

IN BRIEF
GOVT: NO INFO ON 'TUKDE TUKDE GANG'

New Delhi, Feb. 11: The Home Ministry on Tuesday said it has no information on any group called the 'Tukde Tukde Gang'. Replying to a written question in Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy said the ministry has no information on whether the terminology 'Tukde Tukde Gang' is based on specific inputs provided by law enforcement agencies.

"No such information has been brought to the notice of the government by any law enforcement agency," he said.

The reply came in response to questions by Congress members Vincent H Pala and Jasbir Singh Gill. The questions included whether an organisation called the 'Tukde Tukde Gang' has been identified and catalogued by the Home Ministry or any central/state law enforcement agency, whether the terminology 'Tukde Tukde Gang' is based on specific inputs and whether the ministry or intelligence agency has drawn up a list of alleged leaders and members of the 'Tukde Tukde Gang'.

SON OF FORMER ARUNACHAL CM FOUND DEAD

London/Itanagar, Feb. 11: A 20-year-old man, believed to be the son of former Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Kalikho Pul, has been found dead in the bedroom of his flat in the coastal town of Brighton in south-east England. Shubanso Pul was found dead by the local police officials on Sunday, who said there were no suspicious circumstances around the death which seems to imply a possible suicide.

"At 3.41pm on Sunday (February 9) police were called to an address in Falmer where a 20-year-old man was found dead in a bedroom, an East Sussex Police statement said. "There were no suspicious circumstances. The coroner for Brighton and Hove has been informed, the statement added. The coroner will now open an inquest into the death, to confirm the cause of death. Shubanso with his first wife Dangwimsai Pul, was reportedly a student at the University of Sussex.

KERALA CEO ROBBED OF ₹75,000

DC CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHURAM, FEB. 11

Kerala Chief Electoral Officer Teeka Ram Meena was robbed of ₹75,000 while returning to Thiruvananthapuram from Delhi by air.

The incident took place on February 9 while Meena, who is also additional chief secretary rank officer, was returning to Thiruvananthapuram from Jaipur. He took a flight from Jaipur to Delhi and from Delhi to Thiruvananthapuram.

According to police, the officer had kept the cash in a bag along with clothes. On returning home when he opened the bag, the cash was missing. Subsequently he lodged a complaint with the Valiyathura police station airport.

Centre told to seek fresh death warrants

Govt tells the court that convicts acting in "tandem"

PARMOD KUMAR | DC with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, FEB. 11

The Supreme Court on Tuesday issued notice to four death row convicts in Nirbhaya case on a plea by the Centre and Delhi government seeking separate execution of the death sentence of three convicts — Mukesh, Vinay Sharma and Akshay Kumar Singh — who have exhausted all their legal remedies, including mercy petitions.

The court issued notice that would be served on four convicts through Tihar Jail superintendent, as the Centre and Delhi government told the court that the four convicts were acting in "tandem" adopting "strategic inaction" to "frustrate the mandate of law".

Fixing February 13 for further hearing of the matter, the court allowed the Centre and the Delhi government to approach the trial court for the issuance of fresh war-

rants for the execution of death sentence.

The Centre and Delhi government have challenged February 5, 2020, Delhi High Court judgment, holding that all the four death row convicts in Nirbhaya case would be hanged simultaneously and not individually.

Issuing notice, a bench of Justice R. Banumathi, Justice Ashok Bhushan and Justice A.S. Bopanna made it clear that the plea for separate hanging of convicts sentenced to death in the same case would involve the interpretation of the jail manual and would take a long time to decide and may further delay the execution.

"Issuance of notice would further prolong the proceedings," Justice Bhushan said as Solicitor General, repeatedly urged the court to issue notice to the four convicts.

"They are working in tandem. It is a strategic inaction; it is not a case where he (Pawan Gupta) has no legal assistance. I

(govt.) am executing the mandate of law and they (convicts) are frustrating the mandate of law," the Solicitor General said.

Meanwhile, one of the four death row convicts in the Nirbhaya gang rape and murder case, Vinay Sharma, moved the Supreme Court on Tuesday challenging the rejection of his mercy petition by the President claiming that the "hurried rejection" was "malafide" and violated the letter and spirit of the Constitution. He has also sought commutation of his death sentence to life imprisonment claiming that he has "developed mental illness" inside the prison due to the alleged "torture and ill-treatment".

He alleged in his plea that "public statements" made by ministers at the Centre as well as in the Delhi government supporting his execution had "pre-judged the outcome of his mercy petition", and there also appears to be "non-application" of mind on the part of the President.

SC ASKS GOVT TO MEET WITH WEB GIANTS

New Delhi, Feb. 11: The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Centre to resume its meetings with internet intermediaries including Google, WhatsApp and Facebook for eliminating circulation of child pornography and rape videos and images.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde took note of the submissions of lawyer Aparna Bhat, representing Hyderabad-based NGO 'Prajwala' that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has not convened a meeting of all the stakeholders since December, 2018 to effectively deal with the circulation of rape and other obscene videos on social sites.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta assured the court that the MHA would convene the meeting.

GERMAN ENVOY PART OF TEAM TO VISIT J&K

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, FEB. 11

German ambassador Walter J. Lindner will be part of the second batch of foreign envoys who will visit Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) this week on the trip organised by the Indian government, sources have confirmed. With more envoys from European Union (EU)-member nations also likely to be part of the group, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's expected visit to the Belgian capital Brussels next month for the 15th India-EU Summit seems to be on track.

The participation of European envoys in the visit to J&K is being seen as a positive indication for New Delhi. It may be recalled that the European Parliament had recently postponed until March a vote on a joint motion criticising India's CAA and also the revoking of Article 370 at Brussels.

US first couple to visit India on two-day tour

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, FEB. 11

Both India and the United States formally announced on Tuesday, President Trump and the First Lady will attend official engagements in New Delhi and Ahmedabad, Gujarat, and interact with a wide cross-section of Indian society.

The MEA added, "The global strategic partnership between India and the U.S. is based on trust, shared values, mutual respect and understanding, and marked by warmth and friendship between the peoples of the two countries. The relationship has further evolved under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi and President Trump, with significant progress in all areas including trade, defence, counter-terrorism, energy, coordination on regional and global issues as well as

people-to-people ties. The visit will provide an opportunity for the two leaders to review progress in bilateral ties and further strengthen our strategic partnership."

The statement from the White House said, "The President and The First Lady will travel to New Delhi and Ahmedabad, which is in Prime Minister Modi's home state of Gujarat and played such an important role in Mahatma Gandhi's life and leadership of the Indian independence movement."

During a phone call over the weekend, President Trump and Prime Minister Modi agreed that the trip will further strengthen the United States-India strategic partnership and highlight the strong and enduring bonds between the American and Indian people.

Kerala woman tests negative for CoV

Thrissur, Feb. 11: In a sign of relief to Kerala, India's first novel coronavirus patient has tested negative for the infection in fresh test at the National Institute of Virology's local centre in the state, health officials said.

However, an official announcement on the 'recovery' of the patient, a woman medical student from Thrissur, would be made only after her blood test result from NIV at

Pune confirms the findings of the Alappuzha centre, they said Monday night. The condition of the student was "stable", the officials said.

She had tested positive for the virus on her return from Wuhan in China recently and been undergoing treatment in the isolation ward of a government medical college hospital.

According to the state health department, a total of 31 people with

symptoms of the coronavirus are in isolation wards across various hospitals in the state as of now. "The blood test result of the first patient from Thrissur from the National Institute of Virology (NIV) testing centre at Alappuzha shows a negative result. But we need confirmation from the NIV at Pune," a senior medical officer said.

Besides the woman, two other Kerala students from Wuhan, the epicentre of the virus that has claimed over 1,000 lives in China, had tested positive in Alappuzha and Kasaragod districts. "A total of 3,367 are under home quarantine," a release issued by the health department said on Monday. The department has already sent at least 364 samples for testing at the NIV at Pune. —PTI

Assam NRC: Reprieve for kids excluded from final list

New Delhi, Feb. 11: The government has decided not to send to the detention centre, pending a final decision, the children who got excluded from the National Register of Citizens in Assam but their parents are included, Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday.

The Union Minister of State for Home, Nityananda Rai, said the approved standard operating procedures for disposal of claims and objections had children who got left

out from the draft NRC, while their parents had been included.

"Attorney General for India stated on January 6, 2020 before the Supreme Court that the children of parents included in NRC, Assam, will not be separated from their parents and sent to detention centre in Assam pending decision on the application," he said in a written reply to a question.

The NRC exercise was carried out in Assam under the

supervision of the Supreme Court and around 19 lakh people did not find themselves in the final list published in August 2019. —PTI

ADHOC HIRING : CIVIL HIRED TRANSPORT (BUSES)
Tender Notice for Fixing of Rates for Adhoc Hiring of Civil Hired Transport (Buses) for the period from 01 Jan 2020 to 31 Mar 2020.
Sealed quotations are invited from dealers/firms for fixation of rates for Civil Hired Transport (Buses).
Format for quotations can be obtained from 0900 hrs, 12 Feb 2020 onwards.
Tender box will be kept at Supply Depot ASC, PO Trimulgherry, Secunderabad from 0900 hrs to 1159 hrs on 18 Feb 2020. The tender box will be removed at 1200 hrs, and will be opened at 1230 hrs on 18 Feb 2020.
Competent authority reserves the right for any amendment cancellation and changes to the call notice in whole or in part without assigning any reason. The firms quotation rates will have to abide by the terms and conditions as laid down for hiring of the vehicles.
For further details, please call on +91-7080789661
CA-3239

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM
Corrigendum Notice No. W.584/E-Tendering/3978401, Dhanbad, dt. : 10.02.2020.
(1) It is further to notify that, in E-Tender No. 397-DHN-2019-20 dt. 30.01.2020, is hereby Canceled due to administrative reason.
(2) It is further to notify that, in E-Tender No. 401-DHN-2019-20 dt. 30.01.2020, Joint Venture (JV) firms is not applicable.
All other details, terms and conditions exists in the e-tender notice No. 401-DHN-2019-20 dt. 30.01.2020 will remain unchanged and unaltered.
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.)/ ECR/Dhanbad PR/2212/DHN/Engg./C/19-20/20

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office: PSEB, Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in
E-Tender Enquiry No. 260/P-3/EMP-W 11686 dt. 06.02.2020 & ID: 2020_POWER_44180_1
Scope of Work: Breakdown/preventive Mtc.and overhauling of Wet Ash Handling Equipments of 4x210 MW units at GGSSTP, Rupnagar.
Time period: One year EMD: Rs. 3.14 Lac.
Date & time up to which tender shall be received 12.03.2020 & 05:00 PM
Date & time of opening of tender 17.03.2020 & 11:00 AM
Tender specification can only be downloaded from PSPCL website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> & no hard copy of the same will be issued by this office.
Note:-
1) In case any difficulty regarding uploading of the tender the prospective bidders are requested to get clarification from this office and or procurement system Government of Punjab. Contact No. +91-(172)-2970263/284. It is also requested to get their digital signature well in time so as to submit tenders through e-tendering only.
2) It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on website. eproc.punjab.gov.in
RTP-05/2020
RO : C-8956
Dy.CE/Monitoring, GGSSTP, Rupnagar

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
e-tender is invited on behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work :-
1. Name of the work with its location : Composite Work (Civil, Electrical & Mechanical) involving construction of Industrial shed with Pre-Engineered Building (PEB), Washing pit line, Service building, Electric Sub Station (ESS), Track works, Electrification and illumination works, Procurement and commissioning of specified Mechanical Machineries & Plant and other associated Civil, Electrical & Telecommunication, works in connection with Setting up of Examination and Maintenance Facilities of MEMU Rake at Bhusawal, Central Railway. E-tender No. 2020/WP/Elect/BSL/MEMU/WT-01(Open)
2. Approx. Cost of the work : ₹94,85,27,033/-
3. Earnest money and tender Document cost to be deposited : ₹ 48,82,600/- and ₹ 25,000/- respectively.
4. Date and time for closing of tender : 16.03.2020 upto 13:00 Hrs.
5. Website particular and notice board location where complete details to tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : Tender can be down loaded from IREPS website : www.ireps.gov.in and detailed can be seen from the notice board at Office of CAO/WP, Chamber Bhawan, J.C. Road, Patna - 800001.
Any e-tenders which is sent by Post/ Courier/ Fax or by hand will not be accepted. All such manual submission of tender even if it is on firm's letter pad or received in time will not be accepted.
The above e-tender document alongwith full information is available on website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.
Dy. CEE/Workshop Project Organisation/ ECR/Patna PR/2208/WP/Elec./T/19-20/52

कार्यालय सभागीय परियोजना यंत्री लोक निर्माण विभाग, परियोजना क्रियाव्यवस्था इकाई, साउथ सिविल लाईन जबलपुर (म.प्र.)
निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों अथवा पंजीयन हेतु उपयुक्त पात्रता वाली प्रतिष्ठित फर्म से आमंत्रण की जाती है :-

क्र.	पोर्टल क्र.	कार्य का नाम	जिला	ठेके की अनुमानित राशि (पीएसडी) (रु. लाख में)	अमानत राशि (ईएमडी) (रु. में)	निविदा का मूल्य (रु. में)	कार्य पूरा करने का समय (माह में वर्षाकाल सहित)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	2020/PW/PU/77776-1	मॉडल स्कूल कुंडम जिला जबलपुर में 100 सीटर बालक एवं 100 सीटर बालिका छात्रावास का निर्माण कार्य। (प्रथम आमंत्रण)	जबलपुर	631.58/-	631580/-	20000/-	12

- निविदा से संबंधित विड डॉक्यूमेंट वेबसाइट <http://mptenders.gov.in> पर विना भुगतान के देखे एवं डाउनलोड किये जा सकेंगे।
- निविदा पत्र का मूल्य ऑन-लाईन पोर्टल पर क्रेडिट/डेबिट/केशकार्ड/इंटरनेट बैंकिंग के माध्यम से भुगतान कर निविदा पत्र खरीदा जा सकेगा।
- निविदा पत्र केवल ऑन-लाईन दिनांक 03.02.2020 समय 9.00 से दिनांक 14.02.2020 समय 18.00 तक खरीदा जा सकेगा। सूचना व अन्य जानकारी वेबसाइट पर देखी जा सकती है।
- निविदा से संबंधित समस्त आवश्यक संशोधन उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर ही दीये किये जायेंगे, पृथक से समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशन नहीं किया जावेगा।

सभागीय परियोजना यंत्री
लो.नि.वि. पी.आइ.यू. जबलपुर
(G-22759)

INDIAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(INDIAN RAILWAYS ORGANIZATION FOR ALTERNATE FUELS)
Corrigendum-2
CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) GLOBAL in order to develop Technical specifications for development and manufacture of Hydrogen Fuel Cell Powered Hybrid Distributed Power Rolling Stock (DPRS) with regenerative braking system, EOI (IROAF/CME(G)/FUEL CELL POWERED) invited on 03.01.2020
The date of submission of EOI in the prescribed Format is extended from 14.02.2020 to 27.03.2020
Please visit website IROAF <https://iroaf.indianrailways.gov.in/> → IROAF Tenders → Expression of Interest.
Contact person:
Chief Mechanical Engineer/BD,
Indian Railways Organization for Alternate Fuels (IROAF),
Government of India, Ministry of Railways
4th Floor, Railway Office Complex, Tilak Bridge, New Delhi-110002
Telephone no. :- 011-23379107, Fax no. :- 011-23379083
Email: cmebdiroaf@gmail.com
442/2020
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Twitter advised not to delete advocate's data

New Delhi, Feb. 11: The Delhi High Court on Tuesday advised Twitter to not delete from its servers the data pertaining to a senior advocate's account, which was permanently suspended by the social media giant. Justice Navin Chawla said the court was not passing any formal order in this regard while advising the US-based firm not to delete senior advocate Sanjay Hegde's data, in case it hasn't done so already. The court was hearing Hegde's plea challenging permanent suspension of his account by Twitter on November 5, 2019, for allegedly re-tweeting two posts. As an interim relief, Hegde, through senior advocate Jaideep Gupta, sought a direction to Twitter that the data of his account must not be deleted. Senior advocate Sajan Poovayya, representing Twitter Inc, opposed the petition saying it was not maintainable. He sought time to file a brief note on the question of maintainability and on the issue of jurisdiction of the high court to

entertain the petition.

The court allowed Twitter to file the note within two weeks and listed the matter for further hearing on March 27.

The government, in its response filed through central government standing counsel Kirtiman Singh, said the issue of suspension of account was prima facie between Hegde and Twitter and it has not directed that the account be suspended.

It also submitted that the government was not a necessary party to these proceedings and claimed that the petition was not maintainable and it should be dismissed.

Regarding the plea for framing of appropriate guidelines, the Centre has claimed that it has fulfilled its statutory obligation by framing the Information Technology Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules, 2011.

The senior advocate, in his petition, has also sought for directions to the Centre to frame guidelines for censorship on social media as per provisions of the Constitution. —PTI

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER M.P.P.W.D. BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION ZONE BHOPAL (M.P.)
TENDER NOTICE
NIT No. 05/CRF/2019-20/C.E. (Bridge Zone) Date 04-02-2020
Online Tender for mentioned below are being invited. The Tender have been uploaded on the mptenders. system of Public Works Department on the Portal www.mptenders.gov.in Tender details are as below:-

S.No	Tender No.	District	Nature of Work	Name of Work	Call No.	Cost of Project (PAC) (Rs. in Lakh)	Physical submission (Original EMD & Other Document) at the office of as mentioned
1	2020-PWDRB-78248_1	Bhopal	Bridge Work	Construction of Flyover from Gayatri Mandir to DB Mall, Board Office Square, Pragati Petrol Pump, Mansarovar Complex up to Ganesh Mandir in the City of Bhopal	First	12036.72	Chief Engineer PWD Bridge Construction Zone Plot NO-27-28 Second Floor, Niramal Bhawan Arera Hills Bhopal
Total						12036.72	

The document can only be purchased online from the above website after making online payment. The last date & time for purchase of document on line is Dated 18.03.2020 up to (17:30). Detailed NIT and other details can be viewed on the above mentioned portal. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper.
The Original FDR & Other document will be received on Dated 19.03.2020 up to (17:30) in this office mentioned.
Sd/- Chief Engineer MP, PWD Bridge Construction Zone, Bhopal
G-22726

GOVERNMENT OF MADHYA PRADESH NARMADA VELLY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER UPPER NARMADA ZONE, BARGI HILLS, JABALPUR (M. P.)
Tel.No.-0761-2673450, FAX No.-0761-2672373, E-mail: ceunz.2010@rediffmail.com
N.I.T. No. 275/G/2019-20/ Jabalpur, Dated: 31/01/2020
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Online tenders for the following works have been processed on the e - Procurement system Portal website <http://mptenders.gov.in>
Tender details as below:-
Tender No. :
Name of the work : Execution of the Rewa Branch Canal from R.D. 0.00 Km. to R.D. 24.00 Km including its complete distribution system upto 40 Hact. Chak of Bargi Diversion Project On TURNKEY Basis comprising the work of Survey, Planning, Geotechnical Investigations, Design, Drawing, Estimation, preparation of permanent Land Acquisition cases, Construction of Lined TUNNEL (approximately 3.10 km in length, approximately 5 m diameter) including RCC transitions, (approximately 100 m length) construction of canals (approximately 20.80 km in length) including its Complete Distribution system by Excavation and Earth Work, cement concrete lining, all inline structures. Toe wall, Asphalt service road work, establishing water user association for about 2400 Hact. of command area, commissioning and testing of the complete canal system in the command area. The preparation of land acquisition cases and compliance for final disposal. The work also includes 12 month defect liability period after completion of the project.
Probable Amount of Contract (Rs. In Lacs) : 23158.92 Lakh
EMD (In Rs.) : (Rs. 50.00 Lakh)
Cost of Tender Document : Rs. 50000.00 (Non refundable)
Date of Purchase of tender document : up to 24-02-2020, 17:30 Hrs
Date of Opening of EMD Envelope : 26-02-2020, 10:30 AM Onwards
The tender document can be purchased only online from the above website after making online payment using credit card or Internet Banking Account.
Detailed N.I.T. and other details can be viewed on the above mentioned portal
Sd/- (Ram Mani Sharma) Chief Engineer UPPER NARMADA ZONE, Bargi Hills, Jabalpur
G-22763

REACTION

Congratulations to Arvind Kejriwal and AAP for their victory. BJP accepts the mandate given by the people of Delhi and it will play the role of a constructive opposition, - J.P. NADDA, BJP president



Congratulations @Arvind Kejriwal @AamAdmi Party and the people of Delhi who have given a befitting reply to BJP's politics of hate and violence SITARAM YECHURY, CPI(M) general secretary



Thank you Delhi for standing up to protect the soul of India! PRASHANT KISHOR, Political strategist



Thank you to all the voters of Delhi. Thank you to all the party workers for their hard work... We respect the mandate of people. @ArvindKejriwal congratulations to you MANOJ TIWARI, Delhi BJP chief



AAP won, bluff and bluster lost. The people of Delhi, who are from all parts of India, have defeated the polarising, divisive and dangerous agenda of the BJP. P. CHIDAMBARAM, Senior Congress leader



The BJP indulged in politics of hate, but Delhi has shown the true meaning of nationalism through their mandate. MANISH SISODIA, Delhi Deputy CM



Delhi has chosen 'Jan Ki Baat' over 'Mann Ki Baat'. UDDHAV THACKERAY, Maharashtra Chief Minister



The BJP, as usual, played the communal card to polarise votes, but failed. SHARAD PAWAR, NCP chief



The BJP tortured students and women in Delhi. The party got a befitting reply in Delhi assembly polls. MAMATA BANERJEE, West Bengal Chief Minister



People's mandate is against us, we accept it. We have resolved to revive and rebuild the party. RANDEEP SURJEWALA, Congress chief spokesperson



People of Delhi have showed that "fascist ideology" will never win their hearts. H.D. KUMARASWAMY, Former Karnataka Chief Minister



The biggest message is for the BJP that poisonous campaign and statements will not work. MANOJ JHA, Senior RJD leader



Lord Hanuman blessed us: Kejri

Overjoyed by its outsized victory, AAP supporters held Tricolour, raised slogans of 'Bharat Mata ki Jai'

BHASKAR HARI SHARMA | DC NEW DELHI, FEB. 11

Donning Aam Admi Party's signature cap, hundreds of AAP volunteers and supporters turned up to the heat at the party headquarters at DDU Marg on Tuesday as they danced on the party's campaign song "Lage Raho Kejriwal" while celebrating the landslide victory in the Delhi Assembly polls.

As the trends showed the party was set for a massive victory for the second consecutive time, a wave of AAP workers chanting slogans "Ache Beetenge Panch Saal- Lage Raho Kejriwal" thronged the party headquarters carrying blue and white balloons, placards, masks and giant cut-outs of their leader Arvind Kejriwal. The AAP national convenor and chief minister Arvind Kejriwal had asked the party volunteers not to burst firecrackers during celebrations to prevent air pollution. As the party's tally went up, AAP supporters hugged each other, played with gulas and offered "lados" amid a surcharged atmosphere. Several supporters draped themselves in the Tricolour and flashed victory signs as the giant screen showed the party's surge. The party workers interpreted the AAP show as the victory of development works.

Overjoyed by its outsized victory, the party supporters holding Tricolour raised slogans of "Bharat Mata ki Jai and Vande Mataram." "Delhi bach gayi (Delhi is saved)," said Jitin Singh, an engineer and a volunteer. "We have barely slept in the last few months. I can't tell you how happy we are. It has sent a very strong message that only development work talks, nothing else," he said.

The stage, set up on the roof of the party office was decorated with balloons and flowers, from where Mr Kejriwal along with his family and senior leaders addressed the workers. Some AAP workers got emotional and tears rolled down from their eyes when Mr Kejriwal said: "I love you. It is a victory of the people of Delhi who considered me their son... Lord Hanuman has blessed us. May god give us more strength to serve people of Delhi."

Mr Kejriwal who was accompanied by his political strategist Prashant Kishor and senior party leaders Gopal Rai and Sanjay Singh restricted themselves until the party crossed the majority mark. A staunch AAP supporter dressed up his three-year-old son as Chota Kejriwal. In 2015, his daughter too had dressed up as the Delhi CM.

Another jubilant party worker, Suman Kumar said: "We knew it. We have changed the politics of this country. Now it is Delhi, next is India. Our clear majority sends a message that doing Hindu-Muslim politics will not work anymore."

Holding a placard which reads "2024, we are coming" a party worker said, now our target is 2024. We won't take rest until then. "Hindustan jeeta hai (India has won). I want to thank the two crore people of Delhi for making the son of Delhi victorious," senior AAP leader Sanjay Singh said.

"People of Delhi have showed the way to the country that only development works will take it forward and not Hindu-Muslim politics. All kind of divisive politics has been rejected by the people of Delhi and we will win 70 out of 70 seats," said Sushil Gupta, AAP Rajya Sabha MP.

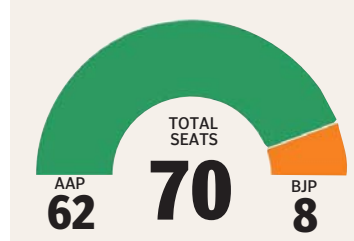
MR KEJRIWAL who was accompanied by his political strategist Prashant Kishor and senior party leaders Gopal Rai and Sanjay Singh restricted themselves until the party crossed the majority mark. A staunch AAP supporter dressed up his three-year-old son as Chota Kejriwal.



Delhi deputy chief minister and AAP leader Manish Sisodia celebrates along with his supporters after winning from the Patpadganj Assembly seat, in New Delhi on Tuesday. - PTI

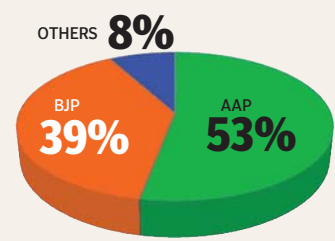
SEAT SHARE

The number of seats won by the AAP and the BJP.



VOTE SHARE

Percentage of votes in favour of political parties.



"Congratulations to AAP and shri @ArvindKejriwal ji for the victory in the Delhi assembly elections. Wishing them the very best in fulfilling the aspirations of the people of Delhi. - NARENDRA MODI Prime Minister

My best wishes and congratulations to Mr Kejriwal and the AAP on winning the Delhi Assembly elections. - RAHUL GANDHI, Senior Congress leader

Majority exit polls get their prediction right

New Delhi, Feb. 11: All exit polls proved to be right in predicting AAP's victory, with the Arvind Kejriwal-led party registering a stupendous win in the Delhi Assembly polls. Of the exit polls, the India Today-Axis, ABP-C Voter, TV9 Bharatvarsh-Cicero got their numbers right for both the parties. The India Today-Axis survey had predicted 59-68 seats for the AAP and 2-11 for the BJP.

This is for the fourth time that the India Today-Axis survey has got its predictions right, the first being for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. Elated over getting the figures right, the chairman and managing director of Axis My India also shook his leg in a news channel's studio. The ABP-C Voter had given the range of 49 and 63 seats to AAP, and between five to 19 seats to the BJP. The TV9 Bharatvarsh-Cicero had predicted 52-64 seats for the AAP and 6-16 for the BJP. Almost all exit polls predictions came true for the Congress, which had ruled the city between 1998 and 2013 but drew a blank in

the 2015 polls. The Times Now-Ipsos exit poll predicted that Kejriwal will retain power with the AAP winning 47 seats against 23 for the BJP. The Republic-Jan Ki Baat survey gave the AAP 48-61 seats and the BJP 9-21 seats. An exit poll put out by Neta-NewsX said the AAP may win 53-57 seats and the BJP 11-17. The ABP's survey said the AAP's vote share may be a whopping 50.4 per cent against the BJP's 36 per cent. The corresponding share for the two parties was 56 per cent and 35 per cent according to the India Today-Axis poll. In 2015, the AAP and the BJP had won 67 and three seats respectively. Their corresponding vote share was 54.3 and 32.3 per cent. - PTI

DELHI CONGRESS CHIEF SUBHASH CHOPRA RESIGNS

New Delhi, Feb. 11: Delhi Congress president Subhash Chopra on Tuesday resigned from his post, taking moral responsibility for the party's debacle in the Assembly polls. The Congress drew a blank for the second time in a row and reduced its vote share from 9.7 per cent in 2015 to 4.27 per cent this time. "I take moral responsibility for the party's debacle and have resigned," he said. The senior Congress leader said it is up to the party high command to take a decision on his resignation. The Congress has been decimated in the Delhi polls. Arvind Kejriwal is set to become the chief minister of Delhi for the third straight term. - PTI

Best b'day gift ever: Kejri's wife Sunita

New Delhi, Feb. 11: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal said she could not have asked for a better gift on her birthday than the mandate given by the people of Delhi in the assembly polls. Speaking at the party office, Sunita, a former IRS officer, said the campaigning saw several "ups and downs" but the party members had complete faith in their work. "Delhi people have given me a gift, could not have asked for a better gift. There was anxiety, several ups and downs were going on. We trusted our work. Delhi has made 'kaam (work) victorious,'" Sunita said.

She also said the personal attacks on her husband during the campaigning were uncalled for. "Fight politics positively," she advised. Kejriwal's daughter Harshita said she had taken leave from her office to campaign for the party and would join back work in March. "There are many volunteers like me who have taken leave to work for the party and I will be joining back work," the 24-year-old IITian said. According to the latest trends projected by the Election Commission, AAP is leading in 63 out of 70 assembly seats while the BJP is ahead in seven constituencies. - PTI



Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal offers cake to his wife Sunita Kejriwal as they celebrate her birthday, at the party headquarters in New Delhi. - PTI

8 AAP turncoats, 1 of BJP win polls

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB. 11

Eight of the turncoats fielded by the AAP and one by BJP won on Tuesday. A total of 16 turncoats were in the poll fray - nine fielded by the Aam Aadmi Party, three by the Congress and four by the BJP. Anil Bajpai, who was former AAP MLA from Gandhinagar, retained the constituency on a BJP ticket. He defeated AAP's Naveen Chaudhary by over 6,000 votes.

AAP rebel Kapil Mishra, who had joined the BJP and contested from Model Town, lost to AAP's Akhilesh Pati Tripathi by over 10,000 votes. Tripathi was the sitting MLA from the constituency. The BJP also fielded two Congress turncoats, Sanjay Singh (Vikasपुरी) and Surendra Pal Singh Bittoo (Timarpur). Singh was defeated by the AAP's sitting MLA from Vikasपुरी, Mahinder Yadav, by over 31,000 votes. Bittoo lost to the AAP's Dileep Pandey by over 21,000 votes.

Shaheen Bagh: Silent roar of the lambs

SUPARNA SHARMA | DC NEW DELHI, FEB. 11

The anti-CAA Shaheen Bagh sit-in protest and the Bharatiya Janata Party have nothing in common except that for the last few weeks one has leaned heavily on the other to create some friction, polarisation in the hope that when Delhi went to vote on February 8, it would press a button on the EVMs with such anger and aggressive force that "its current would be felt in Shaheen Bagh".

On Wednesday, as the results of Delhi elections started pouring in from 8 am, both felt the current and both reacted similarly. Both went quiet. Except that the BJP was stunned into depressing silence, while Shaheen Bagh decided to register its roar by silence of the lambs. Late on Tuesday night, Shaheen Bagh put out a message that it would observe a silent protest on Wednesday. "Silent protest against police brutality and state oppression - 11th February, all day," the poster read that asked all those taking part in the protest to bring a black

tape or black cloth to cover their mouth. All mics, speakers were disconnected. After the incidents of shooting, a new security check cubicle has come up at the entrance to the tent where the women have now been sitting in protest for 59 days. On Wednesday afternoon, outside the tent sat two men, both with a black band covering their mouths and on their chest was pinned a handwritten note that said, "Aaj maun dharna hai. Hum kisi party ko support nahin karte. Shant rahein". Two women in the security-check tent also have black bands covering their mouths. The say nothing as they frisk and check bags except to gesture to women to be quiet. The ladies inside the tent all have black bands covering their mouths and they hold up handwritten messages, in English, Urdu, Gurmukhi, Devnagri - "Today is silent protest. We don't support any party." Taseer Bhai, one of the men from the area who is part of the group that takes decisions on the Shaheen Bagh protest, says that this plan was thought up

■ BARELY 400 meters away is the office of Amanatallah Khan, the sitting AAP MLA from Okhla who won on Wednesday by an impressive margin of 71,827 votes, defeating his nearest rival, the BJP's Braham Singh.

milling about, stringing together blue and white balloons in bunches of four while waiting for him to arrive. I talk to Taseer bhai about the "goli-biryani ki rajneeti", ask him why not let the protesting women comment on it since Shaheen Bagh was made a mudda in Delhi elections. No, he says, because we "don't want to make it a political platform. No one should misuse the protest... Koi kehta hai ki yeh toh Congress waale chala rahe hain, Aam Aadmi wale chala rahe hain... Aaj bhi maine suna ki someone from BJP was saying, Kejriwal ke samarthak hain, woh biryani bhiwata hai, yeh karta hai, woh karta hai". So why not respond, I ask. "Usi baat ka jawab hai yeh... Hum log yehi kehna chah rahe hain - that we can put our point across with silence, khamoshi." I walk back to tent once again, sit for a bit, have a banana tossed at me by a young Sikh volunteer. The stage is not just silent, but is made invisible by a flex poster standing in front of it with a large mugshot of Mahatma Gandhi. In the

white space next to it are two Hindi words, large and in red: "Maun Vrat". It's 3:30 pm, and BJP is down to 8 seats. But no mobile phone is visible, and none are ringing in the tent. All are on silent mode inside pockets of kurta, burqa, or handbags. I implore the women sitting around, with gestures, words scribbled in my diary, to tell me what they feel about the results. All shake their heads and show me their sheets. In the aisle that splits the tent into two sections, a gentleman with the black band and two sheets pinned to his chest walks up and down gesturing to the ladies who start talking amongst themselves in hushed tones. He glares at them and then puts his finger on his covered lips. The women go quiet. As I walk out, the lady in the security-check cubicle has dropped her mouth band to her neck and is eating an ice cream cone. Chocolate. I ask her, "Aap toh tent se bahar hain, kuch toh boliye." "Dilli ne izzat rakh li," she says and gestures that's enough.

0.5% OF TOTAL VOTES POLLED GO TO NOTA

New Delhi, Feb. 11: Over 43,000 votes in the just-concluded Delhi Assembly polls were cast in the None of the Above (NOTA) category, according to official figures released on Tuesday. Counting of votes were held on Tuesday after the elections to the 70-member Delhi Assembly. The election, largely seen as a battle between the AAP and the BJP, was held on Saturday, sealing the fate of 672 candidates - 593 men and 79 women. The final voter turnout was 62.59 per cent, five per cent less than 2015. The votes polled under NOTA category - 43,108 - constituted about 0.5 per cent of total votes polled, as per the figures released by the Election Commission on its website. According to the final votes tally released by the Election Commission, the AAP, in a near-repeat performance of 2015, won in 62 constituencies with a voting percentage of 53.57, while the BJP got eight seats with vote share of 38.51 per cent. - PTI

DECCAN Chronicle

12 FEBRUARY 2020

Time for BJP to reflect after historic Delhi loss

The BJP's stinging defeat in the Delhi Assembly polls at the hands of the AAP led by incumbent chief minister Arvind Kejriwal is a setback of historic proportions. With the results, which became available Tuesday, the BJP will be in the wilderness in the national capital for over a quarter century. This has not happened before.

Delhi has been an important national hub of RSS-Jan Sangh (the BJP's predecessor) politics due to the influx of millions of Hindu and Sikh refugees in the post-Partition displacement saga. The Jan Sangh (and BJP) historically alternated in power with the Congress in Delhi. In that bipolarity, the Congress has lately been replaced by the AAP. The BJP last won in Delhi in 1993.

The BJP prepared for the recent poll battle as the Duke of Wellington might have prepared for the historic Battle of Waterloo against Napoleon, only it found itself on the losing side, like the Frenchman.

While Waterloo had ended the Napoleonic Wars, the degree to which the BJP's future prospects — in Delhi and even nationally — are adversely affected by the crushing loss in Delhi remains for now a matter of conjecture. Since the Delhi defeat comes on top of a string of losses in Assembly polls that followed the BJP's May 2019 Lok Sabha triumph, and in an atmosphere of the nation's economy being in serious trouble, it can no longer be argued with confidence, as some do, that the Delhi voter will automatically give a thumbs up to a BJP led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2024. A recent opinion poll had suggested just this in the event of the Lok Sabha polls being held now. This appears to be a completely non-scientific reading. It disregards the political dynamics in the country that could unfold in the next four years.

Mr Shah threw everything the BJP had at the AAP. On top of conducting a vicious polarising campaign, frequently made to turn vulgar by senior BJP leaders, the home minister — using his clout as the second most important man in his party after the PM — rushed in 200 party MPs, scores of former MPs, and a dozen chief ministers to the national capital. It was carpet-bombing in the worst sense when it came to communal and caste propaganda. Delhi had never seen a poll campaign of this magnitude before. The BJP's efforts seemed to many as one of intimidation of voters through a show of force, not excluding the use of financial resources.

This has turned into utter humiliation, more so as the Delhi electoral contest is the first since the Narendra Modi government ran a relentless pro-CAA campaign, spearheaded by Mr Shah, in the face of nationwide protests against the questionable amended citizenship law, with Delhi's Shaheen Bagh growing into an iconic name for peaceful protests in the Gandhian mould, and becoming a counter-blast to the CAA. Though the BJP's ways are inscrutable, in such circumstances one may ordinarily expect heads to roll.

Evening of horrors

Why is it acceptable to pretend that the mass groping, sexual assault and organised intimidation of the young women of Gargi College on the evening of February 6 never happened? All geared up to enjoy the final evening of their annual fest, the girls had arrived to find a crowd three times the size of the usual gathering at the venue. The main gate had been thrown open and no one was checking for the mandatory visitor passes. Middle-aged men, far too old to go to college themselves, put their hands on everyone near them. Many said they were part of a pro-CAA rally. They were heard chanting Jai Shri Ram in accompaniment to their execrable moves. With no space to turn or run away, the girls were left with no choice but to stand and fight. Each to the best of their ability, they endured what came their way. That included cheap taunts and offers to buy them make-up should they go out with their abusers.

The motive of the assault was clear. It was to deter women from participating in co-curricular activities. Strangely, that was exactly the sentiment echoed by the principal of the college, Promila Kumar, when a student complained: Do not come to the fest if you feel unsafe. She pointed out a special arena for girls on the premises, saying they should have confined themselves to that space. An FIR was registered only after the DCW issued a notice to Delhi Police and the outraged students took out a march on Monday. The FIR was registered under IPC sections 452, 354, 509 and 34. Yet the ample security at the venue had played the role of mute spectators, if not cheerleaders, for the duration of the raid. Why is it even acceptable not to discuss what happened at Gargi College? How else can one investigate, introspect and affix responsibility where it belongs? Does the name of Ram absolve one of moral wrongdoings? It is an open question.

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Anjum Altaf



Interrogating democracy: Make do with what you have

Democracy has been knocked down from the lofty pedestal on which it was enshrined not so long ago as the endpoint of humankind's search for the ideal form of governance. This has followed on Donald Trump's election in the most powerful democracy on earth, Narendra Modi's in the largest democracy in the world, and Boris Johnson's in the birthplace of democracy. How should one reassess democracy in the light of these choices by electorates, choices that would have been considered inconceivable just a decade ago? Keep in mind that one is talking of democracies that pass almost all the tests of qualification — fair elections, rule of law, independent institutions, and civil liberties. Authoritarian regimes and illiberal democracies that cloak their rule in democratic garb are excluded from the analysis.

Also to be kept in mind is the fact that doubts about democracy are being taken seriously only when seemingly perverse outcomes have emerged in countries like the US and Britain that had been considered immune to the vagaries of less mature politics. Reservations about democracy in the latter were voiced in the 1990s, for example, by the late Richard Holbrooke who is reported

to have said: "Suppose elections are free and fair and those elected are racists, fascists, separatists — that is the dilemma." However, such outcomes were attributed to the perversities of ignorant electorates and not to any weaknesses of the democratic system itself.

One defence of democracy would rely on the judgement attributed to Churchill that "democracy is the worst form of government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time". Better let people make choices they have to live with for limited tenures instead of surrendering the decisions to any other agent or body that would be unaccountable for its doings. Democracy relies on collective wisdom to yield the best of a set of often bad choices. If people opt to elect a Trump or a Modi or a Boris, one has to live with that choice. Those unhappy have room to work within the system to overturn the choices in the next round.

This, however, turns a blind eye to the mounting evidence that the collective wisdom of the electorate is not as neutral and independent as the idealisation of democracy makes it out to be. There are ready examples to show that not only can educated electorates be misguided by

fake news inside countries but that elections can be influenced from outside even in the best of circumstances as alleged in the case of the 2016 elections in the US.

This erosion of the power of the electorate has long been in the making without attracting as much attention as it deserved. Modern democracy was born in a milieu in which no agent, individual or firm, was large enough to exert undue influence on the choice of others. This fundamental premise changed with the emergence of mass media and large corporations to the point where many now label the US as a plutocracy rather than a democracy.

The transition from one-person-one-vote to one-dollar-one-vote has had a number of consequences that have derailed democracy from its pristine roots. Those with the dollars have spent them to influence elections without breaking any laws so that virtually all elected representatives are beholden to the rich. The representatives, in turn, have helped to lobby for laws and rules favourable to corporate interests. As a result, the wealth of nations has cascaded up instead of trickling down increasing the inequality of income and wealth at unprecedented rates. The resulting stagnation of liv-

ing standards of the middle- and lower-income segments of the electorate and the realisation that their dreams for a better future have all but disappeared has led to an unanticipated response from voters. This response has been abetted by the elite's dismissive characterisation of the left behind as "deplorable". In earlier times this kind of a situation might have resulted in a social revolution to eliminate the elite or a socialist turn to level the field. But social revolutions are now ruled out in countries like the US and Britain and yet more promises of an egalitarian future have lost their cachet. Voters have opted for leaders promising to restore past glory by going after softer targets who they hold responsible for stealing the livelihoods of the marginalised.

One may go back to the plausible observation that democracy, while flawed, is better than any other alternative but the flaws are now so damaging that something needs to be done to fix them if potential tragedy is to be avoided. It is quite conceivable that Trump might lose in 2020, that Boris Johnson might be ousted if the Brexit gamble fails, and that Modi might be consumed by the forces he has unleashed. But, at the same time, one cannot rule out the possibility

that Trump could unleash a global war while in power or that Modi, before he is done, could inflict the kind of damage from which Indians would take decades to recover.

What would it take to ensure that mature democracies do not elect the kinds of individuals who can pose real threats to the survival of the world which includes people as well as the natural environment? An obvious imperative would be a return from the one-dollar-one-vote reality to the one-person-one-vote ideal that was the foundational premise of governance by electoral representation.

However, a corollary to this imperative is what well-wishers and supporters of democracy are not willing to entertain — the fact that doing away with one-dollar-one-vote is impossible without changes in the virtually unregulated capitalist economic order that now dominates the globe. Politics and economics are deeply interrelated — it is economic forces that are driving the political dynamic. And restoring liberal democracy without restraining the predatory aspects of capitalism is an attractive proposition for entrenched elites.

By arrangement with Dawn

Subhani



In AAP's triumph, a new kind of politics emerges

Parsa Venkateshwar Rao Jr



The overwhelming victory of Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for the second time in the Delhi Assembly elections on Tuesday is comparable to that of the Narendra Modi-led BJP in the Lok Sabha elections in 2019. Delhi is, of course, a tiny place compared to the rest of the country, and only narcissistic Delhiites can presume that they are at the centre of national politics. They are not. Whatever the pretensions of Delhiites about the importance of the Assembly election's outcome, the result provides a fascinating insight into political trends.

This has turned out to be a contest between two right-wing parties, one of them — AAP — a sensible and moderate one, and the other — the BJP — a rogue. The results show that the people of Delhi weighed their options between these two right-wing parties as the voting percentage shows that the AAP polled about 53 per cent of the votes and the BJP around 39 per cent. The Congress polled a measly 4.2 per cent. The other parties, including the Bahujan Samaj Party and the two Communist parties, have got less than one per cent of the votes. The AAP's victory is not an ideological win over a belligerent right-wing BJP.

The liberals, leftists and secularists should not feel too elated over the defeat of the BJP. The AAP has shown that people are not averse to right-wing parties but that they will judge them on governance and not on the basis of imagined ene-

mies. It should be noted too that the BJP had won all seven of the national capital's Lok Sabha seats. The AAP has also shown that it is not necessary to be belligerent and look out for enemies all the time in all corners or to conjure xenophobic ghosts. The defeat of the BJP in Delhi does not mark the return of liberal politics. Political right-wingers rule the roost in Delhi, with AAP dominating the Assembly and the BJP the Lok Sabha.

The BJP had tried to make the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act, anti-National Population Register and anti-National Register of Citizens protest at Shaheen Bagh, a Muslim-dominated neighbourhood, into a major plank. And it has failed to derive any political mileage out of it as its leaders had imagined. Mr Kejriwal and AAP did not fight against the BJP by defending the concerns of the anti-CAA, anti-NPR and anti-NRC protesters at Shaheen Bagh. He sidestepped the issue. He did not take a stand. And to be fair to the AAP, even the Congress Party did not fight this election on the Shaheen Bagh protests issue.

Former BJP president and Union home minister Amit Shah, who had spearheaded the toxic campaign, had clearly failed to force the AAP, its main opponent, into the opposite corner. Mr Kejriwal had outwitted Mr Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on this issue by refusing to be drawn into a debate over the issue. We do not know what the stance of AAP is over CAA, NPR and NRC. Mr Kejriwal is as much a master of political the-

atre as Mr Modi is, but this time round the AAP leader kept his histrionics on leash. He talked about the achievements of his government in sober tones.

The BJP has much to learn from AAP about how to be a good right-wing party. Mr Kejriwal and AAP have proved that it is possible to be a decent right-wing party and win elections without indulging in negative rhetoric. Interestingly, Mr Kejriwal and Mr Modi are right-wing populists who believe in welfare measures. This is also a clear reminder that welfare measures and concern for the poor is not the prerogative of the enlightened liberal brigade.

Mr Kejriwal, like Mr Modi, did not go out of his way to woo Muslims and other minorities, nor did he shy away from showing up his religiosity by chanting the Hanuman Chalisa. What then is the difference between the two right-wing leaders? Mr Kejriwal does not feel the compulsion to wag a threatening finger, indirectly, at religious minorities as do BJP leaders.

It would, however, be naive to believe that Mr Shah, Mr Modi and other BJP leaders will do a rethink after the Delhi Assembly elections about their gratuitous aggression towards liberals and leftists. Faced with an intransigent situation in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir over the lockdown and the anti-CAA protests in Assam and an intractable economic malaise, the BJP is left

with no other option but to raise the decibel levels over illegal immigrants from Bangladesh and persecuted religious minorities in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, and indirectly against the religious minorities in India. Top BJP leaders may refrain from speaking against the religious minorities in the country but they will allow their lackeys in the party's lower rungs to spout venom. The BJP will continue to revel in its role as a rogue right-wing party.

The model of good behaviour on the part of a right-wing party provided by the AAP will be confined to the national capital. It is unlikely that the AAP will succeed in spreading its footprint outside Delhi as it had hoped to do some years back. But the AAP's success raises the flicker of hope that cultural conservatism and political populism are not incompatible, and that people are looking beyond the established political parties of the right, left and centre. There is room for the rise of "Kejriwals" in other parts of the country. Arvind Kejriwal has combined intense nationalism with a fierce desire and determination to fight the entrenched and corrupt system. He is not a liberal, leftist or a secularist, but he is an idealist — one with steely ambition who would deal ruthlessly with rivals in his own party.

In many ways, Mr Kejriwal and Mr Modi are both modern politicians of the 21st century. Mr Modi emerged from an established RSS system that nurses political talent and Mr Kejriwal from a Jayaprakash Narayan-type popular anti-corruption movement. India is moving forward in its own chaotic manner, and creating new leaders as it moves on.

The writer is a Delhi-based commentator and analyst

LETTERS

GANDHI HOSPITAL

It is a great relief to know that the state is free from coronavirus (*State continues to remain free of nCov, DC, Feb. 11*). But it is painful to see that the Gandhi Hospital is facing shortage of wheelchairs and stretchers were attenders are carrying their patients on chairs. The hospital management should look in to this matter and see that stocks are maintained to avoid any hardship to anyone who is visiting the hospital for treatment.

M. Priti Agarwal Manikonda

SOLAR POWER

It is really a smart move by the Indian Railways to have solar panels all along the rail tracks, as many panels need a large area to produce electricity to run trains. Not just fans and lights as is being done currently by solar train coaches in Delhi and Guwahati. Incidentally land along rail tracks are owned by Indian Railways. Railways and the world should think big and to achieve 25 per cent clean solar solar electricity by 2025 and 100 per cent solar by 2050.

P.N. Sreelekha Secunderabad

Email your letters to info@deccanmail.com, editor@deccanmail.com. You can also send them to Editor, Deccan Chronicle, 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad-500 003.

Princes to take legal steps: privy purses

BOMBAY, Feb. 11. The two-day convention of the rulers concord has decided to take all Constitutional and legal steps to save the privileges and purses of princes.

The convention which concluded here to-day gave a mandate to the rulers of Baroda, Bhopal and Dhrrangdhra, the three moderators of the concord, to

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take necessary action to "resist" the Government's unilateral decision to abolish the privy purses and privileges.

The concord in a statement said, "The rulers have met with an inflexible attitude and indeed a closed mind of the Government."

Maharaja Sri Raj of Dhrrangdhra released the unanimous statement of the concord amidst applause.

The AAP has shown that people are not averse to right-wing parties but that they will judge them on governance and not on the basis of imagined enemies... The BJP has much to learn from AAP...

IN BRIEF

Shootout: Gunman dead, 2 officers hurt

Arkansas (US): Two police officers were wounded and a gunman was killed on Monday morning in an exchange of gunfire at a Walmart store in eastern Arkansas, authorities said. Forrest City Police Chief Deon Lee said one of the officers was taken to a hospital about 70 kilometres to the east in Memphis where he was in surgery, and the initial prognosis is "he's going to be OK." The officers responded to the Forrest City Walmart after someone called police to report a man who was making threats and was "kind of talking out of his head," Lee said at a news conference on Monday afternoon. Arkansas State Police Spokesman Bill Sadler said local authorities have identified the suspect as Bobby Joe Gibbs, 40, of Forrest City, though the state crime lab has yet not confirmed his identity.

Syria forces retake key highway

Beirut: Government forces battling rebels in northwestern Syria took full control on Tuesday of a key highway, over which they lost control in 2012, linking the country's four largest cities. The latest gain marked another step in the government's advance against Syria's last rebel-held pocket, where intense fighting has displaced 700,000 civilians since December. The remaining rebel fighters and some three million civilians are being pushed ever closer to the Turkish border by the regime's inexorable northward push. The M5 motorway which links the capital Damascus to the second city of Aleppo through the cities of Homs and Hama has been a key government target for years.

Rohingya boat capsizes, 16 dead

Dhaka: An overcrowded boat carrying about 125 Rohingya refugees from Bangladeshi camps sank early Tuesday in the Bay of Bengal, leaving at least 16 dead, Bangladeshi officials said Tuesday. The coast guard, navy divers and other rescuers recovered the bodies of 14 women, one child and a man after the wooden boat capsized off St Martin's Island, the top elected official on the island told The Associated Press. Noor Ahmed told AP by phone from the scene that some 62 refugees on the boat survived. They were wooed by traffickers to get on the boat from various points as it was heading for Malaysia, he said. Iqbal Hossain, additional police superintendent in Cox's Bazar, said by phone the overcrowding of the boat had caused it to capsize and that it may have been carrying additional cargo as well.

COURT ACCEPTS HAFIZ PLEA TO CLUB CASES

Lahore, Feb 11: An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan on Tuesday accepted a plea of Mumbai attack mastermind and Jamat-ud-Dawa chief (JuD) Hafiz Saeed to club all six terror financing cases against him and his aides, and announce the verdict on completion of the trial. The anti-terrorism court or ATC had indicted Saeed and others on December 11 in terror financing case in day-to-day hearing. "The anti-terrorism court of Lahore accepted the plea of Saeed and his close aides seeking delay in the verdict in two concluded terror financing cases against them till the trial in other four such pending cases is complete," a court official said after the hearing. According to the petition, four other terror financing cases against Saeed, Zafar Iqbal, Yahya Aziz, Abdul Rehman Makki are pending before the same ATC. "As evidence has been in progress, the court may announce the verdict in six cases including the ones already concluded once the trial is completed," it said. The official said the court after accepting Saeed's request, ordered the prosecution to present witnesses in other four cases against the JuD leaders on Wednesday. "The court will announce the verdict once all witnesses are produced and cross examination is done," he said. The deputy prosecutor general opposed Saeed's plea and argued that the trial in two cases against him and others has already been completed and under the law the court may announce the verdict.

Toll over 1K, WHO warns of 'bigger fire'

New virus found in Japan evacuees who initially tested negative, more than 43,000 infected globally

Beijing, Feb. 11: The toll from the novel coronavirus outbreak surged past 1,000 in China on Tuesday as the World Health Organisation warned that the epidemic poses a "very grave" global threat. The WHO is holding a conference in Geneva on combatting the virus as Beijing struggles to contain a disease that has now infected more than 43,000 and reached some 25 countries. Another 108 deaths were reported on Tuesday — the first triple-digit daily rise since the virus emerged in late December. "With 99 per cent of cases in China, this remains very much an emergency for that country, but one that holds a very grave threat for the rest of the world," said WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. The two most senior health officials at the epicentre of China's deadly virus outbreak have been sacked, state media said on Tuesday, as pressure mounts over the way local authorities have handled the epidemic. Zhang Jin, the Communist Party boss of the provincial health commission in Hubei, and its director Liu Yingzi have been removed from their positions, reported state broadcaster CCTV, after a decision by the province's party committee Monday. Meanwhile, two Japanese citizens evacuated from the epicentre of a novel coronavirus outbreak have been diagnosed with the infection after initially testing negative. One of the two, a man in his 50s who returned from Wuhan on the first Japanese evacuation, previously twice tested negative for the virus. However, a third test 12 days later found the man — who has been isolated in his hotel room since his return — was infected. The second evacuee, a Japanese man in his 40s, returned from Wuhan on January 30 and initially tested negative for the virus, but he was again diagnosed after a second test on Monday. — AFP

● The World Bank is offering technical assistance to China to help battle the coronavirus epidemic but no new loans, the development lender's president, David Malpass said.

Formed after World War II to rebuild Europe, the World Bank has some \$470 billion in assets and counts China among its largest borrowers, with \$14.8 billion in loans committed since 2011. China is also the bank's third-largest shareholder after the United States and Japan.

● My thought is that we all wish them a speedy way to address the coronavirus in China. We've offered technical assistance in the area of health, sanitation and disease policies. China has its own large international reserves and new loans are not being considered at this time

— DAVID MALPASS
World Bank president



Passengers outside the main railway station in Beijing on Tuesday.

— AP

WHO names the Mom infected, newborn healthy

virus COVID-19

Beijing/Geneva, Feb. 11: The new coronavirus that has killed over 1,000 people in China and sickened more than 43,000 others globally has been named 'COVID-19', the World Health Organisation said on Tuesday. "We had to find a name that did not refer to a geographical location, an animal, an individual or group of people, and which is also pronounceable and related to the disease," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was quoted by the official Chinese media as saying at a media

conference in Geneva on Tuesday. The CO stands for corona, the VI for virus and the D for disease, Mr Ghebreyesus announced at a news conference in Geneva. "Having a name matters to prevent the use of other names that can be inaccurate or stigmatising. It also gives us a standard format to use for any future coronavirus outbreaks, state-run People's Daily quoted Dr Tedros as saying. The virus was first identified in Wuhan, China, in late December. — PTI

Beijing, Feb. 11: A 33-year-old Chinese woman infected with the deadly coronavirus pneumonia has given birth to a healthy baby girl with no infection in northwest China's Shaanxi Province, state media reported on Tuesday. The Chinese woman was at the 37th week of pregnancy when she gave birth via Caesarean to a baby with a weight of 2,730 grams at the Second Affiliated Hospital of Xi'an Jiaotong University in Xi'an, capital of Shaanxi on Monday, Xinhua news agency reported. The infant, whose first nucleic acid test associated with the novel coronavirus was negative, is receiving intensive care and will be tested again in

the next few days to confirm the absence of the virus, according to the provincial centre for disease control and prevention. The woman and the infant have been transferred to the fever ward and neonatal isolation ward, respectively, for follow-up care and treatment. Both are currently in a stable condition, Liu Ming, director

of the medical administration department of the hospital said. On February 7, the woman was transferred from the central hospital of the city of Shaoguo to the designated hospital where a workgroup consisting of medical experts came up with a series of treatment plans and made preparations to ensure the

safety of the patient and her baby, according to Liu. Two obstetricians, two anaesthesiologists, a midwife, three neonatologists and two nurses participated in the caesarean section. On Wednesday, a 30-hour-old infant born in a Wuhan hospital became the youngest person to catch the virus. CCTV reported the infected baby may be a case of "vertical transmission," referring to infections passed from mother to child during pregnancy, childbirth or right after. On February 3, the news agency reported that a baby born in January to an infected mother had tested negative. — PTI



Iranian demonstrators burn a US flag during a rally at Azadi (Freedom) Square to mark the 41st anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, in Tehran on Tuesday.

— AP

Iran raid injured 109 US troops

Washington, Feb. 11: The number of U.S. service members diagnosed with traumatic brain injuries has shot up to more than 100, the Pentagon said Monday, as more troops suffer the aftereffects of the Iranian ballistic missile attack early last month in Iraq. The department said the latest total is 109 members who have been treated for mild TBI, a significant increase over the 64 reported a little over a week ago. The number of injuries has been steadily increasing since the Pentagon began releasing data on the injuries about a week

after the Jan. 8 attack at al-Asad Air Base in Iraq. Pentagon officials have warned that the number would continue to change. The department said 76 of the service members have returned to duty, while 26 are in Germany or the United States for treatment, and another

seven are on their way from Iraq to Germany for evaluation and treatment. Defence Secretary Mark Esper told Pentagon reporters more than a week ago that the department was studying ways to prevent brain injuries on the battlefield and to improve treatment. — AP

added. It would make Phillips, the Queen's first grandchild to divorce. While he is a member of the royal family, he is not a working royal and does not have a royal title because he is descended from the female line. He refused the offer of an Earldom when he married so his children do not have courtesy titles. The couple married in 2008 in St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle — where Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's wedding would take place 10 years later — and brought up their children in Gloucestershire. — PTI

Peter, Autumn to co-parent daughters after divorce

Queen's grandson splits from wife

London, Feb. 11: Queen Elizabeth II's oldest grandson Peter Phillips on Tuesday announced that he and his Canadian wife Autumn have separated and will file for divorce. Phillips, 42, the son of the Queen's daughter Princess Anne, confirmed the separation from his wife and that they will share custody of their children Savannah, nine, and Isla, seven. "They had reached the conclusion that this was the best course of action for their two children and ongoing friendship. The decision to divorce and share custody came about after many



In this file photo, Peter Phillips, the eldest grandson of Queen Elizabeth II, and his wife Autumn attend the third day of the annual Royal Ascot race, in England.

months of discussions and although sad, is an amicable one," their joint statement read. "Peter and Autumn have requested privacy and compassion

Prosecutors seek prison term for Trump aide

NEW HAMPSHIRE POLLING BEGINS

Washington, Feb. 11: US prosecutors have asked a judge to sentence President Donald Trump's long-time aide Roger Stone to between seven and nine years in jail for lying to Congress and witness tampering. Stone was found guilty in November on charges related to his efforts to spare the president embarrassment over the probe into Russian interference in the 2016 poll. He was arrested in January 2019 at his home in Florida after charges were brought by then-special counsel Robert Mueller as part of the Russia probe. "When his crimes were revealed... he displayed contempt for this court and the rule of law," prosecutors said in a sentencing memorandum filed Monday. Prosecutors said Stone's conduct following the start of his trial "demonstrated the low regard in which he held these proceedings". It cited one instance of him posting

an image on Instagram of the presiding judge "with a symbol that appears to be crosshairs next to her head". Stone, 67, argued that the charges were politically motivated, but prosecutors said he lied and bullied witnesses to protect Trump. When Stone was found guilty, Trump immediately tweeted, suggesting it was a "double standard like never seen before in the history of our Country". On Tuesday he weighed in again, tweeting: "Cannot allow this miscarriage of justice!" — AFP

people — but plays a hugely influential role in the American political landscape. New Hampshire hosts the nation's first primary, eight days after Iowa kicked off the nomination process, and it could narrow the Democratic field of 11 current candidates. White House hopefuls have been courting votes in the state's small cities, rolling farm country, lake-side towns and snow-covered mountain hamlets, seeking a spark that could ignite a presidential run. — AFP

of the medical administration department of the hospital said. On February 7, the woman was transferred from the central hospital of the city of Shaoguo to the designated hospital where a workgroup consisting of medical experts came up with a series of treatment plans and made preparations to ensure the

Kabul attack leaves 6 dead

Kabul, Feb. 11: A suicide bomber targeting a military academy in the Afghan capital on Tuesday killed at least six people, including two civilians and four military personnel, the Interior Ministry said. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing in Kabul, but both the Taliban and militants from the Islamic State group regularly stage attacks in the city, targeting Afghan forces. Along with the six killed, 12 other people, including five civilians, were wounded in the attack, said Nasrat Rahimi, Interior

Ministry spokesman. The attack happened at a police checkpoint near the entrance to the Marshal Fahim Military Academy, located on the outskirts of a western Kabul neighbourhood, he said. Local TV channels showed images of Afghan security forces blocking off the main road leading to the blast site from far away. The academy has been attacked in the past. Last May, a suicide bomber killed six people there. The school is sometimes called "Sandhurst in the Sand," in reference to the famous British school.

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	41,216.14	0.58
Nifty 50	12,107.90	0.63
S&P 500*	3,371.92	0.59
Dollar (₹)	71.30	-0.09
Pound Sterling (₹)	92.28	-0.12
Euro (₹)	78.01	-0.41
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	41,269.12	0.00
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	54.39	1.12
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.464	0.024
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.578	0.031

* As of 9:30 pm IST

Adani Trans. sells 25% stake in Mumbai arm

Adani Transmission said it has sold 25.1 per cent stake in its arm Adani Electricity Mumbai Ltd (AEML) to Qatar Investment Authority for about Rs 3,220 crore. "Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) has completed acquisition of 25.10 per cent stake in Adani Electricity Mumbai Ltd (AEML) from ATL (Adani Transmission Ltd) along with an investment in shareholder subordinated debt in AEML on 10 Feb." the firm said.

SPARC's cancer drug application rejected



Sun Pharma Advanced Research Company (SPARC) said the US FDA has not approved its new drug application for Tacrantis, its under-development product for treatment of breast cancer. The company has received a complete response letter (CRL) from the FDA for its new drug application for Tacrantis (paclitaxel injection concentrate for suspension), SPARC said in a regulatory filing.

BEML Q3 profit plummets 91% to ₹4.2 crore

BEML reported a 90.8 per cent decline in consolidated profit at Rs 4.24 crore for the December quarter from Rs 46.20 crore a year ago due to lower income. The consolidated income dropped to Rs 699.15 crore, from over Rs 926.05 crore. The government owns 54 per cent equity in BEML (formerly Bharat Earth Movers Ltd), which operates under three major verticals viz, mining and construction, defence and rail and metro.

BHEL Q3 profit down 17% to ₹162 crore

Engineering firm BHEL reported 17 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at Rs 161.81 crore for December quarter from Rs 196.43 crore, mainly due to lower revenue. Total income declined to Rs 5,827.74 crore from Rs 7,563.51 crore in the year-ago period. Consolidated profit declined to Rs 63.83 crore from Rs 321.64 crore. Shares of the company settled at Rs 38.55 apiece, up 0.78 per cent, on the BSE.

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Energy emissions stay steady as rich nations cut coal use

DAN MURTAUGH & JEREMY HODGES
FEB. 11

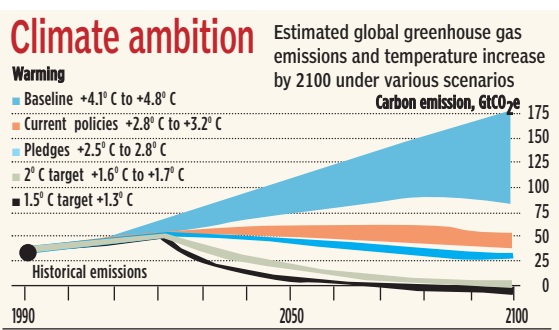
Global emissions from energy held steady in 2019 for the first time in three years. But the restraint all came from the US and Europe as developing countries boosted use of the most polluting fossil fuels.

The findings from the International Energy Agency show energy-related carbon dioxide emissions remained at a record 33.3 billion tons. While industrial countries cut pollution levels to the lowest since 1993, the developing world led by India and China offset those declines. The result leaves a glimmer of hope that policy makers can contain the greenhouse gases damaging the atmosphere. That would require China, which is the biggest pol-

luter, and India, whose emissions are growing rapidly, to embrace the economy-wide limits that European countries are adopting. Scientists say increasing heat waves and more violent storms are likely without rapid cuts in greenhouse gases.

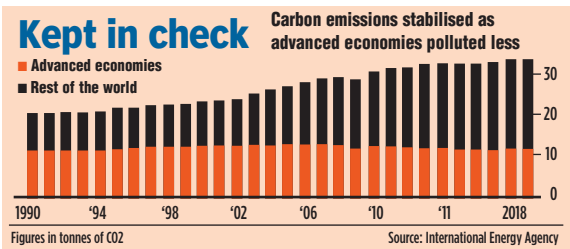
"This welcome halt in emissions growth is grounds for optimism that we can tackle the climate challenge this decade," Fatih Birol, IEA executive director, said in a statement. "We now need to work hard to make sure that 2019 is remembered as a definitive peak in global emissions, not just another pause in growth."

Burning coal, oil and natural gas accounts for the bulk of the greenhouse-gas pollution. Other activities such as raising livestock and deforestation contribute smaller amounts.



A separate study from the World Meteorological Organisation indicated an unprecedented warming of the planet is on the way in the next decade because of building carbon concentrations in the atmosphere. Global temperatures are already consistently breaking records, with 2016 the warmest ever followed by 2019, the UN agency said.

The IEA report shows a divergence in policy between industrial and developing nations. While lawmakers are pushing toward a goal to zero out fossil fuel emissions in the EU, Asian nations, especially China and India, are continuing to burn more coal. US President Donald Trump wants to scrap more environmental limits, but



market forces in that nation are pricing out coal as a power generation fuel.

More difficult to control are the emissions given off by catastrophic wildfires seen from the Amazon to Sydney and California. Research showed that the fires that swept Australia have probably doubled the nation's annual greenhouse-gas emissions, producing as much climate-damaging pollution as all the airplanes in the world. The emissions being pumped into the air now will linger for decades to

come. Global temperatures have already risen about 1 degree Celsius since the start of the industrial revolution, marking the quickest shift in the climate since the last ice age ended some 10,000 years ago. Envoys to the UN's annual climate talks are looking at how to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the most ambitious target in the Paris Agreement.

The US reduced emissions by 2.9 per cent, led by a 15 per cent drop in coal power as cheap natural gas eroded its market share

and milder weather subdued electricity demand.

The EU lowered emissions by 5 per cent, with three quarters of that coming from the power sector increasing renewables and switching from coal to gas. Emissions from Japan fell 4.3 per cent, the most since 2009, as output from recently restarted nuclear reactors climbed.

Despite the stagnation, global emissions still matched a record high set in 2018. Asia accounted for about 80 per cent of the increase from the developing world. Coal demand there remains robust, particularly in Southeast Asia.

China's emissions rose but were tempered by slowing economic growth. India saw a slight reduction in power-sector emissions that were offset by increases from transport.

—Bloomberg

Company may seek more time from SC to sell units

M&M says BS-IV vehicles stuck from parts shortage

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, FEB. 11

The Chinese coronavirus has taken a toll on Mahindra and Mahindra, India's third largest passenger vehicle maker, as component supplies from China have hit the roll out of around 3,500 BS-IV vehicles.

Since the outbreak of the epidemics, the supply of two critical components, especially electronic control units, has stopped coming from China over production disruption.

Owing to the spread of coronavirus, factories in China have been observing extended holidays. "If there is any further delay in components coming in from China, it will have a cascading effect on supplies of Bharat Stage IV vehicles to the market," Pawan Goenka, managing director at M&M told

Net profit plummets 85%

Mumbai, Feb 11: Mahindra & Mahindra on Tuesday reported an 85 per cent drop in its consolidated net profit at Rs 200 crore for the December quarter. Its revenue fell 4 per cent to Rs 25,303 crore. On a stand-alone basis also, net profit fell 73 per cent to Rs 380 crore and revenue dipped 6 per cent to Rs 12,120 crore. Overall sales fell 8 per cent to 1,23,353 units, as tractors declined 6 per

cent to 81,453 units and exports plunged 22 per cent to 9,633 units.

The management guided towards a not-so-bright future saying the volumes will close in the red this year as the problem of falling demand will stretch into the first half of the next fiscal. MD Pawan Goenka said profit numbers are so bad because of a one-time loss of Rs 554 crore as against a one-time gain of Rs 519 crore in Q3 of FY19.

reporters in Mumbai on Tuesday. "These 3,000 to 3,500-odd vehicles are ready and need just that one or two components. So, if supply of these two components does not normalise over the next two weeks there

is uncertainty, which may force us to move the Supreme Court to seeking to sell these units after the March 31 deadline as this is caused by force majeure," he pointed out.

The government has made it mandatory to sell the BS-IV vehicles before April 1, as only BS-VI vehicles will be allowed to be sold after that date. Goenka announced that BS-VI petrol models will be dearer by Rs 20,000 a unit, while diesel models will be costlier by at least Rs 1.3 lakh a unit, as there is an additional input cost escalation of Rs 50,000-80,000 per unit alone. However, we hope to stagger the price increase.

On the faltering domestic market, Goenka said, the company will be tapping new geographies to improve volumes. "We are keen to enter Vietnam by the end of this year and Russia by the middle of FY22," Goenka said.

On the plans to revive the loss-making Korean arm Saangyong, he said Mahindra has lined up a \$423 million investment for the unit over the next two years.

City-based start-up gets acquired by Titan

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 11

At the launch event of its smartwatch, Connected X, Titan announced that it has acquired city-based IoT start-up Hug Innovations.

Speaking in Bengaluru, Titan's watches and wearables business CEO, S. Ravi Kant, said that it hired the 23-man team of Hug Innovations along with CEO and founder, Raj Neravati. The team has already been working in the Development Centre since the New Year. Neravati has also been appointed as the AVP and Head of Technology for Wearables, Titan Company, he said.

Founded in 2014, Hug Innovations, used to sell a smartwatch that not only had gesture control, but could also track users' food and water intake and different activities performed throughout the day. The dashboard also showed the total calories burnt. Titan also said that other than Hug Innovation's expertise in hardware, firmware, software and cloud technology, the firm will take advantage of patents and platforms as it looks to make a bigger play in the wearables segment. "Titan does not have a wide experience with acquisitions. We acquire only when we cannot develop it in-house or our capability will take time and we may miss the market," said Mr Kant.

Hyderabad becomes base for Uber Money

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB 11

Ride-hailing major Uber on Tuesday said the Hyderabad Tech Centre will now house a 100-member strong team that would focus on its financial product, Uber Money. In the statement, Uber also said the Uber Money team has a presence in San Francisco, Palo Alto, New York and Amsterdam tech centre.

"The Hyderabad-based team will play an essential role in enabling upcoming new global features and improvements, including real-time earnings; updated debit accounts, and debit cards for Uber drivers; along with Uber Wallet and refreshed Uber credit card for Uber riders," it added.

The team would focus on implementing new payment methods, enabling and building financial compliance tools, leveraging smart routing technologies for payment gateways and applying AI models for intelligent risk decisions.

"The Uber Hyderabad Tech Centre has the best in class fintech talent specialising in risk, payments, financial reporting and analytics platform engineering. Besides engineering, we are investing in growing and scaling data science, analytics, and product management organisations to transform Hyderabad into a full spectrum tech site for Uber," Uber India Engineering Director and Hyderabad Site Lead Naga Kasu said in the statement

Govt readying \$2.6 billion US copter deal before Prez visit

SANJEEV MIGLANI
NEW DELHI, FEB. 11

India is set to give final approval to a \$2.6 billion deal for military helicopters from US defence firm Lockheed Martin ahead of a visit by President Donald Trump this month, defence and industry sources said.

The Indian government is trying to pull out all the stops for Trump's trip in a bid to reaffirm strategic ties between the two countries, which have been buffeted by sharp differences over trade, to counter China. India's defence purchases from the US have reached \$17 bn since 2007 as it has pivoted away from Russia, looking to modernise its military and narrow the gap with



China.

The cabinet committee on security is expected to clear the purchase of 24 MH-60R Seahawk helicopters for the Indian navy in the next two weeks, a defence official and an industry source briefed on the matter said. "It's a government-to-government deal, it is close," said the industry source.

To cut short lengthy negotiations between

Lockheed and the Indian government, the helicopters that will be deployed on India's warships will be bought through the US foreign military sales route, under which the two governments will agree details of the deal.

Trump will visit India February 24-25, the White House said on Monday, his first official trip to the country.

Both countries are separately working on a limited trade agreement ahead of the trip, after earlier imposing tit-for-tat tariffs. Trade officials have pointed to large-scale US arms purchases, from surveillance planes to Apache and Chinook helicopters, as proof of India's willingness to tighten strategic ties.

—Reuters

Cycling on track to be fastest growing mode of transport

RITVIK MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA, FEB. 11

The world's largest cities seem well set to witness a 10 per cent drop in commuting on private cars. The rise of the sharing economy, multi-modality and autonomous vehicles, coupled with the ageing global population will reduce the need for car ownership. The drop will be offset by increased use of public transport, cycling and walking, as citizens switch to more environmentally friendly ways to travel, so said the latest Kantar Mobility Futures Study. Kantar is the world's leading evidence-based insights and consulting company. If the Kantar study,

released on Tuesday at the UN-Habitat World Urban Forum, is anything to go by, cycling is on track to become the fastest-growing mode of transport, predicted to increase by 18 per cent between now and 2030. Walking and public transport usage will rise by 15 per cent and 6 per cent respectively. Thousands of infrastructure projects around the world, such as expansion of cycle lanes and bike-sharing schemes, pedestrianisation projects and public transport improvements are all contributing to these new mobility behaviours. Year 2030 will be the global tipping point for sustainable mobility in the world's largest cities, according to the study.

Top transforming cities

Ranking	City	Score
1	Manchester	184.9
2	Moscow	183.4
3	Sao Paulo	172.4
4	Paris	160.0
5	Johannesburg	157.3
6	Guangzhou	154.6
7	Milan	154.6
8	Montreal	120.3
9	Amsterdam	119.7
10	Shanghai	118.5

"By 2030, these greener means of transport will represent 49 per cent of all trips undertaken within cities, versus 46 per cent for cars (which currently account for 51 per cent of

trips). Taxi and ride sharing/ride hailing trips, along with other modes such as ferries will account for the remaining 5 per cent. Across the 31 cities surveyed, as many as 36.7 million city-dwellers will change the way they travel over the next 10 years. Manchester is set to see the biggest shift in transport usage, followed by Moscow and Sao Paulo," said the Kantar study.

Accordingly, promoting and investing in technology for urban mobility will be the key to facilitating the transition to smarter and sustainable transport solutions over the next 10 years. Nearly 40 per cent of people globally are open to adopting innovative new mobility solutions; but not

all cities are ready for mobility transformation.

"The coming decade will see a significant shift in the way people move around the urban environment, with a clear trend away from car usage towards greener modes of transport. Technology will be the foundation for shaping a more sustainable urban future. But all cities are different—what works in New York may not resonate in Tokyo—which is why it is imperative to put the human at the centre of the research to better understand and predict future mobility behaviour, and identify future opportunities," said Guillaume Saint, global automotive and mobility lead at Kantar.

IDBI Bank loss widens, but sure of PCA exit

FC BANKING BUREAU
MUMBAI, FEB. 11

LIC-owned IDBI Bank on Tuesday reported widening of its net loss to Rs 5,763 crore for the third quarter ended December 2019 compared to a loss of Rs 4,185 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year, mainly on account of the bank exercising the option of lower tax rate.

Accordingly, the bank re-measured its deferred tax asset, resulting in a one-time hit of Rs 6,273 crore. Excluding the impact of this additional hit, the bank would have reported net profit of Rs 418 crore.

The bank—which has been placed under Prompt Corrective Action by the central bank in May 2017, after it had breached the thresholds for capital adequacy, asset quality, return on asset and the leverage ratio—said it expects to exit the PCA regime in the current financial year.

"If you see this quarter without the deferred tax asset, we would have made a profit of Rs 418 crore. We have complied with the PCA norms except on return on asset (RoA) basis. The RBI is examining this proposal," said a top official of the bank.

The profit before tax for Q3-2020 improved to Rs 756 crore against loss of Rs 5,805 crore for Q3-2019 while the operating profit improved by 76 per cent to Rs 1,278 crore against Rs 725 crore YoY.

SHORT TAKES

Humpy, Harika held to draws in Cairns

St Louis, USA: World rapid champion Koneru Humpy and fellow Indian Dronavalli Harika settled for contrasting draws in the fourth round of the Cairns Cup chess tournament here. Humpy was held to a 37-move draw by Kateryna Lagno of Russia in a Grunfeld Defence game while Harika could not force a win against American Irina Krush in a Paulsen Sicilian game on Monday. Humpy and Lagno shared the point in a quiet game while Harika and Krush battled it out for 44 moves before signing the peace treaty. World champion Ju Wenjun posted her first win in the 10-player tournament, getting the better of Valentina Gunina in 59 moves. Mariya Muzychuk held leader Nana Dzagnidze in a Richter-Rauzer encounter. — PTI

State junior chess at LBS on Sunday

Hyderabad: The Telangana State Chess Association is conducting the 28th Telangana State Ranking Chess Tournament on Sunday at the Lal Bahadur Stadium's Yoga Hall in Under-7, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17 categories for boys and girls. Those born on or after 01-01-2003 are eligible to participate. The tournament will be played over five rounds under the Swiss system. Interested players should register through www.chesstelangana.com or phones 7337578899, 7337399299 on or before Friday.

Customs block for Mahendra Hills

Hyderabad: Mahendra Hills Basketball Club (MHBC) went down fighting 58-64 to Customs & GST in the third Samuel Vasanth Kumar memorial basketball tournament at YMCA Secunderabad on Tuesday. At half-time, the winner led 41-24. Smaller in size and pitted against the Customs squad that had many Telangana and Andhra Pradesh state players in their ranks, MHBC's fight-back came a little late in the day and in the concluding quarter. **Brief scores:** Customs & GST 64 (Venkat Reddy 23, M.Vijay Kumar 16) bt Mahendra Hills Basketball Club 58 (Daniel Aashray 16, Nitesh 15, Amit Yadav 10).



National as well as world carrom champion S. Apoorwa is feted in Hyderabad.

CARROM CHAMPIONS FELICITATED

Hyderabad: The Telangana men's team who won the coveted inter-state championship at the 48th Senior Nationals held at Jalgaon and S. Apoorwa, of LIC-Hyderabad Division, who shocked carrom stalwarts to become the women's national champion, were felicitated by Sky Sports Summit, an upcoming sports promotion body of Hyderabad, in conjunction with Carrom Association of Telangana in Hyderabad. For 35-year-old Apoorwa, who won the national women's title, it is a dream fulfilled at last. The paradox of her record was, so far, she won all the possible international titles like World Championship (twice), World Cup, International Carrom Federation Cup etc. but could not win the National title. At Jalgaon, Apoorwa beat Rashmi Kumari of Petroleum Sports Board 25-11, 25-11 in the final. The first Indian Grand Slam champion and Telangana No.1, S. Aditya, won all the singles matches he played. No less was No.2 Mohd Ahmed, playing in second singles, and the doubles combination of Waseem and Naresh, who combined well to win their matches when it mattered. Sandeep and Nandu were the other members of the side.

Opulent opener

Srikanth leads India's rout of Kazakhstan

Manila, Feb. 11: Kidambi Srikanth spearheaded India's 4-1 mauling of Kazakhstan in their opening group match to brighten their chances of reaching the quarterfinals of the Asia Team Badminton Championships here on Tuesday. Former world number one Srikanth, the up and coming Lakshya Sen and Subhankar Dey won their respective singles matches easily. Srikanth took just 23 minutes to beat Dmitry Panarin 21-10, 21-7 while Sen was even quicker, notching up a 21-13, 21-8 win over Artur Niyazov in 21 minutes. Dey beat Khaitmurat Kulmatov 21-11, 21-5 in 26 minutes in the third singles.

World Championship bronze medallist B. Sai Praneeth, who was not fielded in the singles on Tuesday, teamed up with Chirag Shetty in the doubles, but lost to the Kazakh pair of Niyazov and Panarin 21-18, 16-21, 19-21. However, M.R. Arjun and Dhruv Kapila beat the Kazakh duo of Nikita Bragin and Khaitmurat Kulmatov 21-14, 21-8 in the second doubles match. The Indian men's team, which won a bronze in the 2016 championship, was initially clubbed with two-time defending champions Indonesia and hosts Philippines in Group A, but with China and Hong Kong not playing due to a travel ban on them by the Philippines because of the coronavirus outbreak, the draw was re-worked.

● **Srikanth took just 23 minutes to beat Dmitry Panarin 21-10, 21-7 while Lakshya Sen was even quicker, notching up a 21-13, 21-8 win over Artur Niyazov in 21 minutes.**



The Indian team has been placed in Group B alongside Malaysia and Kazakhstan. The top two teams in each of the four groups will make it to the quarterfinals. India play Malaysia on Thursday. Unfazed by the coronavirus fears, a full-strength Indian men's team is taking part in the championships with an eye on medals, which will give players crucial ranking points in the Olympic year. The Indian women's team chose not to travel for the competition, fearing the spread of coronavirus, which has claimed over 1000 lives in China so far. — PTI

VIRUS FORCES TEAMS OUT OF ASIAN MEET

Kuala Lumpur, Feb. 11: The deadly coronavirus outbreak has forced China and Hong Kong's men and women and India's women to withdraw from badminton's Asia Team Championships which start on Tuesday in Manila. The event, which runs until Sunday in the Philippines capital, is the Asian qualifying event for the sport's Thomas and Uber Cup team championships later this year. It also serves as part of the qualification process for this year's Tokyo Olympics. "The decision to impose the 14 days quarantine period for all travellers coming from China, Hong Kong and Macau has to be respected in view of the health and safety of the Philippines government for its people," said a Badminton Asia statement Tuesday. "It is in this respect that the above event will not see the teams from China and Hong Kong competing." The tournament will lose much of its sheen with the withdrawal of China, which has been the dominant force in badminton for decades. The coronavirus epidemic has had a major impact on the sports calendar in Asia. The outbreak has seen Olympic qualifying tournaments for boxing, basketball and women's soccer postponed, rescheduled or moved from China, while badminton, motor sports, hockey and tennis events have also been affected. — Agencies

Grand home win for New Zealand

Mt. Maunganui (New Zealand), Feb. 11: In a stunning reversal of fortunes, an underwhelming India suffered their first ODI series whitewash in more than three decades as New Zealand completed a 3-0 sweep with a five-wicket victory in the third match here on Tuesday.

It is the first whitewash for India in 31 years in a series in which all matches have been played. They were beaten 5-0 by the West Indies back in 1989 in an away assignment. This came within days of India sweeping a five-match T20 series. Henry Nicholls scored 80 in 103 balls and Martin Guptill made 66 off 46 as the Black Caps scored 300 for five in 47.1 overs. Colin de Grandhomme smacked 58 not out off 28 balls at the end to help seal the win with 17 deliveries to spare.

Earlier, India had scored 296 for seven after being put into bat, thanks to K L Rahul's (112) fourth ODI hundred. Chasing a sub-par 297, New Zealand got off to a flying start as Guptill and Nicholls put on 50 off just 40 balls. Overall, they added 106 for the first wicket. Guptill smacked six fours and four sixes as the Indian new ball bowlers faced an onslaught. Shardul Thakur (1-87) and Navdeep Saini (0-68) struggled to find their rhythm and were taken for runs, while Jasprit Bumrah finished the series wicket-less. Yuzvendra Chahal (3-47) provided the breakthrough, bowling Guptill in the 17th over. At the other end, Nicholls scored a half-century off 72 balls and anchored the innings. He added 53 runs with Kane Williamson (22), but Chahal struck twice and

SCORECARD	
India: Prithvi Shaw run out 40, Mayank Agarwal b Jamieson 1, Virat Kohli c Jamieson b Bennett 9, Shreyas Iyer c de Grandhomme b Neesham 62, KL Rahul c Jamieson b Bennett 112, Manish Pandey c Santner b Bennett 42, Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 8, Shardul Thakur c de Grandhomme b Bennett 7, Navdeep Saini (not out) 8. Extras (b 1 w 6) 7. Total (for seven wickets in 50 overs) 296. FoW: 1-8, 2-32, 3-62, 4-162, 5-269, 6-269, 7-280.	Bowling: Southee 9-0-59-0, Jamieson 10-0-53-1, Bennett 10-1-64-4, Grandhomme 3-0-10-0, Neesham 8-0-50-1, Santner 10-0-59-0.
New Zealand: Martin Guptill b Chahal 66, Henry Nicholls c Rahul b Thakur 80, Kane Williamson c Agarwal b Chahal 22, Ross Taylor c Kohli b Jadeja 12, Tom Latham (not out) 32, Jimmy Neesham c Kohli b Chahal 19, Colin de Grandhomme (not out) 54. Extras (b 1 lb 2 nb 2 w 6) 11. Total (for five wickets in 47 overs) 296. FoW: 1-106, 2-159, 3-186, 4-189, 5-220.	Bowling: Bumrah 9.6-0-50-0, Saini 8-0-68-0, Chahal 10-1-47-3, Thakur 9-0-83-1, Jadeja 10-0-45-1.

Ravindra Jadeja (1-45) removed the in-form Ross Taylor (12) cheaply. New Zealand were reduced to 189 for four in the 33rd over at that stage. Taylor was adjudged player of the series for amassing 194 runs in three innings and being dismissed only once. De Grandhomme took centre stage then and smashed a half-century off only 21 balls. His explosive knock included six fours and three sixes, as his fifth wicket partnership with Jimmy Neesham (19) came off only 31 balls. India's fielding was lax and failed to build pressure on the Black Caps, an apt representation of their struggles in this series. This was after Rahul's first hundred at number five helped anchor India's innings. He hit nine fours and two sixes, and rescued India from a precarious 62 for three. — PTI

Women's side eye title Down Under

Melbourne, Feb. 11: Their batting woes sorted, India will fancy their chances of claiming the women's T20 tri-series when they face Australia in the summit clash here on Wednesday. After failing to fire in unison in their first three league matches, India produced a good batting show to record a seven-wicket win over Australia on Saturday, which took the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side into the final. The two sides are on equal footing having won

Infamous five charged for fracas

Dubai, Feb. 11: Two Indians — Akash Singh and Ravi Bishnoi — and three Bangladesh players were on Tuesday found guilty of bringing the game into disrepute and handed suspension points for the ugly on-field confrontation that marred the Under-19 World Cup final in South Africa.



● Akash and Bishnoi along with Hridoy, Hossain and Hasan were found guilty of breaching the ICC Code of Conduct after the two sides nearly came to blows following Bangladesh's three-wicket win for their maiden U-19 World Cup title in Potchefstroom.

Akash and Bishnoi along with Bangladesh's Md Towhid Hridoy, Shamim Hossain and Rakibul Hasan were found guilty of breaching the ICC Code of Conduct after the two sides nearly came to blows following Bangladesh's three-wicket win for their maiden U-19 World Cup title on Sunday. "Five players have been found guilty of a Level 3 breach of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Support Personnel... (they) were charged with violating Article 2.21 of the code, whilst Bishnoi received a further charge of breaching Article 2.5," the ICC said in a statement.

One suspension point amounts to a player being ineligible for one ODI or T20, U-19 or A team international match. However, all of these players are set to progress to the senior set up now and are unlikely to be affected by this. "All five players have accepted the sanctions proposed by ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup Match Referee Graeme Labrooy," it added.

Some Bangladesh players rushing to the ground and displaying aggressive body language. "India's Akash accepted the charge of breaching Article 2.21 and has received a sanction of eight suspension points, which equates to six demerit points," the ICC said. Compatriot Bishnoi accepted the charge of breaching Article 2.21 and received a sanction of five

suspension points, which equates to five demerit points. "Bishnoi also accepted a level 1 charge of breaching Article 2.5 for a separate incident during the match, where he used language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batter following the dismissal of Avishek Das in the 23rd over," the ICC said in a statement. Bangladesh's Hridoy received a sanction of 10 suspension points, which add up to six demerit points. Hossain received a sanction of eight suspension points, which equate to six demerit points. Hasan received a sanction of four suspension points, which equal five demerit points. All charges were levelled by on-field umpires Sam Nogajski and Adrian Holdstock, third umpire Ravindra Wimalasiri as well as fourth umpire Patrick Bongni Jele. — PTI

Secunderabad set for club Twenty20 cricket tourney

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 11 The Secunderabad Club is conducting the 17th edition of the annual inter-club cricket tournament at its grounds from February 15 to March 15. Matches will be played in the Twenty20 format in morning and afternoon sessions over weekends. Eight teams have been divided into two groups and will play each other on a round-robin basis with the top two from each group qualifying for the knockout semifinals. Each side can field not

more than two players from current state teams. The team compositions throw up some interesting match-ups. Manish Jaiswal will lead Fateh Maidan Club while his son and Hyderabad Under 23 captain Mickil will turn up for Secunderabad Club, for whom Ranji Trophy player C. V. Milind will show up alongside his father and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Inspector General C. V. Anand (IPS), former state cricketer who plays regularly in the Hyderabad Cricket Association's 'A' Division league.

Another Ranji Trophy player, P. Akshath Reddy, will be part of FMC. Former state cricketer R. A. Swaroop will lead Deccan Club, who had beaten Secunderabad Club for title last year. **THE POOLS**
■ **Group A:** Deccan Club, New Club, Press Club, Nizam Club.
■ **Group B:** Secunderabad Club, Jubilee Hills Club, Zoroastrian Club and Fateh Maidan Club.
■ **The Schedule:** Group matches on February 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, March 1. Semifinals on March 7, 8. Final on March 15.



Sports Authority of Telangana State chairman A. Venkateswar Reddy (right) on Tuesday felicitates Jayesh Ranjan on being elected president of the Telangana Olympic Association.

'PELE DEPRESSED, RECLUSIVE BECAUSE OF POOR HEALTH'

Rio de Janeiro, Feb. 11: Football legend Pele is experiencing "a kind of depression" and barely leaves home anymore because health problems have left him unable to walk normally, his son said in an interview. "He's pretty fragile in terms of his mobility... And that makes him suffer a kind of depression," Edinho said of his 79-year-old father, who has had a series of health problems in recent years. "Just imagine, he's the 'King,' he was always such an imposing figure, and now he can't walk normally. He was gets very shy, very embarrassed about that," his son said in an interview published on the sports news site Globoesporte.Com on Monday. Pele, the pride of Brazilian football and the only player to win three World Cups (1958, 1962 and 1970), is considered by many to be the greatest footballer of all time. He has been in and out of hospital in recent years for various health issues. He never fully recovered from one of his hip operations, leaving him dependent on a walker, Edinho said. "He's doing a bit better than when he was in a wheelchair recently, but he still has a hard time getting around," said Edinho, 49. Pele's public appearances have grown increasingly rare with age. Last April he traveled to Paris for a promotional appearance with French rising star Kylian Mbappe, but had to be hospitalized shortly after for kidney problems. In 2014, he was placed in intensive care for dialysis after contracting a severe urinary infection. The Brazilian great, whose real name is Edson Arantes do Nascimento, has only one kidney, after a broken rib during a match forced doctors to remove the other. He has also suffered a series of hip problems. Edinho said despite those issues his father is "doing well" physically. — AFP

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