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## Goli maaro, India-Pak: Such talk may have hurt BJP in Delhi, says Shah

Defends his 'current to Shaheen Bagh': Nothing wrong... think about your vote

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 13

IN HIS first public remarks after Delhi voted AAP back to power, Union Home Minister and former BJP president Amit Shah has acknowledged that some provocative remarks during the poll campaign by his party leaders, such as "goli maaro" and "India vs Pakistan", should not have been made — and may have hurt the party.

Responding to a question at the Times Now summit, Shah also admitted that his assessment of the poll outcome went wrong.

He, however, defended his own statement that a vote for the BJP would send a "current to Shaheen Bagh".

"I had said nothing wrong,

Current doesn't mean giving someone a shock. This is a way of making people understand that victory is connected to this thought, so think about your vote," he said.

On Kashmir, he said the government was giving permission to anyone who wanted to visit the Valley.

On the remarks made by BJP leaders during the Delhi polls, Shah said: "Aisa bayan nahin diya kisi ne ki bahu-betiyan ka balatkar kareng, magar baaki sab jo apne kaha, woh bhi bayan nahin dene chahiye. Party ne turant hi apne-aap ko alag kiya hai... har sath ke karyakarta chunav ke maidan mein hote hai. Koi karyakarta kuch bol jaata hai. Par janata ko maloom hai ki party kaun hai. Party ke official pravakta hote hai, party ka Parliamentary board

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## A DELHI MEETING

Home Minister Amit Shah, Director General of Narcotics Control Bureau Rakesh Asthana at the BIMSTEC conference on drug trafficking, in New Delhi Thursday. Anil Sharma **PAGE 9**

## WARNS OF CONTEMPT ACTION

# SC plays party monitor: List candidates facing cases, explain choice

Winnability can't be only factor, give reasons for selection: Bench to parties

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 13

FLAGGING "AN alarming increase in the incidence of criminals in politics" and questioning parties for offering "no explanation" on "why candidates with pending criminal cases are selected as candidates in the first place", the Supreme Court Thursday made it mandatory for political parties to publish, including on official social media pages, details of cases against their candidates and the reasons

for selecting them over others.

Saying "winnability" of a candidate cannot be the only reason for selection, the bench of Justices R F Nariman and S Ravindra Bhat directed all parties to comply with its order, and told the Election Commission to bring to its notice any instance of non-compliance "in contempt of this Court's orders/directions".

Disposing contempt petitions against political parties for allegedly disregarding the September 25, 2018 directions of a five-judge Constitution Bench,

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**EXPLAINED**  
**E** 43% in LS have cases pending

A REPORT by NGO Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) said 233 of 539 (43%) elected to Lok Sabha in 2019 had declared pending criminal cases in affidavits. This was its break-up of winning MPs with cases: BJP: 116/301 (39%); Congress: 29/51 (57%); DMK: 10/23 (43%); Trinamool 9/22 (41%); JD(U): 13/16 (81%).

## Wall on Trump route to mask slum: Civic body to reduce height

Gujarat civic body builds wall to shut out slum on Trump route



The Indian Express report on February 13

**RITU SHARMA**  
AHMEDABAD, FEBRUARY 13

AFTER THE Indian Express reported that the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation is building a six-feet-high wall, ostensibly to mask a slum area, on the route that US President Donald Trump and PM Narendra Modi

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## EXPRESS NETWORK



**FORMER TERI CHIEF R K PACHAURI DIES**  
**PAGE 7**

## LOKNITI-CSDS SURVEY FOR THE INDIAN EXPRESS

# Stunning gender gap: Women voters powered AAP's landslide in Delhi

**SHREYAS SARDESAI**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 13

IF THERE is one social demographic that played the most significant role in ensuring AAP's second consecutive landslide victory in Delhi, it is that of women.

Not only did women electors this time nearly match their male counterparts when it came to voting, falling short by just 0.07 percentage points, they also ended up voting overwhelmingly

## GENDER DIVIDE IN VOTING PREFERENCE

	Congress+	BJP+	AAP	Others
Men	5 (-4)	43 (+11)	49 (-6)	3 (-1)
Women	3 (-7)	35 (+1)	60 (+7)	2 (-1)

Figures in parentheses show percentage point change since 2015 polls; Source: Delhi 2020 poll-eve survey & Delhi post-poll by Lokniti-CSDS

in favour of AAP, far more than men did, disproving the long-held belief that women vote on the advice of their husbands or

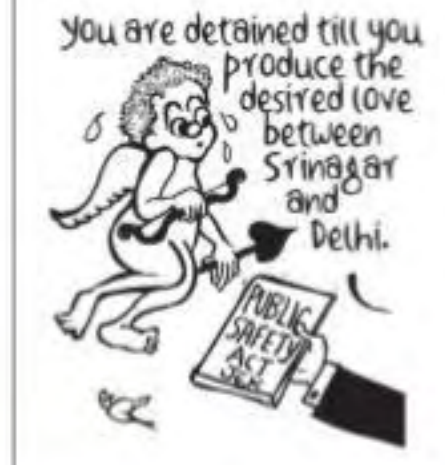
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**THREE IN EVERY FIVE IN 18-25 AGE GROUP VOTED AAP** **PAGE 4**

**SANJEEV CHAWLA EXTRADITED, SENT TO POLICE CUSTODY**  
**PAGE 23**

## BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



# Almost 93,000: Half at BSNL, 80% employees at MTNL opt for VRS

**AASHISH ARYAN**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 13

IN THE largest mass retirement of employees in the country, nearly 93,000 staffers of state-run Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have opted for the voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) offered by the central government.

The move, which comes as part of a government scheme to restructure the loss-laden companies, will substantially reduce

the wage bills of these utilities and free up real estate that has a potential for monetisation in the future.

Significantly, of the 1,53,000 employees working for BSNL when the VRS scheme was approved in October 2019, over half — 78,569 employees in all — have opted to retire.

At MTNL, which had an employee strength of over 18,000, nearly 80 per cent — 14,400 employees — have opted for the VRS.

Most of the employees of BSNL who have opted for the VRS are learnt to be in the non-execu-

tive category and in the age group of 55-60 years, officials said.

"About 93,000 people have opted for VRS. What is significant is there is not a single court case. BSNL's wage bill will reduce by about 50 per cent, while MTNL wage expenses will come down by about 75 per cent after the process is completed. Their annual expenditure on employees, which was about Rs 1,300 crore, will come down to Rs 650 crore," a senior Department of Telecommunications (DoT) official told The Indian Express.

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