

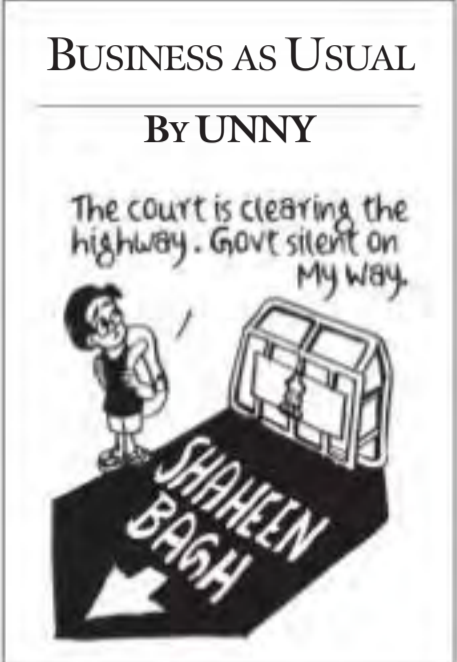
## SC sends mediators to Shaheen Bagh: People have right to protest

ANANTHAKRISHNAN  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT people have a fundamental right to protest, the Supreme Court Monday appointed two advocates as interlocutors with the mandate to persuade anti-CAA protesters at Shaheen Bagh in Delhi to end their blockade of a public road. The court will hear the matter next on February 24.

The bench of Justices SK Kaul and K M Joseph said one set of people taking to public roads to air their grievance can inspire others to follow suit and this will ultimately lead to chaos. Democracy, the judges said, is about expression of views but "there are lines and boundaries" for it.

"Certain section of society is aggrieved by a legislation which is being tested in this court. We are not saying that despite pendency of matter, people will not



MORE JAMIA VIDEOS  
PAGE 4

have the right to air their grievance or protest. Question arising is where to protest... Whether traffic can be managed better here or there is not the question. It cannot be a place like this. If

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## 'CONSIDER PERMANENT COMMISSION, COMMAND POSTS' SC orders Army reform: Change mindset, give women equal role

Indefensible and disturbing: Court on arguments against greater role for women

ANANTHAKRISHNAN  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

CALLING FOR a "change in mindsets", the Supreme Court, in a momentous ruling Monday, directed that women officers of the Indian Army, serving under Short Service Commission, be considered for grant of Permanent Commission, irrespective of tenure of service, and also for command posts in non-combat areas since "an absolute bar on women seeking criteria or command appointments



The petitioners outside Supreme Court, Monday. Amit Mehra

would not comport with the guarantee of equality under Article 14".

Stating that "the absolute exclusion of women" from all com-

mand assignments except staff assignments is "indefensible", the bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Ajay Rastogi, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED  
2 key arguments shot down

THE SUPREME Court rejected arguments against greater role for women officers, saying these violated equality under law. They were being kept out of command posts on the reasoning that the largely rural rank and file will have problems with women as commanding officers. The biological argument was also rejected as disturbing.

RELATED REPORTS  
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## Before he quit, Lokpal judge sent 3 letters to chief on lack of work, and gaps in processes

SHYAMLAL YADAV  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17



Justice Dilip B Bhosale

WEEKS BEFORE he resigned from the nine-member Lokpal citing personal reasons, Justice Dilip B Bhosale, former Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court, sent as many as three letters to Lokpal Chairperson Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose, complaining about the lack of "any office/official work" and expressing reservations about pace of work in the watchdog body, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Sources said that Justice Bhosale sent these letters in November-December last year — he resigned on January 6.

He was one of the four judicial members of the Lokpal, the other three being Justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty, former Chief

Justice of Orissa High Court; Justice Abhilasha Kumari, former Chief Justice of Manipur High Court and Justice A K Tripathi, former Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court.

When contacted, Justice Bhosale declined to comment. The chairperson and members of Lokpal were appointed in March last year but with its rules still pending, as Justice Bhosale's letters suggest.

Sources said in his first letter to Justice Ghose dated November 14, Justice Bhosale said that since there was no CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### GOVT & POLITICS

J&K DELIMITATION  
PANEL: SUSHIL CHANDRA  
ISEC NOMINEE PAGE 7

## In J&K, police invoke stringent UAPA in FIR against social media use

BASHAARAT MASOOD  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 17

POLICE IN J&K have invoked the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act to register a case against people using social media through proxy servers by getting past Internet firewalls.

The FIR was filed a day after a video of the ailing Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Geelani was uploaded on social media by different users.

"Taking serious note of misuse of social media, the Cyber Police Station, Kashmir Zone, Srinagar has registered a Case FIR against various social media users who defied the Government orders and misused social media platforms," police said in a statement.

"The FIR has been registered while taking cognizance of social media posts by miscreants by use of different VPNs, which are propagating rumours with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## After Wuhan, 406 are out of quarantine camp in Delhi: Homely, touched hearts

ANANYA TIWARI  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

"WE DIDN'T feel like we were alone. It was homely, and that touched our heart," Peerzadh Ahmed, a 22-year-old medical student from Kashmir's Budgam, said about the Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) facility in West Delhi where he and 405 others were quarantined after being evacuated from Wuhan in China on February 1-2.

On Monday, the 406 people were given certificates saying



At the ITBP quarantine facility in Delhi, Monday. Amit Mehra

they had tested negative for coronavirus, and were allowed to leave the facility in Chhawla. The all-clear was given after two round of tests by a team of around 45 doctors from ITBP, BSF, AIIMS, Safdarjung hospital, NCDC and others.

The group — 186 women, 209 men and 11 children — included a large number of medical students from Hubei University of Medicine in Shiyan, around 450 km from the epicentre of the epidemic.

While two persons left the CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## British MP who slammed Govt on Article 370 sent back from Delhi airport

SHUBHAJIT ROY & DEEPTIMAN TIWARI  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17



UK Labour MP Debbie Abrahams

A BRITISH Opposition lawmaker, who had criticised India's decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 last year, said Monday that she was denied entry to the country and deported after she landed at Delhi airport despite holding a visa.

The government, however,

denied the claim and said Labour Party MP Debbie Abrahams had landed in Delhi despite being informed that her visa "had been cancelled much earlier". "She had been duly informed about

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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NORTH DELHI		SOUTH DELHI		EAST DELHI		WEST DELHI		GHAZIABAD				
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**RAJASTHAN**  
**Hindu migrant doctor held for working without licence: police**

DEEP MUKHERJEE  
JAIPUR, FEBRUARY 15

THE JODHPUR police on Saturday arrested a 44-year-old Pakistani



Noorjee Bheel

Hindu migrant, who studied medicine in Pakistan and was registered to practice there before he arrived in India in 2004.

According to officials, Noorjee Bheel was arrested because he didn't have a valid licence or certificate required to practice medicine in India. He has been booked under several IPC Sections.

Family members of Bheel accused the police of assaulting him on Saturday, and activists termed the incident as an instance of harassment of persecuted minorities who have come to India for seeking refuge.

"...My elder brother had opened a small clinic and would mostly treat and prescribe medicines to other migrants," said Khivraj, Bheel's younger brother. Police confirm the arrest but dismiss allegations of Bheel being assaulted. "The FIR has been registered by the chief medical and health officer... He used to run a clinic. There is no truth to the allegations that he was beaten up," said Parmeshwari, SHO, Choupassni Housing Board police station.

**CLARIFICATIONS & CORRECTIONS**

17.02.2020, PAGE 7

THE ITEM 'The Buzz' in the 'Delhi Confidential' that appeared on Monday has spelt Jabalpur MP Rakesh Singh's name incorrectly. It also mentioned Singh as an OBC leader. It should be read as "Singh, Lok Sabha MP from Jabalpur, is a non-Brahmin leader while the Leader of Opposition in Madhya Pradesh, Gopal Bhargava, is a Brahmin". The error is regretted.

**FROM PAGE ONE**

**Lokpal judge**

work, "let us utilise this time in laying down the 'basic' procedure (in black and white) including in respect of digitisation of the complaints, received and disposed of, along with orders passed therein, as suggested by me from time to time." He also wrote that "intricacies of the procedure will gradually 'evolve' as and when we would actually start dealing with the complaints, maintainable before us, in accordance with the procedure."

Section 59 of the Lokpal Act says that the Centre will make rules for the Lokpal. The nodal department, Department of Personnel and Training, has prepared draft rules which were sent to Ministry of Law but are still pending. Indeed, this issue, too, was red-flagged by Justice Bhosale in the same letter in November: "Let us also place on record in the form of resolution the decisions (major/policy) already taken (and communicated to us) including framing of the Rules which are pending consideration since last few months and sending official communication to the Government for expediting its approval."

The letter also added: "We should request the Government, by way of a resolution, to provide competent officers on top priority basis for constituting an Inquiry and Prosecution Wings, without which we would not be able to function effectively even if the Rules are notified."

As per latest data on the Lokpal website, 1065 complaints were received until September 30 last year of which "1000 have been heard and disposed of." A senior official of the Lokpal told The Indian Express: "Most of these were minor and were not maintainable under Lokpal Act. Those which were have been kept on file. We will consider them once Rules are notified."

Lokpal, as of today, has an office on rent at Hotel Ashokini Delhi and its permanent office has been finalised in Vasant Kunj where it will be moved over the next few days.

In the letter, Justice Bhosale wrote that he requested "early action" on his letter and said he was writing "only with a view to keep the record straight. I would feel obliged if an official meeting of the Lokpal is convened to consider this letter or this may be consid-

ered whenever we hold a meeting."

Justice Bhosale wrote another letter a week later, on November 21, urging the chairperson to constitute committees regarding administrative, infrastructure, expenditure, vigilance etc with two or more members in order to bring "transparency" in the functioning of Lokpal. He wrote, "This will help us to take appropriate decisions concerning each of these committees. This will further help to bring more transparency in our working and that every member would have a feel of involvement and also to know what is happening on administrative side."

He also requested that both these letters be placed "for consideration in the official meeting of Lokpal at the earliest."

Justice Bhosale wrote a third letter on December 11, less than a month before his resignation, which reflects his annoyance with what he said were inaccurate minutes of a meeting held on November 26. In his letter he wrote to Justice Ghose that "it was unanimously decided to constitute a Library committee and it was left to you, Sir, to constitute such a committee." The minutes, however, said that "regarding purchase of books for library, it was unanimously decided that order for online purchase of Supreme Court cases... be given. Members and officers of Lokpal may give a list of books, other journals which they desire to be purchased for the library." Bhosale requested Justice Ghose to "either correct the minutes or place it before the full House in the next meeting for discussion/consideration."

The Indian Express sent a detailed questionnaire to Justice Ghose on February 13, a reminder was sent Monday but he was unavailable for comment.

**British MP**

the cancellation. Yet, she arrived," a Home Ministry official said.

Abrahams, who chairs the All Party Parliamentary Group for Kashmir, said she was travelling on a valid e-visa to India to visit family and friends but the visa was revoked without explanation.

Abrahams' e-visa was reportedly issued last October, and was valid until October 2020. Government sources said Abrahams did not hold a "valid visa" to visit India, and that e-visa is for the limited purpose of tourism, and not for any other activity — business, political or official.

A British High Commission spokesperson said, "We are in contact with the Indian authorities to understand why Deborah Abrahams MP was denied entry to India. We provided consular assistance to her whilst she was in New Delhi Airport."

Recounting her experience at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Abrahams said in a statement on Twitter that she arrived Monday morning and was informed that her e-visa had been cancelled.

She said she had presented herself at the Immigration desk along with her documents and e-visa. "...the official looked at his screen and started shaking his head. Then he told me my visa was rejected took my passport and disappeared for about 10 minutes. When he came back he was very rude and aggressive shouting at me to 'come with me'. I told him not to speak to me like that and was then taken to a cordoned-off area marked as a Deportee Cell. He then ordered me to sit down and I refused. I didn't know what they might do or where else they may take me, so I wanted people to see me," the British MP claimed.

The Immigration officer disappeared again, she said, adding that she then phoned her sister-in-law's cousin with whom she

**Supreme Court orders Army reform**

rejecting arguments against giving greater role to women officers, said their non-eligibility for command posts will be considered on case-to-case basis. It said "necessary steps for compliance with this judgment shall be taken within three months".

Underlining that "women officers of the Indian Army have brought laurels to the force", the bench described as "disturbing" the attempts to dilute their role "by the repeated pleas made before this Court that women, by the nature of their biological composition and social milieu have a less important role to play than their male counterparts".

Referring to the stellar roles of women officers, the bench said "to cast aspersion on their abilities on the ground of gender is an affront not only to their dignity as women but to the dignity of the members of the Indian Army — men and women — who serve as equal citizens in a common mission".

The bench, ruling on an appeal by the Centre against a 2010 Delhi High Court judgment which directed that women officers be considered for permanent commission, criticised the government for not taking steps to implement this. Advocate Meenakshi Lekhi and Senior Advocate Aishwarya Bhati appeared for the petitioners.

"There is fundamental fallacy in the distinction which has been sought to be drawn between women officers with less than fourteen years of service with those with service between fourteen and twenty years. The judgment of the Delhi High Court was rendered on 12 March 2010. Nearly a decade has elapsed since the date of the decision. The Union Government was duty bound to enforce the judgment of the Delhi High Court, the judgment not having been stayed during the pendency of these appeals.

However, it failed to do so despite the categorical assertion by this Court in its order dated 2 September 2011 that what was stayed as an interim measure is the action for contempt and not the operation of the judgment."

"Having failed to enforce the judgment, the Union Government has now informed the Court that it would not consider women officers who have crossed the age of fourteen years in service as SSC officers for the grant of PCs. This situation of women officers with service above fourteen years has come to pass plainly as a consequence of the failure of the Union Government to comply not only with the directions of the Delhi High Court but also those which were issued by this Court on 2 September 2011. In this view of the matter, we see no reason or justification to deprive SSC women officers of the grant of PCs on the ground that they have crossed fourteen years of service," it said.

The bench, while lauding a government policy of September 2008 to grant women permanent commission in two services and a February 2019 decision to extend this to eight more branches, said this "is a recognition of the right of women officers to equality of opportunity". The court, however, took exception to the part of the February 2019 policy which limited permanent commission to staff appointments and said "such a restriction was not imposed in 2008. The consequence of this is an implicit acceptance by the Army that women can, in certain situations, receive criteria or command appointments," it said.

It said "where the State, and in this case the Army as an instrumentality of the State, differentiates between women and men, the burden falls squarely on the Army to justify such differentiation with reason... Whether a particular candidate should or should not be granted a criteria or command assignment is a matter for the competent authority to consider having regard to all the exigencies of service, performance and organisational requirements. In the present case, the Army has provided no justification in discharging its burden as to why women across the board should not be considered for any criteria or command appointments".

"Command assignments are not automatic for men SSC officers who are granted PC and would not be automatic for women either. The absolute exclusion of women from all others except staff assignments is indefensible. If the Army has cogent reasons for excluding women from a particular criteria or command appointment, it may provide them to the relevant authorities and if necessary, to future courts. However, such a justification must take place on a case-to-case basis, in light of the requirements and exigencies of a particular appointment. The blanket non-consideration of women for criteria or command appointments... cannot be sustained in law".

On arguments referring to challenges on account of physiological and societal realities, the bench said "the decision of the Union Government to extend the grant of PC to other corps in the support arms and services recognizes that the physiological features of a woman have no significance to her equal entitlements under the Constitution".

Writing for the bench, Justice Chandrachud said "seventy years after the birth of a post-colonial independent state, there is still a need for change in attitudes and mindsets to recognize the commitment to the values of the Constitution. This is evident from the submissions which were placed as a part of

the record of this Court".

He said "the submissions advanced in the note tendered to this Court are based on sex stereotypes premised on assumptions about socially ascribed roles of gender which discriminate against women. Underlying the statement that it is a 'greater challenge' for women officers to meet the hazards of service 'owing to their prolonged absence during pregnancy, motherhood and domestic obligations towards their children and families' is a strong stereotype which assumes that domestic obligations rest solely on women. Reliance on the 'inherent physiological differences between men and women' rests in a deeply entrenched stereotypical and constitutionally flawed notion that women are the weaker sex and may not undertake tasks that are too arduous for them".

"Arguments founded on the physical strengths and weaknesses of men and women and on assumptions about women in the social context of marriage and family do not constitute a constitutionally valid basis for denying equal opportunity to women officers. To deny the grant of PCs to women officers on the ground that this would upset the 'peculiar dynamics' in a unit casts an undue burden on women officers which has been claimed as a ground for excluding women," it said.

The bench said the arguments "only go to emphasise the need for change in mindsets and on assumptions about women in the social context of marriage and family do not constitute a constitutionally valid basis for denying equal opportunity to women officers. To deny the grant of PCs to women officers on the ground that this would upset the 'peculiar dynamics' in a unit casts an undue burden on women officers which has been claimed as a ground for excluding women," it said.

The routine inside was set. After breakfast at 8 am, and clinical examination, many would play carrom, TT or chess at the recreation room, or watch movies on TV. "Lunch was at 12.30-1 pm, after which we would either sleep or play games or chat. Tea was from 3-3.30 pm, and the same routine continued till dinner," said Ahmed from Budgam. Philipose said it was "too tense to study, none of us did that".

ITBP officials said the group was housed in a newly constructed building meant to house young jawans — and the challenge was preparing the facility in two days. "The lifts, geysers, etc., were not ready. To fully prepare the place was challenging," said an ITBP staffer on duty.

Dr A P Joshi, the lead medical professional in-charge, said, "We did two tests. On Day 2-3 after they arrived, we sampled their nasopharyngeal swabs, sending them to ICMR-AIIMS-National Institute of Virology. They gave us the reports after 24-48 hours. We did the same exercise on February 13-14 at the end of the quarantine, and the results were negative."

**SC sends mediators to Shaheen Bagh**

today some people, tomorrow some other people may do it. Different portions of city can be blocked by people who may have their grievance... If everyone starts coming on road, you know Delhi... It will lead to chaos," Justice Kaul said.

Hearing two PILs — one by Advocate Amit Sahni and another by Delhi BJP leader Nand Kishore Garg — which highlighted difficulties on account of protesters occupying a road in Shaheen Bagh, the bench said the way out could be for someone to try and convince the agitators to move out, may be to an identified location. It asked Delhi Police to suggest alternatives.

The court deputed senior advocate Sanjay Hedge and advocate Sadhana Ramachandran to talk to the Shaheen Bagh protesters and convince them to shift. Appearing for Delhi Police, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta

said the message should not go out that all institutions are on their knees and are requesting the protesters to move.

The bench said if nothing works out, "we will leave it to authorities. We are hopeful that some reason will prevail".

A lawyer appearing for Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad and former Chief Information Commissioner Wajahat Habibullah who wanted to intervene in the matter said there is more to the matter than meets the eye. She said the traffic congestion is because police had closed a parallel road.

At this, Justice Kaul said "my concern is not a better traffic route. If everybody starts blocking roads and entering public spaces, may be for genuine causes, where does it end?... You have made your point of view. We are not saying you stop making your point of view, but this

kind of protest happening on a public street?"

"Democracy works on expressing views but there are lines and boundaries for it," Justice Kaul said, adding there must be a balancing factor or it can get chaotic. "Someone may get ideas. Somebody who is not on the same page today," Justice Kaul said.

One of the petitioners then said there were plans to replicate Shaheen Bagh in 5,000 areas across the country. "We are not concerned whether 1,000 sites are created as long as long as public roads are not blocked," Justice Kaul said.

The petitioners alleged that the Delhi Police had not done anything to remove the blockade. The bench then put the query to Mehta on why no action was taken in the last two months. "You don't need our certificate," said Justice Kaul said.

**Quarantine**

ITBP facility Monday, others are set to leave in the coming days. The ITBP has offered to provide transportation till the airport, bus terminal or railway station.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, those who stepped out Monday said the situation in China seemed to be under control until January 24, when the death toll began to spike and panic spread. Fearing for their safety and survival, about 140 Indian students from the Hubei university got together and contacted the Indian Embassy.

"They told us to prepare a list of all people. We gave passport

numbers, emails and other details they asked for. They made a WeChat group in which they sent specific directions, it was well planned. And then, they told us that buses will come from Wuhan to pick us up," said Ahmed.

Food was a constant worry, though. "From January 22-26, it was quite scary because we were running out of food, and the prices were rising. The whole city was under lockdown. No one came out," said Atul Dwivedi, a professor at Hubei university.

The situation was similar across the province, including in Yichang, where Joseph Philipose,

24, was pursuing an internship at Three Gorges University. "Medical shops were open but there were no masks. I used the same disposable mask with tissue paper. It was a risk to shop for food. I had to go to this 24x7 shop, which was open, while the rest were closed. If anybody sneezed or coughed next to us, we used to run away," he said.

Vishal Khatak, 23, studying at Hubei province, said, "Even outside, we weren't getting food, it was a terrible scene over there, we were slipping into depression." Khatak said there was also water shortage, and though the university supervisors sent food, it was in limited supply. No one was allowed to get out of the dorms, which were locked from the outside at all times.

In Delhi, the ITBP camp turned to be a pleasant surprise for many. "The facility was of the highest standard... Everything was awesome, we were all very well taken care of," said Siddharth Pandey, 22, a medical student from Hubei who left for his hometown in Lucknow.

With round-the-clock medical supervision and clinical tests daily, the group had to maintain a minimum of 3-feet distance from each other, and wear masks and gloves at all times. All staff and medical professionals were required to wear body-suits.

Pushkar Mishra, 21, from Hubei university, said they were checked thrice a day before the first test results came. "Till then, the atmosphere was very tense, no one was interacting with each other freely. But after the results, people loosened up," he said.

The routine inside was set. After breakfast at 8 am, and clinical examination, many would play carrom, TT or chess at the recreation room, or watch movies on TV. "Lunch was at 12.30-1 pm, after which we would either sleep or play games or chat. Tea was from 3-3.30 pm, and the same routine continued till dinner," said Ahmed from Budgam. Philipose said it was "too tense to study, none of us did that".

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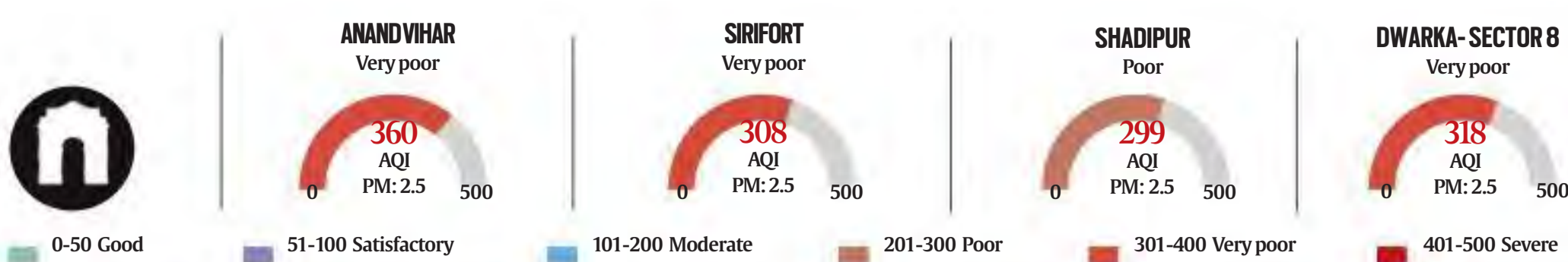
**J&K police**

regard to the current security scenario of the Kashmir valley, propagating secessionist ideology and glorifying terror acts/terrorists," it said.

The J&K government restored Internet service in the Valley after shutting it down for six months, but only whitelisted sites can be accessed. The government has banned the use of social media and peer-to-peer applications. On February 14, a government order reiterated the ban on all social media sites.

The FIR, registered under sections 13 of UAPA, 188, 505 of IPC and 66-A (b) of IT Act, is the first against use of social media after the ban.

"There have been continuous reports of misuse of social media sites by miscreants to propagate secessionist ideology and to promote unlawful activities. Social media has remained a favourite tool which largely provides anonymity to the user and also gives wide reach," the police statement said. "Lot of incriminating material has also been seized in this regard," it said.



## AFTER DATE WAS DEFERRED TWICE

# Dec 16 convicts set to hang on March 3

ANAND MOHAN J  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17



(From left) Convicts Akshay Thakur, Pawan Gupta, Mukesh Singh and Vinay Sharma

A DELHI court has issued fresh death warrants against four convicts in the December 2012 gangrape and murder case, observing that deferring the death warrants would be "sacrilegious to the rights of the victim for expeditious justice".

Additional Sessions Judge Dharmender Rana has set the date of execution of the convicts — Pawan Gupta (25), Mukesh Singh (32), Vinay Sharma (26) and Akshay Kumar Singh (31) — to March 3 at 6 am. The date was deferred twice earlier due to the convicts' remaining legal remedies. Currently, Pawan is yet to file curative and mercy petitions. Akshay, too, has expressed an intent to file a fresh mercy petition.

In his order, ASJ Rana wrote, "There cannot be any quarrel with the proposition that protection un-

der Article 21 is available to the convicts till their last breath. However, Article 21 merely guarantees an opportunity to the condemned convicts to exercise their legal rights; however, whether to utilise or not to utilise the opportunity is a matter of choice of the condemned convicts."

After the order was announced, the victim's mother said, "I am happy the court has set a date of execution. It has been deferred twice; hopefully the convicts will now hang."

Outside Patiala House court, sev-

eral relatives of the convicts protested against the decision. Vinay's mother said, "Why hang them? They should be given a choice to reform. We are not saying let them out; will life imprisonment not suffice?"

Special Public Prosecutor Rajiv Mohan told the court that barring one convict, mercy petitions of the other three have been rejected by the President, and no application was pending before him or the Supreme Court, hence there was "no impediment to the court to execute

fresh death warrants".

Vrinda Grover, who appeared on behalf of Mukesh, was discharged by the court after she said the convict wished to engage a different counsel.

Mukesh's mother Ram Bai had also moved the application for a different counsel. ASJ Rana asked Bai, "She (Vrinda) has been looking after your case. She has fought for you. Why do you want to change?"

Bai, however, told the ASJ: "Please don't give my son the death sentence. You are my god now."

The court then appointed advocate Ravi Qazi as Mukesh's new counsel. Qazi, who also represents convict Pawan, told the court that Pawan intends to move a curative petition and a mercy petition.

However, ASJ Rana observed that the criminal appeal of the convicts was dismissed by the apex court, and even after a lapse of 33 months, if Pawan has not filed his curative or mercy petitions, then it may be in-

ferred that the convict is either "satisfied with the apex court verdict or he is simply interested in merely delaying the court proceedings".

"Convict Pawan cannot be permitted to defeat the ends of justice by simply opting to remain indolent," the order read.

AP Singh, who appeared for convicts Akshay and Vinay, told the court, "Vinay is suffering from acute mental illness and, therefore, the death sentence cannot be carried out."

Singh also told the court that he will file a "fresh full mercy petition for Akshay since in his earlier mercy petition, due to poverty and ignorance, the complete facts could not be brought before the President of India".

The court, however, did not find any merit in Vinay's claim of mental illness, after it perused a medical report prepared by senior medical officer, Aakash Narade, on January 30, which certified that Vinay was "psychologically well adjusted".

# Over Rs 50 lakh gone, no arrest in daring ATM heists

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

POLICE ARE yet to make an arrest in incidents involving uprooting of unguarded ATMs during odd hours at isolated spots in South East and East Delhi. Over Rs 53 lakh has been looted so far in the daring heists in five separate incidents last week. A gang of four to six persons operating in Delhi and NCR are reportedly involved in the crime.

The *Indian Express* had reported that three ATMs were uprooted from South East Delhi in a span of one week, with over Rs 36 lakh gone. All three incidents have been captured on CCTV cameras.

Several teams of the Crime Branch and Special Cell working on the case have found that before South East Delhi, two incidents were reported on the same night in East Delhi's Mandawali and Madhu Vihar.

"On February 11, in the Mandawali area, a case was registered on the complaint of Dhirender Yadav, a representative of the payment service company. He alleged that some unknown people came and fled with the ATM, which had Rs 11.80

lakh. At the same time, a similar complaint was made at Madhu Vihar police station, that Rs 5 lakh was stolen. Both ATMs were situated nearby," a senior officer said.

Police found the accused had stolen a mini Tempo truck from East Delhi and uprooted the two ATMs. In South East Delhi, the accused had used stolen SUVs.

"Police have found that the first incident took place at New Friends Colony on February 9. The second was reported from Mandawali and the third from Madhu Vihar on February 11. The fourth was reported from Badarpur on February 12, and the fifth on February 14 in Govindpuri," an officer said.

Police have found that the accused, after arriving, used a spray on the lens of CCTV cameras at the ATMs.

The officer said, "A gang, armed with a gas cutter, a long belt and other items, is operating with around half-a-dozen men. They always come with a different set of people. They use a gas-cutter to weaken the base of the ATM and use the belt to tie the machine to their SUVs. The men then escape with the machine to their hideout."

# Gargi molestation case: HC seeks reply from MHA, CBI on probe by agency

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

THE DELHI High Court Monday sought the responses of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Central Bureau of Investigation on a plea seeking a court-monitored CBI probe into the alleged molestation of students during a cultural festival at Delhi University's Gargi College last week.

A plea filed by advocate M.L. Sharma highlighted the alleged incident at the all-women's college before a bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C.Hari Shankar. The court then issued notice to the MHA and CBI.

Sharma had earlier filed the plea before the Supreme Court on February 13, but the court refused to entertain it and directed him to move the Delhi HC.

Subsequently, he approached the



An FIR was filed after protests at Gargi College. Express

HC and sought direction to the CBI for preservation of all video recordings and CCTV footage of the college premises.

The court has fixed the matter for further consideration on April 30.

The alleged incident came to light after students of Gargi College took to

social media to narrate their ordeal and claimed security personnel did nothing to control the unruly groups.

Students have alleged that outsiders forcibly entered the campus and groped them during the third day of Reverie, the college's annual festival, between 4 and 5 pm on February 6.

An FIR was filed by the college after students staged a protest on campus last week. As of now, 15 people have been arrested in connection with the incident. All of them are out on bail.

Sundaram Thakur, president of the students' union, has said the entry of men was restricted at the event.

"A huge crowd gathered at the gate that evening, and broke the gate. Over 200 outsiders broke into the college without passes. A lot of students are saying different things about what happened. It took some time to bring the situation under control," she had said.

# Gurgaon auto drivers get a week's time to install fare meters

Gurgaon: Auto-rickshaws drivers in Gurgaon who have not yet installed fare meters in their vehicles have been given a week to do so, with Additional Deputy Commissioner cum Secretary of the Regional Transport Authority, Prashant Panwar, issuing directions to this effect Monday.

"After that, strict action will

be taken as per provisions of the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1988 and 1989, against drivers who fail to comply," said Panwar.

For the first kilometre, the fare has been set at Rs 12 per km, with the fare falling to Rs 8 for every km thereafter. Between 11 pm and 5 am, 25% extra fare can be charged, said officials. ENS

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Shri. Shivraj Patil (INC)  
Shri. Kailash Satyarthi (Nobel Laureate)  
Shri. Niladri Kumar (Music)  
Dr. Vijay P. Bhatkar (Scientist)  
Dr. R. A. Mashelkar (Scientist)

**Day 1: Thur, 20<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**  
**Session 1: Learn Before You Lean - Following Social Media & Celebrities**  
Shri. Pocharam S. Reddy (TRS)- Vidhan Sabha Speaker  
Shri. Temjen Imna Along (BJP)- State Edu. Minister  
Main Speakers:  
Smt. Smriti Irani (BJP)- Union Minister  
Shri. Shekhar Gupta (Journalism)  
Shri. Pawan Kalyan (Film & Politics)-JSP  
Shri. Digvijay Singh Chautala (JJP)  
Dr. Pankaj Mittal (Education)  
Prof. Dr. Abhishek Mishra (SP)  
Mr. Jim Cloos (European Union)  
H.H. Morari Babu (Spiritual)  
Prof. Dr. G. R. C. Reddy (Education)  
**Special Session : Leaping to 5 Trillion Economy : Chances, Challenges & Opportunities for Youth**  
Main Speakers:  
Shri. Nitin Gadkari (BJP)- Union Minister  
Shri. Vijay Darda (Journalism)

**Day 2: Fri, 21<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**  
**Session 2: Caste to Class or Class to Caste: Where are we really moving?**  
Shri. Rajesh Patnekar (BJP)- Vidhan Sabha Speaker  
Shri. Kanwar Pal (BJP)- State Edu. Minister  
Main Speakers:  
Shri. Prahlad Singh Patel (BJP)- Union Minister  
Shri. Arjun Ram Meghwal (BJP)- Union Minister  
Shri. Dushyant Singh Chautala (President of JJP)  
Shri. Prakash Karat (CPI-M)  
Adv. Randeep Singh Surjewala (INC)  
Shri. Shiv Khera (Motivational)

**Day 3: Sat, 22<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**  
**Session 5: A Billion & Still Growing : Has Hum 2 - Hamare 2 Worked?**  
Shri. Tammineni Sitaram (YSRCP)- Vidhan Sabha Speaker  
Shri. Thokchom Radheshyam Singh (BJP)- State Edu. Minister  
Main Speakers:  
H. H. Swami Ramdevji Maharaj (Spiritual)  
Shri. Rajesh Tope (NCP)  
Shri. Kamlesh D. Patel (Daaji) (Spiritual)  
Ms. Argentina Matavel Piccin (International)  
Aacharya Dr. Lokesh Muni (Spiritual)  
Dr. Syed Kalbe R. Rizvi (Motivational)  
Prof. Dr. N. K. Ahuja (Education)  
**Session 6: Can Young India Rise to Zero Hunger, Zero Poverty by 2030?**

**Dr. Fr. Abraham V. Mani (Education)**  
**Special Session : Leadership and Governance Reforms**  
Shri. Jyotiraditya Scindia (INC)  
**Session 3: Combating Terrorism, Insurgency & Naxalism: Causes & Challenges**  
Dr. Suriya Narayana Patro (BJD)- Vidhan Sabha Speaker  
Shri. Uday Samant (Shiv Sena)- State Edu. Minister  
Main Speakers:  
Shri. Rajnath Singh (BJP)- Union Minister  
Shri. Aarif Mohammad Khan -Hon'ble Governor  
Col. (Retd.) Rajyavardhan Rathore (BJP)  
Sister BK Shivani (Spiritual)  
Shree Hita Ambrish (Spiritual)  
Dr. N. T. Rao (Education)  
Rajyogini Dr. Binny Sareen (Spiritual)  
**Session 4: Leaping to 5 Trillion Economy : Chances & Challenges**  
Shri. Nana Patole (INC)- Vidhan Sabha Speaker  
Shri. K. T. Jaleel (CPI-M)- State Edu. Minister  
Main Speakers:  
Shri. Anurag Singh Thakur (BJP)- Union Minister  
Smt. Naina Lal Kidwai (Industry)  
Prof. Dr. Nageshwar Rao (Education)

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**Session 6: Can Young India Rise to Zero Hunger, Zero Poverty by 2030?**

**Dr. C. P. Joshi (INC)- Vidhan Sabha Speaker**  
Shri. Manish Sisodia (AAP)- UT Edu. Minister  
Main Speakers:  
Shri. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi (BJP)- Union Minister  
Shri. Aaditya Thackeray (Shiv Sena)  
Shri. Jitendra Singh (INC)  
Shri. Konda Vishweshwar Reddy (Industry)  
Shri. Panthdeep Singh (Politics)  
Shri. Sreenivas Jarupula (Politics)  
Dr. S. S. Mantha (Education)  
**Session 7: India & Emerging World Order**  
Adv. Hitendra Nath Goswami (BJP)- Vidhan Sabha Speaker  
Adv. Suresh Bhardwaj (BJP)- State Edu. Minister  
Main Speakers:  
Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' (BJP)- Union Minister  
Shri. Ram Madhav (BJP)  
His Holiness Sri. Sri. Ravishankar (Spiritual)  
Ms. Zamzam Ibrahim (International)  
Shri. Arnab Goswami (Journalism)  
Prof. Dr. Manoj K. Arora (Education)

**Day 4: Sun, 23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**  
**Session 8: India in the Mirror : A Timeline of 7 Decades**  
Shri. Rabindra Nath Mahato (JJM)- Vidhan Sabha Speaker  
Dr. Dinesh Sharma (BJP)- State Edu. Minister  
Main Speakers:  
Shri. Kapil Sibal (INC)  
Smt. Shobhana Bhartia (Media)  
Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi (BJP)  
Adv. Dr. Lalit Bhasin (Law)  
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Kunwar Natwar Singh  
Shri. Rajdeep Sardesai (Journalism)

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IMPACT : Since 15 years, the alumni of MIT-SOG and BCS are working with various political parties as office bearers and policy makers. Few of them have contested Lok Sabha Elections, State Assembly Elections and Elections of Local Self Government level.

STUDENTS CONTRADICT POLICE VERSION

# Day after Jamia assault video, new footage shows personnel breaking CCTV in library

ARANYA SHANKAR & MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

MORE VIDEOS of police assault on students inside the library of Jamia Millia Islamia surfaced Monday, showing uniformed personnel on the evening of December 15 beating students with lathis, breaking tables and chairs, and smashing a CCTV camera.



CCTV grab of a policeman in riot gear smashing a camera



(Clockwise from left) Jamia students Shayaan, Suhail and Taiyeb

Of these, a 5-minute, 10-second video shows scores of students attempting to leave a library room as they are hit with batons by personnel in riot gear. Some of them can be seen with their faces covered with handkerchiefs. Several students are seen huddled together near the entrance to the room for minutes, seemingly unable to exit, looking outside with folded hands.

we will identify all those who were involved in the violence and action as per law will be taken. By just seeing the videos released on social media, it will not be appropriate to declare at this point of time that those present inside the Jamia campus or its library were innocent," said the special commissioner.

side the campus. Three students present in the video told *The Indian Express* that the video pertained to the MPhil/PhD section on the second floor of the Old Library. They said the reason they were pleading with folded hands at the door was that more uniformed personnel were standing outside with batons and lathis in their hands, attacking students.

start running to the door. Women students at the front can be seen pleading with police to let them out. While they are spared, around 50 others behind them are repeatedly hit with lathis. At the end of the video, a policeman can be seen swinging his lathi at the CCTV camera, ostensibly to break it.

Special Commissioner of Police (crime branch) Praveer Ranjan, when asked about the new video, said the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the December 15 violence will analyse all the clips to establish the sequence of events. "Once the sequence of events is established,

"The reason for the police to enter the campus was that rioters were present and throwing stones from inside," he added.

In the video, uniformed personnel can be seen entering the room after breaking the door barricaded by desks. A woman security guard of Jamia is allowed to walk out, after which students

Shayaan Mujeeb, a BBA student who has moved Delhi HC seeking compensation for the violence that fractured both his legs, said he had gone to the library to issue books. Mujeeb had to undergo surgery and now uses a walker.

"I was actually standing outside the library when the commotion started, but when we saw police entering and throwing teargas, we ran up to the second floor. We blocked the door with a desk after hearing police breaking glass and furniture on the floors below us, but they broke in and started beating everyone. We tried to escape, but there were personnel on the stairs who kept hitting us. That is when I got hit on both of my legs. I didn't see anybody holding stones," he said.

behind and I couldn't leave it as that had my original documents. When I went inside the library, a teargas shell landed next to us on the ground floor. That's when we ran up to the second floor and blocked the door to the room. Then they broke open the door, and started lathi-charging us. When I tried to leave, I told them 'sir hum saare students hain', but they called us Pakistanis and abused us," he alleged.

Mohd Suhail, who's doing a PG Diploma in Disaster Management, also said there were no outsiders in the library. "People had handkerchiefs in their hands or faces because of the teargas smoke. The student they allege had a stone in his hand was actually holding his wallet. If rioters wanted to hide somewhere knowing the police are chasing them, they would not come inside a library where there is no exit point. Only innocent students were beaten," he said.

Taiyeb Gufran Ahmad, a B.Ed student, said: "The ground floor was filled with smoke and we could hear glass shattering. We all got very scared and closed the door by blocking it with a desk. They just broke it open and started raining lathis. When I tried to get out, I told them I was studying, but they didn't listen and hit me on the head."

Suhail said he had gone in after his younger brother called to say police had entered campus. "I was at Zakir Nagar at that time, but I rushed. I even managed to get him out. But his bag was left

"I was so helpless... I didn't know what to do, so I went into the ladies bathroom. I was in the commode area for at least 15 minutes, and I saw there were other students too. The police entered and hit me inside the bathroom too," alleged Ahmed.

## Injured student seeks Rs 2 cr compensation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

THE DELHI High Court Monday sought to know the stand of the Centre, state government and Delhi Police on a plea by a Jamia Millia Islamia student, who has sought compensation for injuries suffered by him in the "brutal violence" by police personnel who entered the campus on December 15 last year. The student has alleged that both his legs were fractured in the incident which took place inside the university library.

course, claimed he will be "bedridden for 4-5 months".

Initially, the bench was of the view that the petitioner ought to have filed a civil suit if he was seeking compensation, as claims made by him would have to be proved through evidence, which cannot be done in a writ petition. It, however, sought a response from the authorities and fixed the matter for further hearing on May 27.

Urging the court to direct authorities to pay a compensation of at least Rs 2 crore, Shayaan Mujeeb (21) alleged in his plea that police had "entered the campus without authorisation of the university administration". Mujeeb, enrolled in a BBA

the student's counsel, Nabila Hasan, told the bench that CCTV footage shows police entering the library and beating up students.

"Specifically, this petition focuses on the infliction of arbitrary violence by the Delhi Police on non-protesters, such as the petitioner, and protesters of the CAA alike, in a feigned attempt to restore law and order," it added.

The plea also sought registration of an FIR for offences allegedly committed by the police.

## Sharjeel Imam held over Jamia violence

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

A SPECIAL investigation team of Delhi Police's Crime Branch has arrested JNU PhD student Sharjeel Imam in connection with two cases of violence at Jamia Millia Islamia on December 13 and 15 last year.

and 505 (statements conducting to public mischief) over a speech he delivered at AMU. Besides Delhi, police in Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh have booked him for alleged sedition.

The *Indian Express* had reported on February 11 that the SIT is likely to book Imam in connection with the cases, and was seeking legal opinion before invoking charges of criminal conspiracy.

During investigation, the SIT found that Imam was a volunteer at the Shaheen Bagh protest until January 2. "Police also discovered that Imam allegedly managed to drum up support among students for protests against CAA and NRC. Before that, he spoke in Jamia Nagar area on December 12, the video of which was widely circulated on social media," an officer said.

Imam (31) was earlier booked by the inter-state cell of the Crime Branch under IPC sections 124A (sedition), 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, etc)

Police claimed that on raiding Imam's rented apartment in Vasant Kunj, they recovered several pamphlets, including some containing what police say is false information on CAA and NRC.

## BJP's Kapil Mishra draws parallel between Jamia students & Ajmal Kasab

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

JAMIA STUDENTS allegedly assaulted by police and CRPF personnel on December 15 were at the receiving of vitriol by BJP leaders Monday, with Kapil Mishra, the party's MLA candidate in the recently held Delhi elections, comparing them to 26/11 terror

attack convict Ajmal Kasab, and BJP's national IT head Amit Malviya saying the nation gets "riots" in exchange for helping educate students of the university.

side the campus. Three students present in the video told *The Indian Express* that the video pertained to the MPhil/PhD section on the second floor of the Old Library. They said the reason they were pleading with folded hands at the door was that more uniformed personnel were standing outside with batons and lathis in their hands, attacking students.

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defend him too," he said.

article by *Swarajya*, and wrote: "At Rs 599 crore, India spends Rs 3.23 lakh annually to educate one Jamia student... But what does the nation get in return? Riots? Good question to ask since India has approx 3.75 crore students."

In a series of tweets, Malviya said: "Students in library with 'masks'; reading from shut books; looking anxiously towards the entrance rather than being relaxed and immersed in studies, which is what a library is meant for... Anatomy of Jamia rioters who tried hiding in the library after a stone pelting session?"

Imam (31) was earlier booked by the inter-state cell of the Crime Branch under IPC sections 124A (sedition), 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, etc)

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Plot No. G-7, Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075

**STAFF CAR FOR SALE**

NCTE intends to auction one Ambassador Car, 2009 model, white colour 1,70,786 K.M. run. Bids are invited from the interest firms/ vendors which may be submitted within 15 days from the date of publication of this advertisement. Bid forms alongwith terms & Conditions are available on our website [www.ncte-india.gov.in](http://www.ncte-india.gov.in)  
Date of Start of Bid:- 18.02.2020  
Date of Closure of Bid:- 03.03.2020

MEMBER SECRETARY

**Rail Land Development Authority**  
(A Statutory Authority under Ministry of Railways Government of India)  
Unit No. 702 B, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Connetxus Tower-II, DMRC Building, Ajmeri Gate, Delhi - 110002, Phone: 011-23232854

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**  
(RFP Notice No. RLDA/RFP/CT- 99 of 2020 dated 27.01.2020)

Rail Land Development Authority invites proposals through e-tendering single stage Single cover bidding system from reputed consultancy firms "FOR ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANT FOR PROVIDING ARCHITECTURAL AND REAL ESTATE CONSULTANCY WORK FOR RE- DEVELOPMENT OF KALKA RAILWAY (NG) COLONY AT KALKA" as per following details:

The Estimated Cost For The Work is Rs. 9.87 Lakh  
The schedule of important dates, Fees and contact person (s) are as follows:

Fees	Due Date(s) & Time	Contact Person(s)
1. Registration Charges: Rs. 2,500/- (Non-refundable) for E-procurement portal of RLDA.	1. Commencement of downloading of e-bid document: 13.02.2020 at 18:00 hrs.	1. Sh. Baak Ram Negi, General Manager/BD E-mail: <a href="mailto:gmbd@rlda.railnet.gov.in">gmbd@rlda.railnet.gov.in</a> Tel: 011-23232854, Fax: 011-23232835
2. Tender Processing Fee: Rs. 0.05% of Estimated cost. (minimum Rs.550/- Max. Rs.5000/-) exclusive of all taxes (Non-refundable).	2. Last date of downloading of e-bid Document for participation/ submission online: 13.03.2020 upto 14:00 hrs.	2. Sh. Amit Kumar Jain, JGM/ARCH. E-mail: <a href="mailto:jgmarch@rlda.railnet.gov.in">jgmarch@rlda.railnet.gov.in</a> Tel: 011-23232854, Fax: 011-23232835
3. Bid Document Fee: Rs. 2,000/- plus GST @12% = Rs. 2240/- (Non-refundable & Non transferable).	3. E-bid Due Date/ last date of submission of e-bid (the "Bid Submission Date"): 13.03.2020 upto 15:00 hrs.	3. For e-bid queries: Mr. Suraj Singh Email: <a href="mailto:lswhlpdles820@gmail.com">lswhlpdles820@gmail.com</a> (IT Ld.), Mob: 9599653865
4. EMD/Bid Security: Rs. 19,740/- (Rupees Nineteen Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty only) (Refundable) in the manner as prescribed in Bid Document.	4. Opening of e-Bids: 13.03.2020 at 15:30 Hrs.	

1. For complete details, visit website [www.rlda.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.rlda.indianrailways.gov.in) or [www.tenderwizard.com/RLDA](http://www.tenderwizard.com/RLDA).  
2. Any Corrigendum/Addendum to this publication, if any, would be hosted on above mentioned websites only and will not be published in newspapers.

DGM/Tender

**verka**  
PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD.  
SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX NO. 0172-5041812-13

**Notice Inviting Tender**  
[www.verka.coop](http://www.verka.coop)

e Tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items -

Sr. No.	Name of the Item	Contract Period/ Quantity	Consignee/Place of Tender Opening	Tender Cost (Rs.)	E.M.D (Rs.)	Date & Time for Sale/ Downloading of e-tenders online	Last Date & Time of Submission of online e-tenders	Date & Time of opening of Technical Bid of e-tenders
1.	WMP Tins 10 Kg	Annual Rate Contract	Verka Head Office, SCO No. 153-155, Sector 34-A, Chandigarh Ph No. 0172-5041836-37-38	200/-	3,50,000/-	18.02.2020 From 1:00 PM	06.03.2020 Upto 10:00 AM	06.03.2020 at 2:00 PM
2.	Vitamin A,D2 Premix	-do-	-do-	200/-	20,000/-	18.02.2020 From 1:00 PM	06.03.2020 Upto 10:00 AM	06.03.2020 at 2:00 PM
3.	C. Boxes for Defence Supply	Half Year Rate Contract	-do-	200/-	1,50,000/-	18.02.2020 From 1:00 PM	06.03.2020 Upto 10:00 AM	06.03.2020 at 2:00 PM
4.	C. Boxes for Different Milk Products	-do-	-do-	200/-	7,00,000/-	18.02.2020 From 1:00 PM	06.03.2020 Upto 10:00 AM	06.03.2020 at 2:00 PM
5.	C. Boxes for Export Ghee Tin	-do-	-do-	200/-	25,000/-	18.02.2020 From 1:00 PM	06.03.2020 Upto 10:00 AM	06.03.2020 at 2:00 PM
6.	Curd Cup/ Kheer Cups	Annual Rate Contract	-do-	200/-	10,00,000/-	19.02.2020 From 1:00 PM	12.03.2020 Upto 10:00 AM	12.03.2020 at 2:00 PM
7.	Di-Calcium Phosphate	-do-	-do-	200/-	8,00,000/-	19.02.2020 From 1:00 PM	12.03.2020 Upto 10:00 AM	12.03.2020 at 2:00 PM
8.	AJ. Lids for Dahi and Kheer Cups (Dia 80mm & 95 mm)	-do-	-do-	200/-	4,00,000/-	19.02.2020 From 1:00 PM	12.03.2020 Upto 10:00 AM	12.03.2020 at 2:00 PM
9.	Ghee Tin 15 Kg	-do-	-do-	200/-	2,00,000/-	19.02.2020 From 1:00 PM	12.03.2020 Upto 10:00 AM	12.03.2020 at 2:00 PM
10.	Glass Bottles 200 ML SFM (Carry Away)	-do-	-do-	200/-	5,00,000/-	19.02.2020 From 1:00 PM	12.03.2020 Upto 10:00 AM	12.03.2020 at 2:00 PM
11.	AJ. Milk Cans Spirets	-do-	-do-	200/-	10,000/-	20.02.2020 From 1:00 PM	13.03.2020 Upto 10:00 AM	13.03.2020 at 2:00 PM
12.	Amyl Alcohol Grade 1	-do-	-do-	200/-	10,000/-	20.02.2020 From 1:00 PM	13.03.2020 Upto 10:00 AM	13.03.2020 at 2:00 PM
13.	Butter Carton (100gm, 500gm)	-do-	-do-	200/-	20,000/-	20.02.2020 From 1:00 PM	13.03.2020 Upto 10:00 AM	13.03.2020 at 2:00 PM
14.	Calcium Carbonate	-do-	-do-	200/-	70,000/-	20.02.2020 From 1:00 PM	13.03.2020 Upto 10:00 AM	13.03.2020 at 2:00 PM
15.	Common Salt	-do-	-do-	200/-	50,000/-	20.02.2020 From 1:00 PM	13.03.2020 Upto 10:00 AM	13.03.2020 at 2:00 PM
16.	Crown Corks	-do-	-do-	200/-	50,000/-	20.02.2020 From 1:00 PM	13.03.2020 Upto 10:00 AM	13.03.2020 at 2:00 PM
17.	Maial Kull Pack	-do-	-do-	200/-	35,000/-	21.02.2020 From 1:00 PM	17.03.2020 Upto 10:00 AM	17.03.2020 at 2:00 PM
18.	Pack for Kaasatta Ice Cream (ITC)	-do-	-do-	200/-	10,000/-	21.02.2020 From 1:00 PM	17.03.2020 Upto 10:00 AM	17.03.2020 at 2:00 PM
19.	Panear Bags 100 gm & 200gm	-do-	-do-	200/-	20,000/-	21.02.2020 From 1:00 PM	17.03.2020 Upto 10:00 AM	17.03.2020 at 2:00 PM
20.	Parchment Paper	-do-	-do-	200/-	20,000/-	21.02.2020 From 1:00 PM	17.03.2020 Upto 10:00 AM	17.03.2020 at 2:00 PM
21.	S.S. Milk Cans with Lids	-do-	-do-	200/-	80,000/-	21.02.2020 From 1:00 PM	17.03.2020 Upto 10:00 AM	17.03.2020 at 2:00 PM
22.	Sulphuric Acid	-do-	-do-	200/-	25,000/-	21.02.2020 From 1:00 PM	17.03.2020 Upto 10:00 AM	17.03.2020 at 2:00 PM
23.	Wooden Spoons	-do-	-do-	200/-	30,000/-	21.02.2020 From 1:00 PM	17.03.2020 Upto 10:00 AM	17.03.2020 at 2:00 PM

Bidders shall have to pay required Tender Processing fee through online mode only i.e. through debit/credit card for getting registered for e-tendering system. EMD shall be made only through online mode i.e. Credit/Debit card, NEFT/RTGS, Internet Banking. For participating in the above e-tender, the parties shall have to get themselves registered with our e-Tendering portal i.e. [eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in) and get USER ID and Password well in time. For downloading tender through e-tendering, process flow, please contact e-Procurement help desk on given Nos. 0172-2970263, 2970284 immediately so that process of timely registration and downloading the tender is completed in time by the date of tender opening. For additional details regarding e-tendering please visit website [eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in). Tender processing Fee is Non-Refundable.

Note: Corrigendum if any will be uploaded on website only.

General Manager (QA&E)

**CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION**  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)  
ENGINEERING SECTION, REGIONAL OFFICE - DELHI  
Scope Minar, Core-3, 1st Floor, Laxmi Nagar Distt. Centre, Delhi-110092. Ph: 011-22444370, 22444334. Fax: 24244375  
E-mail: [esecwdli@yahoo.co.in](mailto:esecwdli@yahoo.co.in)

**WAREHOUSING FOR EVERYONE**

No. CWC/RO-DLI/Engg/Section/PRESS NOTE/2019-20/3460 Date: 14.02.2020

**PRESS NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**

CWC invites online tenders from the approved contractors of appropriate class for the following works:-

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Lakhs)	Last date of online submission of tenders
1.	Development of open area by providing CC Paver block at CW, Sahibabad-II (UP)	55.34	28.02.2020 upto 15.00 Hrs.
2.	Development of open area by providing CC paver block at CW, R.P. Bagh, Delhi	50.54	28.02.2020 upto 15.00 Hrs.

Detailed Tender Notice alongwith conditions of contract and Notice Inviting E-Tender may be seen and downloaded from the website [www.cwceprocure.com/CWC](http://www.cwceprocure.com/CWC) or [www.cwacor.nic.in](http://www.cwacor.nic.in) or [www.tenderhome.com](http://www.tenderhome.com).

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

**KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED (KPDC)**  
(Fully Owned Government of J&K Undertaking)  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (Procurement)  
PLANNING & PROCUREMENT WING, KASHMIR  
Phone No. 0194-2493881; email: [epc2ndsrinagar@gmail.com](mailto:epc2ndsrinagar@gmail.com)

**E-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE**

e-NIT No.: SE/Proc/07/2019-20:

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, KPDC, Superintending Engineer, Procurement Circle, P&P Wing, KPDC invites online e-bids from Govt. Registered original equipment manufacturers for supply of ACSR Conductors of various size as depicted below for the requirement of KPDC as under.

Sr. No.	Material Description	For ECSD Pampore (Qty. in Kms.)
1.	0.1 ACSR Conductor	250
2.	0.05 ACSR Conductor	960
3.	0.03 ACSR Conductor	640

The complete tender document is available at website: <http://ktenders.gov.in>. Interested Bidders/Tenders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarifications and submit their bids online upto the date and time mentioned in the table below. Bidding Document contain qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bills of Quantities & Terms and Conditions of the contract and other relevant details.

i)	Date and Time of downloading/ Sale (Start) of Tender Document	17.02.2020; 10:00 hrs.
ii)	Date & Time of Download/ Sale (End) of Tender Document	12.03.2020; 14:00 hrs.
iii)	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/ Clarifications	18.02.2020; 10:00 hrs. to 19.02.2020; 16:00 hrs.
iv)	Date & time of Bid Uploading (Start/End)	20.02.2020; 10:00 hrs. to 12.03.2020; 14:00 hrs.
v)	Submission of Hard Copy (End) Date & Time	14.03.2020 in the Office of Chief Engineer Planning and Procurement Bimina Srinagar
vi)	Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	16.03.2020 at 14:00 hrs.
vii)	Financial Bid Opening	Shall be declared later on for the Technically qualified Bidders
viii)	Venue of Commercial/ Technical Bid Opening	Soft Copy Electronically
ix)	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs. 500.00 (Rupees Five Hundred only) for local Firms of J&K and Rs. 4,000.00 (Rupees Four Thousand Only) for Firms outside the J&K (Non-refundable)
x)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 5000.00 (Rupees Five Thousand Only) for local Firms of J&K and Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lac only) for Firms outside the J&K. Item wise EMD As under: ACSR 0.1 (Dog): Rs. 2,75,000/- ACSR 0.05 (Rabbit): Rs. 5,31,000/- ACSR 0.03 (Weasel): Rs. 1,90,000/-

Sd/- Superintending Engineer Procurement (KPDC)

DIPK.NB: 2674/M

BRIEFLY

Labourer dies after sand collapses on him

Ghaziabad: A 22-year-old labourer died and two others were injured after sand collapsed on a high-way construction site they were working at in Ghaziabad Monday. "The NDRF was informed and a rescue operation was initiated. While two men were rescued, one labourer died at the hospital," said an officer from Kavi Nagar police station. As per an official, the NHAI and the Ganga Project water agency had signed a two-party agreement for the project, which was then contracted to a private company. "The project doesn't fall within the jurisdiction of the Ghaziabad Development Authority; compensation as per policies of undertaking agencies will be initiated," said Ghaziabad DM Ajay Shankar Pandey.

Suspension notice to Park hotel

New Delhi: Police have issued a suspension notice to The Park hotel after a fire broke out inside the basement of the hotel last week. Nine Norwegian nationals were injured due to "smoke inhalation", said fire officials. The Delhi Fire Services had alleged that authorities didn't call them on time. Confirming the suspension, hotel authorities in a statement said: "We are cooperating with authorities in the probe; we have requested them to visit the premises and carry out another inspection..."

Himmat Plus app now linked to Uber

New Delhi: Police Monday launched a QR code scheme on their app, Himmat Plus, and linked it to the Uber SOS feature. To ensure safety of the public, police have given specific QR code cards to over 1,000 Uber drivers. Once a passenger books a cab, he/she can scan the code and access details of the driver and his vehicle.

Juvenile apprehended for murder of minor

Gurgaon: A month after a minor boy was found dead in Manesar, a juvenile has been apprehended for allegedly sexually assaulting and murdering him. Police said the juvenile revealed he lured the child with the intention of sexually assaulting him.

Sri Lankan national dies on way to Agra

New Delhi: A 71-year-old Sri Lankan woman died due to an illness inside a tourist bus heading to Agra, said police Monday. Police have informed the Sri Lankan Embassy and a post-mortem will be conducted Tuesday. ENS

AMONG AAP GOVT TARGETS: MOHALLA MARSHALS, FREE BUS RIDES FOR STUDENTS

Promises made, cabinet settles in to keep them

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

ON DAY 1 of the AAP government's third term in office, the newly sworn-in Cabinet of six ministers is set to focus on implementing the 'guarantee card' released before the polls. The card listed promises such as deploying 'mohalla marshals' in residential areas, reducing pollution to a third, and making bus rides free for students.

The Indian Express looks at the key areas the six ministers will prioritise over the next five years. This time, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who took over the water ministry last term, has not kept any ministry for himself.

MANISH SISODIA

Deputy Chief Minister Sisodia, who continues to hold key portfolios including Finance and Education, presided over meetings with both departments soon after resuming office at the Delhi Secretariat Monday. During the meeting with the finance department, he stressed on the need to eradicate departmental corruption by income tax officers.

"It is important to take steps to wipe out departmental corruption. Setting up effective revenue targets should be our next course of action," he said. At the meeting with officials from the education department, he asked them to expedite work on two new universities and repair the outer walls of all government schools.

KAILASH GAHLOT

After re-assuming charge as Transport Minister, Gahlot said the CM's 'guarantee card' will be his priority. He said the government will work on further strengthening Delhi's transport

system. The AAP guarantee card had promised to increase the strength of the bus fleet to 11,000, expand the Metro network beyond 500 km and extend the free bus rides scheme for students as well.

Gahlot also appealed to the Centre to allow the Delhi government to make Metro rides free for women commuters, which has been stuck after the Delhi Metro indicated that there are hurdles in implementing the scheme. "We should be allowed to implement it; the expenses incurred would be reimbursed by the Delhi government to the DMRC," he said.

SATYENDAR JAIN

Jain, who holds the health as well as the water portfolios, said, "Fulfilling the targets of the AAP's manifesto will be my priority, along with the 'guarantee card'. I will also work hard to bring mohalla clinics within a radius of 1 km for every citizen across Delhi. I will also work towards providing clean water to every citizen 24x7."

Delhi currently has 450 mohalla clinics. The guarantee card promised 24x7 clean drinking water, cleaning up the Yamuna by 2025 so people can take a dip in it, among other things.

GOPAL RAI

Rai, who has been given the labour and environment portfolios, spent the day meeting staff at the secretariat as well as party workers. Rai, who is also the Delhi in-charge of AAP, said: "The new government will reach all sections of society... work will be done keeping in mind the needs of the most disadvantaged sections. The people of Delhi have new expectations from the new government and are looking forward to delivery of Delhi's development model today. People are discussing this model

across the country and we will ensure expansion of this model."

As the new environment sector, Rai has to tackle air pollution and pollution in the Yamuna. AAP had promised to reduce pollution to a third, plant 20 million trees and saplings to make Delhi greener, and map air pollution sources in real-time.

RAJENDRA PAL GAUTAM

Apart from SC/ST and social welfare portfolios from his previous tenure, Gautam has been handed the Women and Child Development portfolio as well this time. He has his task cut out as the AAP has promised to make streets safe for women by illuminating deserted stretches, improving last-mile connectivity, and appointing mohalla marshals for enhanced security of women.

"We will work for the development of people from every class and background. People have supported the party wholeheartedly and this is our time to return their faith. We will work hard to make Delhi a better city for everyone," he said.

IMRAN HUSSAIN

Hussain, who holds the food supplies portfolio, will spearhead AAP's flagship doorstep delivery of ration scheme. The AAP government first floated the idea of delivering ration to people at their homes in 2018, saying it would help fill distribution gaps and could also help those who queue up outside ration shops only to be disappointed. The project, however, did not take off, with the L-G refusing to sign off on it.

"The Delhi government wants to make Delhi a world-class city. Keeping this in mind, the manifesto and the 'guarantee card' were prepared; now the emphasis will be on the fast implementation," said the minister.

Delhi's Top Seven

While most ministers have kept the same portfolios as the previous tenure, some changes have been with regard to the water and environment ministries



Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at his office



MANISH SISODIA

2015: Finance, Planning, Urban Development, Local Bodies, Land & Building, Education, Higher Education, Training & Technical Education, Services, Vigilance, Cooperative Societies, Information & Publicity, WCD  
2020: Education, Finance, Planning, Land & Building, Vigilance, Services, Tourism, Art, Culture & Language and other departments not allocated to any minister



SATYENDAR JAIN

2015: Home, Power, PWD, Health & Family Welfare, Industries, Irrigation and flood, Urban Development  
2020: Health, Industries, PWD, Power, Home, Urban Development, Irrigation & Flood Control, Water



GOPAL RAI

2015: Labour, GAD  
2020: Environment & Forest, Employment, Development, Labour, GAD



RAJENDRA PAL GAUTAM

2015: Social welfare, SC/ST/OBC, Cooperative societies, Gurudwara elections  
2020: Gurudwara Elections, SC & ST, Social Welfare, Cooperative, Women and Child Development



KAILASH GAHLOT

2015: Transport, Environment, Revenue, Administrative Reforms, IT, Law  
2020: Law, Justice and Legislative affairs, Transport, Administrative Reforms, IT, Revenue



IMRAN HUSSAIN

2015: Food supplies, Environment & Forest  
2020: Food supplies, Election

Photos by Prem Nath Pandey

Budget to be presented after Holi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

TAKING CHARGE as the Finance Minister of Delhi for the second term, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia kicked off the budgetary exercise by holding several meetings with officials Monday.

Sisodia has asked officials to prepare a blueprint of the finance budget, which is expected to come out after March 10.

"The preparations for last year's budget had begun in December, but this time we did not have much time due to the Assembly polls. In the next few weeks, we will be putting all our energy into preparing the budget for the people of Delhi. We are estimating that we will be able to do it after Holi," said

the Deputy CM.

In 2019, the Delhi government had presented the budget on February 26, proposing a total expenditure of Rs 60,000 crore by the state in 2019-2020.

The education sector was allotted the highest share with 26%, followed by health, housing and urban development with 14% each. The city budget was of Rs 53,000 crore in 2018-19, and Rs 44,370 crore in 2017-18.

Sisodia, who also holds the education portfolio, held a meeting with the department officials and asked them to prepare a blueprint of a proposal which will ensure college admission for students who get at least 60% marks in class XII.

"The idea is to identify where the seats can be increased and how students will be adjusted. All this is at an initial stage," he

added.

The 'Deshbhakti' curriculum announced by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on August 15 last year is likely to be introduced in schools in April or July this year.

Apart from finance and education, Sisodia also heads the departments of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Languages, Vigilance, and Services.

Holding another meeting with officials of the trade and taxes department, the deputy chief minister directed them to take steps to prevent tax evasion.

Among the various initiatives announced in the 2019-2020 budget include allocation for entrepreneurship plans, setting up a teachers' training university and an applied science university, and introduction of a family business curriculum.

At Shaheen Bagh, protesters say open to mediation but won't vacate site of sit-in

JIGNASA SINHA  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

AFTER THE Supreme Court deputed senior advocate Sanjay Hegde and advocate Sadhana Ramachandran to talk to the Shaheen Bagh protesters and convince them to shift, those on the ground said that while they were open to speak with the authorities, they have no plans of giving up.

The protesters, mostly women, have been holding a sit-in on road 13 A of Shaheen Bagh for over 65 days now. Petitions have been filed against blocking of the road as a result, which has



The protest has been on for two months. Tashi Tobgyal

thrown traffic out of gear in parts of Delhi and Noida.

Shahna Alam (60), one of the protesters, said, "This movement against the citizenship law and the government is very important

to us. We can't leave and settle at other places. We heard what happened at the court. They might not support us, but we'll continue sitting here. The only issue is road closure, which can be solved. People want us to move, but that will break the momentum of this protest. We can talk to Hegde as he has come here before. He will understand us."

Petitioners have said the protest shouldn't be allowed on public roads. Some of the protesters said they were demoralised by the court's observations and demanded that the government help them.

Sitting on a cot, Mehrunisa (60) said, "Why don't people un-

derstand our issues? If the Centre agrees to remove CAA, we will stop protesting. Rather than solving the issue, they are busy removing us from here."

Speaking from the stage, she told protesters they will continue the fight, but urged everyone to maintain law and order.

"Maintaining peace has always been our strength. We don't clash with police or anyone. All we want is to stay here and protest. What is wrong with that? Police can come and remove barricades from the other side of the road and nearby places. We only need this canopy and the street," said Afzaan (26), an organiser of the protest.

Cong implosion continues, now Maken and Deora spar

ASTHA SAXENA  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

CRACKS WITHIN the Congress party widened after senior Congress leader Milind Deora praised the Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi government for doubling its revenue and maintaining a surplus over the last five years. Delhi Congress leaders were quick to counter Deora, with former Delhi Congress chief Ajay Maken asking him to "leave the party" rather than putting out "half-baked facts".

On Monday morning, Deora, the former Mumbai Congress chief, tweeted, "Sharing a lesser known and welcome fact the Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi government doubled its revenues to Rs 60,000 crore and maintained a revenue surplus over the last 5 years. Food for thought: Delhi is now one of India's most fiscally prudent governments."

The statement came days after the party failed to win a single seat in Delhi elections held on February 8. The party's overall vote share came down to 4.26% from 9.65% in 2015 polls, and only three candidates managed to not lose their deposit.



Congress leaders Ajay Maken and Milind Deora were engaged in a war of words on Twitter. Archive

questioning the AAP government's governance claims.

"The contest in Delhi was between Kejriwal's dangal-wali Delhi and Modi's dangon-wali Delhi. It was the Congress led by Sheila Dikshit which had transformed Delhi. Since Delhi is the national capital, it is but natural that the tax collection will be some Rs 18,000-19,000 crore," Congress communication department head Randeep Chandni Chowk with a Congress ticket, also responded to Deora's comment, saying that the Congress-ruled Karnataka had doubled its budget revenues from 2013 to 2018. Radhika Khera, who contested from Janakpuri and lost, tweeted: "As a young first-time contestant, I find this extremely disappointing from our senior leaders, who instead of encouraging our own party to do better are busy patting AAP's back."

The central Congress leadership also stepped in and asked leaders not to speak out of turn,

questioning the AAP government's governance claims. "The contest in Delhi was between Kejriwal's dangal-wali Delhi and Modi's dangon-wali Delhi. It was the Congress led by Sheila Dikshit which had transformed Delhi. Since Delhi is the national capital, it is but natural that the tax collection will be some Rs 18,000-19,000 crore," Congress communication department head Randeep Chandni Chowk with a Congress ticket, also responded to Deora's comment, saying that the Congress-ruled Karnataka had doubled its budget revenues from 2013 to 2018. Radhika Khera, who contested from Janakpuri and lost, tweeted: "As a young first-time contestant, I find this extremely disappointing from our senior leaders, who instead of encouraging our own party to do better are busy patting AAP's back."

The central Congress leadership also stepped in and asked leaders not to speak out of turn,

'ABHIMAAN MERA'

Delhi Police gets new song, composed by officer

JIGNASA SINHA  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

AT THE 73rd Raising Day ceremony on Sunday, Delhi Police chief Amulya Patnaik released the official song of the force — 'Abhimaan Mera' — while rewarding 75 personnel for their exemplary service. This will replace the old police song, which was composed in 1990.

The old song was a minute long and had few lyrics, said po-

lice, while the new song is four minutes long and has a video.

Police said the song was written two years ago by Assistant Commissioner of Police at EOW Anil Samota. "I have always been fond of writing poems. Three years ago, when I was posted at Samaypur Badli, I wrote a poem on the police force and that song is still displayed at the police station. When the seniors were looking for a new police song, I pitched 'Abhimaan Mera' and it was selected. The motivation be-



The new song is 4 minutes long and has a video

hind it was to establish a connect between the public and the police," he told The Indian Express.

For the next year and a half, Samota and other officers improved the lyrics and the video was created.

Additional PRO Anil Mittal said, "The video shows the various duties performed by Delhi Police personnel. Focusing on public cooperation and hard work — the lyrics of the song imbue vigour and encouragement with a sense of pride amongst

the force."

Police said the music was composed by artists Sumit Choudhary and Sonu Thukral and the video edited by media company BKT International. Punjabi singer Kunal Aggrawal is the voice behind the song.

While some portions of the video feature actors playing the role of criminals or citizens in need of help, others capture security arrangements on streets and at events as well as the police parade on Republic Day.

# 6 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



## PRIME POSITION

AFTER J P Nadda took over as BJP president, the party has followed several measures to reflect the change in optics. Nadda's photo has replaced Amit Shah's in party posters, banners, on the cover of the party manifesto for Delhi Assembly polls, and even on the banner placed at the backdrop of the hall where press conferences are held at party headquarters. The banner now has Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nadda on one side and Deendayal Upadhyay and Syama Prasad Mookerjee on the other. However, at the function held in Ranchi on the occasion of former Jharkhand CM Babul Marandi's JVM(P) merging with the BJP, it was Shah who presided over the meeting. Although it was considered a politically significant move, Nadda was not present. Party leaders say the decision on merger was finalised during Shah's term as party chief.

## IN DRIVER'S SEAT

LOKSABHA member Ramya Haridas has finally bought a car. The Congress MP from Alathur, Kerala, had found herself in the middle of a controversy after Youth Congress workers in her constituency collected money from party members to buy her a car. Kerala Congress president Mullappally Ramachandran was annoyed when he got to know about the fund collection and asked party members to stop the drive immediately and return money to the people. Now, Ramya has bought a Toyota Innova car by taking a loan.

## CRITIC IN CHIEF

AT A book release event that had RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat as keynote speaker and Minister of State V K Singh in attendance, among other BJP functionaries, the chief guest, constitutional expert Subhash Kashyap, put the dignitaries in a spot by severely criticising the government, comparing current-day politicians with the Mughals. Kashyap said that today's India is not the India of Mahatma Gandhi's imagination. Kashyap even said that the opulence of modern-day politicians is no less than that of the Mughals and criticised the government's plan to build a 'new New Delhi' — he said it would only widen the chasm between Parliament and the poor. "A swachh hata abhiyan (cleanliness drive) has been started in the country. It is very good. But when will this take place in politics," he asked.

## SC ORDER ON PERMANENT COMMISSION FOR WOMEN OFFICERS

# 'Not about men or women officers, a fight for equality... granted that today'

ANKITA DWIVEDI JOHRI  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

"AAJ AASMAN ko dekh kar aisa nahi lag raha ki sky is the limit (Today, when looking up, doesn't it seem like the sky is the limit)," says a woman Army officer, a Lieutenant Colonel in her early 40s. "This day has come after a long struggle."

Hours after the Supreme Court directed that women Army officers be considered for grant of Permanent Commission, a group of 12 officers, all petitioners in the case, have gathered with their lawyer, Meenakshi Lekhi, at the India Habitat Centre here to celebrate the "historic day".

Dressed in red sweaters under their jackets — the theme for the celebrations — most of the officers, all currently serving in the Army, are unsure about speaking to the media, but admit that "we can't hide our excitement".

"We are officers bound by restrictions, but in the morning, after the judgment came, we just expressed our happiness in pub-



Meenakshi Lekhi with women Army officers in New Delhi.

lic. I got a call from one of my male colleagues asking me if I had permission to do so... But I said, *ab toh kar diya* (now I have done it)," says the officer. The others laugh along.

"This victory means a lot. Women in the forces represent women in society. These women were not asking for any charity or favour. These are competent and hardworking women, and they were asking for their due, what they deserve. This victory has come in installments, and it has been a long journey," says Lekhi, who has been associated

with the case for over 10 years. Another 1995-batch Lieutenant Colonel, one of the first petitioners in the case, recalls how she decided to take up the case. "I was part of one of the first batches of women to join the Army. We sort of went along with the rules... Only when I completed 14 years of service, and realised that I would have to leave the forces without any benefits that my male colleagues enjoyed, I first decided to take up the case. I even met former Defence Minister A K Antony, but it didn't help. The government put the onus on the

Army, which in turn put it back on the government. So in 2010, I, along with 10 others, filed a case in the Delhi High Court," she says.

This evening, she has also brought along her daughter, a medical student, to meet her colleagues. "I wanted her to see and understand what this victory means," she says.

Her daughter smiles at her mother and says, softly, "I am very proud of her."

In another corner, a young Major, with 10 years of service, is listening intently to her seniors. "I joined the petitioners' group much later, but I am constantly inspired by the effort that my seniors have put in. They have made the path of young officers like me much easier," says the officer, whose husband serves in the Army as well.

As the evening progresses, the conversation drifts towards gender roles and why "we should not be boxed into mahila (women) category". "I have laid mines, been part of teams devising India's Pakistan strategy... Being in commanding positions is not about

physical strength, it's about mental capabilities," says an officer, responding to arguments in the government affidavit that cited "psychological limitations", lower physical standards, domestic obligations and absence due to pregnancy, among others, to justify the alleged unsuitability of women officers for command posts.

The government also argued that the "composition of rank and file being male, predominantly drawn from the rural background with prevailing societal norms, troops are not yet mentally schooled to accept women officers in command of units" — a claim that all officers at the gathering dismiss.

"The times have changed. Most men that I worked with have no issues working with women or reporting to them. In fact, all my colleagues supported my decision to take up the case," says the Lieutenant Colonel in her 40s.

As the revelry continues, one senior officer sums it up: "It's not about men or women officers. It was a fight for equality, and today we have been granted that."

## Rajnath welcomes order: Committed to Stree Shakti

KRISHN KAUSHIK  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

WELCOMING THE Supreme Court's order, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had "supported the idea of permanent commission for women and announced the change in policy in his Independence Day speech in 2018".

In a series of tweets, Singh said the "historic decision to allow women in field operations" was made when Nirmala Sitharaman, as Defence Minister, had "announced that women

will be inducted into the Military Police", which started last year.

Singh said "the plan was to recruit women in roles ranging from probing crime cases to assisting the Army in field operations wherever required", and there have been instances "where certain women officers have been in the job for nearly 20 years, while SSC term terminates in 14 years".

"Before 2016, women made up just 2.5 per cent of India's armed forces, working in mainly non-combat roles. As of Jan 2019, 3.89 per cent of the Army personnel comprised women, while 6.7 per cent of the Navy & 13.28 per cent of the Air Force person-



'Historic decision to allow women in field operations'. PTI

nel were women as of June 2019," he tweeted.

"GoI is working to strengthen the 'Stree Shakti' in our Armed Forces and we stand committed to move forward in this direc-

tion," he said.

Last year, the Centre had decided to grant Permanent Commission for women officers in non-combat streams, but mentioned that it would be for "staff appointments only".

In its decision on February 25 last year, the government had notified "consideration of grant of Permanent Commission to SSC women officers in eight arms/ services in Indian Army", listing these as "Signals, Engineers, Army Aviation, Army Air Defence, Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME), Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps and Intelligence".

## Cong hails order, slams govt

New Delhi: The Congress on Monday welcomed the Supreme Court verdict on leadership roles for women in armed forces and accused the BJP-led Union government for what it called disrespecting Indian women by arguing in court that they did not deserve command posts since they are inferior to men. **ENS**

## In a first in 7 months, Mamata, Governor hold one-on-one meet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 17

IN WHAT could be seen as an attempt to mend the relationship between the West Bengal government and Raj Bhavan, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday afternoon held a one-on-one meeting with Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar — a first between the two since he took charge of the constitutional post in July last year.

Sources said that the two discussed "various issues" at the hour-long meeting and Banerjee thanked Dhankhar for his Budget speech in the Assembly earlier this month.

After the meeting, the Governor tweeted, "Had an extremely satisfying an hour long interaction with Hon'ble Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at Raj Bhavan." Dhankhar had been seeking a meeting with Banerjee since December last year but it



Mamata Banerjee with West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar at the Raj Bhavan in Kolkata on Monday. Express

did not happen as the state government cited her other engagements.

Dhankhar's relationship with the state government was strained since he rushed to the "rescue" of Union Minister Babul Supriyo in September

last year. Supriyo was allegedly heckled at Jadavpur University where he had gone to address a function of the ABVP, the students wing of RSS. He was not invited to convocations at several state universities despite being the Chancellor.

## Not without the consent of police: Haryana minister on mining mafia

SUKHBIR SIWACH  
CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 17

PUTTING A question mark on the role of the Haryana Police, state Mining Minister Mool Chand Sharma Monday said it was not possible for a crime to take place without the consent of the local police. Sharma, who has sought the intervention of Home Minister Anil Vij to curb illegal mining in the state, said that officials of the mining and geology department are afraid of taking on the mining mafia.

"Crime cannot take place without the consent of the police. (In Haryana) the officials, except those from the police department, are afraid of the mining mafia," Sharma said.

"Thanedars know that illegal mining is taking place. It is not possible to mine even a single stone if the police stations situated near the river and the



Mool Chand Sharma

mountains keep a tight vigil," he added.

Sharma said that he has written to the Home Minister seeking his support to tackle the mining mafia.

Meanwhile, Haryana DGP Manoj Yadava said that his department has been working on curbing illegal mining and has impounded over 700 loaded vehicles in the last two months. "This has led to problem of parking at our police stations," he said. "I have received information that now no illegal mining is taking place. We have not released any of the impounded vehicles," Yadava said.

## JVM-P splits: Marandi in BJP, 2 MLAs join Cong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

TWO MONTHS after the Assembly elections in Jharkhand, the Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajantrik) (JVM-P) split on Monday with one faction led by its leader and former chief minister Babul Marandi returning to the BJP, and two MLAs joining the Congress and claiming that the entire party is with them. The party has three MLAs, including Marandi.

Marandi claimed in Ranchi that the JVM-P has merged with the BJP in the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah, but two MLAs Bandhu Tirkey and Pradeep Yadav appeared at a press conference at the Congress headquarters in Delhi around the same time and announced the party's merger with the Congress.

Asked if the Congress would now seek Marandi's disqualification under the anti-defection law, AICC in-charge of Jharkhand R P



Shah, Marandi in Ranchi. PTI

N Singh said it is for the Assembly Speaker to take a decision on it.

In Ranchi, Home Minister Shah welcomed Marandi back into the BJP: "I am delighted that Babul Marandi has returned to BJP. I was working for his return since 2014 when I became the party president," Shah said.

Marandi said his return to the BJP was not sudden and that leaders of the saffron party had been trying to persuade him to return.

"...I admit whatever I am today is because of the BJP," he said.

## 'Cong needs to reorient economic philosophy, bring clarity on secularism'

SENIOR CONGRESS leader and Anandpur Sahib MP **MANISH TEWARI** speaks to **MANOJ C G** on the road ahead for the Congress.

**How will the debilitating defeat of the Congress in the Delhi elections affect the party nationally?**

We served the people of Delhi for 15 years from 1998 to 2013. Whatever transformation has taken place in Delhi, it happened during those 15 years... But three elections after that, in 2013, 2015 and 2020... we have not done well at all. So obviously that calls for introspection as to whether wherever a third party has come in, why has the Congress not been able to retain its space? If you look at it, it goes back to 1967. The moment regional parties came into the fray in Tamil Nadu, the Congress dominance over that state ended. In West Bengal, we lost to the Left Front in 1977 and have never come back ever

since. The same thing happened in 1990 in UP and Bihar with the rise of Mandal politics. Except for the 2009 Parliament elections where we did better... we have had a problem. So the Congress really needs to apply itself to why it is not able to retain its space, even in states where it has done exceptionally well in governance, where a third party comes in?

**So what is the road ahead for the Congress now? What is ailing the Congress?**

We need to have greater ideological clarity. For example, we have not been able to reorient our economic philosophy post the liberalisation and globalisation shift in 1991. While our economy has globalised and it has reaped the benefits of liberalisation... our politico-economic approach still continues to be fairly socialist. So, is there a need to reorient our economic trajectory?

**And on ideology?**

The question of secularism has been bedeviling the Congress party for a while. Does secularism mean sarv dharm sambhav or the time has come to go back to the Nehruvian definition of secularism which meant a strict separation between the church and the state, something which the founders of the Indian state had conceived when they thought about including secularism into the Constitution which was at its inception... it came into the Preamble in 1974. But the word secular or the secular orientation of the Constitution is very clear in the entire construct of the Constitution. And what is our nationalism or what is our brand of nationalism? We need to distinguish it from the majoritarian brand of nationalism practised by the right... which is manifested in various ways... the latest being this entire vituperative campaign over Shaheen Bagh etc.



THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW WITH MANISH TEWARI CONGRESS MP FROM ANANDPUR SAHIB

How do we really brand our nationalism or what is our nationalism and according to me it is together we are stronger, etc, etc, but we need to articulate it cohesively and take it to the people. There is another issue of entitlement.

**Are you talking about dynastic politics?**

There is a general revolt in this country, especially among the youth, against entitlement. And when I talk about entitlement, I am not trying to target anybody in the Congress party or any other political party. What I am saying is that the younger generation, the post-liberalisation generation, is extremely scornful of entitlement. So in historical political parties, where most people occupying leadership positions at various levels are third or fourth generation in the Congress — their parents, their grandparents have been there and they've

been part of the freedom movement and they've been a part of building India — under those circumstances, how do we deal with the question or how do we deal with this revolt against entitlement? How do we say or how do we articulate that this is not dynasty-ism. This is really the legacy of those who built India. Similarly, over a period of time because Congress has been given a chance to govern this country for a long time... we have become an electoral machine. The essential elements of what should be the regular activity of a political party has somehow gone missing. And this is not something which has happened in the last two or three years. This process goes back four or five decades. So how do we... balance between being an electronically efficacious machine which unfortunately Delhi has proven otherwise and carry on these activities which keep the vitality of a regular po-

litical organisation alive. There is a need for a larger debate, discussion within the party on these issues.

**But why has there been no debate in the party despite back-to-back defeats. Look at the Labour Party in Britain... changing leadership, restructuring the party... here in the Congress, it is business as usual.**

It is not that there isn't discussion. There is a process of discussion and dialogue goes on continuously, in any political party. But I think there is a need to have a more visible, a more broad-based consultative dialogue on these issues. My concern is not individuals. I think individuals are important, but only to an extent. What is important are the issues that define us.

**You said you are not concerned about individuals.**

Govt takes 127 days, Collegium 119 days to clear judge's name: Centre to SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

THE CENTRE on Monday sought to impress upon the Supreme Court that the responsibility for delay in filling judicial vacancies also lay with its Collegium and the Collegium of the various High Courts.

Attorney General K K Venugopal told a bench of Justices S K Kaul and K M Joseph that while the Centre took an average 127 days after receiving Intelligence Bureau's report to clear a name, the SC Collegium took 119 days after receiving the names submitted by HCs.

He said even the rate of rejection of names by SC Collegium was 35 per cent. He also referred to cases where High Courts had recommended names five years after a vacancy arose.

Following this, the bench asked the different High Courts to submit a report on their judicial vacancies.

Justice Kaul said the question is how the current time period for judicial appointments can be reduced. He said if, as stated by the A-G, HCs are taking time to make recommendations, why not make such proposals a year before a vacancy is likely to rise.

Venugopal said that when the government receives a recommendation, it takes time to verify the details. Justice Joseph asked why the government was not sitting on even reiterated names.

## Ruckus in UP House over assault on Dalit man, 'threat' to Akhilesh Yadav

MAULSHREE SETH  
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 17

THE ISSUE of Dalits being allegedly beaten up in a Kanpur village and the alleged threat to the life of Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav rocked the UP Assembly on Monday.

The Question Hour was washed out with Samajwadi Party alleging that there was a threat to the life of former CM Akhilesh Yadav from leaders of the ruling BJP. As soon as the House assembled, Leader of Opposition, Ram Govind Chaudhary, raised the issue, saying a person had raised slogans and threatened Akhilesh at a party event. Alleging that members of Local Intelligence Unit were visiting the office of Samajwadi Party, the SP leader said that Akhilesh got threats on his mobile phone and demanded an immediate discussion on it.

As Speaker Hriday Narayan Dixit rejected the SP's request, party members rushed to the well of the House, shouting slogans. The Speaker had to adjourn the House repeatedly.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Khanna said that there was no threat to anyone from any worker or leader of the BJP but that society is under threat from the Samajwadi Party.

**But will a non-Gandhi at the helm of the Congress send a message to the electorate?**

If you look over the past 20 years, the fact remains that it is Mrs Sonia Gandhi, who was responsible for the UPA government coming into being in 2004 and repeating itself in 2009. So this entire bogey about a non-Gandhi to me is a non-issue. To me, the principle issue is that if you are able to get the ideological orientation correct, I'm very confident that the national resuscitation of the Congress, especially when the BJP is completely failing on all fronts, is something which is possible.

**But 2020 is different from 2004. The situation is different, the times have changed.**

Because the situation is different, all the more reason that these ideological issues need to be ironed out.

# 7 EXPRESS NETWORK

## After Nath dare, Scindia repeats protest threat

**MILIND GHATWAI**  
BHOPAL, FEBRUARY 17

SENIOR CONGRESS leader Jyotiraditya Scindia has repeated his threat to take to the streets if promises made in the party's manifesto are not fulfilled.

"I am a public servant and fighting for people's issues is my religion. We have to be patient, but if the promises made to the people are not fulfilled we will definitely hit the streets," he said in Gwalior late on Sunday.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath had on Saturday dared Scindia to hit the streets when the former MP had threatened to do so for the first

time. "Let him do so," Nath had said in New Delhi on Saturday when asked to comment.

State Women and Child Development Minister Imarti Devi, seen as a close aide of Scindia, had on Sunday said that if Scindia hits the streets, many other party leaders and workers will follow the suit. However, she added that the Congress government will fulfil all promises made in the manifesto and there will be no need for anyone to protest.

Addressing a rally in Tikamgarh, Scindia, who lost the Lok Sabha elections last year from Guna-Shivpuri constituency, had announced that he would hit the streets if the promise made to guest teachers to regularise their



Nath Scindia

service was not fulfilled. The party manifesto for the 2018 Assembly elections included a promise to that effect.

Nath and senior Congress leader from the state Digvijaya Singh had earlier responded by saying that promises made in the manifesto were meant to be fulfilled over five years.

The Congress came to power

in MP in December 2018.

Meanwhile, Public Works Department Minister Sajjan Singh Verma, seen as a close confidant of the Chief Minister, made a pitch for Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to be sent to Rajya Sabha from the state. Three seats in the Upper House fall vacant in April this year. The sudden demand was seen by many as an attempt to cut to size Scindia, who is said to be hoping to be sent to the Rajya Sabha.

Many others, including Urban Development Minister Jaivardhan Singh, also seconded the pitch for sending Priyanka to Rajya Sabha. A leader close to Scindia said a similar demand was made from Chhattisgarh as well because Priyanka is a national leader.

### NPR will not be implemented in MP: Kamal Nath

**Bhopal:** Chief Minister Kamal Nath on Monday reiterated that update of the National Population Register (NPR) will not take place in Madhya Pradesh.

This came after Congress MLA Arif Masood threatened to resign if NPR was updated in the state. Citing a December 9, 2019, gazette notification issued by the state government, the legislator from Bhopal had warned of a protest. **ENS**

## ERDOGAN REMARKS ON J&K

# Govt summons Turkey envoy, issues demarche

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

DAYS AFTER Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan expressed concern over the situation in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and compared the "struggle" of the Kashmiri people with his country's fight against foreign domination during World War I, the government on Monday summoned Turkey's Ambassador Sakir Ozkan Torunlar and issued a strong demarche.

In a sharply worded statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Erdogan's remarks reflected "neither an understanding of history nor of the conduct of diplomacy" and would have "strong implications" on India's ties with Turkey.

The MEA's official spokesperson, Raveesh Kumar, said India rejected Turkey's repeated attempts to justify the cross-border terrorism "practised so blatantly" by Pakistan.

"India has made a strong demarche with the Turkish government on the remarks made by President Erdogan on the Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir during his recent visit to Islamabad. These remarks reflect neither an understanding of history nor of the conduct of diplomacy," Kumar said in a statement.

He said Erdogan's remarks "distorted" events of the past to advance a "narrow minded" view of the present. "This recent episode is but one more example of a pattern of Turkey inter-



Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

fering in the internal affairs of other countries. India finds that completely unacceptable," Kumar said.

Throwing his weight behind Islamabad on the Kashmir issue, Erdogan had made these comments during an address to a joint session of Pakistan's Parliament on Friday.

"Events that happened a hundred years ago in Çanakkale in Turkey are being repeated in Indian occupied Kashmir and Turkey will continue to raise its voice against the oppression... Today, the issue of Kashmir is as close to us as it is to you (Pakistan)," he had said. "No distance can build a wall between the hearts of believers. If there is torture against any believers in the world, it's our duty to help them."

Referring to Kashmir multiple times in his address, Erdogan had said: "Our Kashmiri brothers and sisters have suffered from inconveniences for decades and these sufferings have become graver due to unilateral steps taken in recent times... The Kashmir issue can be resolved not through con-

flict or oppression but on the basis of justice and fairness. Such a solution will serve the interests of all parties concerned. Turkey will continue to stand by justice, peace and dialogue in the resolution of the Kashmir issue... Like in the past, we will continue to support Pakistan in the future".

"We applaud Pakistan's efforts to rid this region from terrorism. The country has been affected by terrorism. Pakistan and Turkey are the countries that have been most affected by terrorism due to their geographic location... we will continue to cooperate with Pakistan on counter-terrorism," he had said.

"I also want to emphasise that we will give support to Pakistan which is subject to political pressure in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) meetings," he had said.

While Erdogan raised the Kashmir issue during his address at the United Nations in September last year, this is the first time that the MEA has publicly summoned Turkey's envoy since J&K's special status under Article 370 was revoked on August 5.

On Saturday, the government had rejected references to J&K by Erdogan and the Turkey-Pakistan Joint Declaration. "India rejects all references to J&K, which is an integral and inalienable part of India. We call upon the Turkish leadership to not interfere in India's internal affairs and develop proper understanding of the facts, including the grave threat posed by terrorism emanating from Pakistan to India and the region," the MEA had said.

## Bhagwat: Unlike Gandhi, no one to atone now if movement goes awry

**DEEPTIMAN TIWARY**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

AGAINST THE backdrop of protests against CAA and NRC, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Monday said that unlike Mahatma Gandhi, there was no one today who would atone if a movement went wrong. He said Gandhi's ideas and methods were formulated according to the circumstances of his time and taking them literally would not be advisable.

He was speaking at the launch of a book on Gandhi by Jagmohan Rajput at Gandhi Smriti. The event, which began with Bhagwat bowing at the spot where Gandhi was shot dead by Nathuram Godse, was attended by Minister of State, External Affairs, VK Singh and BJP MP Satyapal Singh, among others.

"He (Gandhi) launched many experiments. If some went

wrong, he did not conclude that the truth he had in his heart was not the truth. He said may be my way was wrong. If some of his movements went out of hand, he even atoned for his mistakes. If today a movement goes awry, disturbs law and order, is there anyone who would be ready for atonement?...," he said.

On Gandhi's ideas and his books, Bhagwat said whatever great personalities say or do is according to circumstances. "If we try to take it literally, it will not remain relevant. Whatever Gandhiji said or did, even in his time, people had different views on it. Now if you go into that, you will get confused... we cannot carbon copy his deeds and ideas. Even Gandhiji would have stopped us. But the philosophy based on which Gandhiji formulated his ideas needs to be followed," he said.

"Gandhi was never ashamed

of being a Hindu. He used to say *main katta sanatani Hindu hun. Apni shraaddha par pakke raho aur dusre dharmon ka samman karo* (I am a staunch Sanatani. Stay true to your faith and respect other religions)" Bhagwat said.

He said that if India's fate had to be changed, one would have to leave the path of popularity and inculcate discipline.

Responding to the criticism by a guest of present India not being one of Gandhi's dreams, Bhagwat said it was changing fast and in 20 years, its colour would change completely. "Today when I roam around, I see it is not a situation of hopelessness. It hasn't happened yet that's true. But in Chemistry, there is titration. It changes colour somewhat only to revert to its original state. It feels as if it is not going to happen. But in time and with enough evidence, the colour will completely change forever."



RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at Gandhi Smriti, in New Delhi on Monday. Anil Sharma

## Good to see Muslim women at protests: Sumitra Mahajan

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
INDORE, FEBRUARY 17

FORMER LOK Sabha Speaker and senior BJP leader Sumitra Mahajan on Monday said it was good to see a large number of Muslim women attending protests, but wondered if they completely understood the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA).

The CAA is at the centre of protests across the country and many of them are led by Muslim women, like in Delhi's Shaheen Bagh, which has inspired similar 'women only' sit-ins across the country.

"One thing I liked very much was that Muslim women are joining a large number of dharna and protests, be it Delhi or Indore. It has created awareness and trust in the minds of Muslim wo-



Sumitra Mahajan

men that if they face injustice in the future, they can come out on the roads and put forward their views," she told reporters here.

"I always like women to be vocal on different issues. I have to see whether Muslim women (involved in protests against CAA) have understood the right thing. But today they are raising zindabad-murdabad slogans by coming out of the houses. I thank the

people of the community, because earlier these women did not get out of the house like this," she said.

"I pray to god that the participation of Muslim women brings good results for the country. I would like to say to all the politicians of the country to ensure that this awareness among them is maintained," the former Indore Lok Sabha MP said.

Queried on some Muslim leaders quitting the BJP due to CAA, she said, "Maybe they will have to deal with a few things from their community. But I am sure they are sensible and will be able to gradually convince the people of their community that no right of any Indian citizen will be taken away by CAA."

She said she was ready to talk to anti-CAA protesters to explain them the nuances of the legislation.

### Activist held for taking out march, released on bond

**Lucknow:** Magsaysay Award winner and activist Sandeep Pandey was arrested on Monday with nine others while they were trying to take out a march against the new citizenship law and NRC.

According to police officers, they were picked up from Ghanta Ghar and produced before ACP (Hazratganj) Abhay Mishra, who released them on personal bonds. ACP Durga Prasad Tiwari said that no FIR has been registered and they were released on personal bond. The bond was to make sure that he does not do it again, Tiwari added. **ENS**



### A VOW, A PLEDGE

A bride displays a copy of the Preamble to the Constitution at an anti-CAA rally at Washermanpet in Chennai on Monday. PTI

## Govt moves on delimitation of J&K Assembly seats, CEC names commissioner

**DEEPTIMAN TIWARY**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

IN AN indication that the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir may see Assembly elections in due course, the government has set the ball rolling for delimitation of Assembly constituencies in the erstwhile state.

Based on a request from the Ministry of Legislative Affairs (MLA), Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora has nominated Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra as his representative in the proposed delimitation commission for J&K, the Election Commission (EC) said on Monday.

The commission, sources said, is likely to be officially announced soon after being fully constituted and will begin work thereafter. Delimitation of constituencies in a state may take months, and even a year — it is only after this process is complete that elections would be held in J&K, government sources said.

Home Minister Amit Shah, while announcing reorganisation of the state into UTs of J&K and Ladakh on August 5, 2019, had said that delimitation of Assembly constituencies of the erstwhile state would be carried out based on 2011 Census.

According to J&K Reorganisation Act, passed by Parliament last year, "...the number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir shall be increased from 107 to 114,

and delimitation of the constituencies may be determined by the Election Commission in the manner hereinafter provided."

Arora had earlier told the media that it was incumbent upon the government to form the delimitation commission, and CEC would just send his representative.

Notably, 24 of the total seats in J&K remain perennially vacant as they are allotted to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The reorganisation Act also says Lok Sabha will have five seats from the UT of J&K, while Ladakh will have one seat.

The delimitation of Assembly constituencies in J&K has been a pet project of both the Sangh and the BJP. The party believes, and has openly said earlier, that even though the population in Jammu has increased over the years, Kashmir continues to have a disproportionately larger share of Assembly constituencies. This has effectively meant that only a party strong in Kashmir Valley is able to lead the state government.

The demand for delimitation of J&K was raised by BJP first in 2008 during the Amarnath land row. The BJP in J&K has been raising the issue of reorganisation of the state so that Jammu gets a larger share of seats in the 87-member Assembly. As of now, Kashmir region has 46 seats, followed by Jammu region with 37 and Ladakh with four. Even Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, during his tenure as the CM, had tried to push for delimitation but could not get the PDP on board.

## J&K RURAL BYPOLLS

# Mainstream parties question rationale behind holding polls on party lines

**ARUN SHARMA**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 17

MAINSTREAM POLITICAL parties in Jammu and Kashmir have argued against the election authority's decision to hold panchayat bye-elections in Jammu and Kashmir on party basis.

Leaders of the Congress, the National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) have questioned the rationale behind holding bypolls for over 12,000 vacant seats on party lines

when two-thirds of panchayat seats in Jammu and Kashmir were filled through election on non-party lines in 2018. Leaders of the NC and PDP have also said that with their top leaders still in detention, they are in no position to contest the polls.

State Congress chief G A Mir said holding elections to two-third of the seats on non-party basis and one-third on party basis does not match. The Union Territory administration on Monday refused permission to Mir to travel to Kashmir from

Jammu for meeting party workers ahead of the bypolls that start on March 5. "On Sunday evening, I informed the UT Police's security wing about my tour programme for Anantnag and Srinagar to discuss with party colleagues about the panchayat bypolls. Two hours later, I was conveyed that I cannot proceed to the Valley," Mir told *The Indian Express*.

NC vice-president Rattan Lal Gupta has written to Chief Electoral Officer Shailendra Kumar, pointing out that the noti-

fication for the bypolls "is prima facie defective since the election process for these panchayats was notified and held earlier on non-party basis". He also expressed his party's inability to participate in the elections in view of the continued detention of NC president Farooq Abdullah, vice-president Omar Abdullah and general secretary Ali Mohammad Sagar.

PDP spokesperson and former MLC Firdous Tak termed the poll process a "drama" being orchestrated due to "pressure from the global community". He said the

PDP is "totally incapacitated" to take a decision on its participation in the polls owing to the ongoing detention of its top leaders.

Elections for 35,029 panch and 4,483 sarpanch seats were held in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir in November-December 2018 on non-party basis. One-third of those seats, including 12,344 in Kashmir and 306 in Jammu, are vacant — in some areas, people did not participate in the poll fray, some of those elected died and some were elected to Block

Development Councils.

CEO Kumar has justified the decision to hold the bypolls on party lines, saying that the last urban local body polls in Jammu and Kashmir in 2018 and the first Block Development Council polls in October 2019 were held on party lines.

Asked about the majority of panches and sarpanches already elected on non-party basis, he said the Representation of People Act is very clear on this that Independents can join a party of their choice.

### EXPLAINED Attempt to show normalcy

While holding panchayat polls could be aimed at showing normalcy in the UT, non-participation of mainstream parties like NC and PDP owing to detention of their leaders might not give much credibility to the poll process.

## DMK sends 2.05 cr signatures against CAA to President

**Chennai:** DMK and its allies Monday sent 2.05 crore signatures marking protest against CAA, NRC and NPR to President Ram Nath Kovind. The signatures were collected from across the state.

Senior leaders, including DMK chief M K Stalin, party leader S Durai Murugan, Congress's K S Thangakabalu, CPM MP T K Rengarajan, VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan and MDMK chief Vaiko were present at a function before the signatures were sent.

"The Centre should withdraw CAA considering the opposition raised by people of Tamil Nadu," a DMK statement said. **ENS**

On CDS table: new commands, staggered purchase of warjets, subs

KRISHN KAUSHIK NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

CHIEF OF Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat Monday said his office is working on a tentative timeline that will see the establishment of an air defence command by end of the year, a peninsula command by 2021-end, and the first of the theatre commands by the end of 2022.



CDS Gen Bipin Rawat

He said he was in favour of staggered procurement of big-ticket capital acquisitions like 114 fighter jets for the IAF and submarines for the Navy. The submarines, he said, will get priority over a third aircraft carrier that the Navy has been pushing for.

Gen Rawat said the air defence command, the first joint command to be created, will be headed by the IAF. A study on the air defence command, being headed by the Vice Chief of the IAF, has already been initiated and a report is expected by April 10.

The peninsula command, headed by the Navy, will be created by merging the eastern and western commands. "We look at the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) as one entity," Gen Rawat said. The Navy Chief, he said, "has to look at a bigger perspective, and has to look at maritime issues from

a higher perspective".

The "security of the peninsula should be looked after by one entity," he said. A study on the peninsula command will be ordered March 31, with the report expected in three to four months, and it "will take shape by the end of next year".

He clarified that within these commands, which will be joint commands, "not all the assets of the Navy will go to the air defence command and not all assets of the Air Force will go to the peninsula command". The Andaman and Nicobar Command, the first tri-services command already in place, will not be tampered with, the CDS said, and will continue to report to the Integrated Defence Staff. While the archipelago has "surveillance" threat, "for the penin-

sula, the defence of territory" is the main threat.

By the end of the year, Gen Rawat said studies for theatre commands will be initiated. The first theatre command will be rolled out by the end of 2022. "Difficult to say how many theatres" will be created, he said.

Expanding on his idea for big-ticket capital acquisitions, Gen Rawat said, "I feel you should never go in for large numbers in procurement at the same time... distribute over tranches". He indicated that procurement of 114 fighter jets for the IAF will happen in a staggered manner and submarines could also be bought in similar manner. He said "when you look at equipment, also look at maintenance and scheduling".

On the Navy's demand for a third aircraft carrier, Gen Rawat said that the "second aircraft carrier will come next year" and the need for a third carrier can be assessed after looking at the indigenous-built second carrier's performance.

He said he has proposed to "strengthen the capacity of our static platforms" in islands in Andaman and Nicobar and other such regions.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

101 SPECIES OF HIGH CONSERVATION CONCERN: STATE OF INDIA'S BIRD 2020

Bird numbers down 50%, peacock, pigeon up

ESHAROY NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

THE NUMBERS of India's national bird, the Indian Peafowl/Peacock, have increased dramatically over the last few decades, while those of vultures and eagles have decreased, according to the State of India's Bird 2020 report.

In contrast to the Peafowl, the report shows, 50 per cent of other Indian species have declined over this period. The report was released at the UN-backed 13th Conference of Parties of the

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals in Gandhinagar.

State of India's Bird 2020 covers 867 Indian bird species using a database contributed by at least 15,500 birdwatchers from across the country and has used "citizen science data" to assess distribution and trends.

The report identifies species that are high in conservation concern, and those that are doing relatively well. The analysis indicates that 48 per cent of species have remained stable or are increasing in the long term in the last five years.

In all, 101 species have been classified as high conservation concern. "The report highlights common species that are declining sharply; these need conservation attention before their numbers reduce further," says Dr R Jayapal, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON).

The groups that show the greatest decline are raptors, migratory shorebirds, and habitat specialists, including White-rumped Vulture, Richard's Pipit, Indian Vulture, Large-billed Leaf Warbler, Pacific Golden Plover and Curlew Sandpiper.

The species that have shown an increase over the past 25 years include Rosy Starling, Feral Pigeon, Glossy Ibis, Plain Prinia and Ashy Prinia.

Of the 261 species for which long-term trends could be determined, 52 per cent have declined since 2000, with 22 per cent declining strongly. In all, 43 per cent of species showed a long-term trend that was stable and 5 per cent showed an increasing trend.

Current annual trends could be estimated for 146 species and of these, nearly 80 per cent show a decline, with almost 50 per cent dipping strongly. Just over

6 per cent are stable and 14 per cent increasing.

The four species of bustards in India — the Great Indian Bustard, Macqueen's Bustard, Lesser Florican and Bengal Florican — have all suffered continuous population declines because of historical hunting and widespread habitat loss, compounded with their slow growth and reproduction.

The largest of them, the Great Indian Bustard, is classified as Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red List 2019 and has been included in the CMS list in the 13th COP. FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com



Firefighters try to extinguish a blaze at GST Bhavan in Mumbai on Monday. No one was injured. Nirmal Harindran

Massive fire in GST Bhavan

LAXMAN SINGH MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 17

A MAJOR fire broke out at the Goods and Services Tax (GST) building in Mumbai's Mazgaon area on Monday afternoon. No one was injured, as the building

was evacuated before the fire spread, but important files in the audit section of the GST department were lost in the fire, officials said.

Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, who reached the spot, said, "There will be an inquiry to ascertain the cause of the fire."

Can Ram temple be built on Muslim graves: 9 Ayodhya residents to Trust

SEEMA CHISHTI NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

NINE MUSLIM residents of Ayodhya have written to the newly appointed Shri Ram Jambhoomi Teerth Kshetra, appealing to them to not construct the new Ram temple on the immediate vicinity of the surrounding area of the 1,480 sq m of the site where Babri Masjid once stood. Their letter asserts that the use of the total 67 acres of government acquired land for the temple is a "complete ouster" of the claim of Muslims and is contrary to what the law has laid down.

The "4-5 acres around the demolished mosque" is what is being claimed as having been handed over arbitrarily, "as expected" by the Centre, the letter states. "The graves may not be

visible today considering the fact that the entire area has been differently treated with since 1949, when forcibly an idol of Lord Ram was placed inside the Mosque and when in 1992 the Mosque was demolished."

Also, "5 acres" which the Supreme Court in its November 2019 order had said would be allotted to Muslims at a "suitable prominent place in Ayodhya" has been allotted, but far away from where the Babri Masjid once stood, the letter states.

The four-page letter asks the 10 trustees "with best knowledge and experience in the field of Hindu/Sanatana religion and practice" to consider whether "the temple of Lord Ram can have foundation on the grave of Muslims". It says: "In 1994, the Supreme Court had upheld the acquisition of larger land admeasuring 67 acres which included the graveyard land and thus the

entire land became vested with the Central Government. The object of the Acquisition Act of 1993 was to maintain public order and promote communal harmony."

It also says that the acquisition was "not to exclude Muslims from the said land". The object sought to be achieved through the Act was also to construct a "Mosque". The letter terms the use of all of the land as contrary to the "discretionary power conferred to them by the Supreme Court of India" and "uncalled for."

The letter cites the stand of Shri Ramlalla Virajman in the original suit number 5 and "recorded facts" where it says 75 Muslims killed in the riots of 1855 were buried there, "in an existing graveyard around the Mosque" as well as the Allahabad High Court judgment where Justice D V Sharma cites that the "disputed structure was surrounded by a graveyard on three sides".

Ahead of Trump visit, 45 families in Gujarat slum served eviction notices

AVINASH NAIR AHMEDABAD, FEBRUARY 17

THE AHMEDABAD Municipal Corporation (AMC) On Monday served eviction notices to 45 families living in a slum near the newly built Motera stadium that is being readied to host US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 24.

The families, including around 200 slum-dwellers who are registered construction workers, claimed that they have been asked to move out of a plot they have been living in for two decades due to the upcoming "Namaste Trump" event. However,



The families claimed they have been asked to vacate due to 'Namaste Trump' event. Javed Raja

AMC officials said the notices had no connection with the event.

The move comes just days after the AMC began building a wall allegedly to cover the Saraniyavas or

Dev Saran slum on a route that the US President is likely to take while visiting the city.

The AMC notices state that the "encroached" land belongs to the AMC and is part of a town planning scheme. The slum-dwellers have been asked to vacate within seven days. In case of any appeals, the slum-dwellers have been asked to approach the department by Wednesday.

Kishore Varna, assistant TDO (Motera ward) at the Usmanpura office of AMC, who signed the eviction notices, said, "It has nothing to do with US President's event at Motera stadium. There are some elements who are trying to take advantage of the event."

UP: 5-month-old raped, killed

Lucknow: A five-month-old girl was raped and murdered in Lucknow, allegedly by her relative who abducted her from a wedding party late Sunday night. The 25-year-old accused, who is a cousin of the infant, has been arrested, police said.

According to police, the infant's body was recovered by the family — it had wounds and bruises all over, with a fracture on head. The postmortem report confirmed rape, the police said. "The family had come to attend a wedding on Sunday night. According to the child's father, around 11 pm his nephew said he is playing with the girl and went out with her. When he did not return for long, the family started looking for her. Around an hour later, the girl was found in an empty plot around 1 km from the venue. They immediately took the girl to KGMU Trauma Centre, where doctors declared her dead on arrival," DCP (North) Sarvshreshth Tripathi said. ENS

SALEM CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION RE-INVITATIONS FOR BIDS. Implementation of Optimising and revamping of the Existing Distribution Network with SCADA system Water Supply System (24/7) in ABD area Estimate Cost Rs. 6884.00 Lakhs.

उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रॉन्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड ई-निविदा सूचना सं-57/विजापा010मं0/आगरा/2019-20 के निविदा समयावधि का प्रकाशन. E-Tender Notice No. 57/ECTC/2019-20 पर अंकित ई-निविदा जिसकी निविदा विधिपत्रीकरण संख्या-185 Construction of Firewall at 132 KV S/S Kosi Kalan (Mathura) एवं विधिपत्रीकरण संख्या-186 Security Fencing and Misc work for SE(T) Mathura office building (Double story) at 132 KV S/S Aurangabad (Mathura) है

राजस्थान आवासन मण्डल निविदा सूचना संख्या- 08/2019-20 दिनांक- 10.02.2020. निविदा सूचना संख्या- 08/2019-20 दिनांक- 10.02.2020

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank Recovery Section Circle Office 7th Floor, Ansal Towers, 38, Nehru Place, Delhi-110019 E-AUCTION SALE ON 13.03.2020

SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES THROUGH E-AUCTION (ONLINE AUCTION) UNDER RULES 8(B) & (9) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

Table with 5 columns: S. No., Branch Name / Name and Address of the Borrower & Guarantor, Brief Description of Property/ies, Total liabilities as on specified date, Reserve Price Inspection Date, EMD & Last Date of Submission of EMD Account Details.

Date of E-auction 13.03.2020 LAST DATE FOR DOCUMENT SUBMISSION: 12.03.2020 UPTO 5.00 PM. TIMING FOR E-AUCTION SR. NO. 1 & 2 12:30 PM TO 01:30 PM (WITH UNLIMITED EXTENSION OF 5 MINUTES DURATION EACH TILL THE CONCLUSION OF THE SALE)

The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 and to the following conditions. 1) The property will be sold in "as is where is and as is what is" basis including encumbrances, if any. There is no encumbrance to the knowledge of the bank.

कानपुर विद्युत आपूर्ति कम्पनी लिमिटेड 14/71, सिविल लाइन्स, केसा हाउस, कानपुर अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना अपरिहार्य कारणों से ई-निविदा सं. 17/19-20 दिनांक 28.02.2020 तक विस्तारित की जाती है, जो की वेबसाइट https://etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

मध्य प्रदेश वेअरहाउसिंग एण्ड लॉजिस्टिक्स कार्पोरेशन प्राधान कार्यालय-ऑफिस कॉम्प्लेक्स, ब्लॉक-ए, गौतम नगर, भोपाल-462023 दूरभाष नं.: 0755-2600148, 2600524, 2600518, 2600508, 2600507 फेक्स : 2600384, Website: www.mpwarehousing.com

द्वितीय अल्पावधि "ई-निविदा" आमंत्रण सूचना म.प्र. वेअरहाउसिंग एण्ड लॉजिस्टिक्स कार्पोरेशन में स्वयं के वैज्ञानिक संशोधन हेतु उपयोग होने वाली सफेदी HDPE Vargin Monofilament Twin Square Mesh Cap Cover net निर्धारित स्पेसिफिकेशन अनुसार क्रय हेतु मात्र सार्वजनिक प्राय निष्पत्ती से एक वर्ष की वार्षिक दर पर निर्धारित प्रयत्न में ऑनलाइन निविदा दिनांक 03.03.2020 तक आमंत्रित की जाती है।

COIMBATORE SMART CITY LIMITED SMART CITIES MISSION EXTENSION OF TENDER NOTICE Tender Notice No. e-22/ISmart City/2019-2020/SCM1 Date : 13.02.2020

Table with 4 columns: Name of work, Tender Value in INR, Bid Security in INR, Period of Completion. Implementation of Bio-mining / Landfill Mining and Reclamation (LFMR) of the old legacy wastes at Vellalore Dumpsite.



NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

# India to send medical supplies to Wuhan

SOWMIYA ASHOK  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

INDIA WILL send a consignment of medical supplies to Wuhan on a relief flight later this week, and has tentatively scheduled a third round of evacuations of Indian nationals out of Wuhan and Hubei, the Embassy of India (EOI) in Beijing said on Monday.

The WeChat group set up by EOI to coordinate evacuation efforts had over 80 Indian nationals as members by Monday evening.

Embassy of India in Beijing tweeted, "GOI [Government of India] will send a consignment of medical supplies on a relief flight to Wuhan later this week... On its return, the flight will have limited capacity to take on board Indians..." In a 2-minute video released on Sunday, Indian Ambassador to China Vikram Misri expressed "solidarity and support" to the Chinese people and the government in Beijing tackling the epidemic. "We feel deeply for the people and the families that are affected by this epidemic," he said. "I would particularly wish to express support for the people of the city of Wuhan and the province of Hubei

## A-I crew, doctors who evacuated Indians given PM's letter

New Delhi: Sixty-eight Air India crew as well as the team of doctors and nursing officers from Delhi's RML and Safdarjung hospitals who were part of the team that successfully evacuated 647 Indian nationals and seven Malaysians from Wuhan, China, were handed over letters of appreciation from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday.

## 2 more Indians on ship test positive

Tokyo: Two more Indians on board a quarantined cruise ship off Japan have tested positive for the novel coronavirus, taking the number of Indian nationals infected with the virus on the vessel to six, stated an Indian Embassy statement on Monday. "The four Indian crew members who earlier tested positive continue to receive treatment," it said, adding that their condition is stable. PTI

who have been most affected by the epidemic and who hold a very special place in the hearts of the people of India."

"The Government of India is soon providing a consignment of medical supplies... this is a concrete measure which will fully demonstrate the goodwill, solidarity and friendship of the people and the Government of the India, with the Chinese people."

## Day after Dalit man shot dead in MP, forest ranger, 14 others booked

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BHOPAL, FEBRUARY 17

THE MADHYA Pradesh police have booked 15 forest officials, including a ranger, for allegedly killing a Dalit man in Fatehpur village of Shivpuri district amid confusion over the sequence of events leading to the death on Sunday.

While forest officials claimed that the incident took place when a team went to clear encroachment, the victims' family members alleged that caste abuses were hurled at them when water accidentally splashed onto a ranger who came to fill his water bottle at a pump they were also using.

The Karera Police have picked up several suspects based on a complaint from Saroj Balmiki, the wife of deceased Madan Balmiki. In her complaint, Saroj said her daughters were filling water from the hand pump in the village when forest ranger Suresh Sharma hurled abuses at them. She alleged he sent female staffers which lead to a scuffle that brought their 38-year-old father to the spot. She alleged that the ranger shot at her husband.

Shivpuri SP Rajesh Chandel said the allegations about caste abuse were not true. He said the victim's father was posted at Madhav National Park and that he stopped reporting for work.

The victim was cremated on Monday.

Park director Mohan Meena claimed that the forest team had gone to the spot to clear encroachment by the victim.

He claimed several of those named in the complaint were not on the spot at the time of the incident. He said when the team reached to clear the encroachment, they were subjected to stone pelting. He added that they would lodge a cross-complaint against Madan's family members and other villagers involved in attacking the forest department team.

## GUJARAT

## 'Menstrual check': Principal, 3 others of college held

Ahmedabad: Days after 66 girl students of Shree Sahjanand Girls Institute (SSGI) in Bhuj town of Kutch were allegedly made to strip to check if they were menstruating, police arrested the college principal and three others on Monday.

According to police, SSGI principal Rita Raninga (38), institute coordinator Anita Chauhan (49), girls' hostel supervisor Ramila Hirani (29) and peon Naina Gorasia (40) were arrested on Monday. The arrests were made after the police filed an FIR for the February 11 incident at the institute.

"...the magistrate has given police remand till February 19," said J N Panchal, Deputy SP, Bhuj Kutch. ENS

# Karnataka sedition case: After protest, J&K students re-arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 17

THREE engineering students from Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), who were arrested on charges of sedition on Saturday but released a day later due to "deficient evidence", were re-arrested on Monday following protests by members of Hindutva groups like the Bajrang Dal.

The three students — Basit Aashiq Sofi from Baramulla, Talib Majeed and Amir Mohiuddin Wani from Anantnag, all studying at the KLE Institute of Technology in Hubballi — were sent to judicial custody till March 2 by a local court.

On Saturday, the youths were arrested over a video circulated on social media, which purportedly showed them singing along with a song playing in the background with the words



Police escort the three Kashmiri students facing sedition charges from a court in Hubballi on Monday. PTI

"Pakistan Zindabad". They were charged with sedition and promoting enmity.

But on Sunday, the students were released by the Hubballi police under Section 169 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (release of accused when evidence deficient). However, after their release triggered protests by

Hindutva groups, the Hubballi police arrested the youths again and produced them in court on Monday. "They have been arrested, produced before the court and remanded to judicial custody," Hubballi Police Commissioner R Dileep said.

Police had to protect the youths from protesters, who

## Kambala jockey says no to SAI trials

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 17

TRAILING CLOUDS of social media glory, Srinivasa Gowda arrived in Bengaluru on Monday from Dakshina Kannada district, where he met Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa and his deputy, C N Ashwathnarayan, but held off from committing to trials for the 100 m race at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) centre.

"We have asked for time till March 10. Till then, Gowda has to run several kambala races he has already committed to," said Professor K Gunapala Kadamba, the jockey's mentor and teacher. "He has not worn spikes even once," said Kadamba, adding that they did not want to "go for an interview for the sake of it".

The 28-year-old jockey's victorious feat at a traditional kambalarace — he and his team of buffaloes, ran 142.50 metres in 13.62 seconds in a race on February 1 — led to a wave of euphoria on social media, and he was compared to sprinter Usain Bolt. Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijju promptly invited him to trials at the SAI centre in Bengaluru.

"Everything is ready for him. We will give him a couple of days to acclimatise... but he has to first agree. He is also not fully fit," said



Gowda and his buffaloes ran 142.50 metres in 13.62 seconds in a race. PTI file

Kurian P Mathew, an athletics coach at the SAI centre here.

Gowda, who works as a construction worker when he is not racing buffaloes in slushy tracks, is from Ashwathpur village in Moodbidri. The shy athlete, dressed in track pants and a pair of slippers, told reporters he was happy with the attention, and credited his feat to two of his buffaloes.

"I am happy that others outside are getting to know about our traditional sport. But I have to first finish running my other races," he said. Gowda has been running kambala races for seven years.

Kadamba also explained to the Deputy CM that kambala races are not measured with the state-of-the-art equipment used at the Olympics, and cautioned against a comparison.

## HC sets aside PCI decision rejecting INS nomination

New Delhi: Setting aside a decision of the Press Council of India (PCI), the Delhi High Court has asked the Council to reconsider the nomination of a member as proposed by the Indian Newspapers Society (INS) for filling up vacancies in the PCI's 13th term. The court directed the PCI chairman to reconsider the eligibility of Hormusji N Cama, Director of Mumbai Samachar and a member of the INS, keeping in view the material placed by the Society.

The judgment came on a plea by INS against the PCI's rejection of Cama's nomination in the category of medium newspapers. ENS

निदेशालय  
उत्तराखण्ड कृषि उत्पादन विपणन बोर्ड  
पुनः ई-निविदा सूचना  
उत्तराखण्ड बोर्ड पत्रांक: 30/विप/04/ विप/0/ सेब व लोलीयन बल (1902) 2019-20/- 3936 दिनांक: 01.02.2020 द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा एकल निविदा होने की दशा में निरस्त की दी गयी। उक्त निविदा पुनः दिनांक 22.02.2020 को अपराह्न 12.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है, जिससे उसी दिन अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक खोला जायेगा। इच्छुक निविदादाता को निविदा, मूल्य धरोहर राशि एवं रु० 100.00 का स्टाम्प पेपर मूल रूप में दिनांक: 20.02.2020 के सायं 5 बजे तक इस कार्यालय में जमा करना होगा। शेष शर्तें यथावत् रहेंगी। महाप्रबन्धक (प्रशासन)

### HAFFKINE BIO PHARMACEUTICAL CORPORATION LIMITED

(Procurement Cell)  
Tel. No. : 022-24100478; E-mail : procurementcell@vaccinehaffkine.com  
Acharya Donde Marg, Parel, Mumbai-400 012 (INDIA)

#### TENDER NOTICE

Date : 11.02.2020.

MANAGING Director (Procurement Cell), Haffkine Bio Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd., Mumbai invites tenders in two envelope systems from eligible bidders for following items for various Health Institutions in Maharashtra.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of Description	Pre-Bid Meeting	Period of Sale and Preparation of bid & bid submission	Bid Opening
1	E-2331, E-2333 to E-2345	Purchase of Instrument & Equipment	27.02.2020 At 02.00 p.m.	From 18.02.2020 10.00 a.m. To 16.03.2020 up to 1400 hrs.	18.03.2020 at 1405 hrs.
2	E-2386	Purchase of Instrument & Equipment	24.02.2020 At 02.00 p.m.	From 18.02.2020 10.00 a.m. To 04.03.2020 up to 1400 hrs.	06.03.2020 at 1405 hrs.

For detailed information, the interested bidders may visit the web site <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

For e-tendering help/information, please contact.  
Contact No. : 1800-233-7315, 91-7878107985, +91-7878107986, +91-7878007972 and +91-7878007973; E-mail : eproc.support@maharashtra.gov.in

Sd/-  
(Dr. R. M. Kumbhar)  
General Manager-1,  
Haffkine Bio Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd.,  
(Procurement Cell), Mumbai.

DGIPR/2019-2020/5034

### RASHTRIYA SANSKRIT SANSTHAN (DEEMED UNIVERSITY)

(Established under the Auspices of the Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India)  
56-57, Institutional Area, JunakPuri, New Delhi-110 058.  
Ph. No. 011-28524993, 28524995 28520979, 28520966

#### Notification for financial assistance for the year 2020-21 under Schemes for development of Sanskrit Education

Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan (Deemed University), set up by Ministry of H.R.D., Government of India for propagation and promotion of Sanskrit language, invites applications in the prescribed proforma for financial assistance for the year 2020-21 under the following Schemes for the Development of Sanskrit Education 2007.

- I. Financial Assistance for Sanskrit Teaching:-
    - a) Financial Assistance for Sanskrit teachers to the Traditional Sanskrit Pathshalas /Sanskrit Mahavidyalayas.
    - b) Financial Assistance for Teachers of Modern Subjects in Traditional Sanskrit Pathshalas/Sanskrit Mahavidyalayas.
    - c) Financial Assistance for Sanskrit Teachers in Secondary/Higher Secondary schools belonging to State Government.
  - II. Financial Assistance for Samman Rashhi to Eminent Sanskrit Pandits in indigent circumstances.
  - III. Financial Assistance to NGOs/Deemed Sanskrit Universities/Universities for various Research Projects and Programmes/Activities for promotion of Sanskrit.
  - IV. Financial Assistance for Publication, Re-print of Rare Sanskrit Books & Bulk purchase of Sanskrit Books.
  - V. Financial Assistance for utilization of services of Retired/Eminent literary Sanskrit Scholars (Shastra Chudamani)
  - VI. Financial Assistance to Registered Academic Organizations to conduct "Vocational Training Courses" for the students of Traditional Sanskrit Pathshalas/Institutions.
  - VII. Financial Assistance to Universities/Deemed Universities/ CBSE/NCERT/ SCERT etc to improve standards of Sanskrit teaching.
  - VIII. Financial Assistance under Scheme of "Ashtaadashi" — Eighteen Projects for sustaining the growth of Sanskrit recommended by the Committee constituted for suggest Vision and Road Map for the Development of Sanskrit -10 year perspective plan.
- Last date for receipt of applications on 31.03.2020 for S.No. II, III, IV, V, VI & VII Schemes.
  - Last date for receipt of applications on 30.06.2020 for S. No. I & VIII Schemes.
  - The NGOs & Voluntary Organizations must invariably be Registered with the Darpan Portal of Niti Ayog, Govt. of India and Submit the proof of the same along with application form to Sansthan.
  - Application (s) submitted after the due date or without fulfilling the conditions laid down to each scheme will not be accepted For downloading the application forms and terms & conditions regarding above all schemes visit website:- [www.sanskrit.nic.in](http://www.sanskrit.nic.in)  
davp- 21212/11/0013/1920 Registrar

### उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग

सं० : 257 / 03(08) / जीआरओ / बिपी / सेवा-02 / 2017-18  
दिनांक: 17 फरवरी, 2020

एतद्वारा उत्तराखण्ड शासन को उच्च शिक्षा विभाग के अन्तर्गत अधिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर-इतिहास के रिक्त पदों पर सीबी भर्ती द्वारा चयन हेतु दिनांक 04 अगस्त, 2017 को प्रकाशित विज्ञापन संख्या: 01 / 03 / जीआरओ / सेवा-02 / 2017-18 के सम्बंध अवेदन करने वाले अर्ह उम्मीदवारों के साक्षात्कार दिनांक 03, 04 एवं 05 फरवरी, 2020 के आचार पर अन्तिम चयन परीक्षण दिनांक 17 फरवरी, 2020 को घोषित कर दिया गया है। उक्त चयन परीक्षण एवं उम्मीदवारों के प्रश्नपत्रों की सूची आयोग की वेबसाइट [www.ukps.gov.in](http://www.ukps.gov.in) पर उपलब्ध है।  
(राधेन्द्र कुमार) सचिव

### U.P. Real Estate Regulatory Authority

Rajya Niyojan Sansthan (Naveen Bhawan)  
Kafalkankar House, Old Hyderabad, Lucknow-226007

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Uttar Pradesh Real Estate Regulatory Authority, in exercise of its powers under Section 35 of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 is conducting an audit of the project 'Sampada Livia' of Mrs PSA Impex Pvt. Ltd. located at Chi V, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

In relation to the audit, the Authority is seeking allotment and payment details of the Allottees of the project, details of loans to the project by banks/financial institutions/lenders along with supporting evidence to ascertain the rights on the project along with its financial status. In this regard, it is requested from all the Allottees and bonafide lenders of the project to provide the relevant details through U.P. RERA web-portal at <https://up-rera.in/sampadalivia> by 07th March, 2020.

Secretary

### DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI

4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001  
OA NO. 857/2018

MR. PRASHANT SHENDE AND ANR.	VERSUS	APPLICANT
To, 1. Mr. Prashant Shende (Borrower) S/O Mr. Waman Rao Shende, Qtr. No. 12, Type-III, IHBAS Campus, G.T. Road, Near G.T.B. Hospital, Dilshad Garden, Shahadra, New Delhi-110095 Second Address : Infrastructure, 79A, Dilshad Garden, New Delhi-110095 Third Address : Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences, Govt. of NCLT Delhi, Shahadra, New Delhi-110032		DEFENDANTS
2. Ms/Ms Manju J Homes India Ltd. (Builder) Registered Office : C-294, Ist Floor, Vivek Vihar, Delhi-110095 Second Address : C-10, Ramprastha, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201011.		
Third Address : Kharsa No. 1108, 1109 and 1110, Red Apple Homez, Mota, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201003 Forth Address : 2-C, DDA Flats, Nirman Vihar, New Delhi-110092 Fifth Address : National Highway-56, Near DPS School, Meerut Road, Rajnagar Extension, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201017		

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 25,61,323.92 (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Sixty One Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Three And Ninety Two Paise Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before Ld. Registrar on 10.07.2020 at 10.30 A.M. Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this 06th February of 2020.

By Order of this Tribunal, For Registrar

### EXPRESS Careers

#### Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences

(Deemed to be University)  
(University established under Section 3 of UGC Act 1956)  
NAAC Re-accredited with 'A' Grade (CGPA 3.17)  
Loni Bk. 413 736, Tal. Rahata, Dist. Ahmednagar (Maharashtra)  
Tel-02422-273600, 273486, Extn 1226, FAX-02422-273442  
Email- contact@pmpitms.org

#### REQUIRES

Applications in the prescribed formal along with complete bio-data are invited from the eligible candidates, on or before 29/02/2020, for filling up the following post. Application form can be downloaded from our website: [www.pravara.com](http://www.pravara.com)

- A) Registrar - 01
- B) Deputy Director - Evaluation - 01
- C) Deputy Registrar - 01
- D) Personnel Officer - 01
- E) Labour Officer - 01
- F) Librarian - 01
- G) Public Relation Officer - 01
- H) Data Entry Operator - 01

Qualifications: - Master's Degree with at least 55% marks or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed. Experience: - At least 15 years of experience as Assistant Professor in the Academic Level 11 and above or with 8 years of service in the Academic Level 12 and above including as Associate Professor along with experience in educational administration OR Comparable experience in research establishment and/ or other Institutions of higher education. OR 15 years of administrative experience, of which 06 years shall be as Deputy Registrar or an equivalent post. "For Deputy Director-Evaluation-Competence in Computer applications is required."

Qualifications: - Graduate / Post Graduate degree & MBA (HR) / M.P.M. with having at least 10 to 15 years work experience in the relevant capacity

Qualifications: - Graduate & having Diploma in Labour Law (D.L.L.) The candidate should have thorough knowledge of Labour Laws, Labour Welfare with experience not less than 10 years in the same/allied capacity.

Qualifications: - A Master's degree in Library Science/Information science/Documentation Science with at least 55% marks or an equivalent grade in a point-scale wherever the grading system is followed. A Ph.D. degree in Library Science / Information science / documentation/ archives and manuscript-keeping. Experience: At least 10 years as a Librarian at any level in University Library or 10 years of teaching as Assistant/Associate Professor in Library Science or 10 years experience as College Librarian. Evidence of innovative library services, including the integration of ICT in a library.

Qualifications: - Post Graduation (MBA / MSW), 05 years experience preferably in hospital / patient care.

Salary: - Deserving candidates will be paid attractive salary.

(Dr. Rajendra E.Vikhe Patil)  
Pro-Chancellor & CEO, Pravara Medical Trust



THIS WORD MEANS

SIMPLY PUT

**BATTLE OF ÇANAKKALE/GALLIPOLI**

Erdogan has compared Kashmir to Çanakkale – the World War I battle that built several national identities

ON MONDAY, India issued a strong demarche to Turkey over President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's comments in Pakistan on Friday, in the course of which he criticised India's policy in Jammu and Kashmir, and compared the "struggle" of Kashmiris with that of Turkey during World War I.



Many Australian soldiers are buried in Lone Pine Cemetery in Turkey's Gallipoli peninsula. *The New York Times*

By taking Constantinople, the Allies hoped to break the Turks, who had recently entered the war on the side of the Germany.

The Allies carried out heavy naval bombardment of Turkish forts along the shores of the Dardanelles, and when that failed, followed up with what was the biggest amphibious landing in military history at the time. However, what the British and their allies had hoped would be the turning point in the war ended up as a catastrophe. In the nine months upto January 1916, when the Allies called off the campaign and evacuated, more than 40,000 British soldiers had been killed, along with 8,000 Australians. On the Turkish side, some 60,000 had perished.

**LEGACY OF THE BATTLE:** The battle resulted in a demotion for Churchill and the emergence on the Turkish side of the young military hero, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. But the legacy of Gallipoli goes far beyond its military aspects – the event is today one of the central pillars of the modern Turkish identity. The campaign is also seen to have seeded Australian and New Zealand national consciousness – April 25, anniversary of the Gallipoli landings, is observed as ANZAC Day, the day of national remembrance for the war dead.

**WHAT ERDOGAN SAID:** Addressing a joint session of Pakistan's Parliament in Islamabad, Erdogan spoke of the "much-envied Turkey-Pakistan brotherhood" which, he said, was "strengthened by history and reinforced by historical events". He referred to "the year 1915, [when, as]... Turkish soldiers defend[ed] the Dardanelles Strait... a rally took place [...] 6,000 kilometres" away in Lahore, which was led by Allama Iqbal.

Erdogan went on to say that what happened in Turkey during World War I was now happening in Kashmir. "Events that happened a hundred years ago in Çanakkale in Turkey are being repeated in Indian occupied Kashmir and Turkey will continue to raise its voice against the oppression. Today, the issue of Kashmir is as close to us as it is to you [Pakistanis]," Erdogan said, according to a detailed report in the Pakistani daily *Dawn*.

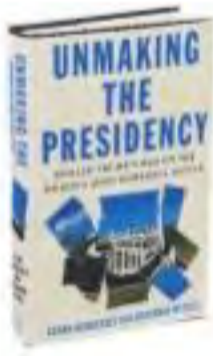
**THE GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN:** The Battle of Çanakkale, also known as the Gallipoli campaign or the Dardanelles campaign, is considered to be one of the bloodiest of World War I, during which the Ottoman army faced off against the Allied forces, leading to the slaughter of tens of thousands of soldiers on both sides.

In March 1915, with the war in Europe stalemated in the trenches, Winston Churchill, then Britain's First Lord of the Admiralty, devised a plan to take control of the Dardanelles, the strategic strait connecting the Sea of Marmara to the Aegean Sea and the Mediterranean Sea, and thus reach Constantinople (today's Istanbul) at the mouth of the Bosphorus.

TIP FOR READING LIST

ANOTHER ONE ABOUT TRUMP

THERE IS NO evidence that President Donald Trump reads at all – it would appear odd, therefore, that his time in the White House has produced a seemingly endless array of books about him and the presidency. The latest in that long line, *Unmaking the Presidency: Donald Trump's War on the World's Most Powerful Office*, by Susan Hennessey and Benjamin Wittes, comes just as he pitches himself headlong into the campaign for another four years in that office.



another compendium of insider gossip and bumbling treachery". Instead, Hennessey and Wittes "offer something more sobering, more analytical and, at this point, more revealing" – the book situates Trump's tenure in the history of the executive branch, and shows "how he is remaking the office itself in his own image".

Trump's "vision of the presidency", the authors submit, is unique. And it boils down, ultimately, to what *The NYT* bluntly says is an attempt to make "the executive to look more like an absolutist monarchy, with all of the glory and unfettered power that entails".

**GS SCORE**  
An Institute for Civil Services

www.iasscore.in

**Women in Army: what SC said**

What are the implications of the Supreme Court's order granting permanent commission to women on a par with men? What are the issues in the case, and how did it reach the top court?

SUSHANT SINGH  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

THE SUPREME COURT on Monday brought women officers in 10 streams of the Army on a par with their male counterparts in all respects, setting aside longstanding objections of the government. The case was first filed in the Delhi High Court by women officers in 2003, and had received a favourable order in 2010. But the order was never implemented, and was challenged in the Supreme Court by the government.

**Background of the case**

The induction of women officers in the Army started in 1992. They were commissioned for a period of five years in certain chosen streams such as Army Education Corps, Corps of Signals, Intelligence Corps, and Corps of Engineers. Recruits under the Women Special Entry Scheme (WSES) had a shorter pre-commission training period than their male counterparts who were commissioned under the Short Service Commission (SSC) scheme.

In 2006, the WSES scheme was replaced with the SSC scheme, which was extended to women officers. They were commissioned for a period of 10 years, extendable up to 14 years. Serving WSES officers were given the option to move to the new SSC scheme, or to continue under the erstwhile WSES. They were to be however, restricted to roles in streams specified earlier – which excluded combat arms such as infantry and armoured corps.

While male SSC officers could opt for permanent commission at the end of 10 years of service, this option was not available to women officers. They were, thus, kept out of any command appointment, and could not qualify for government pension, which starts only after 20 years of service as an officer. The first batch of women officers under the new scheme entered the Army in 2008.

**The battle in the courts**

In 2003, a PIL was filed before the Delhi High Court for grant of permanent commission (PC) to women SSC officers in the Army. Another writ petition was filed by Major Leena Gurav on October 16, 2006, primarily



In this March 2019 file photo, women cadets celebrate after a passing-out parade at the Officers Training Academy in Chennai. *PTI File*

to challenge the terms and conditions of service imposed by circulars earlier that year, and to seek PC for women officers.

In September 2008, the Defence Ministry passed an order saying PC would be granted prospectively to SSC women officers in the Judge Advocate General (JAG) department and the Army Education Corps (AEC). This circular was challenged before the Delhi High Court by Major Sandhya Yadav and others on the ground that it granted PC only prospectively, and only in certain specified streams.

The High Court heard the 2003, 2006, and 2008 challenges together, and passed its judgment in 2010. Women officers of the Air Force and Army on SSC who had sought permanent commission but were not granted that status, would be entitled to PC at par with male SSC officers, it ruled. However, this benefit was only available to women officers in service who had instituted proceedings before the High Court, and had retired during the pendency of the writ petitions. Women officers who had not attained the age of superannuation for permanently commis-

sioned officers would be reinstated with all consequential benefits.

The government challenged the order in the Supreme Court, and even though the High Court judgment was not stayed, the Defence Ministry did not implement those directions. While the proceedings were on, the government passed an order in February 2019 for the grant of PC to SSC women officers in eight streams of the Army, in addition to the JAG and AEC, which had been opened up in 2008. But they would not be offered any command appointments, and would serve only in staff posts.

During the hearing, the government came up with a proposal whereby women officers of up to 14 years of service would be granted permanent commission in line with the letter of February 2019. Women officers with more than 14 years of service would be permitted to serve for up to 20 years without being considered for PC, but would retire with pension, and those with more than 20 years of service would be released with pensionary benefits immediately.

**Why RBI is aligning accounting yr with fiscal yr**

GEORGE MATHEW  
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 17

THE RESERVE BANK of India (RBI) is aligning its July-June accounting year with the government's April-March fiscal year in order to ensure more effective management of the country's finances.

**How did the RBI's July-June accounting year come to be?**

When it commenced operations on April 1, 1935, with Sir Osborne Smith as its first Governor, the RBI followed a January-December accounting year. On March 11, 1940, however, the bank changed its accounting year to July-June. Now, after nearly eight decades, the RBI is making another switch: the next accounting year will be a nine-month period from July 2020 to March 31, 2021 and thereafter, all financial years will start from April, as it happens with the cen-

tral and state governments.

**Why are RBI's accounts important?**

The RBI's balance sheet plays a critical role in the functioning of the country's economy – largely reflecting the activities carried out in pursuance of its currency issue function, as well as monetary policy and reserve management objectives. The RBI Act says the central bank "shall undertake to accept monies for account of the Central Government and to make payments up to the amount standing to the credit of, and to carry out (its exchange), remittance and other banking operations, including the management of the public debt".

The RBI is the country's monetary authority, regulator, and supervisor of the financial system, manager of foreign exchange, issuer of currency, regulator and supervisor of payment and settlement systems, banker to the central and the state governments, and also banker to banks.

**But why is the system being changed?**

The Bimal Jalan Committee on Economic Capital Framework (ECF) of the RBI had proposed a more transparent presentation of the RBI's annual accounts, and a change in its accounting year to April-March from the financial year 2020-21. It said the RBI would be able to provide better estimates of projected surplus transfers to the government for the financial year for budgeting purposes.

It is also expected to result in better management of transfer of dividend or surplus to the government. Moreover, as governments, companies, and other institutions follow the April-March year, it will help with effective management of accounting. In May 2018, when Urjit Patel was Governor, the RBI appointed its first ever Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Sudha Balakrishnan.

**What will be impact of the change?**

The change in the fiscal year could reduce the need for interim dividend being paid by

the RBI, and such payments may then be restricted to extraordinary circumstances. It will obviate any timing considerations that may enter into the selection of open market operations or Market Stabilization Scheme as monetary policy tools. It will also bring greater cohesiveness in monetary policy projections and reports published by the RBI, which mostly use the fiscal year as the base.

Last fiscal, the RBI paid Rs 28,000 crore as interim dividend; in 2017-18, the government received Rs 10,000 crore. In RBI's balance sheet, while capital and reserve fund are explicitly shown, other sources of financial resilience are grouped under 'Other Liabilities and Provisions' and enumerated via Schedules, making it difficult to arrive at total risk provisions, the Jalan panel said.

In August 2019, the RBI transferred Rs 1,76,051 crore to government, comprising Rs 1,23,414 crore of surplus for 2018-19, and Rs 52,637 crore of excess provisions identified as per revised ECF proposed by the Jalan panel.

**Why US has shut out top Sri Lanka general – and where India stands**

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

THE UNITED STATES has put travel restrictions on Sri Lanka's Chief of the Army Staff, Lt Gen Shavendra Silva, for alleged war crimes committed during the last days of the war with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in 2009.

Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo posted on Twitter on February 14: "I am designating Shavendra Silva making him ineligible for entry into the U.S. due to his involvement in extrajudicial killings during #SriLanka's Civil War. The U.S. will not waver in its pursuit of accountability for those who commit war crimes and violate #humanrights".

**General and the accusations**

Lt Gen Silva commanded the 58th Division of the Sri Lankan army during the final stages of the war. Investigations by the United Nations have implicated the division in alleged serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law.

The appointment of Lt Gen Silva as army chief by the government of former President Maithripala Sirisena in August 2019 was criticised by the US, the UN, and the European Union.

The UN High Commissioner for Human

Rights Michelle Bachelet had said that the elevation of Gen Silva "severely compromises Sri Lanka's commitment to promote justice and accountability in the context of Human Rights Council resolution 30/1", which aims to promote "reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka".

The appointment, the UN rights chief said, "undermines reconciliation efforts, particularly in the eyes of victims and survivors who suffered greatly in the war", "sets back security sector reform, and is likely to impact on Sri Lanka's ability to continue contributing to UN peacekeeping efforts".

The designation of the general by the US State Department holds him accountable, through command responsibility, for "gross violations of human rights, namely extrajudicial killings, by the 58th division...".

Sri Lanka has ignored the UN Human Rights Council resolutions that it signed agreeing to establish a system to hold to account the perpetrators of mass killings.

After the end of the war, Lt Gen Silva was appointed Sri Lanka's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UNHQ with the rank of Ambassador. He served in that position from 2010 to 2015, and was at the time the only serving army officer to hold such a diplomatic post.

**International punishment**

After Lt Gen Silva's elevation in August



Chief of Staff of the Sri Lankan army, Lt Gen Shavendra Silva, in Colombo in May 2019. The General has been designated and can no longer enter the US. *Reuters File*

last year, the UN banned Sri Lankan troops from its international peacekeeping missions. More than 650 Sri Lankan soldiers were at the time deployed with UN contingents in Lebanon, Mali, and South Sudan, and 35 officers were serving as staff officers and military observers, including at the UN

headquarters in New York.

Farhan Haq, deputy spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres had said that in light of Silva's appointment, the UN Department of Peace Operations was suspending future Sri Lankan army deployments in all situations barring those in

which a suspension would expose UN operations to serious operational risk.

"We have expressed our concern to the government of Sri Lanka over the appointment of Lt Gen Shavendra Silva to the position of commander of the Sri Lanka army despite well-documented, credible allegations of his involvement in serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law," Haq said on September 25. In 2012, the UN Human Rights Council heard that "there is at the very least the appearance of a case of international crimes to answer by Silva". That same year, Silva was removed from the UN Special Advisory Group on peacekeeping operations.

In 2015, the UN documented war crimes linked to Silva, including intentional and indiscriminate attacks against civilian populations in Killinochchi, Puthukkudiyiruppu, Putumattalan, Mullivaikkal and other areas. Evidence showed attacks on hospitals, no-fire zones, UN bases, and areas housing women, children, and the elderly.

According to the UN, about 45,000 ethnic Tamil civilians may have been killed in the last months of the war; other estimates mention a much bigger number. Amnesty International has said 60,000-100,000 people were victims of forced disappearance.

The EU had said that Lt Gen Silva's promotion called into question Sri Lanka's commitment to the UN Human Rights

Council to ensure justice and accountability, and that it shared the concerns expressed by Human Rights Commissioner Bachelet, due to the "allegations of grave human rights and humanitarian law violations against him (Silva)".

**India's calibrated position**

The Sri Lankan foreign ministry has said that the concerns raised by foreign entities are "unwarranted and unacceptable". Since the General's elevation last year, India has hosted Sri Lanka's top political leadership – President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in November, and Prime Minister and former President Mahinda Rajapaksa this month.

In their meetings with the Indian political leadership, including with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Sri Lankan leadership has focussed on counter-terrorism cooperation.

Lt Gen Silva served under Gotabaya as Defence Secretary and Mahinda as President, and New Delhi is aware of the allegations against him. Even as it has pressed the Sri Lankan leadership to move forward on the reconciliation process with the ethnic Tamil minorities, India has not taken an adversarial position on the allegations of human rights violations. Rather, it has chosen the more pragmatic approach of engaging with the Sri Lankans, keeping in mind its own strategic and national interests.



WHEN YOU DIE AND GO TO HEAVEN, YOU FIND  
NO POLICEMAN THERE.  
— WOODY GUTHRIE

## The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

# The new faultline

Contest in US and elsewhere is between democracy and capitalism, and where the balance should lie



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

## CAUGHT ON CAMERA

Assault on students in Jamia library is indefensible — if the police aren't held accountable, the courts should step in

THE VIDEO RELEASED by the students' organisation coordinating the protests against the new citizenship law in Delhi's Jamia Millia Islamia corroborates student testimonies and casts Delhi Police more squarely in the dock. It also appears to underline a chilling message. That a police force which calls itself professional can apparently unabashedly enter a university's library and indiscriminately assault unarmed students, and try to get away with it — two months on, even an FIR has not been registered on the complaints filed against the police by the university and the students. All the police's denials — it didn't enter the library, it had said — and all its arguments — that it was in hot pursuit of rioters with stones — seem gravely questionable. Delhi Police needs to answer why uniformed men in riot gear, helmets, shields and jackets can be seen to trample over the sanctity of a library on campus, and the principles of rule of law, on the evening of December 15 2019. It needs to conduct a fair probe, and urgently punish its own guilty.

Delhi Police's apparent excesses, its evident impunity, seem enabled and countenanced by a larger framework in which the citizen's fundamental right to protest is looked at with suspicion and the protesting citizen is labelled "anti-national". In the last few days, at least two powerful voices have pointed to the perils of such a framework in a plural democracy that is committed to individual freedoms, and respectful of its minorities. As a first step in a much-needed course correction, Delhi Police and its political masters would do well to listen in. Setting aside an order by the Additional District Magistrate against allowing protests in Maharashtra's Beed, the Aurangabad Bench of the Bombay High Court said, "This court wants to express that such persons cannot be called as traitors, anti-nationals only because they want to oppose one law. It will be a act of protest and only against the government for the reason of CAA..." And speaking in Ahmedabad on Saturday, Justice DY Chandrachud described dissent as the "safety valve of democracy" and spoke eloquently about its "true test" — "its ability to ensure the creation and protection of spaces where every individual can voice their opinion without the fear of retribution". A state committed to the rule of law, he said, "ensures that the state apparatus is not employed to curb legitimate and peaceful protest but to create spaces conducive for deliberation".

The Jamia tape, the Aurangabad Bench of Bombay High Court and the Supreme Court judge have struck the same cautionary note: Dissent and protests call for a listening government in a deliberative democracy, not a police crackdown. By reiterating on Monday that the right to protest is "fundamental" and by appointing two senior lawyers as mediators, to be assisted by a former chief information commissioner, to talk to the protesters at Shaheen Bagh and persuade them to shift the venue of their sit-in, the Supreme Court has lent its imprimatur to it too. So if the Delhi Police don't do their job of fixing accountability, the courts should walk their reassuring talk.

## THIRD TIME WISER

AAP government should think more carefully about spending priorities, rationalise its welfarist schemes

THE AAM AADMI Party's welfarist policies appear to have been richly rewarded in the recently concluded Delhi assembly elections. Subsidised power and water, coupled with increased state spending on public goods such as health and education, proved to be crucial elements in a winning package. But there are challenges and costs in persisting with this model of governance even in a rich state like Delhi. As the AAP gears for another term in office, it needs to be mindful of the arduous road ahead. It will need to prioritise its spending and rationalise its ongoing welfare schemes.

The last five years have seen a spectacular rise in Delhi government's spending on the social sector. Spending on education rose from 21.2 per cent of expenditure in 2014-15 to 25.3 per cent in 2019-20 — outstripping that by other states (14.8 per cent in 2019-20). Similarly, the state's spending on medical, public health and family welfare stood at 12.5 per cent in 2019-20, higher than the national average of 4.9 per cent. While the determined focus on improving public services such as education and healthcare is welcome, the same cannot be said about the near universal nature of subsidies on water and electricity. Over the years, the state's revenue balance — the gap between its revenue receipts and expenditure — has fallen. And in recent years, its fiscal deficit, while manageable, has also risen. This welfarist policy orientation of the government has come at the cost of capital spending. The state's capital outlay, its spending on physical infrastructure, has remained almost stagnant for much of the last five years — in fact, it has fallen from 1.16 per cent as a percentage of its gross domestic product in 2011-12 to 0.54 per cent in 2018-19.

To be sure, the state has the fiscal space to ramp up capital spending. It has a much lower debt to GDP ratio than the national average. Further, its committed expenditures such as those on interest payments, salaries and wages are also much lower than the national average, providing it the space to rework its expenditure priorities. This could be used to beef up spending on areas such as public transport and infrastructure — which are increasingly under pressure. As the new government begins to finalise its five-year strategy, it must avoid the temptation to indiscriminately expand its welfare programmes. Rather, it should aim to run a more targeted welfare delivery programme by rationalising the power and water subsidies.

## NUMBER 64

Assigning an upper berth to Shiva is illogical, because he has transcended the plane on which berths exist

THE KASHI-MAHAKAL EXPRESS, which will connect the three jyotirlingas at Omkareshwar, Mahakaleshwar and Kashi Vishwanath, has been flagged off by the Prime Minister. On board was a very special passenger — the cosmic destroyer himself, in berth number 64 in coach B5. Deities are legal persons and can perform higher-order human acts like enjoying an income, paying taxes and suffering liabilities, but divinity frees them from ordinary needs. So, news that Shiva had been reserved an upper berth by IRCTC, which will operate the train, has occasioned some to wonder why the deity needed a berth, and displaced some mortal who definitely did. Not so, IRCTC has clarified — the inaugural run had no passengers, and when commercial services begin later this week, the god will not be aboard. So the displacement analysis was unfair, yet trundling Mahakal about in rolling stock can be opposed on technical and aesthetic grounds.

Mahakal has transcended time, as his name suggests. He is deep time, cosmic time, or something similar which is yet to enter the scientific lexicon. Can such an entity be confined by the time tables of the Indian Railways? On the other hand, he would not suffer as mortal passengers do. From his vantage point in infinite time, he would barely notice the interminable delays in trains running through central India. Worryingly, the authorities have resolved to make the train strictly vegetarian and high-minded in tenor, which could alienate one aspect of Shiva, which is worshipped in shrines like Delhi's Bhairon Mandir, and which is pointedly hedonistic.

Maha Shivratni is on Friday, the day after the Kashi-Mahakal Express starts its first commercial run. There is time yet to reconsider the rash choice of menu. For, though Shiva will not be occupying a berth, he will be on board. Indeed, he is everywhere.

DEMOCRACY AND CAPITALISM have, for good or for ill, often been closely aligned. But this moment in global politics is characterised by the intensification of the tension between the two. This tension provides the new ideological faultline in many contexts. Democracy, as Karl Polanyi argued, had as one its functions, the "self-protection" of society against what he called the "satanic mills" of capitalism. This protection had to take place on a number of dimensions.

First, there had to be a modicum of social justice, as evidenced in the share between labour and capital, for the system to have any legitimacy. In practice, this social justice was achieved through the welfare state, which by ensuring basic goods at least maintained the fig leaf of equality of opportunity. The second was to ensure that the political process was not entirely beholden to monied interests to the point that it could not claim independent legitimacy. Politics could serve as an independent source of legitimacy, only if it was not entirely subservient to the logic of market interests. Governments may rise or fall with economic performance. But the resilience of democratic authority requires that its fate not be entirely tied to economic outcomes. Third, the self-protection had to ensure that the commodification of social life did not acquire the dimensions where it would lead to a loss of meaning. It also required ensuring that nature of capitalist accumulation was not self-undermining. In the case of the environment for instance, it did not lead to outcomes, where capitalisms own promises of a better life were undermined by a degradation of the environment. Fourth, the state ensured personal liberty as a sign of respect for and trust in the autonomy of persons, as expressed in rule of law. And finally, while economic efficiency promised the satisfaction of private wants and needs, it needed to be supplemented by some account of a common project, a community of fate that tied citizens together in more than just a relationship of convenience. Democracy would allow capitalism to flourish, only if it could be seen to be performing these functions of protecting society to some degree.

It could be argued that at this point in many countries across the world, the "Left-Right" dimension does not quite capture what is at stake in contemporary politics.

The 'Left-Right' dimension does not quite capture what is at stake in contemporary politics. What is at stake is not just equality of distribution, but the relationship between democracy and capitalism. If you look at the emerging ideological landscape the issue is not so much between socialists and capitalists. The issue is between those who think that capitalism is the problem, and those who think democracy is the problem.

What is at stake is not just equality of distribution, but the relationship between democracy and capitalism. If you look at the emerging ideological landscape, the issue is not so much between socialists and capitalists. The issue is between those who think that capitalism is the problem, and those who think democracy is the problem. There are those who think that the self-protection functions of democracy stand in the way of capitalism; and there are those who think that capitalism has seriously eroded the self-protection functions of democracy.

In some ways, a potential contest between Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump will turn out to be a more interesting contest because it is the one contest that makes these stakes totally clear. Personality and competence issues apart, the Bloomberg-Trump contest, would be ideologically not a contest at all. Whether the heirs to "Clinton-Obama" centrism are more electorally attractive can be debated. But they are seen to fudge the democracy question. It is true that there is a good deal of the condensation of posterity in how we assess Clinton-Obama-Blair centrism. The condescension underestimates the complexity of electoral politics and the contextual virtue of institutional moderation. But analytically, the critique of that centrism is that it saved capitalism (and some of its plutocracies and associated imperialism) more than it saved democratic enfranchisement; and by not pushing harder on the social protection functions of democracy, it paved the way for disenchantment with it. What may attract the young to Sanders is not equality per se, but restoring the romance of agency; the idea that democracy does not give itself over to a fatality where its protective functions are undermined.

That this is a contest on the balance between democracy and capitalism is obscured by two things. First, all parties still work within the frame of electoral contestation and within this frame, contingency matters a lot. Particular leaders may matter, for example. That frame for all its corruptions, seems to have enough legitimacy to appear to be the final arbiter. Second, the Right substitutes, the language of democracy with its close cousin, the language of the people. This language is manifest most clearly in the in-

vention of nationalism, an alternative language of legitimation.

This language invokes the people but not a group that has to share prosperity, but as a group that has to display unity — often against an enemy. In this sense, the ideological function of nationalism is to immobilise any push-back by democracy and civil society. It is a form of democratic legitimacy that is turned against exactly the self-protection that democracy is supposed to provide: Questions of social justice have to be immobilised; there is high degree of comfort with the autonomy of the political process being subverted by the very thing it must be protected against, namely monied interests; there is a deep impatience with the idea that goods like the environment need protection; there is also a contempt for the institutional forms in which power is exercised. But this is not just a pathology of individual leaders. It has now become an ideological faultline.

This is why the question of the internal diversity within parties like the Republican Party has become relatively irrelevant. Moderation made sense when the contest was largely on one dimension — a little more or a little less distribution. But once you have grasped the thought that the pushback against a self-undermining capitalism will come from democracy itself, then there is relatively little resistance to standing behind any form of executive power that will contain that democracy. Right-wing parties hang together not just because they have that ultimate form of identity politics — nationalism — to bind them together. They hang together because their *raison d'être* is now to ensure that society does not pushback against capital. They can have a great deal of success in this endeavour, but only at the risk of making society off balance in ways Polanyi had suggested. With an environmental crisis looming the costs of capital democracy relations being off balance are even higher.

So the contest in the US, but elsewhere as well, is less over socialism versus capitalism. It is whether there is too much democracy or too much capitalism, and where the balance between the two lies.

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SHIVANI NAIK

## NOT THE SAME RACE

Comparing kambala racer Srinivasa Gowda with Usain Bolt is unfair to both

NO ONE seems to have asked Srinivasa Gowda, 28, if he aspires to run faster than Usain Bolt. Unverified claims of the buffalo jockey from southern Karnataka, running 100 m out of a total of 145 m in 9.55 seconds in Kambala, set into motion an absurd chain of events. Personalities like Anand Mahindra and Shashi Tharoor offered fulsome praise on social media. Sports minister Kiren Rijju even tweeted: "I'll call Karnataka's Srinivasa Gowda for trials by top SAI Coaches... I'll ensure that no talent in India is left out untested."

However, denying the man individual autonomy on something as important as his career, is very problematic. Was he asked, before dispatching train tickets to him and summoning him to SAI Bengaluru, if he wanted to dip his toes (or heels) into a sporting event which has yielded no financial dividends for 100-metre national champions all these years? He may have wanted to simply continue in kambala races (buffalo races) for which he has trained at an academy since 2011 — and where he makes about Rs 5-7 lakh every season.

Did the minister consider inviting him to the many tracks in Mangalore or the excellent Alva's Sports College, Moodbidri, before pouncing on comparisons with Bolt and setting him up for a gimmicky spectacle?

That Gowda is 28 — old by sporting standards — when he is being drafted into the sport, shows this as being nothing more than headline-grabbing. The narrative has a nice ring of "doing something for sport" to it. Though the comparisons between Gowda and Bolt are unfair to both.

That he is 28 — old by sporting standards — when he is being drafted into the sport, shows this as being nothing more than a headline-grabbing move. The narrative has a nice ring of "doing something for sport" to it. But the comparisons between Gowda and Bolt are unfair to both. In fact, picking his 100m time randomly from a 145m run — where the rolling start to Gowda's 100m ignores Bolt's (or any sprinter's) significant challenge of speeding up from the 0 kph start — is disingenuous. No one runs in slush in formal track events — nor do they run barefoot, which changes the dynamic.

The suggestion that this is a novel way of scouting talent is deceitful and insulting to the hundreds of nameless coaches spread across SAI's centres, who haven't exactly been sitting and twiddling their thumbs for all these years. The assumption that India is teeming with athletic talent numbering millions, and that it only needs a keen eye to spot such talent, is humbug. That thousands of medals haven't happened because of official apathy and bureaucracy is a comforting lie.

Blazing ignorance about sports leads to assumptions like kids in dance shows can lead to the next gymnastics talent, or that the country needs to embark on a mammoth rural exploration to discover the toiling

farmer's children whose bodies lend themselves to hardy sport. The truth is: India's top athletes in physically demanding sports have always come from rural regions. No kid from an affluent background grows up dreaming about cracking the 100m sport for a railways or a services job.

Jamaica does two things that helps it produce an assembly line of sprinters: Its famous Champs meet where 30,000 spectators turn up to watch inter-school races. And, a health initiative going back to the 1920s which insists on hygiene, clean water and faecal/mosquito control as well as nutrition for kids to raise the quality of bodies on the island. Generations of training and conditioning later, Jamaica had Bolt: It's not as visually appealing as two gloriously dressed up buffaloes pulling a chiselled man sliding his heels on slush. It's rather boring, in fact. But India needs to start respecting the fundamentals in sport. That starts with asking a man if he's interested before anointing him as the one to go chasing after Bolt's shadow.

The notion that India is only 100m away from an Olympic sprint gold medal is insulting the dash and the challenges it represents for the athletes.

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## FEBRUARY 18, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

ASSEMBLIES DISSOLVED  
INDIRA GANDHI'S GOVERNMENT dissolved the assemblies of as many as nine states ruled by non-Congress (I) parties. The Centre has taken over their administration. The states are: Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Orissa, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. The decision to cut short the life of these assemblies was taken at an urgent meeting of the Cabinet summoned by the prime minister at South Block in New Delhi. The axe fell on the non-Congress (I) governments a little before midnight when President Sanjeeva Reddy, signed nine separate proclamations under Article 356 of the Constitution.

US HOSTAGES  
THE PRESIDENT OF Iran, apparently taking a hard line on the release of the American hostages, said in a telecast that they might be released only after the US "undertakes its obligations" to Iran. Among the obligations, President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr said, was the "return" of the exiled Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi from Panama. He had said in the past that the US would have to agree not to block Iran's efforts to return the Shah and his wealth. In recent days he had not said the return of the Shah was a condition for the hostages' release. Meanwhile UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim worked on details of a five-member commission to investigate

Iran's grievances against the deposed Shah.  
SCS ARRESTED  
SEVEN HARIJANS WERE arrested at Mandi village in Mehrauli, Delhi, while trying to till the land allotted to them in 1974. They were held for defying prohibitory orders. Apprehending trouble, the police imposed prohibitory orders in the area and rushed 100 CRPF men and 30 police personnel to the disputed land area. Seven Harijan elders — Harichand, Sukhi Ram, Teka, Deepchand, Ramphal, Surja and Shyamal — went to plough the fields. They were stopped about 200 yards away from the field and their bullocks and ploughs seized.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Far from interfering, Mr Erdogan was actually calling India out for its brutality in... Kashmir, something that many others in the international community have failed to do." — DAWN

# The \$5 trillion arithmetic

Even the lessons of history might not be enough to get the Indian economy there in time



ECONOMIC GRAFFITI BY KAUSHIK BASU

THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT has set itself a big target, namely, that the Indian economy will have an aggregate income or gross domestic product (GDP) of \$5 trillion by 2024-25. One sees this target number everywhere — touted in various government documents, including the Economic Survey, referred to in the Budget speech and, in newspaper editorials.

What is unfortunate is that there is little effort to take it beyond a slogan. It is not unusual to have politicians trying to galvanise people around slogans and banners. However, when it comes to targets and aims pertaining to the economy, it is important to have the officials and advisers go beyond the headline, to lay out the details and the road-map for the target. For international observers and particularly investors, not to see these creates doubts about professionalism.

Minimally, one needs to flesh out what the \$5-trillion target means in terms of more granular indicators, such as annual growth, inflation and so on, so that we can then begin to craft policy. The translation to more basic indicators is easy to do. All one needs is pen, paper, calculator and a little patience. It is the kind of exercise which school children can do faster than adults.

Let us begin. In 2018-19, India's GDP was \$2.75 trillion. India's latest official growth rate happens to be 4.5 per cent. We all hope that this disappointing performance will be short-lived but for the sake of basic arithmetic, let us ask how long it will take to get to the \$5-trillion mark if India continues to grow at this rate. Clearly, in 2019-20, the GDP will rise to \$2.87 trillion, which is \$2.75 trillion plus 4.5 per cent of 2.75. Continue in the same fashion to compute the size of the GDP and it becomes clear that the target of \$5 trillion will be reached not in 2024-25, but in 2032-33.

As pointed out above, this is no surprise. A target is not something that happens by business-as-usual. It is aspirational. We have to get the nation growing faster than the abysmal performance seen in recent times. So what we need to do is the reverse arithmetic. Set the target as \$5 trillion dollars for 2024-25 and compute the implicit growth rate that will get us there. This turns out to be 10.48 per cent or, approximately, 10.5 per cent.

This is a hugely ambitious target. As far as I know, the only example of any nation growing for six consecutive years at an average annual rate of over 10.5 per cent was China from 2003 to 2009. China had another comparable sprint from 1991 to 1997 but there were some fluctuations then.

Can India get this rate? Right now, with India's economy spiraling downwards, it seems not possible but let us look back at our own history. From 1947 till now, India's economy grew at over 10 per cent only twice — in 1988-89 and 2007-8. Of these, the first may be dismissed because the previous year the economy had grown very slowly, by 3.5 per cent. So a large part of the growth in 1988-89 was a catch-up. Further, the late 1980s were a period of fiscal profligacy for which India paid a big price in 1991. Thus, from our own history, the only example from which we can learn is the remarkable growth in 2007-8,



CR Sasikumar

made all the more remarkable by the fact that India had been growing well for several years, starting from 2003. And from 2005, India was actually growing over 9 per cent. This was a period of professional fiscal policy and steady effort at building infrastructure. India's economy was making big news in the international media and investment poured in. India's investment-to-GDP rate climbed to an all-time record of 39 per cent.

There are lessons to be learned from this history, but even with that, to grow at 10.5 per cent for six consecutive years at this time is nearly impossible. For one, our investment-to-GDP ratio has crashed to 30 per cent and this takes time to re-build. If we can get back to a growth rate of 7 per cent we will be lucky.

There is one aspect of the aggregate economy that I have not talked about as yet — inflation. Virtually all serious commentators agree with me that in purely real terms, the \$5-trillion target is unreachable, but maybe we can make it by a combination of real growth and inflation.

A popular argument goes like this. One way India can get to the target is if, alongside say 7 per cent growth, India has an inflation of say 3.5 per cent. Then India's nominal GDP growth rate will be 10.5 per cent. That was the target growth. These commentators would admit that by this combination of real growth and inflation, a part of it would be the chimeric of prices, but we would still get to the target figure. I have heard this argument repeatedly and by serious commentators, both among defenders and critics of government policy. But the argument is wrong.

The five trillion target is in dollar terms. Typically, if India has higher inflation than the US, the rupee would depreciate vis-à-vis the dollar to account for that. For the sake of pure arithmetic, assume US inflation is zero, India's inflation is 10 per cent, and India's real growth rate is 0. In that case, in rupee terms, India's economy will grow by 10 per cent. But how much will India's economy grow in dollar terms? The answer is zero. This is because the rupee will typically depreciate by 10 per cent to match the inflation differential, and so the larger GDP of India in rupee terms, when converted to dollars will show no growth.

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It follows that we cannot get to the \$5-trillion mark by supplementing the growth that falls short of 10.5 per cent with inflation, as many have argued. But this should immediately make it clear that there is another way of getting to the target. This can happen if the US dollar loses value. We can then get to the target of \$5 trillion because that will mean less in real terms.

In other words, let us say we get real GDP growth up to 7 per cent per annum. Let us also assume India maintains its target inflation of 4 per cent. The only route then is to persuade Trump to get US inflation up to 7.5 per cent. This will weaken the dollar vis-à-vis the rupee by 3.5 per cent each year. In short, there are two routes: A huge policy initiative to boost real growth or the luck of a dollar depreciation.

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# When Yankee goes home

Trump is reducing US intervention around the world. Delhi needs to come to terms with these profound changes



RAJA MANDALA BY C RAJA MOHAN

"YANKEE, GO home! And take me with you" is an idea that has long summed up the world's mixed feelings about America. Since the Second World War, people and governments around the world have frequently demanded that America go home. For them there are enough things to object to — none more important than the expansive American global hegemony.

At the same time, there is an unending attraction around the world to the American lifestyle. That anyone could get to the US and "make it there" has been the essence of the global US dream. For 18th and 19th century Europe, America was about liberation from the oppressive hierarchies of the old world. For Asia and the global south in the 20th century, America was about finding opportunities that were denied at home.

The Indian elite has been as schizophrenic about the US as any other in the Third World. For decades, elites of all political persuasion reveled in denouncing the US and proudly sending their children to incredibly successful careers there. No other place in the world has been as welcoming to Indians as the US.

Under President Donald Trump, though, some of that might be changing. Trump's America wants the Yankees to come home but is shutting the door on unrestricted immigration from the rest of the world. Domestic critics say America has been a nation of immigrants and Trump is wrong to keep them out. But Trump has much support among the working people who know immigration keeps wages low, helps the capitalist class and disrupts the familiar cultural and social landscape.

Some chancelleries in the world demand that America must go home. The president of Philippines, Rodrigo Duterte, wants to end Manila's century-old relationship with the US military. Iran wants America out of the Gulf. Russia and China would like to see the US forces out of Europe and Asia respectively.

Only a few years ago, these demands would have been laughed out of court. But as Trump threatens to question America's military commitments in Europe and Asia and denounces the past military interventions in the Middle East, the world is paying serious attention to the possibility of Yankee going home.

Trump shrugged off Duterte's demand by saying it will "save money" for America; in the Gulf, he wants the Asian powers to police the vital sea lines of communication; in Europe and Asia, he wants the allies to do more for their own security.

In Europe, France and Germany are now talking about creating new defence capabilities for the European Union amidst the prospect for American security retrenchment. In Asia, Japan is debating a larger security role. In the Gulf, America's Arab allies are scrambling to diversify their security dependence.

The idea of downsizing America's role, along with the rejection of free trade and open borders, is at the very heart of Trump's

America First policy. To be sure there is deep resistance in the US to these ideas that run counter to America's post-war internationalism. Wall Street on the East Coast and Silicon Valley on the West Coast along with the old foreign and security policy establishment in Washington all oppose Trump's America First focus.

Trump's message, however, resonates across the political divide in the US. Many candidates for the presidential nomination of the Democratic Party agree with Trump's goal of ending America's "endless wars" in the Middle East. Many in the working classes, who traditionally supported the Democrats, believe Trump is right in arguing that free trade has hollowed out American industry and eliminated manufacturing jobs.

Put simply America is at an inflection point; India needs to come to terms with the profound changes unfolding in the US. The Indian political classes castigated the US for excessive interventions in the affairs of other nations. Trump now says such interventions are counterproductive and all nations must strengthen their sovereignty. Indians criticised the US for imposing globalisation on others; the US President is now one of the biggest critics of globalisation. Trump's America is not the one we have known.

During the Cold War, Delhi had trouble figuring out US domestic politics, given the limited nature of its engagement with the US that was focused largely on the State Department. As India broadened its engagement with America in the last two decades, Delhi has become more sensitive to the US domestic political dynamics. In getting the US to ease off on Kashmir and nuclear issues, Delhi had to look beyond the foreign policy establishment to generate better US appreciation of India's concerns and interests.

One of the instruments that came in handy was the mobilisation of the Indian diaspora — a process that began during the tenure of Rajiv Gandhi as prime minister, acquired momentum in the late 1990s and emerged as a key factor in elevating the bilateral relationship in the 21st century. Delhi, however, needs to unlearn some of the assumptions about US policy as it prepares to host Trump next week. While the diaspora is important and could be of some value in dealing with Trump, it can't override the deeper forces animating American politics.

Trump is throwing overboard the domestic consensus on foreign policy that has held through the post-war period. Trump rode on the turbulence of US domestic politics to seize the White House to the utter surprise of the establishment in Washington DC as well as other capitals around the world. He is betting that ending unpopular wars, reordering trade relations with major economic partners, and limiting migration will bring him back to power in this year's election.

Delhi's success with Trump will depend less on the size of the welcome in Ahmedabad and more on the kind of strategic imagination it can display on trade cooperation, securing Afghanistan after America's withdrawal, stabilising the Gulf and developing a new global compact on migration that is sensitive to domestic political considerations and yet contributes to the collective economic development.

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# Ascetic nationalist

India needs to revisit MS Golwalkar's life and teachings to realise its potential



BHUPENDER YADAV

MANY IN India observe February 19 as a day to commemorate a true patriot and one of India's greatest intellectuals — Madhav Sadashiv Golwalkar.

Golwalkar, fondly remembered as Guruji, dedicated his life to the awakening of nationalistic sentiments rooted in the philosophy of Swami Vivekananda, Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Sri Aurobindo. Guruji made an unforgettable contribution to society and nation-building, going on to live as an ascetic.

India has seen varying shades of the lives of ascetics. These great men did not live merely for themselves but dedicated their being to society and humanity. Guruji is among the foremost symbols of such a selfless life. His entire journey is a tale of the umpteenth sacrifices and contributions towards nation-building. Born in 1906, Guruji completed his Masters from Banaras Hindu University (BHU) with a first division. He then took admission in a Chennai institute for research. He was, however, compelled to give up on his research midway because of financial constraints. Subsequently, he began teaching in BHU and soon he became famous as Guruji. While Golwalkar taught at BHU, Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya remained deeply attached to him.

Guruji studied law as well but he remained unhappy with society's mental

weaknesses and the fact that India continued to remain a British colony. It was because of this sadness that Guruji moved towards spirituality under the guidance of Swami Akhandananda, who was a disciple of Ramakrishna Paramahansa. Under Swami Akhandananda's guidance, Guruji learnt the true meaning and essence of sacrifice and detachment.

He realised that while many sacrifices are acceptable in the Indian tradition, the sacrifice of one's duty is considered a sin. The real sacrifice, Guruji realised, was foregoing ego and personal desires. In 1937, Guruji was formally ordained by Swami Akhandananda. The same year, Swami Akhandananda gave up his body.

Golwalkar found Keshav Baliram Hedgewar as the ideal person to take forward the Sangh's work of national and social awakening. Golwalkar said of Hedgewar, "The work of the Sangh head is to prepare swayamsevaks who have the best of characters along with a commitment towards the work assigned to them. They must also be ready to sacrifice their entire lives for the nation. Dr Hedgewar was one who could mould hearts in this way. In the beginning, I only found him to be a leader who worked differently. But later, I realised that he was an image of love, who existed in all three roles of mother, father and guru for his swayamsevaks."

Guruji was deeply influenced by Hedgewar's beliefs that while rousing speeches can give us short-term benefits, in the long term, the work of nation-building wasn't possible without showing humility in speech. So, it is our duty to work for the nation by exercising a strict control over what we say and keeping intact a tenderness of heart and mind.

Guruji was also influenced by Sri Aurobindo's teaching that for the creator of the universe, Ma Bhagwati, we must become virtuous souls who can spread love and positivity. From this perspective, his nationalism wasn't one that had ego or tried to rule over people with the use of force. It was a cultural nationalism imbued with spirituality. This nationalism aimed at raising the self-confidence of its people, ushering them to become the best version of themselves and taking India back to its days of glory, when it was the global leader.

He concurred with Vivekananda and Aurobindo that the country wasn't merely a piece of land or a synonym for political power. She is the mother who nurtures us. In modern times, if we try to understand Guruji's philosophy, we find that he was imploring us to become the best version of ourselves for the betterment of our country. In Indian tradition, the human being is not supreme. Excellence lies in giving one's best

to the nation. Being grateful to the nation is of prime importance. This should never translate into low self-esteem or weakness.

Guruji considered staying united and powerful to be in the interest of the nation. His understanding of life was immersed in sound logic even as he remained a steadfast idealist. He believed in creating institutions based on the need of the hour and rejected traditions based on superstitions and those that were devoid of logic.

His views on patriarchy are reflected in the incident where his parents told him that what would happen to their lineage if he renounces worldly life despite being their only son. To this, Guruji said that he didn't believe in the end of family dynasties. He said his aim was the welfare of the society.

Guruji rejected the Varna system as an outdated idea. He was a large-hearted, fearless nationalist. He believed the real worship of God was in human deeds. He did not believe in religious and caste divides. He believed that national unity and integrity lay in people respecting the national mission, goals and cultural symbols.

India today, more than ever, needs to revisit Golwalkar and his teachings to realise its full potential.

The writer is national general secretary, BJP and a Rajya Sabha MP

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### THE WOMAN VOTE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'How she votes' (IE, February 17). The AAP is no different from other parties, which praise women to high heavens to get their votes but when push comes to shove, men are considered more equal. Though the AAP was voted to power more by women than men, no woman MLA figures in its new cabinet.

Tarsem Singh, Mahilpur

### RESERVE JUDGEMENT

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Camera nails official denial: Police did enter Jamia library, beat students' (IE, February 17). People hasten to draw conclusions. In response to the footage that portrays policemen in a bad light, another clip has been released by the Delhi Police that depicts Jamia students sneaking in stones. Both clips are presented without context. This is not the time for the public to jump to conclusions. Reserve your judgement till all the facts gradually unfold.

Varun Das, Zirakpur

### BEWARE OF BIAS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The Jojo

### LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

To encourage quality reader intervention, The Indian Express offers the Letter of the Week award. The letter adjudged the best for the week is published every Saturday. Letters may be e-mailed to [editpage@expressindia.com](mailto:editpage@expressindia.com) or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301.

Rabbit lesson' (IE, February 17). Nationalism is a trending word. Everyone seems to be taken in by it. But we all know how Nazi propaganda, channelled through extreme nationalism, turned out. In the current wave of nationalism, it is important we don't get carried away. Inculcating the bias that people of a particular religion indulge in terrorism among the young can only catalyse the process of mass hatred.

Prateek Mitra, Noida

# 14 THE WORLD



## STORM DENNIS UK ISSUES SEVERE FLOOD WARNINGS

Britain issued five severe flood alerts on Monday, warning of danger to life after Storm Dennis dumped weeks worth of rain in some places. It gale-force winds also injured nine people in weather-related car accidents in Germany and caused flooding and power outages elsewhere in northern Europe.

### TOP OF THE WORLD



Kizito Mihigo's music was banned by the ruling regime

### AFRICA Rwandan dissident singer found dead in police custody

**Kigali:** A popular Rwandan singer whose music was banned by the ruling regime "committed suicide" in custody, police announced Monday, three days after he was caught trying to flee the country. Kizito Mihigo, a survivor of the Rwandan genocide whose songs angered the government of strongman President Paul Kagame, was found dead in a police cell in the capital Kigali around 5am. Mihigo, who was sentenced to 10 years' jail in 2015 for conspiracy against the government but later released on pardon, was captured trying to cross the border in Rwanda's south.

### THE GULF UAE issues licence for first Arab nuclear power plant

**Abu Dhabi:** The United Arab Emirates said it has issued a licence for a reactor at its Barakah nuclear power plant, the first in the Arab world, hailing it as a "historic moment". The UAE has substantial energy reserves, but with a power-hungry population of 10 million it has made huge investments in developing alternative power sources including solar. The Barakah plant, located on the Gulf coast west of Abu Dhabi, had been due to come online in late 2017 but faced a number of delays that officials attributed to safety and regulatory requirements.

### SINGAPORE FB told to block anti-govt site

**Singapore:** Singapore on Monday ordered Facebook to block the page of an anti-government website in the city-state, the latest use of a law against online misinformation that critics say stifles free speech. The legislation gives ministers powers to order internet platforms and websites to put warnings next to posts they deem false, as well as order pages blocked from users in the city. While most have complied with the directives, the States Times Review website has refused to obey any of them.

## CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK: CHINA MAY POSTPONE ANNUAL CONGRESS

# Alarm over cruise passengers, as recession looms for Japan

Hundreds of Americans flown home from ship, 14 test positive for virus; global death toll at 1,775

REUTERS & AP  
SHANGHAI, BEIJING, FEBRUARY 17

AUTHORITIES SCRAMBLED on Monday to track hundreds of cruise ship passengers scattered across the world after an American woman who had been on board tested positive for the coronavirus, highlighting the danger of the epidemic spreading globally.

Across mainland China, officials said the total number of coronavirus cases rose by 2,048 to 70,548, with 1,770 deaths. Outside China, more than 500 infections have been confirmed, mostly in people who travelled from Chinese cities, with five deaths — in Japan, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Taiwan and France.

Japan and Singapore appeared to be on the brink of recession as the epidemic disrupted tourism and supply chains around the world, while China imposed tougher restrictions to prevent the virus spreading further.

Holland America Line said it was working with governments and health experts to track passengers who disembarked from its *Westerdam* cruise ship in Cambodia after an American woman tested positive in Malaysia.

The cruise line, which is owned by cruise giant Carnival Corp, said none of the other 1,454 passengers and 802 crew had reported any symptoms.

"Guests who have already returned home will be contacted by their local health department and be provided further information," a statement from the company said.

Passengers had been cleared to travel by Cambodian authorities after health checks when the



GOING DOOR TO DOOR: Workers in protective suits conduct a door-to-door search to inspect residents for coronavirus infection in Wuhan, Hubei province, on Monday. Reuters

cruise ship docked on Thursday. It had spent two weeks at sea after being turned away by Japan, Taiwan, Guam, the Philippines and Thailand.

But on Saturday, Malaysia said an American woman who arrived in Kuala Lumpur on a chartered flight had tested positive for the new coronavirus.

About 137 of the 145 passengers on the chartered flight had already left for other countries as of Sunday after showing no signs of illness, Malaysian authorities said.

Dozens more of the *Westerdam* passengers had flown through Thailand and onward to other countries, Thai officials said.

Meanwhile, more than 300 American passengers have been flown home from the *Diamond Princess* cruise ship after two

weeks under quarantine off Japan, including 14 found to have coronavirus who were kept isolated on the flight.

The *Diamond Princess*, by far the largest cluster of coronavirus cases outside China, has become the biggest test so far of other countries' ability to contain an outbreak.

China said Monday it may postpone its annual congress in March, its biggest political meeting of the year, as the military dispatched hundreds more medical workers and extra supplies to Wuhan, the city hit hardest by the virus outbreak.

The standing committee for the National People's Congress said it believes it is necessary to postpone the gathering to give top priority to people's lives, safety and health, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

### ARMED ROBBERS IN HONG KONG STEAL TOILET ROLLS

**Hong Kong:** Armed robbers who stole hundreds of toilet rolls were being hunted by Hong Kong police Monday, in a city wracked by shortages caused by coronavirus panic-buying. Toilet rolls have become hot property in the densely packed business hub, despite government assurances that supplies remain unaffected by the virus outbreak. Supermarkets have found themselves unable to restock quickly enough, leading to sometimes lengthy queues and shelves stripped bare within moments of opening.

## Gunmen kill 24 in attack on Burkina Faso church

REUTERS  
OUAGADOUGOU, FEBRUARY 17

GUNMEN KILLED 24 people, including a pastor, in an attack on a church during Sunday mass in northwestern Burkina Faso, security sources said on Monday.

It was not immediately clear who was responsible for the attack, which comes as jihadist

groups with links to Al Qaeda and Islamic State seek to gain control over once peaceful rural Burkina Faso.

The timing of the shooting, during a church service in the village of Pansi in the Yagha region, mirrors that of other attacks on Christians in the past year.

Eighteen people were also injured in the attack and an unknown number were kidnapped.

## Nepal ex-Speaker gets clean chit in attempt to rape case

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE  
KATHMANDU, FEBRUARY 17

THE FORMER Speaker of Nepal's House of Representatives, K B Mahara, was given a clean chit on Monday in an attempt to rape case that had led to his resignation and arrest.

Mahara, a senior leader of the ruling Nepal Communist Party, walked free from the Dillibazar jail soon after a judge at the Kathmandu district court read



KB Mahara

out his judgment declaring Mahara innocent in the case.

Mahara had resigned from the Speaker's post in early October after an employee of the Parliament secretariat alleged that he had attempted to rape her. He was subsequently arrested.

### PARLIAMENTARY POLLS

## Khamenei loyalists likely to tighten grip in Iran elections

PARISA HAFEZI  
DUBAI, FEBRUARY 17

HARDLINERS ARE set to tighten control of Iran this week in a parliamentary election stacked in their favour, as the leadership closes ranks in a deepening confrontation with Washington.

More hardliner seats in the February 21 vote may hand them a bigger prize — more leeway to campaign for the 2021 contest for president, a job with wide day-to-day control of government.

Such wide command of the power apparatus would open an era in which the elite Revolutionary Guards, already omnipresent in the life of the nation, hold ever greater sway in political, social and economic affairs.

Allies of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei have ensured hardliners dominate the field, removing moderates and leading conservatives and permitting voters a choice mostly between hardline and low-key con-

### EXPLAINED This election could further dent moderates' influence

THE ELECTION of moderate cleric Hassan Rouhani as President had led to a period of optimism in Iran, during which it struck a deal with world powers to curb its nuclear programme in return for the lifting of crippling economic sanctions. However, the optimism was soon replaced by resentment as US President Donald Trump pulled America out of the pact and reimposed sanctions. Trump further imposed a "maximum pressure" policy on Iran which has allowed the country's hardliners, led by the Supreme Leader, to discredit Rouhani's moderate approach and raise the pitch of anti-West rhetoric. With moderate candidates barred from contesting in the parliamentary polls, the hardliners are seeking to gain more control in the government and put themselves in a better position to win the presidency in 2021.

servative candidates loyal to him.

"Literally, it is not a race anymore. Hardliners want the presidency. This is the end of moderation for at least a decade if not more," said an official. Like hardliners, conservatives back the ruling theocracy, but unlike them

support more engagement with the outside world.

Faced with little choice, many voters are likely to be focused on bread-and-butter issues, in an economy hurt by US President Donald Trump's "maximum pressure" policy. **REUTERS**



Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan at a conference in Islamabad on Monday. Reuters

## Imran: Pak no longer has any safe havens for terrorist groups

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ISLAMABAD, FEBRUARY 17

THERE ARE no "safe havens" for terror groups in Pakistan "right now", Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Monday while acknowledging publicly that it was possibly not the case earlier.

Addressing an international conference marking 40 years of hosting Afghan refugees in the country, he said Pakistan seeks peace in Afghanistan and instability in the war-torn neighbouring country was not in its interest.

Khan's assertion on terror safe havens came as the Financial Action Task Force, the global anti-money laundering watchdog, began a crucial meeting in Paris where Pakistan is trying to wriggle out of being blacklisted for not doing enough to combat terror financing.

"I can tell you that there are no safe havens here," Khan said at a conference here, also attended by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

"Whatever the situation might have been in the past, right now, I can tell you... there is one thing we want: peace in Afghanistan," Khan said.

He admitted that it was possible that such safe heavens were operating in the country after

### SUICIDE BOMBING KILLS 10 IN QUETTA

**Quetta:** At least 10 people were killed in a suicide blast that hit a police vehicle in southwestern Pakistan on Monday, officials said. Two police personnel were among those killed in the blast in the city of Quetta, the capital of Balochistan province, which borders Afghanistan and Iran. "We have received 10 bodies so far and 35 injured in Civil Hospital," a hospital official told Reuters. Two police officers were among the dead, a senior police official confirmed. The suicide bomber wanted to target rally of a religious group, but blew himself up when police stopped him, police said.

9/11 in the Afghan refugee camps, *The News* reported.

Khan's assertion came after Afghanistan's second vice-president, Sarwar Danish accused Pakistan of allowing the Taliban to recruit new fighters from Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan to launch attacks in his country.

## 'Locust-hit Pak may make exception to trade freeze with India to import insecticides'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ISLAMABAD, FEBRUARY 17

REELING UNDER a major locust attack, Pakistan may allow a one-time exemption to import insecticides from India despite the trade ban which was imposed after New Delhi revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir in August last, according to a media report on Monday.

Importing insecticides from India will be discussed during the Pakistan federal Cabinet's meeting on Tuesday, *Dawn News* reported.

Pakistan is facing its worst locust attack in decades, after insects destroyed crops on a large scale in Punjab province, the country's main region for agricultural production.

In a meeting earlier in the month, Prime Minister Imran Khan declared the locust attack a national emergency.

The meeting, which was attended by federal ministers and senior officials of the four provinces, also approved a

### Pakistan is facing its worst locust attack in decades, after insects destroyed crops on a large scale in Punjab province, the country's top region for agricultural production

National Action Plan that requires a sum of Rs 7.3 billion to overcome the crisis.

Other topics to be discussed by the Cabinet on Tuesday include gas pricing and power bill mandates for getting the International Monetary Fund's next tranche of funds of \$450 million, the report said.

The Pakistan government considering the import of insecticides from India comes seven months after Islamabad on August 9 decided to suspend all trade ties with India following New Delhi's decision to abrogate Article 370, revoking the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

## WITNESSES DESCRIBE A RAUCOUS WORKPLACE CULTURE AMONG OFFICERS AT THE AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

# Life of an elite CIA programmer: Toy guns, pranks and fat jokes

NICOLE HONG  
FEBRUARY 17

INSIDE A secret government building west of Washington, D.C. — past the armed guards, through the turnstiles and coded locks, into a vaulted office with the highest security clearance — sat the CIA's team of elite programmers.

They had the weighty mission of creating the hacking tools used by the CIA to spy on foreign governments and terrorists. If that job description conjures Hollywood images of serious officers in dark suits huddling over clandestine

operations, a different picture emerged during a federal trial in Manhattan this month.

The work culture described by CIA officers on the witness stand more closely resembled comedies like *The Office* or *Silicon Valley* than spy thrillers like *Jack Ryan*.

From their cubicles, the programmers sent prank emails, taunted colleagues about their physical appearance and shot each other with toy guns and rubber bands, according to trial testimony.

The man on trial, Joshua Schulte, is a former CIA computer engineer who is accused of stealing a massive archive of

classified documents and giving them to WikiLeaks, the anti-secrecy organisation. Schulte, 31, has denied the allegations.

WikiLeaks published the information in 2017, the biggest leak of classified CIA documents in the spy agency's history.

For the past two weeks, Schulte's former colleagues have taken the stand to explain a thicket of CIA computer networks, guiding jurors through a digital trail that prosecutors say led to Schulte as the leaker. Testimony will resume Tuesday.

The government charges that



Schulte stole the documents to retaliate against his managers, who he believed did not take his

workplace complaints seriously.

Multiple CIA witnesses — testifying under pseudonyms or

with first names only — have described an office culture at odds with the myth of the agency.

The trial testimony has focused on a corner of the CIA's Center for Cyber Intelligence, where Schulte worked until his resignation in 2016. Every developer in Schulte's group, which was predominantly made up of men, had top-secret security clearance, one witness testified.

The group worked on classified projects, writing the code that allowed other CIA officers to carry out sophisticated cyber operations and penetrate the computer networks of foreign targets.

Though Schulte's former co-workers said the office was focused on the national security mission, it was also a breeding ground for sophomoric pranks and fights.

One CIA employee, identified only as Michael, testified that he and Schulte once flicked each other with rubber bands until late at night in the office. The fight escalated, and they wrecked each other's desks. Then, backed up against a desk, Michael said he hit Schulte.

Another CIA employee, who used the pseudonym Jeremy Weber, testified that once, when he left his computer open, Schulte

used it to send a profane message to everyone in their group under Weber's name.

Schulte, who was known for being a difficult colleague, had a particularly strained relationship with another developer, identified only as Amol.

During an argument in early 2016 between the two men, Weber testified that he tried to intervene, telling Schulte to be "the bigger man." Schulte responded, "We all know who the bigger man is," a reference to Amol's weight, according to Weber.

A spokesman for the CIA declined to comment. **NYT**

# 15 ECONOMY

<b>GOLD</b>	<b>RUPEE</b>	<b>OIL</b>	<b>SILVER</b>
₹41,565	₹71.32	\$54.93	₹47,170

\*Indian basket as on February 13, 2020

SENSEX: 41,055.69 ▼ 202.05 NIFTY: 12,045.80 ▼ 67.65 NIKKEI: 23,523.24 ▼ 164.35 HANG SENG: 27,959.60 ▲ 144.00 FTSE: 7,430.40 ▲ 21.27 DAX: 13,770.10 ▲ 25.89

\*International market data till 1900 IST

## AFTER SC RAP OVER FAILING TO MAKE AGR PAYMENTS BY JAN 23 DEADLINE

# Airtel, Voda Idea, Tata Tele pay part of AGR dues; boards huddle to chalk out strategy

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

FOLLOWING THE Supreme Court's rap for failing to make adjusted gross revenue (AGR) payments by the stipulated deadline of January 23, at least three telecom companies made a part of their payments on Monday, and informed the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) about their willingness to make the rest of the payment in due course.

On Monday, Bharti Airtel was the first one to inform the exchanges that it had made a payment of Rs 10,000 crore to the DoT.

This included a sum of Rs 500 crore for Bharti Hexacom, a subsidiary of the company, and Telenor India, which had merged with the parent company.

"The Company is in a process of completing the self-assessment exercise expeditiously and will make the balance payment upon completion of the same,

### Telecom department actively engaging with firms, says FM

**Bengaluru:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said the telecom department has been actively engaging with telecom companies over the issue of statutory dues and she would wait to hear its decision.

Post the court's latest verdict, it will only be proper to wait and hear from the department concerned, she told reporters. "The department has

before the next date of hearing," Bharti Airtel said in a statement to exchanges.

Vodafone Idea, which faces a payout of more than Rs 53,000 crore, tried to persuade the apex court on Monday "for directions to be issued to the DoT to not take any coercive steps for recovery of AGR dues".

The oral plea, however, was

not entertained by the SC.

The coercive action, sources said, could be invocation of bank guarantees submitted by the company with the banks.

Later in the day, Vodafone Idea said it had made a payment of Rs 2,500 crore to the DoT, and would make of payment of Rs 1,000 crore by Friday.

"The Board will take further

stock of the situation to see how further additional payments can be made," it said in an update with exchanges.

The payment of Rs 3,500 crore is the principal amount of the AGR calculated by the company, sources said.

Last Friday, while saying that it was ready to make the AGR payment, Vodafone Idea had also mentioned that its ability to continue as a going concern was dependent on the outcome of its modification plea for the order, which had asked them to pay the AGR dues within three months.

Tata Teleservices — which faces a payout of close of Rs 14,000 crore — also said that it had paid Rs 2,197 crore to the DoT on Monday.

Both the DoT and the telecom operators had faced the ire of the SC over non-payment of AGR dues on time.

A three-judge bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra also issued show-cause notice to the telcos for not having paid the AGR dues on time.

On October 24, 2019, the apex court had upheld the DoT's definition of AGR and said since the licensees had agreed to the migration packages, they were liable to pay the dues, the penalty on dues, and the interest on penalty due to the delay in payments. The SC had then given the telcos three months to clear their AGR dues.

That deadline ended on January 23, before which the telcos unsuccessfully tried to persuade the DoT to give them more time.

The total payout by all telecom companies could be as high as Rs 1.47 lakh crore after dues for spectrum usage charges (SUC) linked to the AGR payout are also taken into account.

Industry sources said that while Vodafone Idea may have to shell out as much as Rs 53,000 crore, Bharti Airtel will have to pay nearly Rs 35,590 crore. And Tata Teleservices, which sold its business to Bharti Airtel, will have to pay as much as Rs 14,000 crore in AGR dues.

## NCLAT grants immunity from ED probe to JSW Steel, Bhushan Power

**AASHISH ARYAN**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

CLEARING THE hurdles in the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) of Bhushan Power and Steel, the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) Monday gave complete immunity to JSW Steel from investigation by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for alleged money laundering by erstwhile promoters of the debt-laden company.

The probe against Bhushan Power's erstwhile promoters, however, will continue in accordance with the law, said the two-member NCLAT bench. In its judgment, the appellate tribunal held that the corporate debtor, Bhushan Power, will be immune from all probe by the ED, the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Serious Fraud Investigation Office.

However, if the ED were to eventually establish through its probe that the assets created at Bhushan Power were from "proceeds of crime", a fair value for those assets will be determined, and the investigative agency could file its claims in the CIRP process as an operational creditor.

The ED — which is probing Bhushan Power for alleged irreg-

### The probe against Bhushan Power's erstwhile promoters, however, will continue

ularities and money laundering — had in January told the NCLAT that it would, apart from probing the former promoters of Bhushan Power and the company, also probe JSW Steel, as it was a related party. Citing a joint venture (JV) formed by JSW Steel and Bhushan Power, the Directorate had told the NCLAT that the new amendment would only apply prospectively, and not retrospectively.

The NCLAT on Monday, however, overruled this stance of the ED and held that just because JSW Steel had formed a JV with Bhushan Power for Rohne coal block, it did not make the two related parties. The JV, the NCLAT held, was formed because of certain conditions stipulated by the Centre, and therefore would not make both the companies related parties as defined under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

The appellate tribunal also overruled the attachment of properties by the ED, and said that as the action had been taken after the

approval of JSW Steel's resolution plan on September 5, it must be annulled. JSW Steel — which had at Rs 19,700 crore placed the winning bid for Bhushan Power — had been wary, owing to cases pending against the latter. This was after the ED remained firm on its idea to attach the properties of Bhushan Power, as well as its former promoters and directors for alleged money laundering. The ED had, last October, started attaching properties worth nearly Rs 4,000 crore belonging to Bhushan Power. Following the raids, JSW Steel approached the NCLAT.

The stance taken by the ED was in direct contrast with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs' (MCA) understanding of the IBC, where the latter said that though ED can continue with its probe against the erstwhile promoters under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, the assets of the corporate debtor — after the resolution plan is approved — must remain immune to any proceedings. Centre, and therefore would not make both the companies related parties as defined under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

Later, the MCA absolved itself of any responsibility, and said that the onus of checking whether the resolution plan for Bhushan Power submitted by JSW Steel passed all IBC checks lay with the adjudicating authority and investigating agencies, and not the Centre.

## TECH WATCH

### FREE PUBLIC INTERNET

## Google to stop 'Station' WiFi project; points to cheaper, more accessible data and infra challenges

Free WiFi to continue, says RailTel



Express Photo

**PRANAV MUKUL**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

EVEN THOUGH it surpassed its targets of rolling out free WiFi at railway stations, Google said Monday it was winding down its Station programme globally over the year. Google cited cheaper and more accessible mobile data, government initiatives to provide access to internet for everyone and the challenge of varying technical requirements and infrastructure among its partners across nations as the reasons to explain its decision of shutting down the programme, which commenced in India in 2015 and was later expanded to several other countries.

Meanwhile, state-owned RailTel said it will continue to provide free WiFi at over 5,600 railway stations across the country. "In this partnership, Google provided the RAN and technology support and RailTel provided the physical infrastructure and internet bandwidth (ISP). But going forward, apart from these 415 stations, we have also provided free WiFi in 5190+ B, C, D stations as well," RailTel said in a statement.

In India, the Station programme was a part of Google's broader vision of bringing on the "next billion users" online.

"We launched Station in India in 2015, as a partnership between Google, Indian Railways and RailTel to bring fast, free public WiFi to over 400 of the busiest railway stations in India by mid-2020. But we crossed that number by June 2018 and implemented Station in thousands of other locations around the country in partnership with telecommunications companies, ISPs and local authorities. Over time, partners in other

countries asked for Station too and we responded accordingly," Caesar Sengupta, VP—Payments and Next Billion Users, Google wrote in a blog-post Monday. "... we've made the decision to gradually wind down the Station programme globally, through 2020. We are working with our partners to transition existing sites so they can remain useful resources for the community," he added.

In addition to India, the Station programme was available in Brazil, South Africa, Nigeria, Thailand, the Philippines, Mexico, Indonesia, and Vietnam. The first station in India to go live on the programme was Mumbai Central.

"India, specifically now has among the cheapest mobile data per GB in the world, with mobile data prices having reduced by 95 per cent in the last 5 years, as per TRAI in 2019. Today, Indian users consume close to 10 GB of data, each month, on average. And similar to what the Indian government did, several governments and local entities have kicked off their own initiatives to provide easier, cost-effective access to the internet for everyone," Sengupta wrote in the blog.

"... when we evaluate where we can truly make an impact in the future, we see greater need and bigger opportunities in building products and features tailored to work better for the next billion user markets," he added.

According to the latest available data shared by Google, Google Station had close to 8 million monthly active users across 400 stations in 2018. Notably, the data showed that the consumption was much higher in tier-II cities with average data consumption at around 350 MB per user.

## 'Domestic air passenger traffic up 2.2% in Jan'

The domestic air passenger traffic in January rose 2.2 per cent to 1.27 crore compared to the same month in 2019, according to data released by DGCA



**AIRLINES' SHARE OF DOMESTIC PASSENGER MARKET IN JANUARY**

- IndiGo: 47.9 per cent
- SpiceJet: 16.6 per cent
- Air India: 11.6 per cent
- GoAir: 9.8 per cent
- AirAsia India: 6.9 per cent
- Vistara: 6.5 per cent

**AIRLINES THAT REPORTED DECLINE IN PASSENGER LOAD FACTORS IN JANUARY OVER DECEMBER:**

- Air India
- GoAir
- AirAsia India
- SpiceJet
- IndiGo

**ON-TIME PERFORMANCE OF AIRLINES IN JANUARY AT BENGALURU, DELHI, HYDERABAD AND MUMBAI:**

- AirAsia India: 75.7 per cent
- IndiGo: 74 per cent
- Vistara: 70.2 per cent

**798:** Passenger-related complaints received by domestic airlines in January

**0.62:** Complaints per 10,000 passengers carried for December

**2.56%:** Growth in domestic traffic in December 2019 over December 2018

**1.9:** Complaints per 10,000 passengers in September reported by Air India

## Recovery 'shallow': Moody's slash India's 2020 growth forecast to 5.4% from 6.6%

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 17

GLOBAL RATING agency Moody's Monday cut India's growth forecast for 2020 to 5.4 per cent from 6.6 per cent projected earlier, stating that any economic recovery will be "shallow" and "slower" than previously expected.

"While the economy may well begin to recover in the current quarter, we expect any recovery to be slower than we had previously expected. Accordingly, we have revised our growth forecasts to 5.4 per cent for 2020 and 5.8 per cent for 2021, down from our previous projections of 6.6 per cent and 6.7 per cent respectively," Moody's said in its update on Global Macro Outlook, adding that India's economy has decelerated rapidly over the last 2 years and recovery is likely to be 'shallow'.

Last week, S&P — while af-

### EXPLAINED Quick turnaround unlikely

MOODY'S SAYS that the key to stronger economic momentum would be revival of domestic demand and bank credit growth. The Union Budget 2020 did not contain a significant stimulus to address the demand slump. With a weak economy and depressed credit growth reinforcing each other, it is difficult to envision a quick turnaround of either, even if economic deceleration may have troughed.

firming India's sovereign rating at 'BBB-' — had said the economic growth rate is likely to improve to 6 per cent in FY21, 7 per cent in the following fiscal and 7.4 per cent thereafter. It said that India's structural growth outperformance remains intact despite a notable deceleration in economy.

Moody's — which estimated that India's GDP grew 5 per cent in 2019 — had, in November 2019, projected growth in 2020 and 2021 at 6.6 per cent and 6.7 per cent, respectively. Stating that the key to stronger momentum would be the revival of domestic demand and bank credit growth, the rating agency said that Budget 2020 did not contain a significant stimulus to address the demand slump. With a weak economy and depressed credit growth reinforcing each other, Moody's said "it is difficult to envision a quick turnaround of either, even if economic deceleration may have troughed".

## 'Sebi to come out with circular to prevent Karvy-like incidents'

Regulator's board approves norms for investment advisers

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 17

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Monday said Karvy Broking Services Ltd (KSBL) has informed the stock exchange that it's planning to sell stake in a subsidiary to meet the shortfall of Rs 678 crore in client payout obligations by March this year. Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi said the capital markets regulator will soon come out with a circular to prevent incidents like KSBL, which had allegedly misused clients' securities.

"As on February 14, the total dues of Karvy is about Rs 1,189 crore. While banks have securities worth only Rs 511 crore, there is a shortfall of Rs 678 crore ... NSE (National Stock Exchange) has issued notices to Karvy and the broking firm has told the exchange that it is in the process of selling a firm for which term sheet has been accepted and clear all its dues to clients and banks by March end," the Sebi Chairman said, adding, "So we will wait and see."

In November 2019, Sebi barred KSBL from taking new brokerage clients after it was found that the latter had allegedly misused clients' securities to the tune of more than Rs 2,000 crore.

The Sebi board on Monday also approved norms for investment advisers and said that an individual adviser cannot provide distribution services, while firms would now need to segregate advisory and distribution activities at the client level.

The markets regulator also tightened its eligibility norms for investment advisers and decided to introduce an upper limit for their fees.

Apart from this, the Sebi board decided to allow live testing of new products, services and business models by market players on a limited set of eligible customers.

To begin with, all Sebi-registered entities will be eligible to



Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi (centre), along with officials in Mumbai on Monday. Amit Chakravarty

### REGULATORY SANDBOX GETS NOD

The board of Securities and Exchange Board of India decided to allow live testing of new products, services and business models by market players on select customers

All Sebi-registered entities will be eligible to participate in a 'regulatory sandbox' — a live testing environment where new products, services and business models can be deployed on a limited set of eligible customers for a specified period of time with certain relaxations in rules and guidelines, Sebi said.

Subsequently, Sebi said fintech startups and other entities that are not regulated by it may also be allowed, but no exemptions would be granted from the

existing investor protection framework, KYC and anti-money laundering rules.

The regulator also decided to allow a cross domain approach for this regulatory sandbox, wherein a regulated entity will be permitted to test solutions even for those activities for which it is not registered.

Tyagi, whose tenure as Chairman ends on March 1, said Sebi is "actively looking" at recategorisation of mid-cap and small-cap stocks for mutual funds.

Speaking about his work at Sebi, he said it was a deep dive job rather than being on surface. "My team and I believed in wide consultation with stakeholders, we were transparent and did what we did cautiously. At the same time, we also ensured there was no regulatory capture of the regulator," Tyagi said.

On extension of deadline for listed companies to split posts of chairman and managing director to April 2022, Tyagi said there were implementation issues. Only 50 per cent of top 500 companies had segregated these roles. Practicalities and implementation issues led to extending deadline, he said.

Tyagi added that the Sebi board has not taken any decision to transfer its surplus to the Centre.

## PEOPLE'S BANK OF CHINA DRAINS A NET 700 BN YUAN VIA OPEN MARKET OPERATIONS

# China cuts medium-term rate to soften coronavirus hit to economy

**REUTERS**  
SHANGHAI, FEBRUARY 17

CHINA'S CENTRAL bank cut the interest rate on its medium-term lending on Monday as policymakers sought to ease the drag to the businesses from a coronavirus outbreak that has severely disrupted activity.

The move is expected to pave the way for a reduction in the country's benchmark loan prime rate (LPR), which will be announced on Thursday, to lower borrowing costs and ease financial strains on companies hit by

the virus epidemic. The People's Bank of China (PBOC) said it was lowering the rate on 200 billion yuan (\$28.65 billion) worth of one-year medium-term lending facility (MLF) loans to financial institutions by 10 basis points (bps) to 3.15 per cent from 3.25 per cent previously.

The cut helped Chinese stock markets rally, which in turn lent support to other Asian bourses.

The central bank attributed the move to keep banking system liquidity "reasonably ample" to counter factors including maturing reverse repos, but it did not address the specific rea-



A woman wears a face mask and a raincoat as protection from coronavirus at Shanghai railway station. Reuters

son for the rate move.

No MLF loans were due to mature on Monday.

Earlier this month, the PBOC unexpectedly lowered the interest rates on reverse repurchase agreements by 10 basis points as the virus outbreak escalated.

Traders and analysts said cutting the MLF rate following a similar move in the reverse repo rate would help the reduction in rates to feed through to longer-term lending. The coronavirus outbreak has hit the Chinese economy just as it was starting to show some signs of stabilising after 2019 growth cooled to its

slowest pace in nearly 30 years. The virus has already killed more than 1,700 people and infected more than 70,000 and is yet to show convincing signs of peaking with more than 2,048 new cases reported on Monday.

Some analysts believe China's economy could contract in the first quarter on a sequential basis due to the shock to business and tough public health restrictions. With transport curbs still in place in many parts of the country, economic activity in China remains subdued, although there are reports more factories are slowly resuming production.

# OYO net loss widens to \$335 mn in FY19, revenue rises five-fold

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

OYO HOTELS & Homes & Homes Monday said its consolidated losses rose to \$335 million in the year to March 2019 from \$52 million in FY18, as expansion into global markets, including key market China, entailed heavy costs.

Consolidated revenues grew nearly 5 times year-on-year to \$951 million in FY19. Revenues stood at about \$211 million in FY18, OYO said.

The Gurgaon-based company, however, said it narrowed its net losses in India from 24 per cent of revenue in FY18 to 14 per cent of revenue to \$83 million in FY19. India contributed \$604 million in revenues, registering an almost three-fold rise on a yearly basis, while revenues from China stood at \$307 million; the remainder came from rest of the markets.

On the earnings call, Rohit Kapoor, chief executive officer, OYO India and South Asia, said as far as India is concerned, there is no "deadline" for any business to

**The company said India contributed \$604 million in revenues, registering an almost three-fold rise on a yearly basis, while revenues from China stood at \$307 million; the remainder came from rest of the markets**

come to the path of Ebitda profitability — what is required is to have a clear path to profitability. "We have the runway to keep doing our businesses with a logical outcome," he added.

Aditya Ghosh, member, board of directors, said while among international markets, China remains a priority, the firm is also seeing a lot more traction in markets like the United States, United Kingdom and Japan.

Last year, OYO said it will invest \$300 million in growing its US business.

OYO's valuation report filed with the Registrar of Companies in November 2019 had shown its losses ballooned more than 6.6 times to Rs 2,385 crore (\$334.12 million) in FY19.

The company's revenue from operations, however, increased about 4.5 times to Rs 6,457 crore

(\$904.59 million), according to the report.

The audited results released on Monday are in line with the valuation report which the firm claimed to be provisional.

Since it was set up in 2013, OYO has been on an expansion spree, widening its footprint to 80 countries.

The firm said it has over 43,000 asset partners and claims to have hosted over 180 million guests from more than 120 nationalities between January-December 2019. Start-ups, however, have come under investor scrutiny post the WeWork debacle. Major global investors including SoftBank are understood to be tweaking their investment strategy and portfolio companies have been asked to chase profitability rather than valuations. **FE**

# DEAL TO HELP GMR INFRASTRUCTURE REDUCE ₹4,141 CR DEBT

## JSW Energy to acquire GMR's Odisha thermal plant for ₹5.3K cr

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

### WILL BOOST JSW ENERGY'S CAPACITY

■ After acquisition of GMR Kamalanga Energy, the GMR Infrastructure unit that houses the power plant, JSW Energy's installed power generation capacity will be 5,609 MW

■ Price to be paid is subject to working capital and other adjustments and the transaction shall be subject to customary regulatory and other approvals for its completion, JSW said

JSW ENERGY Monday said it will take over 100 per cent stake in GMR Kamalanga Energy (GKEL), the business unit of GMR Infrastructure that houses the 1,050 mega watt (MW) thermal power plant in Odisha, for Rs 5,321 crore.

After the acquisition, JSW Energy's installed power generation capacity would reach 5,609 MW. About 84 per cent of the plant's capacity supplies electricity to Odisha, Haryana and Bihar under long-term power purchase agreements. It also has adequate coal supply arrangements from nearby mines, reducing fuel costs and resulting in lower risks of under-recoveries. The deal will help GMR Infrastructure cut its debt of Rs 4,141 crore which the company owed to IDFC (lead lender), SBI, IDBI, Canara Bank and UCO Bank. GMR had infused equity of Rs 2,250 crore into this power plant.

It was not immediately known how much haircut has been borne by the lenders. Operating the plant did not turn out to be viable for GMR as the competitive rates (Rs 2.89 per unit-Rs 3.39 per unit) at which it sold power was not sufficient to cover the costs.

The price to be paid is subject to working capital and other adjustments and the transaction shall be subject to customary regulatory and other approvals for its completion, JSW said.

Sector experts pointed out that JSW, with its strong balance sheet, is seen to reduce borrowing

costs and improve the cost economics of the plant. JSW Energy is also eyeing acquisition of the 700 MW Ind-Barath (Utkal) plant through the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) route. It expects to complete the Utkal plant deal by Q2FY21.

Other stressed plants resolved outside the NCLT include Tata Power acquiring 75 per cent stake in Prayagraj Power Generation Company Ltd's 1,980 MW Bara power plant for Rs 6,000 crore (reflecting a haircut of more than 50 per cent). Hong Kong-based Agritrade Resources Ltd agreeing

to purchase 100 per cent of the equity in SKS Power's Binjkote power plant for Rs 2,170 crore (at 57 per cent haircut).

In a first instance of resolution of a stressed power asset outside the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) mechanism where the promoters have retained management control, Aditya Birla Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd agreed to take over RattanIndia Power's 1,350 MW Amravati plant's Rs 4,050 crore debt with funding from foreign investors including US-based Goldman Sachs and Varde Partners. A consortium of lenders led by Power Finance Corporation agreed to take a 36 per cent haircut through this deal.

Under the IBC, NHPC — in September 2019 — signed an agreement to take over and commission the 500-MW Teesta-6 hydro electric project in Sikkim. State-run power generator NTPC is also preparing to bid for the distressed 600 MW Jhabua power plant in the NCLT. **FE**

# BRIEFLY

## Goyal proposes discontinuing SEIS incentives

New Delhi: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal Monday proposed to discontinue export incentives under Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS) to the services sector as it has not helped India "increase shipments positively".

## FinCom sets up expert group on agri exports

New Delhi: The 15th Finance Commission Monday decided to set up an eight-member high level expert group headed by ITC chairman Sanjiv Puri to recommend strategies and steps to raise farm productivity and boost exports.

## SBI Cards gets Sebi go-ahead to float IPO

New Delhi: SBI Cards and Payment Services, the credit card unit of State Bank of India (SBI), has received Sebi's go ahead to float an initial public offering (IPO).

## Microsoft sets up engineering hub in Noida

New Delhi: Microsoft Monday said it has set up a new development centre in Noida, its third such facility in India, that will serve as an engineering and innovation hub for the company. **PTI**

## Alstom to buy Bombardier unit for up to \$6.7 bn

Paris/Montreal: France's Alstom said Monday it had agreed to buy the rail unit of Canada's Bombardier for up to \$6.7 billion. **REUTERS**

## EU industry chief tells FB to adapt to EU, not other way round

REUTERS  
BRUSSELS, FEBRUARY 17

EU INDUSTRY commissioner Thierry Breton said on Monday it was for Facebook to adapt to Europe's standards, not the other way round, as he criticised the US social media giant's proposed internet rules as insufficient.

The blunt comments came after a short meeting with Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and two days before Breton is due to present the first of a raft of rules to rein in US tech giants and state-aided Chinese companies. "It's not for us to adapt to this company, it's for this company to adapt to us," Breton said.

Zuckerberg had earlier told reporters he had a good, wide-ranging conversation with Breton. Breton also said he would decide by the end of the year whether to adopt tough rules as part of the digital services act to regulate online platforms and set out their responsibilities.

He dismissed a discussion paper issued by Facebook on Monday that rejects what it calls intrusive regulations and suggests looser rules whereby companies would periodically report content and publish enforcement data.

ported in November. Readings of less than 100 indicate trade growth below medium-term trends.

The WTO said the new figure did not take into account the most recent developments, such as the outbreak of the new coronavirus, which could dampen trade prospects further.

Global merchandise trade fell by 0.2 per cent year-on-year in the third quarter of 2019, the WTO said, with a possible pick-up in the fourth quarter.

# RBI gets over ₹1.94 lakh cr of bids for maiden ₹25K-cr LTRO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 17

THE RESERVE Bank on Monday successfully kicked off the maiden long-term reverse repo operation (LTROs) by conducting a three-year issue worth Rs 25,000 crore for which it received bids of more than Rs 1.94 lakh crore. Deploying an out-of-the-box tool to ensure permanent and deeper liquidity in the system, which hovers over Rs 2.5 lakh crore on a daily basis now, the Reserve Bank on February 6, had announced Rs 1 lakh crore of long-term reverse repo operations beginning this Monday.

The RBI will conduct the second issue for Rs 25,000 crore on February 24 which will have one-year tenor.

"Today, the Reserve Bank conducted the first long term repo operation (LTRO) for a notified amount of Rs 25,000 crore with a three-year tenor in pursuance of the LTROs announced on February 7," the monetary authority said in a statement.

The response to the LTRO has been so encouraging that bids crossed Rs 1,94,414 crore, implying a bid to cover ratio of 7.8. Total amount of bids has, in fact, exceeded the aggregate amount of Rs 1 lakh crore proposed to be offered under the LTRO scheme, it noted. The central bank allotted the bills on a pro-rata basis to 63 applicants with total allotted amount at Rs 25,035 crore, taking the pro-rata allotment percentage to 12.86.

The reversal date of these repos is February 16, 2023, it said, adding the operations were conducted on the E-Kuber platform.

Issuing the LTROs guidelines, the RBI has said these measures would be in addition to the existing LAF and MSF operations. The operations would be conducted at a fixed rate.

Banks would be required to place their requests for the amount sought under LTRO during the window timing at the prevailing policy repo rate. Bids below or above policy rate will be rejected.

# RIL consolidates media, distribution businesses into Network18 umbrella

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 17

RELIANCE INDUSTRIES (RIL) on Monday announced the consolidation of its media and distribution businesses spread across multiple entities into Network18.

Under the scheme of arrangement, TV18 Broadcast, Hathway Cable & Datacom and Den Networks will merge into Network18 Media & Investments. The appointed date for the merger will be February 1. The board of directors of the respective companies approved the scheme at their meetings held on Monday.

The broadcasting business will be housed in Network18 and the cable and ISP businesses in two separate wholly-owned subsidiaries of Network18. The re-

structuring will create value-chain integration, and render substantial economies of scale. The scheme will also simplify the group's corporate structure by reducing the number of listed entities.

"The aggregation of a content powerhouse across news and entertainment (both linear and digital) and the country's largest cable distribution network under the same umbrella will boost efficiency and exploit synergies, creating value for all stakeholders," RIL said. "The media industry is accelerating towards being a B2C play, led both by market factors and through regulation. An integrated media play will further increase the breadth as well as depth of the group's consumer touchpoints, and allow for retaining a larger share of the consumer's spend on content," it said.

# 'P-note investments hit nearly 11-year low till Dec-end'

Investments in Indian capital market via P-notes were at ₹64,537 crore till the end of December 2019, as per Sebi data



P-notes are issued by registered foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who wish to be part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly

**₹69,670 CR**  
P-NOTE INVESTMENTS VALUE IN INDIAN MARKETS — EQUITY, DEBT, DERIVATIVES — AS OF NOVEMBER-END

**₹60,948 CR**  
CUMULATIVE VALUE OF SUCH INVESTMENTS IN FEBRUARY 2009, THE LOWEST EVER ON RECORD

**Changes brought about in September by Sebi:**  
■ Simplified KYC requirements and registration process for FPIs  
■ Broad-based classification of such investors

**Impact of liberalised norms:**  
Market experts believe that liberalised norm for FPIs by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) is impacting investment through P-notes route

■ **₹76,773 crore:** Total investment registered at end of October, which was first gain after a continuous decline since June

■ **December investments at a near 11-year low:** Investments through participatory notes (P-notes) till December were at a near 11-year low

**Segment-wise investment in December:**  
Equities: ₹52,486 crore  
Debt: ₹11,415 crore  
Derivatives: ₹636 crore

**Under the new rules, FPIs have been divided into two categories**

Source: SEBI/PTI

# Mistry files appeal in SC; says his family deserved more relief from NCLAT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 17

LESS THAN a month after the Supreme Court stayed an order reinstating him as Tata Sons chairman, Cyrus Mistry has moved the apex court seeking removal of many anomalies in the NCLAT order, saying his family deserved more relief from the tribunal.

Mistry — whose family owns 18.37 per cent stake in Tata Sons — has filed a cross appeal in the court.

Generally, a cross appeal refers to an appeal made against certain facets of a judgement.

On January 25, a three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice Arvind Bobde stayed the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) order, dated December 18, 2019, wherein Mistry was reinstated as Tata Sons chairman. The stay came on an appeal filed by Tata Group.

In the petition, Mistry has described the group's relationship

As per the petition, which has been accessed by PTI, the Cyrus Mistry camp has sought remedies for many anomalies in the NCLAT order

with Tatas as "a quasi-partnership relationship of a vintage of over 60 years, holding 18.37 per cent in the equity share capital of Tata Sons and whose stake is now worth over Rs 1.5 lakh crore".

According to the petition, which has been accessed by PTI, the Mistry camp has sought remedies for many anomalies in the NCLAT order, including about not looking at alleged oppression of minority shareholders as well as converting Tata Sons into a private limited company as a post-facto move.

The conversion happened after Mistry was removed as chairman on October 24, 2016.

# 'India becomes 5th largest economy; ahead of UK, France'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

INDIA EMERGED as the world's fifth largest economy by overtaking the UK and France in 2019, says a report.

A US-based think tank World Population Review in its report said that India is developing into an open-market economy from its previous autarkic policies. "India's economy is the fifth largest in the world with a GDP of \$2.94 trillion, overtaking the UK and France in 2019 to take the fifth spot," it said.

The size of the UK economy is \$2.83 trillion and that of France is \$2.71 trillion.

The report further said that in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms, India's GDP (PPP) is \$10.51 trillion, exceeding that of Japan and Germany.

Due to India's high population, India's GDP per capita is \$2,170 (for comparison, the US is \$62,794).

# GM shuts Australia, NZ ops; sells Thai plant to Great Wall

REUTERS  
NEW YORK/BEIJING, FEB 17

GENERAL MOTORS Co said it would wind down its Australian and New Zealand operations and sell a Thai plant in the latest restructuring of its global business, costing the US auto maker \$1.1 billion. The moves will accelerate GM's retreat from unprofitable markets, making it more dependent on the United States, China, Latin America and South Korea, and give up an opening to expand in Southeast Asia.

They come after the company told analysts this month that restructuring GM's international operations outside of China to produce profit margins in the mid-single digits would represent "a \$2 billion improvement" on two years ago.

GM has forecast a flat profit for 2020 after a difficult 2019, and is facing ballooning interest in electric car rival Tesla Inc.

GM is "focusing on markets where we have the right strategies to drive robust returns, and prioritizing global investments that will drive growth in the future of mobility," especially in electric and autonomous vehicles, GM Chair and CEO Mary Barra said in a statement late on Sunday.

The latest changes — a continuation of GM's retreat from Asia that began in 2015 when it an-



A car dealership of Holden, General Motors Co.'s Australian subsidiary, in Sydney, Australia. AP

nounced it would stop making GM-branded cars in Indonesia — will lead to cash and non-cash charges of \$1.1 billion. Some 600 jobs will be lost in Australia and New Zealand, while GM said about 1,500 jobs would be affected by the sale in Thailand.

Barra has prioritised profit margins over sales volume and global presence since taking over in 2014.

In 2017, she sold GM's European Opel and Vauxhall businesses to Peugeot SA and exited South Africa and other African markets. Since then, Barra has decided to pull GM out of Vietnam, Indonesia and India.

Like Britain, Australia and New Zealand are right-hand drive mar-

kets. With sales of GM's Australian Holden brand plummeting, the company could not justify the investment to continue building right-hand drive vehicles, GM president Mark Reuss said.

The move stoked anger in Australia, where GM Holden long ranked among the country's best selling car companies after the first locally made mass-production car rolled off the assembly line with a Holden badge in 1948.

Amid continuous decline in new car sales, GM said it was ending Australian factory production in 2017 and last year called time on former best-seller the Commodore as part of a shift towards more compact SUVs and utility vehicles.

# Japan on brink of recession as economy contracts, coronavirus heightens risk

REUTERS  
TOKYO, FEBRUARY 17

JAPAN'S ECONOMY shrank at the fastest pace in almost six years in the December quarter as a sales tax hike hit consumer and business spending, raising the risk of a recession as China's coronavirus outbreak chills global activity.

Analysts say the widening fallout from the epidemic, which is damaging output and tourism,

could have a significant impact on Japan if it's not contained in coming months.

Japan's gross domestic product (GDP) shrank an annualised 6.3 per cent in the October-December period, government data showed on Monday, much faster than a median market forecast for a 3.7 per cent drop and the first decline in five quarters.

It was the biggest fall since the second quarter of 2014, when consumption crumbled after a sales tax hike in April of that year.

# WTO: 2020 trade growth likely to remain weak due to coronavirus outbreak

REUTERS  
BRUSSELS, FEBRUARY 17

GROWTH OF global trade in goods is likely to remain weak in early 2020, the World Trade Organization (WTO) said on Monday, adding that the below-trend performance could become even worse due to the new coronavirus.

The Geneva-based trade body said its goods trade indicator fell to 95.5 from the 96.6 reading re-



COVID-19 AND TRADE

# A deadly disease disrupts

The new coronavirus could have a lasting impact on global supply chains. Multinationals have failed to take seriously the risk of disruption

TO GLIMPSE the impact of the new coronavirus on global businesses, consider Apple. Such is the American tech titan's reliance on the Chinese mainland for parts and assembly that United Airlines typically shuttles some 50 of its executives between California and China each day. But not at the moment. United and other carriers have suspended flights to and from China. A lack of workers meant that after the end of the lunar new-year holiday Foxconn, which makes most of Apple's iPhones in China, could not get its assembly plants back to full capacity this week. Analysts reckon that the virus could lead to Apple shipping 5-10% fewer iPhones this quarter and could scupper its plans to ramp up production of its popular AirPods.

As covid-19 spreads, its effect on business is amplified. Tourism into and out of the mainland has plunged. Some 400,000 Chinese tourists are forecast to cancel trips to Japan by the end of March. One large cruise ship in Asia was turned away by five countries because scores on board are infected (Cambodia at last allowed it to dock). The Singapore Air Show earned the city-state some \$250m in 2018, but far less this week owing to cancellations by 70 companies including Lockheed Martin, an American defence giant. The Mobile World Congress, a giant telecoms conference due to take place in Barcelona this month, has been cancelled after companies from Vodafone and BT to Facebook and Amazon pulled out. It is increasingly clear that the virus could damage global supply chains, costing the world's economy dearly.

Most multinational firms have been caught by surprise. This is not the first time they have suffered shocks to their Asian supply chains. The tsunami that hit Japan in 2011 and devastating floods in Thailand the same year disrupted production for many big firms. More recently, Donald Trump's trade war with China has exposed the risks of supply chains that rely too heavily on the mainland. But the bosses of such businesses have done little to prepare for shocks such as that inflicted by the outbreak of the new coronavirus.

Investors are punishing companies for this failure. The shares of American firms with strong exposure to China have underperformed the S&P500 index by 5% since early January, when news of the outbreak first broke (see chart).

There are three reasons to think the coming months could prove even more unpleasant for many firms. First, big multinationals have left themselves dangerously exposed to supply-chain risk owing to strategies designed to bring down their costs. For example, many keep only enough stock on hand to last a few weeks, confident that they can always replenish their inventories "just in time". That confidence is misplaced, argues Bindia Vakli of Resilinc, a consultancy.

The second vulnerability arises from the fact that giant firms are much more reliant on Chinese factories today than they were at the time of the SARS outbreak in 2003. China now accounts for 16% of global GDP, up from 4% back then. Its share of all exports in textiles and apparel is now 40% of the global total. It



In the longer term the epidemic could dampen the love affair between multinationals and China. NYT

generates 26% of the world's furniture exports. It is also a voracious consumer of things such as metals, needed in manufacturing. In 2003 China sucked in 7% of global mining imports. Today it claims closer to a fifth.

Koray Köse of Gartner, a research firm, points out that it is not only the increase in size of China's manufacturing base that matters. Since 2003 factories have spread from the coast to poorer interior regions like Wuhan, where the epidemic broke out. Workers from such places now toil at factories all over China—and travel home for the holidays. That interconnectedness increases supply-chain risks, argues Mr Köse. So does the rising interdependence of many firms. Mainland suppliers no longer simply assemble products; they make many of the parts that go into them as well.

The third reason to think that big companies may experience a supply-chain shock is that the regions worst affected by covid-19 and the subsequent government

lockdowns are particularly important to several global industries. The electronics industry is most at risk, according to Llamasoft, a supply-chain analytics firm, because of its relatively thin inventories and its lack of alternative sources for parts.

Hubei province, where Wuhan is located, is the heart of China's "optics valley", home to many firms making components essential for telecoms networks. Perhaps a quarter of the world's optical-fibre cables and devices are made there. One of China's most advanced chip-fabrication plants, which makes the flash memory used in smartphones, is found there, too. Analysts worry that the epidemic in Hubei could reduce global shipments of smartphones by as much as 10% this year.

The car industry has also been hit. The lack of parts from mainland-based suppliers forced Hyundai to shut all its car plants in South Korea (it is now partially reopening them). Nissan has temporarily closed one in

Japan, and Fiat-Chrysler has warned that it could soon halt production at one of its European factories.

Fears of the virus are now affecting the global oil price. Chinese refiners are slashing output in anticipation of shrinking demand at home. Slowing Chinese demand is further darkening what was already a dismal outlook for natural gas. Chinese copper buyers have asked Chilean and Nigerian mining firms to delay or cancel shipments. Mongolia has suspended deliveries of coal to China.

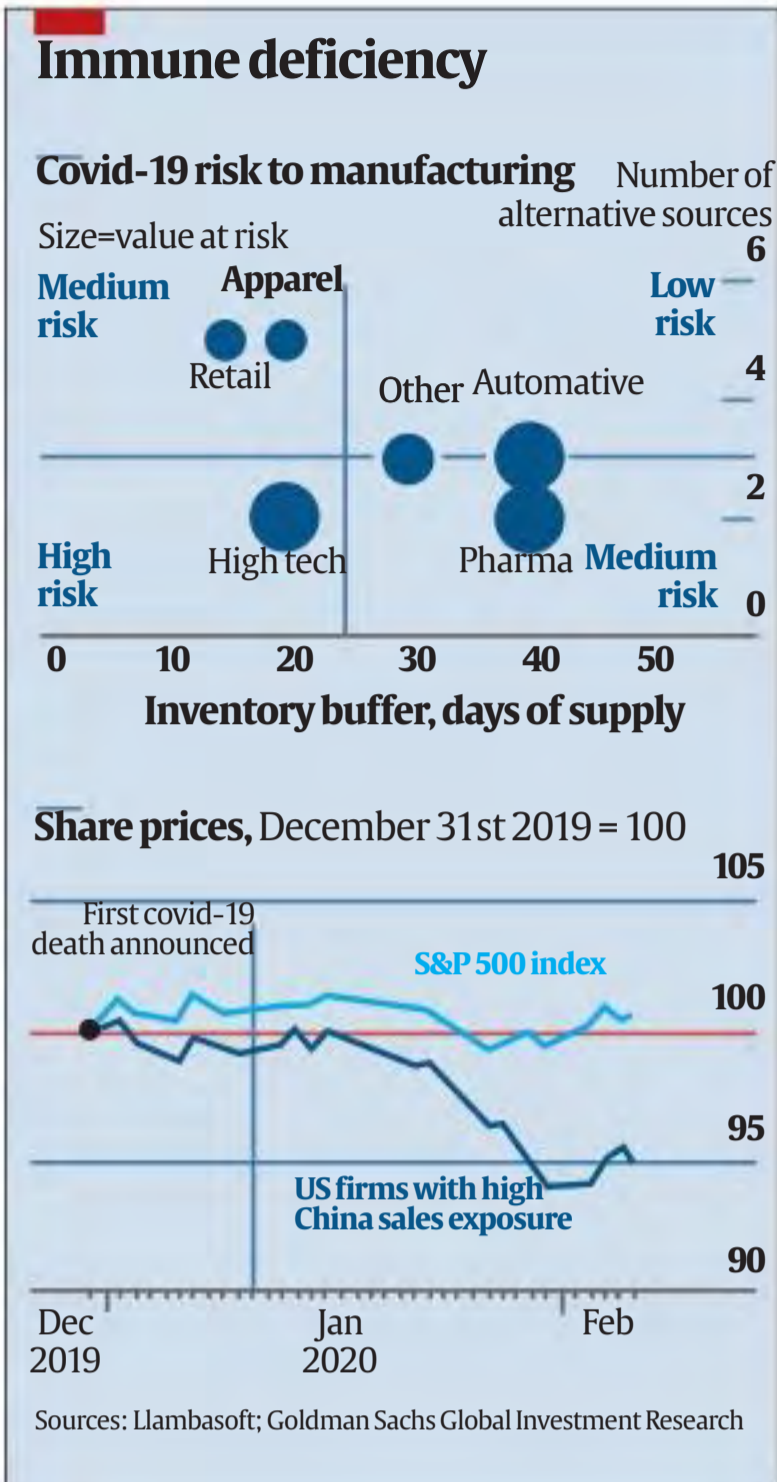
Some Chinese firms are panicking. Dozens have received official "force majeure certificates", which they hope will allow them to slip out of contracts without incurring penalties. They may not. Faced with faltering demand as well as closed ports and roads, CNOOC, a Chinese energy giant, recently used such tactics to avoid accepting LNG shipments. Total and Royal Dutch Shell, European oil majors, are rejecting the move. What happens next? Big firms want to

ramp up production quickly. But it is unclear how soon workers will be allowed to return to factories. However, factory dormitories are crowded. Foxconn's workers are packed eight to a room at its Shenzhen plant. If that leads to renewed infections plants may be forced to shut down again. Senior bosses will return soon, but some worry that mid-level expatriate managers with young children will not.

Even when plants are up and running, moving goods around and out of China will remain difficult. Alan Cheung of Kerry Logistics, a big provider in Asia, reports that his drivers are getting stopped across the mainland because the Chinese government is still trying to prevent lorries moving around unless they are delivering food or other necessities. The longer shipping volumes are depressed, the bigger the backlog when China Inc returns to work. That will probably lead to bottlenecks and a surge in freight rates.

In the longer term the epidemic could dampen the love affair between multinationals and China. Big companies had long assumed that their mainland supply chains were reliable and easy to manage. Surveys have found that only a minority of firms across all industries regularly assess their supply-chain risks carefully. For years bosses have devolved responsibility for sourcing to mid-level managers, typically instructed to extract an extra percent or two from costs each year. The covid-19 outbreak has exposed the risks of doing so, especially since America's trade war with China is not exactly resolved. Tsunamis and floods came and went and firms simply thought they could manage, says Jochen Siebert of JSC Automotive, a consultancy. He predicts that the epidemic will put the question of supply-chain management squarely on the desks of their CEOs.

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**Fears of the virus are now affecting the global oil price. Chinese refiners are slashing output in anticipation of shrinking demand at home. Slowing Chinese demand is further darkening what was already a dismal outlook for natural gas**

SCHUMPETER

# The Qualcommunist manifesto

American state capitalism will not beat China at 5G

IF IMITATION is the best form of flattery, one can only imagine the mandarins in Beijing blushing bashfully on February 6th as they eavesdropped on William Barr, America's attorney-general, firing the latest shots in the tech cold war. One of America's main concerns, he told a think-tank in Washington, DC, was Chinese dominance of fifth-generation (5G) wireless technology by Huawei. It had achieved this with totalitarian central planning. "As a dictatorship", he said, "China can marshal an all-nation approach—the government, its companies, its academia, acting together as one."

Mr Barr's response to this threat? Central planning, also involving the state, business and academia, but in support of American goals, not Chinese ones. He said America and its allies should decide which "horse we're going to ride in this race". That might mean, he went on, that America's government or its companies should buy controlling stakes in Huawei's European rivals, Finland's Nokia, Sweden's Ericsson, or both—despite there being no precedent for such a move (at least one that does not involve covert operations). It also meant public and private sectors standing shoulder to shoulder against China's technological blitzkrieg.

Call it state capitalism, American-style. In full 5G panic, President Donald Trump's administration wants to co-opt not just other countries' national champions, but domestic ones, too. One focus of attention is Qualcomm. The company, which is based in

**Call it state capitalism, American-style. In full 5G panic, President Donald Trump's administration wants to co-opt not just other countries' national champions, but domestic ones, too. One focus of attention is Qualcomm**

San Diego and worth \$103bn, is among the world's biggest 5G chipmakers. In 2018 it received unusual government support, when Mr Trump blocked its takeover by Broadcom, then a Singapore-based rival, on national-security grounds. As The Economist went to press on February 13th, it was due a second round of state-backed reinforcement, this time in a San Francisco courtroom where it is appealing against a landmark antitrust verdict. Its backer was Mr Barr's Department of Justice (DoJ).

Qualcomm's relations with the government reveal a lot about the way America is fighting the battle for global supremacy in technology. The Trump administration has two main national-security concerns about 5G. The first revolves around the public telecoms networks. It worries that kit installed by Huawei, which boasts a 30% market share in 5G and is in most places bar America,

could be used for surveillance. Huawei insists it will never be. But news reports this week said American officials believe it can access mobile networks via "back doors" meant solely for law enforcement. Nokia and Ericsson are among the next-biggest makers of 5G kit but they lack Huawei's financial firepower. A deep-pocketed American rival like Qualcomm or Cisco could in principle bolster their balance-sheets. But they show no appetite for building fiddly, low-margin 5G networks.

The government's second worry is about micro-industrial networks, which is where Qualcomm could play a role. The administration argues that within five years 5G could become the backbone of a vast economic system in which everything from cars to factories to fridges seamlessly streams limitless information. It fears that a dominant China could jam them, monopolise them or suck up all the data they produce for its own artificial intelligence. Qualcomm hopes its modems used in 5G devices, and the licences on its patents, will enable customers around the world to build a web of private 5G networks in this "industrial internet". But it will have to remain competitive against Huawei, which also makes modems and licenses technology.

So far Qualcomm's bets on 5G have been ahead of the competition. But its ambitions have been undermined by repeated allegations that it is a monopolist. It was in court this week appealing against an antitrust verdict in a case brought by the Federal Trade



Qualcomm's relations with the government reveal a lot about the way US is fighting the battle for supremacy in technology. NYT

Commission (FTC) under Barack Obama. The FTC took aim at a lucrative licensing model that 5G could further strengthen. It is a sign of the Trump administration's alarm about Qualcomm's future that the DoJ, supported by the Pentagon and the Department of Energy, is throwing its weight behind the firm's appeal—on national-security grounds. Hence the strange spectacle of two trustbusting agencies battling each other in court.

The DoJ's backing may bolster Qualcomm's case. Much of the national-security argument, though, is rather nebulous. The DoJ argues that a verdict against Qualcomm forcing it to renegotiate its licence fees with customers could hit profits and hamper its ability to innovate, which would put America itself at risk. Yet the lack of competition could be a bigger threat to innovation.

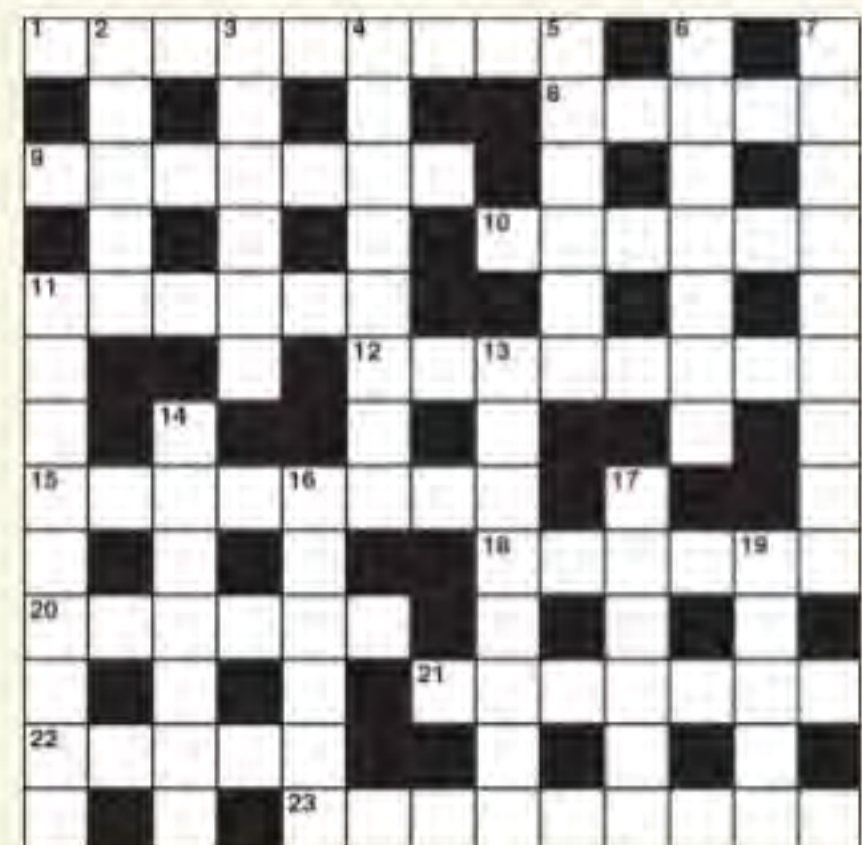
The case highlights a deeper question about America's approach to 5G. How urgent is it to reduce China's technological lead? Some advise patience, and think much of the hysteria is a veiled justification for protectionism. At present, 5G capabilities are little different from superfast 4G, and as yet the applications do not exist to make the most of the industrial internet. There is still time for experiment and innovation. Alternatives to Huawei's hardware-heavy, vertically integrated networks are emerging. Companies in America, Europe and elsewhere are using their strengths in software to build virtual networks that are more open and decentralised. Qualcomm is eyeing such opportunities hungrily, and plans to sell chips for virtualised 5G networks as well as devices.

**Chip on the shoulder**

Mr Barr, who has mixed a career in government with one in telecoms, argues that all this would take too long to counter the clear and present threat from China. The message is unambiguous. If only America could play by China's rules, subsidising domestic champions and hobbling foreign rivals, it could win in 5G. That is a counsel of despair. Qualcomm and other firms may happily lap up government support. They would benefit, too, from an overdue infrastructure upgrade. But ultimately America's greatest industrial strength is its freewheeling spirit. Rewriting the rules of American capitalism with Chinese characters would not help that at all.

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## CROSSWORD 4044



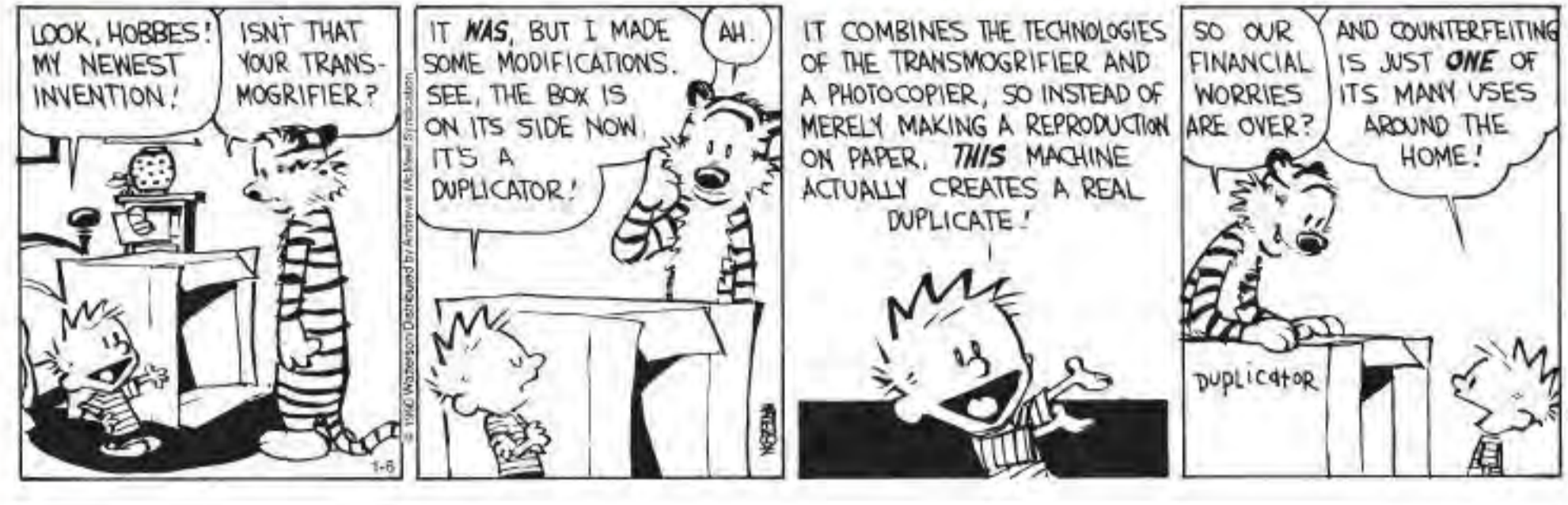
- ACROSS**
- Surrounded ring in conclusion (9)
  - I buy and sell to perfection (5)
  - Gulping down a mixture of gin and grog (7)
  - Send back a statistical form (6)
  - There's something precious in one set of twins (6)
  - Misses unpopular with photographers (3,5)
  - Walks uncertainly into a scene of chaos (8)
  - It's said to produce a smile (6)
  - Polish or polish off (6)
  - A sturdy breed of mostly blue and gold (7)
  - Happen to come later (5)
  - Make a song about a charming woman changing places (9)
- DOWN**
- A hanging symbol may disturb one so (5)
  - Swedish girl riding around (6)
  - He will appreciate people with good taste (8)
  - Several kinds of birds (6)
  - Very keen to attack (3,4)
  - One is glad to be so close (9)
  - Departs later - in pursuit? (4,5)
  - Ignore a reduction (8)
  - Film with a good finish (7)
  - Outstanding leaders of men (6)
  - Often drunk: too much is bad for it (6)
  - Demonstrated a way to proceed in opposite directions (5)

**Solutions Crossword 4043:** Across: 1 Vaccine, 4 Forum, 7 Ramp, 8 Asteroid, 10 Inaccurate, 12 Ardent, 13 Palace, 15 Immaterial, 18 Assassin, 19 Chef, 20 Trips, 21 Launder. Down: 1 Verdi, 2 Commands, 3 Ensure, 4 Free trader, 5 Hook, 6 Midwife, 9 Economists, 11 Vanished, 12 Adamant, 14 Daniel, 16 Lifer, 17 Asti.

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## JUMBLED WORDS

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

Heaven is under our \_\_\_ as well as over our \_\_\_ - Thoreau (4,5)

IREEE      EKOSDT

QUADS      FIRTHS

SOLUTION: HEVEN, SQUAD, STOKED, SHIRTS

## Difficulty Level 2s

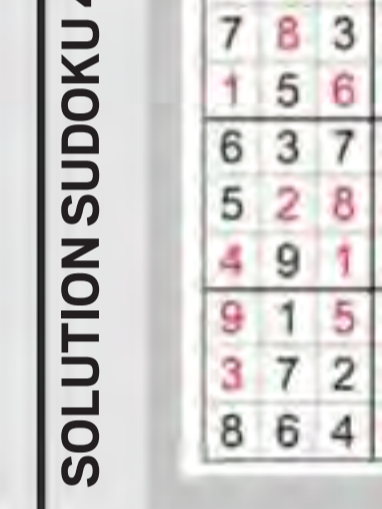
### SUDOKU 4124

**Instructions**  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.



## Difficulty Level 5s

### SOLUTION SUDOKU 4123



## DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

- ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
A partner seems to have stolen your thunder. Perhaps they're playing the game by your rules, neutralising your normal defences. Your next move should be to go on a charm-offensive. After all, if other people like you, they're less likely to block your way. That stands to reason, doesn't it?
- LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**  
There's a ninety percent chance of an amazing social invitation. But that's not all, for there's a ten per cent chance that such an invitation will change your life for ever. So, don't turn down any offer without careful consideration. Remember, the future is bright.
- TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**  
Is there any break from hard work? Well, actually, no there isn't. I hope you don't mind, because if you're honest you'll see that all current chores were taken on voluntarily at one time or another. And if you don't like it then it's a lesson to you to say 'no' in future.
- SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**  
Have you ever fancied being the boss? Well, happily your stars are giving you a kick up the professional ladder. Even retired and leisured Scorpios are bound to feel the celestial benefits. Those of you pursuing romantic hopes, though, could find your costs increasing. Hopefully it will be worth it.
- GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**  
In spite of life's little ups and downs, today's background patterns convey a sense of relief and an ability to relax. Artistic and creative Geminians should now begin to get ready to enjoy themselves. Remember what they say - all work and no play makes you very dull indeed.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)**  
There's a very particular and special celestial formation today. What is so unique is that a wonderful planetary alignment, signifying great good fortune, comes and goes very quickly. The trouble is that other people may not be saying what they mean, so have your wits about you.
- CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**  
Domestic chores and family relationships beckon. Please don't imagine that other people are going to do what they're told. You may find consolation in the fact that they will soon be proved wrong! Mind you, they might expect you to make it all right again.
- CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**  
Like all the other twelve signs your stars contain much that is fortunate, but luck itself will prove a very elusive quality. You are due to come into some money but, whether it's a tiny amount, a medium quantity, or a huge pile, the stars won't say. At least, not for now.
- LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**  
Mercury, planet of communication, is teamed up with Jupiter, ruler of wisdom. What a splendid combination that is. Don't ruin it by taking the world for granted. And, at work, listen to the experts - before it's too late. Actually, there is fun to be had, so don't pass on important invitations.
- AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**  
Pride comes before a fall, as they say. It's one thing to take pleasure in your achievements, but please don't make the very serious mistake of being smug. Make this a day for generosity in all things. And challenge partners who have failed to keep to their word.
- VIRO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**  
Forget your daily chores. Forget the need to pay the bills. Forget all those difficult people. Today's planetary patterns speak of wisdom and enlightenment, of love and passion, so look to your heart and prepare for the future - and pay top attention to family pressures.
- VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**  
Forget your daily chores. Forget the need to pay the bills. Forget all those difficult people. Today's planetary patterns speak of wisdom and enlightenment, of love and passion, so look to your heart and prepare for the future - and pay top attention to family pressures.
- PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
You can rest on your laurels. You may also brag a little, especially if others have been too slow to recognise just what a lot of effort you have been putting in your relationships lately. You can't make people do what you want - but you can try.

Phulo Phalo. Pura Khao Pura.

**THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD. SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX NO. 0172-5041812-13**

**Notice Inviting Tender**

Tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items -

Sr. No.	Name of the Item	Contract Period/Quantity	Consignee/ Place of Tender Opening	Tender Cost (Rs.)	E.M.D (Rs.)	Date & Time for Sale/downloading of e-tenders online	Last Date & Time of Submission of online e-tenders	Date & Time of opening of e-tenders
1.	Contract for Hiring of Tankers for Transportation of Furnace Oil From IOCL refinery /Depot, Panipat to Verka Chandigarh Dairy		Verka Chandigarh Dairy (Ph. No. 0172-5041928)	-	50,000/-	17.02.2020	28.02.2020 upto 11.00 AM	28.02.2020 at 12.00 PM
2.	Labour Job Contract for unloading, shifting, dumping, loading of raw material & finished products, dumping of trace elements & filling/packing of Mineral Mixture, cleaning & bundling of empty bags & cleaning of plinths and godowns etc.	Annual Rate Contract	Cattle Feed Plant, Ghanis- Ke-Banger (Ph. No. 01871-266741)	100/-	50,000/-	18.02.2020	05.03.2020 upto 3.00 PM	05.03.2020 at 1.30 PM
3.	Transportation of Verka Cattle Feed to various stations within Punjab & Himachal Pradesh	Annual Rate Contract	-do-	Nil	50,000/-	25.02.2020	05.03.2020 upto 03.00 PM	06.03.2020 at 12.30 PM
4.	Fire Wood (Fresh Cut)	12000 Qtls (1000 qtls per month from March 2020 to 28 Feb 2021)	-do-	100/-	30,000/-	18.02.2020	28.02.2020 at 11.30 AM	28.02.2020 at 01.00 PM
5.	Supply, Installation, Testing and commissioning of Electrical Lift (Capacity 1000Kg) at Verka Bathinda Dairy	-	Verka Bathinda Dairy (Ph. No. 0164-2240406, 2212825)	500/-	25,000/-	18.02.2020	03.03.2020 upto 05.00 PM	Financial Bid 04.03.2020 at 11.30 AM
6.	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of New 11 KV Sub Station at Verka Bathinda Dairy	-	-do-	500/-	2,00,000/-	20.02.2020	04.03.2020 upto 05.00 PM	Technical Bid 05.03.2020 at 11.30 AM Financial Bid 07.03.2020 at 11.30 AM
7.	Hiring of Tempoo's for the period 01.04.2020 to 31.03.2021 a) Tata 207, Bolero Pick Up, or Equivalent. b) Tata 407 c) For Supply of L.N2 Gas and A.I Activities d) Tata 207, Bolero Pick Up	8 Nos. 2 Nos. 2 Nos.	Verka Jalandhar Dairy (Ph. No. 7355556749, 7355601750 and 7355597021)	500/-	15,000/- 25,000/- 15,000/-	20.02.2020 at 3.00 PM	06.03.2020 at 05.00 PM	Technical Bid 09.03.2020 at 11.00 AM Financial Bid 17.03.2020 at 11.00 AM
8.	Hiring of Insulated Road Milk Tankers for Transportation of Milk from BMC's/MCC's for the period from 01.04.2020 to 31.3.2021 Cap. 10,000 Kgs Cap. 6000Kgs	17 No. 02 No.	-do-	500/-	1,00,000/-	20.02.2020 at 3.00 PM	06.03.2020 at 05.00 PM	Technical Bid 08.03.2020 at 11.00 AM Financial Bid 16.03.2020 at 11.00 AM
9.	Hiring of diesel vehicles for procurement and technical inputs w.e.f. (01.04.2020 to 31.03.2021) i) Car Toyota Innova or Equivalent ii) Car Swift Dzire, Toyota, Etios or Equivalent iii) Bolero Jeep	01 No. 04 No. 01 No.	-do-	500/-	5,000/-	20.02.2020 at 3.00 PM	06.03.2020 at 05.00 PM	Technical Bid 08.03.2020 at 2.00 PM Financial Bid 17.03.2020 at 2.00 PM
10.	Out sourcing of security activities at Milk Plant, Ludhiana and its Milk Chilling Centres.	Annual Rate Contract	Verka Ludhiana Dairy (Ph. No. 0181-5203300, 5203301, 5203351)	500/-	50,000/-	20.02.2020	05.03.2020 upto 01.00 PM	Technical Bid 06.03.2020 at 11.00 AM Financial Bid 11.03.2020 at 11.00 AM
11.	Providing of Un-Skilled, Semi-Skilled, Skilled, Highly Skilled, 'A' Category workers and suitable Eligible Personnel's for different posts through outsourcing	Annual Labour Contract	-do-	500/-	1,00,000/-	22.02.2020 from 11.00 AM	12.03.2020 upto 01.00 PM	Technical Bid 13.03.2020 at 11.00 AM Commercial Bid 20.03.2020 at 11.00 AM
12.	Fodder Chopper ( Shaft Cutter) Cum Trolley Loader	10 Nos	Verka Amritsar Dairy (Ph. No. 7355598982, 7355548163)	200/-	50,000/-	19.02.2020 upto 05.00 PM	10.03.2020 upto 05.00 PM	Technical Bid & Financial Bid 11.03.2020 at 11.00 AM
13.	Refrigerated Vehicles for supply of Milk and Milk Products Tata 1109 or its equivalent.	01 Year	Verka Gurdaspur Dairy (Ph. No. 01674-220158)	200/-	50,000/-	18.02.2020	28.02.2020 upto 03.30 PM	29.02.2020 at 11.00 AM
14.	Hiring of vehicle (Mahindra Bolero, Pick-up/Maxi-Pickup/Tata 407/Tata Ace etc.) equivalent are required for lifting the milk from various societies/ Dairy Farm to concerned MCC/Verka HSP Dairy	19 Nos (Nineteen only)	Verka Hoshiarpur Dairy (01882-238157, 239938)	500/-	a) Upto 2 MT Rs. 15,000/- b) 2 MT above Rs. 25,000/-	05.03.2020 at 11.00 AM	12.03.2020 upto 05.00 PM	13.03.2020 at 11.00 AM
15.	One Vehicle for supply of LN 2 Gas and Semen	01 Nos	-do-	500/-	5,000/-	05.03.2020 at 11.00 AM	12.03.2020 upto 05.00 PM	13.03.2020 at 11.00 AM
16.	Hiring of Car (Sedan, Honda, Amaze, Tata Etios, Maruti Swift etc.) is required for procurement activities	01 Nos	-do-	500/-	5,000/-	05.03.2020 at 11.00 AM	12.03.2020 upto 05.00 PM	13.03.2020 at 11.00 AM

Bidders shall have to pay required Tender Processing fee through online mode only i.e. through debit/credit card for getting registered for e-tendering system. EMD should be made only through online mode i.e. Credit/Debit card, NEFT/RTGS, Internet Banking. For participating in the above e-tender, the parties shall have to get themselves registered with our e-Tendering portal i.e. [eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in) and get USER ID and Password well in time. For downloading tender through e-tendering, process flow, please contact e-Procurement help desk on given Nos. 0172-2570263, 2970284 immediately so that process of timely registration and downloading the tender is completed in time by the date of tender opening. For additional details regarding e-tendering please visit website [eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in). Tender processing Fee is Non-Refundable.

Note: Corrigendum if any will be uploaded on website only.

General Manager (QA&E)

Before Debts Recovery Tribunal-III, Delhi  
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building,  
Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001

Notice under section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993

in the matter of O.A. No. 367/2019  
**CORPORATION BANK**

vs Applicant  
**SANJIV KUMAR SINGH & Ors.**  
vs Defendants  
**3 M/s Aashiyana Promoters and Developers Pvt. Ltd. through its director Authorized Representative Redg. Office : Unit 219, S/F, Vasundhara Enclave, Plot No.1, Vardhman Sunrise Plaza LSC, Delhi-110096**

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal 03-04-2020 at 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 10th day of Feb., 2020.

By Order of the Tribunal  
Assistant Registrar DRT-III, New Delhi

### STORES E-PROCUREMENT

Tender Notice No. S/34/2019, Dated: 14-02-2020 (1) All tenders have been uploaded on Indian Railways E-Procurement Portal (IREPS) - [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) For details & necessary guidelines for quoting against e-tender, please visit IREPS E-Procurement portal. (2) The prospective tenderers are advised to get their registered on the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> online. This registration is mandatory for participation in e-tendering and is free of charge. (3) Offers are to be submitted online only. Offers sent/submitted against such e-tenders through e-mail, post/fax or in person will be rejected summarily without any consideration. (4) This notice is for information during initial phase only. In future, no such notice shall be published. Vendors are requested to get registered with IREPS and visit portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for future tenders. (5) Please submit offers online for the following materials: **SN.1: Tender No.** 452/15088, **SN.2: Tender No.** 452/15088, **SN.3: Tender No.** 452/15088, **SN.4: Tender No.** 452/15088, **SN.5: Tender No.** 452/15088, **SN.6: Tender No.** 452/15088, **SN.7: Tender No.** 452/15088, **SN.8: Tender No.** 452/15088, **SN.9: Tender No.** 452/15088, **SN.10: Tender No.** 452/15088, **SN.11: Tender No.** 452/15088, **SN.12: Tender No.** 452/15088, **SN.13: Tender No.** 452/15088, **SN.14: Tender No.** 452/15088, **SN.15: Tender No.** 452/15088, **SN.16: Tender No.** 452/15088, **SN.17: Tender No.** 452/15088, **SN.18: Tender No.** 452/15088, **SN.19: Tender No.** 452/15088, **SN.20: Tender No.** 452/15088, **SN.21: Tender No.** 452/15088, **SN.22: Tender No.** 452/15088, **SN.23: Tender No.** 452/15088, **SN.24: Tender No.** 452/15088, **SN.25: Tender No.** 452/15088, **SN.26: Tender No.** 452/15088, **SN.27: Tender No.** 452/15088, **SN.28: Tender No.** 452/15088, **SN.29: Tender No.** 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# 19 TALK

ART, MUSIC, STYLE, FOOD

## SNAP SHOTS



### Rest in Peace

ACTOR NIKITA PEARL Waligwa (pictured), who starred in the 2016 sports drama *Queen of Katwe*, has died at the age of 15. She had been diagnosed with brain tumour. Directed by Indian-American filmmaker Mira Nair, the Walt Disney film charted the rise of real-life chess prodigy Phiona Mutesi from a Ugandan slum. She began playing chess at the age of nine and went on to compete in international tournaments. "Farewell dearest Nikita. The heart breaks to see you gone, too young, too soon. You were such a fighter but this disease was incurable. The Pioneers and the Kool Kats of Katwe will always miss you, your light lives on in #QueenOfKatwe," the director wrote on Twitter. Initially diagnosed with brain tumour in 2016, Waligwa's film family mobilised to get her treatment in India. She made a recovery a year later, but the tumour returned in 2019.



### Making a Stop

SINGER-SONGWRITER Elton John was forced to halt a show in New Zealand after being diagnosed with walking pneumonia. The 72-year-old musician lost his voice in the middle of his performance at Auckland's Mount Smart Stadium on Sunday. "I've just completely lost my voice. I can't sing. I've got to go. I'm sorry," an emotional John told the crowd. The concert was part of the Oscar winner's Farewell Yellow Brick Road tour. Walking pneumonia, also called atypical pneumonia, is a type of lung infection often caused by bacteria or viruses. After he left the stage, the singer posted an apology to his fans on Instagram. "I played and sang my heart out, until my voice could sing no more. I'm disappointed, deeply upset and sorry. I gave it all I had," he wrote.



### EKTA MALIK

THE WEEK-LONG activity, centred around Jio Garden, courtesy the Lakme Fashion Week Summer Resort 2020 (LFWSR20), in BKC, took a pause as the big shows moved to unimaginable off-sites. The closing weekend saw some unconventional offerings, people from the film industry who walked the ramp, and a finale that was grand and melodramatic. We bring you the highlights:

### Grande Fashion

Delhi-based, Mumbai-rooted Amit Aggarwal has been on a roll. He has had back-to-back shows at most fashion weeks in India in the last year, and this time, he presented the Lakme Absolute Grand Finale. A mammoth show, titled "AXIL", which had 60 ensembles was mounted at Mukesh Textile Mills, Colaba. Amidst the haunted terrains of the old, unoccupied mill, Aggarwal presented his sharp silhouettes and woven polymers in outfits that could best be described as futuristic. The backdrop had 3D imaging by Spaltz Studio and we could see jellyfish popping up and down and flowers blooming, as Lakshmi Rana, with others, took the ramp. In keeping with tradition, Kareena Kapoor Khan was the show stopper, who wore a strapless green fitted dress with a train. The show was everything a finale should be, grand, melodramatic and glamorous. The creations which ranged from structured gowns, dresses and tuxedos for men, would not look out of place at a red carpet event for Bollywood and even Hollywood. Then there were some outfits that an avant-garde bride might just pull off at her new-age *sangeet*.

### Surprise Package

It could have been a normal Saturday at the LFW as the regulars navigated show schedules, the heat and everything else in precarious heels, that it took a surprise announcement on Instagram to shake everyone out of the fashion fatigue. The *enfant terrible* of India, Rohit Bal was launching his



(Clockwise from above) Kareena Kapoor Khan, the show stopper for Amit Aggarwal, wore a strapless structured gown for the finale *Arshaan Gandhi*; Vicky Kaushal was the showstopper for Kunal Rawal's collection; a model in Rohit Bal's designer jeans; a model sporting a Rawal design

## Outside the Shine and Shimmer

With Amit Aggarwal's woven polymers and Rohit Bal's embroidered denims, the Lakme Fashion Week Summer Resort 2020 came to a dramatic close



maiden jeans collection "Balance" that evening. A chunk of the open space was cordoned off, and people gathered to watch. The absence of a ramp piqued curiosity but things fell in place as a parade of men — many shirtless — walked in. The collection featured denims — highly embroidered — for men. Bal's favourite motifs, including peacocks, roses and red flowers, were in abundance. Embroidery on stone wash jeans felt like a throwback to the early '90s. The essence of a good pair of jeans, is what you pair it with — a crisp white short or a fitted biker jacket, and for lazy Fridays that comfortable, but snug white/black T-shirt. The heavy jackets and other pairings that Bal presented did not do justice to the denims either. Additionally, a pair of heavily embroidered stone wash jeans doesn't lend itself to multiple wear. You are restricted to that one event, if you wish to be that quirky, fashion-riskie friend.

### Consistency Constant

Expectations were high from a Kunal



Rawal show, as last year the young Mumbai-based designer had displayed a stellar collection at the Autumn Winter edition of the LFW. This time, there was a buzz around his 'light-sensitive' clothing, and that off-site show at the Bandra-Worli Sea Link promenade. *The Indian Express* had a sneak peek at the collection last year, and wanted to see what it would look like in the daylight away from indoor artificial lights. The collection was typical Rawal, with highly detailed cutwork outfits. Fitted trousers, sherwanis and jackets for men dominated the collection, and we saw some flowery motifs as well. High above the flowers were also drones, capturing the mood, as the models walked the long promenade at 6 pm. The light-sensitive clothing sadly did not register from a distance, and while the show was big on drama, it was a weak shadow of Rawal's last show. Even Vicky Kaushal as the showstopper was no patch on Rawal's last outing with Arjun Kapoor.

### MUST HAVES FROM LFW



### BRAID AWAY

The one takeaway accessory from the LFW was braids that were used as a standalone footwear, or were used as an addendum to Kolhapuris, mojris and other predictable footwear. Ragini Ahuja had braids styled as sandals to be worn on the beach, (pictured), while the label Sadhna has used similar woven braids to style Gladiator sandals. If you are bored of your typical chappals this summer, get some thick threads and braid away.

### SHEEN AND SHINE

If you don't wish to spend a chunk of your money on jewellery and yet want to be effectively glamorous, stock up on metallic body paint as a go-to trick. Amit Aggarwal's show had it in plenty. Models had their entire necks doused in golden sheen and it worked very well. If you don't wish to be seen as something out of *Star Wars*, then even tiny dabs around the eyes and the crown will do the trick.

## How the Mighty Have Risen

A symposium in Delhi addressed the highs and lows of failure



Amit Chaudhuri at the event  
Amit Mehra

### PAROMITA CHAKRABARTI

IN HOW many ways can one consider failure and in what way does it come to us all? At the two-day University of East Anglia symposium in the 'literary activism' series, organised in association with Ashoka University and India International Centre (IIC), academics, film directors, poets, critics and actors came together at IIC's Kamladevi Complex, to deliberate on the unique nature of failure and the many ways it affects our private, political and community lives.

"The free market, in the last 25 years, may have exhibited to us the importance of success — that success is not good fortune or a reward for accomplishment, but basic survival — and we might conspire to succeed only to a degree that's necessary for us to fail: because we know that it's only by failing that we can produce viable work, and only by succeeding, to some extent, that we can have the freedom to be non-viable," wrote writer and academic Amit Chaudhuri in the introductory note to this year's theme — 'On Failing'. In his opening remarks, Chaudhuri mentioned how the symposium, now in its fifth year, was conceived as an "in-between space" that was removed both from the "tyranny" of the celebratory nature of literature festivals and the serious tenor of academic conferences. Later, in his talk on the closing day of the festival, Chaudhuri spoke of "the intimacy of failing" through the story of his maternal uncle, Radhesh, whose idiosyncrasies were shielded by his gentle, successful father and how it had compelled him to grapple with a contemporary understanding of success and failure in an "age of survival".

While poet, essayist and novelist Sumana Roy spoke of the retrospective awareness of failure — almost "like success, like love" — in the course of her paper, "Failing Light" that explored the "aesthetic of provisionality" in the work of filmmaker Satyajit Ray, in his talk titled "Failure, self-worth and agency in modern liberalism", Pratap Banu Mehta, writer and faculty at Ashoka University, threw up an interesting counterpoint to the neo-liberal reading of success and failure. He asserted that "our angst about failure is very, very deeply tied to our sense of agency" — agency that is both "effect and power" and requires validation from others in order to acknowledge itself as an agent. "If we want a source of resistance to the market, we have to see the democratic potential of liberating potential... The market does not speak of justice. The market immobilises the language of justice," he said, speaking on the philosophical and cultural dilemma inherent in the conception of failure.

In what was one of the most candid sessions of the symposium, filmmaker Anurag Kashyap spoke of spiralling into depression following the ban on his first couple of films, *Panch* (2003) and *Black Friday* (2007), before learning to pick up the pieces and start afresh. "Success comes when you are not working for it... (and yet) your learning stops with your next success," he said. Kashyap, who is now working on Suketu Mehta's *Maximum City* (2004), spoke of his struggle with fame, of the echo chamber that becomes an accessory to success, the falling apart of his company, Phantom Films, his silence, and, by extension, his complicity in the #MeToo scandal that hit one of its partners. "I have failed in my personal relationships, as a friend, as a partner, as a father," he said, mentioning that it took him a good five years to learn to be objective about his failures.

The symposium also saw a video recording of a reading by American writer Lydia Davis of her new short story, *Learning to Sing*, while actor Dhritiman Chatterji read out Portuguese poet Fernando Pessoa's *Tobacco Shop*.

## Food for Thought

Despite a few chefs doing stellar work, running a good restaurant in India remains difficult

### POOJA PILLAI

BEHIND THE glamour of India's buzzing restaurant industry lies the harsh truth that many of India's most exciting restaurants, headed by gifted chefs and steered by owners who are both passionate and visionary, find it difficult to sustain in a highly competitive industry. Writer-columnist Anoothi Vishal, who, as a journalist, had documented the start of the so-called boom at the beginning of the new millennium, has examined what makes a few restaurants work where so many others fail in her new book *Business on a Platter* (2019).

Vishal, who has previously authored *Mrs LC's Table: Stories About Kayasth Food and Culture* (2016), partly blames the dearth of high-quality restaurants that are also financially successful on an unforgiving economic climate, with high rents and low spending power. She also points to the lack of talent in professional kitchens and diners who are satisfied with pastiches of culinary creativity from other parts of the world.

"Then, you have an entire ecosystem geared up to celebrate mediocrity. Look at

Be it the lack of talent or mediocrity in the ecosystem of restaurants, there are many reasons why they fail

all the food awards, almost all are 'events' to make money and, therefore, lack credibility. Anyone with more influence, anyone who can advertise or be useful to the organisers at a later date and anyone with better social media is invariably celebrated, and those who do not have the means to lobby are ignored," she says, in an email interview.

And despite this, customers frequently stay away because, as Vishal says, "A majority still goes for deals rather than discerning or experimental." There's also pressure on restaurants from delivery services and cloud kitchens, she says, "as customers get hooked on to cheaper prices, or eating in with more exciting menus."

If she is optimistic at all, she says, it's because of the few "high-quality restaurants that are able to pull on without profits for a few years, sticking to their philosophy, and gradually building their own customer loyalty".



## With Healing in Her Wings

German-Turkish singer-songwriter Alev Lenz on her acapella album, singing quarter notes and dismantling patriarchy



Alev Lenz  
Marcus Duran

### SUANSHU KHURANA

IT'S A well-known predicament — the idea of ferrying someone to your mind space. When sitarist Anoushka Shankar takes us there as she translates loss, separation and pain in her personal life in *Love Letters*, she is accompanied by German-Turkish singer-songwriter Alev Lenz's voice. Through a string theory that Shankar builds with her sitar in *Bright Eyes* — a heaving piece from *Love Letters* — Lenz's bare voice fits like a glove. It's as if it was made to be sung along with the sitar. She modulates her voice, goes up and down the scales effortlessly and finds minor yet majestic inflections that make the song a very tightly-knit merger (fusion is a wretched word, as most serious musicians believe). On Friday, at Delhi's Siri Fort auditorium, when she sat behind a piano and sang, the now very famous piece, live, along with Shankar, among other accompanying artists, she built on the sense of catharsis that the two found while creating *Love Letters*.

"It was really natural," she says. "We were just two friends making songs that we felt were important and things we wanted to communicate as women. It was creatively the most satisfying process. We didn't have the usual pressure that people do while making an album. Since both of us were dealing with heartbreak around the same time, it became a common process," says Lenz.

The music sessions were over tea and snacks, centred around their kids' schedules. "Music isn't the middle of life, it's not like an extra thing you do, it's right in the centre. The

chaos and the ebb and flow of creativity should have its own pace, and it did in this particular album," she says. She also recently released her own solo album — 3, a powerful set of pieces, all created with voice, including the harmonies and structures. "I was a new mother and didn't have a lot of time. The album was an attempt to dismantle patriarchy and I wanted it to be created right then in the fastest and most creative way possible and decided to do it all by myself," says Lenz, who also collaborated with US-based choral ensemble Roomful of Teeth for one of the pieces.

Lenz has lived in London for the last nine years and houses her studio there. This is where she met Shankar for the first time and collaborated with her on the Grammy-nominated *Land of Gold*, which was based on the refugee crisis. But Lenz grew up in Munich, with a German father and a Turkish mother, who was a theatre actor, and was extremely influenced by the Turkish side of her family. "I heard a lot of Turkish music, which is why I can sing quarter notes, which not many western classical musicians can," says Lenz. In Munich, she realised that she couldn't decide about the kind of songs she wanted to sing and the kind of artist she wanted to be. "So I decided to go to New York, and sing at every open mic possible in Manhattan," says Lenz, who moved to London after that. It was at one of her shows that a *Black Mirror* producer heard her sing and told her to create a piece. The result was *Fall into me*, her song at the end of *Hated in the Nation*. She will continue to tour with Shankar this year and has a slew of other projects in the pipeline.



**I was really surprised. I mean New Zealand Cricket and I have talked about this for a long time, looking after the staff and the players we have."**

**GARY STEAD,**  
NEW ZEALAND COACH

# Pujara's batting playbook

India's Test No.3's career has gone through several ups and downs since his last NZ tour; in the upcoming series, he will hope to make amends for a below-par outing the last time around



**EXPRESS IN NEW ZEALAND**

**SANDEEP G**  
HAMILTON, FEBRUARY 17

A MONTH or so before the New Zealand tour, Cheteshwar Pujara randomly revisited the scorecards of his previous trip to the country. Not because he was nerdy or nostalgic, or as part of an elaborate pre-tour preparation, but just to get a hang of the impending challenge. "Just to trigger my memory, just to get into the mood. Not particularly how I was dismissed, but for a general recollection of the match," Pujara told *The Indian Express*, before leaving for New Zealand.

Browsing the scorecards, the two Tests flickered through his mind. Sitting at his home in Rajkot, he could see right in front of his eyes how he got out in the each of the four innings. First Test, first innings in Auckland: "Loose shot, I just pushed at a wide ball," he says. Second innings: "I was batting well, faced 70-80 balls and then got a good ball. Could have played it better." Second Test, first innings in Wellington: "Got a start, then was lbw to an in-swinging." Second innings: "I was caught down the leg-side off a bouncer."

Just 60 runs off four innings, it's where for the first time in his Test career criticism began to swirl around him. It was his first supposed failure at this level too. On his previous overseas trip, to South Africa, he had crunched a magnificent second-innings hundred in Johannesburg and was living up to the early hype and reputation. At that juncture of his career, he averaged around 60. "I have always felt that I could have done better in that series," Pujara says.

But the next year, after disappointing tours to Australia and England, his career was at a crossroads. From his technique to scoring rate, every aspect of his batting was over-scrutinised. He didn't brood over his failures — he had the support system too — but an uneasy angst clutched him. From it stemmed realisation.

"Until that point, I thought Test runs were Test runs. Wherever you score those runs, it's the same. I was not obsessed with things like scoring a lot of runs overseas. I wanted to score everywhere, be it in India or overseas. The satisfaction always came not from the amount of runs I scored, but how it would benefit the team. But now I realised how difficult it is to score runs abroad, from an individual and team perspective. So I needed to work on my game, see what's going on and correct the mistakes," he says.

He was equally baffled by the phrase 'tough conditions'. "It's another misconception that only conditions in Australia, New Zealand, England and South Africa are difficult. True, we are more accustomed to sub-continental conditions, but some of my innings at home like the 90 in Bangalore against Australia, or the hundred I got in Sri Lanka were as satisfying as some of my hundreds in Australia," he observes.

The latter innings of 145 not out — to which he keeps coming back — came on an SSC green-top with Dhammika Prasad producing insane movement. Moreover, Pujara was making a comeback and opening the innings. The 92 in Bangalore against Australia was on a tacky surface, India were a Test in deficit and Australia's spin pair of Nathan Lyon and Steve O'Keefe was looking to scythe through the hosts' batting line-up. Those were probably series-winning efforts too.

In that time, he also realised that preconceived notions could turn counter-productive. "If you are touring a country for the first time, you are bound to have certain preconceptions, that the pitches would behave this way or that way, that I will have to play in a particular manner. Sometimes, you watch videos of old games or talk to players who have played



Cheteshwar Pujara scored 93 in the tour game against New Zealand XI in Hamilton. He aggregated 60 runs in the four innings in his previous tour to New Zealand. *Express*

**It's another misconception that only conditions in Australia, New Zealand, England and South Africa are difficult. True, we are more accustomed to sub-continental conditions, but some of my innings at home like the 90 in Bangalore against Australia, or the hundred I got in Sri Lanka were as satisfying as some of my hundreds in Australia."**

ON WHAT CONSTITUTES 'TOUGH BATTING CONDITIONS'

there. And this gets into your mind. These are all useful, but in the end, you have to assess your own game and find the best method that suits you. To go with an open but aware mind," he says.

An open but aware mind — it's an incredibly difficult space to be in. To keep changing your game on the move, but not overtly compromising with your technical game. Batting is a lot about instincts and second-guessing, taking hints from bowlers and out-thinking them, but it's also about removing presuppositions. It's a gamble but at the same time a study.

So Pujara, like most Indian batsmen, reached New Zealand prepared for devilishly swinging surfaces. That's what old cricketers and older scorecards might have

told him. But he realised that bounce could be another antagonist.

"As some of the pitches swing a lot, you discount the bounce. But most pitches have good bounce and they have bowlers who can make use of the bounce. So batsmen should be prepared for seam, swing and bounce. But after a point, it becomes nice to bat on. I remember Virat (Kohli) and Shikhar (Dhawan) scored hundreds (in 2014). A good ball can come at any time, but that's true everywhere, even in the subcontinent. Maybe, it comes often. As a batsman, you have to be prepared for it whenever or wherever you're playing," he says.

More than any amount of homework or practice sessions, Pujara comprehended the significance of warm-up games. "They might field average bowlers, they might give surfaces dissimilar to the ones you get in the Test match, but the more time you spent in a country, the more acclimatised to the conditions you get. After all, the nature of the pitches can't be too different, and at this level you know the quality of bowlers. Most of them you have played before, you've watched videos and there's no unfamiliarity," he observes. But the wind makes horizontal bat shots difficult.

So whenever there's an opportunity, he tunes up for a series with as many warm-up games as possible, or county games like he did before the trip to England two years ago. He had a terrible time in the build-up to the series, but ended up enjoying a revival with

a terrific hundred in Southampton.

For the ongoing tour, he landed early enough to get an India A game, where he scored 53 in Lincoln, and a warm-up game, where he scored 93 in seam-bowling-friendly conditions, laying out the blueprint to bat in New Zealand.

If Pujara can't get enough game time in the country he's going to play, he ensures he plays a lot of first-class cricket. Like in the lead-up to the Australia series, or in the prelude to the New Zealand tour, he got to play five Ranji Trophy games.

"I never like to miss Ranji games, for you always learn something or the other each season. After all these international games, I feel Ranji still teaches you a lot. It also gives me the freedom to experiment on a few different aspects of my game, which I can't in international cricket. Besides, I like playing at small venues. It's like going back to your younger days," he says.

The late start to the season benefitted him too, as some of the tracks he encountered offered swing and seam movement, like in Saurashtra's Ranji opener against Himachal Pradesh at Dharamshala. He made just 2 and 14, faced just 33 deliveries, but the match shook off his rustiness.

"It was quite cold and breezy, and there was a bit of lateral movement. Though it's different to New Zealand, it sort of helps you get into that mental groove. And I had a lot of time at the nets, working on a few aspects of my batting," he says. It's true that Pujara

**Until that point, I thought Test runs were Test runs. Wherever you score those runs, it's the same. I was not obsessed with things like scoring a lot of runs overseas. I wanted to score everywhere, be it in India or overseas. The satisfaction always came not from the amount of runs I scored, but how it would benefit the team."**

AFTER THE DISAPPOINTING TOURS TO ENGLAND AND AUSTRALIA IN 2014-15.

gets more time to play first-class games than some other cross-format regulars, but his drive to rack up as many first-class matches and runs as possible is gluttonous.

From the Sydney Test early last year, where Pujara piled 193 to the 248 he compiled against Karnataka in his penultimate Ranji Trophy game last season, he went through an uncharacteristic phase where it was difficult to assess whether he was going through a genuine rough patch or just getting out. Sometimes, he got out to a good ball; sometimes, he made the wicket balls look great, like a couple of dismissals in West Indies, sometimes he

looked fluent, sometimes he seemed rickety. There were times he played atypical shots to get out. It was a bizarre phase — wherein he eked out only 314 runs in 10 outings. For someone who converts at least one of his two fifties into a century, he scored four half-centuries without upgrading any into a three-digit score.

One of the glitches was getting squared up by balls that angled in and held the line a bit, like how Kumar Roach nailed him in the first innings at North Sound.

Perhaps, this was playing on his mind, he tried to get in the line of a similar delivery in the second innings, but on this occasion, the ball seamed back in and burst through his defence. But he seemed to have rectified the defect, for in the warm-up game in Hamilton, he was comfortably fending off similar deliveries. Similarly Vernon Philander in Visakhapatnam, where the ball that seamed away after landing accounted for him in the first innings. In Pune, he hung his bat outside the off-stump to a Kagiso Rabada back-of-length ball that delicately nibbled away. The diffidence outside the off-stump made him vulnerable to nip-backers too. Then came a phase, wherein he would get starts and bat smoothly before a lapse in concentration cost him his wicket.

Consequently, the runs and centuries dried up, to an extent that there were whispers of worry. But at no point was Pujara concerned. "I agree there were a few technical issues, but nothing major. Just about correcting a few things, which happens to every batsman, which I did. Otherwise, I felt I was batting fluently. Of course you can't score a hundred every time you go out to bat in an international match, though you want to. Just like a bowler can't pick a five-for every time he's out there," he says.

But he never had to wait this long for a hundred. A daddy-hundred machine that he's at all levels, the wait might have been agonising, especially as he was nearing his 50th first-class hundred. "I am not a milestone man. It has never been my motivation. I'd rather cherish my journey to the 50th than think of the 50th," he says in his typically self-effacing manner.

The 50th century aptly came against Karnataka, against whom Pujara averages a shade under 100, and typically he converted the century into 248. "Before a big tour, getting a double hundred against a quality bowling side was heartening. It was never a burden to me, but it gives a lot of satisfaction that the adjustments I made are working out and I could take this confidence to New Zealand. It's about getting into that clear mental state, where you know what you should do and what you should not," he states. And the 93 in the warm-up game reflected more that anything else the inner peace.

Between the two New Zealand tours, six years separating them, life has come a full circle for Pujara. From getting dropped to bouncing back to getting dropped again and bouncing back again, from being criticised for his lack of runs abroad to fashioning India's maiden series triumph in Australia, from being blamed for his slow batting to getting appreciated for reviving the fading art of stonewalling, Pujara's time has been more eventful than he projects it. If he was a slightly apprehensive batsman, suffocated by the Rahul Dravid successor tag, back then, he's an accomplished heir to the India great. And a father.

Typically, Pujara self-effaces. He pauses, as if he's recollecting the journey and says: "Obviously, I have grown both as a person and batsman. I am a more balanced character, better prepared to deal with failures, more level-headed in taking success. But while the past satisfies you, you need to look ahead too. All I am thinking about now is getting runs in New Zealand," he says.

He's slowly ticking the boxes: Hundreds in South Africa, England, Australia, and now beckons New Zealand. Hopefully, when he flips through the scorecards of this series a few years later, he could smile and not be seized by an "I could have done better" gasp. And he would stride into the middle with an open but aware mind.

## Du Plessis steps down as South Africa's Test and T20 captain

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
CAPE TOWN, FEBRUARY 17

FAF DU PLESSIS stepped down as captain of South Africa's Test team on Monday ahead of an expected retirement from international cricket later this year. Du Plessis quit as Test and Twenty20 captain. He had already recently been replaced as one-day captain by Quinton de Kock. De Kock, a wicketkeeper-batsman, is the front-runner to also replace du Plessis permanently as captain in Tests and T20s.

He led South Africa in this month's T20 series against England while du Plessis was rested. The 35-year-old du Plessis had led the test team as permanent captain since late 2016 and was captain in all three formats since 2017. He had stepped in as captain in a T20 series as early as 2012. Du Plessis' decision was not a surprise.

He had indicated during the recent home test series against England that his time in charge was coming to an end. He said he'd committed to playing for South Africa until the World Twenty20 in Australia in October and November and that's now likely to be his swansong with the Proteas.

In Tests, du Plessis will likely play one more series, when South Africa goes to the West Indies for a two-match series in July. Du Plessis said it was the right time for him to step down



Du Plessis remains committed to playing all three formats for the time being. *Reuters*

and allow a new generation of leaders to emerge. He wanted to still play in all three formats for now, he said, and contribute as a batsman and senior player.

Du Plessis is the only South Africa Test captain to win test series home and away against Australia and was one of the Proteas' best leaders. Between 2016 and early 2018, South Africa won eight of nine Test series home and away, beating Australia twice and India during that period. But the last year had been difficult with

South Africa's loss of form on the field exacerbated by off-field issues at the national board, which has suspended its CEO amid allegations of mismanagement.

Du Plessis lost his last three Test series in charge, at home to Sri Lanka, away to India and at home to England last month. During that England series, he said the last year had probably been the toughest he had experienced as captain.

"The last few weeks of rest away from

### FAF'S REIGN: 'EXHILARATING HIGHS & DEVASTATING LOWS'

**8** Between 2016 and 2018, Faf Du Plessis led South Africa to eight of nine Test series home and away, beating Australia twice and India during that period.

■ Du Plessis lost his last three Test series in charge, at home to Sri Lanka, away to India and at home to England last month.

■ He scored 115 runs at an average of 16.42 in the Test series against England and has not made a century in more than a year.

the game have given me a lot of perspective on the great privilege and honour I have had in representing and leading my country in the three formats of this wonderful game," he said.

**Du Plessis, Rabada recalled**

South Africa have recalled batsman Faf du Plessis and fast bowler Kagiso Rabada for the three-match Twenty20 International home series against Australia that starts on Friday.

## Boult back for India Tests, Jamieson & Patel earn call-ups

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
WELLINGTON, FEBRUARY 17

FIT-AGAIN senior pacer Trent Boult has been named in the 13-member New Zealand squad for the first Test against India starting here on February 21. According to a media release issued by New Zealand Cricket, the 6 feet 8 inch giant pacer Kyle Jamieson, who made his ODI debut against India in the recent series, has also earned his call up in the Test squad, which will have slow left-arm orthodox Ajaz Patel as the only spinner.

Boult's comeback is a big boost for the New Zealand side as he missed the entire limited overs leg due to a fractured right hand sustained during the Boxing Day Test against Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

"It's terrific to have Trent back with us and we're looking forward to the energy and experience he adds to the group alongside his obvious class with the ball in hand," head coach and chief selector Gary Stead said.

Jamieson, on the other hand, has been included in a pre-series Test squad for the first time. He had replaced injured Lockie Ferguson midway in Australia in December last year. "Kyle will offer us a point of differ-

ence with the bounce he could extract on what is traditionally a good surface in Wellington," Stead said. Mumbai-born Patel was chosen over leg-spinner Ish Sodhi because of his consistency. "We're excited to welcome back Ajaz (Patel) who has done a great job for us overseas and has a proven domestic record in New Zealand conditions," the coach said. Daryl Mitchell of Northern Districts is also in the squad as a batting all-rounder. "Daryl showed his batting prowess in his Test debut against England in Hamilton and he naturally offers us great versatility with the different roles he can play," Stead said.

Tom Blundell will continue to open the batting along side Tom Latham following his breakthrough century in Melbourne. The Wellington Test will also be Ross Taylor's 100th Test, joining ranks with his former teammates Brendon McCullum, Daniel Vettori and Stephen Fleming. Taylor will become the first cricketer in the world to complete 100 games across three international formats.

**NEW ZEALAND SQUAD:** Kane Williamson (captain), Tom Blundell, Trent Boult, Colin de Grandhomme, Kyle Jamieson, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Henry Nicholls, Ajaz Patel, Tim Southee, Ross Taylor, Neil Wagner, BJ Watling.

## Nehwal, Srikanth chase Olympic berths in Barcelona

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BARCELONA, FEBRUARY 17

SEASONED INDIAN shuttlers Saina Nehwal and Kidambi Srikanth will look to keep their Olympic hopes alive when they compete at the \$170,000 Barcelona Spain Masters starting here on Tuesday.

The Indian duo has been inconsistent in 2019 and didn't enjoy a good start to the new year.

While Saina has crossed the first round in only one of the three events in 2020, Srikanth has lost in the opening round in all three tournaments that he has played so far this year.

Saina and Srikanth are currently ranked 18th and 15th respectively, while being placed 22nd and 26th in the 'Race to Tokyo' rankings, which takes into consideration only the points accumulated from the tournaments played in the last one year.

According to the BWF Olympic qualification rules, only two players from each singles category can qualify if their ranking is within the top-16 by April end.

Among the Indians, world champion PV Sindhu and B Sai Praneeth and men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have almost secured their berths for the Tokyo Games.

With the Olympic qualification cut-off date ending in April, there are only seven tournaments, including the Barcelona Spain Masters, left in the calendar and the Indian duo will have to produce consistent performances to earn a ticket to Tokyo.

London bronze-medallist Saina, who is looking to make her fourth Olympics, will begin her campaign here against Germany's Yvonne Li. The former world no.1 is likely to face Denmark's Line Hojmark Kjærsefeldt and third seeded Thai Busanan Ongbamrunphan on her way to the quarters, provided she wins her rounds.

Third seed Srikanth, on the other hand, will face fellow Indian Subhankar Dey, the 2018 SaarLorLux Open champion who notched up a morale-boosting win over world no. 20 Indonesian Shesar Hiren Rhustavito in the Asia Team Championships on Saturday.

Srikanth, who was also a part of the team in Manila, won two of his singles matches and lost one last week and he would hope to go deep in the draw in the tournament.

Among others, world no.25 Parupalli Kashyap will meet Brazil's Ygor Coelho, while H S Prannoy will face veteran Malaysian Darren Liew in the opening round.

Sourabh Verma, who is ranked 21st in the Race to Tokyo rankings, will square off against Israel's Misha Zilberman, while Sameer will be up against B Sai Praneeth.

Praneeth, who is almost assured of an Olympic berth, had retired after pulling his hamstring during the Indian men's team's semifinal clash against Indonesia on Saturday.

In doubles, the women's pairing of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy will face the Chinese pair of Chen Lu and Xu Ya, while the men's combination of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and Krishna Prasad Garaga will cross swords with England's Ben Lane and Sean Vandy.

The mixed doubles pair of Pranaav and Sikki will lock horns with Mathias Christiansen and Alexandra Boje.

**Saina and Srikanth are currently ranked 18th and 15th respectively, while being placed 22nd and 26th in the 'Race to Tokyo' rankings, which takes into consideration only the points accumulated from the tournaments played in the last one year.**

# In Delhi, a chance to slam the status quo

Medals at the Asian Championships could help unheralded Sonam, Anshu and Jitender run seniors off the road to Tokyo

MIHIR VASAVDA  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

IN FEBRUARY 2016, a medal at the Asian Championship was Sakshi Malik's first big move in stepping out of the shadows of Geeta Phogat, one of the biggest names in Indian wrestling. An Olympic cycle – and an Olympic medal – later, as another continental championship looms, it is Sakshi's turn to feel the heat from an upstart, Sonam Malik.

Not many outside the wrestling community have heard about Sonam yet. A two-time world cadet champion, the 18-year-old belonging to a family of wrestlers, wasn't anywhere in the national reckoning till a month-and-a-half ago. Two days before the selection trials for the Asian Championship – starting here Tuesday – and next month's Olympic qualifiers, she received a call-up. And in the first chance she got, Sonam upstaged Sakshi. And if she medals this week in the 62kg class, Sonam will have a crack at an Olympic quota before the Rio Games bronze medalist.

Sonam isn't the only one who has a senior, more established wrestler pinned to the mat. In the 57kg category, another 18-year-old prodigy, Anshu Malik can end 2018 World Championship bronze medalist Pooja Dhanda's Tokyo dreams if she extends her hot streak for another four weeks.

And in the men's field, two-time Olympic medalist Sushil Kumar will miss his second straight Games if Jitender Kumar manages a podium finish this week, and then repeats it again at the continental qualifiers next month. Jitender isn't as young as the other two women wrestlers. But amidst the constant controversies and churning in the 74kg, he now has a chance to cement his place.

On the face of it, an Asian Championship just a month before the continental Olympic qualifiers should be of little relevance. But try telling that to the Gen Y of Indian wrestlers – their Olympic aspirations rest entirely on how well they do this week. Indeed, it is never so straightforward with the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), who perform more backflips than a grappler.

The federation's president, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, had initially said the winner of last month's selection trials would be in the team for the Asian Championships as well as qualifiers.

Then, without any explanation, the rule was changed and it was announced that a wrestler would be selected for the Olympic qualifiers only if his/her performance was 'satisfactory' at the continental championship. What exactly counts as 'satisfactory' was kept vague, but it is largely held that a medal here should do it.

Their path to podium may have gotten relatively smooth after North Korea with-



Anshu Malik can end 2018 Worlds medalist Pooja Dhanda's Tokyo dreams if she extends her hot streak for another four weeks.

drew and China were denied visas, both because of the coronavirus. The WFI had claimed they received assurances from their Chinese counterparts that none of their wrestlers tested positive for the virus. They subsequently requested the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports as well as the Ministry of External Affairs to process the Chinese visas. However, the 30 wrestlers and roughly 10 support staff were denied permission. In fact, two Chinese staff of the United World Wrestling, who were travelling from Geneva, too, have been denied visas.

North Korea, another wrestling powerhouse, pulled out despite securing visas as the only route available for them was via Beijing, and, according to Sharan, they did

not want to take any risks. The absence of Chinese and North Korean wrestlers will work in favour of Indian wrestlers, especially Anshu, who will avoid facing China's world number 4 and world championship silver medalist Ningning Rong and North Korea's Jong In Sung. Vinesh Phogat, who has already qualified for the Olympics, too stands to gain as world number 1 and world champion Pak Yong Mi of North Korea and China's Pang Qianyu (world number 4) aren't here.

But such is the depth in Asian wrestling that China and North Korea's absence will hardly take the sting out of the tournament. Olympics hosts Japan, one of the strongest wrestling nations, have sent a strong squad comprising world number 1s and world

champions. Kazakhstan, Iran, Mongolia and Uzbekistan, too, have sent their best, given this will be the last tune-up before next month's Olympic qualifiers, the penultimate chance for wrestlers to seal their spots.

So if Anshu may have to beat Japanese legend world champion Risako Kawai (reigning Olympic champion in 63kg) to get a shot at qualifying for the Tokyo Games, Sonam will have to overcome her sister Yukako, a world championship bronze medalist, as well as world champion Aisuluu Tynybekova of Kyrgyzstan. Jitender, meanwhile, will be up against Kazakh world number 3 Daniyar Kaisanov and Japan's Daichi Takatani.

They have slayed reputations to get so far. Now, they have a chance to build theirs.

## EXPLAINED

### Asian Championship will be a testing ground for Indians

THE ASIAN Championship, despite not being an Olympic qualifier, will be of high significance for Indian wrestlers. For the wrestlers who are yet to qualify for the Games, a medal here will all but ensure they get a direct ticket for the Asian Olympic qualifiers, to be held in March, and not compete in selection trials. For Sakshi Malik, Pooja Dhanda, Gourav Baliyan, Rahul Aware and others who are competing in non-Olympic categories, a podium finish will put their domestic rivals on toes and keep themselves in contention.

Even for Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia, Ravi Kumar and Deepak Punia – the four wrestlers who have qualified for the Olympics – the continental championships will be crucial to test themselves against their rivals. Vinesh, for instance, is likely to face Japanese sensation Mayu Mukaida, a wrestler she has struggled to beat. Deepak, after a poor show at Rome Ranking Series, will be keen to make amends while Bajrang will face his arch-rival Takuto Otoguro of Japan and Kazakhstan's Daulet Niyazbekov.

**INDIA'S SQUAD: Men's freestyle:** Ravi Kumar (57kg), Rahul Aware (61kg), Bajrang Punia (65kg), Naveen (70kg), Jitender (74kg), Gourav Baliyan (79kg), Deepak Punia (86kg), Somveer (92kg), Satyavart Kadian (97kg), Sumit (125kg); **Greco-Roman:** Arjun Halakurki (55kg), Gyanender (60kg), Sachin Rana (63kg), Ashu (67kg), Aditya Kundu (72kg), Sajjan (77kg), Harpreet Singh (82kg), Sunil Kumar (87kg), Hardeep (97kg), Naveen (130kg); **Women's:** Nimlata Devi (50kg), Vinesh Phogat (53kg), Pinki (55kg), Anshu Malik (57kg), Sarita Mor (59kg), Sonam Malik (62kg), Sakshi Malik (65kg), Divya Kakran (68kg), Gursharan Preet Kaur (72kg), Kiran (76kg) *Asian Wrestling Championship:* Live on Star Sports First, Hotstar and Wrestling TV, 6pm onwards

# 'Team misses seniors but has grown enough to be top contender'

PTI/REUTERS  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

THE VOID left by legends such as Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami is not easy to fill, India captain Harmanpreet Kaur conceded on Monday but also asserted that her young side has grown substantially to be a top contender for this month's women's T20 World Cup.

Mithali retired from T20 cricket last year while Goswami previously played in the format before the 2018 edition. The average age of India's squad in Australia is 22.8 with Harmanpreet being among the seasoned ones. "We already miss the experience they share with us, but these young girls and showing their talent and ability," said the 29-year-old, while speaking at the captains' media day at Taronga Zoo here.

The ICC Women's T20 World Cup will open with a mouth-watering clash between India and defending champions and hosts Australia in Adelaide on February 21. "In the last two years...I've gone from being the youngest one



**In the last two years...I've gone from being the youngest one to one of the oldest in the team. They (her teammates) never show us that they're young, they can always do what we expect of them. The team is looking in really good shape and showing what they can do with extra responsibility."**

HARMANPREET KAUR,  
INDIA CAPTAIN

to one of the oldest in the team," she said. "They (her teammates) never show us that they're young, they can always do what we expect of them. The team is looking in really good shape and showing what they can do with extra responsibility," she added.

She is still not over the disappointment of missing the ODI world title in 2017 and Harmanpreet said the T20 World Cup trophy would go a long way in making up for that de-

backle. India women came tantalisingly close to winning the ICC ODI World Cup three years back, losing to hosts England by nine runs in the final. "Our team is growing day by day, everyone is looking so positive," Harmanpreet said. "It's going to be very big if we win, I was very surprised at all the reaction from 2017. My parents didn't tell me, they didn't want us to feel the pressure. If we win, it's going to be very big for us. We will try to give our best."

Harmanpreet is well aware of what a long run in an ICC tournament can do for her country. "Over the last two years, we have already had a few games as part of the Women's T20 Challenge and this year we are looking forward to more," said the aggressive batter, who became the first Indian cricketer to join an overseas league by signing up with Women's Big Bash League side Sydney Thunder in 2016.

"If we win the World Cup, there's no doubt things will change. That tournament would bring a lot of confidence to the girls. If we get a women's IPL that will be really good for us. If we win the World Cup, it's going to be very big for us as a team, so we will try to give our best."

**Australia coach backs Healy**  
*Melbourne:* Matthew Mott, the head coach of the Australian women's cricket team, has shrugged off Alyssa Healy's dire form in the leadup to the T20 World Cup and backed the hard-hitting opener to perform when it counts. Wicketkeeper-batswoman Healy, the ICC's one-day and T20 Player of the Year in 2019, made just 15 runs in five matches during the

recent tri-series against India and England. Mott said he would not change anything about Healy's game before defending champions Australia bid for a record-extending fifth T20 World Cup title. "She plays a game that is high risk and it's not going to come off all the time," Mott told reporters in Adelaide on Monday. "If you want us to be fearless and all the things that we bang on about all the time, when you get out a couple of times you can't try and reinvent the wheel."

Australia play a final warmup against South Africa in Adelaide on Tuesday before kicking off the tournament against India at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Friday.

Healy dominated the 2018 tournament in West Indies, topping the batting charts with 225 runs at an average of 56.25. "She is not out there struggling at the moment," Mott said. "The good thing is, the main tournament is coming up (and) she delivered in the last World Cup just about every game."

"So with quality players like that you have just got to keep backing them in because they can win you matches."

## [SPORTS BAR]



### Bolt could have dug deeper: Shelly-Ann

Usain Bolt quit too early, reckons fellow Jamaican great Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, who feels that the sprinter could have dug deep to extend his love affair with athletics. Bolt quit in 2017 after failing to win a 100m gold at the World Championships in London. "He (Bolt) does miss the track. He was in football, now he is a producer, he is singing and I was like, 'sir you could have channelled all this energy into the track'," Shelly-Ann, the three-time Olympic medallist, said on the sidelines of the Laureus Awards ceremony. "But I understand it for him, he has been doing it for a long time, breaking records... He must be thinking like 'I am tired and I don't want to do it anymore'. Maybe this was his opportunity to dig deeper and deeper than he thought he could."

### Bhawana in team for Asian 20km C'ships

Tokyo Olympics-bound Bhawana Jat was named in a 13-member Indian team for the Asian 20km Race Walk Championships, to be held in Nomi, Japan on March 15. Bhawana, who qualified for Tokyo Olympics in 20km race walk after pulling off a shock win with a record time at the National Championships in Ranchi on Saturday, is one of the five women named for the Asian event. Priyanka Goswami, Karamjit Kaur, Ravina and Sonal Sukhwai were the other four women's race walkers named for the Asian Championships. The 23-year-old Bhawana clocked 1 hour 29 minutes and 54 seconds, well inside the Olympic qualification time of 1:31:00, to win the gold.

### Sania returns to action at Dubai Open

Sania Mirza will return to action at the on-going Dubai Open on Wednesday after recovering from a calf injury which had cut short her campaign at the Australia Open in January. The 33-year-old Indian will pair up with her French partner Caroline Garcia and they face Russia's Alla Kudryavtseva and Slovenia's Katarina Srebotnik in the opening round of the women's doubles event on Wednesday. "...thanks to my physio Dr. Faisal Hayat Khan for making me fit for the tournament. I have started practicing and look forward to a great tournament," she said.



Kawhi Leonard finished with 30 points and seven rebounds and was awarded the new Kobe Bryant MVP award. USA Today

### Team LeBron beats Team Giannis in All-Star game

Kawhi Leonard stole the show on the floor and Hall of Famer Magic Johnson took centre stage in an emotional pre-game ceremony on a night the NBA paid tribute to the late Kobe Bryant. Chicago's favourite son Anthony Davis sank one of two free throws to cap a thrilling fourth quarter and lift Team LeBron to a 157-155 win over Team Giannis in Sunday's 2020 NBA All-Star Game. Leonard finished with 30 points and seven rebounds and was awarded the new Kobe Bryant MVP award. The trophy was named after the former Los Angeles Laker, who perished along with his daughter Gigi and seven others in a horrific helicopter crash three weeks ago. "I want to thank Kobe for everything he has done for me, all the long talks and workouts. Thank you," said Leonard, who grew up in Riverside, California east of Los Angeles. Giannis Antetokounmpo finished with 25 points and 11 rebounds to lead Team Giannis who kept the game close right up until the nail-biting finish. "The guys were taking charges and running back playing defence," said Leonard of the highly competitive All-Star Game.

### Asian lifting C'ships moved to Uzbekistan

The International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) is relocating the Asian Championships scheduled to take place in Kazakhstan to neighbouring Uzbekistan because of the coronavirus epidemic, it said on Monday. The Weightlifting Championships join a long list of sporting events that have been cancelled or postponed because of the coronavirus outbreak in China, which has killed more than 1,700 people. The IWF said Kazakhstan had restricted travel to and from countries neighbouring China, forcing organisers to settle on Uzbekistan which will now host the April 16-25 competition in the capital Tashkent.

### I-League: East Bengal beat Indian Arrows

East Bengal defeated Indian Arrows 3-1 in their I-League game at the iconic Cooperage stadium here on Monday as the Bengal-based outfit took revenge of their earlier loss. While Jaime Colado (5th minute), Asheer Akhtar (62nd minute) and Lalrindika Ralte (67th minute) scored for East Bengal, Vikram Pratap Singh (54th minute) pulled one back for Arrows, the developmental side of All India Football Federation. With this game, I-League returned to the Cooperage after three years. In the previous match between the two sides, Arrows had got better of East Bengal 1-0.



### Casillas to run for Spanish FA President

Spain's World Cup winning captain Iker Casillas announced on Monday he will run for president of the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) when elections are called later this year. Casillas, who led Spain to unprecedented success as they won Euro 2008 and 2012 as well as the 2010 World Cup, suffered a heart attack in May while training with current club Porto, and has not played since. He returned to training in November. "Yes, I'll be running for RFEF President when elections are called," the goalkeeper wrote on Twitter. He has not played for Porto this season and the announcement all but confirms his retirement from professional football. Current incumbent Luis Rubiales, who took over from Angel Maria Villar in May 2018 after the former Athletic Bilbao player had spent three decades at the helm, has a mandate that runs through until after Euro 2020.

BRIEFLY

**Pep to stay at Man City even if appeal against ban is rejected**

London: PEP GUARDIOLA has told friends he is going to remain as manager of Manchester City even if the appeal against their two-year European football ban is rejected by the Court of Arbitration for Sport, according to media reports on Monday. The 49-year-old Spaniard is said by *The Times* to have told both the City board and the players he will be staying despite the sanction and reported interest from Serie A champions Juventus. Guardiola, who has been at City for four years, told the players of his intention at a meeting on Saturday. The Sun claims the former Barcelona and Bayern Munich manager has told friends he is going to at least see out his contract with the club which runs until 2021. He is old friends with City executives Ferran Soriano and Txiki Begiristain and enjoys an amicable relationship with club chairman Khaldoon al Mubarak.



**Late goal helps Celta hold Real Madrid**

Madrid: REAL MADRID'S winning streak ended when they conceded a late goal to draw 2-2 at home to Celta Vigo and finish the weekend with their lead over Barcelona down to one point. Real had won five straight in La Liga to accelerate past Barcelona. Yet Celta leapt into the lead after seven minutes. A pass from Iago Aspas sent Fedor Smolov galloping clear up the middle and he shot low past Thibaut Courtois. Real dominated the rest of the first half but a combination of good defending and bad finishing kept them out. But in the 52nd minute, Marcelo found space on the left. His low cross deflected to Toni Kroos following the attack. The German drilled in the equaliser. In the 65th minute, goalkeeper Ruben Blanco pulled down the impressive Eden Hazard. Ramos slammed the penalty into the bottom corner of the net. With four minutes left, a sharp pass from Denis Suarez caught the Real back four. Santi Mina raced onto the ball and drilled a shot past Courtois.

**Lazio beat Inter to revive title credentials**

Milan: LAZIO'S HOPES of winning a first Serie A trophy in 20 years are very much alive after they came from behind to beat title rivals Inter Milan 2-1 on Sunday. Ashley Young scored his first goal for Inter since joining from Manchester United last month but Ciro Immobile levelled with a penalty early in the second half. Sergej Milinkovic-Savic scored the winner in the 69th minute. Lazio moved into second, a point behind Juventus, which beat 10-man Brescia 2-0 earlier in the day. Inter slipped to third, three points behind eight-time defending champion Juventus.

AGENCIES

**El Cholo's last stand**

Someone set out to annoy Europe's elite with Atlético, but what happens when the underdog joins the aristocrats?

RORY SMITH  
FEBRUARY 17

DIEGO SIMEONE loved the way the sunlight hit the stands at the Vicente Calderón. First as an Atlético Madrid player, and then as its manager, he relished home games in the stadium in late afternoon, when he could look up from the field and see the red and white seats glinting in the waning glow.

That was when he felt the stadium's energy on the touchline, when the sun shone and the banners fluttered and the songs drifted down from on high. Simeone spent a considerable portion of his professional life in that stadium, but he was never inoculated against its power. "The Calderón has an ability to affect you," he said.

Simeone knew, when he agreed to take charge of Atlético a few days after Christmas in 2011, that he would have to harness that power. He understood, he felt, what the club's fans wanted, what sort of team would be in line with Atlético's history, its identity, what style of play would win the backing of the Calderón.

His team, he told *The Coaches' Voice* a few years later, would have to be built on a strong defense, a deadly counterattack and an unyielding work ethic. Simeone, the player known as El Cholo, was creating his own philosophy: Choloismo. "The only thing that is not negotiable is effort," he told his players in their first meeting. Most of all, he said, Atlético had to be a thorn in the side of the superpowers.

He and his team have delivered on that promise. By almost any metric, Simeone's tenure as Atlético's manager has been an unqualified, spectacular success. The trophies are, of course, the most obvious proof. Under Simeone, Atlético has lifted the Europa League and the European Super Cup twice, in 2012 and 2018. He won the Copa del Rey, against Real Madrid, in 2013, and led the club to the Champions League final in 2014 and 2016.

Most important, of course, he led Atlético to the Spanish title in 2014 — sealed on enemy territory in Barcelona, too. It was the club's first championship for almost two decades, and the first time in 10 years that a team other than Barcelona or Real Madrid had won the Spanish crown. It is a remarkable haul for a team that was, until recently, known for its ability to fall at the last, for its perpetual disappointment. Atlético has long been known, by fans and foes alike, as El Pupus: the jinxed. The nickname does not come up so much, these days.

**The outsider inside**

There are other measures, beyond trophies, of what Simeone has achieved. His longevity, for one: He is, by some distance, the longest-serving manager at any major club in Europe, and at a club that until he arrived had been allergic to stability. Before Simeone, Atlético had employed 12 coaches in a decade.

Even more telling, perhaps, is the sea change in Atlético's fortunes off the field. His success has effectively wiped out the club's soaring debts, and attracted the kind of deep-pocketed foreign sponsors — China's Wanda group, Azerbaijan's tourism board, an Israeli billionaire — that helped pay for a new stadium, for higher salaries, for new players. Last summer, Atlético spent \$142 million on a single player — João Felix — and a further \$100 million on strengthening the squad.

Atlético, in other words, is no longer the poor relation: It has paid more for a player than Real Madrid, and it reportedly pays its coach more than any team in the world.

On Tuesday, when Atlético hosts Liverpool



Under Diego Simeone, Atlético Madrid lifted the Europa League and the European Super Cup twice, in 2012 and 2018. AP

in the last 16 of the Champions League, it will not be at Simeone's beloved Calderón. The club left its longtime home in 2017 for the Wanda Metropolitano, a state-of-the-art but slightly soulless bowl on Madrid's northern fringes, one grand enough to be the stage on which Liverpool won last season's Champions League final.

Atlético is close to opening an equally lavish training base, too, one that — according to Simeone — "lives up to what the club deserves." At last, in his eyes, the "growth of the club is parallel to that of the team." Simeone still regards Atlético as "socially, morally and emotionally the people's team," but even he acknowledges its image, and its status, have changed.

In 2012, as his team prepared to face Chelsea in the European Super Cup, Simeone declared that the English club's vast financial superiority was irrelevant. "Heart can cancel out budget," he declared then.

For years, that was how Atlético competed, how it ensured its cherished place as European soccer's great irritant. Now it does not need to. That is the extent of what Simeone has achieved: He has helped the eternal outsider

crash through the doors of the palace. Atlético is now part of Europe's elite. The question most are asking, now, is where that leaves the coach who took it there.

**The result is God**

Simeone wanted more energy. Not, in that precise moment, from his team — toiling at home to Bayer Leverkusen in a Champions League group game in October — but from the fans. Midway through the second half, with the game goalless, he paused in his characteristic prowling around the technical area to turn to the crowd with his fist raised, demanding more noise, more power.

In response, a portion of the fans whistled him. Simeone knows that soccer is fickle: Before his first game as Atlético coach, he told his players that the crowd that now stood in raptures before him had "at one point insulted" him as a player. "Soccer is like that," he said.

Even so, that moment was striking. Simeone always knew, instinctively, what Atlético wanted. The club's modern identity was entwined with his. Yet for the first time in almost a decade, discord was in the air.

As Simeone prepares for the visit of

**TV GUIDE**

Liverpool	vs	Atletico
Dortmund	vs	PSG

Live on Sony Ten network 1:30am (Wednesday).

Liverpool, there is a fragile peace. This has been a testing season. Atlético sits fourth in La Liga, cut adrift from Real and Barcelona in the title race, and behind even Getafe, an unheralded team from one of Madrid's satellite towns. It was eliminated from the Copa del Rey by a second-division side.

Its defensive parsimony remains: Only Real Madrid has conceded fewer goals this season. Simeone's training sessions are still a reference point for teams across Europe. Last summer, seeking inspiration for how to improve its own defense, Bournemouth sent a delegation just to watch how he worked.

The problem is his team's toothlessness. Atlético has scored only 25 goals in 24 games. Given the amount of money spent last summer, particularly on João Felix, to try to make the team more expansive, it is a paltry return.

Simeone is conscious of this. He tried to sign Edinson Cavani, the Uruguay striker, in January to give the team more cutting edge. He has met in recent weeks with Miguel Ángel Gil, Atlético's chief executive, and the sporting director Andrea Berta to discuss how to improve the team's attacking performance without compromising its resilience.

What Atlético — as a club, as a fan base — demands of its team has changed, mutated in some way along the road from the Calderón to the Metropolitano. As one associate of Simeone's noted, there is an unavoidable incongruity in playing underdog soccer in an aristocrat's home.

"In Choloismo, the result is God," the former Argentina forward Jorge Valdano — now a columnist for *El País*, and one of Spain's most erudite soccer observers — wrote last year. That was always Simeone's logic, and his defense: As long as his philosophy produced results, there could be no complaints.

This season, it is not working. Simeone has not been able to craft a more attacking team, and all of Atlético's old virtues have not been enough. In the absence of God, Simeone's congregation has started to doubt its faith.

**Fear and belief**

In recent years, Simeone has lent his name to two books, in collaboration with the journalist Santi Garcia Bustamante. Both sit more comfortably on the lifestyle shelves than in the sports section.

In the second, longer edition — entitled simply "Creer," or "Believe" — Simeone writes: "When the opposition team sense that there is fear, they take advantage without mercy." For much of the last decade, that could have functioned as a summary of what made Atlético great.

Now, it encapsulates as well as anything the problem it is facing. Opponents no longer fear Atlético; instead, they detect an uncertainty, an anxiety, in Simeone's team, one that bounces and echoes between the field and the stands. Ordinarily, the visit of Liverpool — the reigning European and world champion, a side unbeaten in the Premier League and hailed last week by Lionel Scaloni, the Argentina coach, as the only "invincible" team in the world — would be a calvary for a team struggling for form. For Atlético, curiously, it is almost a blessing. There is scarcely an opponent Simeone will relish facing more. For 180 minutes, his team can be itself again: gritty and resolute and uncompromising.

NEW YORK TIMES



**New kid faces bigger hurdle**

ALL EYES will be on Erling Haaland as Thomas Tuchel's PSG visit Borussia Dortmund in the UEFA Champions League Round of 16 on Tuesday. It will be the 19-year-old Norwegian's first outing on the continental stage after his high-profile move from Red Bull Salzburg. With the French champions bringing the heavy artillery in the form of Neymar and Kylian Mbappe, it could be a mouthwatering tie.

**GOALS GALORE**

Dortmund managed to get hold of the youngster in the winter transfer window after warding off Manchester United's interest. Haaland had caught the eye, bagging 16 goals and eight assists in just 14 games for Salzburg in the Austrian Bundesliga. But it was his exploits in the Champions League, where he managed eight goals in the group stage, scoring in every game including a hat-trick, that singled him out as a marked man.

**WASTING NO TIME**

Haaland wasted little time in finding the net repeatedly in a higher-standard league. He bagged a hat-trick on his Bundesliga debut against FC Augsburg. He bagged a brace in his next game against FC Köln, thus scoring five goals in less than 90 minutes played for the club. He has managed eight goals and an assist in just five appearances. With the likes of Jadon Sancho, Marco Reus and Thorgan Hazard, Haaland can give PSG a lot of headaches.

**PSG CONNECT**

They will be on opposite sides, but Haaland looks up to Mbappe. "When I was in Salzburg, I started scoring goals there, but if I'm realistic, I look at Kylian Mbappe, he's scoring, he's banging in goals in Ligue 1, so you know you can always reach a higher level in football." Veteran PSG centre-half Thiago Silva will have to marshal the defence effectively if they are not to bow out in the Round of 16 again.

**TALKING TACTICS**

Of late, Tuchel has been setting up PSG in a 4-2-2-2 formation, allowing more options in attack. However, Dortmund's pace poses a threat to their defence. Tuchel has tested a three-man midfield in the past, pushing Marquinhos up to a holding midfielder role, offering defensive stability which could be key against Haaland and Sancho. With the attacking talent on show, it has all the makings of a classic.

RAHUL ASHANI

**Thrower who sent proxy for dope test handed a 4-year ban**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 17

IN A "landmark" decision by the Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel of the NADA, Haryana's Amit Dahiya has been banned for four years for evading dope sample collection by sending a proxy during the National Javelin Throw Open Championships last year.

Dahiya had finished third with a best throw of 68.21 m in the event held at Sonapat, Haryana on April 16, 2019. After the event, the 21-year-old Dahiya was asked by the National Anti-Doping Doping officials to furnish his dope samples but he instead sent another person to the collection room.

During the verification process, the NADA Dope Collectors came to realise that the person who had come to provide the urine sample was not the bronze medallist. Realising that the plan failed, Dahiya's proxy fled from the collection room.

date of his provisional suspension. "In a landmark decision by the National Anti Doping Agency, javelin thrower Amit Dahiya has been penalised with intentionally evading sample collection and trying to cheat anti-doping officials during the 2nd National Javelin Throw Open Championship 2019 held at SAI Center, Sonapat," the NADA said.

It said that this was the first time the NADA has taken cognisance of a case in which the athlete evaded sample collection and successfully proceeded against him under the prescribed provisions.

"During the course of the sports event, the athlete was asked to submit his urine sample. However, at the time of sample collection, another athlete pretending to be Amit Dahiya tried to impersonate by submitting a fake sample.

"But the alert NADA officials detected the impersonation and a notice of charge was issued to Amit Dahiya on July 16, for violating Rule 23 of NADA Anti-Doping rules," the NADA said. It said that this was the first time the NADA has taken cognisance of a case in which the athlete evaded sample collection and successfully proceeded against him under the prescribed provisions.