Hyderabad, an ashram offers meditation form President Kovind, PV Sindhu practise

VIDEO OF THE DAY



FLASH MOB FOR LIFE INSURANCE

Youngsters perform a flash mob for LIC at a mall in Kandivali

FULL COVERAGE



GANDHINAGAR'S FIRST PRIDE PARADE

Rainbow flags, balloons & placards: What it looked like

EXPRESS AUDIO

The concerns about the Genome India Project

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In today's episode of the 3 Things episode, we talk why gene-mapping has been controversial in the past and discuss the possible implications for this project in India

Punjab: Ban on movie for 'promoting violence'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 9

PUNJAB CHIEF Minister Amarinder Singh has ordered a ban on Punjabi movie 'Shooter', based on the life and crimes of notorious gangster Sukha Kahlwan, saying that it 'promotes violence, heinous crimes, extortion, threats and criminal intimidation'.

The order to ban the movie was given on Sunday, a state government statement said. The CM has also directed DGP Dinkar Gupta to look into the possible action that could be initiated against one of the film's producers, KV Dhillon, who had reportedly expressed in writing in 2019 that he would shelve the movie.

It further said that Amarinder has made it clear that his government will not allow "any movies, songs that seek to promote crime, violence and gangster culture in the state, which had flourished during the Akali regime, under the patronage of SAD leaders".

The producer had earlier given a commitment to shelve the movie after the Mohali police received a complaint about the movie glorifying gangster Kahlwan, who used to describe himself as a "sharp shooter" and was allegedly involved in more than 20 cases, including those of murder, kidnapping and extortion. He was shot dead by gangster Vicky Gounder and his aides on January 22, 2015, while being brought back to Patiala jail after a court hearing in Jalandhar.

Bengal Governor links availability of explosives to election violence

Kolkata: West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday voiced concern over the recent cases of recovery of explosives, and wondered if elections could be held without violence in the state under the circumstances. Civic polls in Bengal are scheduled to be held later this year and Assembly polls are due in 2021.

"West Bengal has produced so many noted personalities and Nobel Laureates which no other state has done. How can this land become a place for violence? Whenever there is a blast, my heart bleeds. It (blast) causes loss to people. How can explosives be so freely available here? If that is the case then how can elections be non-violent here? We have to look into this," Dhankhar said on the sidelines of an event here.

FROM PAGE ONE

Omar Abdullah

government in the state before the two parties parted ways in June 2018, says: "(The) subject is recognised as hot-headed and scheming person, known for dangerous and insidious machinations.... She has been promoting separatism as corroborated by several confidential reports filed by (intelligence) agencies... The subject is referred, for her dangerous and insidious machinations and usurping profile and nature, by the masses as 'Daddy's girl' and 'Kota Rani', based on the profile of a medieval queen of Kashmir, who rose to power by virtue of undertaking intrigues ranging from poisoning of her opponents to ponyardings (sic)."

While terming the creation of PDP as dubious, the dossier says the "green colour of the party flag reflects (its) radical origin". It claims that the PDP's symbol (inkpot and pen) has "been taken from Muslim United Front" — an alliance of several parties including the Jamat-e-Islami which contested the 1987 elections against the NC-Congress alliance.

It also lists Mufti's refusal to sign a bond, stating that she will not talk about the scrapping of Article 370, as among the reasons for invoking PSA against her. Quoting her tweets on triple talaq, lynchings and the curbs on civilian movement in February last year to allow unhindered movement of security convoys in the Valley, it says she has been issuing "provocative statements that led to incitement of violence" and accuses her of invoking religion to create a divide.

The two former chief ministers have been under preventive detention since August 5 last year, when the Centre announced abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two union territories — Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir.

They were booked under the PSA on the night of February 6. Sources said the government took the decision since it was becoming "legally untenable" to keep them under preventive detention for longer.

The reasons cited in the police dossier are also reflected in the grounds of detention listed by District Magistrate (Srinagar) Shahid Iqbal Choudhary. Omar's father, Farooq Abdullah, former chief minister and currently a member of Lok Sabha, was booked under the PSA in September last year.

The PSA allows the administration to detain a person without trial for three to six months. It was promulgated in 1978 by a government led by Farooq Abdullah's father and then Chief Minister Sheikh Abdullah as an administrative measure aimed at keeping timber smugglers "out of circulation".

However, it has been misused by the successive governments against political opponents and to stifle dissent.

CAA protests

Hamzapur invoked India's Constitution.

"We believe that Articles 14, 15 and 21 are violated by the (citizenship amendment) law. If you are giving someone citizenship, we have no problem, but you are playing with Article 15," said Masroor Alam, referring to the constitutional right against discrimination on grounds of religion.

Alam, who as a "JP senani" was jailed during the Jayaprakash Narayan-led uprising against the then Congress government in the '70s, is convenor of the "Samvidhan Bachao Nagrik Morcha", an outfit recently floated to oppose the citizenship law that fast-tracks citizenship for six minorities from three neighbouring countries while excluding Muslims, as well as the proposed National Register of Citizens, which would set cut-off dates, demand proof of citizenship.

Both Alam and his fellow protesters make an effort to frame their opposition as one that does not speak only of, or only to, Muslims. "Ghar be jaate hain, paani kisi ko bakhshna nahin (floodwaters don't spare anyone). The poor, SCs-STs, don't have documents," said Noorul Huda, retired government employee.

The sit-in by the highway was smaller, but not very different from that in Shantibagh in Gaya town, over 40 km from there, or at other sites farther away that The Indian Express visited in the journey from Kolkata to Lucknow — the large protests in Kolkata's Park Circus, Gaya's Shanti Bagh and Old Lucknow's Ghanta Ghar, to the not-so-large dharnas in Dhanbad's Vasseypur, Mohalla Bhandaridih in Giridih and Bhai Khan Ka Bagh in Sasaram.

For one, they are all located in Muslim-dominated localities — in a public maidan or makeshift clearing, or sliced by the busy road, as in Bhandaridih.

But if the locale is "Muslim", the language of the protest at each and every site asserts — even as it seeks — larger solidarities.

At Kolkata's Park Circus, many emphasise that the maidan hosts both the namaz and the pooja pandal. Posters and banners frame signs and symbols of the Constitution and the founding fathers, not any political party or religion. A banner spells it out at Park Circus politely: "Kindly leave your party affiliation and banner outside the gate. Thank you."

Across dharnas, there is a notable presence of women, many with children who run around and play or read their school-books — some recite a poem in the break between speeches. Many women say they have not stepped out of home to participate in a public protest before this.

But most of all, the similarity across the anti-CAA-NRC-NPR protests is that they are not simply about the CAA, NRC or NPR.

Even as they express opposition to a citizenship law seen as discriminatory, and to proposed nationwide NRC process that grievously fumbled in its first rollout, they are more than just about law and an undue process. They are, really, about a distilled message and perception — of exclusion — that has travelled far and touched deep in India's minority community. And become the centre of a vortex of insecurities.

In 2014, the election of the Modi government with a large majority, and its re-election last year stoked these insecurities.

But what appears to make the CAA-NRC moment different for Muslims, seemingly across gender, place and profession, is that the law and the proposed register strike at that most essential of ideas, most primal of comforts — home and citizenship.

It also comes when distrust of the Modi government deepened on the back of decisions that were either seen to target Muslims —

Coronavirus: Modi writes to Xi, offers help

spokesperson said that, if asked, the Indian government would be ready to provide help to China.

Sources said that India, known for its pharmaceutical and medical expertise, is "well placed" to help China at this critical hour. Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla had conveyed the offer at a meeting with the Chinese Ambassador to India Sun Weidong on Friday. "Glad to meet w/ Indian Foreign Secretary

@harshvshringla. Discussed promotion of China-India relations, especially bilateral coordination & cooperation on combat against #coronavirus," the Chinese envoy had tweeted after meeting Shringla.

Earlier this month, India evacuated 647 Indians and seven Maldivian nationals from Hubei province and its capital, Wuhan, on two special Air India flights. The government had also asked all Indian citizens to "refrain" from travelling to

China. In a clear clampdown on Chinese nationals travelling to India, India has cancelled all existing valid visas for Chinese and foreigners who visited the country in the last two weeks. On February 2, India had temporarily suspended e-visa facility for Chinese travellers and foreigners residing in China.

As New Delhi evacuated Indian citizens, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had spoken to Chinese State Councillor

and Foreign Minister Wang Yi. Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong had quoted Wang as telling Jaishankar during their phone conversation that "all should play a constructive role. We don't think it is helpful for a certain country to hype up the situation, or even create panic". Sun had quoted Jaishankar as saying that "it is important to evaluate the outbreak in an objective and rational manner and not take actions that may complicate the situation".

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

has been 24 hours since voting in the Delhi Assembly elections ended, but the EC is not ready to announce the voting percentage. This is pointing towards a deep conspiracy. The EC should explain why it has not announced the voting percentage yet. This is the first time in the history of 70 years that the EC is not ready to announce the voting percentage," he said.

Hours later, Delhi Chief Electoral Officer Ranbir Singh and Deputy Election Commissioner Sandeep Saxena addressed a press conference in the evening, where they released the final figures. Denying any delay, Saxena said: "We wanted to come out with accurate figure rather than speculating. This is not uncommon and we are not late... This is not about early or delay. This is a laid down process."

Earlier, Delhi CEO Singh also denied any delay. "Data is being entered by returning officers into the system. Scrutiny is also being done alongside. Officials have worked through the night

to bring the EVMs to strongrooms and to tabulate the data. To a large extent, the exercise is over. The data that is being submitted by presiding officers is being updated," he said.

Singh said there was no "extraordinary" delay, and the figures were being updated on the voter turnout mobile application regularly.

While an EC official, who did not want to be named, admitted a delay, he attributed it to the application introduced by the poll panel for recording the turnout. "It's taking officers a little time to enter data into the application. That's all. During the Lok Sabha elections, there were some complaints of discrepancies between provisional and final turnout data. So officers are being extra-cautious," said the official.

But Delhi Health Minister and Shakur Basti candidate Satyendra Jain questioned the data shared on the mobile application. "After compilation of form 17c for 143 booths, total 98,012 out of 144,777 votes

polled in my constituency (Shakurbasti), that works out to be 67.7% votes, whereas the EC website shows only 49.19% polling. Why hasn't the official polling data been released even 22 hours after polling," he tweeted earlier in the day.

The turnout in the constituency was later updated to 67.6%. The Delhi CEO said officials had started uploading data since morning. "The process started in the morning and was completed at around 7 pm," he said.

While Ballimaran recorded the highest turnout (71.6%), Delhi Cantonment saw the lowest turnout (45.4%).

Responding to AAP's allegation that two EVMs were found in the possession of officials on election duty after polling, Singh said these were "reserved machines" and had not been used for polling. He said the district election office has submitted a report in this connection.

"The sector officer of the area was issued two sets of re-

served machines, which were not used during the polls. In one case, the vehicle was 500 metres away from the polling station. The official kept one machine in the vehicle and walked back to get the other one. When he was bringing the second machine back, people saw him and surrounded him, asking what he was doing with EVMs after polling. Police were called and the official later submitted the machines at the strongroom," Singh said.

Meanwhile, the BJP's Delhi unit condemned the AAP's criticism. "In the last one week, AAP leaders realised that they are losing ground. But the exit polls of TV channels, which came out even before completion of voting, gave AAP new hope. The exit polls, which came out soon after 6 pm, must have been based on voter reactions of up to 3 pm or 4 pm polling, and hence are not fully reliable," said Praveen Shankar Kapoor, Delhi BJP spokesperson.

All exit polls have predicted the AAP's return to power.

triple talaq and abrogation of Article 370, and the court's handing over of the site of the demolished masjid in Ayodhya for the mandir — or had hurt vulnerable sections of the minority community disproportionately, like the disruption of demonetisation and bungled transition to GST. "Humko bedakhal aur beghar kiya ja raha hai. Yeh wajood ki ladai hai (We are being ousted. This is about our very existence)," is the underlying strain.

Nobody knows where this moment will go, and how it will end.

But for now, the legal fact that the CAA provides and doesn't take away citizenship offers no comfort. Prime Minister Modi's statement that there is no talk of an NRC holds little assurance. Minority fears and anxieties have the sharpest edge in West Bengal, where the border with Bangladesh and Assam's botched NRC loom closest, and the CAA-NRC have become the prime currency of political exchange between the ruling TMC and challenger BJP.

At the Park Circus Maidan dharna, on since January 7, Baby Razia, who divides her time between a job in the corporation and the protests, says, "We should have come out before. I have voter ID, Aadhaar, PAN, now where will I get the birth certificates of my parents? I recently discovered Rs 17,000 that I had kept away from everyone's gaze in my closet, till demonetisation made it useless. We tolerated everything: Notebandi, GST, triple talaq, mandir. Now, look at Assam, will we have to go to a (detention) camp?"

Not far, in Ripon Street, where black tangles of electricity cables overhang neighbourhoods and interrupt the sky, Ashrafi, who is preparing for the civil services, says she, too, attended the Park Circus protest. "I have never done

this before. But when I went to meet a principal of a college dressed in a burqa recently, the watchman said to me, are you carrying a bomb. Why would he say that? This government's nationalism is measured by the anger it shows against Pakistan."

"Women are coming out more because of demonetisation ka khunnas (exasperation). And because they think it has now come down to their children," says Anjum, who ghostwrites novels.

In Eksahara village in Howrah, Jahid Malik asks: "If in Assam, even the name of a Kargil hero was left out of the list of citizens, what is the guarantee my name will be in it?" And "if centuries of proof couldn't save the Babri masjid, will we be able to protect our citizenship by showing 70 years' worth of documents?" says Mehraj Alam.

Away from Kolkata and Bengal, too, opposition to CAA-NRC remains the thin end of a bulker fear in the Muslim mohalla in Jharkhand, Bihar and UP.

At the dhama which began on January 2 in Wasseypur, Dhanbad, under a shamiana festooned with saffron, green and white balloons, Abu Talha, part-time teacher, says, "This will be a long fight. Because this is the biggest humiliation of all. Can documents be the criteria of belonging?"

In village Bagodar of Giridih district, Mohammad Ansari, a driver who has become jobless recently, says, "There was talk here in Jharkhand that we would have to show land records before 1932 to prove we are original Jharkhandis, but that died down. Now the Centre has started this." Both Hindus and Muslims have reason to fear, says Mohammad Ismail, but "sarkar ki mammani (government whim)" hurts Muslims more — because "they can dub us bahri ghuspaitiye

(outsiders and infiltrators)".

There is a new anxiety in her household, says Sadaf Taquaddus, a student in Sasaram who works as a radio announcer in Prasar Bharati. "My brother studied in Jamia, still lives in Jamia Nagar. We want to live with everyone without apprehension. My grandmother in Jehanabad adopted a Yadav boy. I don't want that India to change."

Sadaf says she recently sat for the teachers' eligibility test. "My job prospects are already dim. This is what needs attention. We have already given our fingerprints, our biometrics."

And "what is the guarantee that you (government) will accept them (documents)?" SNMRizvi, businessman, points to the core of the disbelief that has been given a name by the CAA-NRC.

(TOMORROW: WHY PROTESTS IN THE MARGINS, AMONG HINDUS AN UNQUIET INDIFFERENCE)

WhatsApp

is required to list the actions it has taken over the course of the year with regard to these objectives. The action taken reports will then be collated and analysed by each state and agency and submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs before the next conference.

Another senior IPS officer said maintaining a watch on WhatsApp conversations is standard policing practice. "At every level, we make sure our people are part of WhatsApp groups run by different political parties, by those of right-wing and left-wing thought, of Muslims, Dalits, trade and labour unions, students and other organisations and bodies planning protests or demonstrations," said the official.

The directives, which have since been conveyed to senior police officers, also include reading tweets and retweets of citizens to analyse public mood, a proposal

Mumbai station

the train to a halt before the signal is treated as an 'averted collision' — termed Signal Passing at a Danger Mark (SPAD) — and often ends with a departmental inquiry and the motorman losing his job. Between 2006 and 2019, there were 44 instances of SPAD on the suburban section of Western Railway. In the three months between August and November 2019, there were at least three such instances that led to alarm bells ringing within the railway administrative circle.

Soon after taking over the reins of the Mumbai division in November last year, Divisional Railway Manager GVL Satyakumar held day-long sessions with various field staff to get to the root of SPADs. By the end of the session, it came to light that the motormen in the division were broadly either those who had been directly recruited to the job (and who lived in Mumbai), and those who had been promoted as motormen after serving as loco pilots for goods trains (LP Goods) in suburban Mumbai.

Many of the LP Goods drivers with families in Vapi, Valsad and Udhna, areas that lie beyond the suburbs of Mumbai, would travel for two hours or more to reach the Borivali or Churchgate lobbies, sign in for the day and then travel by train to stations such as Virar or Dahanu to start their duty. A lobby is a place where motormen are assigned their trains for the day.

Trains start from different stations such as Churchgate, Mahalaxmi, Andheri, Borivali, Malad and Virar, but until recently, there were only two lobbies for motormen, one at Churchgate and the other at Borivali. But now, with a new lobby in Virar, motormen starting their duty from here can cut down on their travel time.

Satyakumar said, "Some motormen stay beyond Virar and they had to travel to Borivali or Churchgate to reach their lobby and get back to pick up their trains. The new lobby has been created to reduce their fatigue."

Mumbai suburban has a strength of 500 motormen, of whom 200 start their trips from Churchgate and 250 from Borivali, with 50 motormen being assigned to the new lobby at Virar.

During his first visit to the motormen and guards' lobby at Churchgate, Satyakumar says he found several motormen resting on haphazardly placed couches, waiting their trains. The bags of the motormen shared space in the lobby — a 924-sq-foot space for over 200 staff — with the 'lost and found' property.

"The idea behind the tranquility room was to drastically change the ambience from where they start work by making it clean, clam and composed for their mental health. It is an extremely stressful job. With hundreds of people trespassing, the run-overs also leave a deep psychological impact," said Satyakumar.

To change the lobby in the space-starved Churchgate building, two offices of ticket examiners were relocated to the other side of the building.

With the lobby now spread across 1,300 sq feet, motormen will have more resting area. The tranquility room will have cushions for motormen to kneel and meditate, with chairs for those who prefer it that way. According to Satyakumar, the tranquility room will also come up at Borivali and Virar lobbies.

Yogesh Vyas, secretary of Running Staff at Churchgate said, "The new lobby at Virar will be a huge relief to motormen by cutting down on their travel time. But the time a motorman spends meditating should be made part of their duty hours."

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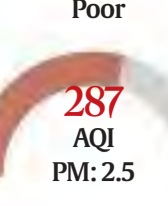
3 THE CITY



0-50 Good

ANAND VIHAR

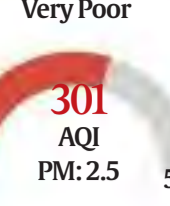
Poor



51-100 Satisfactory

SIRIFORT

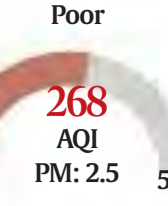
Very Poor



101-200 Moderate

SHADIPUR

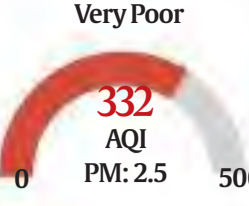
Poor



201-300 Poor

DWARKA-SECTOR 8

Very Poor



301-400 Very poor

401-500 Severe

Eight-floor OPD block at AIIMS for six specialities, more depts to follow soon

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

STARTING MONDAY, AIIMS will be offering treatment to patients visiting the departments of medicine, psychiatry, endocrinology, dermatology, orthopaedics and geriatrics at its new OPD Block in Masjid Moth. The AIIMS administration Sunday shifted OPD services of these departments from the Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (RAK) OPD to the new building.

According to officials, the new eight-floor OPD, located 500 metres away from the existing campus, can cater to over 3,000 patients. Once all departments are shifted to the building, officials said it can accommodate around 10,000 patients on a daily basis.

"On Sunday, we shifted six departments so that patients can start coming to the new block. We have also shifted the Employee's Health Scheme counters to the new block. The new OPD will also be called RAK. The old building had constraints of space and other facilities," said a senior official from AIIMS.

The medical institute is already working to revamp the existing campus. The redevelopment plan includes a new convention centre, a guest house with 40 rooms, a hostel with more than 4,500 rooms and 500 residential units with car park-



Officials said the eight-floor OPD can presently cater to over 3,000 patients, and once all the departments are shifted, it can accommodate around 10,000 patients daily. Express

ing. "By the end of this month, the remaining departments will also shift to the new building. We will gradually start shifting the facilities to the new block," he added. The block will also house a high-end diagnostics lab, which will reduce the follow-up visits for patients.

The institute has already put up several notices across the campus and on the hospital's website to inform patients about the shift. "We are informing patients through the online system and are sending out SMSes to update them. Special patient care coordinators and security guards will be placed in the campus to

guide patients of these six OPDs to the new block. We also have Mudrika bus services to transport patients from the old to the new OPD," said an official.

Registration will be done on the ground floor, while the departments will operate on the 1st, 2nd and 8th floors. "To access the OPD, patients can also use the South Extension entry and the South Extension Metro station, which is a few metres away," said the official.

Established in 1956, the institute is spread over 213 acres of land. At present, it has more than 2,400 beds and witnesses a daily footfall of almost 15,000 patients and their attendants.

Pause Central Vista revamp, discuss first, says CPI(M)

New Delhi: The CPI(M) Sunday asked the BJP-led Centre to put the redevelopment of the Central Vista in Delhi on hold and discuss the proposed project in Parliament first, as it concerns the expansion and reconstruction of the Parliament building.

In a statement, it asked the government to "lift the veil from the proposed project... Apart from citizens, the Parliament will get most affected. It is imperative the government must discuss the project details in the ongoing Budget session. Such a historic and important proposal should not be rushed through."

Arguing that the land in consideration for the project belongs to the people and the government is just the custodian, it said, "There is a genuine concern among citizens that the project has been designed in an ambiguous manner. It is the government's responsibility to provide certain facts to Parliament and the public before going ahead with the project," it said and asked the Centre to come out with details such as the list of buildings intended to be demolished and proposed to be built, the total cost of the entire project and its year-wise outlay, among others. ENS

System that predicts air quality 72 hrs in advance developed

ANJALI MARAR
PUNE, FEBRUARY 9

A TEAM of researchers, with funding from the Earth Sciences Ministry (MoES), has devised a system capable of almost accurately tracking variations in air quality in Delhi during events of biomass burning and correspondingly issuing timely forecasts up to 72 hours in advance. The newly-devised air quality prediction system is an upgrade over the one operated by MoES, which mainly detects the presence of PM2.5 dust particles. Every year between October and December, the air quality over Delhi drops to dangerous levels, triggering respiratory-related illnesses and hitting visibility.

A team of Pune-based scientists, led by Sachin Ghude of Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), along with those from Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU), Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), and researchers from Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, and National Centre for Atmospheric Research, USA, have jointly

worked on it. Using the three-dimensional Variational Data Analysis (3DVAR) devised by the group, the variations in PM2.5 level were tracked and validated during two winter seasons between 2017 and 2019.

Researchers say predicting air quality in advance over any region is difficult due to the direct link between local weather and the concentration of chemical gaseous matter that mix with the air. "Still, large uncertainties are present in the prediction of atmospheric aerosols and locating the emission inventories, and limited understanding in the formation of secondary aerosols, among other factors. Chemical data is needed in model assimilation, which has been found to provide better outputs in terms of real-time forecasts," stated the study by the researchers.

"Chemical data assimilation can boost operational weather forecast as the variability of PM2.5 over Delhi was found to be very large. Local weather also plays a major role in accurate forecast of PM2.5, which has high levels of uncertainties due to wind speeds at surface and inventory chemicals," the researchers said.

AT SHALIMAR BAGH

45-yr-old kills his 2 children, jumps in front of Metro train

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

A 45-YEAR-OLD man allegedly killed his two children before committing suicide by jumping in front of a Metro train in North West Delhi's Shalimar Bagh Sunday evening. Police said the man, Madhur Malani, was depressed.

According to police, Malani's body was found at Haiderpur Badli Mor Metro station at 5:47 pm, but he couldn't be identified for a while. The bodies of his children, aged 6 and 14, were discovered by their mother. Around 6:54 pm, Malani's wife, Rupali, called police and told them about the incident.

DCP (North West) Vijayanta Arya said, "Rupali left home around 3:30 pm and went to a



Police said Malani was depressed

local market. When she returned home, she found the door locked from the outside, and asked the landlord for a spare key to open it. Upon entering, she saw the bodies of her two children — Shreyansh (6) and Samiksha (14). We suspect they were

strangled. The family lived in a rented 2-BHK apartment in East Shalimar Bagh. The bodies were found in different rooms. A case under IPC section 302 (murder) has been registered."

Police suspect that Samiksha was allegedly smothered with a pillow and strangled. Investigators are waiting for the post-mortem report, which will be conducted on Monday, for more clarity.

Rupali told police that her husband owned a sandpaper factory but had recently lost the business. A senior police officer said, "His wife said he was depressed because he was jobless. The family was dependent on Malani's relatives financially. Malani had been unemployed for over six months."

Police said they initiated a search operation for Malani and

made announcements near Metro stations and bus stops. "We were looking for him when a policeman from Shalimar Bagh heard of a suicide at a nearby Metro station. The body was lying at the morgue, unidentified. Later, police personnel from Shalimar Bagh found that Malani had committed suicide at Haiderpur Metro station," said a senior police officer.

Harinder Singh, DCP (Metro), said, "After the man jumped in front of a moving train, we took his body to a nearby hospital but the doctors declared him dead on arrival. We didn't find a suicide note from the spot."

Police said they didn't find a suicide note from his house either. Malani's parents live in Delhi. The couple had shifted to Shalimar Bagh around two years ago.

BRIEFLY

Coronavirus: US-bound flyer admitted

New Delhi: A 54-year-old woman travelling to the US via Beijing has been admitted to RML Hospital as a suspected case of coronavirus after she developed respiratory tract infection.

Woman shot dead

Gurgaon: A 35-year-old woman, who was former chief of BJP's Charkhi Dabri district, was shot dead Saturday, with cops suspecting her husband. ENS

Record peak power demand

New Delhi: Delhi's peak power demand has set a new record this winter, up by over 19% to a new high of 5,343 MW. PTI



WINGS CLIPPED

At the weekly pigeon market in Jafrabad, Sunday, where the price of the birds ranges from Rs 200 to 50,000. Abhinav Saha

21-yr-old drug dealer operating through the 'dark web' arrested

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

A 21-YEAR-OLD from Lucknow, an operative of one of the biggest illegal drug markets on the 'dark web', was arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on January 31. As per the NCB, the accused, Dipu Singh, is India's first narcotics vendor on the 'dark web' to be caught and has allegedly sold drugs through medical suppliers in India and third-party vendors all over the world.

"Dark web" is that part of the internet which cannot be accessed by ordinary search engines, and is used for illegal activities like buying drugs, hacking accounts, among others.

NCB Deputy Director General

Rajesh Nandan Srivastava said Singh has sold psychotropic drugs to clients in Romania, UK, USA, Spain and a few other European countries. In December 2019 alone, NCB officials from Delhi and Mumbai seized over 55,000 tablets of psychotropic tablets, worth Rs 45 lakh, from Delhi, Mumbai and UK.

In December 2018, officials said Singh, son of a retired Army officer in Lucknow, allegedly became a vendor on two online portals, Empire Market and Majestic Garden, on the dark web. Over 600 parcels had been sent via this network.

Alerted to the illegal supply, the International Narcotics Control Board started an investigation last December to gather information from officers in dif-

ferent countries about the shipments. On January 31, Delhi officers seized a package in the capital and its source was traced to Lucknow. A team caught Singh from his house and seized his drug supplies.

A senior officer told *The Indian Express*, "We found that Singh's name was listed as an active vendor on Empire Market. His user name was Mr Robo. We created fake IDs and tried to purchase a few drugs. He then sent a message to us on WhatsApp about consignment."

Raids were conducted in Lucknow's Alam Bagh and Singh was found. "Under the garb of his initial medicine business on the dark web, he sold psychotropic medicines," said Zonal Director (Operations) KPS Malhotra.

Congress MP says party may have made a pact with AAP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

A DAY after the exit polls predicted a massive victory for Arvind Kejriwal in the Delhi polls, Congress's Rajya Sabha MP K T S Tulsi said his party may have deliberately conceded ground to AAP so that votes are not split three ways in the capital. Tulsi said Congress might win a seat or two in Muslim-dominated constituencies.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, he said, "I don't have any personal information but based on media reports, it seems a few Congress candidates analysed the results a day before polling and made a secret pact with AAP over switching the votes. The candidates might have thought even if they received 10,000 votes, it may benefit BJP at the end." The statement comes two days before the counting of votes on February 11.

"All this would have been done discreetly so no one comes to know about it. The situation may have been beneficial for those who were sure of not winning in their constituencies," he added.

On Congress's performance, he said the party might be able



KTS Tulsi is a Rajya Sabha MP

to win on some Muslim dominated seats. "Leaders like Alka Lamba (Chandni Chowk), Haroon Yusuf (Ballimaran) and Arvinder Singh Lovely (Gandhi Nagar) might win in their respective constituencies. Alka seems to have an edge over her competitors, similarly Haroon and Lovely are popular faces on the ground," he added.

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury also backed the AAP and told reporters that victory for the party in Delhi polls "will be a win for the agenda of development." He also claimed the communal agenda of BJP will come to an end if the party loses the elections.

Responding to Tulsi's comments, a senior AAP leader said he was mistaken. "Congress will barely get 2% of the vote share. They have no presence on the ground. It is ridiculous to say that AAP candidates had a pact with their candidates," the leader said.

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(08 Feb 1963 - 10 Feb 1994)

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Commanding Officer and All Ranks 3 GRENADIERS

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4 DECISION 2020 DELHI



THE WAIT

After weeks of relentless campaigning, candidates of all three parties have a window to catch their breath – until February 11, when results are announced

A LAZY morning after sleeping eight hours straight; curling up with a book; watching a movie; playing cricket under the soft glow of the retreating winter sun; or catching up with loved ones – for the city's MLA aspirants, Sunday was about rediscovering the small joys of life following the high-octane Delhi Assembly poll campaign.

With their fate sealed in EVMs, candidates from the AAP, BJP and Congress spent much of the day relaxing, while also touching base with the rank and file of their respective parties, keeping them motivated and issuing quick instructions to guard the strong rooms. Results will be declared on Tuesday.

For AAP's Atishi, Raghav Chadha and Dilip Pandey, the last 12 months have been one of the most intense periods of their lives. They led two campaigns each – the first time eyeing berths in the Lok Sabha, albeit unsuccessfully, and then emerging as MLA candidates over the recent months.

In conversations with *The Indian Express* on Sunday, the AAP leaders pointed out how campaigning for the Assembly polls was "much more manageable" but "intense". "The biggest difference was in the scale. During the Lok Sabha polls, I had to cover 10 Assembly seats alone. In that respect, campaigning for Assembly polls was much more manageable," said Atishi.

She pointed out how an Assembly constituency like Kalkaji, the one she's contesting from, can be covered within two days through roadshows and *padayatras*: "Moreover, you can meet the same sets of people more than once."

Pandey, who fought from the Timarpur constituency, seconded Atishi, noting that in terms of scale, the Assembly election campaign is 1/10th of the one mounted during the general elections.

"It is centred more around local issues. During Lok Sabha polls, you are not expected to go door-to-door, and that is not even possible. But in this case, every voter expects that you will come knocking or at least cover their lane. This is the toughness of the Assembly polls, but it also makes the campaign more effective and personalised. One needs to identify with each and every voter," he said.

While Atishi spent her morning reading a spy thriller, Pandey took out time to play a round of cricket with AAP's Karawal Nagar candidate Durgesh Pathak. Chadha also played cricket in a neighbourhood park, before setting out to meet Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at his official residence.

"We hadn't met for around a fortnight. So I went over to meet him. In terms of campaigning, during the Lok Sabha, the MLAs of the constituency I was contesting from assisted me. Here, I was running the show myself, not relying on anyone in particular," said Chadha.

Kejriwal, who contested from the New Delhi seat, met volunteers, workers and a few students from IIT-Delhi, before attending a wedding in the evening. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia was busy meeting AAP volunteers in Patparganj, the seat he's contesting from. Later, he shared pictures of him playing with his niece's daughter on Twitter.

While the gulf between the BJP and AAP may have widened during electioneering, BJP leaders too spent their Sunday away from the heat and dust of politics.

Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari spent the morning with his mother, who has been in Delhi the past week. "My mother has been staying with me for a week now, but I was not able to sit with her and catch up owing to my hectic schedule. Today, I did what I love most – engage in idle banter with her, reminiscing about old days," he said.



Clockwise from top-left: Deputy CM Manish Sisodia plays with his niece's daughter; CM Arvind Kejriwal at the wedding of the daughter of a former Delhi govt hospital medical superintendent; AAP's Atishi at home; AAP's Raghav Chadha plays cricket; Cong's Abhishek Dutt with his family; Cong's Alka Lamba at home; BJP's Sunil Yadav plays chess with his children; BJP's Vijender Gupta at a shopping mall; and Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari playing cricket (centre)

During the second half of the day, mediapersons and party workers came over to his residence and the afternoon was spent huddled with them, followed by a session of cricket. "Cricket and music are the best ways for me to re-energise myself," said the North East Delhi MP.

West Delhi MP Parvesh Sahib Singh, who had first levelled the "terrorist" jibe at Kejriwal during campaigning, said he started his day by visiting Gurdwara Rakab Ganj Sahib before attending a prayer meeting for senior RSS Pracharak Raj Narayan Pandey in Paschim Vihar.

BJP's Sunil Yadav, who contested from the New Delhi seat against Kejriwal, spent the morning in the gym, and then watched Hrithik Roshan-starrer *Super 30* with his children. "I saw a movie after a long time. I also played some chess. In the evening, I am planning to meet a few friends," he said.

BJP candidate from Hari Nagar, Tajinder Singh Bagga, often in the limelight for his controversial social media comments, slept till late and then went on to meet party workers to assess the ground situation. "I was running a fever over the past few days, but I took medicines and continued campaigning," he said.

After a series of rallies and *padayatras* across the Krishna Nagar constituency, BJP candidate Dr Anil Goyal spent the Sunday at another election – to choose the next pres-

ident and vice-president of the Delhi Medical Association (DMA).

A urologist, who also runs an 80-bed nursing home in Krishna Nagar, Goyal was the president of DMA in 2014-15. "I went to vote in the afternoon, then to my clinic to tend to patients. In the morning and late afternoon, I was at the party office. At night, I have to attend the engagement of a senior doctor's daughter," he said.

A few kilometres away at Madhu Vihar's Singla Sweets shop, AAP's Vishwas Nagar candidate Deepak Singla dropped by for a few minutes.

"I haven't returned to my sweet shop in a long while and can't till results come out. There's a lot of work. On Monday too, I'll be with agents. I just had time to visit the temple for a bit. I dropped by at the shop for a few minutes to see if all is okay," said the 33-year-old first-timer.

Over at the Congress camp, Kalkaji candidate and DPCC chief Subhash Chopra's daughter Shivani Chopra spent much of the day catching up with her family. Over the last fortnight, Chopra was on the roads, addressing public gatherings and rallies and going door-to-door to meet people.

Accustomed to her daily campaign routine, she said she woke up at 5 am on Sunday only to realise that elections are over. "I went back to sleep after I realised there is no cam-

paign schedule today. The last few days have been extremely energetic, yet hectic. For today, I have no other plans but to spend time with my family and complete some pending personal work... On Monday, I will again get back to election mode and analyse the polling and what the results will be," said Chopra, who was pitted against AAP's Atishi and BJP's Dharambir Singh.

Another Congress candidate, Radhika Kherra, who contested from Janakpuri, continued meeting locals and party workers through the day. "During campaigning, it was not possible to meet everyone, so I went to meet those who I could not during polls. I will still maintain contact with them. In the afternoon, we had a meeting to analyse the polling. There are other meetings planned in the evening too," said Kherra.

For Congress leader Abhishek Dutt, a two-time councillor and Kasturba Nagar candidate, the day after polls was spent with family and friends. Dutt, who has been on the ground addressing local issues and offering solutions to residents, said the results will prove the exit polls wrong. "I took a day off on Sunday and sat with my family, read books and slept for a while," he said.

REPORTING BY SOURAV ROY BARMAN, SUKRITA BARUAH, ABHINAV RAJPUT, ASTHA SAXENA, SOMYA LAKHANI

At strong rooms where EVMs kept, AAP tightens vigil

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

VOTES CAST by 90,98,337 people across 70 Assembly constituencies Saturday lie locked in 21 strong rooms set up by the Election Commission.

According to EC officials, the city has been divided into 11 regions – North, North-West, North-East, Shahdara, East, West, Central, South, South-West, South East and New Delhi. Within each, there are one or more locations that contain votes of the Assembly constituencies falling under it.

Most strong rooms are in public schools or government establishments. Each has heavy security deployment, and is fortified with barricades and barbed wire.

Amid allegations by the AAP of EVM tampering, the party announced their men will guard the rooms as well. Locals and security officials claimed party workers have been filtering in and out of the strong room locations, without being allowed inside.

At the strong room in Jija Bai Industrial Training Institute for Women in Siri Fort, an extra layer of barbed wire runs along the perimeter. Boards have also been placed to block regular view. A Delhi Police PCR van and armed CAPF guards man the entrance, stopping and checking any person who comes within 50 metres.

"As per EC guidelines, only an agent of the candidate is allowed in. We are not letting people hover around," said a security official.

At Akshardham, the entrance to the CWG village has more buzz than usual, as two DTC buses ferrying CAPF guards enter the compound. Curious residents walk up to the gates occasionally to have a look at the strong room. Armed guards will work in shifts as security measures will be in place till the counting is over.

5 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



THE PILGRIM

ON HIS India trip, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa is on a pilgrimage after holding bilateral talks with the Indian leadership. On Sunday, he offered prayers at the famous Kashi Vishwanath temple in Varanasi. He also visited Buddhist pilgrimage site Sarnath and paid tributes at the Dhamek Stupa, where Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon. He will also visit Tirupati.

THE SHIELD

LAST WEEK, during the acrimonious scenes in the Lok Sabha, it was BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, MP from Gonda, who jumped into the well of the House to "shield" Union Minister Harsh Vardhan. According to Congress MP Manickam Tagore, Singh had "pushed" him and "threatened to kill" him. But for BJP MPs, Singh is a hero. This is not the first time that Singh is at the centre of tussles inside the Lok Sabha. Earlier, on two occasions, he had to jump in to "save" members on his side — once when Nitish Kumar came under attack from some Opposition MPs and another instance when JD (U) MP Prabhunath Singh was confronted by angry RJD MPs. Interestingly, a wrestler himself, Singh is the president of Wrestling Federation of India.

ON THE JOB

THE GOVERNMENT took time to announce the Ramjanmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust but the Trust is not going to waste time. The newly established Trust has called its first meeting on February 19. The meeting is likely to discuss the future course of action for the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. Among other things, it is expected to deliberate on issues such as a permanent office for the Trust and the modalities of the Trust's functioning.



PAYING HOMAGE TO SANT RAVIDAS

BJP president J.P. Nadda pays tribute to Sant Ravidas on the occasion of his birth anniversary at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi on Sunday. Speaking at the event, Nadda said the party is committed to constructing a grand temple for the saint in the capital. The Delhi Development Authority had demolished the temple in Tughlakabad area on August 10 on the orders of the Supreme Court, triggering protests in several states. Prem Nath Pandey

RSS leader: To oppose BJP is not opposing Hindus

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PANAJI, FEBRUARY 9



Suresh Bhaiyyaji Joshi

"HINDUISM is not BJP, and to oppose BJP is not opposing Hindus. That's mere politics, and BJP should not be confused with the idea of Hindu," RSS general secretary Suresh Bhaiyyaji Joshi said on Sunday when asked if the current situation in the country is indicative of "Hindus becoming enemies of Hindus".

Joshi was speaking at the two-day conclave titled, Vishwaguru Bharat — an RSS perspective, at Dona Paula in Panaji. He took questions curated from a dropbox where the audience was asked to submit their questions. He answered queries on subjects like nationalism, Hindutva, scope of Sanskrit in school, status of the economy, the role of government and the citizens and the space women hold in the society.

In response to another question, he said, "These days there

is some sort of awakening towards reading of Constitution with citizens across the country being taught the book. This doesn't achieve the full result. Citizens also have responsibilities and there needs to be proper coordination between rights and responsibilities. The country will go ahead only if these two are followed together."

In answer to a question, Joshi said several times members of the Sangh have asked him if they will lose their government jobs. "I repeat, you will have to face some harassment, but you will not lose your government job. They say the Sangh is political, but what is the harm in being concerned about the nation or discussing the issues of the country?" he asked.

To a question on whether RSS was communal, he said, "Let them define the word communal. A community is about a group that worships only one God, has only one holy book. A Hindu can never be communal. If a situation arises where we have to build one temple, we will cease to be Hindus," he said.

Replying to a question on women's status in society, he replied, "We (Sangh) do not talk of the equality of women here. We believe everyone has a role, children have a role, youth have a role, pratibhashali (the talented) have a role, and women have a role. The responsibility of being a mother is very huge and a father cannot fulfill that role," he replied.

On non-Hindus joining the Sangh, Joshi said, "Anyone who wants to work for Hindus, for Bharat is welcome. We promise him a respected place, but no different status or place will be offered. He has to work for Hindus."

RSS veteran, orator, author P Parameswaran dies at 93

SHAJU PHILIP THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEBRUARY 9



Parameswaran was given the Padma Vibhushan in 2018

THINKER, ORATOR and one of the senior-most pracharakas of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) P. Parameswaran died at the age of 93 in Palakkad on Sunday.

Parameswaran, who had authored several works on Indian philosophy, had been given the Padma Shri in 2004 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2018.

His last rites will be held at his native village of Muhamma in Alappuzha on Monday. Mourners Parameswaran's death, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted, "an institution builder, Parameswaran Ji nurtured eminent institutions such as the Bharatheeya Vichara Kendram, Vivekananda Kendra and others. I am fortunate to have interacted with him many times. He was a towering intellectual. Anguished by his demise. Om Shanti." Expressing his condolences, Chief Minister Pinarayi

Vijayan said Parameswaran had been an ideologue who had dedicated his life for the philosophy which he had believed in. Union ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh also expressed their condolences.

Parameswaran, who played a pivotal role in popularising the Bhagavad Gita in Kerala, had taken to RSS ideology during his college days. He became a pracharak in the early 50s at the behest of then sarsanghchalak M.S. Golwalkar.

In 1957, Parameswaran was made the first state organising secretary of the erstwhile Bharatiya Jan Sangh and later went on to become its all-India general secretary and vice-president. During this time, he worked closely with several prominent leaders including RSS ideologue

Deendayal Upadhyaya, former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and senior leader L.K. Advani. Since 1977, he served as the director of the Deendayal Research Institute in New Delhi for four years.

He was jailed during the Emergency. In 1982, he returned to Kerala where he founded the Bharatheeya Vichara Kendram, which emerged as a centre of research aimed at national reconstruction. He remained its director till his death.

An erudite orator, Parameswaran delivered speeches across the country on philosophy, Hinduism and nationalism, among other topics. His literary works include 'Marx and Vivekananda: A comparative study' and 'From Marx to Maharshi and Bhagavad Gita - Vision of a New World Order'.

He was also associated with the Vivekananda Rock Memorial and the Vivekananda Kendra in Kanyakumari and was serving as its all-India president at the time of his death.

States not bound to give reservation in jobs, promotions: SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

THE SUPREME COURT has ruled that states are not bound to provide reservation in appointments and promotions and that there is no fundamental right to reservation in promotions.

A bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao and Hemant Gupta, which referred to earlier decisions of the court in this regard, said last week, "... Article 16 (4) and 16 (4-A) are in the nature of enabling provisions, vesting a discretion on the state government to consider providing reservation, if the circumstances so warrant. It is a settled law that the state government cannot be directed to provide reservation for appointment in public posts. Similarly, the state is not bound to make reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in matters of promotions."

"However, if they (state) wish to exercise their discretion and make such provision, the state has to collect quantifiable data showing inadequacy of representation..." the bench said.

It added that "if the decision of the state to provide reservations in promotion is challenged, the state concerned shall have to place before the court the requisite quantifiable data and satisfy the court that such reservations became necessary on account of inadequacy of representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in a particular class or

EXPLAINED

What the law says about reservation

ARTICLE 16(4) empowers the state to make any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the state, is not adequately represented in the services under the state. By way of the 77th Amendment Act. A new clause (4A) was introduced to Article 16, empowering the state to make provisions for reservation in matters of promotion to SC/ST employees if the state feels they are not adequately represented in services. The Supreme Court had upheld the amendment as constitutional.

classes of posts without affecting general efficiency of administration..."

The Supreme Court was deciding a group of appeals pertaining to reservations to SCs and STs in promotions in the posts of Assistant Engineer (Civil) in PWD, Uttarakhand.

The court said that "Article 16 (4) and 16 (4-A) empower the State to make reservation in matters of appointment and promotion in favour of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes 'if in the opinion of the State they are not adequately represented in the services of the State.'"

The judgment added that it is for the state government to decide whether this was necessary.

"The state can form its own opinion on the basis of the material it has in its possession already or it may gather such material through a Commission/Committee, person or authority. All that is required is that there must be some material on the basis of which the opinion is formed. The court should show due deference to the opinion of the state," the court said, adding that that such opinion is not beyond judicial scrutiny.

On the requirement for data collection, the court said this is only to justify reservation to be made in the matter of appointment or promotion to public posts, according to Article 16 (4) and 16 (4-A) of the Constitution.

"As such, collection of data regarding the inadequate representation of members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, as noted above, is a prerequisite for providing reservations, and is not required when the state government decided not to provide reservations," the bench said.

Cong, Left oppose SC ruling, ask govt to clarify its stand

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

THE SUPREME COURT's ruling that reservation in promotion in public posts cannot be claimed as a fundamental right and that no court can order a state government to provide for reservation to SCs and STs is set to turn into a major political battle. The Congress and Left on Sunday opposed the ruling and asked the Centre to clarify its stand.

The Congress said it will raise the issue in Parliament and lead an agitation outside. It said the Central government should take steps or approach the Supreme Court to seek a review.

The CPI(M) asked the Centre to "rectify the lacuna leading to such an interpretation through legislative resolutions in both Houses of parliament and set right this lacuna in the Constitution forthwith". All possible legal measures to seek a review of such an interpretation must be explored, it said.

Addressing a press conference, senior Congress leader Mukul Wasnik and former MP Udit Raj criticised the verdict and slammed the BJP, alleging that the rights of SCs and STs are under threat during the BJP rule.

Wasnik said the Congress does not agree with the judgment in the Mukesh Kumar versus State of Uttarakhand case and argued that the lawyers, including Mukul Rohatgi, who had appeared for the BJP government in Uttarakhand, had contended in the apex court that there is no fundamental right to claim reservation in appointments or promotions in public posts and there is no constitutional duty on the part of the state to provide reservation.

"This forms the basis of the judgment," Wasnik said. "Who are these people who are representing the government of Uttarakhand. Some of them have held very important positions. And they have been representing the government of Uttarakhand, which is led by the BJP... These are the basic thoughts of the BJP about reservation; whether it is a fundamental right or not or whether the state government has a constitutional duty or not. Based on these arguments the SC has given the judgment," Wasnik said.

Raj said the Centre should clarify whether it was with the Uttarakhand government or not. "If not, they should take action against its Uttarakhand government," Raj said.



Chirag Paswan

Don't agree with SC ruling, govt must ensure quota stays: LJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

DIASGREEING WITH the Supreme Court's decision that states are not bound to provide reservation in government jobs and promotions, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ally Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) on Sunday asked the Central government to take measures to ensure that reservation benefits of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes continue as they are.

LJP president Chirag Paswan took to Twitter to express his party's disagreement with the apex court.

"The LJP does not agree with this decision of the Supreme Court... The party demands that the Union government take immediate measures to ensure that the reservation provision continues in jobs and promotion in the same they have been so far."

"Recent judgment of Supreme Court says that states are not bound to provide quotas for SC/ST or OBC in government jobs and that there is no fundamental right to claim reservation in promotions. This is entirely against the concept of reservation," he said in another tweet.

LJP patriarch and Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan may raise the issue in a meeting with SC and ST MPs on Monday, according to sources.

"I have invited the SC/ST members of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha for a get together at my residence 10th February," he said in a tweet on Sunday.

However, functionaries said it is a regular meeting which the minister holds with parliamentarians of these communities in which they discuss issues related to their welfare.

Denying command posts retrograde step: women officers to SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

WOMEN ARMY officers who moved the Supreme Court for a permanent commission have countered objections raised by the Centre against giving them command posts in the ten command support arms where they are currently working saying denying them the posts will be an "extremely retrograde step" and "will inflict irreparable injury" to their dignity.

The court has already reserved its verdict in the case.

In their written submission, filed through senior Advocate Aishwarya Bhati, the officers also objected to the contention that given the current composition of the largely male Army and the background of the troops, they "are not yet mentally schooled to accept WOs (Woman Officers) in command of Units".

The objection, they said "is not only highly regressive but also completely contrary to the demonstrated record and statistics". The petition said "the demonstrated fact is that the WOs have been serving in the 10 Combat Support Arms for the

last 27-28 years and have proven their mettle and courage under fire. They have been found suitable by the organisation itself and have led platoons and companies... in the 10 Combat Support Arms. There has never been any occasion of soldiers/men having refused or not accepted the command of women on account of their perceived "rural background, with prevailing societal norms."

The petitioners said the government had already adopted the policy of a permanent commission for WOs in the Army in the combat support stream. "Further, the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy, also having adopted the policy... it is extremely unfortunate that reasons of women lacking on various counts, prevailing societal norms and lack of combat exposure etc., are being cited as lame excuses."

"The issue is denial of command appointments and criteria appointments i.e. non-staff appointment to WOs who are found suitable and fit... in the 10 combat support arms that they are working in for almost last 3 decades", they said.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

UP announces internship scheme for school, college students

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 9

UTTAR PRADESH Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday announced an internship scheme for students of class 10 and 12 as well as those pursuing graduation to brighten their employment prospects.

He also announced the mandatory hiring of women in the police department so that their numbers make up for 20 per cent of the force, "so that they can contribute towards the state's security".

Under the internship scheme, the students, after being linked to various technical institutes and industries, will get Rs 2,500 per

month as honorarium for 6 months and a one-year internship. "After the completion of their internship, the government will also arrange their placements. A human resource cell to facilitate their employment will also be created for this," the Chief Minister said at a job fair, organised by Department of Labour and Employment Exchange at the Gorakhpur University on Sunday.

Of the Rs 2,500 honorarium, Rs 1,500 will be given by the Centre, while the state will contribute Rs 1,000, the CM said.

"Our effort is to open an ITI and skill development centre in each tehsil of the state that could give a platform to our youth," he added. Adityanath, who also laid the foundation stone of a Police

Training School and the campus of the state's first PAC women's battalion in Gorakhpur, said that three women battalions of the PAC will be formed in the state in Gorakhpur, Lucknow and Badaun.

"Today, we are laying the foundation stone of the Gorakhpur Battalion. This battalion of PAC is an important step towards women empowerment... When BJP came to power, there were 1.5 lakh vacancies in UP Police and 54 companies of PAC were abolished... these recruitments were streamlined and the capacity of police training was increased from 6,000 to 12,000," he said, adding that for nearly 25 years there was no police training school in Gorakhpur due to lack of land.

AVANEESH MISHRA LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 9

MORE THAN a half a century after tinseltown immortalised Bareilly as the place where actress Sadhna lost her 'jhumka' (earring) in the 1966 film 'Mera Saaya', the city finally got back its revered earring in the form of a 272-kilo jhumka made of brass and colourful stones, perched atop a 14-foot pole.

Installed on the Lucknow-Delhi highway on Saturday just at the entry point of Bareilly, the jhumka decorated with the city's famous 'zari' embroidery is hard to miss. The Paraskhedha Chauraha, where it is located, has now been renamed as 'Jhumka Tiraha'.

"Today, Bareilly found its



The 'Bareilly ka Jhumka' on the Lucknow-Delhi highway 24 in Bareilly. PTI

jhumka. Now, we can finally announce that the case of lost jhumka has been solved with a closure report," said Rajesh

Pandey, DIG, Bareilly Range, who even took to Facebook to announce the city's new attraction. Speaking to *The Indian*

EXPRESS NETWORK

10 killed after bus comes in contact with live wire

SAMPAD PATNAIK
BHUBANESWAR, FEBRUARY 9

TEN PEOPLE, including six women, were killed and 14 seriously injured in Odisha's Ganjam district after a bus came in contact with a live electric wire.

Ganjam Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange told reporters, "The injured have been shifted to MKCG Medical College at Berhampur. It seems the double-decker bus came in contact with a live wire. A report from (electricity distribution company) SOUTHCO is awaited."

The incident occurred near Golanthara village of Ganjam's Rangelunda tehsil when a group of 40-odd people was on its way to attend an engagement ceremony. According to sources in the district administration, who first reached the spot, the mishap was caused after the passengers were asked to get off the bus. "The bus had come in contact with the wire. The passengers got off and were electrocuted," said an official.

He said the 11 KV wire that should have been at the height of 18 feet above the ground was hanging low. Police sources said a case will be lodged against officials of the power distribution company.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik tweeted that the families of those killed will be provided financial assistance and the state government will bear treatment costs of those injured. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has said an inquiry should be conducted so that such incidents do not recur.

Cauvery delta protected zone, no hydrocarbon project: TN

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 9

UNDER PRESSURE from protesting farmers and after the AIADMK's poor performance in the December 2019 local body elections, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami on Sunday declared the Cauvery delta region as a protected agricultural zone and stated that his government would not give consent for hydrocarbon projects in the area.

The declaration of the 'protected agricultural zone' will, in effect, prevent non-agrarian projects in the region.

Farmers in the Cauvery delta region have been protesting for the past two years against a proposed hydrocarbon project of the Centre, which was to be executed by Vedanta Limited and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Limited.

In his speech at a function to inaugurate work on an integrated livestock research park in Salem, Palaniswami said, "People in the delta region have been expressing their concerns for some time. Taking note of

EXPLAINED
Sign of cold war between TN, Centre

TAMIL NADU Chief Minister EK Palaniswami's announcement that the Cauvery Delta region has been declared a protected zone suggests an unease between the state government and the Centre at a time when Assembly polls are due next year and the BJP and the AIADMK are in alliance in the state.

these concerns, let me inform you that an order declaring the Cauvery delta region a protected agricultural zone has been announced already. I may be CM, but I am a farmer too. This decision is to put an end to the ordeal and pain faced by farmers," he said, adding that the government would soon come up with an act on the protected zone.

Calling the Cauvery delta "Tamil Nadu's rice bowl" and declaring the districts of Thanjavur, Tiruvaur, Nagapattinam,

Pudukottai, Cuddalore, Ariyalur, Karur and Trichy as part of the protected zone, CM Palaniswami also said, "Let me state that my government will never give consent for projects like hydrocarbon in these areas. I am a farmer, I will not let any project that hurts the livelihood of farmers."

With the government's announcement, the Centre's ambitious hydrocarbon project — conceived during the UPA government and projected as a solution to the increasing reliance on petroleum products — now faces an uncertain future.

As part of the project, Vedanta was to drill about 116 wells in Pudukochery and Villupuram, and 158 wells in Nagapattinam and Karaikkal at a cost of about Rs 13,000 crore. ONGC was to drill 40 wells in Cuddalore and Nagapattinam, and 27 in Cuddalore and Tiruvaur, at a cost of about Rs 5,000 crore.

The creation of a protected zone has been the demand of protesting farmers in the Cauvery delta region for over a decade. DMK chief and Opposition leader M K Stalin too had raised the demand last month and organised massive

agitations in all Cauvery delta districts on January 28. Protests against the hydrocarbon projects started early 2017, with Neduvasal in Pudukottai district emerging as one of the epicentres.

In the recent local body polls, the AIADMK suffered defeats in Thanjavur and Nagapattinam districts in the Cauvery delta region, with the DMK winning over 50 per cent votes in these parts.

What revived the controversy surrounding the hydrocarbon project was a recent amendment to the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, which stated that obtaining environmental clearance and holding public consultations are not mandatory for "drilling in respect to off-shore and on-shore oil and gas exploration, development & production project".

While the DMK condemned the amendment and called for protests, CM Palaniswami too had taken a strong stand on the issue by writing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar, urging them to restore status quo.

PSA DOSSIER AGAINST MEHBOOBA

Daughter rebuts charges: Why did BJP form govt with PDP?

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 9

THE DAUGHTER of PDP president and former Jammu and Kashmir CM Mehbooba Mufti, Iltija Mufti, took to Twitter on Sunday to issue a point-by-point rebuttal of the Public Safety Act (PSA) dossier against her mother.

On the dossier stating that Mehbooba refused to sign a bond that she will not make a statement against the scrapping of Article 370, Iltija tweeted from her mother's account, "However BJP can exploit Article 370 esp in election campaigns in Delhi but those most affected by it cannot utter a word. Why is BJP scared of a debate?"

In response to the dossier citing "confidential reports" by intelligence agencies that Mehbooba

has supported separatism in the Valley, Iltija dared the government to place the evidence in public domain. "This highlights BJP's disregard for rule of law and intentionally defaming political rivals. Why not place such evidence in public domain? Are we a khap panchayat now?" she tweeted.

The PSA dossier says PDP's creation is dubious and that the "green colour of party flag reflects its radical origin". In reply, Iltija has asked why the BJP formed a coalition government with PDP if its origin was dubious? "Indian army officers wear green uniform and their vehicles are of the same colour. Are they radicalized too?" she asked and also posted a picture of the green flag of BJP's Bihar ally JDU.

On the resemblance of PDP's symbol with that of the Muslim United Front, Iltija asked, "PDP's

party symbol has been approved by ECI. Is GoI going to question and undermine decisions of ECI so brazenly now?"

The PSA dossier questions Mehbooba's "provocative statement that led to incitement of violence". Iltija has asked the government to substantiate this allegation with evidence. "Why did PM Modi heap praises on Ms Mufti in 2016 when today they accuse her of being hand in glove with separatists? What changed?..."

The dossier has accused Mehbooba of invoking religion to divide people "which could trigger violence in others parts" of the country. Terming this bizarre, Iltija has said, "Ironic since BJP amplifies divisive politics. BJP regime since its election in 2015 has been defined by divide and rule, lynching and othering Muslims and minorities."

At Deoband anti-CAA protest, women say no support from Darul Uloom, political parties

KRISHN KAUSHIK
DEOBAND, FEBRUARY 8

AT AN Eidgah in Deoband, a few hundred metres from Darul Uloom seminary, a group of women have come together to create their version of the Shaheen Bagh protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Local women, most of them Muslims, have been gathering at the Eidgah since January 27. They call this the Deoband Satyagrah and say the Shaheen Bagh protest is their "icon". The venue has photographs of several freedom fighters, but no religious symbol. The gathering of about 200 women around noon swells to nearly a thousand as the evening approaches.

The district administration has sent notices to the protesters, asking them of encouraging sedition, behaviour and disrupting peace, but they have not budged.

The protesters complain that neither local political forces nor Darul Uloom has lent any support to the citizen-driven protest. The women say two senior clerics of Darul Uloom were part of a committee formed by the district administration to mediate with the protesters, but they had not come to meet the women.

Iram Usmani, one of the leaders of the protest, says, "If Darul Uloom asks us to go home and takes the responsibility of getting CAA, NPR and NRC repealed, we will leave happily."

Darul Uloom representatives said the seminary cannot play an active role in the protest. Its spokesperson Ashraf Usmani said the institution has issued statements against CAA and said that it supports protests to "protect the soul of the Constitution, wherever



At the protest site in Deoband. Gajendra Yadav

they are happening". However, he added, "Darul Uloom Deoband is an apolitical institution, we can give moral support, but cannot play any part actively."

On Thursday, district officials called a meeting of community leaders during which they were asked to speak to the women about ending the protest. Darul Uloom spokesperson Usmani says, "If the administration calls a peace meeting to discuss local, national or international matters, it is our moral duty to go." He says Darul Uloom said at the meeting that the committee formed to mediate with the protesters "can try and have conditional talks" with them.

But when half-a-dozen men reached the protest site to ask the women to leave, the women threw their bangles at them and asked them to leave. They told *The Indian Express* that "none of those 'responsible citizens' who came to talk to them had supported them earlier."

The same day, several people told *The Indian Express*, the district administration sent notices to over 100 people, reminding them that

Section 144 is in force. The notice accused them of "spreading rumours" about CAA to impact "religious" and "social" peace. It also accused them of "inciting seditious behaviour" through speeches, illegally collecting cash donations and "misusing children". Those who received the notices include the women heading the United Women Committee, which is leading the protests, their families, local politicians and journalists.

SP (Rural) Vidya Sagar Mishra asserts that the only way out is through talks. About the notices, Mishra says several complaints about the protest are being received everyday. He said the notices have been sent to ask the protesters to protest as per "democratic means" and "follow laws".

Iram Usmani says that even though the government has said there has not been any discussion regarding NRC yet, there is trust deficit "because different leaders are saying different things". "What does no discussion till now mean? Tomorrow the PM will make an announcement at 8 pm that NRC will be implemented from tomorrow. What then?"



G Kishan Reddy

MoS: Half of Bangladesh will be empty if offered Indian citizenship

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HYDERABAD, FEBRUARY 9

HALF OF Bangladesh's population will leave that country if Indian citizenship was promised to them, Union Minister G Kishan Reddy said on Sunday.

Speaking at Santh Ravidas Jayanthi celebrations here, Reddy dared Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao to prove in what way the Citizenship (Amendment) Act was against the 130 crore population of India.

"Half of Bangladesh will be empty (vacant) if India offers citizenship to them (Bangladeshis). Half of Bangladeshis will come over to India if citizenship is promised (to them). Who will take responsibility? KCR? or Rahul Gandhi?" the Union Minister of State for Home said.

"They seek citizenship for infiltrators. The government of India is ready to review the CAA if it has one word against anyone of the 130 crore citizens, but not for Pakistani or Bangladeshi Muslims," Reddy said.

Noting that CAA was brought in on humanitarian grounds for certain persecuted communities in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, he said some political parties were demanding that citizenship be given to Muslims of those countries also.



CRPF personnel stop vehicles near a temporary barricade during a shutdown in Srinagar on Sunday. Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front had given a call for shutdown to mark the seventh death anniversary of Afzal Guru, who was hanged after being convicted in the 2001 Parliament attack case. Mobile internet services were suspended early in the morning and restored in the evening, said officials. Shuaib Masoodi

HC distances itself from PSA arrests, says not right forum

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

DISMISSING A petition against preventive custody under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA), a single judge bench of the J&K High Court on Friday made two remarks that are likely to hold implications for the 300-odd such petitions pending in court — that preventive detention under PSA is "based on suspicion or anticipation and not on proof" and that "subjective satisfaction" of detaining authority to detain a person or not "is not open to objective assessment by a court".

Justice Tashi Rabastan, while dismissing a petition filed by J&K High Court Bar Association president Mian Qayoom, who is in custody under PSA, also said that a "court is not a proper forum to scrutinise the merits of administrative decision to detain a person" and that this matter "lies within the competence of the Advisory Board".

"While saying so, this court does not sit in appeal over decision of detaining authority and cannot substitute its own opinion over that of detaining authority when grounds of detention are precise, pertinent, proximate and relevant," the judge said.

At least 300 cases challenging preventive detentions made under the PSA — the law allows for detention without a formal charge and without trial for up to two years — are pending before the High Court.

Judge Rabastan's observations are in sharp contrast to the manner in which the court has in the past quashed orders passed by the administration under the PSA. As reported by *The Indian Express*, an analysis of 39 orders passed since the Pulwama attack on February 14 and until August 14 had revealed that courts had dismissed 80% of the PSA cases on grounds that there was either no application of mind or that there was no need for PSA when there are other laws to take action.

Also, the PSA Advisory Board is meant to act as a check and balance on the government's use of

Soldier killed in Pak shelling along LoC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 9

A SOLDIER was killed and four others injured as Pakistani troops continued unprovoked mortar shelling and small arms fire at different places along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's border Poonch district.

Identifying the soldier as Naik Rajeev Singh Shekhawat, 36, Defence PRO Lt Colonel Devender Anand said that he belonged to Luhkana Kurd village in Rajasthan's Jaipur district. He is survived by his wife Usha.

Lt Colonel Anand said Naik Shekhawat was a brave and highly motivated soldier and the nation will always remain indebted to him for the supreme sacrifice.

Giving details, sources said Naik Shekhawat was among three soldiers injured in unprovoked mortar shelling and small arms fire in Digwar sector on Saturday evening. The Army retaliated, killing at least three Pakistani soldiers, the sources said. They said the cross-border shelling stopped late on Saturday night.

On Sunday afternoon, Pakistani troops again resorted to mortar shelling and small arms fire along the LoC in Balakote and Mendhar areas. The shelling started around 12.50 pm, the Defence PRO said.

Contractor killed by suspected militants: Police

Srinagar: A contractor was shot dead by suspected militants in south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Sunday evening, police said. Officials said Gulam Nabi, a resident of Tal area, was shot outside his home.

Nabi was said to be in his 60s. "He succumbed to his injuries. He was a contractor by profession," Superintendent of Police, Awantipora, Tahir Saleem told *The Indian Express*. The militants used a pistol for the attack, he added.

Police said Nabi was taken to a local hospital after the attack and the doctors there declared him brought dead. **ENS**

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Vishal Tulsyan s/o Kishor Kumar Tulsyan At- Vishwanathganj Khagaria have changed my name to Vishal Kumar Tulsyan for all purposes. 0040530878-2

I, Mohan Vineet, S/o Rajendra Prashad Bhutani, R/o B-342, Sector-20, Noida, G.B. Nagar, U.P., 201301, have changed my name to Mohan Vineet Bhutani. 0040530912-1

I, Sanjay Kumar s/o Saudagar Sah At-Parbatta Khagaria have changed my name to Sanjay Kumar Sah for all purposes. 0040530878-1

I, Charanjit Singh Lamba S/O, Balbir Singh Lamba R/O D28 A Tilak Vihar, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-18 have changed my name to Charanjit Singh for all purposes. 0040530910-1

I, Mamta Gupta D/O late Shri Rajendra Kumar Gupta R/o C/D-15, Kavi Nagar, Ghaziabad-201002, have changed my name to Mamta Agrawal after marriage on 1st May, 1986 with Ashok Kumar Agrawal for all purposes 0040530866-1

I, Manisha spouse of Pradeep Kumar Attari resident of C81 Phase-1 Pallav Puram Meerut (UP) have changed my name from Manisha to Manisha Attari vide Affidavit dated 27/01/2020 at Tehsil Sardhana Dist Meerut Court. 0050162196-1

I, Rajesh Ranjan S/O, Dr A K Verma R/o T-1/1044, A-5 Pristine, Sec-150, Noida have changed my name to Raajesh Ranjan for all purposes 0040531101-1

I, Parveen Kumar S/O Ram Niwas R/o G-37/B2, Block-G, Dilshad Colony, Delhi-110095 have changed my name to Parveen Kumar Goyal. 0040531068-1

THANKS GIVING

Thank You St. Jude for prayers answered. Forgive me for delay in publishing. Sumesh, Anjana, Aaron & Alyssa. 0050162198-1

EDUCATION

DOWSING Workshop-School of Indian Dowisers' 166th Workshop on 16 Feb. in Mumbai. Dowsing is giving training on Architectural Energy, how to find out land defects, colour, diamond power, underground harmful geopathic stress & streams of water. Get free from causing harmful radiation to emanate from earth surface. Live healthy life. Become Certificateholders & experts & earn more income. Guidance by world famous Dowsing Expert Professor Ravi Vaidya. Contact: 9821349038/ 9821380289. Earn more income. see feedback of 150 photos on website www.indiandowisers.org 007069929-2

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER: RWSS DIVISION: BERHAMPUR
Near Jarada Bunglow, Pin - 760004, Ph. 0680-2296344
eerwss_bam@nic.in rwsbam@gmail.com
Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
Bid Identification No. EERWSSBAM-17/2019-20
The Executive Engineer, RWSS&S Division, Berhampur, Ganjam on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites bids in Single Cover & Double cover system according to the norm of "e" Procurement system in online mode for Supply, drawing, design, construction, testing and commissioning and maintenance of different PWS Schemes and electrification works in Ganjam District from the eligible contractors as per DTCN.

No. of the work	Execution of different works of different P.W.S. Scheme in Ganjam District.
1	No of Work (Tender)
2	Estimated cost (Approximate)
3	Period of completion
4	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the Portal.
5	Last date & time for seeking clarification
6	Di. of opening of Bid
7	Late date / Time for receipt of bids in the Portal
8	Name & address of the Officer inviting tender.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>

Executive Engineer
RWSS&S Division, Berhampur
25035/11/0009/1920

PRO-CAA RALLY It will be stone for stone, sword for sword: MNS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 9

MAHARASHTRA NAVNIRMAN Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray on Sunday took out a rally in support of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and spoke against "infiltrators" from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nigeria.

Addressing party workers after a march from Hindu Gymkhana to Azad Maidan, Thackeray said he did not understand why Muslims were protesting against CAA or NRC. "Who is going to drive out those residing here since birth? If it is not there in the law, then to whom and why do you (Muslims) show your strength?" he asked.

"I want to warn all those who took out protests (against CAA) that we have responded to their protest with our protest. Henceforth, it will be stone for stone and sword for sword," he added. He said there were not just Pakistani and Bangladeshi "infiltrators", but many Nigerians too were staying illegally in Mira Bhayander.

He said he would take up the issue with the Centre as there was "no point" telling the state government. "We need to tell the Union government that just give a free hand to Maharashtra Police for 48 hours. They will bring the crime rate down to zero." He also said that the Centre brought the legislation to divert attention from the economic slowdown, "then it is completely wrong".

TELLING NUMBERS

1.36 crore Indians living abroad, one-fourth of them in UAE

THERE ARE over 1.36 crore Indian nationals living abroad, according to data tabled by the Ministry of External Affairs in Lok Sabha. Citing RBI data, the ministry said that during 2018-2019, \$76.4 billion was received as remittances from Indians abroad. During 2019-2020 (April-September), \$41.9 billion was received.

The highest number of Indians abroad are living in the United Arab Emirates, where the 34,20,000 Indians comprise about one-fourth of all Indians abroad. The UAE is followed by Saudi Arabia (25,94,947), the US (12,80,000), Kuwait (10,29,861), Oman (7,79,351), Qatar (7,56,062), Nepal (5,00,000), UK (3,51,000), Singapore (3,50,000) and Bahrain (3,23,292).

Between 2015 until December 2019, the mortal remains of 21,930 Indians from 125 countries have been brought back to India. The ministry cited this figure while replying to a

separate question, on whether the government has a cell to bring back the mortal remains of Indians from abroad. It said the CPV (Consular, Passport and Visa) division of the ministry is the nodal division that coordinates with all missions / posts abroad regarding transportation of the mortal remains of Indians from abroad to their hometowns in India.

The ministry said the missions/posts remain in constant touch with the family/relatives of deceased Indian nationals to facilitate transportation or local burial/cremation of the mortal remains in accordance with their wishes and local regulations. The missions/posts also liaise with foreign sponsors and local authorities concerned to expedite procedures for the repatriation of mortal remains to India and extend assistance to families including financial assistance for deserving cases under the Indian Community Welfare Fund.

INDIANS ABROAD: TOP 10

UAE	34.2 lakh
Saudi Arabia	25.9 lakh
US	12.8 lakh
Kuwait	10.3 lakh
Oman	7.8 lakh
Qatar	7.6 lakh
Nepal	5 lakh
UK	3.5 lakh
Singapore	3.5 lakh
Bahrain	3.2 lakh

THIS WORD MEANS

FERMENTOPHONE

Edible musical instrument made of fermented fruits

FERMENTATION, THE chemical breakdown of a substance by microorganisms such as bacteria or yeasts, results in some of the most delicious foods and beverages, including cheese, chocolate and wine. Now, research has shown it can result in music, too. Joshua Rosenstock of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute has shown that the chemical processes of fermentation can be used to create spontaneous tunes. He has built multiple art exhibits called Fermentophone to showcase how fermentation can make music.



Fermentophones created by Joshua Rosenstock. Worcester Polytechnic Institute

First, different fruits and veggies are placed in glass jars and fermented. As the fermentation kicks off, the yeast — or bacteria — present in the food chews down on the foods' sugars, which results in the release of carbon dioxide bubbles. The release of these bubbles creates a tiny sound,

which is picked up by underwater microphones. A computer processes the sounds and, with the help of algorithms plugged in, electronic music is created.

Rosenstock said in a statement that you can eat these fermented foods, too.

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Mapping the 'Indian' genome

The government has cleared an ambitious project to map India's genetic diversity. What will the project seek to determine, why is the information important, and what are the various challenges ahead?

SEEMA CHISHTI NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

LAST WEEK, *The Indian Express* reported that the government has cleared an ambitious gene-mapping project that is being described by those involved as the "first scratching of the surface of the vast genetic diversity of India". A look at the objectives, scale and the diversity of the project, which will be significant not only in India but worldwide:

What is a genome?

Every organism's genetic code is contained in its Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA), the building blocks of life. The discovery that DNA is structured as a "double helix" by James Watson and Francis Crick in 1953, for which they won a Nobel Prize in 1962, was the spark in the long, continuing quest for understanding how genes dictate life, its traits, and what causes diseases.

A genome, simply put, is all the genetic matter in an organism. It is defined as "an organism's complete set of DNA, including all of its genes. Each genome contains all of the information needed to build and maintain that organism. In humans, a copy of the entire genome — more than 3 billion DNA base pairs — is contained in all cells that have a nucleus".

Hasn't the human genome been mapped before?

The Human Genome Project (HGP) was an international programme that led to the decoding of the entire human genome. It has been described as "one of the great feats of exploration in history. Rather than an outward exploration of the planet or the cosmos, the HGP was an inward voyage of discovery led by an international team of researchers looking to sequence and map all of the genes — together known as the genome — of members of our species".

Beginning on October 1, 1990 and completed in April 2003, the HGP gave us the ability, for the first time, to read nature's complete genetic blueprint for building a human being.

What then is the 'Genome India' Project?

This is being spearheaded by the Centre for



LANDMARKS

1869: Swiss chemist Friedrich Miescher identifies "nuclein" (later defined as DNA) inside the nuclei of human white blood cells

1953: Following the work of Russian scientist Phoebus Levene and the Austrian Erwin Chargaff on Miescher's discovery, American scientist James Watson and English physicist Francis Crick propose the three-dimensional, double-helix structure for DNA

2003: Human genome completely decoded under HGP

Brain Research at Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Science as the nodal point of about 20 institutions, each doing its bit in collecting samples, doing the computations, and then the research. Its aim is to ultimately build a grid of the Indian "reference genome", to understand fully the type and nature of diseases and traits that comprise the diverse Indian population. For example, if the Northeast sees a tendency towards a specific disease, interventions can be made in the region, assisting public health, which make it easier to battle the illness.

The other institutes involved are: AIIMS Jodhpur; Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad; Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics; Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology; Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre; IIIT Allahabad; ISER (Pune); IIT Madras; IIT Delhi; IIT Jodhpur; Institute of Bioresources And Sustainable Development; Institute of Life Sciences; Mizoram University; National Centre for Biological Sciences; National Institute of Biomedical Genomics; National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences; Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology; and Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences.

So, what will the project broadly do?

The mega project hopes to form a grid after collecting 10,000 samples in the first

phase from across India, to arrive at a representative Indian genome. This has been found necessary as over 95% of the genome samples available, which are the basis of new, cutting-edge research in medicine and pharmacology, use the white, Caucasian genome as the base. Most genomes have been sourced from urban middle-class persons and are not really seen as representative. The Indian project will aim to vastly add to the available information on the human species and advance the cause, both because of the scale of the Indian population and the diversity here.

Who is an Indian?

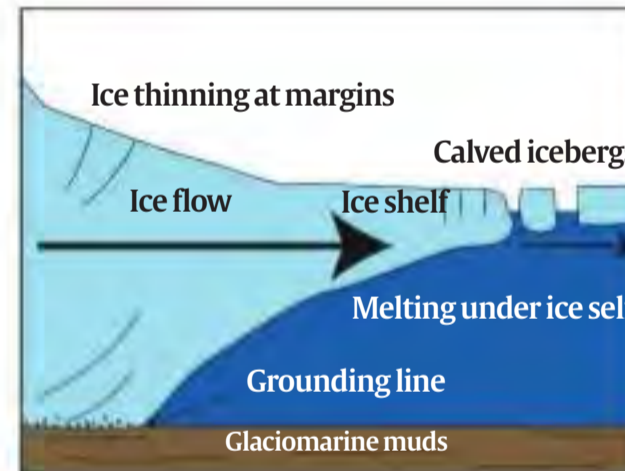
The Indian subcontinent has been the site of huge migrations. Scientists associated with the project recognise that while the first migrations were from Africa, later too there were periodic migrations by various populations, making this a very special case of almost all races and types intermingling genetically. This can be seen as "horizontal diversity". Moreover, later, there has been endogamy or inter-marriage practised among distinct groups, resulting in some diseases passed on strictly within some groups and some other traits inherited by just some groups. This is what scientists term "vertical diversity".

Studying and understanding both diver-

Lessons from a melting Antarctic glacier

OM MARATHE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

IN THE Antarctic floats a massive glacier, roughly the size of Britain, whose melting has been a cause of alarm for scientists over the years. Now, a new study has pinned the cause of the melting to the presence of warm water at a vital point beneath the glacier.



What is the glacier and why is it important?

Called the Thwaites Glacier, it is 120 km wide at its broadest, fast-moving and melting fast over the years. Because of its size (1.9 lakh square km), it contains enough water to raise the world sea level by more than half a metre. Studies have found the amount of ice flowing out of it has nearly doubled over the past 30 years. Today, Thwaites's melting already contributes 4% to global sea level rise each year. It is estimated that it would collapse into the sea

in 200-900 years. Thwaites is important for Antarctica as it slows the ice behind it from freely flowing into the ocean. Because of the risk it faces — and poses — Thwaites is often called the Doomsday Glacier.

What has the new study found?

A 2019 study had discovered a fast-growing cavity in the glacier sized roughly two-thirds the area of Manhattan. Then last week,

researchers from New York University detected warm water at a vital point below the glacier. The NYU study was funded by the International Thwaites Glacier Collaboration, headed by the Natural Environment Research Council of the UK and the National Science Foundation of the US; the collaboration has been studying the glacier since 2018.

The New York University study reported water at just two degrees above freezing point at Thwaites's "grounding zone" or "grounding line".

Why is that significant?

The grounding line is the place below a glacier at which the ice transitions between resting fully on bedrock and floating on the ocean as an ice shelf. The location of the line is a pointer to the rate of retreat of a glacier.

When glaciers melt and lose weight, they float off the land where they used to be situated. When this happens, the grounding line retreats. That exposes more of a glacier's un-

derside to seawater, increasing the likelihood it will melt faster. This results in the glacier speeding up, stretching out, and thinning, causing the grounding line to retreat ever further.

"Warm waters in this part of the world, as remote as they may seem, should serve as a warning to all of us about the potential dire changes to the planet brought about by climate change," David Holland of New York University said in a statement.

How was the warming water detected?

Scientists dug a 600-m-deep and 35-cm-wide access hole, and deployed an ocean-sensing device called Icefin to measure the waters moving below the glacier's surface.

"The fact that such warm water was just now recorded by our team along a section of Thwaites grounding zone where we have known the glacier is melting suggests that it may be undergoing an unstoppable retreat that has huge implications for global sea-level rise," Holland said.

Why it's a good idea to have police commissioners in the bigger cities



R K Vij

THE UTTAR PRADESH government recently introduced the Police Commissioner system in Lucknow and Noida, metropolitan cities with populations of about 29 lakh and 16 lakh respectively (2011 Census). Making the announcement, the Chief Minister said that "in Police Commissioner system, police works as a team, under which the Police Commissioner has some magisterial powers in order to take forward smart and effective policing", while the UP Director General of Police (DGP) cautioned that "with this comes greater responsibility to deliver". These two statements sum up the roles and responsibilities of the police in the Police Commissioner system.

Police in India are subject to dual control — although their administration under The Police Act, 1861 is vested in the police hierarchy, the District Magistrate exercises general control within his jurisdiction. All preventive actions initiated by police —

from securing bonds of good behaviour from potential trouble makers, including habitual offenders, to using force during any law and order situation — require the executive magistrate's order.

The Inspector General of Police (nowadays called DGP) is also entrusted with magisterial powers under the Act, although these are subject to limits imposed by the state government from time to time. Although most states have drawn up their own police Acts (and repealed The Police Act of 1861) following directions issued by the Supreme Court in *Prakash Singh v Union of India* in 2006, dual control over police has been retained.

The draft Model Police Act prepared by the Soli Sorabjee Committee to have a uniform law for police forces across the country, has not been adopted by any state. Since "public order" and "police" are part of the State List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, it is for the states, and not the Centre, to initiate the bulk of police reforms.

From 1856 to now

The Police Commissioner system dates back to 1856. Samuel Wauchope was appointed Police Commissioner for the Town of Calcutta, and William Crawford for the Town of Bombay on November 1, 1856, under Act XIII of 1856. This Act provided for regulating police of the Towns of Calcutta, Madras and

Bombay, and the Commissioner of Police was appointed as a Justice of the Peace for the preservation of peace and detection of crime.

Subsequently, separate Acts (i.e., The Calcutta Police Act, 1866, The Madras City Police Act, 1888, The Bombay Police Act, 1951) were created to regulate these presidency towns. Ahmedabad in Gujarat was the fourth city to get a Police Commissioner vide The Gujarat Adaptation of Laws (of Bombay) Order in 1960. Delhi got its Commissioner of Police following the recommendations of the Khosla Commission, and the enactment of The Delhi Police Act in 1978.

Later, the metropolitan cities of Tamil Nadu (Madurai and Coimbatore in April 1990, and Salem, Tiruchirappalli, and Tirunelveli in June 1997); Odisha (Bhubaneswar-Cuttack in January 2008); Haryana (Gurgaon in June 2007, Faridabad in August 2009, and Panchkula-Ambala in August 2011); Punjab (Amritsar, Jalandhar, and Ludhiana in February 2010); Rajasthan (Jaipur and Jodhpur in January 2011); Andhra Pradesh (Cyberabad in December 2003), Gujarat (Surat, Rajkot and Vadodara); West Bengal (Bidhannagar and Barrackpore in January 2012); and Karnataka (Kalaburgi in October 2018) too, got police commissionerates.

Maharashtra has the most cities — 11 — with the police commissionerate system; the latest to join the list was Meera-Bhayander late last year. Hyderabad got its Police

Commissioner through The Hyderabad City Police Act of 1348F, ('Fasli year', which is 590 years behind the Gregorian calendar)

Powers of the police

The most important source of the police's magisterial powers is The Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973. Section 20(1) authorises the state government to appoint as many executive magistrates "as it thinks fit", and Section 20(5) provides for conferring the powers of an executive magistrate on a Commissioner of Police in a metropolitan area. Under Section 8, the state can declare any area with a population of more than 1 million, a metropolitan area. The previous CrPC of 1898 too contained similar provisions.

Much depends on how much power is entrusted to police to effectively check crime. The Orissa Urban Police Act, 2003 (Orissa Act 8 of 2007) for example, gives ample powers to police to prove their mettle; the Police Commissioner of Gurgaon, on the other hand, had no powers of an executive magistrate to begin with.

The powers of an executive magistrate provided under several special Acts (such as The Arms Act and the Excise Act), which are essential to check the mafia and effectively control crime, remain out of reach of police in many states including Rajasthan and UP. Although Salem, Tiruchirappalli and

Tirunelveli got Police Commissioners in 1997, powers under certain special Acts were transferred only in November 2006.

In June 2019, the posts of Inspector General of Police of Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram were changed to Commissioners of Police without any transfer of powers of the executive magistrate. Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, the Northeastern states, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh are yet to introduce the Police Commissioner system.

Where commissionerates score

The idea of entrusting greater powers to police via a police commissionerate system is often accompanied by apprehensions of a "police raj", alongside questions over the fitness of police to exercise these powers. These apprehensions are baseless.

While certain aberrations are indeed seen in some states, the Police Commissioner system in itself has many advantages. It enlarges the role of the police and allows it to work as an agency that promotes the rule of law and renders impartial service to the community. Unified control over the crime prevention and detection mechanism in the hands of the police hierarchy has great potential to improve public order. An integrated command structure enables the police to exhibit its comprehen-

sive responsiveness, and to avoid the game of blame-shifting to other agencies.

The National Police Commission set up in the 1970s to suggest police reforms, noted that large urban areas in which crime and law and order situations develop rapidly, require a speedy and effective operational response from police. This can be possible only when the police are organised to perform the twin basic functions of decision-making and implementation.

The Commission recommended that in cities with populations of 5 lakh and more, and in places that witness special circumstances like speedy urbanisation, industrialisation, etc., the system of police commissionerate would provide more effective policing. In fact, the situation in cities changes so quickly that the system of consultations between executive magistrates and police officers before taking preventive measures often leads to delays and confusion in urgent situations, which eventually attracts criticism from the public.

An overall strengthening of the police structure and many reforms are needed — the adoption of the commissionerate system is an effective first step in achieving the objectives of crime-fighting and maintaining the rule of law.

(The author is a senior IPS officer in Chhattisgarh. Views are his own.)



WORDLY WISE
I HAVE ALL THESE GREAT GENES,
BUT THEY'RE RECESSIVE.
— BILL WATTERSON

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

Two nationalisms

Indians once displayed pride in multilingualism. Return of an instrumental English signals a new phase



GYANENDRA PANDEY

THE SAME OLD

Union budget has been a lost opportunity for government — it failed to lay out a reform path on farm subsidies

THE NARENDRA MODI government has allocated a total amount of Rs 1,86,878.68 crore towards food and fertiliser subsidy for 2020-21, less than the Rs 2,64,216 crore budgeted for the current fiscal. This is despite no rationalisation measures announced in the latest Union Budget with regard to these two big-ticket subsidy items. Thus, there's no increase in the Central issue price of Rs 2/kg for wheat and Rs 3/kg for rice sold through the public distribution system (PDS), which are way below their corresponding "economic cost" of Rs 26.84 and Rs 37.27 projected for 2020-21. Nor has the budget proposed any hike in the maximum retail price (MRP) of urea — at Rs 5,360 per tonne, it is a fraction of the industry's average production cost of around Rs 24,000 — or a lowering of the per-tonne concession on phosphate, potash and complex fertilisers whose rates are technically decontrolled.

A reduction in the government's subsidy bill without PDS issue price or urea MRP rationalisation is possible only by forcing the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and fertiliser companies to take on the additional burden. That's precisely what the government has done. In 2020-21, FCI's borrowings of Rs 1,36,600 crore from the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF) are estimated to be higher than the Centre's own food subsidy of Rs 1,15,569.68 crore. The corporation's outstanding loans from NSSF are expected to touch Rs 3,22,800 crore by the end of the fiscal. A significant chunk of the fertiliser subsidy of Rs 71,309 crore for the new fiscal will, similarly, go to clear carry-forward dues of some Rs 42,000 crore. If subsidy payments are inadequate or delayed, the only way companies can continue supplying nutrients to farmers at below production/import cost is by contracting fresh debt. In the past, the Centre used to pay subsidy by issuing bonds in lieu of cash to FCI and fertiliser companies. The situation is worse today, where these entities, far from receiving interest on bonds, are becoming further indebted.

The Budget should have been an opportunity for the Union government to spell out a reform path, wherein all farm subsidies — whether on inputs (fertiliser and credit) or output (open-ended procurement at above-market-rate minimum support prices) — are collapsed into an expanded PM-Kisan direct income support programme. The same goes for food, where the emphasis should be more on nutritional security. That goal is much better achieved through a mix of targeted cash transfers, mid-day meal schemes in government schools and the government maintaining a minimum stock of cereals, pulses, edible oils, milk powder and other essential food items enabling effective market intervention. By persisting with a system that promotes inefficiency of resource use (fertiliser), inequity (rewarding only farmers of two crops) and lack of dietary diversification, it reinforces status quo of the worst kind. Money spent on food and fertiliser subsidy can be redirected to serve the "gaon, gareeb aur kisan" much better than is happening now.

MAPPING LIFE

Genome India Project is extremely promising and should proceed with maximum speed and maximum caution

THE GENOME INDIA Project, a collaboration of 20 institutions including the Indian Institute of Science and some IITs, will enable new efficiencies in medicine, agriculture and the life sciences. The first obvious use would be in personalised medicine, anticipating diseases and modulating treatment according to the genome of patients. Several diseases develop through metabolic polymorphisms — the interplay of the environment with multiple genes, which differ across populations. For instance, one group may develop cancers and another may not, depending on the genetically-determined pathways by which they metabolise carcinogens. Cardiovascular disease generally leads to heart attacks in South Asians, but to strokes in most parts of Africa. If such propensities to disease can be mapped to variations across genomes, it is believed public health interventions can be targeted better, and diseases anticipated before they develop. Similar benefits would come to agriculture if there is a better understanding of the genetic basis of susceptibility to blights, rusts and pests. It may become possible to deter them genetically, and reduce dependence on chemicals.

Global science would also benefit from a mapping project in one of the world's most diverse gene pools, which would provide data useful for the mapping of the spread and migration of a range of life forms in the Old World, from plants to humans. Traversing from the world's tallest mountain range to warm seas through multiple bio-zones demarcated by climate and terrain, India could provide much information on the interplay of species and genetic groups within them. Eventually, a deeper understanding of ecology could emerge from the material thrown up.

However, some caution must be exercised in the field of human genetics, because the life sciences sometimes stray into unscientific terrain and heighten political bias. The mapping of brain regions to mental functions spun off the utterly unscientific and racist field of phrenology. The work on cranial volume measurements of the physician Samuel Morton — regarded in America as the father of scientific racism — justified slavery before the US Civil War. In India, a nation riven by identity politics and obsessed with the myths of pristine origins and authenticity, scientific work in mapping genetic groups may become grist to the political mill of the unscientific notion of race. Projects in genetics generally extend over long periods of time, which should be used by makers of scientific policy to ensure that the data which emerges is not interpreted for political ends.

AT A RECENT dinner in a friend's home in South Delhi, his teenage son said to me, "Why should I be fluent in Hindi? I don't want to learn Hindi." That is the language of his birthplace and his parents: Perhaps the only language in which his grandparents are comfortable to this day. What a difference a couple of generations can make.

Not so long ago, educated Indians displayed considerable pride in the country's inheritance of multilingualism: In children who spoke Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Tamil, Oriya as well as English, and scholars who were accomplished in Persian and Urdu, Sanskrit and Pali, German, French, Russian and more. Leading thinkers stressed the richness and diversity of this inheritance. Indians needed to learn English and other foreign languages for use in their work, travels and interaction with the wider world. At the same time, must preserve and nurture their mother tongues, the language of love, poetry and story telling that they grew up with in their homes and local communities.

Now, the sons and daughters of India's upper and upper-middle classes appear to have lost all pride in that inheritance. In a remarkable way, and perhaps without much realisation on their part, they have become more and more like the British rulers of colonial India. Today's Indian elites speak incessantly in English — in shops and elevators, offices and homes, in person and online. They use Indian languages only for functional conversations with servants and trades-people. And parents occasionally reprimand their children for speaking in the "vernacular" — even in their own homes, at their own dining tables.

I want to be clear. English has an undeniably important place in India today. Leading intellectuals and commentators have noted that English is now an Indian language. Indian writers have contributed remarkable new works to the domain of English literature, and taken it in new directions. Yet the English in common use among India's middle and upper-middle classes is hardly a sign of new literary encounters or sensitivity. It is a sadly reduced version of the language, in the jargon of the business-world and self-help individualism and text message slang. What it signals is a decline of pride in bilingualism (not

to say, multilingualism) — indeed, a decline of pride in linguistic/cultural inheritance and skills, more generally.

The re-institution of such an "English" language indexes the return of much else that British rule had sought to impose in its advancement of colonial interests and practices in India. Who or what is responsible for this?

I would point to two inter-connected factors. The first is an erosion of self-respect in the nation, with its rich and diverse history. The demise of an anti-colonial, inclusive and forward-looking nationalism seeking welfare and justice for all; and the rise, in its place, of a narrow, exclusivist, backward-looking jingoism — in which English (the language of "development" and "capitalism") becomes the only language worth knowing or learning. A second factor reinforces that narrowness. This is the worldwide ascendancy of today's neoliberal, market-driven, consumerist capitalism — in which literature, art, philosophy, the environment, intellectual work, compassion for others, concern for the poor and downtrodden, the aged and the sick, none of these counts against brute calculation of monetary profit and loss.

The result is paradoxical and painful. On the one hand, the sky is rent with slogans of the greatness of Indian civilisation, Hindu traditions and the tolerance of Hinduism: "Garv se kaho ham Hindu/Hindustani hain." "Hindustan mein hi saari duniya ke dharm ek saath reh sakte hain." "Hinduo ki hi wajah se Bharat ek dharm-nirpeksh desh hai." On the other, we see the disappearance of a commitment to long-standing nationalist goals of freedom, equality, religious tolerance, economic and political opportunity, work, self-respect and dignity for all of India's citizens, irrespective of caste, race, religion, language, gender, or place of birth. And, with that, the decline of serious interest in the preservation and development of India's languages, and the literary and cultural legacies of Hindi, Urdu, Marathi, Kannada, Bengali, Oriya and so on.

What a world of difference there is between Lal Bahadur Shastri's simple slogan, "Jai jawan, jai kisan," for that matter, Indira Gandhi's "Garibi hatao," and the Modi government's "Howdy Houston." Not to mention the latter's "5 T's: Tradition, Talent, Tourism,

Trade and Technology," or "3 D's: Democracy, Demography and Demand," in which the last two words make sense only in terms of an aggressive new culture of consumerist capitalism.

The Indian ruling class seems to believe that every country around the globe must become another United States of America. In actuality, it chases a pale shadow, or imitation, of what is thought of as "America." The surface show, emptied of its most energising and creative spirit. What the regime promotes in consequence (in India, and increasingly in America,) are half-realised dreams — or nightmares — of highways and air-ways, automobiles and airplanes, towering multistoried structures, gated communities and smart cities, military displays and aeronautical and space adventures.

Is this the only path open to the world today, the path of crony capitalism? A market-driven, profiteering order, built on speculation, tax breaks for the super-rich, manipulation of statistics, and financial fiddles by those in the know. A capitalism and an autocratic "democracy" made for the national and international one per cent, increasingly by the one percent that controls the political and economic resources of so many countries around the world, including the media, the bureaucracy and judiciary, and bodies responsible for conducting free and fair elections.

More and more ordinary Indian citizens have seen through this subterfuge. Poor Dalits, Adivasis and Muslims fighting for livelihood and home, opportunity, access to resources and equal rights, brave women of the lower and middle classes, and idealistic youth of all classes, protesting across the length and breadth of India against the government's policies and actions. Their understanding is captured in the holding up of the national flag, the reading of the Preamble to the Constitution, the call to defend the spirit of anti-colonial nationalism, which the ruling classes are so reluctant to uphold.

The writer is Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor, and Director, Interdisciplinary Workshop on Colonial and Postcolonial Studies, Emory University

Indian ruling class seems to believe that every country around the globe must become another United States of America. In actuality, it chases a pale shadow, or imitation, of what is thought of as 'America'. The surface show, emptied of its most energising and creative spirit. What the regime promotes in consequence (in India, and increasingly in America,) are half-realised dreams — or nightmares — of highways and air-ways, automobiles and airplanes, towering multistoried structures, gated communities and smart cities, military displays and aeronautical and space adventures.



IN GOOD FAITH
ASHISH MEHTA

IN HIS END, A MESSAGE

Gandhi's martyrdom was his final sacrifice in his *yajna* for Hindu-Muslim amity

GANDHI FELT HIS end was near. He had lost the wish and hope to live the full span of life "in view of the prevailing darkness". If, however, people ushered in a new era of peace and amity, he would "be 'commanded' to wish to live the full span", he told Margaret Bourke-White on January 29. Days and hours before his assassination, as he repeatedly referred to it, he must have been ruminating on death, which he often called the great friend.

Economy was a virtue for Gandhi, and he would not leave even the obverse side of an envelope unused. Would he have seen death as something to be put to good use? We speak of his death in terms of martyrdom, as his final sacrifice in his life-long *yajna*. What were his own thoughts? He possibly started the decidedly stoic practice of contemplation of death during the civic resistance struggle in South Africa. The Gita and its message of the eternity of soul, along with the death of Socrates and Jesus Christ offered him a way of making sense of the end of life — as life brought to perfection.

From the Gita, the "perennial guide to conduct" for him, he derived his philosophy as a way of life and also of death. He believed it was composed "to remove the fear of death". Speaking on the *shradha* day of CR

Das in Kolkata in 1925, he singled out this verse: "What is non-Being is never known to have been, and what is Being is never known not to have been. Of both these the secret has been seen by the seers of the truth." (Gita, II, 16) He then added, "If Hinduism has asserted anything in the clearest possible terms, it is that the body and all that we behold is *asad*."

In 1904, exhorting the Indian community in South Africa to strengthen the movement, Gandhi spoke of sacrifice as "the law of life", running through and governing every walk of life. "We can do nothing or get nothing without paying a price for it, as it would be said in commercial parlance or, in other words, without sacrifice. It would secure the salvation of the community to which we belong; we must pay for it, that is, sacrifice self... Christ dies on the Cross of Calvary, and left Christianity as a glorious heritage." The image of Christ crucified endured with him. After seeing a painting of the crucified Christ in the Sistine Chapel of Rome, he commented, "I saw there at once that nations like individuals could only be made through the agony of the cross and in no other way."

Gandhi was so moved by Plato's *Defence and Death of Socrates*, that (as with John Ruskin's *Unto This Last*) that he paraphrased it in Gujarati for the readers of the *Indian Opinion* in 1908. "Ek Satyavirni Katha Athva Socratesno Bachav" notes, "I want to explain to you the meaning of death as I see it. Believe

that what has happened to me is a good thing and that those who believe that death is an evil must be mistaken."

Gandhi acknowledged many interpretations of the term *yajna*, but saw only one meaning acceptable to all faiths: "To be ready even to lay down one's life for true welfare." "Life comes out of death. A seed must disintegrate under earth and perish before it can grow into grain. Harishchandra went through endless suffering to honour his word as a man of truth, Jesus put on a crown of thorns to win salvation for his people, allowed his hands and feet to be nailed and suffered agonies before he gave up the ghost. This has been the law of *yajna* from immemorial times. Without *yajna* this earth cannot exist even for a moment."

The *yajna* he had in mind in 1948, amid the aftermath of Partition, was aimed at nurturing Hindu-Muslim unity. Offering something we value in order to keep the universe in balance is *yajna*. What can be more valuable than life itself? This has an interesting parallel in western philosophy. The French philosopher Brice Parain argued that the Logos (language and rationality) is constantly under threat of disorder, as in thermodynamics. The only way to sustain the Logos is the death of an individual. He was referring to the death of Socrates.

The writer is a Delhi-based journalist

FREEZE FRAME

E P UNNY



FEBRUARY 10, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

PCR ACT REPORT
MOST OF THE stringent provisions of the Protection of Civil Rights Act remain unenforced while Harijans continue to suffer social indignities. None of the state governments has set up special courts or resorted to summary trial or imposition of collective fines in spite of large-scale acts of physical violence against scheduled castes. No state has conducted any survey into the problem of untouchability either. This is how the commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Shishir Kumar, views the problem of untouchability and working of the PCR Act, which is aimed at eradicating this social evil. In his statutory report for

1977-78, the commissioner has pointed out that there is little evidence of fulfilment of the government's resolve in this matter.

A SOVIET GRIP
AFGHANISTAN IS UNEASY and in the grip of the Soviet Union. Resistance has crumbled except at Badakhshan and Baghlan, not far from the Chinese border, and Kunar along the Pakistan border. Here, roughly one-and-half divisions of Soviet troops (16,000 men) have been pinned down by nearly 26,000 Afghans who operate from Chitral in Pakistan and from the terrain of Qalal Painj reaching into China. Some Pakistani troops in Afghan dress, salwar and kameez, are reportedly

fighting by the side of the insurgents.

UNIDO CONFERENCE
THE THIRD GENERAL conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation ended in failure. Negotiations between the developing and the developed countries at the three-week conference could not produce a consensus document. Major proposals of the developing countries did not elicit any support or commitment from rich countries. The conference concluded after adopting the New Delhi Declaration and plan of action presented by the "Group of 77" — a moral victory for the developing countries.

Her right to choose

Amendments to abortion law are welcome. For them to be effective, medical facilities need to be expanded and women have to be made aware of their rights



SHAILAJA CHANDRA

THE PROPOSED BILL seeking to amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (MTP, 1971) after nearly half a century is to be welcomed. Once enacted, the upper limit for terminating special kinds of pregnancies will go up from 20 weeks to 24 weeks — this is a recognition that certain physical and mental conditions can only be identified after the fifth and sixth month of pregnancy. This approach is in line with what seven other countries — Canada, China, the Netherlands, North Korea, Singapore, the United States, and Vietnam — follow. It is based on the yardstick of “foetal viability” — the capability of the foetus to live outside the mother’s womb. The 1971 law had forced vulnerable and traumatised women in an advanced stage of pregnancy to give birth to a compromised child or seek legal redress, an avoidable process that was fraught with delays and uncertainty.

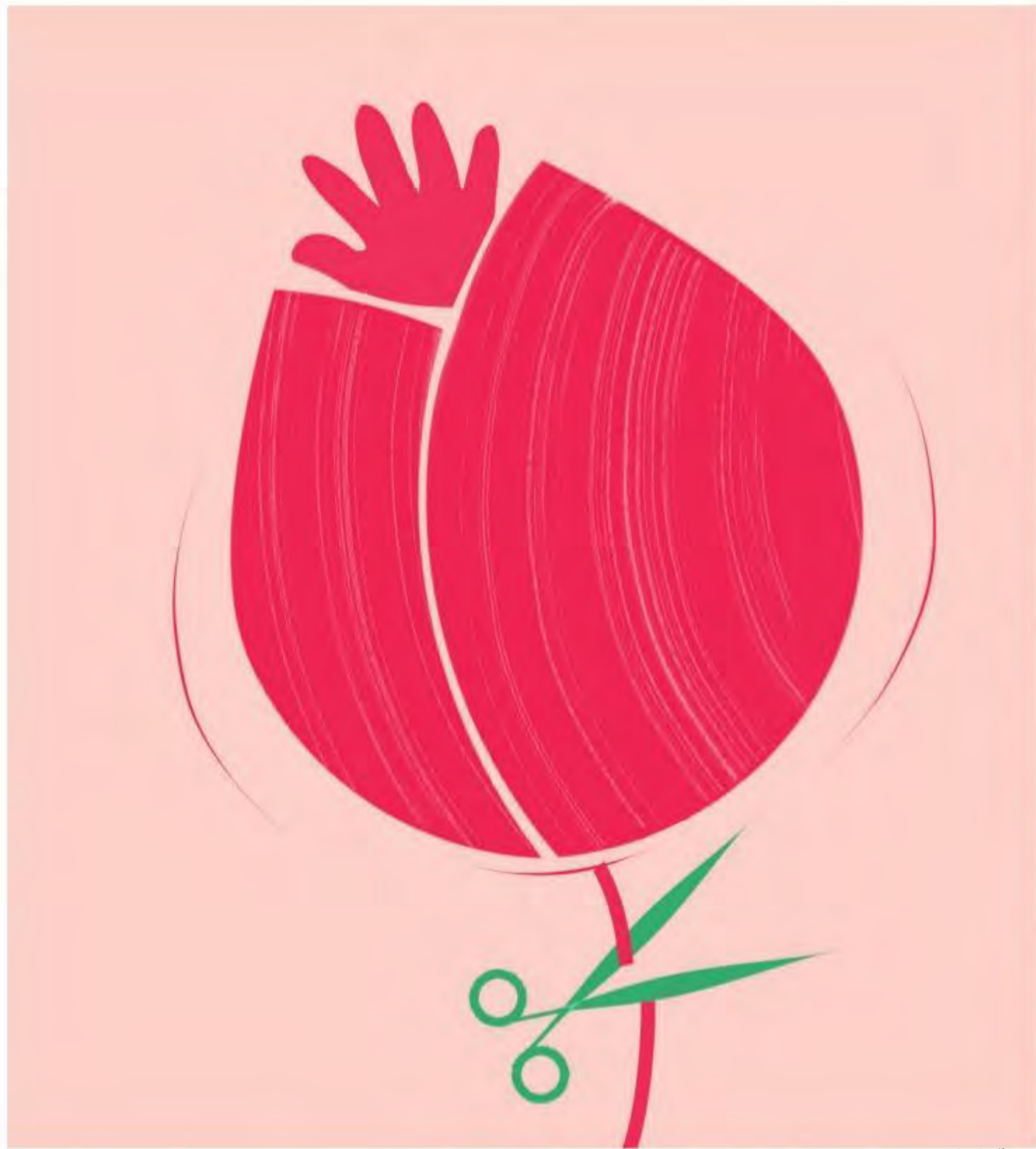
The much bigger reason to commend the proposed amendment is its recognition that even unmarried women are entitled to seek legal abortion — as a right. But this brings to the fore several ground-level issues. First, the annual number of abortions in the country is massive — over 15 million, constituting 33 per cent of the total annual pregnancies in the country. Both in urban and rural areas, there is overwhelming reliance on medical termination (as opposed to surgical methods) by ingesting pills from a kit over one to three days.

In 2015, *Lancet Global Health* published a study, jointly conducted by researchers at the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, the Population Council, New Delhi and the New York-based Guttmacher Institute, which showed that a whopping 81 per cent of women relied on medical termination.

The 24-week modification will help a niche group of women who discover foetal abnormalities after 20 weeks or belong to defined vulnerable groups. Such women have access to doctors. But there are concerns about those who have no access to doctors — millions of rural women who have never had access to a safe and transparent route to abortion. Victims of incest and rape have to resort to unsafe abortions to maintain secrecy and even married women become desperate to end an unwanted pregnancy for economic reasons.

Given the social and cultural milieu in the country, it is natural for women to rely on informal providers to access abortion pills. If these pills don’t work, the woman goes to or is taken to an unqualified practitioner who usually administers an oxytocin injection, performs a D&C (dilation and curettage) and advises consulting a doctor if bleeding persists. The doctor uses a suction apparatus to evacuate the uterus. But in rural areas, where are the doctors? The procedure costs anything between Rs 2,000 in peri-urban areas to around Rs 10,000 in cities. The distress of a woman from a rural area, who requires an abortion, can only be imagined.

Failure of contraception is a valid reason to seek termination of a pregnancy. But more than the failure of contraception, the major reason for unwanted pregnancies is inadequate information about the routes of dependable contraception and care. Most families in rural areas believe that sterilisation is the only solution to avoid pregnancy because in India, people do not have adequate knowl-



C R Sasikumar

edge and lack access to reversible methods like IUDs and injectables. Rural Indian women are far behind their counterparts in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Indonesia when it comes to awareness of these methods. State family planning departments place too much reliance on the village level workers, ASHAs, who provide condoms and pills to village homes. But there is documentary evidence that these condoms and pills are used only intermittently. After pregnancy, an unsafe abortion is often the way out — the third most important cause of maternal mortality. Availability of improved contraceptives and easy access to friendly and competent staff is a big gap which needs to be filled.

In urban areas, medical termination kits are available over the counter on prescription. In unorganised markets, it can be bought without a prescription much like several other Schedule H drugs. Are such over-the-counter sales permissible? Are prescriptions needed to purchase such drugs? There are conflicting responses to such questions from consumers — even those in Delhi. For consumers to understand their rights, an advisory in simple language must be displayed outside chemists’ shops.

Once the law permits abortion on demand, the service must be provided free in government-run facilities. Currently, there is a shortage of trained staff and inadequate supplies of both medical kits and suction apparatus in most PHCs. This must improve for

Entitlements under the existing MTP Act 1971 are much less known than the provisions of the sex selection law (PCPNDT). The two are often confused unnecessarily, exposing women to suspicion, questioning and patronisation. Once the law is amended, it will have to be explained in regional languages, and in a simple manner, to obviate the present state of ignorance, and hubris.

the law to be effective. A directory of practitioners authorised to give prescriptions and undertake abortions at specified locations must also be freely available.

Next is the question of differentiating between two abortion-related laws. Entitlements under the existing MTP Act 1971 are much less known than the provisions of the sex selection law (PCPNDT). The two are often confused unnecessarily, exposing women to suspicion, questioning and patronisation. Once the law is amended, it will have to be explained in regional languages, and in a simple manner, to obviate the present state of ignorance, and hubris.

The Constitution guarantees equal protection under law. Universal access to sexual and reproductive health is embedded in the charters of the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994 and the SDGs. India is a signatory to both. Unless every woman in the reproductive age group has the ability to access what the proposed law intends it will remain only a good intention. Governments have enabled patients from remote villages to benefit from cataract operations and use institutional facilities for deliveries. Medical and surgical abortions must be handled in a similar way for women to be truly empowered.

The writer is former secretary, Department of AYUSH, government of India, and former chief secretary, government of Delhi

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“While the Chinese people are going all out to fight the epidemic, the DPP authority and Taiwan independence forces are taking it as an opportunity to push the island’s participation in WHO and expand its so-called diplomatic space.” — Global Times, China

A new verse

Protest poetry defies conventional barriers, leaves lasting impact in digital age



SHAYONI MITRA

SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY IS happening right now: India is in the midst of nationwide protests against CAA, NRC, NPR and violence against students and universities. This has led to poetry, songs, protest signs and public art projects that are saturating our social media in unprecedented ways.

Poetry is becoming public again. Far from being private papers, published verse or invited mushairas, they are now akin to traditions of oral literariness where rhyme is realised in performance. The interaction between the poet and her audience shapes the poem. In such an inverted context, the revolutionary poem is what linguistic philosopher J.L. Austin would call the performative utterance, where the performing is the doing.

For example, the now-ubiquitous, *Hum Kagaz Nahin Dikhaenge* (We will not show papers) by comedian, lyricist and screenwriter, Varun Grover. In his original posts on Facebook and Twitter — on December 21, 2019, ten days after the CAA was passed on December 11, Grover exhorts — “There is no copyright on these words — feel free to use them, adapt, sing, modify, create.” And people have. From Shaheen Bagh in Delhi to Azad Maidan in Mumbai to Park Circus Maidan in Kolkata to Sabzibagh in Patna: Within the span of a few days, the crowds knew and recited these words. On January 12, in a supercut by director Ronny Sen, a slew of Bengali film personalities across generations including Sabyasachi Chakravarty, Suman Mukhopadhyay, Konkona Sen Sharma and Tillotama Shome recite *Amra Kagaj Dekhabo Na*, a Bengali version of the poem, expanding and dramatising Grover’s original minimal and memorable verse.

A sign of going viral in the digital age is when a meme becomes so popular as to have its origins obscured. Just as the lyrics “*Apna Time Ayega*” (Our Time Will Come) from the 2019 film *Gully Boy*, “*Hum Kagaz Nahin Dikhaenge*”, is an exercise in futurity, a promissory gesture of resistance in the face of autocratic power.

This spirit of resistance can be found in another one of my favorite poems from recent weeks, “*Tum Kaun Ho Be?*”, a title while in itself not profane, is probably

best translated in tonality to “Who the hell are you?” Poet Puneet Sharma first released a version of this on YouTube in April 2019. But the poem surged in popularity following a performance of it in Azad Maidan this January, captured on video. A quietly defiant poem, it casts love for one’s country as private, not demonstrative: “Look! I would tell you, but the land herself is restless/ What is between her and me, is somewhat personal”. It also casts the patriotism that is the order of the day — the kind that requires you to show papers and sing national anthems in movie theatres by mandate, as *sasta nasha* (cheap high).

Another pertinent example in poetry is *Un violador en tu camino* (A rapist in your way), a Chilean poem about sexual assault and rapists being held accountable with the memorable first lines: *El patriarcado es un juez* (The patriarchy is a judge). First performed in Santiago in November 2019, on ‘International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women’, it has since been translated and performed in English at a downtown Manhattan court house — at the beginning of Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein’s rape trial on January 9, 2020; and, the next day, 8,000 miles away in Kolkata, in Bengali by a women’s collective in a flash mob. They rendered the poem’s anthemic chorus as, “*Ami ki porechi, kothaye giyechi, dosh ta amar noye* (What I have worn and where I have gone cannot be my fault).”

Today’s protests also strike directly at hyper masculinist, brahminical ethno-nationalism: Women are at the frontlines, after all, facing police action, mob violence. In this context, veering away from any paternalism or sentimentalism, poet Amir Aziz composed, *Yeh Hai Jamia Ki Ladkiyan* (These are the Girls of Jamia) where the women: “They unmask tyrants/with gestures bring revolution/the girls of Jamia/shredding the cloaks of patriarchy”. Rather than viewing women as sisters, mothers, wives or daughters, Aziz views them as individuals: “They live their lives/they also smoke cigarettes/Some are drifters/These are the girls of Jamia/And Keep your opinions to yourself/Keep a hijab handy if you need”.

No internet blockage can stop this trend. Protest performance in the 21st century is designed to go viral. Bodies animate ideas, gestures fuse with words: Far from being ephemeral, such performances circulate and change, making new meaning with each repetition.

The writer is assistant professor at the Department of theatre, Barnard Centre for Research on Women, Barnard College, Columbia University

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CM VERSUS PM

THIS REFERS TO the report ‘Delhi decides tomorrow’ (IE, February 7). All said and done, the Delhi State Assembly election has boiled down to an unequal fight between sitting CM Arvind Kejriwal ‘David’ and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his entire Force of ‘Goliath(S)’ — ‘press the EVM button hard’, ‘biryani to protesters, ‘goli maro salo ko’. And, yet, poll surveys (in absence of opinion polls) predict AAP has an edge over BJP. My hunch says EVM may win!

Varin Dhir, Ahmedabad

VALLEY TODAY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Six months later’ (IE, February 6). Curbs on communication, detention of top politicians in the Valley and heavy deployment of security force after the abrogation of Article 370 may have brought a lull in the politics of Jammu and Kashmir. But ensuring peace in the region depends on gaining the trust of the people. Speedy restoration of fundamental rights of people in the Valley should be the first step in this direction.

Chanchal Nandy, Burdwan

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Six months later’ (IE, February 6). What has the Centre achieved in Kashmir? Its people are more alienated than ever before, India has been globally questioned for its actions and the unprecedented deployment keeps our men and women in uniform away from their families. Federalism, people’s rights and national security have been sacrificed for ideological concerns.

Bishwadeep Chatterjee, Delhi

VIRUS ALERT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Virus across borders’ (IE, Feb 6). The union

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.

VIEW FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD



A weekly look at the public conversations shaping ideas beyond borders — in the Subcontinent. Curated by Aakash Joshi

LAL MASJID REDUX

THE SIEGE OF Lal Masjid in 2007 was an important moment in Pakistan’s political history. The state’s forces battled fundamentalist militants inside the mosque, causing heavy damage and a large number of casualties. The aftermath of the crisis saw a Lal masjid becoming a “rallying cry for jihadi groups”. In 2020, there appears to be a “Lal Masjid redux” in Islamabad. The February 9 editorial in *Dawn* describes the 2007 siege as “a textbook case of how not to handle a crisis”.

Maulvi Abdul Aziz, who was involved in the 2007 episode, has occupied the mosque along with a number of female seminary students. The government has responded by laying siege to the mosque once again.

The editorial hints that the Imran Khan government’s pandering to fundamentalist elements might have emboldened the Maulvi. It says: “how has a person with a violent background been able to defy the writ of the state with such ease, and that too in the federal capital? Moreover, Maulvi Aziz has issued a number of ‘demands’ to the government: He wants his old job back at Lal Masjid, along with Rs 250m and a plot to construct a new madrasah. This is sheer blackmail and it is not understandable why

the state seems to be playing along with such a hardened militant.”

The editorial concludes by asserting that while democratic protest is every Pakistani’s right, there cannot be calls to violence. The response to such elements cannot be “slothful”.

MIGRANT WORKERS

The February 8 editorial in the *Kathmandu Post* deals with a vexed issue, though its stance is fairly clear. To what extent can governments stand up for the rights of migrant workers outside their own borders: In the case of South Asian labour, particularly in countries in West Asia, the problem is compounded by the poverty of the workers themselves: “Out-migrants have been facing severe challenges — barriers to entering foreign employment — that put them in a hole even before beginning the job that was supposed to change their lives. Some of the notable barriers are exploitative fees collected by manpower agencies, air ticket prices, and visa and health checkup fees collected by the employing countries. Then, when the poor workers reached their destination, many would be surprised to find abusive work.”

That the Nepal government has been able

to secure compensation for workers of Mercury MENA, a company that shut shop without paying wages to its workers, is welcome. That the process has taken over five years though, is not an encouraging sign.

The editorial lays the responsibility of the welfare of citizens working overseas squarely at the door of the government: “That the government has failed to ensure the safety and rights of workers that have given back over Rs 4.5 trillion to the country is a joke. Time and again, it has been reprimanded for failing to uphold the rights of out-migrants. Short of finding local employment with a living wage for over 3.5 million out-migrants, the government must do more, and do so immediately.”

SRI LANKA’S CHALLENGE

On February 4, Sri Lanka celebrated its 72nd independence day with pomp. Harim Peiris in an article in *The Island* on February 6, points out some of the unfinished tasks, the broken promises of independence after recounting the country’s many successes. The most noteworthy of the former include: “We have succeeded in having a gender quota for women in local government, ensuring that a minimum of 25% of all elected local government representatives are women. Sri

Lanka’s basic free education and health care systems have ensured among other gains that we remain high on the global human development index, with a literacy rate of over 90%, long life expectancy and low infant mortality among other quality of life indicators. So, Sri Lanka’s achievements have been not insignificant in our post-independence period.”

But the challenges are equally pressing. First, “Sri Lanka has witnessed massive politically motivated violence in both our south and north, among the majority Sinhala youth, organising themselves through the JVP and the Tamil youth through the LTTE and similar organisations.”

While challenges of identity are not uncommon, they can be exacerbated: “Any society has competing interests and complex and competing claims to resources and political power. These claims and issues are usually resolved democratically through dialogue, debate and a civilised discourse. Sri Lanka’s failure has been the failure of our political institutions in every area, including the executive, the legislative and judicial branches of government to address these issues in an equitable manner, to be seen and widely accepted as equitable.” Overcoming the ghosts of the civil war, the article argues, will need greater civil and political rights.

10 THE GOVERNANCE PAGE



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HEALTHCARE REFORM

Rajasthan follows in Delhi's footsteps, gets neighbourhood clinics for urban poor

Each Janata Clinic needs Rs 20 lakh to set up and another Rs 25 lakh as annual operating expenses

DEEP MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, FEBRUARY 9

AS SHE exits the Janta Clinic in Valmiki Colony, clutching a printed slip and with her 11-year-old son, Lucky, in tow, Sunita Hari is a happy woman.

"Earlier we had to go to private doctors who charged fees of at least Rs 100 apart from the cost of medicine. Here, we got the medicines for free and the doctor's consultation for only a Rs 10 as the registration charge," says Hari, who is a single mother of two children.

The clinic is a stone's throw away from her house at the Valmiki Colony — a settlement with a large population from economically and socially backward sections — in Jaipur's Malviya Nagar. Hari, who works as a sanitation worker with the Jaipur Municipal Corporation says that ever since the clinic — the first of its kind in Rajasthan — was inaugurated on December 18, she has been here several times, primarily for the treatment of her children who fell ill with common cold and seasonal diseases during the winter.

Announced by Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot in his first budget after the Congress formed the government in the state, the Janta Clinics, modelled on the lines of the Mohalla Clinics in Delhi, aim to cater primarily to the urban poor and reduce their out-of-pocket expenditure on healthcare.

"We realised that especially in urban areas there is an undue load at the tertiary healthcare facilities for people who have only primary care problems. We studied the issue and realised that the out of pocket expenditure of the urban poor on health was the highest in any category, something which we felt was very counterintuitive. That is why we came up with the idea to cater to this demographic with Janta Clinics. We also felt that the clinics should have excellent hygienic conditions and the best available technology," says Additional Chief Secretary, Medical and Health and Family Welfare Department, Rohit Kumar Singh.

Health department officials say that each Janta Clinic is aimed at catering to a population of 20,000 in urban areas with facilities such as vaccination, primary healthcare, free



The first Janata Clinic in Jaipur; the govt plans to open 1,000 clinics by 2021 *Express*

primary diagnosis tests and medicines.

According to Raja Chawla, the Additional Director, Health Department and State Nodal Officer for Janta Clinics, apart from the clinic in Valmiki Colony, work for 11 Janta Clinics in Jaipur has been completed and these are to be inaugurated soon.

"At present the Janta Clinic at Jaipur's Valmiki Colony is functional and the other 11 clinics are scheduled to be inaugurated soon. We are hoping that all 12 clinics will be functional by the end of February. Areas for three other clinics have also been identified in Jodhpur. The Janta Clinics function at buildings which are donated or made under corporate social responsibility," says Chawla.

Each Janta Clinic has nine personnel including one doctor, two general nurses and midwife (GNM), an auxiliary nurse and midwife (ANM), a pharmacist, three supporting staff and one staff member for cleaning.

Ever since the clinic in Valmiki Colony was inaugurated in December by Chief Minister Gehlot, it has seen a steady flow of patients every day.

"We are seeing a patient flow of at least 40-70 persons every day. In general, the patients who come have cases of seasonal diseases, respiratory problems, joint pains, diabetes and skin diseases. Most of the patients are from the economically backward background which is why the clinic is useful for them," says doctor Rakesh Tuteja, a government doctor posted at the Janta Clinic in Valmiki Colony.

ACS Singh says that for the first time in Rajasthan, the system of digital prescription has been started at the Janta Clinic.

Under the system, the details and case history of a patient is entered in the mobile as he/she enters the clinic and this is later sent to a tablet, which has been given to the doctor. After checking the patient, the doctor writes the prescription digitally on the tablet which is then sent to another mobile kept with the pharmacist. After the free medicine is provided to the patients, they are given a printout with details of their diagnosis and medicines.

With his gaze fixed on the digital screen

EXPLAINED How Janata Clinics work

EACH CLINIC has nine medical staff members, including a doctor, three nurses, and a pharmacist. The clinics follow a system of digital prescriptions. When a patient enters the clinic, her details are sent to the doctor's tablet. The doctor types the prescription on the tablet, which then sends it to the mobile of the pharmacist. The patient gets her free medicines and a copy of her prescription on her way out.

showing the number of patients at the Janta Clinic in Valmiki Nagar, Karan Sonwal, who has come for the nebulisation of his nephew, says that the clinic has made their life easy.

"My nephew often has a cough and respiratory problems and earlier we had to take him to the Sawai Man Singh Hospital for nebulisation. The hospital is far from our home and going there was inconvenient for us. But now things have become easier with the Janta Clinic opening near our home," says Sonwal, who works as cleaning staff at the SMS Hospital.

Singh says that the cost of setting up each Janta Clinic is Rs 20 lakh and the operating cost is Rs 25 lakh per year. Officials say that more donors and corporates have been coming forward to donate buildings where new clinics could be opened.

"We did a geographic information system (GIS) based analysis to identify the urban cluster and the places in Jaipur where the urban poor would benefit the most from the clinics. We now plan to open 1,000 Janta Clinics by next year across the state," says Singh.

'Climate Collaborative is about breaking silos, sharing responsibilities on climate change'

KAVITHA IYER caught up with Shloka Nath, Executive Director of the India Climate Collaborative (ICC), to understand what the ICC aims to achieve and how.

What is the India Climate Collaborative that was launched last week?

The India Climate Collaborative is the first-ever collective response by industry leaders including Ratan N Tata, Anand Mahindra, Rohini Nilekani, Nadir Godrej, Aditi and Rishad Premji, Vidya Shah and Hemendra Kothari, among others, towards shared responsibilities for action and climate goals along with more than 10 top philanthropies. It will amplify local solutions through a collaborative platform for diverse voices and collective investments.

More than 40 organisations are already a part of the ICC, including the principal scientific advisor to the Government of India, TERI, ATREE (Bangalore), Center for Science and Environment (CSE), the Indian School of Business, Godrej Industries, HUL Foundation, Mahindra Rise, Wipro and others.

What is the purpose of the ICC?

One individual or organisation is not going to solve the problem, and it was clear from the outset that we have to create a platform where you can collaborate across sectors, government agencies, the private sector, philanthropy and civil society who must come together because the conversation right now is far too siloed.

How do we bridge these gaps? How do we make sure that knowledge sitting in research institutions in silos is reflected in policymaking and implementation? How do we make sure that knowledge is digestible?

Data has existed for years, how will we make sure data is reaching the right people and how do we make sure they are being told in a manner that it is making sense and is compelling? That's a big part of the work that ICC seeks to do.

What activities will the ICC undertake immediately?

In 2019, we held a sustainable land use forum with over 100 participants from government, implementers, philanthropy practitioners, business and research institutions, to talk about land use from the perspective of climate change, and how funders could drive impact.

In the first quarter of this year, we have two similar events on air pollution and what Indian funders can do for it. Indian funders represent lower-income populations, they have been working on the ground, they have grassroots network and access. Bringing them into the conversation will reinforce that it is not just an urban middle-class issue.

Then in March, the ICC will host a two-day technical training for over a hundred bureau-



THE POLICY INTERVIEW

SHLOKA NATH

Executive Director of the India Climate Collaborative

crats from across departments of the state governments of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra, to train them on climate change, on how they deal with it from a technical perspective but also why they should care, why it matters, how they can protect their communities. The idea is to train on-the-ground officials and district collectors who come across these problems every day.

Will your corporate members make commitments regarding emissions or water use at their facilities?

Many have already have started implementing various measures. The Mahindras have declared they want to be carbon neutral. The Godrejs are implementing work on water supply within their own companies. We hope to meet them where they are on their journeys and help them do what they are doing better and faster. Other players are keen on entering the space but lack the technical expertise. The biggest shortfall in India vis-a-vis climate change is one of talent. We hope to connect corporates with the right data, knowledge and technical expertise.

Corporate India has the intention, and they are beginning to implement corrective steps. The ICC is the first big step in that direction as corporates realise and agree that it cannot be business-as-usual any more. Also, going forward, 75 per cent of the workforce in any large company will comprise millennials, who are definitely not okay with the business-as-usual approach. The way we are trying to frame it at the ICC is that this is an opportunity, that measures such as energy transitions are not punishments. We are thinking about how we can incentivise them, make sure the tools and resources needed are right there.

IN NUMBERS

AVERAGE EXPENDITURE (IN RS) PER STUDENT BY LEVEL OF CURRENT ATTENDANCE AND TYPE OF INSTITUTION

	Pre-primary	Primary	Secondary	Higher Secondary	Graduate	PG & above
Govt institutions	1030	1253	4078	7001	10501	14656
Private aided institutions	13223	12889	12487	16415	16769	19388

Source: Economic Survey 2019-20; NSS 75th Round (2017-18)

FROM STATES REFORMS TRACKER

GUJARAT

A hub for potato production, export

Gujarat has become a hub for the production and export of potatoes in the last two decades. Addressing the third Global Potato Conclave via video conferencing, Modi said India became a leader in the production of food grains and food products due to farmers' hard work and government policies. India's potato production increased by 20 per cent in the last decade while in Gujarat, it increased by 170 per cent, Modi said. Policy decisions and modern facilities for irrigation helped in this growth, Modi said.

PUNJAB

Improving diagnostic facilities

Soon, you could find private diagnostic facilities inside civil hospitals of Punjab. The state's Health Department plans to invite private firms to set up their diagnostic facilities inside civil hospitals. The policy to this effect is still being prepared but once that is done, the government intends to float tenders for private players. These diagnostic facilities will be run under the public-private partnership (PPP) model. The pricing for such tests would be fixed at the rate stipulated by the government.

TAMIL NADU

Ease of doing business for green firms

The state has launched a new scheme aimed at green industries. The scheme relaxes the process for pre-establishment clearances for green category industries. Firms only need to apply for consent to establish themselves and can start construction without waiting for final approvals.

To raise non-fare revenues, Indian Railways runs health ATMs, provides quick diagnostics

IRAM SIDDIQUE
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 9

WAITING FOR his train at Nagpur station, Shankar Dayal's eyes ran to a sleek white machine which read 'Health ATM' modestly placed at one end of the waiting hall on platform number 1. With the indicator showing about 30 minutes before his train arrival, Dayal curiously walked up to the Health ATM. A paramedic at the kiosk asked him to hold the grab handles of the machine and stand on an attached platform that works as a weighing scale. Within seconds came out a printed slip which had analysed Dayal's Body Mass Index (BMI), and hydration level, which was low. The report further elaborated that his blood sugar and blood pressure were in the normal range but proteins were low.

"It was all tested for Rs 60 and within a few minutes — that too at the railway station. Any pathologist would have taken at least Rs 200 for some basic test but there it was — as



For just Rs 60, health ATMs undertake tests for blood pressure, blood sugar and Body Mass Index *Express*

simple as withdrawing cash," said Dayal.

These Health ATMs have brought together "point of care devices" assembled with software to give out medical reports instantly. The machines can test for 16 different non-invasive nutritional parameters. "They have reinvented health testing and made it affordable," said Shyju Raju, a resident of Hyderabad, who also got his test done at Nagpur.

These machines come as a perfect fit in "New Innovative and Idea Scheme" of Indian Railway for generating revenue under Non-

Fare Revenue (NFR). The NFR, which was first announced in 2010-11, has been a non-starter over the years but gained momentum under over the past year with railways looking at falling revenues.

To meet the shortfall in revenue, railways have also implemented a hike in their long-distance train to generate about Rs 2,300 crore with increased fares. An official from the railway explained, "the NFR is an important aspect of revenue generation apart from ticketing. The targets are to generate about 10-20 per cent of the annual expenditure through NFR. But sadly under NFR, advertisements were only thought as a way of generating revenue until now". These Health ATMs have also been successfully operating at Nagpur, Lucknow, Bhopal and other stations.

"Though we'll be getting about a little over a lakh as annual contract fees from per Health ATM as but every lakh adds to make a crore," said an official from Western Railways, which has a target of Rs 100 crore towards NFR in 2019-20.

TAMIL NADU/ EASE OF LIVING

Coming soon: A safe, secure digital vault to store your docs

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 9

A UNIQUE idea of the Tamil Nadu government, which is all set to come out as a formal order, is meant to make life easier for people with their own data — from birth to death certificates and from licenses to insurances — at a single click. It is a zero proof, identity-based predictive government service, backed by a bulletproof Blockchain system.

The plan that comes under e-Governance makes people free from the usual processes of applying for various government services like certificates, documents, licenses to various different government departments. For a while now, people have been doing this by going over to offices or through government help centres or from their own homes. But with a view to making these interactions between the government and citizens com-



Chief Minister E Palaniswami *Express*

pletely hassle-free, a new system being implemented by Tamil Nadu will provide all such services "as a predictive service" to ensure that citizens need not apply for any statutory service. Instead, all these documents will be made available in a secret vault accessible through a One-Time Password (OTP).

"This idea emerged among top officers based on the flaws of the data systems that exist in India, where people often end up wasting several days to make minor spelling corrections in their certificates from government offices by paying bribes," said a senior official at the state e-Governance department.

According to a recent write up by Santhosh Babu IAS, an officer who has pioneered several such e-governance programmes in the state, "the application software used for issuing certificates will be suitably modified so that the document issued shall electronically hit the Makkal Number (People's Number) already created by TNeGA (Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency) for seven crore people of the state".

In simple terms, it may be like the state insurance scheme where beneficiaries of state's much-celebrated programme instantly generate an insurance number based on patient's phone number at the hospital

when they visit during a medical emergency to avail free treatment. Going a step ahead, a Citizen's Vault is being created for each citizen in this new system which helps them view their certificates and documents using their mobile number as the user ID and an OTP (one-time-password) that they instantly receive on their phones as the password.

When there is a secret vault and citizens can manage and access their documents and certificates, does it give a similar control to the government as well? According to Babu, an emerging system called blockchain, an incorruptible digital system of transactions with resistance to data modification, is going to be the backbone of the proposed system.

The Blockchain will prompt the software of each government department or agency to issue the certificate, document as and when a citizen becomes eligible for it — be it anything from birth to death certificates, during a person's lifetime. The system will also have a

provision in which departments, agencies and even private employers can, with the consent of the applicant, verify the authenticity of qualifications electronically; there will be no more need additional letters or manual attestations to establish authenticity of documents.

"The data stored using Blockchain technology cannot be altered. The TNeGA will build a Blockchain platform for Tamil Nadu, at a cost of Rs 40 crore, to be offered as a service to all government departments, without them having to maintain a blockchain node. They shall be able to verify their data in the Blockchain independently without hosting the node. The ambitious idea, originally mooted by Babu (who has initiated many projects in the state including "paperless offices," rural BPOs and an e-repository of artisans) and Santhosh Misra, CEO of TNeGA. The plan, announced by the Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami recently, is expected to be implemented in a year's time.

THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



Police released an image of a suspect connected with the shootings. AP

USA

Same gunman attacks New York cops in two shootings

New York: A gunman walked into a police station in the Bronx and started shooting early Sunday, wounding an officer just hours after he shot a different officer in a patrol van. The same gunman was responsible for the back-to-back shootings, New York City Police Commissioner Dermot Shea said Sunday at a press conference. "For the second time in less than 12 hours, NYPD officers have been targeted specifically," Shea said. The suspect, whose name has not been released, was taken into custody.

KAZAKHSTAN

10 killed in rare clashes

Nur-Sultan: The toll from rare clashes in a part of ethnically-mixed southern Kazakhstan has risen to 10 dead, officials said Sunday with signs that tensions had eased since the violence flared two days ago. Deputy Interior Minister Aleksei Kalaichidi told reporters the toll was ten dead from Friday's unrest in the Jambyl region, which saw many flee over the border to Kyrgyzstan. Authorities had previously said eight people died. Kalaichidi said 39 people were still receiving treatment in Kazakh hospitals on Sunday.

USA

Mother, 6 kids die in Mississippi house fire

Clinton: A mother and her six children died when a fire destroyed their home early Saturday in central Mississippi, authorities said. The father was the lone survivor of the 12.30 am blaze in Clinton, a city of about 26,500 people just outside the capital city of Jackson. He tried unsuccessfully to save family members and suffered smoke inhalation, burns, cuts and bruises, city spokesman Mark Jones said. He was taken to a local hospital but "wanted to stay at the scene," Jones said.

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK: TOLL RISES TO 811 IN CHINA

China's virus death toll surpasses SARS, but number of new cases fall

Pace at which virus spreads likely to see 'dramatic reduction'; Chinese employees to return to work

AP & REUTERS
SHANGHAI, BEIJING, FEB 9

CHINA'S VIRUS death toll rose by 89 on Sunday to 811, passing the number of fatalities in the 2002-2003 SARS epidemic, but fewer new cases were reported in a possible sign its spread may be slowing as other nations stepped up efforts to block the disease. Some 2,656 new virus cases were reported in the 24 hours ending at midnight Saturday, most of them in the central province of Hubei, where the first patients fell sick in December. That was down by about 20% from the 3,399 new cases reported in the previous 24-hour period.

"That means the joint control mechanism of different regions and the strict prevention and control measures have worked," a spokesman for the National Health Commission, Mi Feng, said at a news conference. "Dramatic reductions" in the pace of the disease's spread

should begin this month if containment works, said Dr Ian Lipkin, director of Columbia University's Center for Infection and Immunity. He assisted the World Health Organization and Chinese authorities during the outbreak of SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome.



At a medical waste disposal centre in Chengdu, Sichuan province, China. Reuters

However, he said, if new cases spike as people return to work after the Lunar New Year holiday, which was extended to reduce the risk of spreading the virus, then "we'll know we're in trouble". China's Cabinet said on Sunday it would coordinate with

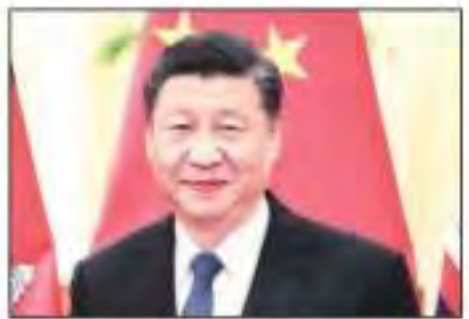
transport authorities to ensure the smooth return to work of employees in key industries such as food and medicines. The State Council's special coronavirus group also said workers should return in "batches", rather than all at once, in order to reduce infection risks.

Xi commands virus fight from safe heights

CHRIS BUCKLEY & STEVEN LEE MYERS
WUHAN, FEBRUARY 9

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping strode on-stage before an audience in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing less than three weeks ago, trumpeting his successes in steering China through a tumultuous year and promising "landmark" progress in 2020.

"Our progress will not be halted by any storms and tempests," he declared to applause on the day before the Lunar New



Year holiday. As he spoke, the government was locking down Wuhan, a city of 11 million people, in a frantic attempt to stop the virus spreading from its epicentre. The epidemic comes as Xi has struggled with a host of

other challenges: a slowing economy, huge protests in Hong Kong, an election in Taiwan that rebuffed Beijing and a protracted trade war with the United States. Yet as China's battle with the coronavirus intensified, Xi put the country's No. 2 leader, Li Keqiang, in charge of a leadership group handling the emergency, effectively turning him into the public face of the government's response. It was Li Keqiang who travelled to Wuhan to visit doctors. Xi, by contrast, receded from public view for several days. That was not without precedent,

though it stood out in this crisis, after previous Chinese leaders had used times of disaster to try to show a more common touch. State television and newspapers almost always lead with fawning coverage of Xi's every move. That retreat from the spotlight, some analysts said, signalled an effort by Xi to insulate himself from a campaign that may falter and draw public ire. Yet Xi has consolidated power, sidelining or eliminating rivals, so there are few people left to blame when something goes wrong. **NYT**

Netanyahu: Israel drawing up map for West Bank annexations

MAAYAN LUBELL
JERUSALEM, FEBRUARY 9

ISRAEL HAS begun to draw up maps of land in the occupied West Bank that will be annexed in accordance with US President Donald Trump's proposed peace plan, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Saturday.

"We are already at the height of the process of mapping the area that, according to the Trump plan, will become part of the state of Israel. It won't take too long," Netanyahu said at an election campaign rally in the Maale Adumim settlement.

Netanyahu said the area would include all Israeli settlements and the Jordan Valley - territory Israel has kept under military occupation since its capture in the 1967 Middle East war but which Palestinians want in a future state.

"The only map that can be accepted as the map of Palestine is the map of the Palestinian state on the 1967 borders with Jerusalem as its capital," said

EXPLAINED: Upcoming election makes timing of announcement key

ALTHOUGH TRUMP'S 'Middle East peace plan' called on Israel to annex parts of the West Bank, Washington has told Netanyahu to wait, at least until after the March 2 Israeli election, before he moves towards taking action. The Israeli PM, however, is facing a third election in under a year after not having been able to form a government on the previous two occasions. This time, he is also fighting criminal corruption charges that could derail his political career. This makes the annexation a very important issue for Netanyahu, whose Likud party has a large right-wing voter base. Whether his current caretaker government actually has the authority to annex territory is an issue that remains undecided with the judiciary. However, Netanyahu will seek to keep annexation at least a topic of conversation as the election approaches.

Nabil Abu Rdainah, spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

A US envoy warned Israel on Sunday not to declare sovereignty over West Bank land without Washington's consent.

"Israel is subject to the completion (of) a mapping process by

a joint Israeli-American committee. Any unilateral action in advance of the completion of the committee process endangers the Plan & American recognition," envoy David Friedman tweeted.

Prospects for annexations, which have been widely condemned, remain unclear. **REUTERS**

US says two American soldiers killed in Afghanistan

RAHIM FAIEZ & KATHY GANNON
KABUL, FEBRUARY 9

TWO US soldiers were killed and six wounded in a so-called insider attack in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar province late Saturday when an Afghan dressed in an Afghan army uniform opened fire, the US military said.

A member of Nangarhar's provincial council, Ajmal Omer, told The Associated Press that the gunman was killed. There have been numerous attacks by Afghan national army soldiers on their allied partners during 18 years of America's protracted war in Afghanistan.

Six US service members have been killed in Afghanistan since the start of 2020, including Saturday's casualties. An Afghan defense ministry official said the shooter was an Afghan soldier who had argued with the US forces before opening fire. **AP**

MEANWHILE

NEW TAMIL ALLIANCE LAUNCHED IN SRI LANKA

An alternative alliance to the moderate Tamil National Alliance, the main Tamil political party in Sri Lanka, was formed in Jaffna on Sunday to participate in the next Parliamentary Elections expected to take place in April. The Thamizhi Makkal Tesiya Kootani or the Tamil People's National Alliance was forged under the leadership of former Northern Province chief minister CV Wigneswaran.



Thai security forces evacuate students stranded inside the Terminal 21 shopping mall following a gun battle, in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand, on Sunday. Reuters

'Unprecedented' mass shooting: Thai city holds vigil for 30 killed

Attacker shot dead after 17-hour ordeal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NAKHON RATCHASIMA, FEB 9

HOLDING CANDLES and writing condolences as monks chanted prayers, hundreds of Thais held an evening vigil Sunday for the 30 victims of an "unprecedented" mass shooting carried out by a soldier.

Sharpshooters killed the gunman on Sunday morning after a 17-hour ordeal, including a night of firefights and terrifying dashes for mall exits by shoppers trapped in the Terminal 21 mall in Nakhon Ratchasima, also known as Korat.

The provincial governor told reporters that the death toll stood at 30 with dozens injured.

The dead include civilians — one of them a 13-year-old boy — and security forces going after the rogue soldier, who was upset over a debt dispute, according to Thailand's prime minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha.

"It is unprecedented in Thailand, and I want this to be the last time this crisis happens," he said earlier outside a hospital where victims — some in critical condition — were being treated.

Those who attended the somber vigil scrawled messages on white sheets of paper laid out on the ground, including "Remember Forever" and "I wish



Most of the victims were at the Terminal 21 shopping centre in Nakhon Ratchasima city. AP

you a good afterlife". Prayut, a former Army Chief, blamed a "personal problem" over the sale of a house for the soldier's rampage, which began on Saturday afternoon near an army barracks and was for several hours relayed by the gunman via Facebook posts.

The attacker, identified as Sergeant-Major Jakrapanth Thomma, used a stolen M60 machine gun and rifles from one of Thailand's largest barracks as well as a military humvee to carry out the attack. Prayut said the gunman overpowered security at the barracks' arsenal and that "carelessness" was not a factor.

VIRUS FEARS: OVER 70 EXHIBITORS SKIP SINGAPORE AIRSHOW

Singapore: Over 70 exhibitors, including US aerospace giant Lockheed Martin and 12 Chinese companies, have pulled out of Asia's biggest aviation and defence event Singapore Airshow amid mounting concerns over the coronavirus outbreak in China that has claimed 811 lives and spread to more than 25 countries.

British govt puts final touches to its post-Brexit visa regime

ADITI KHANNA
LONDON, FEBRUARY 9

BRITISH PRIME Minister Boris Johnson and UK Home Secretary Priti Patel have finalised plans for a new post-Brexit points-based visa and immigration system, which is expected to see the UK

allowing greater numbers of skilled professionals from around the world, including India, to live and work in the country.

At a meeting earlier this week, they reportedly accepted the UK Migration Advisory Committee's (MAC) recommendation to lower the minimum salary threshold requirement for

such professionals from 30,000 pounds to 25,600 pounds, with additional points being scored for skill levels, job offers and English language abilities.

The details of the new system are expected to be formally unveiled by Patel next Friday, following an expected Cabinet reshuffle by Johnson on Thursday. **PTI**

Political gridlock looms for Ireland after Sinn Fein surge

PADRAIC HALPIN & CONOR HUMPHRIES
DUBLIN, FEBRUARY 9

IRELAND BEGAN counting votes on Sunday in a national election that an exit poll indicated would show a historic breakthrough for left-wing nationalists Sinn Fein but leave a fractured political landscape with no clear path to a governing coalition.

In a major realignment, Sinn



Sinn Fein candidate Paul Donnelly and his wife Angela at a counting centre in Citywest, near Dublin. Reuters

Fein support surged 50% to bring it into joint first place on 22% with Fine Gael and Fianna Fail, the two centre-right parties that have dominated Irish politics for a century, according to the exit poll.

But Sinn Fein is likely to fall behind the other two because it fielded fewer candidates. Fine Gael and rival Fianna Fail are likely to be left slugging it out for first place — before starting what is likely to be a torturous process of forming a governing coalition. **REUTERS**

ETHIOPIA IS STAKING ITS HOPES ON ITS \$4.5-BN HYDROELECTRIC DAM, EGYPT FEARS IT WILL CUT INTO ITS WATER SUPPLIES

For thousands of years, Egypt controlled the Nile. A new dam threatens that

DECLAN WALSH & SOMINI SENGUPTA
MINYA, FEBRUARY 9

THE EGYPTIAN farmer stood in his dust-blown field, lamenting his fortune. A few years ago, wheat and tomato-filled greenhouses carpeted the land. Now the desert was creeping in.

"Look," he said, gesturing at the sandy soil and abandoned greenhouses. "Barren."

The farmer, Hamed Jarallah, attributed his woes to dwindling irrigation from the overtaxed Nile, the fabled river at the heart of Egypt's very identity. Already, the Nile is under assault from pollution, climate change and

Egypt's growing population, which officially hits 100 million people this month.

And now, Jarallah added, a fresh calamity loomed. A colossal hydroelectric dam being built on the Nile 2,000 miles upriver, in the lowlands of Ethiopia, threatens to further constrict Egypt's water supply — and is scheduled to start filling this summer.

"We're worried," he said. "Egypt wouldn't exist without the Nile. Our livelihood is being destroyed. God help us."

The dispute between Egypt and Ethiopia over the \$4.5 billion Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam — Africa's largest, with a reservoir about the size of London — has become a national

preoccupation in both countries, stoking patriotism, deep-seated fears and even murmurs of war.

To Ethiopians, the dam is a cherished symbol of their ambitions — a megaproject with the potential to light up millions of homes, earn billions from electricity sales to neighbouring countries and confirm Ethiopia's place as a rising African power.

After years of bumpy progress, including corruption scandals and the mysterious death of its chief engineer, the first two turbines are being installed. Officials said the dam will start filling in July.

That prospect induces dread in Egypt, where the dam is seen as the most fundamental of threats.



The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, under construction on the Blue Nile in Ethiopia. NYT

Egypt is one of the driest countries on earth, with 95% of its people living along the Nile or its teeming Delta. The river, which

flows south to north, provides nearly all of their drinking water. Never before has Egypt had to contend with a country upstream

enjoying a chokehold over the Nile — a country, moreover, that an Egyptian ruler once tried to invade.

Egyptian experts have issued dire predictions of parched fields, empty taps and threats to farmers in the sprawling Nile Delta, which produces two-thirds of Egypt's food supply. The growing risks of frequent, intense droughts on a hotter planet add to the tension.

President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, the country's autocratic ruler, has staked his authority on defending the river.

"The Nile is a question of life, a matter of existence to Egypt," he said at the UN last September.

For eight years, officials from Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan — which lies between the two

countries — squabbled fruitlessly over the dam. Egyptians worry that, if filled too quickly, the dam could drastically curtail their water supply. In November, in a last-ditch effort, the talks moved to Washington, where the White House has been mediating.

US President Donald Trump, playing on his self-image as a deal-maker, has suggested that his efforts might merit a Nobel Prize. The White House is pushing for an agreement by the end of February, but Egyptian and Ethiopian officials warn it will not be easy.

In an interview last month, Seleshi Bekele, Ethiopia's water minister, called Egypt's claims to the Nile "the most absurd thing you ever heard".

For millennia, Egyptians were the unchallenged masters of the Nile, drawing on the river to build ancient empires and modern republics. The pharaohs worshipped crocodiles and used the Nile to transport the giant granite blocks for the Great Pyramid of Giza. In 1970, Egypt's towering post-independence leader, Gamal Abdel Nasser, oversaw the completion of the Aswan High Dam, taming the Nile's seasonal flows and transforming Egyptian agriculture.

The Renaissance Dam spans the Blue Nile, the river's main tributary, which supplies most of Egypt's water. Ethiopia's young, modernizing leader, Abiy Ahmed, insists that Egyptian fears about its impact are overblown. **NYT**

12 ECONOMY

CORPORATE WATCH
STARTING NEW BIZ TO TAKE LESS TIME
New Delhi: The Corporate Affairs Ministry would introduce the form SPICe+ to offer 10 services which would help in "saving as many procedures, time and cost for starting a business in India," it said in a public notice. **PTI**

UNUSED INFRASTRUCTURE TO BE USED TO EXPAND PRESENCE IN RURAL INDIA

Private telecom firms look to cut capex, approach BBNL to lease 'dark fibre'

AASHISH ARYAN
 NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

IN A bid to cut down on capital expenditure, the three major telecom service providers — Reliance Jio Infocomm, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea — have reached out to state-run Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) to use the dark fibre laid by the latter.

The hitherto unused infrastructure will be used by these companies to expand their presence in rural India and offer 4G as well as other long-term evolution (LTE) mobile telephony services, according to official documents accessed by *The Indian Express*.

The bandwidth requested by all the telecom service providers is a part of the dark fibre laid out by BBNL while working on the BharatNet project.

Dark fibre is the extra optical fibre laid by companies in order to avoid cost repetition when more bandwidth is needed.

Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea did not respond to emailed queries on how much

EXPLAINED

Will help in savings, expansion for telcos

THE TELCOS' plan to lease hitherto unused dark fibre from BBNL is likely to lead to savings for them on capital expenditure for the next 10 years. These telcos, which most often have connectivity till block level, will find it easy to expand into villages and offer services such as 4G to new customers. It could also lead to BBNL finding it easier to carry out maintenance work as the presence of a user at the end of the fibre would keep it updated about the status of the optical fibre laid.

money they were willing to invest in the project and whether they had been handed over any service ready gram panchayat so far.

The move by telcos to use BBNL's infrastructure is likely to result in savings on capital expenditure for them.

The telcos have so far deposited a small amount of Rs 17.86 crore in total as advance for BBNL to start work on handing over the dark fibre to them.

pate in a BBNL tender to participate in the BharatNet programme.

BBNL — which is the implementing agency for BharatNet — had then come out with a Rs 10,000-crore tender, "to provide Broadband services through WiFi Hot Spots", for a period of five years.

The implementing agency, BBNL had then said, was also to undertake end-to-end maintenance and marketing to "enhance use of BharatNet network". The 2017 tender also failed as "the rules then mandated that telcos mandatorily provide WiFi services" if they bid for the project, sources in the Department of Telecommunications told *The Indian Express*.

"So we had at that time offered that we will give around Rs 80,000 per WiFi they set up. For the telecom service providers, the cost of setting a base transceiver station was coming to around Rs 1.3 crore. That was not viable for them," a Ministry source said.

This time around, the cost for telcos will be significantly lower as they are looking only to lease

the unused fibre, the source said, adding that the costs involved were spread over 10 years, so it would not be very significant.

Reliance Jio — which is now the biggest telecom service provider by subscriber base — has submitted a list of 35,561 gram panchayats that it wants to reach by using the optical fibre laid out by BBNL. To gain access to these gram panchayats, Reliance Jio deposited an advance of Rs 13.2 crore.

"Out of the 35,561 GP (gram panchayat), the feasibility at 28,341 GP was provided to them. Further, Reliance Jio was given one month's free trial or services," according to the official documents.

The number of gram panchayats Reliance Jio has requested access to is more than ten times the number of gram panchayats Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea have requested access to, the documents show.

While Bharti Airtel has requested access to 3,096 gram panchayats, the combined entity of Vodafone Idea had requested to use BBNL's fibre network for 205 gram panchayats.

INTERVIEW WITH EXPENDITURE SECRETARY

'Aim has been to give as much stimulus as possible without compromising sustainability'

HAVING JOINED the Finance Ministry just seven weeks before the Budget, Expenditure Secretary TV SOMANATHAN had a crucial balancing act of managing expenditure with slowing revenues amid the overall economic slowdown. The government's aim in the Budget was then to push for higher expenditure, without creation of long-term problems such as servicing of debt, Somanathan said. In an interview to AANCHAL MAGAZINE, Somanathan — who earlier served in the Prime Minister's Office for over two years and then was posted as Principal Secretary with the Tamil Nadu government — said the government didn't want to do anything "imprudent". "Our aim has been to provide as much stimulus as possible without compromising long-term sustainability. We don't want to get into a situation where we do so much that we run into a crisis after two years on servicing our debt. We didn't want to do anything that is imprudent," he said. Edited excerpts:



"There is no increase in arrears or unpaid bills of central government to CPSEs; in fact, if anything, it has come down"
TV SOMANATHAN

something that requires careful study and calibration. Also, the implications of the EBRs are different because they do not place a load on the bond market.

Planning for the Budget, how much of it weighed on your mind that we are in probably the worst slowdown phase and private investments have not picked up?

Our aim has been to provide as much stimulus as possible without compromising long-term sustainability. We don't want to get into a situation where we do so much that we run into a crisis after two years on servicing our debt. We didn't want to do anything that is imprudent. So it's a line, it's a judgment. And there was a strategy around this, which even the FM has also said: push expenditure, but up to the point where it doesn't create or store up long-term problems. So that is what we have striven to achieve. I think we have got it approximately right. So, it is not 3.3 per cent (fiscal deficit as percentage of GDP), we will go to 3.8 per cent, that is the plus 0.5 per cent. We will do a little more by shifting some liabilities to off-budget borrowings, but not more than that. And so, in a way, we've done everything we can, which doesn't store up a long-term problem. That has been the effect and that is exactly what we were trying to do.

The total Budget size, there is a 12.7 per cent increase, given the nominal growth rate of 10 per cent and this huge reliance on Rs 2,10,000 crore on one kind of receipts (disinvestment). Is it manageable? What gives you the confidence?

Fair question, but for me from the expenditure side, we are looking at an expenditure Budget of Rs 30.42 lakh crore, in which you have about Rs 23-24 lakh crore as tax revenue. Then you have a bit

of non-tax revenue, and then you have disinvestment. The tax revenue numbers, I think they are pretty sound. The 10 per cent nominal growth is very likely. So if you get to 10 per cent with no structural changes in taxes, I think 1.2 buoyancy on taxes is very reasonable. So 10 per cent nominal, 12 per cent tax growth is what has been estimated.

Others, you may have some risks on the downside, but I think there is some upside on the tax. So, overall, I think the risks on the expenditure side are moderate.

The outstandings of the government of India with various CPSEs: How are you placed right now in terms of shortfall, or in terms of payments?

There is no increase in arrears or unpaid bills of central government to CPSEs; in fact, if anything, it has come down. As regards payments by CPSEs to their suppliers, that the government has really focused on and brought down substantially since September, with several rounds of reviews, including in the Expenditure Department, in the Cabinet Secretariat, and there has been a substantial reduction. Very few of them have dues above 45 days, the time expected in the MSME Act. The last time we reviewed, there were only 12 CPSEs, who had some balances above 45 days and even those have now been brought down. So, we made a big push.

Regarding the escape clause of the FRBM Act that has been used by the Centre for its fiscal deficit target, there have been similar demands from states. What about them?

Their Acts don't have escape clauses, states don't have flexibility in their FRBM Acts and that is the way the architecture is right now. States have less flexibility in terms of resource management. If it builds up into their debt, they have fewer levers to meet that future increase, the Centre has more flexibility to address future debt.

The Budget has lower share for states...

As regards the states percentage share in revenues being lower, one is an accounting reason — partly in the RE (Revised Estimates) and more so in next year's BE (Budget Estimates), J&K is not in the states column, it's in the Centre's column. Second is that there is an entry for the GST compensation cess, which unlike everything else, is 100 per cent to the states. That item has not grown. I'm talking about the collection of GST compensation cess. So when the biggest proportionate source of the states doesn't grow and the ones that are growing are things where the Centre has a much bigger share, in aggregate it changes the ratio.

Falling volumes, low demand keep Q3 profits muted across sectors

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
 MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 9

EVEN IN a festive quarter, India Inc has struggled to grow the top line, with most companies unable to push through volumes. Most companies have been unable to meet even the tempered expectations, though some like Bharti Airtel did well after many quarters. However, the pain can be seen in that revenues in the three months to December, remained flat year-on-year (y-o-y).

The increase in the profit after tax is mostly the result of the lower tax rate, else for a clutch of 713 companies, the profit before tax barely grew.

A glance at the results of banks and NBFCs makes it clear that business is dull. Leading lenders have reported a contraction in their corporate loan portfolios. Again, disbursements at NBFCs like Magma Financial, Chola Financial and MMFS have contracted in Q3FY20.

Commenting on the demand, the management at Shriram Transport observed customers were postponing purchases and making do with existing fleet. Even where purchases were being made, these were, more often than not, used vehicles rather than new ones.

The increase in the profit after tax is mostly the result of the lower tax rate, else for a clutch of 713 companies, the profit before tax barely grew

The Sobha management cited modest demand trends as a reason for slower launch activity in Q3FY20. The HeroMotoCorp management, while referring to some positives such as good monsoon, also highlighted that a sustained recovery would take time.

Retailers like Shoppers Stop have barely posted an increase in same-store sales and even at Avenue Supermarts, these rose by just 6-7 per cent y-o-y.

Drug firms like SunPharma reported strong growth in their domestic revenues — up 18 per cent y-o-y, but the overall sales growth was pulled down by a poor show in the US where sales fell 3 per cent y-o-y.

Again, although realisations at HeroMotoCorp improved 4 per cent y-o-y, revenues fell 11 per cent y-o-y on the back of falling volumes which dipped 14 per cent y-o-y. At GSK Consumer, sales were up just 3.8 per cent y-o-y. **FE**

PITCHES FOR RATIONALISATION OF GST RATES ONCE A YEAR

Laid foundation for increasing consumption in Budget: FM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 9

IN THE Union Budget, the central government has laid the foundation of increasing consumption, while ensuring that its investment is deployed to build infrastructure leading to a \$5-trillion economy by 2024-25, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said Sunday.

"I think we have laid the foundation for increasing consumption, ensuring that capex (capital expenditure) and government's investments will go towards spending on building of assets in infrastructure which should have cascading effects both in the short term and in the long term.

"In order to address rural distress, 16 focused action points have been announced in the Budget. So I expect all this will lead to a five trillion dollar economy," Sitharaman said while speaking to reporters here.

She also pitched for rationalisation of goods and services tax (GST) rates once a year and not every three months as was the trend so far.

Responding to queries on what West Bengal has received from the Union Budget, the Finance Minister said, "I do not



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaking to reporters in Kolkata on Sunday. Partha Paul

know how I answer this question of *kisko kya mila* (which state gets what). I am looking at the point of macro-economic stability, building assets in the country, money directly going to hands of individuals because of reduced tax rates and so on."

Earlier in the day, Sitharaman — while interacting with industrialists and businessmen in the state — said the government wants continuous engagement with industries and will act as a facilitator for hassle-free payments of taxes.

"The broad message which is apparent is that the government wants continuous engagement with industry and business. And

my presence here is not in response to what is happening inside (country) and outside," Sitharaman added.

Referring to issues relating to GST, she said it is not just for the Centre to initiate steps for reduction of rates but the state ministers should also represent cases so that a synergy could be built.

Responding to Tea Board Chairman PK Bezbaruah's remarks on the scarcity of ATMs in the tea belts of Assam and West Bengal, the Finance Minister said, "I know that number of ATMs is minuscule in the tea growing regions. The government is ready to set up such facilities in these areas."

Decriminalise laws, change criminal penalties to civil penalties: CII to govt

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
 NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

TO IMPROVE business environment and remove obsolete laws, industry body CII has suggested the government to decriminalise several provisions in business-facing laws, arguing that "offences which are of a technical nature or those that do not affect public interest prejudicially should be considered to be decriminalised".

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has recommended 12 alternate ways to work towards decriminalisation of laws and amend legislations to change criminal penalties to civil penalties. CII said many company directors and senior management personnel are fearful of the criminal implications of the various laws.

In its suggestions shared with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, CII suggested making summons cases concerning relatively minor offences compoundable, transparent mechanism for no-guilt admission and settlement of technical offences with penalties and not prosecution, introduction of dispute settlement mechanism, deferred prosecution agreements with exceptions and one-time settlement schemes.

Its other suggestions include

award of costs where courts have observed that there is frivolous litigation, creating a process for a without-admission-of-guilt settlement of tax and economic offences with exceptions, among others. "There have been increasing incidents recently where commercial and civil disputes are being treated as criminal complaints, thereby creating a fear factor among company directors, young entrepreneurs and foreign investors," CII said, adding directors today are fearful, and this impacts corporates negatively since they are resigning due to the fear of criminal implications of the laws.

"For such business and economic legislations which fall within the domain of arbitration or civil courts, the government should consider decriminalising the laws, unless there is an intent of fraud or misdoings," CII president Vikram Kirloskar said.

However, periodic or habitual offenders should be treated differently and punished with higher penalties as may be decided by the adjudicating authority. "This will not only increase confidence of both domestic and global players but also provide boost to ease of doing business in India," he said.

In the Budget 2020-21, the Centre has stressed that criminal liabilities for Acts that are civil in nature will be amended in the

Companies Act and other laws would also be examined.

Senior Finance Ministry officials said the Centre's intent is to improve its trust with the business community. The Centre has earlier tried to limit criminal proceedings for non-compliances of minor, technical or procedural nature for the Companies Act, 2013 by setting up the Company Law Committee, which submitted its interim report in November 2019 and recommended amendments in 46 penal provisions.

Last year, the government had also clarified that violations of corporate social responsibility (CSR) norms under the companies law will be treated only as a civil liability and not as a criminal offence.

"It is also important to prescribe a time frame or filing a complaint for economic related offences and for completion of investigation and adjudication with a few agreed exceptions... Malafide actions, frauds and criminal activities by businesses deserve strong punitive measures. However, for technical or procedural lapses of non-serious nature, civil liability would be adequate as a deterrent," CII said.

It has listed amendments to a total of 37 legislations related to the Companies Act, IBC, environmental protection, consumer protection and labour interests.

Over ₹4 lakh crore of cost overruns in 400 infra projects

As many as 400 infrastructure projects, each worth ₹150 crore or more, are hit by cost overruns of more than ₹4 lakh crore owing to delays and other reasons, according to the MoSPI's report for November 2019



1,698: Number of projects worth ₹150 crore and above monitored by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)

400: Number of projects that reported cost overruns whose neither year of commissioning nor tentative gestation period has been reported

578: Number of projects that reported time escalation, of which: **190:** delayed by one to 12 months **121:** delayed by 13 to 24 months **146:** delayed by 25 to 60 months **121:** delayed by 61 months and above **38.84 months:** Average time overrun of all projects

Source: MoSPI/PTI

₹20,41,114.88 CRORE: Total original implementation cost of the 1,698 projects

₹24,41,837.32 CRORE: Anticipated implementation cost of all projects

₹4,00,722.44 CRORE: Overall cost overruns

₹10,50,331.59 CRORE: Expenditure incurred on all projects till November 2019

REASONS FOR TIME OVERRUNS:
 ■ Delays in land acquisition, forest clearance and supply of equipment
 ■ Fund constraints
 ■ Geological surprises
 ■ Slow progress in civil works
 ■ Shortage of labour

INVESTMENT POST BUDGET

FPIs invest ₹6.3K cr in debt segment, pull out ₹1,172 cr from equities

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
 MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 9

FOLLOWING THE benchmark Sensex's rally of over 1,400 points after the Budget day crash of 988 points, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) pulled out Rs 1,172 crore from equities during the February 3-7 period.

However, FPIs remained net buyers in Indian capital markets for a sixth straight month in February, putting in a net amount of Rs 5,177 crore mainly in the debt segment in the month so far, according to data from the National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL). FPIs put Rs 6,350 crore in the debt segment between February 3-7, NSDL data showed.

The Sensex rally after the Budget was led by domestic institutions which made heavy purchases and the Sensex recovered by 917 points on February 3.

While announcing the Union Budget on February 1, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said certain government securities will be open for foreign investors, adding that the Centre plans to increase investment limit for FPIs in

REMAIN NET BUYERS IN FEB

■ Foreign portfolio investors remained net buyers in Indian capital markets for a sixth straight month, putting in a net amount of ₹5,177 crore — mainly in debt segment — in February so far

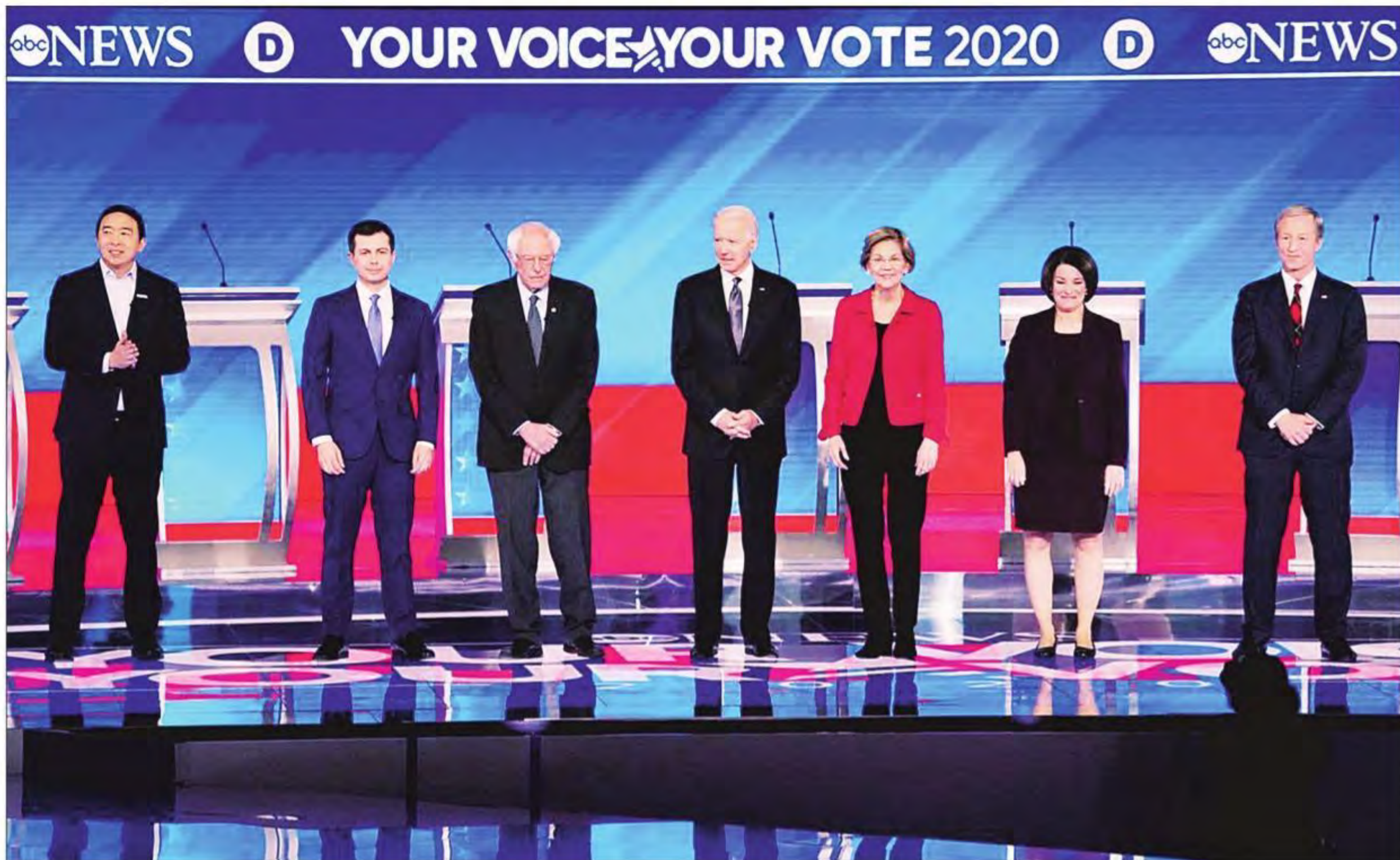
corporate bonds from 9 per cent to 15 per cent. Besides, the government also proposed to remove dividend distribution tax (DDT) on companies, and henceforth the tax burden will be shifted to recipients at the applicable rate.

Markets regulator Sebi recently came out with a common application form for registration of foreign portfolio investors in order to enhance operational flexibility and ease of access to Indian capital market. Depository participants have been asked to continue to accept in-transit FPI registration applications, for a period of 60 days, Sebi said in a circular.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

State of Democrats

The Democratic primaries will be a contest between radicals and repairers



From left: Democratic candidates Andrew Yang, Pete Buttigieg, Bernie Sanders, Joe Biden, Elizabeth Warren, Amy Klobuchar and Tom Steyer during the eighth Democratic 2020 presidential debate at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire, on February 7. Reuters

IT WAS a devastating contrast. As the Iowa caucus turned into a fiasco (Democrats blamed the software), President Donald Trump hailed an "American comeback" in the state-of-the-union message and basked in his acquittal by the Senate over impeachment. With the economy roaring and his approval ratings ticking up, Mr Trump looked likelier than ever to triumph in November. Compare that with the Democrats after Iowa, in which no candidate won the backing of much more than a quarter of caucusers.

Democrats agree that ending Mr Trump's bombastic tenure is their priority. But their champions, now trudging round New Hampshire eking out votes before this week's primary, are starkly divided over what to offer Americans in his place. The left argues that America has stopped working for most people and thus needs fundamental restructuring. Moderates recommend running repairs. A lot rests on which side prevails—the radicals or the repairers.

Any of the front-runners could yet end up as the nominee: the radicals, Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren; or the repairers, Pete Buttigieg and Joe Biden (despite his bad day in Iowa). So at a pinch could Michael Bloomberg, another repairer, who is spend-

ing gargantuan sums before Super Tuesday next month. But on every count the repairers have the better of the argument. They are more likely to beat Mr Trump, to achieve things and, most important, to do what America needs.

It is striking that all of the plausible nominees are campaigning to the left of President Barack Obama in 2012 and Hillary Clinton in 2016. They all have ambitious plans on climate change; and, with the exception of Mr Bloomberg, are sceptical of free trade. Nevertheless, Mr Sanders, who calls himself a democratic socialist, and Ms Warren, a capitalist, are distinctly more militant in both style and substance.

This is partly a matter of degree, as health policy shows. All Democrats want the number of Americans without health insurance, which has risen from 27m to 30m under Mr Trump, to be reduced, ideally to zero. The repairers would expand Obamacare's market-based system until everyone was covered. Mr Sanders and Ms Warren, by contrast, would nationalise health insurance, revolutionising health care, a \$3.8trn business accounting for 18% of GDP and which employs 16.6m people.

There is also a fundamental difference

about the role of government. Take labour rights, for instance. All Democrats evoke a mythical golden age when people were rewarded fairly for a day's work. The reformers would increase minimum wages to, say, \$15 an hour and spend more on education and retraining. The radicals would force any largish firm to put workers on its board—Ms Warren would give their representatives 40% of the seats, Mr Sanders 45%. Mr Sanders would require firms to transfer 20% of their equity to workers' trusts. Both would create a system of federal charters to oblige firms to operate in the interests of all stakeholders, including workers, customers and the local community as well as shareholders. Such a government-mandated shift in corporate power has never occurred in the United States.

This radicalism is based on three misconceptions. The first is that Mr Trump showed

Some Democrats say that the intransigence of the Republican Party means an approach built around compromise is worthless. The pursuit of incremental change, they reckon, is an admission of defeat at the outset. They are right that the two parties in Congress have forgotten how to work together

in 2016 that you win elections through the fervour of your base rather than making a coalition. That is unlikely to work for Democrats in 2020. Presidential elections tend not to be kind to candidates who pitch their camp far from the political centre. Voters perceived Hillary Clinton as more extreme than Donald Trump in 2016, and it did not end well for her. In a 50:50 country, marginal handicaps matter.

Mr Trump would have fun with Mr Sanders, who wishes to double federal spending overnight and, perhaps more important to the president, honeymooned in the Soviet Union. It was no accident that in his state-of-the-union message Mr Trump pointed to Juan Guaidó, the Venezuelan opposition leader who was his guest for the evening, and reminded Congress that "socialism destroys nations". Few voters are hankering to own the

means of production in suburban Philadelphia or Milwaukee, where the presidential election will probably be decided.

Another misconception is that a radical who did get into the Oval Office would accomplish much. Some Democrats say that the intransigence of the Republican Party means an approach built around compromise is worthless. The pursuit of incremental change, they reckon, is an admission of defeat at the outset. They are right that the two parties in Congress have forgotten how to work together. Today's Senate is likely to accomplish less than any other in the past half-century. Their idea is to take on Mr Trump's reality-TV populism with red-blooded economic populism. That might thrill activists and terrify Wall Street, but it would be both unproductive and self-defeating. Democrats believe in the role of government. They are condemned to try to make it work, not demonstrate that it cannot.

The last misconception, and the most important, concerns the substance of what the radicals would like to achieve. Ms Warren takes her faith in government to extremes. If she had her way, the state would break up, abolish or impose fresh regulations on about half of the firms owned by shareholders or pri-

vate-equity groups. Mr Sanders would go even further. Both candidates treat private capital as if it operates with sinister intent, even as they embrace the state as if it were benign, capable and efficient. That is naive. Just as thriving businesses at their best invigorate and enrich, so government at its worst can be capable of heartless cruelty and indifference.

There are moments when the United States has required something like a revolution—before the civil war, say, or in the years running up to the passage of the Civil Rights Act. This is not one of them. Unemployment is as low as it has been since the mid-1960s. Nominal wages in the lowest quartile of the income scale are growing by 4.6%. Americans are more optimistic about their own finances than they have been since 1999.

Instead America needs repairing—lowering the cost of housing and health care; moving to a low-carbon economy; finding a voting system that rewards consensus, not partisanship. For that, national politics needs to become boring again, not to be an exhausting, outrage-spewing fight between Mr Trump and the most extreme candidate the Democratic Party can muster.

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THE WUHAN VIRUS

Under observation

A weak health-care system complicates China's coronavirus battle

THE DOCTORS who examined Rana Zhou's parents decided that the couple had probably caught the coronavirus which has been sweeping their home city, Wuhan, and spreading globally. But they said they did not have enough test kits to be sure. Instead of finding them beds in a hospital, officials in their neighbourhood told them to go to one of many hotels which the government has requisitioned in order to monitor and isolate people with minor virus-related symptoms. But when her father's fever worsened, staff said they could not take care of him. They told the pair they would have to return home.

It is a scary time to be ill in Wuhan. The city has one-third of all confirmed infections by the virus and three-quarters of the deaths caused by it. People there are barred from travelling elsewhere (similar rules apply across Hubei, a Syria-sized province of which Wuhan is the capital). Since late January military medics have been piling into the city. Soldiers are helping enforce its cordons. The army's growing presence reassures many people, says a resident. But some find it unnerving.

With hospitals brimming, the local government has announced new rules. Rather than visiting hospitals, people who think they might have the virus should tell district officials about their symptoms and seek examinations at local clinics—facilities which, in nor-

mal times, many people eschew in favour of what they regard as the hospitals' more professional care. Wuhan has opened makeshift hospitals in an exhibition centre and a sports arena to house patients who are only mildly ill from the virus. Elsewhere in China health services are also under strain, even if the pressure is less than in Hubei. Officials in many places have banned non-essential hospital visits to avoid contagion. But many people, afraid of catching the virus, now avoid hospitals anyway, except in emergencies.

China's health system can cope better with shocks than in 2003 during the SARS outbreak. At that time, officials feared that the spread of the virus might be hidden because rural residents, lacking health insurance, would avoid hospitals. The government tried to allay such concerns by offering free treatment for SARS. Since then it has considerably expanded access to state-funded insurance schemes. More than 95% of Chinese are now covered. Out-of-pocket payments have fallen from about 60% of medical expenses to 30%.

But for poorer people, the costs can still be crippling. The government recently promised that it would pay for all treatment related to the new virus. That was too late for a pregnant woman infected in Wuhan. She died after her husband decided he could no

longer afford the bill, according to a doctor there interviewed by Caixin, a magazine. The policy changed the next day.

Barely better than barefoot

The government has spent lavishly on infrastructure, but its investment in health care has failed to keep up. China says it has about 2.6 doctors for every 1,000 people, higher than the average for middle-income countries. But the World Health Organisation says half of China's doctors do not have a bachelor's degree. Among those in villages and small towns, only 10-15% do. Some practise traditional Chinese medicine, a form of treatment that has government approval but little scientific basis (stocks of an oral liquid based on such medicine have been flying off shelves since a recent report by Xinhua, an official news agency, that it can "suppress" the virus). There is also an acute shortage of nurses. The average in rich countries is three per doctor. In China it is only one.

China's investment in health care has mostly gone to big hospitals in cities. Wuhan has about half of Hubei's best medical facilities, but only about one-fifth of the province's population. Far less attention has been paid to primary-care clinics, which in more developed systems handle minor ailments and escalate the rest to specialists.



At Tiananmen Gate, Beijing, on January 27. Reuters

Only about 5% of China's registered doctors serve as general practitioners. The average in the OECD, a club mostly of rich countries, is 23%. After Wuhan imposed a lockdown in late January, panicky residents converged on large hospitals seeking reassurance. The queues would have promoted cross-infec-

tion, says Xi Chen of Yale University. Public anger about health care, including the gouging of patients by hospitals, has triggered occasional violence against doctors. In late January a man attacked medical staff in Wuhan after his father-in-law died from the virus. But the system's public image may have

become boring during the current crisis. Many people praise doctors' willingness to join the fight in Hubei, despite high rates of infection among medical workers there. They will need such support in the struggle ahead.

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CROSSWORD 4037



- ACROSS**
- Objects to Ernest's replacement (7)
 - Drove dangerously, ripping tunic (3,2)
 - It means the end of a union (7,6)
 - Possibly arise in the conversation of caravanners? (5)
 - Place money (7)
 - Objects to nights out? (6)
 - They also multiply, naturally (6)
 - Bitterness associated with an age old craft (7)
 - Sheep providing tufty wool (5)
 - It's currently attractive (13)
 - She makes two points about Western democracy (5)
 - Places visited on holidays or in between holidays (7)
- Down**
- Is taken aback? (5)
 - Serious complaint? (6,7)
 - Patient attention (7)
 - Result of being quick on the draw? (6)
 - Move stealthily like an American Indian, quietly (5)
 - Go round the bend, or get better? (4,3,6)
 - They are steely-eyed (7)
 - Catty female (7)
 - Fed up with the fish but settles the bill (7)
 - People enter for this sort of sport (6)
 - We hear school meals should be this (5)
 - Birds of prey often highly-strung (5)

Solutions Crossword 4036: Across: 1 Order, 8 Filtrating, 9 Estop, 10 Position, 11 Brace, 12 Add, 16 Jigsaw, 17 Ironed, 18 Lam, 23 Tosti, 24 Scramble, 25 Fibre, 26 Romance, 27 Aside. Down: 2 Restrain, 3 Exorcist, 4 Almond, 5 Grain, 6 Digit, 7 Agent, 12 Awl, 13 Dim, 14 Nobodies, 15 Festered, 19 Allies, 20 Usurp, 21 Crime, 22 Ebony.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

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

Contentment consist not in adding more..., but in taking away some... - Thomas Fuller (4...4)

TTWEE ADEVLU
CEUIR EILRF

SOLUTION: TTWEE, CEUIR, ADEVLU, EILRF

Difficulty Level 1s
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.

SUDOKU 4116

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



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4115



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Today it's Uranus, that most distant and surprising of celestial bodies, which gives you the chance to skip the normal preliminaries in putting your ambitions into effect. Cash questions will preoccupy you later on, perhaps with unexpected results.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

It's fair to say that your planetary patterns are favourable, all the more so if your inclination is generally inspired, visionary even. The closer you come to practical responsibilities, the greater the need for additional care and caution.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Partners can't read your mind, so tell them what you think. If your aims are professional, and if you're planning a spot of personal promotion you could do worse than set your sights on the next few days. You may just receive a windfall, even if only on a modest scale.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

The Moon is normally such a sympathetic planet, but today it leaves you in no doubt that it is other people who require your loving care and sympathy. Reach out and offer the hand of support to those in need. They will pay you back in their own way - when they can.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

There's no escape from busy planetary pictures and hence no way to avoid your responsibilities. The best course may be to get as much achieved as you possibly can in order to give yourself more scope for relaxation tomorrow and the day after. Have a break. Put your feet up.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

You may see creative self-expression as a voluntary activity, but the planets don't agree. Today, in so many little ways, you may be compelled to be an individual and be true to your own utterly unique talents. Employers please note. And family members please take care.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

There seems little doubt that home and family affairs will dominate your thoughts and feelings today. Even if you are determined to give the highest priority to work, it will be deep and fundamental issues which demand your attention, including your domestic relationships.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Some celestial indications suggest that you may be called away from home, possibly on account of work or a similar responsibility. In any event, the main goal is to communicate clearly and make yourself properly understood. Someone else may owe you an apology, but don't hold your breath.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)

Business affairs will occupy your attention. Your financial stars are looking considerably less complex than this time last year, and today you may cut across a whole series of irrelevant hangovers like the proverbial hot knife through butter.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

The ball is in your court. Tackle private affairs and deal with professional activities only if you feel a deep personal motivation. Romantic encounters and sentimental journeys are desirable, if only because the results may be much more delightful than expected.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Any feelings of uncertainty or confusion should be short-lived, and by late tomorrow you could be back in the driving seat. In the meantime, remember that you're now into a fantastically productive long-term cycle. The world will judge you by your deeds rather than your words.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Sometimes you just have to pay more attention to your own needs. After a long period of social responsibility, you may begin to streamline your personal commitments. If you're typical of your sign, your inclination is to withdraw from a particular public arena.

Contact Number: 0191-2588178, E-mail ID: pri_slejkreddiffmail.com, slejammu@gmail.com
GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
STATE INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION, JAMMU
Near Directorate of School Education Jammu, Muthi Camp, Jammu-181205

NOTICE

Book Fair is to be organized by the State Institute of Education, Jammu in collaboration with Directorate of School Education Jammu on 18th & 19th of February, 2020 at Teacher Bhawan Govt. GHS Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. In this context, the Book Sellers/Publishers who stand registered with the Book Federation of India/J&K can participate in the Book Fair.

In the Book Fair, selection of reference books, academic books and library books of latest editions required for the 9th to 12th class students, shall be made by the sub-committee of subject experts specifically constituted for this job in consultation with the Chief Education Officers. Quality of subject material shall be the only criteria for selection of books from the prospective book sellers/Publishers who will display their books in the Book Fair. The Book Sellers/Publishers installing the stalls should quote the following information regarding their books.

Name of the Book	Name of the Publisher	Year of Edition	Name of the Book Seller	Staff No.	Price	Discount Allowed
The Book Sellers/Publishers registered with the Book Federation of India/J&K who intend to participate in the book fair shall deposit an amount of Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand only) non-refundable in the office of Principal SIE Jammu located at the back side of Directorate of School Education Muthi, Jammu in the form of Bank Draft drawn in favour of Jt. Director Trainings/Principal SIE, Jammu or by cash with the Cashier SIE, Jammu by or before 15.02.2020 (upto 04.30 P.M.). The remittance by Cheque shall not be entertained by the Department. The intending Book Sellers/Publishers shall have to apply for their participation on the printed letter pads and are required to enclose latest valid copy of their registration certificate.						
				Sd/-		
No. SIE/JBF-2020/3507-29				J.K. Sudan		
Dated: 05.01.2020				DIP/J-13384/19	Jt. Director Trainings/Principal SIE, Jammu	

Government of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, Directorate of Agriculture Talab Tillo Jammu

Public Notice

The Department of Agriculture, Government of UT of J&K, intends to invite Expression of Interest (Eoi) from the Principal Producers/Companies who intends to enter into the Rate Contract for procurement of Hybrid Maize, Hybrid Paddy & Hybrid Fodder F-1 Seeds produced by following Companies from their own proprietary parental lines, in respect of Jammu and Kashmir for Kharif 2020.

S.No	Name of the Company	Maize Hybrid	Paddy Hybrid	Fodder Hybrid
1	Shri Ram Bio Seed Genetics	Bio-605, Bio-9621	Poonam	-
2	Proline Seeds Co. India Pvt. Ltd.	PSC-75, PSC-125, PSC-55, PSC-121	Neha	SSG-1010 Bajra PSC Multicut
3	UPL	PAC-781 (W)	PAC 807	-
4	Bisco Bio Science Pvt. Ltd.	Bisco Ujala (W)	-	-
5	Rasi Seeds Pvt. Ltd.	Pro Agro-4794 (W) TIP TOP	RHR-333	-
6	Kanchan Ganga Seeds Corporation Ltd.	KH-517 (Y), KH-517 (G), KH-101 (Y), KH-101 (G), KH-612 (G), KH-612 (W), KH-501 (Y), K-65 (W), B-57, B-52 (Y), B-59, B-63, KH-609 (W), KH-25 (Y), Folo (Y)	-	K-28 SSG KH 3055 SSG KH-105
7	Monsanto India Ltd.	Double Daktas, DKC-7074, DKC-8144, DKC-9144	-	-
8	Plantgene Seeds Pvt. Ltd.	PG-2320 (W), PG 2440 (Y) PG 2448 (Y), PG-2475, PG-2486, PG-2488 (Y)	-	PG-3545 PG-3055
9	Metaheix Life Science Ltd.	DMH-7314 (W), DMH-849 (Y)	DRH-834	-
10	VNR Pvt. Ltd.	VNR 4226	VNR-2355 VNR-2245	-
11	MODERN SEEDS	P-3540, P-3377	PHB-71	-
12	Star Agrotech	Star-56 (Y), Star 8004/8008 Star-9 (Y), Star Gagan Gold (W)	STAR-797	SSG Nandani
13	SIRI Seeds Pvt. Ltd.	SIRI-1117, SIRI-5455	SIRI 2266 (RACE) SIRI 2244 (G)	SSG SIRI (Red)
14	Poiner	Poiner (W)	-	-
15	Bayer Crop Science Ltd.	-	ARIZE-6444 (G), ARIZE-6444, ARIZE-6129	-
16	Bharat Nursery	BN-105	-	-
17	National Seed Corporation	-	-	SSG Green Gold

Valid objections with proof, if any, in regard to proprietary Hybrid F1 status of the above mentioned Company Hybrids be communicated within 7 days of publishing of this Notice to the Director Agriculture Jammu, Chairman SLPC, UT of Jammu & Kashmir. Objections if any received after mentioned period shall not be considered

No:- Accts/PS/PN/2019-20/235 Dated:- 07/02/2020

s/d
Accounts Officer,
Member Secretary, SLPC,
Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

DRM (S&T) NWR Ajmer on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the following work up to 15.00 Hrs. on the mentioned date. (1) Tender No.: DRM-S&T-40-2019-20. Name of work: Ajmer Division: Replacement of overage Batteries of JPS-System & Track circuits over Ajmer Division NWR. Approximate Cost of work: ₹ 9215899.14/- Earnest Money: ₹ 184300/- Date & Time of opening E-Tender: 05-03-2020 at 15.30 Hrs. The details of above E-tender are available on website www.irreps.gov.in 163-DK/20

Please join us on [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [w](#) [r](#) [r](#) [a](#) [i](#) [l](#) [w](#) [a](#) [y](#)

BIHAR SCHOOL EXAMINATION BOARD

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

(Through e-procurement mode only over <https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in>)
Tender Notice No. - PR 63/2020

Bihar School Examination Board, Patna invites e-tenders under two bid systems from the reputed, experienced & technologically sound Firms /Companies/ Agencies/ Societies/ Service Provider having adequate infrastructure and Experience of handling the works of "Selection of agency to provide 50 Mbps, 20 Mbps and 10 Mbps (1:1) Internet Lease Line Connectivity on OFC media at the offices of Bihar School Examination Board (Main Building at Sinha Library Road, Patna, Academic Building, Budh Marg, Patna) and ten (10) Regional Offices of BSEB, located at nine (09) different divisions of the Bihar state viz. Patna, Gaya, Bhagalpur, Muzaffarpur, Purnea, Kosi, Saran, Darbhanga and Munger & one (01) regional office at Delhi location, as per the decision of BSEB"

Scope of Work : Selection of agency to provide 50 Mbps, 20 Mbps and 10 Mbps (1:1) Internet Lease Line Connectivity on OFC media to Bihar School Examination Board, Patna

Cost of tender document (In Rupees)	Tender processing Fee (Non-Refundable)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)
500 /- (Five Hundred only)	1,180/- (One Thousand One Hundred and Eighty Rupees only)	2,000,00/- (Two Lakh rupees only)

Tender Schedule/ Programme

Date and Time for Activity	Date/Time: Duration
Online Sale/Download date of Tender documents	From 09.02.2020 (11:00 Hrs.) to 02.03.2020 (13:00 Hrs.) (https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)
Pre-Bid meeting	15.02.2020 at 11:30 Hrs. (Bihar School Examination Board, Sinha Library Road, Patna-800017)
Last Date/Time for submission/ uploading of offer/Bid	02.03.2020 up to 14:00 Hrs. (https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)
Submission of form fee & EMD in Hard copy/Original	02.03.2020 up to 14:15 Hrs. (Bihar School Examination Board, Sinha Library Road, Patna-800017)
Date & Time for opening of Technical Bid	02.03.2020 at 14:30 Hrs. (https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in) (Bihar School Examination Board, Sinha Library Road, Patna-800017)
Financial Bid Opening Date and Time	Date to be announced later by competent authority

❖ Detailed descriptions of the items and instructions for submitting your offer can be downloaded from e-tender website <https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in>.

❖ For support related to e-tendering process, Bidders may contact at "e-Procurement HELP DESK First Floor, M/22, Bank of India Building, Road No-25, Sri Krishna Nagar, Patna-800001, Ph. No: 0612-2523006, Mob- 7542028164" or may visit the link "Vendor Info" at <https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in>.

❖ Corrigendum / Addendum, if any, will be published on e-Procurement Portal, Bihar <https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in> itself.

❖ Contact Details: Sh. Jai Kishore Singh, Nodal officer - +91 6299923095, E-Mail ID - e-proc.bseb@gmail.com

❖ Note: - Bihar School Examination Board reserves the right to accept/reject/reschedule any or all tenders without assigning any reasons.

Secretary

NOTICE INVITING BID

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)

In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III
Bhubaneswar -751 001
Tel.: (0674) 2380660 Website: www.osmcl.nic.in,
Email: logistics.osmcl.od@nic.in

Online Bids through e-Tender portal (<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>) are invited from eligible bidders for supply of PPE (Personnel Protection Equipment) & N 95 Disposable Particulate respirator as per the particulars mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time
1.	Date & time of release of bid	10/02/2020, 3 PM
2.	Date & time of Pre-bid meeting	12/02/2020, 11 AM
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Venue: Conference Hall, Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd., In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit - III, Bhubaneswar
4.	Date and Time for submission of Tender Document cost and EMD Amount as per section-IV	Start Date & Time End Date & Time 13/02/2020, 3 PM 19/02/2020, 6 PM
5.	Date & time of sample submission as per section-IV of tender documents.	25/02/2020 till 11 AM
6.	Date & time of online Technical bid opening	25/02/2020 11:30 AM
7.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders.

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, EMDs, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the website: www.osmcl.nic.in and <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof of all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Managing Director
OSMCL Ltd., Odisha

10112/11/0028/1920

Government of Lt. Governor Jammu & Kashmir (U.T)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(R&B) SPL SUB DIVISION DODA

FRESH NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Fresh NIT No:-64 of 2019-20 Dated:-27-01-2020 (E-tendering)

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Doda are invited e-Tenders on Item Rate Basis (As the case may be) from Approved and Eligible Contractors Registered with J&K State Govt.(U.T.), CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest Money/Bid Security (In Rs.)	Time of Completion	Time & Date of Opening of Tender (Technical Bid)	Class of Contractors
1.	Construction of Hostel Block (Male Female) for Residents, Interns and Nurses at Teaching Hospital Doda.	923.41	10000/-	18,46,820/-	18 Months	On or after 12-02-2020 (11.00 A.M.) In the office of Chief Engineer PWD(R&B) Department Lok Nirman Bhawan Rail Head Complex, Jammu	*Super Class/AA

The Bidding Documents Consisting of Qualifying Information, Eligibility Criteria, Specifications, Drawings, Bill of Quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website: www.jktenders.gov.in as per below schedule:

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	27.01.2020
2.	Period of Downloading of Bidding Documents	From 27.01.2020, 11.00 A.M to 10.02.2020 upto 04.00 P.M.
3.	Date, Time and Place of Pre-Bid Meeting	08.02.2020 at 11.00 A.M. In the office of Chief Engineer PWD(R&B) Department Lok Nirman Bhawan Rail Head Complex, Jammu.
4.	Bid Submission Start Date	27.01.2020 From 11.00 A.M.
5.	Bid Submission End Date	10.02.2020 upto 04.00 P.M.
6.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	12.02.2020 at 11.00 A.M. In the office of Chief Engineer PWD(R&B) Department Lok Nirman Bhawan, Rail Head Complex, Jammu.

No.: EE/D/9611-67
Dated:- 27-01-2020

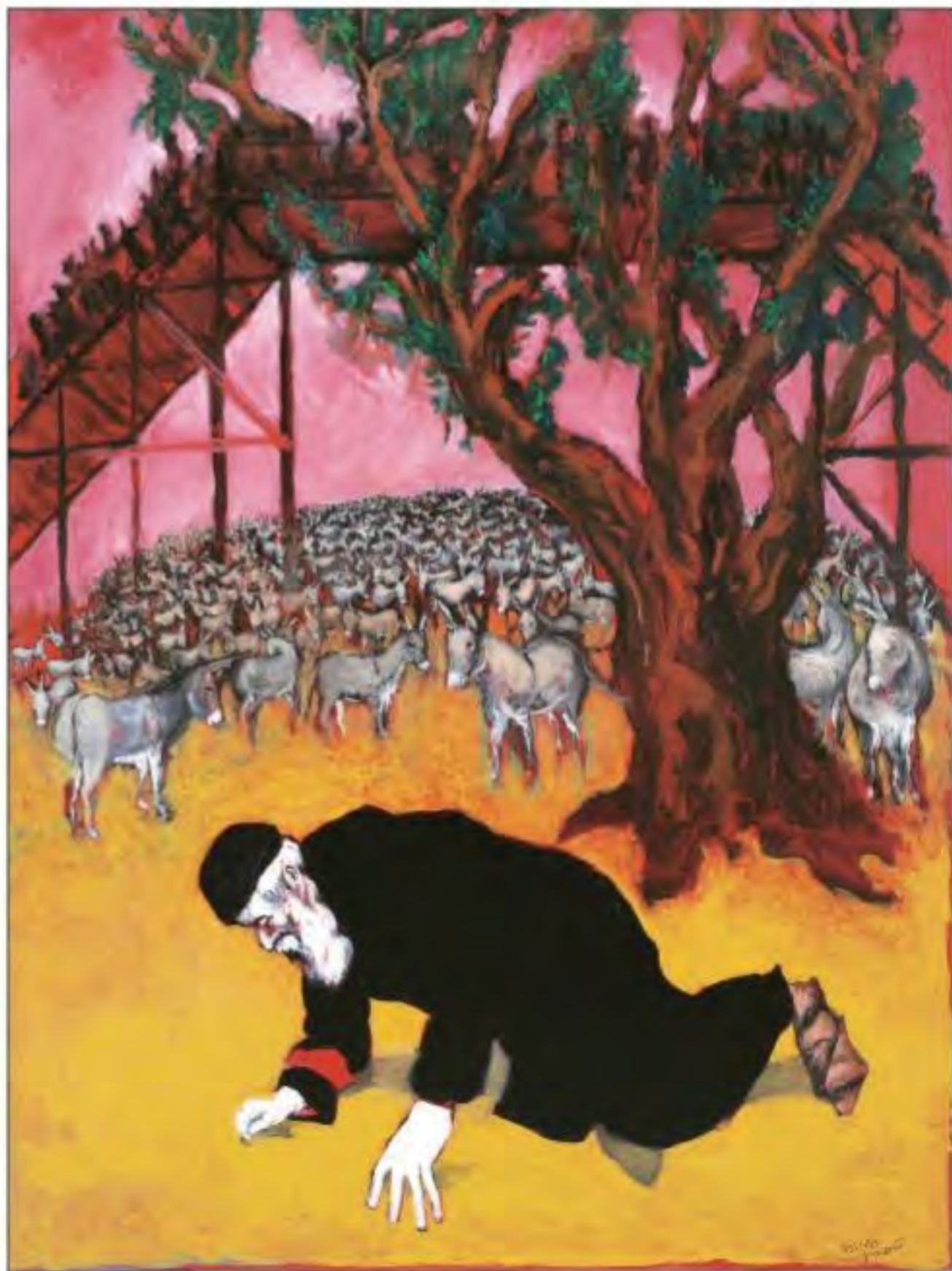
Sd/- (Er. Mohd Ayub Wani)
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division, Doda

For All Advertisement Booking
Call : 0120-6651214

15 TALK ART, MUSIC, STYLE, FOOD



ADDING TO THE COLLECTION
The Charles Dickens museum in London has acquired several letters, manuscripts and personal items of the English writer (pictured). These were earlier with a private collector in the United States.



(Clockwise from above) Gerard Garouste; *Warsaw Bridge and the She-Asses*; *Pinocchio and the Dice Game*; Gerard as Tintin; *Mask of the Dog*

cially in science and math, but his drawings were always appreciated by his teachers. "My boarding school was very strict. We were not even allowed to read comics. So I started making comics and caricatures," says Garouste, who studied art at École des Beaux-Arts de Paris. In the exhibition, he paints self-portraits with a comical twist. The 2017 canvas *Pinocchio and the Dice Game*, has him as Pinocchio, with an elongated nose and a smirk on his face.

Garouste, whose works are housed in the collections of The Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Fine Arts Museum of Caen, and The Santa Monica Museum of Art, among others, says, "My hands are my life".

He also sees several animals in his works. In the 2002 *Mask of the Dog* (self-portrait), the artist wears a dog mask in an attempt to pay an ode to the animal's striking sense of smell, serving as a metaphor for intuition. Garouste draws heavily from Aesop's and La Fontaine's fables, where animals serve as metaphors for human characteristics. The diptych *Frog Tale* is inspired from the Talmudic tale of a frog being eaten by a snake, who in turn is swallowed by a crow. Looking at the numerous toy-like houses that appear in this ceiling-high painting, Garouste says, "The text says that the frog was larger than a village of 60 houses. The myth goes that this frog was eaten by a snake and then the snake was eaten by a crow. There is a master going past them and when he sees this, he says, 'If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes, I would not have ever believed it.'"

Seated atop a boat in the vast unending landscape of an ocean, Garouste also appears as Tintin, from Belgian cartoonist Hergé's *Cigars of the Pharaoh*, comprising *The Adventures of Tintin*. There are also several serious questions that Garouste poses through his artwork — for instance in *Witch with Goat* (2011), he draws from the biblical encounter of Adam and Eve. With Eve posing with apples, seated on a goat, he signals how apples are associated with Eve and witches, and how the popular Biblical narrative has helped construct misogyny. He renders a token of advice to his viewers: "When you look at my paintings, you don't get the full story, but it doesn't matter. What matters is the subject. It is like a bottle thrown in the sea: there is a glimpse of hope that stands out in the drama. It is secret, obscure in a way, just like how life is."

The exhibition is on at NGMA, Delhi, till March 29

ON THE LOOSE



LEHER KALA

In and Out of Love

The reality of urban love lives



Karan Johar with a participant in a still from *What the Love!*

AFTER PRODUCING some of the biggest romantic hits in the Hindi film industry, Karan Johar has turned a starchy gaze towards enthusiastic matchmaking in real life. In a new show *What the Love!* streaming on Netflix, Johar, the host and anchor, attempts to help single people navigate their way to a relationship. In the first episode, set at a "singles party", Johar announces with disarming candour, that he is "the aunty at weddings who keeps asking people why they're not married". His genuine cheesiness and relish for all things love gives the show many optimistic moments, and viewers, a window into the surreal world of 21st century relationships.

Arranging romance is hardly new in India. Long before Johar, aunts and grandmothers conjured up suitable partners, painstakingly checking out family backgrounds and potential soulmates' qualifications. They prioritised compatibility via a ruthless process of elimination, secure in the formula that when between people there are enough similarities, it will outweigh the differences. It was a system that worked well enough in a simpler time, when expectations were lower and romantic experience non-existent. Happiness is more easily accomplished when comparisons can't be made. Cut to circa 2020, where love is still found via a checklist on Tinder, only there's too much of it. When there's an overwhelming abundance of tantalising possibilities, committing to steady companionship becomes so much harder — somebody better could be two dates away.

This FOMO, that dating apps promote, explains the rationale behind another American show *Love Is Blind* that grandly diminishes the biggest issue for online daters: of not having optimised their options. In a reversal of sorts, participants fed up of swiping right, having come to the cynical conclusion that people are pretty much interchangeable, make a radical choice: to marry someone they've had conver-

sations with, but never met. Similarly, Johar's show focusses on urbane professionals who have the social and financial freedom to pick and choose a partner. Yet, they are okay with an old-fashioned aunty intervention when it comes to matters of the heart.

Observing the congregation of millennials on *What The Love!* one felt a palpable disillusionment and a lack of confidence in their ability to find a partner. One participant, a charming doctor related an anecdote about a set up organised the old way. The boy's family produced a weighing scale ("a digital one not the manual type where I could fib a kilo or two away"). While it was depressing enough to learn she didn't refuse to get on it, her next observation was even more deflating, that these weren't uneducated people whom one could excuse for not knowing any better, but men with degrees from IIT-IIM. (A reminder of some years ago, when Narayan Murthy was roundly criticised for saying students emerging out of India's top engineering institutions were unable to cope in global work environments.) Now we know why. It seems, India's youth caught between the old and the new haven't fully shifted mindsets and the chosen contestants on *What the Love!* represent different types, struggling with outdated traditionalism.

In one of the nicer segments of the show, Johar approaches a man and a woman at the bar, only to discover that they're both gay. Johar is a vociferous supporter of LGBTQ rights and he addresses their travails with sensitivity. Perhaps all these participants facing terrible uncertainty in their personal lives will benefit from his good-natured meddling, though one wonders, if making the quest for "the one" such a huge priority, isn't a sure path to disappointment. *What the Love!* may be contrived but that doesn't mean the pain isn't real.

hutkayfilms@gmail.com

PALLAVI CHATTOPADHYAY

HONI, A "miracle maker" in Talmud, a Jewish religious text, is waking back from sleep after 70 years in French contemporary artist Gerard Garouste's mammoth painting *Warsaw Bridge and the She-Asses*, on display at the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) in Delhi. In the background is the Warsaw Ghetto, the largest Jewish ghetto in Germany-occupied Poland that housed nearly 4,80,000 Jews at one point of time, before sending them to gas chambers and mass killing centres. The canvas speaks volumes to the viewer, as it has a number of captured donkeys hoarded together under a foot over bridge on Chlodna Street, which became a tragic image from World War II and a powerful depiction of the Holocaust.

"Gerard Garouste — The Other Side" marks the first Indian retrospective of Garouste — a leading French figurative artist. It comprises over 50 paintings that lend an insight into his thinking process and artistic style that often brings together surrealism with mythology and literature.

Born in Paris, his father was a furniture dealer, an anti-Semitic who dealt with the furniture of deported Jews — the earnings funded Garouste's education. The artist's traumatic

childhood experiences that often landed him in psychiatric vaults, seem to come alive in his canvases. "My father collaborated with the Nazis, and I want to say that one shouldn't forget Nazism. This painting is my answer to that. Faced with my father's attitude, I felt like painting this, and a few other paintings in the exhibition are in the same vein. This is a painful inheritance and I have no intention to hide it. We have to learn a lesson from it. I just didn't want to make it a secret," says Garouste. His wife Elisabeth Garouste is a Jew, who comes from a

family of deportees. Seated at the NGMA, Garouste, 73, holds a walking stick that he inherited from his wood-cutter uncle, moulded from a tree's root into the shape of a snake. He wears a beige hat, as he sits down to speak about his life and grand and picturesque paintings. His artworks are heavily inspired by biblical texts, the Old Testament, Hebrew Bible, mythical tales and literary giants such as Cervantes, Dante and Franz Kafka. Garouste smiles when he recalls how he was a very bad student in school, espe-

Footbridge of Memories

The first Indian retrospective of acclaimed French artist Gerard Garouste at the NGMA maps his troubled Nazi past and fascination with biblical texts and literary giants

WEEK AHEAD

Swing Along

FRENCH MUSICAL group Open Land Quartet — specialising in chamber jazz — led by Bruno Angelini, will be performing in the Capital. An acclaimed pianist, Angelini will be accompanied by Regis Huby on the violin, Claude Tchamitchian on the double bass and Edward Perraud on the drums. They are influenced by the neoclassical music of the 20th century and jazz. At the Piano Man Jazz Club, Gurugram. On February 12, 9 pm. Tickets on [bookmyshow](#).



Remembering Gandhi

ATTEND "VAISHNAV Jan To", a musical homage to Mahatma Gandhi by Portuguese composer Rao Kyao. He will be on the flute with his team. The event has been organised by the Portuguese Embassy Cultural Centre in collaboration with Indian Council For Cultural Relations. At Stein Auditorium, Indian Habitat Centre (IHC), on February 11, 7 pm.

Building India

THE TALK "The Song of Stones" — part of the Architecture and Society series — will discuss the synthesis of South Asian and Central Asian architectural styles. The speakers, including historian Sohail Hashmi, will also talk about medieval architecture in north India. At Amaltas Hall, IHC, on February 12, 7 pm.

Summer Stories

FTII alumnus Payal Kapadia wins an award for innovative cinema at MIFF 2020

DIPANITA NATH

IN THE thick forests of the Western Ghats in Maharashtra, a young man goes out searching for honey, the way his father taught him. A filmmaker's camera wanders with him, capturing majestic tree canopies and lingering around village houses where women whisper intimate secrets and stories of their husbands and lost loves.

A mystical film, about nature and people of Kondwall village, *And What Is The Summer Saying*, premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival in 2018 in the Berlinale Shorts section. At the recent Mumbai International Film Festival 2020, it won Payal Kapadia, an alumnus of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, the Pramod Pati Special Jury Award for Most Innovative/Experimental Film. "Through the film, I hope to bring out that which relates not only to the nature outside but also one's own nature within," says Kapadia. Excerpts from an interview:

What led you into the forest to make a film?

A few years ago, a friend of mine introduced me to this village and to Namdeo, the man who has learnt to live off the forest from his father. He is a very learned person, with a lot of knowledge about the forest. What interested me was how he collected honey from the beehives in the trees. I wanted to make a film about him.

How did you develop an understanding of forests, represented in the dreamy scenes?
I am from Mumbai but grew up in South



A still from *And What Is The Summer Saying*; (left) Payal Kapadia

India, in a school situated in a forested area. Perhaps because of this, I was interested in this part of the Western Ghats to make this documentary. Growing up, I wanted to come to FTII because the institute lets students explore cinema without any restrictions from the outside.

What does the title of the film represent?

The filmmaking was during summer and we would spend the afternoons with the women of the village because it was too hot to

shoot. Their stories also began to interest me. The film combines these two experiences. The title comes from this season too.

What led to the experiments in this film?

We had a lot of difficulty shooting the women in the village. We decided to use only their voices in the film. Thus, the images and the sound are not completely related. Sometimes difficult situations lead to experiments in cinema.

Will you make more experimental cinema?

I would like to experiment with cinema, both fiction and non fiction. I am currently writing my first feature film *All We Imagine as Light*, where I hope to apply some of these ideas.



Vinod Balak; (far left) a work from the exhibition

In Future Tense

Vinod Balak's works comment on the production of religion and catapult viewers into a euphoric dystopia

Eves, a charged group of women rush to kick or catch a ball. When seen against the caged chicken, we get a sense that their wild abandon may be a conditional freedom.

The chicken coops repeat in yet another painting — it is almost as if they are the building blocks of "Tomorrow's Land". Balak says, "It's related to consumerism, how we want to make more profit. The animal is alive, but all we try to do is make profit. The idea came to me from a chicken shop, where we can see

rows of small cages or the big trucks that carry chicken. It is a form of architecture."

Balak provides a lot of detail in his paintings, and tucked away in them are religious and mythological figures. Particular paintings comment on religious invasion that is coincident with ecological invasion. The Virgin Mary appears high up in *The Tower of Euphoria*, Krishna appears on a wall in *The Circumambulation* and the legend of Parasurama is revisited in *The Saint and the Invaders*. Religious conquest forms the theme of *Holy Invasion* (2015), in which a pope and a cardinal cross a river, with a row of riflemen standing guard behind them. On the opposite bank, a pride of lions roam, but can the holy men tame them? With its verdant landscape, reminiscent of Kerala, Balak's home state, and the river a chemical, the painting is an overt comment on the violent arrival of Christianity in the tropics.

Born into Hinduism and now an atheist, Balak is a self-avowed leftist looking at the production of religion. "The bridge is a metaphor for migration. I am looking at how myth overpowers a culture and we are forced to believe that our racial identity comes from that," says Balak, adding that this exhibition is less satirical than most of his earlier works. However, it almost feels that Balak's land of tomorrow could well be the world we live in today.

The exhibition is on view till March 31 at Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke, Mumbai



"I don't think we could have done much different. For 178, we responded really well, and we lost this because we didn't bat well enough. That's about it. We enjoyed the World Cup"

PRIAM GARG, INDIA U19 CAPTAIN

BANGLADESH WIN MAIDEN UNDER-19 WORLD CUP

Neighbourhood heroes

Defending champs India go down fighting in a nerve-racking final as the Cup goes across the border

SCORECARD >>

Ind U19 vs B'desh U19

Final | Potchefstroom | Toss: B'desh

INDIA U-19 **177 IN 47.2 OVS**

Y Jaiswal c T Hasan b S Islam **88**

(121b, 8x4, 1x6)

D Saxena c MH Joy b A Das **2** (17b)

Tilak Varma c S Islam b TH Sakib **38**

(65b, 3x4)

P Garg c T Hasan b R Hasan **7** (9b)

D Jurel run out **22** (38b, 1x4)

S Veer lbw b S Islam **0** (1b)

A Ankoekar b A Das **3** (7b)

R Bishnoi run out **2** (6b)

S Mishra c S Islam b TH Sakib **3** (8b)

K Tyagi c A Ali b A Das **0** (5b)

A Singh not out **1** (7b)

■ Extras: (lb 1, w 10) **11**

Fall of wickets: 1-9 (Divyaansh Saxena, 6.4 ov), 2-103 (Tilak Varma, 28.6 ov), 3-114 (Priyam Garg, 31.3 ov), 4-156 (Yashasvi Jaiswal, 39.5 ov), 5-156 (Siddhesh Veer, 39.6 ov), 6-168 (Dhruv Jurel, 42.2 ov), 7-170 (Ravi Bishnoi, 43.5 ov), 8-170 (Atharva Ankoekar, 44.1 ov), 9-172 (Kartik Tyagi, 44.6 ov), 10-177 (Sushant Mishra, 47.2 ov)

■ Bowling:

Shoriful Islam **10-1-31-2**

Tanzim Hasan Sakib **8.2-2-28-2**

Avishek Das **9-0-40-3**

Shamim Hossain **6-0-36-0**

Rakibul Hasan **10-1-29-1**

Towhid Hridoy **4-0-12-0**

B'DESH U-19 **170/7 IN 42.1 OVS**

PH Emon c A Singh b Jaiswal **47** (79b, 7x4)

T Hasan c K Tyagi b R Bishnoi **17**

(25b, 2x4, 1x6)

MH Joy b R Bishnoi **8** (12b, 2x4)

T Hridoy lbw b R Bishnoi **0** (2)

S Hossain st Jurel b R Bishnoi **1** (10b)

A Ali not out **43** (77b, 4x4, 1x6)

S Hossain c Jaiswal b Mishra **7** (18b)

A Das c K Tyagi b Mishra **5** (7b, 1x4)

R Hasan not out **9** (25b, 1x4)

■ Extras: (b 8, lb 4, nb 2, w 19) **33**

Fall of wickets: 1-50 (Tanzid Hasan, 8.5 ov), 2-62 (Mahmudul Hasan Joy, 12.5 ov), 2-62* (Parvez Hossain Emon, retired not out), 3-62 (Towhid Hridoy, 14.1 ov), 4-65 (Shahadat Hossain, 16.1 ov), 5-85 (Shamim Hossain, 20.1 ov), 6-102 (Avishek Das, 22.6 ov), 7-143 (Parvez Hossain Emon, 31.6 ov)

■ Bowling:

Kartik Tyagi **10-2-33-0**

S Mishra **7-0-25-2**

Akash Singh **8-1-33-0**

Ravi Bishnoi **10-3-30-4**

A Ankoekar **4.1-0-22-0**

Y Jaiswal **3-0-15-1**

■ B'desh U-19 won by 3 wickets (D/L method)

■ Extras: (b 8, lb 4, nb 2, w 19) **33**

Fall of wickets: 1-50 (Tanzid Hasan, 8.5 ov), 2-62 (Mahmudul Hasan Joy, 12.5 ov), 2-62* (Parvez Hossain Emon, retired not out), 3-62 (Towhid Hridoy, 14.1 ov), 4-65 (Shahadat Hossain, 16.1 ov), 5-85 (Shamim Hossain, 20.1 ov), 6-102 (Avishek Das, 22.6 ov), 7-143 (Parvez Hossain Emon, 31.6 ov)

■ Bowling:

Kartik Tyagi **10-2-33-0**

S Mishra **7-0-25-2**

Akash Singh **8-1-33-0**

Ravi Bishnoi **10-3-30-4**

A Ankoekar **4.1-0-22-0**

Y Jaiswal **3-0-15-1**

■ B'desh U-19 won by 3 wickets (D/L method)

■ Extras: (b 8, lb 4, nb 2, w 19) **33**

Fall of wickets: 1-50 (Tanzid Hasan, 8.5 ov), 2-62 (Mahmudul Hasan Joy, 12.5 ov), 2-62* (Parvez Hossain Emon, retired not out), 3-62 (Towhid Hridoy, 14.1 ov), 4-65 (Shahadat Hossain, 16.1 ov), 5-85 (Shamim Hossain, 20.1 ov), 6-102 (Avishek Das, 22.6 ov), 7-143 (Parvez Hossain Emon, 31.6 ov)

■ Bowling:

Kartik Tyagi **10-2-33-0**

S Mishra **7-0-25-2**

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SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY FEBRUARY 9

RAKIBUL HASAN clipped Atharva Ankoekar towards deep mid-wicket and history was made at Senwes Park, Potchefstroom. By winning the U-19 World Cup, Bangladesh secured their maiden world title at any level. Their fans were dancing on the terraces and also way beyond that; in the aisles and arteries of Dhaka, Chittagong and Jessore.

The Bangladesh colts beat India U-19 by three wickets, with 23 balls remaining (D/L method). Their target had been revised to 170 following a 10-minute rain stoppage. Bangladesh's captain fantastic Akbar Ali stayed till the end and anchored the tricky chase. At one stage, he played 14 dot balls on the spin.

As Ian Bishop said, ice ran through his veins. With the required run rate not an issue and rain and the Duckworth-Lewis calculation around the corner, the 18-year-old from Rangpur showed maturity beyond his years to lift his team from 102/6, after Bangladesh had been caught in a Ravi Bishnoi spin-web. Before that, he was spotted on with his team selection, bowling changes and field placements to restrict India to a paltry 177.

In the grand scheme of things, Bangladesh's title triumph is great news for the game of cricket. Not only will it boost Bangladesh's progress on the world stage, but their success will also allow smaller nations to dream big. A proper youth structure is the platform that a cricket nation thrives on. On Sunday, Bangladesh showed that they have a brighter future to look forward to if this group of boys makes a seamless progression to the higher level.

Tempers flew after the match and the on-field tension between the two teams spilled over to the stands. It was recalled for. The ICC will take note and the respective boards should educate their players about the importance of upholding the spirit of cricket.

Coming back to the match, India were basically done in by a batting collapse that saw them lose seven wickets for 21 runs between 39.5 and 47.2 overs. And yet, Bishnoi's leg-spin, googlies to be precise, brought them back into the game. The Jodhpur boy accounted for Tanzid Hasan in his first over before scything through the Bangladesh middle order. Another googly castled Mahmudul Hasan Joy, the centurion in the semifinal. An over later, Towhid Hridoy fell prey to another wrong'un followed by Shahadat Hossain's scalp, brilliantly stumped by keeper Dhruv Jurel.

Bishnoi was making the ball talk and Bangladesh were under serious pressure. After six overs, the leggie's bowling figures read 4/15. Ali decided to take him on in his seventh over and struck a couple of fours. It had come down to Ali-or-bust for Bangladesh and from India's perspective, defending a very modest total, the leggie was their best chance.

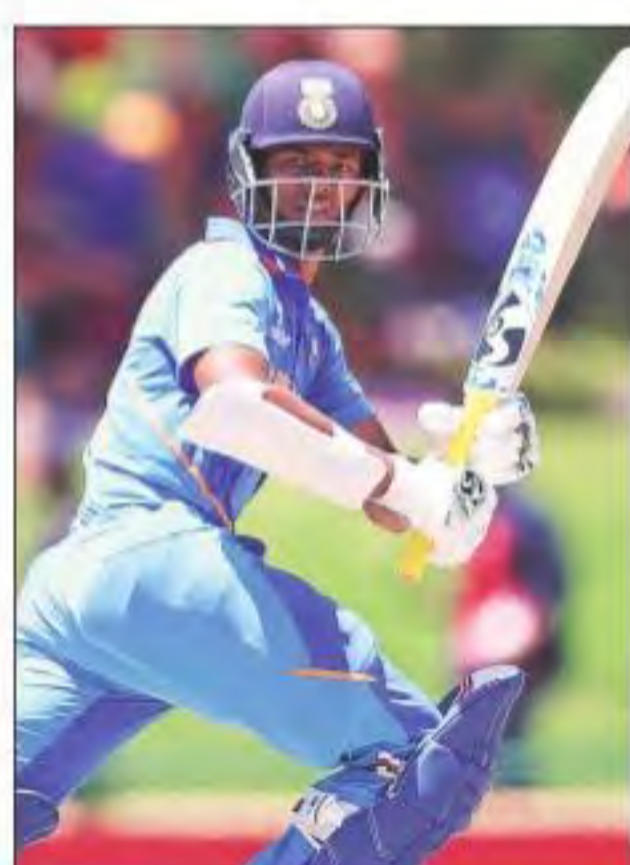
However, India captain Priyam Garg took Bishnoi out of the attack. It was pretty average from the skipper, for had to use his best bowler through. About 20 minutes later, when Bishnoi was brought back from the other end, the initiative had been surrendered. At the U-19 level, captains can make mistakes. Help should have arrived from the Indian dug-out, from the coaching staff. Then again, Garg's mistake wasn't the only reason why India lost - their first defeat in U-19 World Cups in 12 matches.

The last time India had lost a match in this competition was the 2016 final against the West Indies at Dhaka.

Apart from Yashasvi Jaiswal's brilliant 121-ball 88 and Bishnoi's sublime spell, India were never in the game. Bangladesh new-ball bowlers, Shoriful Islam and Tanzim Hasan Sakib, showed excellent discipline to



Bangladesh bowlers did a fine job of bowling out the Indian batting line-up for just 177 in 47.2 overs. ICC



India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal was named the player of the Under-19 World Cup. He scored 400 runs with one century and four fifties. ICC

start with and India had only nine runs in the first seven overs for the loss of Divyaansh Saxena's wicket. The latter got out trying to break the shackles.

What separated Jaiswal from the rest was his ability to pick the right deliveries to score runs. Someone who had scored a one-day double hundred earlier in the season, hitting 12 sixes against the likes of Varun Aaron and Shahbaz Nadeem, waited till the 29th over of the day to hit his first maximum. Jaiswal

India pressed the panic button once Jaiswal was out in the 40th over. A couple of run-outs were the result. And when the four-time champions bowled, they suffered from profligacy. Defending 177, India conceded 33 extras out of which 19 were wides.

finished the tournament with 400 runs at an average north of 133. He ran away with the Player of the Tournament award. From now on, the journey should be onwards and upwards for the 18-year-old from Mumbai.

Jaiswal broke the seventh-wicket partnership between Ali and Parvez Emon as well, bowling his part-time leg-spin. Emon, who had retired hurt and came back hamstrung, was disconsolate on his way to the pavilion. He had let his side down. But his captain was there to see Bangladesh through. Ali's 43 not out off 77 balls was worth its weight in gold.

India pressed the panic button once Jaiswal was out in the 40th over. A couple of run-outs were the result. And when the four-time champions bowled, they suffered from profligacy. Defending 177, India conceded 33 extras out of which 19 were wides. Fast bowlers Kartik Tyagi had an off day.

His new-ball partner Sushant Mishra wasn't on the money either. Collectively, Bangladesh were better than their more fancied rivals. This was their cup of joy.

Bangladesh skipper blames emotions, regrets fracas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
POTCHEFSTROOM, FEBRUARY 9

"IT'S A dream come true", said Bangladesh captain Akbar Ali, who regretted the unwanted aggression from his players which nearly resulted into a free for all after his team won the U-19 ICC World Cup. The Bangladesh players were overtly aggressive while fielding with their lead pacer Shoriful Islam sledging the Indian batsmen after every delivery.

In fact as Bangladesh approached the winning runs, Shoriful was seen swearing multiple times openly on camera. "Some of our bowlers were emotional and were pumped up. What happened after the game was unfortunate. I would like to congratulate India," skipper Akbar showed maturity beyond years at the post-match conference.

As soon as the match ended, it became tense with Bangladeshi players rushing to the ground and most of them still displaying aggressive body language.

In fact, one India player rushed to confront and pushed a Bangladeshi player who had allegedly said uncharitable things and it was coach Paras Mhambrey seen calming his boys. "It's a dream come true. It's all about the hard work we have done over the last two

years. The coaching staff...I just cannot thank them enough for how much support they have given us on and off the field. We've had a very good experience, and this is just the beginning for us. Hopefully, this will be the stepping stone for us," said the skipper, who was also adjudged Player of the Final for his composed unbeaten 43.

He then thanked the Bangladeshi supporters in his mother tongue. "Those who have supported us here have been our 12th man here. We really appreciate it."

India skipper Priyam Garg acknowledged it was a poor day with the bat and they would have needed a total of 210-220 to make a match of it. "It's a bad day, but our boys fought really well. Even with such a low total, we made it difficult for them, and I would like to thank my team for that. The biggest factor was the toss, because the wicket was a bit damp. We had a good start, and we should have got to at least 210-220. That would have been a much better score."

While the bowlers bowled more than 20 plus wides and no-balls, Priyam doesn't think it could have been much different.

"I don't think we could have done much different. For 178, we responded really well, and we lost this because we didn't bat well enough. That's about it. We enjoyed the World Cup. We played a series here too, and this was enjoyable too."

WRONG'UN, RIGHT CHOICE

Bishnoi, boy with a skidding googly, almost pulls rabbit out of hat

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 9

THE SMALL lane outside 'Masterji' Mangalal Bishnoi's house in Jodhpur is crowded, with more than a hundred well-wishers glued to TV sets. And there were almost as many in the hall indoors.

As leggie Ravi Bishnoi started to go through the Bangladesh top order and bought India back into the U-19 final with his four quick wickets, there was hope that it would turn the match in his team's favour decisively.

He had already caught the cricketering world's eye with his box of tricks and the control he displayed with the ball, and finished the tournament as the highest wicket-taker with 17 wickets. Not bad for a boy facing rejection at various trials a few years ago.

After all, Ravi is used to fighting against adversity from a very early age. Early on in his development, he even had to prepare the ground by doing manual labour as his village in Rajasthan didn't have a proper cricket field.

His best efforts on Sunday couldn't prevent Bangladesh from clinching their maiden U-19 World Cup, but Ravi's performances

throughout the tournament have prompted Mangalal, the head master in a government school, to remark that his son has made his chest swell with pride.

"I always used to say, 'Has any boy from here played ever played for India? No Virat Kohli has emerged from here', but he proved me wrong. *Chhore ne kamaal kar diya* (The boy has done wonders). He had said a day ago that he will bring the cup. He couldn't but I'm happy he tried his best," Mangalal told *The Indian Express*.

A few kilometres away at his academy in Shikargarh, which was built by young Ravi and his team mates through hard physical labour over, a big screen is placed on one corner of the ground.

His coach Shahrulh Pathan, whom Ravi considers his brother, said the academy wanted to share this moment with everyone. "By evening, more people turned up and the loudest cheers greeted the wickets taken by Ravi. Such days don't come daily in life when we see a boy from our academy playing in a World Cup final," Pathan said.

Ravi earlier wanted to be a batsman and medium-pacer but his coaches felt he was best suited to be a leg-spinner. It was his trajectory that impressed them.



Ravi Bishnoi used the googly for each of his four wickets in the final. ICC

"For a leg-spinner," Pathan explains, "if you go by the book, the left hand should come up straight like a clock hand at 12 o'clock. Bishnoi's would come from, say, 11 o'clock. A bit like Anil Kumble, I would say, tilt-

ing a touch to his left side. That angle of release has helped the trajectory being a touch different from usual, and has also made his googly a bit more difficult to pick."

"The googly skids on, and there's not much time for the batsmen to adjust," Pathan says.

Throughout the tournament, Ravi was a nightmare to face for every team, even their opponents in the final, even though they came up on the right side of the result.

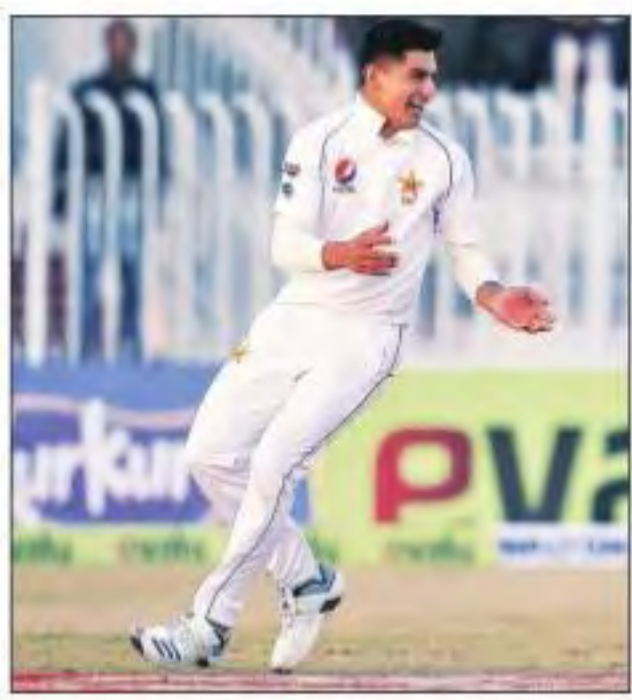
"If you have seen the U-19 World Cup games, you can see a few batsmen seemed to realise that the ball is going to come in but the skid and the pace at which it comes made things difficult for them. You can't play Ravi on the backfoot, as he will invariably rush on to the pads. Since the action and release is so natural for him, the speed on the ball does the trick," Pathan says.

The struggles of the Bangladesh top order exemplified his point. They had no clue about Ravi's googly. Finally, they decided to just defend against him and get their runs from the other end. They could afford to do so as they were not chasing a big score and were never under run-rate pressure. They knew if they handled Bishnoi, things will start turning in their favour.



At the academy where Ravi Bishnoi trains in Shikargarh, Jodhpur, the Under-19 World Cup was watched on a giant screen on Sunday. Express

Pakistan pacer Naseem becomes youngest to take Test hat-trick



Naseem Shah is just 16 years old. AP

ASSOCIATED PRESS
RAWALPINDI, FEBRUARY 9

TEENAGE FAST bowler Naseem Shah became the youngest bowler to take a hat trick in test cricket and put Pakistan on the brink of victory in the first test against Bangladesh on Sunday. The 16-year-old Naseem, who took 4-26, dismissed Najmul Hossain Shanto (38), night-watcherman Tajjul Islam (0) and Mahmudullah (0) as Bangladesh limped to 126-6 in its second innings at stumps on the third day.

Bangladesh still trails by 86 with only four wickets in hand to avoid an innings defeat. Pakistan was dismissed for 445 in its first innings for a lead of 212 runs over Bangladesh's first-innings 233. "I can't describe my feelings because the way the whole crowd backed me, it was really heartening," Naseem said about the 12,000 spectators cheering on the home team at Pindi Cricket Stadium. "I think what I did today was just because my mother prays for me a lot. I did struggle in the first innings, but I knew I can perform if I bowled according to the plan."

Naseem, playing in only his fourth test match, dented Bangladeshi hopes of making a comeback in the last half-hour when he broke the threatening 71-run stand between Najmul and captain Mominul Haque, who was unbeaten on 37 at stumps. Naseem went for a successful lbw referral against Najmul after umpire Nigel Llong turned down an appeal. He then immediately trapped Tajjul lbw off a vicious yorker before Mahmudullah went for an ambitious drive and was caught in the second slip. "I didn't appeal when I took the second wicket and ran away to celebrate because I knew it was plumb out," Naseem said about Tajjul's dismissal.

Naseem went off the field in the next over after bowling two balls in his eighth over due to rib pain and did not take the field but by that time he had done enough damage to Bangladesh's plans. Bangladesh legspinner Alok Kapali held the previous record of the youngest player to achieve a hat trick in test cricket when he accomplished the feat at the age of 19 against Pakistan at Peshawar in 2003.

Tamim Iqbal (34), who had scored a triple century in a domestic first class match before arriving in Pakistan last week, fell in the second over from Yasir Shah (2-33) before Mominul and Najmul resisted with a gritty half-century stand. But after Naseem's burst of three wickets, Yasir pushed Bangladesh closer to the brink when Mohammad Mithun went for a reckless pull shot and was clean bowled without scoring in the last over of the day. "It was an outstanding second spell by Naseem... and I really enjoyed watching him bowling in the field," Pakistan batsman Babar Azam said. "The best thing about Naseem is that he bowls according to the plan and he's learning fast."

Naseem, who hit the headlines when he made his test debut against Australia at Brisbane last year, had given Pakistan a breakthrough when he had debutant Saif Hassan (16) clean bowled off a delivery that kept low.

BRIEF SCORES: Bangladesh 233 and 126/6 (Shanto 38*, Mominul 37*); Naseem 4-26 trail Pakistan 445 (Azam 143, Sohail 75; Abu Jaffer 3/86) by 86 runs

A loss that keeps feet on ground

After a string of impressive results, India lose to world champions Belgium in a closely-contested match

MIHIR VASAVDA
FEBRUARY 9

AS FAR as lessons go, there's more for the rip-roaring, yet error-prone, India to take away from Sunday's 3-2 loss to Belgium than the two wins and a draw so far in the Pro League.

First off, it's an indication of the ground they have to still make up when playing the world's best — Belgium, the world and European champions apart from being top-ranked, are the gold standard in world hockey at the moment.

It also shows that despite all the 'progress' made under Graham Reid in the last eight months, and post-Rio in general, they remain prone to goofing up, especially in tight situations; as evidenced by Harmanpreet Singh's thoughtless pass, after India had twice clawed their way back, in front of the Indian 'D' that landed straight at a Belgian stick and resulted in them scoring the winning goal.

But most of all, the defeat will ensure the high-flying Indians remain grounded. India's build-up to the last two Olympics has followed a cycle: play well in the matches and events leading up to the Games, and flop on the big stage against the same opponents.

Reid is seasoned enough not to fall in that trap. Moments before the push-back on Sunday, he was asked about the improvements the team has made under him, in the view of Saturday's 2-1 win. He, instead, dwelled on the improvements the team can still make — 'create more chances concede fewer penalty corners.'

To the players' credit, they did both. Even though India could not match Belgium's artistry and technical abilities, they had more circle penetrations and shots on goal than Belgium compared to the night before.

On Saturday, Belgium produced scintillating attacking display, entering India's circle 40 times and managing 24 shots on target, but still lost. That pattern reversed on Sunday, as India had 28 circle penetrations and 11 shots; a stat more in sync with Reid's endeavour to make India play an attacking brand of hockey.

Even in defeat, and under pressure of finding the equaliser, India did not give up certain ethos that the Australian coach has been trying to instill, which is to keep passing the ball forward. It seems an obvious thing to do but in the past, India have panicked when the opposition is protecting their lead. They began to pass the ball laterally to backward, never really putting much pressure.

On Sunday, whenever they had the ball, Indian players almost instinctively played it forward and wisely used their dribbles and 3-D skills to create the 11 goal-scoring



India defender Surrender Kumar (C) tries to block Belgium captain Thomas Briels's shot. Hockey India

PRO LEAGUE STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	S/O	Pts
Belgium	6	4	1	1	1	14
India	4	2	1	1	1	8
Holland	4	2	1	1	0	7
Australia	4	1	2	1	1	6
Germany	2	1	1	0	1	5

S/O: Shoot-out
3 points to the winner in normal time;
1 point for draw; 1 bonus point for winner
of shoot-out in case of a draw

chances. That was how they fought their way back in the second game against the Netherlands last month, and very nearly did it again. They were thwarted by an in-form Belgian goalkeeper Vincent Vanasch, combined with profligacy-cum-poor positioning inside the 'D' of their own strikers.

The concern for Reid would be the man-

ner in which India conceded space in the midfield and the ease with which Belgium sliced open the Indian defence — in both matches.

Midfield shows gulf in class

Midfield first. In absence of SV Sunil, India rarely use the right flank to initiate attacks. The veteran wingers pace continues to be a big asset for the team and gives an extra attacking option, even if he sometimes overdoes it. On Sunday, India relied on defender Surrender Kumar on the left to win tackles and then launch counterattacks.

Else, they took the aerial route: bypassing the midfield and playing long balls towards the forwards waiting inside the Belgian circle. But on days when trapping isn't the best, like Sunday, such a strategy doesn't really reap rewards. Only Manpreet Singh seems to be able to have the vision to play defence-splitting passes but he lacks support in the middle, and he anyway spends more time bailing out the defence

than launching attacks.

Belgium's star-studded line-up took advantage of this vast gulf in the midfield to routinely put India's defence under pressure, and it was a bit of chaos when India had their backs to the wall.

Reid chose to bench Rupinderpal Singh and gave Birendra Lakra some match time instead. But Rupinderpal's calmness inside the 'D' was missed apart from the fact that he remains India's go-to man in penalty corners, ahead of Harmanpreet and Amit Rohidas. Once again, if not for goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, the scoreline could have been better for Belgium.

The loss means India's brief undefeated run in the Pro League, which was raising some hopes, comes to an end. But that will hardly matter. Crucially, this defeat should keep the expectations in check, especially with Australia up next.

SCORELINE: India 2 (Vivek Prasad 15', Amit Rohidas 17') lost to Belgium (Alexander Hendrickx 3', Maxime Plennevaux 17', 26')

By clinching Maharashtra Open title, Vesely back in winner's circle

SHAHID JUDGE
PUNE, FEBRUARY 9

JIRI VESELY waved his arms at the crowd as he hopped around court, asking for more noise, more cheer. It was a rhythmic exercise, almost as graceful as a dance — a dance of victory — as he ended the routine with a punch in the air and a roar of celebration. Everyone in the stands, even those who cheered for Vesely's opponent Egor Gerasimov of Belarus, applauded the new Tata Open Maharashtra champion. And Vesely lapped it up. He enjoyed this feeling, he missed this feeling. The last time he felt it was when he won his first and only ATP-level title five years ago in Auckland.

But on Sunday, at a packed centre court at the Balewadi Tennis Stadium in Pune, those thoughts came rushing back as he served out the match and the tournament to register a 7-6 (2), 5-7, 6-3 win. And his struggles with injuries in the last few months made this win even sweeter.

"The win is very important. In every single year I had big success, like playing the fourth round at Wimbledon in 2016 and 2018. Always had some highlights but was

never able to push it further," says the world no 107 who will break back into the top 100 when the rankings are updated on Monday. "It's very important to push the ranking up. I'm really happy that I'm back in the top 100 and it will guarantee me entry into some big events, which was the goal for the season. And it's just the beginning of February."

In the past few days, Vesely has spoken often about being 'lucky' on court. He faced two match points in his quarterfinal against Ilya Ivashka, and then four more in the semi-final against Ricardas Berankis. On Sunday though, all that hadn't been working well for him, did at the right time.

At 30-40 in Gerasimov's first service game in the third set, Vesely hammered home a cross-court forehand return deep into his opponent's backhand side. The ball fell right into the corner leaving Gerasimov with no time to react. The southpaw from the Czech Republic got the break playing his least favourite shot.

"Amazing isn't it?" the Czech says, unable to hold back a laugh. "All week, I was struggling with my forehand. It's been very tight and without much rhythm and then the deciding shot was actually a forehand return,



Jiri Vesely beat Egor Gerasimov 7-6 (2), 5-7, 6-3 in the final. Daniel Stephen

which is even tougher."

Getting the break of serve came at a time when Gerasimov had been struggling to return Vesely's towering serves. The 26-year-old former world no. 35 had been near flaw-

The win is very important. In every single year I had big success, like playing the fourth round at Wimbledon in 2016 and 2018. Always had some highlights but was never able to push it further."

JIRI VESELY
WORLD NUMBER 107

less on his serve all week, raining down a tournament high 94 aces over the course of his five matches. In the final, he lost just seven points on his first serve, and when he took to the baseline to serve for the title at 5-4 in the third set, the first two points were aces, followed by a service winner, and then he finished off the match with a backhand that forced an error.

"The serve is crazy. It's really tough," Gerasimov opines after the match. "You cannot have any tactic when the opponent is serving like this."

All through the week, when Vesely's shots faltered, his serve bailed him. It helped him stay in the match when he faced those

Controversy over Indian team in Pak for kabaddi WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

THE ARRIVAL of an 'Indian team' in Pakistan for the World Kabaddi Championship has kicked up a controversy with the sports ministry and the national federation claiming that they have not given clearance to any athlete for competing in the neighbouring country.

A contingent from India reached Lahore on Saturday via the Wagah Border to take part in the championship, being hosted by Pakistan for the first time. The pictures and footage of the Indians arriving in Lahore have surfaced in social media. The tournament opens on Monday at the Punjab Football Stadium in Lahore followed by some matches which will also be held in Faisalabad and Gujrat. A sports ministry source said the government has not granted permission to any athlete to travel to Pakistan for the event.

"The sports ministry and the ministry of external affairs have not granted any permission to any team, which is mandatory while representing the country at any international event," a sports ministry source told PTI on condition of anonymity.

'No permission granted'

The administrator of Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India (AKFI) Justice (Retd) S P Garg also said that the national body has not cleared any such team. "We have no information about any Kabaddi team which has gone to Pakistan. No permission was ever granted by AKFI to any team to go to Pakistan and play any Kabaddi match there," he said. "We came to know about it only after information was sought. AKFI does not support any such activity. Legal action may be taken against the defaulters," he added.

The procedure for participation at overseas events is that the national federation will communicate to the sports ministry which in turn will write to the MEA for political clearance and Home Ministry for security clearance, irrespective of whether the government is funding the contingent or not. AKFI is currently being run by administrator, Justice (ret'd) Garg, after the Delhi High Court had struck down elections held in 2018. Pakistan Punjab Minister for Sports Rai Taimoor Khan Bhatti welcomed the 'Indian contingent' at a Lahore hotel.

The officials of the Pakistan Kabaddi Federation welcomed and garlanded the Indian players when they crossed into Pakistan from Wagah border from where they were taken in a security convoy to their hotel in Lahore. All the six previous editions of the World Kabaddi Championship took place in India between 2010 and 2019.

six match points over the last two rounds. And by winning the title, he becomes the eighth men's singles player since 2013 to do so after saving match points in two matches over the event.

He also gets the distinction of being the lowest-ranked player to have won the Indian ATP in its 25 editions. But Vesely won't care. He's a former top-50 player who dropped down the chart due to injury. And now that he's fit, and with his second tour title under the belt (which will take his ranking up to a possible 72), he's back where he belongs — the upper echelons of the sport.

Maiden ATP title

Sweden's Andre Goransson and Indonesia's Christopher Rungkat paired up to beat the third-seeded pair of veteran Jonathan Erlich and Andei Vasilevski 6-2, 3-6, 10-8 in the doubles final for their first-ever ATP-level title.

Rungkat, who won the junior boys' doubles title at the 2008 French Open, became the first player from his country to win a tour level event. "I've been a professional for 12 years," says the 30-year-old. "I've been waiting for this title for a long time."

[SPORTS BAR]



Lahiri misses cut despite hole-in-one

Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri got his first hole-in-one on the PGA Tour but that was not enough to make the cut at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. Lahiri, who began the third day at Monterey Peninsula course following rounds of 73-71, aced the Par-3 third hole but finished with one-under 70 to miss the 54-hole cut as he was one-under for 54 holes and cut fell at three-under. He had a hole-in-one on the third. It was Lahiri's second hole-in-one in a big event. He had an ace on the Par-3 ninth at the St. Anne's Golf Club in 2012 Open, where he went to finish T-31. Also missing the cut was Arjun Atwal (75-67-71). Nick Taylor kept his nose ahead with a third round 69 at Spyglass Hill, even as the defending champion Phil Mickelson (67) at Pebble Beach was breathing down his neck.

Bagan beat Punjab 1-0, extend lead in I-League

Mohun Bagan continued their dominance atop the standings, defeating Punjab FC 1-0 in a top-of-the-table I-League clash in Kalyani on Sunday. Senegalese forward Baba Diawara struck the winning header in the 42nd minute to seal their eighth win from nine matches. The Kolkata outfit is now nine points clear of Punjab FC with 26 points from 11 matches. Playing their final I-League season, Mohun Bagan, who will compete in the Indian Super League from 2020-21 as a merged team with ATK, are now unbeaten from nine matches. In another match, Chennai City FC beat Churchill Brothers 2-1.

Chennaiyin hold a stuttering Bengaluru

With no Sunil Chhetri around, both Chennaiyin FC and Bengaluru FC cancelled out each others' profligacy in a goal-less draw in an Indian Super League clash at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai on Sunday. Bengaluru remain third with 29 points from 16 games. Chennaiyin's four-game winning run came to an end and the former champions are fifth with 22 points from 15 games. Chhetri, who received a yellow card after full time for arguing with the referee, will miss Bengaluru's next match after picking up four bookings this season.



Adil Rashid returned with figures of 3/51. Reuters

Rashid stars as England share ODI series with SA

Leg-spinner Adil Rashid took the key scalps of Quinton de Kock and Temba Bavuma as England beat South Africa by two wickets in the third and final one-day international on Sunday. World champions England won the toss and elected to field, restricting their hosts to 256 for seven in 50 overs, a below-par score on a day when the players wore pink to raise money for breast cancer awareness. The touring side looked composed in their chase, apart from some late jitters, as Joe Denly top-scored with 66, reaching their target with 40 balls to spare to claim a share of the series after the second game was washed out by rain. The teams meet in a three-match Twenty20 International series which starts on Wednesday in East London, and concludes next Sunday in Pretoria.

BRIEF SCORES: South Africa 256 for 7 (Miller 69*, de Kock 69, Rashid 3-51) lost to England 257 for 8 (Denly 66, Hendricks 3-59, Ngidi 3-63) by two wickets

Haryana win national hockey championship

Haryana thrashed Sports Authority of India (SAI) 6-0 to win the 10th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2020 (A Division) title in Kollam on Sunday. Manisha was the first to get on the score sheet for Haryana in the 19th minute. Annu (22nd) then made the scoreline 2-0 before Haryana scored four more goals in the fourth and final quarter through Kajal (47th), Deepika (50th) and Usha (59th) and Devika Sen (60th) to seal the affair. Meanwhile, Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy beat Hockey Maharashtra 2-1 in the third-fourth place play-off match.



Humpy goes down to Muzychuk in Cairns

Koneru Humpy went down to Mariya Muzychuk in the second round of the Cairns Cup while compatriot Dronavalli Harika drew with Nana Dzagnidze. The Ukrainian Grandmaster and former world champion Muzychuk was arguably the best performer of the day who displayed scintillating chess to outplay India's top player and the reigning world rapid champion Humpy early on Sunday. Humpy had opened her campaign with a win over Carissa Yip. Muzychuk had the white pieces against Humpy and she made her intentions clear right out of the opening by choosing an unusual continuation on move 11 against the Petroff. The position turned quite complex soon after with the Ukrainian launching an attack on the kingside to win in 32 moves. The 10-payer tournament concludes on February 17.

Shooting trials: Nischal, Anuradha win

Haryana's Nischal claimed the top honours in the women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions (3P) T2, while Indian Navy shooters Anuradha and Yogesh Singh won the women's 10m Air Pistol and men's 25M Center Fire Pistol T2 events on the last day of the National Rifle and Pistol Shooting trials. Nischal shot 459.6 in the eight-woman final to outclass the likes of India international N Gaayathri of Tamil Nadu, who came second with a score of 453.2, the seasoned Lajja Gauswami of Gujarat, who was third with 443.0 as well as Tokyo 2020 quota winner Anjum Moudgil of Punjab, who finished fourth with 432.5.

City, Gladbach matches called off due to storm

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, FEBRUARY 9

MANCHESTER CITY'S Premier League game against West Ham on Sunday was called off due to a storm battering northern Europe. The announcement was made five hours before the scheduled kickoff in Manchester, with City citing safety concerns due to "extreme and escalating weather conditions."

It was one of four scheduled Premier League games this weekend in the competition's first split winter break. Sheffield United was still due to host Bournemouth on Sunday, despite what Sheffield called "wet & windy" conditions at the Bramall Lane stadium on Twitter. Widespread disruption is expected to train services, which could cause problems for fans making the long journey from Bournemouth on the south coast.

The storm impacted the Women's Super League with postponements including Sunday's high-profile clash at Goodison Park for the Merseyside derby between Everton and Liverpool, and a North London derby between Arsenal and Tottenham. Non-league club Wisbech Town posted pictures on Twitter of storm damage to its stadium. A stand had collapsed and goalposts were bent backwards. Storm Ciara, named by the Met Office national weather agency, was expected to bring winds up to 129 kph as well as heavy rains. The British agency has issued 22 emergency flood warnings and 149 flood watch alerts. The storm has led to soccer games in Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands also being postponed.

German title challenger Borussia Monchengladbach's game against Cologne has been called off. Gladbach said that the game itself would likely not have been affected but that fans could face a dangerous journey home.

There was no word of the storm affecting Sunday's other Bundesliga game between league leader Bayern Munich and Leipzig.

All four of Sunday's scheduled league games in the Netherlands were called off, including Ajax's visit to Utrecht, along with amateur games at all levels. The Dutch soccer federation said "the safety of supporters and players cannot be guaranteed" amid the storm. Three games in the Belgian league and all second-tier fixtures were also postponed. In other sports, two Super League rugby games were called off in the north of England, along with women's Six Nations rugby union game between Scotland and England, and various horse-racing events.

Pole star

Duplantis of Sweden sets world pole vault record of 6.17 metres in Poland

NYT/AP
FEBRUARY 9

ARMAND DUPLANTIS, a 20-year-old Louisiana native who has been as shrewd in choosing the nation he represents as he has been in choosing his fiberglass poles, broke the world record in the pole vault on Saturday with a jump of 20 feet 2 3/4 inches, or 6.17 meters.

At an indoor meet in Torun, Poland, Duplantis edged by a centimeter the previous record set in 2014 by Renaud Lavillenie of France, the 2012 Olympic champion.

Duplantis, known widely as Mondo, has already been selected to compete at the Tokyo Games, where he will be a favorite to win gold. But he will wear the blue and gold uniform of Sweden, his mother's home country, instead of the red, white and blue of the United States.

Among other things, Duplantis's decision is a cunning bit of strategy.

If he had sought to represent the United States at the Olympics, Duplantis would have had to finish among the top three vaulters at the Olympic track and field trials in June. One bad day, trouble with his technique or adverse weather conditions would present the risk of having to wait another four years to compete in the Summer Games. Sweden, along with many countries, has a more forgiving Olympic selection process that is not determined by a single trials performance.

A number of top American vaulters have been left heartbroken by a disappointing performance at the trials. Famously, the decathlete Dan O'Brien, who was an Olympic gold-medal favorite in 1992, failed to qualify for the 10-event discipline at the Barcelona Games when he could not clear a height in the pole vault at the Olympic trials in New Orleans. O'Brien recovered to win the gold medal in 1996. Duplantis, who is from a family of elite athletes, all of whom attended Louisiana State University, spent his boyhood summers in his mother's native Sweden, competing for a track and field club there. His mother, Helena, was a heptathlete and volleyball player at LSU.

A vaulting phenom from the age of 7 with dual citizenship, Duplantis had to choose which country to represent in international competitions. In part, he was swayed by wanting to follow in his mother's footsteps. But he also understood the risks of trying to qualify for the Olympics for the United States with its trials format.

"I can't say that wasn't in the back of my



Duplantis, the US-born 20-year-old, will wear the blue and gold uniform of his mother's home country Sweden at the Olympics. AP

mind," Greg Duplantis, Mondo's father and coach, said on Saturday in a telephone interview from Lafayette, La. "Every time, there's a disaster or someone comes up that no one knows about." Greg Duplantis, who was an All-American pole-vaulter at LSU, said most people he had encountered had been fine with Mondo's decision, though "you get a few disgruntled people."

"I'm expecting some backlash for the Olympics," he said. "I don't quite get it. He's following in his mom's footsteps. There shouldn't be anything wrong with that."

Sam Kendricks of Oxford, Miss., the 2016 Olympic bronze medalist and a two-time world champion, told The New York Times in 2017 that Mondo Duplantis's decision was a "very professional way of looking at it."

"I know a lot of people are going to say, 'Why don't you compete for the United States?'" Kendricks said. "But that's not the point of it for him. The point is to jump high and elevate the sport."

On Saturday, Duplantis told the website of track's world governing body that the record was "something that I wanted since I was 3 years old. It's a big year, but it's a good way to start it."

Duplantis can soar higher, says former pole vault record holder

Duplantis can reach even higher heights, said Frenchman Renaud Lavillenie, whose mark the Swede shattered by a centimeter.

"It is completely conceivable, there is no reason why it cannot be in the long term,"

Lavillenie told newspaper L'Equipe when asked if Duplantis might one day clear 6.20 metres. The Frenchman, who was vaulting in Rouen, France, when he heard about Duplantis' record, said he had been expecting it. "I was prepared," he said.

"He did it and it's cool for him."

DUPLANTIS' COMPETITION RECORDS: 2015 World U18 Championships (1st, 5.30 m, Championship Record), 2016 World U20 Championships (3rd, 5.45 m), 2017 European U20 Championships (1st, 5.65m CR), 2018 World U20 Championships (1st, 5.82 m CR), Euro Championships (1st, 6.05 m World U20 Record), 2019 Worlds (2nd, 5.97 m), 2020 World Athletics Indoor Tour (1st, 6.17 m World Record)

THE MONDO FILES

IN THE BLOOD First, the nickname. Mondo means 'world', and Armand was first called that by his father Greg's Italian friend. American Greg is a former pole vaulter with a personal best of 5.80 m and was among the few Americans to jump over 19 ft in his time. Swedish mother Helena was a heptathlete and volleyball player. With a vault pit and runway in their backyard, Armand and elder brothers Andreas and Antoine too took up the pole. While Andreas represented Sweden at youth and junior Worlds, Antoine dropped pole vault for baseball and last year became career hits leader at the Louisiana State University. Armand too flirted with baseball and football before settling for pole vault.

IDOL, RIVAL He broke 2012 Olympic champion Renaud Lavillenie's world record on Saturday, but the relationship goes back seven years, when a 13-year-old Armand queued up to meet Lavillenie for an autograph. His bedroom still has a signed poster, singlet and biography of Lavillenie. The two exchanged Twitter DMs and started training together and competing against each other. "I like sharing things with him, but I'm also learning," the Frenchman said of their association.

BUILT FOR IT According to father Greg, Armand was "really small, skinny and weak". Till age 7, Armand would look enviously at his brothers jumping away in the backyard, ruing his slender frame as he couldn't get a pole to bend for him. His family soon arranged custom poles, and Armand responded by breaking age-group records. He's still filling out his upper frame, but at 5'9 and 79kg, Armand has the speed and technique to bend and control the recoil of poles designed for heavier vaulters.

RETROSTYLE Unlike other vaulters who drive the front knee high and let the trail leg swing upward, Duplantis opts for the retro swing-both-legs ploy to generate momentum, a style used by yesteryear vaulters and their rigid poles made of bamboo and aluminum. Armand's success is down to his fiberglass poles, longer, stiffer and held with a higher grip, than other contemporaries.




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